

Reincarnated as an Energy with a System

Chapter 341: Surprise

"Is that so?" the Saint Alchemist was truly surprised that there was someone out there that didn't want his inheritance at all.

It had been a long time since someone didn't put him on a pedestal when they were around him, and that felt a little refreshing.

"You do know that even with your little stunt, the choice of choosing the inheritor lies with me at the end, right?" the Saint Alchemist said.

"Eh?" the girl said in surprise.

"Huh?" the young man who had fully expected to become the inheritor was also taken aback a bit. It was pretty much settled in his mind that he was the inheritor. But now, hearing what the Saint Alchemist was saying, he felt like his world shattered twice on the same day.

Even the crowd that was gathered for the award ceremony was surprised. They started talking in hush voices, discussing what they had just heard.

There were some noises that spoke about breaking rules and some such, but the Saint Alchemist didn't bother with any of them.

He kept looking towards the girl who was still hooded and smiled.

"You want to choose me as the inheritor? Not him?" the girl asked.

The Saint Alchemist simply smiled and didn't say anything.

"No, no, no, no, no. You can't choose me? Choose him. He won," the girl said.

"Yes, senior Saint Alchemist. You can't go against the rules you've set on your own," someone else said.

"You should choose the young man. He won and it's his right now," another person spoke.

Almost all of the people started speaking in the favor of the young man who was getting more and more dejected as every second went on.

The Saint Alchemist didn't listen to the crowd and kept staring at the girl.

"You know, a single moment of failure is not enough to define what you can do and can't do. Just because you didn't give a single pill back doesn't mean you don't have the right to be my inheritor," the Saint Alchemist said.

He then turned towards the young man and said, "Same goes for you, young man. A single low-grade pill would have never determined your future by any means. Yet, you let the stress of it all pile up on your head."

"Huh?" the young man felt like he heard it wrong. "You mean...?"

"That's right. I've seen both of your talents in the field of Alchemy and am willing to take you both as my disciples. Do you agree?" the Saint Alchemist said.

The young man looked at the saint alchemist dumbfounded, while the girl's face couldn't be seen through her robes. Still, people could guess what her face must've been like right now.

"Hey! Quickly kowtow in front of your new master," someone shouted from behind. Following that person, others started urging the two of them as well.

The young man woke up from his stupor and immediately got on his knees and touched the ground with his forehead before screaming, "Thank you, master." One could hear his sniffing as the young man soon started crying from joy.

The saint alchemist smiled when he saw that and looked over to the young girl. "What about you?" he asked.

The young girl lowered her body and bowed as well. However, she didn't kowtow.

"Thank you for the opportunity, but I already have a master," she said.

"Eh?" the saint alchemist was surprised. "You have a master? Um... you won't have to leave your master to come to learn with me, you know?"

"It's fine. My master is quite good too," the girl said.

"Even... when compared to me?" the Saint Alchemist asked with curiosity.

"Yes. Perhaps... even better," she said.

Everyone including the Saint Alchemist was surprised, to say the least. Sounds of murmurs started appearing from around the crowd.

"Umm... can you tell me who your master is, little girl? To impart you with such great knowledge of Alchemy, they certainly can't be a small figure," the Saint Alchemist said. "I would love to meet him or her someday."

"Oh, you can do it right now," the girl said. Suddenly, she pointed her hands towards the crowd.

"Huh?"

Ning was perhaps the most surprised of them all when he saw the little girl point towards him. "Me?" he asked in confusion.

'Is she someone from the academy? I don't remember there being someone so talented,' he thought. Given how much knowledge the little girl had, she could most likely become a teacher.

Everyone, including Ely, turned to look at him. Ning was getting even more confused as to who the little girl was.

Just then, someone tapped on his shoulder a single time from behind and said, "She's not pointing at you. She's pointing at me."

Ning's eyes went wide and immediately turned around to look at the hooded figure who had just spoken. The voice of the person... he wouldn't so easily forget the voice of someone so dear to him.

"Anya?" he asked in surprise.

The hood fell off to reveal Anya who was standing behind him with a face full of smiles.

"Surprise!"

"Huh? Anya? But you told me you weren't coming?" Ning said.

"I lied, master. Obviously. The greatest competition the planet has ever hosted is taking place and you think I would miss it? Of course not," Anya said.

The Saint Alchemist looked at Anya and was surprised. She looked like she was barely in her later 20s, and yet the aura she gave off was one of something ancient.

There was also a very strong medicinal smell coming from her that made his nose prick a little. 'That girl is no small master in the art of Alchemy,' he thought.

"Fellow Daoist, are you the master of this child here?" the Saint Alchemist asked.

Anya stopped talking with Ning and moved out to meet the Saint Alchemist. "It's a genuine pleasure to meet you, senior Saint Alchemist," she said. "I am truly sorry if my granddaughter's little stunt harmed the integrity of the competition you were holding."

Chapter 342: I Think...

The Saint Alchemist and Anya started talking and soon went into talking about alchemy. Before they knew it, they were discussing their understanding of Alchemy.

The Saint Alchemist got to see just how vast Anya's knowledge of alchemy was, and at the same time, Anya got to see just how deep the Saint alchemist's knowledge was.

There were subjects about which the Saint Alchemist knew way more than Anya could ever hope to on her own.

The entire crowd was entranced by the two of them speaking, especially those that knew about Alchemy.

"We should stop it here, senior. We should let the contest end," Anya said.

"Oh, right, right," the Saint Alchemist said, a little saddened that he didn't get to continue talking about Alchemy. He then turned towards the young girl who was still hooded and asked, "little girl, do you still need to keep hiding?"

"Ah, I forgot," the girl said and took off her hood. She looked towards the Saint Alchemist, then to her Grandmother. She then turned to Ning and put on a massive smile on her face. She excitedly started waving at him as if she couldn't wait to get to him.

The Saint Alchemist turned back to look at Ning. He knew that teacher from the Five Professions academy was quite good, but his knowledge didn't feel as profound as the little girl's grandmother, so he ignored him.

"Would you mind telling me your name?" he asked.

"It's Dahlia," the little girl said.

"Dahlia... I see. That's a nice name," he said.

He then took out a black box and handed it to her. "Inside is a very rare ingredient that I found on one of my many journeys. I hope this helps you in ways it could never help me," he said.

Dahlia's face lit up when she saw what was inside and immediately thanked him. The Saint Alchemist simply smiled and told her to keep on working hard.

He then moved on to his disciple. "Since I will be handing out my everything to you, I hope you don't mind not getting anything right now," he said.

"Seni— Master, You took me in as a disciple. That is the best reward I could ever hope to get," the young man said.

The Saint Alchemist smiled. "What's your name, young man?"

"It's Bertel, master," he said.

"Bertel, I hope you can learn everything I will be teaching you," the Saint Alchemist said.

Bertel was in a daze as he looked at the Saint Alchemist with massive eyes. He couldn't believe what was currently happening.

The Saint Alchemist turned around to Tsado and said, "Thank you for holding this competition. I shall return after the following competition is over to give 3 sets of lectures for your alchemy hall. Until then, I would like to take my leave."

"Of course senior," Tsado said. "I will be patiently waiting for your return," Tsado said.

"Alright," the Saint Alchemist said. "Come on, Bertel."

Bertel woke out of his daze and said, "Yes Master,". He then started flying to follow the Saint Alchemist.

"WAIT!" someone shouted just then.

Bertel who was barely a meter in the air stopped and looked around to see who was speaking right now.

Ning walked upfront from the stunned crowd.

"Is there something wrong, fellow Daoist?" the Saint Alchemist flew down to confront Ning.

"Oh, sorry about that. I needed to talk with the young man back there," Ning said with a smile.

The Saint Alchemist felt a little defensive and asked, "I'm his disciple now, so can you ask me instead?"

"If you can answer it, sure," Ning said with a smile.

The Saint Alchemist felt weird but still nodded to let him ask the question.

"Oh, I just wanted to ask where your disciple got his Silver String Pill making technique," Ning said.

The young man's face suddenly went pale when he heard that. He started fidgeting, not sure what he should do right now, so he ran behind his master and hid.

"Silver String pill-making technique?" the saint Alchemist asked with confusion. "What's that? I've never heard of something like that."

"It's understandable why you might not have heard of it," Ning said. "After all, it's not a very well-known technique. So, may I just question your disciple a little."

"No, master. I can't answer him," Bertel shouted.

The Saint Alchemist was more confused now that his disciple was starting to act suspiciously. He thought for a moment and said, "if my disciple doesn't want to answer, then I won't force him at all. I hope you can understand that, Fellow Daoist."

"Of course," Ning said. "Thank you for your time anyway."

"Goodbye," the Saint Alchemist said to the crowd and flew away. Bertel also flew up not before taking one last glance at Ning with eyes full of fear. Then, his eyes moved to Dahlia for a split second before he looked away and flew the same.

"Ooh," Ning said just after the two of them left. "It doesn't hurt at all right now. I wonder if my mind became strong or if that Bertel was weak," he thought.

"What's going on, master?" Anya said seriously. "Is there something wrong with that young man?"

"Oh no, he's a fine young man, nothing wrong. I just wanted to learn a little more since it seems like I found one of the ones that I'm supposed to find soon," he said with a smile.

"Anyway, come. It's been a while since I've seen you guys. An entire year actually," Ning said.

"Grandmaster, I missed you," Dahlia said as he hugged Ning. She had only ever heard of him before meeting him a year ago for a brief period. However, that brief period was all she needed to like Ning.

He was like the cool uncle one kept hearing about that did turn out to be just as cool.

"I missed you too, senior Ely," she said.

"How are you, Dahlia?" Ely asked.

The four of them got to talking before Anya took the two of them to their place of stay to talk some more.

"Wait, why weren't you on the tower?" Ning asked.

"I was invited, but then I saw you flying up there and didn't want to risk it at all," Anya said. "While the robe you gave me might keep me hidden from divine senses, I don't know what little trick you have in that little system of yours."

"Oh right, that's why I didn't notice you," Ning said. "Anyway, you should have let me know. I could've just teleported you here."

"Huh?" Anya exclaimed. "What part of 'surprise' makes you think I should have let you know we were coming?"

"Ah right, it was a surprise. I forgot," Ning said as he smiled.

"Hehe, Grandmaster was so shocked when he saw you, grandma. His face was brilliant," Dahlia said.

"Sister Ely's face wasn't that different either," Anya said with a chuckle.

"Hey, I was surprised too okay," Ely said.

"Right, right, I should have looked at her too, but the old man was standing in between so I couldn't see," Dahlia said.

"Her face was pretty shocked too," Anya said.

"Aww, I can't believe I couldn't see it," Dahlia got a little dejected. The three girls started talking with each other, and soon Ning started feeling something warm inside of him.

Some of the people he truly cared about were right in front of him, with him. This made him remember the good times he had, those years he spent with them.

The few months he spent in Klavia getting to know the people, the time he was a doctor in Anya's house, the little time he spent with Famir and the others, the time when he spent on Klavia again, then the time he spent in the Seven Lights academy with Anya and her family.

These were the memories he cherished the most and he was reminded of what he cared for the most. Spending time with people he loved.

There weren't people like that in the Southern Continent or the Central Continent, aside from a single person. As the girls talked he kept thinking about something.

The girls had forgotten he existed for a moment there.

"So, where are Tanya and Sonya? Are they both still teaching in the academy?" Ely asked.

"Yes," Dahlia said. "With grandma leaving, there needed to be someone to take care of the Woodlight Mountain, so both mother and aunt Sonya stayed behind."

"I see," Ely said. "What about your brother and cousins then?"

"I told them to come, but none of them are interested in Alchemy like me and mother. We inherited that from grandma," Dahlia said. "Well, not like they could take part or anything. They are too old for the competition."

"Ah right, I forgot about that aspect of the competition. Still, they should have come," Ely said.

"It's fine," Anya said. "It's not like the formation is going anywhere. They will come when they have the time. Then they can explore the whole world as they wish."

"That's true," Ely said. "Still, it's always nice to have more people than less, right Ning?"

She turned around, but he didn't answer at all.

"Ning?" she called.

"Huh?" he asked.

"What's wrong? What's in your mind?" she asked.

"I..." Ning didn't know if he wanted to say it.

"Come on, you can say it," Ely said.

"I... I think I want to go back to the Northern Continent to live out the rest of my remaining days."

Chapter 343: Spider?

"What brought this all of a sudden?" Ely asked.

"I just...I have been staying in the academy not because I want to, but because I feel like that's where I'm supposed to stay at. Like there is no other place for me. However, that's not true. The academy was merely a place that I happened to enter because of your brother."

"In fact, I would've probably left a long time ago if I wasn't a teacher there. But some sense of loyalty and responsibility kept me from moving on with my life, and I ended up staying there for so long."

"But now... I think it's time I leave," Ning said.

Ely heard him and got quiet. She drooped her head and thought for a while as well. Anya and Dahlia looked at them, a little concerned as to what was happening.

"I think I understand," Ely said. "I think I understand what you mean. Ever since my brother got his own family, and father stayed with them, I've felt like I don't belong there anymore."

"Not like I was unwelcome or anything, but like I needed to find my own place somewhere. Which was why I stayed in the academy in the first place."

"However, slowly I felt like that wasn't enough either. Many came and many left the academy, everything changed but me. Soon, I was starting to feel like I didn't belong there either. However, I couldn't voice what it was until now, but I knew I didn't feel the same way as I did before."

"Now I see. Time has lapped past me and the world is not ours anymore. It's time for me to retire as well," Ely said.

A single tear dropped from her eyes as she realized that the end of her days being a teacher was coming very soon.

"So you guys feel so too huh?" Anya asked. "I remember when I started feeling that way too. Perhaps, being a head of a mountain made the feeling come for me faster."

"Once I realized what was happening, I left the mountain for my daughters to look after as well. While I'm still the head in name, they are the ones that really do all the work."

"If only they decided which one of them was going to be the next head so I could quickly pass along the position," Anya said with a sigh.

Ning smiled. "Alright, enough of the depressing talk. Let's change the topic," Ning said. "Tell me more about where the other kids are."

Soon the 4 of them got back to talking about their current situation again. Ning felt relieved thinking about it all, knowing that he didn't need to be bound to a single place anymore.

A few more days passed and the other profession's competitions ended as well. They weren't as big or as celebrated as the Alchemy ones, but they were still thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Then came the combat section of the competition. This one couldn't even be called competition. With the Klavians being so strong thanks to Ning's techniques, they easily won the whole thing.

In the end, it was Hijaka's own grandson that won the whole thing with his 8th Golden Core cultivation realm.

"Inikaka, are you really coming over to the northern continent again?" Hijaka said with absolute happiness.

"Yes, I will come over and stay somewhere around there. It was a long time ago that Hyesi said I needed to settle down. I thought that was what I was doing in the academy, but I was wrong."

"I was simply mistaking my loyalty to the academy for thinking I belonged there," Ning said.

"Woah, Grandfather will be very happy after learning this. I will have to tell him about it as soon as we return," Hijaka said.

"Wait, wait, wait. Not so fast. I'm going to go to the northern continent, but I'm not going to stay with your guys, obviously," Ning said.

"Eh?" Hijaka was confused. "Then what will you be doing?"

"I will find someplace after I go there, don't worry," Ning said. "But it just won't be around where you guys are."

"I see. Well, grandfather will be happy either way," Hijaka said.

Everyone was starting to leave the Bright Red Academy now. The Purple Beasts sect members came to thank Ning for helping them get in.

Tsado and the rest also came to thank Ning and Ely for being there.

Ning and Ely then went to the people from the Five Professions academy and explained why they wouldn't be returning anymore.

Ning said goodbye to the few people he knew from the academy now and finally left.

"So, where do we go first?" Anya asked.

Not only her, but Hijaka was there too. Ning thought for a few seconds and said, "You guys head over to Ely's house and stay there for a few days. I... have to go for a small trip to the southern empire."

"I will take you all back once I'm back from there," he said.

"Huh?" Anya was surprised. "What's in the Southern Continent?"

Ning smiled and said, "A spider."

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A few days had gone past, and Ning was in a tavern, eating some food. He had a soup made up of some bird meat that the tavern owner had cooked. Although, it would be a lie to call it meat since it was mostly just bones.

"Oh my god, this is so delicious, grandmaster. You totally have to try this." A sound came from before him that brought back his attention.

"Eat slower. It's not like it's going to go anywhere," Ning said.

"But Grandmaster, this sweet potato really is very sweet," Dahlia said from in front of him. She had insisted that she too come with him in this little search of his.

"Alright, still eat slowly," Ning said.

"Okay," Dahlia said as she ate the sweet potato. "Oh right, when are you going to stop being so stubborn?"

"What do you mean?" Ning asked when he heard the weird question.

"I mean, when are you going to stop saying that you will find this spider on your own, and just use the system?" Dahlia asked.

"Hey! I don't need the system for everything. I can do stuff on my own too," Ning said.

"Doesn't look like it," Dahlia said as he took another bite of the potato. "You know, when my mother said you weren't really as great as grandma said, I thought she was lying. Turns out she was right."

"What? Little Tanya said that? That little..." Ning was getting irritated. These little kids were looking down on him just because he was using his system a lot.

That was one of the reasons why he decided to find the spider on his own too because Dahlia jokingly said he couldn't really do much without the system.

She didn't mean any harm, but that was the more harmful thing she could say to Ning right now. All because she was right.

Ning didn't know he had a complex about it, but now that he heard it, he realized he did. 'Damn these kids. Of course, I can do simple things on my own,' he thought.

"Anyway, when are we leaving this town?" she asked.

"Wait for a bit. There is a small celebratory event in the Grider's family home. While everyone is out on the front of it, we will sneak through the back. I don't really know how it all looks, so it will take a little while," Ning said.

Dahlia huffed and sighed. She would have to stay there for another whole day just because Ning didn't want to use the system. Because of that, they couldn't even directly teleport.

"Are you invited to the party by the way?" Dahlia asked.

"I probably would be... if it was 1800 years ago. But now this place has changed too, and I wasn't strong enough to leave a mark at that time," Ning said.

"Woah, I am sometimes really surprised as to how old you are. You are even older than my grandma, and she's ancient," she said.

"You do know Hyesi is the oldest right? Did your grandma ever tell you about how I was just gone for 165 years?" Ning asked.

"Yeah, but you were born earlier so you are the oldest. Fortunately, you don't seem like it, so there's that," Dahlia said.

Suddenly, the doors to the tavern slammed open and a huffing man walked in.

"It... It's happening," he said. "The party is starting."

"WOOHOOO!!!!" the entire crowd started shouting and celebrating all of a sudden.

"It's started already?" Dahlia said in surprise.

"It's time," Ning said and stood up. He walked over to the tavern owner and paid him. Dahlia walked behind him and had attracted quite a few eyes, but her aura was enough to stop everyone from having any unnecessary thoughts.

The whole small town was celebrating since their lord's son had hit it big. He was now the disciple of a really big Alchemist in the Central Continent.

"I don't think they're back by now, right?" Dahlia asked.

"No, they were just sent a message beforehand. Let's go, it's time to search," Ning said and put up his hood. Dahlia followed closely and pulled up her hood as well.

As soon as they did, both of them lost their auras completely and soon disappeared in the midst of the many people.

Soon they came across a not-so-big mansion and stared at it.

"Can you feel it?" Dahlia asked.

Ning took a deep breath and felt all the little auras that were bouncing around outside the mansion.

"Yes, it's definitely in there somewhere."

Chapter 344: Silverback Forest Spider

While the Griders held a decently big celebration at the front, Ning and Dahlia weaved through the crowd, finding a way to get to a back door.

"C'mon, just teleport us," Dahlia said.

"I need to know where I'm headed to teleport. Mostly I teleport to the sky, but this time, I don't want people seeing us," Ning said.

"Sigh, alright," Dahlia said. The two of them sneaked around the place and soon were behind the house.

"What do we do now? Do we use our divine sense?" Dahlia asked.

Ning looked around at the back half of the house, trying to find any clue he could. Unfortunately, there were none.

"I can see a single cobweb," he said as he looked around. "There's nothing behind right?" he thought and sent his divine sense into the woods that lied behind the Grider family home.

"Nope, no spider there, so it has to be inside," they thought and started sneaking in. Ning directly teleported to the furthest end with Dahlia and started looking for places to go.

"Where could they be keeping the spider?" Ning asked softly. The house was mostly empty, so they were successfully able to search most of the place.

The sounds of celebration that came from the front of the house were enough to give them an idea of just why there were none back here.

"Grandmaster," Dahlia called. "I don't think the spider is anywhere here. What about the underground? I think there's a dungeon there."

"A dungeon?" Ning asked in surprise and sent his divine sense down there. "Oh, look at that. There really is one."

He grabbed Dahlia by the wrist and the both of them disappeared. When they reappeared, they were inside the dungeon checking out the whole thing.

"Look!" Dahlia shouted as she pointed somewhere. "Cobweb, just like you asked," she said.

Ning turned to look and saw the cobwebs. He got closer and saw their color as well. "Silver," he thought. "It's here."

Dahlia got defensive and ready to fight. The dungeon gave a very gloomy aura, and it looked like anything could attack them at any time.

"No need to be on guard. I'm here, aren't I?" Ning said with a chuckle. "Besides, if he wanted to harm you, you would've already been dead."

Ning pointed towards the ceiling right atop Dahlia, who turned around to see 8 massive eyes staring directly at her.

"A young man and a young woman, both in my dungeon. How peculiar. Tell me, humans, how did you stumble upon here?" a raspy voice directly spoke into both of their minds, which scared Dahlia a little bit.

The clicking sound the spider was making on the outside, made her feel uncomfortable.

"A green spider with black and yellow eyes, with a silver leaf on its back. You really are a Silverback Forest Spider, aren't you?" Ning asked as he looked at them.

"Oh," the spider spoke into his mind again. "You know what species I am. That hasn't happened before. Tell me, humans, why are you here?"

"I have a question for you instead actually. I hope you can answer me first," Ning said.

"I do not believe you are in a place where you can make such demands, young man," the spider said.

Ning simply smiled and let loose a little bit of his aura before hiding it away. However, that was enough for the spider to change its stance.

All eight of its pupils dilated with fear as it immediately crawled far away in fear.

"I'm not here to hurt you," Ning said.

"Then why do you hide your strength, stranger," the spider asked.

"Uh, Ely did say that. Man, I should stop hiding my strength; it causes way too many misunderstandings," Ning thought.

The spider was in a very defensive stance with its butt ready to throw out some webs to entangle the two of them.

Dahlia was still a little fearful of the spider, but she was also amused after seeing it fear Ning as much as it did.

"When did you escape the tomb? Do you have a time frame?" Ning asked.

"Who are you? How do you know that?" the spider started getting more and more suspicious and scared at the same time. "Are you one of them?" it asked.

"One of... who?" Ning asked in confusion.

"You don't look like them. You don't have the same aura," the Spider said.

"I don't know what you are talking about," Ning said.

"Them!" the spider exclaimed as it pointed to a dark corner of the room. Ning looked to the side and saw a massive cobweb.

He waved his hands and the cobwebs flew off, revealing two balls of webs. He sighed and threw some fire on it, and the ball of webs immediately started burning.

Before they could completely destroy it, however, Ning stopped the fire and brought what remained forward. Inside them were two men, each wearing a blood-red cloak, with their eyes open wide and their body half rotting.

"Who are these people?" Dahlia asked as he stopped herself from vomiting at their corpses.

"They are the three- well now two people that came for me," the spider said.

"Three? There's another? Where?" Dahlia asked.

The spider clicked its mouth and answered, "in my stomach. I wanted to eat these two too, but the first one's blood tasted disgusting."

Dahlia put a hand on her mouth as she was overcome with shock. "You're a monster," she said.

"I was just hungry. Besides, I'm a guard," it said. "I kill intruders, and occasionally eat them. I wanted to eat these too, but... who would have known that there was blood that tasted this bad."

"Their blood huh?" Ning said as he walked forward and made a small cut on the corpse's cheek before drawing out a bit of black blood.

He took out some herbs and mixed them with the blood. The herbs all immediately turned black and fell onto the ground.

Ning's eyes went wide. "That is not the blood of a human or a beast. This is something different," Ning said.

- Chapter 345: Copycats

Chapter 345: Copycats

"What do you mean, grandmaster? Are these people not human?" Dahlia asked.

"You are an alchemist, young man?" the spider asked.

Ning ignored the spider and answered, "No, these are definitely humans, but their blood is not. It's..." Ning felt their blood again and said, "... it's like the blood they have doesn't belong to them. It's like, they had someone else's blood. However, it couldn't adapt to their body, so it changed."

"Yes!" the spider shouted. "The one I ate said something similar. That human said that it was here to get me so that they can get stronger by taking me away and devouring my blood."

Ning brought out a little more ingredients and did some more experiments. After a while, he said, "I see. I think I have a general idea of what is going on. Shit! This is going to turn into a problem."

"What? What's wrong?" Dahlia asked.

The spider also looked at Ning intently. Ning checked the other person too and found the same result.

"Shit!" he shouted.

"What's wrong, young man?" the spider asked.

"Sigh, if I'm not wrong, these people have injected themselves with an amalgamation of the blood of the different beasts, especially legendary ones to try and gain their powers for themselves."

"If I'm not wrong. They are trying to mimic and find a way to become Jha'Akim themselves," Ning said.

"What?" the spider shouted in surprise. "How do you know that name? It should have been lost to history."

Ning sighed again. "I was sent here by your ancestors to get you back to the secret realm through the tomb. Don't you wish to go back?" Ning asked.

"You... are you really sent here by my ancestors?" the Spider asked.

"Yes. I'm here to take you back. That is... if you still wish to come back," Ning said.

"YES! Of course!" the spider shouted. "I have wished to go back many times. I curse my younger self everytime I remember how stupidly curious I was."

"I came out of that place and unknowingly stumbled onto this place. Now I don't even know how to return back. I don't even know where to return back."

"I've been searching around the lands, but I never found anything. At some point, I simply gave up on finding my way back. That... was a few centuries ago. I've been staying here now, waiting for my end to come."

"However," the spider spoke with all 8 of its eyes shining brightly, "however, If I can go back, then please let me. I wish to go back."

Ning smiled. "Sure, that's what I promised your ancestors anyway," Ning said.

"Wait!" the spider shouted. "Let me call the little guy here first. I've been with this family forever as they were the ones that gave me shelter. I should at least say my goodbyes."

"Sure," Ning said. The spider sent out its divine sense and called someone.

"They must've really taken care of you for you to give out such a great technique to a little boy like that," Ning said. "He made good use of the pill making technique."

"How do you know that?" the Spider asked.

"Bertel, he took part in a competition and won it. You must have taught him quite a lot," Ning said.

"Oh he did? He was telling me about that a few months ago. He was really scared, that kid. I told him he would do good. Thank you for that information," the spider said.

"Anyway, how are you here?" Ning asked.

"As I said, I was roaming and one of this place's ancestors found me, and I started guarding them," the spider said.

"No, no, no, I mean this continent," Ning asked.

"What continent?" the spider asked.

"The southern continent," Ning said.

"So?" the spider asked.

"Do you not know that the beast realm is in the central continent?" Ning asked.

"Huh? That can't be. I was teleported into the middle of the forests in the north," the spider said.

"Hmm... that's weird. I wonder why that is," Ning thought.

Suddenly, footsteps could be heard from the side as someone came rushing in. It was a middle aged man with a face not unlike Bertel's.

"Senior, you—" he stopped when he saw Ning and Dahlia.

"Who are you two? And why are you here?" he exclaimed. He took out a sword and got in a stance to fight immediately. "Are you two the same as the last ones?"

"Wait, Teril. These are not here with a bad intention," the spider spoke.

"Hello, I am Ning, and this is Dahlia. We are here to take your senior here back to his home," Ning said.

"Huh?" the man got more confused and thus less hostile. "Back to his home?" his minds churned for a few minutes and his eyes brightened.

"Senior, you mean... they are..."

"Yes," the spider said. "These people were sent by my ancestors to bring me back."

The man turned to look at the two of them, and his cautiousness returned. "Did you verify that, senior?" the man asked.

The spider went quiet. "Hmm... not really," the spider said. "But they do speak of things that no other people would speak of, and... that young man is way too strong to deceive me into going somewhere with him."

"He would simply just grab me and walk away, and none of us would be able to do anything," the spider said.

"Hey now, I would never do that," Ning said. "Anyway, say your goodbyes, and we will leave."

"Huh?" the middle aged man shouted. "You're leaving right now, senior? You won't say goodbye to Bertel when he returns?"

The spider stopped. He really wanted to say his goodbye to the young lad.

"Um, young man, is it possible to wait for a few days?" the spider asked.

"Um... yes, but if possible I would love to leave as soon as possible," Ning said.

"Hmm..." the spider thought. "Oh, I know. You said you were here to get us back, right? I know of another brother that lives to the south."

"Maybe... you can take him too in the meantime."

Chapter 346: Redskin Lava Lizard

Ning wanted to not spend any more time here. He still had to spend some time in the tomb where he delivered the spider and that would take a chunk of his time.

However, he could never get himself to deprive someone else of their chance to say goodbye to someone they cared about. That was what he would wish others did for him as well.

"Alright," he sighed as he accepted the task. "Tell me about this other beast."

Ning listened to the spider tell him a general location of where the next beast was. The other beast was a Redskin Lava Lizard, that could be found in the city of Freegold of the Blackfire empire.

Ning thought for a moment to remember where this place was and looked through his map. This was a place that used to be called Travan City back when he used to roam the place. Now, every other name on the map was new to him.

In just 1800 years, the world had changed to a point where it was unrecognizable to him once more.

"Let's go. We will come by in five days," Ning said. Dahlia nodded and followed Ning before the two of them were back outside.

Ning flew into the air and brought out a chariot-like flying machine that he had made himself. Once Dahlia was ready, he let it fly.

"How far is it?" she asked.

"The Freegold city? Dozens of thousands of kilometers," Ning said.

"Eh? Won't that take us forever if we fly with this?" She asked.

"Yes. It should take us around 4 days, I would say," Ning said.

"What? Let's just teleport there," Dahlia said.

Ning smirked. "I thought you said I was useless without my system. So, I won't use it at all. You will have to sit through this entire journey," Ning said.

"Wow. So petty. I thought you were supposed to be thousands of years older than me," Dahlia said. "Mom and grandma will love to hear about this when I return."

"Tsk." Ning clicked his tongue. No matter what he did, he couldn't seem to win against this kid. Still, he was going to stick to the chariot which he could speed up to reach the city in about 2 days. He had to spend his time somewhere.

After nearly 3 days of monotonous journey, and multiple insistence of Dahlia to teleport to the city, the two of them finally arrived there.

Ning took back the chariot without notice, and Dahlia started freefalling while screaming. She started flying the next second, but that one second of the scream was worth it for all the torture Ning had felt mentally for these last couple of days.

"Why are you so childish?" Dahlia shouted angrily.

"Who says I'm old?" Ning said. "I barely started living."

He smiled and floated down towards the city. The city was different from what he had remembered. He didn't remember there being a wall around it, or the city being this large either. Most of the farmlands had turned to house spaces as well, and one of the mountains to the right of the city was missing and had been turned to what looked like sect grounds.

Ning landed outside the city gate and was suddenly confronted by guards and soldiers from inside the city.

"That's a mighty welcome," he said with a chuckle when he saw them point their weapons at him.

"Who are you, stranger? We will attack if you don't answer," the guards said.

"Ooh, must be quite a sensitive time. What's going on? Are you fighting with some other sect or city?" Ning asked.

The guards didn't answer at all but only got more defensive. Ning shook his head and directly released his divine sense that covers dozens of kilometers. He looked through every place in the city, including the city lord's manor.

"Hmm... I don't see him anywhere," Ning said.

"He's not here?" Dahlia asked with surprise. "What about that sect?"

"I was about to check that next," Ning said and concentrated his divine sense on the sect that was at the place.

He alerted a lot of different people but still couldn't see signs of anything.

"Still nothing," he said with a surprise.

"Did the spider give us the wrong information?" Dahlia asked.

"I don't see why he would," Ning said, but his confusion only increased. 'Did the spider tell me when it saw the lizard?' Ning thought.

As far as he could remember, the spider had said it met the lizard on one of the recent Grider family explorations. It had taken time out of the vacation to go meet its brother.

That was only a few dozen years ago.

As Ning was thinking of it all, many unique figures started flying towards him and landed in front of them. The figures consisted of many elders and high-level figures from the city.

"A young man and a young woman?" one of them asked in surprise. He then turned towards the guards that were already there and asked, "Where is the senior that sent out his divine sense just now?"

"Th-That's him," the guards were barely able to form a sentence as the fear of Ning's divine sense still remained in their minds.

"The young man? But he's so young though," the man spoke.

"That was definitely him, sect leader," one of the guards answered.

"Hmm... senior, was it really you who sent his divine sense into the city and sect?" the sect leader asked.

"Yes, it was I," Ning said. "I was looking for someone and this was the last place I heard he was here. So I decided to check, but it seems he's not here."

"Who might it be that you are looking for, senior?" the sect leader asked nervously.

"The one I'm looking for is a Lava Lizard that I was told would be found here. Do you have any clue as to where it is?" Ning asked.

The sect leader's eyes went wide.

"Senior... our sect guardian, the Lava Lizard, is dead."

Chapter 347: Return

"Dead?" Ning asked with surprise. "I was told the lizard was alive just a few years ago."

"Yes, senior. It happened only a couple of months ago. There was a fight where the city and sect were infiltrated by people from another city."

"At the time, the fight got so bad that senior Lizard had to step in, but even he couldn't win. He struggled until his last breath and managed to kill the intruders, but his wound was so bad that he died just a couple of days later," the sect leader said.

"An invasion?" Ning asked in surprise. 'Is that why these people are so stressed?' Ning thought.

"Yes, senior. We were attacked by another city from the next empire, so we are a little scared to let just anyone in. Which was why these guards stopped you. I hope you don't mind," the sect leader said.

"Sigh, it's fine. Urghh," Ning felt tired. After coming all the way, only to find out that the beast was dead.

"I came here to bring the beast back to his family. Now that he is dead, I will have to bring it back even if it's just its bones. Can you show me where its grave is?" Ning asked.

"His home? Not even the senior lizard knew where his home was. How do you know, senior?" the sect leader asked.

"His home is in the Central Continent, but he never searched for it there, so he wouldn't have known," Ning said. "I came to the southern continent to find another spider, and he told me the lizard was here."

"I see," the sect leader said. He was still very suspicious of Ning, but given the strength, he showed with his divine sense, it was unlikely any of them could fight against him or deny him what he wanted.

The city lord walked forward and said, "Senior, would you like to come to stay in our city for a while? It would be our honor to serve you."

"Uhh... maybe nex—"

"Yes, we would love to," Dahlia said from behind.

Ning looked at Dahlia disapprovingly. "What?" she asked. "It was you who said we need to spend a few days somehow. Let's just stay in the city. I want to look around too. Please~"

Ning sighed and shook his head. He turned around to the city lord and said, "Alright, we'll say."

"Great!" the city lord exclaimed. "Please come with us, senior."

The two of them then went into the city and were taken to stay at the city lord's place. They introduced themselves to the group of people that followed, who were surprised to learn they were from another continent.

Ning and Dahlia stayed in the city lord's manor for a few days. In those days, Dahlia went out to the city and roamed it with a few disciples from the sect that were left there to look after the two.

Ning on the other hand simply stayed behind and enjoyed some semblance of free time. He took the opportunity to think about what he was going to do next after he left for the northern continent.

He wanted to live a normal life or at least one that felt like it. He wasn't sure how someone that wasn't even a human could do that.

"Whatever, I will just go check the Origin for now. If I can get Hyesi, Anya, and the rest to that place, then my job on this planet will be over," he thought.

Now he simply needed to take some time to fly around the entire planet looking for the Origin in the ocean. Aside from that, he also needed to make his new body.

As for Jha'Akim, he wasn't really worried about him doing any harm, despite how strong he could be. Once Hyesi and Anya quickly broke through to the Spirit Transformation realm, they could easily defeat him.

"I guess I don't really have any problems then," Ning thought with a sigh. This also meant that his time to leave the place was going to come soon.

Ning was then taken to the grave of the lizard, and he took away the entire land along with the bones, leaving a massive opening in the middle.

Once he was done, it was soon time to leave.

"I hope you've had your fill with the city cause it's time to leave," Ning said.

"Aww, okay," Dahlia said.

Without waiting, Ning caught her arm and teleported the two of them into the dungeon underneath the Grider family's home.

"I've been waiting for you guys," the spider said. "Where's the lizard?"

"Unfortunately, the Lava Lizard died a few months ago in a city invasion. I could only bring back his bones," Ning said.

"Is that so...?" the spider said with a saddened voice. "I had just seen him a few years ago. To think he died already."

"Yeah, it's quite sad," Ning said. "Anyway, are you ready to leave?"

"Yes," the spider said. "I've said my goodbyes already. Let me just tell them I'm going."

After a few moments, Bertel and his father came down to say their goodbyes.

"You!" Bertel said with surprise. He couldn't believe that the people that came to take away their guardian was the two people from the competition.

"Hello," Dahlia said with a smile.

"Bye, I'm leaving now," the spider said to them.

The two of them seemed to have been prepared for it, so they didn't try to stop him or anything, but the Bertel kid kept staring towards them.

"Hey! It's rude to stare at a lady like that," Dahlia said jokingly.

Bertel got flustered and started apologizing.

"Keep learning Alchemy. I will see how much you improve if there is ever a competition next time. Only that time, I won't hold back," Dahlia said.

"Alright, let's go," Ning said and with a single grab of the spider's leg, they vanished.

When they reappeared, the three of them were flying in the air above the Grime oasis.

"Do you see that tomb over there?" Ning said while pointing far away, "That's your home."

Chapter 348: Entering the Tomb again

"That's my home?" the spider looked at the tomb, surrounded by the desert. "That can't be it; my home is in the forests."

"Well, you can ask about that to your ancestors. They are the reason this place is no longer a forest," Ning said as he looked at the tiny people that came and went from inside the tomb.

"Are those people there to look at the beasts?" Dahlia asked.

"No, the beasts are inside a seal, so the people down there are only looking at a bunch of scams," Ning said. "Let's go down."

The three of them slowly floated down to the tomb, and immediately people started noticing them. Ning and Dahlia were fine, but the massive spider flying in the air was a scene straight out of nightmare for many.

The guards of the tomb started pouring out to fight the Spider. They didn't know how strong the spider was, but they were being paid to fight, so they would.

They all flew into the air, with weapons ready in their hands. They would sure fight the spider, even if it was to just test how strong he was, or to let the other people escape before the spider attacked them all.

However, when they got close, they couldn't help but stop. Behind the spider, they saw Ning flying down as well.

They still remembered their terror from over a month ago when they had to fight against Ning and just his mere presence had scared them all.

"Run!" they shouted and flew back to the tomb to let everyone know that danger was approaching. Soon, no one remained in the tomb.

"That works quite well in our favor," Ning said with a chuckle.

Dahlia started asking some questions as to why the people showed such behavior, but Ning sidestepped all the questions.

"So, is this where you left the three?" Dahlia finally asked after they had all reached the room in the middle of the tomb.

"Yes... this is where I left them," Ning said, without paying much attention to what he was saying. His attention was clearly somewhere else.

"How do I get there, young man? Please tell me," the Spider said very excitedly. It couldn't wait to return back after nearly a millenia.

Ning looked at the shadow on his right and started wondering what direction he was facing currently. It took him a while but he realized. When he did, he couldn't help but sigh.

"It's afternoon right now," he said.

Dahlia and the spider didn't know what that meant so they asked, "So?"

Ning thought for a second and went to the center to remove the rock that was there. Once the half formation was clearly showed, he placed a coin at the center of it and said, "Step aside from this center part for a while, okay? Its a formation."

The two of them nodded and waited. Ning disappeared and appeared high in the air above the tomb. He raised his hand and suddenly bright light started appearing from it that made even him wince a little.

He closed his eyes and sent his divine sense down to see what was going on. The shadows from the ceiling was completely misaligned, by a large margin, so he started moving around to fix it perfectly.

Dahlia and the spider were inside the room, looking at the shadow slowly moved around until it finally aligned.

"GET IN!" Ning's voice sounded inside both of their heads and they simultaneously stepped into the formation. In a flash, the two of them disappeared.

"Now, what should I do," Ning thought. He focused and started letting the ball of light float away from his hand at a steady rate.

Once he felt that it was stable, he teleported directly onto the formation and disappeared the same.

When he reappeared, he didn't waste a moment and teleported directly to the bottom, and managed to catch the falling Dahlia.

"You okay?" he asked.

"Yes," she said. She hadn't expected to fall at all. "Thank you!"

The spider on the other hand had stuck to the side of the wall and was now crawling on it. "I would've caught her," it said.

"Let's go," Ning said and walked to the center hall where everyone remained. The entire way, Dahlia couldn't help but be amazed at how terrifying the gashes on the walls were.

When they finally reached the statue, Ning proclaimed, "I brought your descendant back."

"Ancestors!" the spider cried out when he saw them.

"Is that really you, my child?" the spider statue cried out as well.

Ning saw the happiness in the spiders face, and soon everyone started to thank Ning. "Human, we hadn't even given you the method to find our descendant, and yet you brought one back already in just a week. How did you do that?" The drake asked.

"Just luck, I guess," Ning said. "Anyway, I'll see you guys later. I'm going in to meet my beasts."

Dahlia followed behind as Ning walked towards the stone door and disappeared into it. She slowly put her arms inside the stone and soon she disappeared too.

When she reappeared, she saw that Ning was already at the end of the cave. The spider followed behind her and looked at the opening with tears in all of its 8 eyes.

It hurriedly walked to the end and cried, "I'm home. I'M FINALLY HOME!"

Its screams reached all the way to the bottom of the cliff where the beasts heard it and flew up. "BROTHERS! SISTERS! I'm back," the spider cried out and jumped into the forest.

All beasts ignored the presense of Ning and Dahlia and went to meet their newly returned brother. All but 3.

Aegis, Night and Blue flew up to the cave's opening where Ning was standing. "Master, you're back?" they asked with surprise.

"Hey you guys. I haven't seen you in a while," Dahlia said from behind.

"Eh? Little Dahlia, you came here too?" Blue said in surprise.

"Yes, Grandmaster brought me," she said.

"How are you all doing? Are you having fun?" Ning asked.

"Yes, master. It's really fun," Blue said.

"We're doing well, master," Aegis said as well.

Night nodded slightly to show that he was having fun as well.

"But Master," Blue said, "Why did you return so early? I thought you were supposed to come back a month later."

"Oh, that... right. I didn't know time moved differently here. It's already been over a month on the outside," Ning said. "Well, you guys are having fun, so that's all that's important."

The 5 of them talked for a while, and the other beasts came up to them too. Ning let the beasts show Dahlia around, who couldn't believe how many beasts there were still alive.

They stayed there for a couple of hours as that was the most Ning was willing to spend before days disappeared in the real world.

Once it was time, Ning decided to return.

"What do you guys want to do? You can stay if you want. I have no problem with that. Besides, I'm going to settle down now, and you guys won't have the chance to leave or anything," Ning said.

Unanimously, the 3 of them decided to stay. This place felt like a home to them and they didn't want to leave this place unless necessary.

Ning smiled when he saw that. He was trully happy to see them happy.

"Alright then, I will see you guys soon," Ning said and flew away with Dahlia. They returned back to the place with the statues.

"I'm going to leave now. What should I do to find your descendants?" Ning asked.

"Wait, let us give you a small technique," the beasts said and started humming some words to Ning. Ning didn't understand what they were trying to say but some sort of knowledge entered his mind. When the beasts were done, Ning had now learned a new technique.

He decided to use it and suddenly many feelings, all of which led to the statues appeared inside him. "Oh, so this is supposed to help me track down your descendants huh? It's not bad," Ning said.

"Yes, please use that to find them. Since we have nothing to hold you to this promise, you can instead view this as a request. So, you can not do it if you don't want to either. We will leave it up to you," the beasts said.

"Don't worry. I have some free time, so I can help you. Although, I will be a little slow. Goodbye," Ning said and walked away.

He grabbed Dahlia and flew to the ceiling. He entered the exit formation and suddenly felt his body lurch in a different direction from what should be. He hurriedly pulled Dahlia into his arms and protected her as much as he could.

The intense feeling of lurch disappeared in a few seconds, and when it was done, they were outside of the formation. Only, they weren't inside the tomb anymore.

Fresh air rushed past Ning as he slowly let go of Dahlia. "Are you okay?" he asked.

"Yes," Dahlia said as he tried to get rid of the dizziness she was feeling. "That... that feeling, it reminded me of something," she said.

Ning looked around at the many islands that was scattered around below their feet. "We were teleported; that was the feeling you felt," Ning said.

Dahlia nodded.

"I see," Ning said. "No wonder the spider showed up in the southern continent's forest.. There was a goddamn teleportation formation sneaked into the exit formation."

Chapter 349: Asking

"Where are we exactly?" Dahlia asked. Ning didn't know either as he could be at the edge of any continent.

"I don't know," Ning said as he looked around at the massive blue ocean with few islands scattered around. "We got teleported so high up too."

He then started to look at the shape of the islands and distance between each other to match them together with the information in his mind.

"Oh, we're in the Northern Continent," Ning said with a bit of surprise. He then fell into a bit of a thought. 'So the exit formation not only sends the beasts out to the tomb in the central continent, but also the Northern and Southern continent s well,' he figured.

"It must have been that person's job. He made the exit to a random location in the 3 continents," Ning thought.

"Anyway, let's go. I will leave you at your home and come back to get your grandmother and others," Ning said. He grabbed Dahlia and teleported once more before appearing on top of the Woodlight Mountain that was home to Anya's family now.

"Go on, I will come back with your grandmother in a few hours," Ning said and disappeared again.

When he reappeared, he was outside the tomb. He flew into the tomb with a few people that looked at him in surprise. The people had already came back to claim their tomb and had restarted taking in the guests. When Ning saw that, he couldn't help by shake his head.

The coin at the center of the formation had already been taken away, but one didn't need a coin to unlock the seal, it could be anything that places the perfect shadow at the perfect time. So, he couldn't let the center exposed like that.

"Although it is quite unlikely that would happen, let me just place the rock back," Ning thought and moved the rock back into the center.

Then, without caring much for the people's eyes, he left the tomb. After he was a bit away from human eye, he teleported once more and appeared outside of Ely's home city.

The city had also grown a lot more than it had last time and was now at least 3 times as large. He walked through the busy streets of the city and made his way to the biggest mansion he had seen in a long time.

"I wonder how jealous Nilo's child would be if he saw this," Ning chuckled as he thought. The current emperor should have been taught about the fate his granduncle had went through for trying the usurp the emperor, but jealousy was a human nature, and wasn't something one could taught to get rid of, only to control it.

As he got close to the house, he sent out his divine sense and called out Ely. Both Ely and Anya flew out.

"You took quite some time. Didn't you say it was going to be quick?" Ely asked.

Anya looked around and asked, "Where's Dahlia?"

Ning explained everything that happened to him the last couple of days. They ladies finally brought him inside. Ember and Ender along with his wife and children were also in there.

"Inikaka, you're finally back," Hijaka said. "We've been waiting for you."

"Yeah, I'm back. We'll leave in a day or two now," Ning said, considering how impatient everyone must've been with his lateness.

Fortunately, Hijaka and his people were well treated by Ender.

The sun set soon and the people started gathering to talk some more. The entire thing felt like a celebration, rather than a simple grouping of people with how many there were.

They all sat around a small camp fire and talked about different things. People laughed, some told tales others had never heard before, Ning told some of his own from the Southern continent.

Dahlia would've certainly spoken about the many beasts she had seen today, but unfortunately she wasn't here.

Slowly, one by one, people started leaving to go and cultivate. Soon, only a few were remaining.

"Brother Ning," Ender said. "I heard that you are moving over to the Northern Continent, is that True?"

"Yes. I want to just settle down now. I have a few things to do that I can slowly do, other than that, I have nothing to do here anymore," Ning said.

"I see," Ender said. "Well, I wish the best of luck, Brother Ning. Anyway, I will go back now. You guys should go in as well." With that, Ender walked back into the house.

"I will go in too, Inikaka," Hijaka said and left.

"So will I," Anya said with a smile and left.

In the end, only Ning and Ely were left. "So, what plan do you have now?" Ning asked.

"I don't know. I was actually hoping..." Ely didn't finish off her sentence. A troubled look arose on her face that was very rarely there.

Ning racked his mind with multiple thoughts that contradicted each other. It was clear to see how much he cared about Ely, but he feared that asking her to come with him was not something that was good for her.

Ning would leave someday, and Ely was bound to die unless Ning did something too. So, he feared that he couldn't give her the life she deserved if he called her with him.

However, this small desire to be with her kept giving him the urge to throw caution to the wind and just ask her.

And so he did.

"If you don't have any plans, do you want to come with me? I would love it if you did," He asked.

Ely was surprised, but happy too to hear that. She smiled as that was what she had been hoping for. "Do you really mean it?" she asked.

"Of course. After all this time, do you still have to ask that?" he asked.

Ely chuckled when she heard that. "I suppose not," she said.

"So? What's your answer?" Ning asked.

"Do you really have to ask it? Of course I will," Ely said.

Ning smiled brightly, but there was a trace of sadness hidden in that smile. While he was happy for now, he believed that this was something that would lead him to sadness later.

Chapter 350: Return

Time passed some more. Days, months, years, everything was the same to Ning whose life had now grown monotonous.

He had a simple house in a mountain where he lived a normal life, doing normal things. The only thing that was abnormal was that he did not age, and neither did Ely who was living with him.

The two of them hadn't spoken it out loud, but they were clearly Dao companions now. They cultivated together in their small mud and wood house in the village.

As time passed, Ning felt both happy and sad. He was happy that he was getting closer and closer to making that new body of his that he so desperately wanted.

Time passed again, and finally, Ning felt he was settled enough. So, he decided to do the things he had meant to do for so long and left.

He didn't know where to start, so he teleported at the edge of the Northern continent.

"If it were anywhere close by, people would've noticed it by now. So, it has to be somewhere so far away that no human or beast in the last 12 millennia has ever visited it," Ning thought. This meant, he had to start by looking at the furthest place from all known lifeforms on all the continents.

So, Ning teleported to the other side of the planet which was nothing but water. He was currently dozens of thousands of kilometers away from land on all sides.

Not only did people have a problem coming here due to the distance, but there were also strong beasts in the ocean that made sea travel nearly impossible out in the open.

"Wait! Oh no, I forgot about that," he thought when he realized a problem. If the Origin were truly in the ocean, or at least freely existing there, the fishes and other aquatic beasts would've been strong as well."

"Well, let's just look around for now," he thought and moved around the ocean. He looked for the strength of the beasts and realized they weren't that strong. So he was definitely in the wrong location.

"At least, the Qi feels a little denser, but not as much as the island with the beasts from long ago," Ning thought. He felt the Qi in the air and with that in mind, teleported towards the eastern shore of the Central Continent.

"Oh," he thought as he felt the new Qi. "This is so much weaker. Hmm.... So I'm in the wrong direction?"

With that, he disappeared towards the western shore of the Central Continent.

"Much better," he thought when he felt the Qi in the air of the western shore. "I'm close, but... did the first place feel denser?" he thought.

He started doing the same thing over and over, teleporting to different locations around the ocean, trying to figure out where the density was the highest.

Finally, he found a location that felt like the best he had felt anywhere. Even if that was not the correct spot, that was very close.

"It should be around here. I hope so," he thought and slowly moved around. He searched the Origin for a few hours, but couldn't find anything at all.

There were two problems he was facing right now. The first one was the obvious case of not seeing any location that was the Origin.

The other problem was that even if Origin was somewhere around here, the beasts weren't in the Spirit transformation stage yet.

Unless what the book and the beasts in the tomb had said was false, the Origin couldn't be here.

"Unless..." he thought. His eyes slowly widened as he thought. "What if the Origin is not freely seen, but instead inside a seal or secret realm?"

That was the best idea Ning could gather about the Origin. With no more hesitation, he started looking around signs for something of that sort.

However, he couldn't find anything. So, he resorted to finding out information from the system instead. Only, he didn't open up the interface but instead spoke out loud.

"System, is there any sealed locations or secret realms around here?" he asked.

<There is an island hidden in the ocean 4 kilometers to the right>

The system AI answered Ning without asking him or letting him know that energy was being used. It only asked such questions when the information being delivered was big or the cost was above a certain threshold that Ning had set.

The AI had returned to Ning a few years earlier, just randomly notifying him of its return. After the return, Ning had noticed a considerable drop in his ability to emote.

Even though he was already capable of not acting on emotions the majority of the time, it was still good to have normal emotions.

The other added benefits of the system upgrade such as the change in the cap system such that it refreshed every 24 hours, and the system's auto teleport out of a place if one is stuck there for 10 thousand years wasn't useful right now.

In fact, the most useful stuff with the system's update completion was actually the return of the AI itself. With it, Ning no longer had to go into interfaces to look into the different stuff himself.

Ning was quite elated when the AI returned, despite his emotions being less. After a few days, he had tried asking for information about the location of the Origin.

However, the AI told him that the Origin had to do with the release of energy in a planet, and because of that, it was out of the System's hand to tell him where it was.

Although the system didn't stop him from finding it, it didn't actively help him search for it either.

Fortunately, it was telling him where he could find the secret realm or seals around here.

"4 kilometers from here that way right?" Ning thought as he looked into the map. The place had nothing on the map, but Ning wouldn't know until he checked.

With that, he disappeared.

Chapter 351: Merging of Soul and Body

Ning was flying on top of the ocean. The view from there looked the same as anywhere in the ocean that didn't have a view of the land. However, the feeling he got was certainly very unique.

It felt like he was at the place with the most concentrated Qi on all of the planet, and yet, he knew that whatever was inside should be much more concentrated.

"There's a space being hidden here right?" Ning asked. "Is it a seal that exists outside of the planet, or can I teleport in there?"

<You can Teleport there so long as you know the location>

"Since I don't know it, I must find a way there first huh. Can you help me and tell me where it is then?" Ning asked.

<It will cost you 20 Billion energy to know the location of this island. Are you sure?>

"Oh, so you can tell me. I guess it is fine as long as I'm finding it on my own, huh?" Ning thought. "Yeah sure, that energy is almost nothing for me now."

<Confirmed>

A small piece of information entered his mind, and Ning now knew the location of the island that was hidden within the foldings of the space.

"Alright, let's check it out then," Ning said and disappeared.

When he reappeared, he suddenly felt out of breath. The air was filled in with so much Qi that Ning was taking in Qi by simply breathing the air. His body wasn't used to this much Qi, so it took a moment to adapt.

Finally, once he did, he looked around at the scenery in front of him. What he saw was a massive island with mountains that seemed to be in a spiral shape in the island.

Most of the island was filled with forests and grassland, and so were the mountains.

Ning slowly flew down onto the island. He could see many rare plants and ingredients that he could use to make very rare pills, however, he didn't pick any of them.

There were 2 different feelings inside of him that were starting to annoy him a little. He couldn't tell what the first one was, but the 2nd one he knew far too well.

Now that he was in the area, his body was trying to break through on its own. The island was so rich with Qi, that Ning didn't have a say over his breakthrough.

After all, going into the Spirit Transformation was long overdue for him. He took a deep breath and went to the top of one of the mountains and sat on the fresh grass that grew there.

He didn't have anyone to protect him this time, so just before he broke through, he sent out his divine sense over the island as far as he could.

He was quite surprised to realize that his divine sense couldn't reach as far as it normally would. 'Is the thick presence of Qi affecting the range of my divine sense?' he wondered.

He had learned about it through the knowledge about cultivation but never felt such a thing happen before. He had mostly forgotten about it until he tried it out just now.

He also saw that aside from plants, there were no animals. So he was safe to breakthrough as he pleased.

He finally let go of any self-restraint he was still holding on to and let his body go through whatever changes it wanted to on its own.

Ning's Nascent Soul that he held in his Sea of Qi was now fully grown into an adult spirit that looked just like him.

The spirit wore no clothes and was a perfect spiritual replica of Ning himself. The spirit had filled the entire sea of Qi even though it sat there in a lotus formation.

Once Ning let his body start to go through the breakthrough process, the surrounding Qi started coming to him.

When he did this outside anywhere else on the planet, he would end up feeling that there wasn't much Qi in the surrounding. Even Qi gathering formations weren't enough to gather Qi to reach a high concentration.

So, every time he would end up with the soul not getting enough Qi.

However, now it was different. With the Qi being as abundant as it was, the Qi started seeping through his body and made its way to the soul in his Sea of Qi.

When the soul started getting Qi, Ning could feel a certain connection with his soul that he hadn't before. Previously, he felt like his body and soul were two separate entities that were both connected to each other through his mind.

However, now it felt like both the soul and body were the same being. With that, his soul grew a little more.

The soul took in as much Qi as it could and soon there was a vortex outside of Ning's body that constantly took in Qi. If he weren't in the Origin, where there were no animals anywhere, the current phenomenon he created would be enough to alert an entire Empire.

And it was only continuing to grow. As time went on, the Qi he was absorbing kept on increasing, and with that, his Soul grew as well.

Soon, the soul was so big that his Sea of Qi couldn't contain it at all. Instead of bursting out, however, just as any soul would, his nascent soul turned ethereal and continued growing normally.

Ning could tell what was happening, but he was still surprised. The sun soon went down on him, and night fell, but the phenomenon that Ning was creating didn't seem to find an end at all.

The soul soon grew to almost half his size and finally opened its eyes. They were his eyes, and he could see from them as well as he could see from his own body.

Ning could see 3 different visions right now, the third one being something that only he could do thanks to being energy.

The soul took a deep breath or at least acted as it did, and suddenly the Qi it was taking in increased once more.

Its size was slowly, but surely increasing, and with the increase in the amount of Qi it was taking, the speed at which the soul grew also increased by a lot.

The soul was almost the entire size of his body now and it was then it finally stopped growing. This was the most the soul would go on its own. The next few steps were something Ning would have to do himself.

He suddenly took control and the calming Qi around him started getting agitated once more. This was the final and most important phase of Spirit Transformation. If he failed

here, he would suffer quite a strong damage to his cultivation and may even lose the chance to ever enter the Spirit Transformation ever again.

So, Ning took it quite seriously. Since he was both the soul and the body at once, his Qi started helping both at once. The Qi he was taking in was starting to refine his body as much as it was helping his Soul grow.

To enter the Spirit Transformation realm, he had to refine his body enough to house the Soul perfectly. Any misalignment would surely harm his cultivation base.

Ning calmed down as much as he could and handled it with care. His body was filled with Qi right now, and it continually refined it to make it houseable for the soul.

At the same time, the soul was slowly growing to be about the same size as the body. Ning couldn't control the speed at which the soul grew as it took in about the same amount of Qi as his body did, so he could only hope that when it was the same size, his body was good enough.

And the time came.

Ning's soul grew to the same size as his body and started phasing out of his at parts. Ning saw the problem and panicked for a second before calming and taking in more Qi. He refined the parts where the soul seemed to be escaping from until the soul didn't leave anymore.

He did so in multiple places until his soul didn't phase out of anywhere.

Finally, it was the same size and staying at the same place. Once that happened, his soul slowly started to merge with his body.

His soul started merging with his body, the bones, the muscles, the skins. Every part of his soul merged with every part of his body. It took a while for it all to happen, but when he was done, not a single piece of the soul remained.

It could also be said that not a single piece of his body remained as well. As his current body was both body and soul and at the same time something better.

He felt a sense of calm and all the Qi rushing towards him stopped. Ning could feel his cultivation base elevate to a level he had never before perceived.

He had entered the Spirit Transformation realm. Finally, his one body opened its eyes and he only saw two visions instead of 3.

His soul was no more, and no more was his body. They had both merged and transformed to form something better. Something that allowed him to grow once more

and at the end of it, this would be what leads him and many other cultivators to immortality as everyone wanted.

Ning smiled. He didn't care for immortality, but he definitely loved the idea of his loved ones reaching such a realm.

"Finally, after so many years.. I can give them the long life I promised them."

Chapter 352: Danger for the System

Ning flew up to the peak of the mountain and looked at the whole thing again. Now, he could feel a different sensation from reaching the Spirit transformation realm.

As with all of the breakthroughs, this one too came with increased strength, power, and senses. Ning once more let his divine sense go out and realized that it covered the entire island and more. He could actually see the ocean that lied outside of this folded space.

"Wow, I can see so far even though my senses are being stunted by the heavy Qi density," Ning thought.

He stayed there and checked his strength for a few more minutes and finally decided to leave.

He flew up once again to look at the mountains that made a spiral shape around the entire island. At the center of the island was something very black from what Ning could see.

As he got closer, he could see that the black thing was actually releasing a lot of light and that surprised him. 'Is that a lake?' he thought and looked at it.

As he flew closer, he could sense the Qi in the surroundings getting denser and denser. Finally, when he reached next to the lake, the amount of Qi there was simply overwhelming.

"So much Qi. Is it even a good idea for me to stay here?" Ning wondered. He didn't know what having too much Qi in the surrounding did to a weak cultivator. It could have amazing positive effects, but it also could have negative effects.

Whatever it may be, he decided to stay there for a few seconds longer and check. He looked at the small pond in front of him.

The pond was about 10 meters wide in a circular shape. The water in it looked deep blue, nearly black even from where he stood. The pond was surrounded by what Ning had learned to be very high-level plants.

The liquid in the pond may have been dark, but it was sending out the bright light from it. Ning could see the illumination in his cheeks from where he stood. In fact, the entire valley was a shade brighter thanks to the mysterious liquid.

Suddenly, a thought struck him and he said out loud, "Is this the actual Origin?" he wondered. If that were to be the case then the pond in front of him was where the Qi originated for the entire planet.

The Qi first filled this folded space, and then slowly released onto the entire planet. That was one of the reasons why the planet had such a poor accumulation of Qi.

If the folded space wasn't there, then the planet would definitely have a higher level of Qi. Maybe not enough to have people enter the Spirit Transformation realm easily, but there definitely would be a lot of them.

Ning crouched down to look at the liquid of the pond closely. From what he could tell, there was no way the liquid there was water at all.

"What is this?" he wondered and thought about putting his hands in. However, just in case, he decided to put something else in first. He took a small stick from one of the trees nearby and dipped it into the liquid.

He stirred it around and was very surprised. He couldn't feel the liquid at all. He moved the wood around, but he could feel zero friction from the liquid.

"Are my senses playing tricks on me?" he thought. If he were to close his eyes right now, he would think that the wood was moving in nothingness, not even air.

"What is this?" he couldn't help but get more confused. He threw away the stick and decided to place his hands inside to touch it.

The moment his hands entered the liquid, the liquid started to immediately seep in through his arm and rushed to his entire body. Ning was surprised, but that was all he could do there. Nothing felt off to him other than that one feeling he had since he entered the island.

However, in just a few seconds, he started feeling that his body was growing in cultivation, and was ready to break through once more.

Only, that was wrong. Ning wasn't ready in any way, but the liquid was trying to do so forcefully.

"No!" Ning cried out and jumped backward. As soon as he stopped touching the liquid, his body felt light once again, and he could sense his cultivation base going back to normal.

If he had let what was happening to happen, then he would certainly enter Qi deviation without a doubt. Ning looked at the liquid in horror and he finally understood what it really was.

"It's Qi," he thought. "The Qi is so concentrated in this one point that it looks like it's a liquid."

He then finally took a moment to take it all in. The place he was currently in was in a way the center of the entire world. This place was the reason why humans and beasts could cultivate in the first place.

"So, is this what the origin is?" Ning wondered. He thought of something and reached into his storage space to bring out something.

The thing he brought out was a small black marble. This one was different from the one he used previously to get back to Planet Kumia from Planet Vilmore.

That marble was in Anya's necklace that she still wore from time to time. This one was a stronger one that he had made for such a case, and this one seemed to be such a case.

Ning switched body and jumped into the white marble. He had lost a majority of his acute sense by doing that and yet that one feeling he had felt persisted even when he was in the marble.

Ning didn't think twice before jumping into the pond of Qi. He felt no resistance as he fell directly to the bottom of the lake.

He couldn't see a single thing down there at all. That wasn't because of the darkness, but rather because it was too bright. Even though he didn't feel anything inside, his visions were blasted with bright light from all sides.

Fortunately, such bright light didn't hurt him or strain him at all, and he could perfectly navigate without having to cover his eyes, which he would if he were a human.

He flew through the entire pond, but he couldn't see a damn thing.

Finally, he let himself sink to the bottom of the ground. Once he landed, he started rolling around the floor, looking at whatever he would possibly find.

Soon, he started realizing that he was going downhill. He started to roll without meaning and landed on top of something very bright.

In all of his life, he had never seen anything like that.

What he saw was a small opening of the sort that seemed to lead to a land of bright light, however, he couldn't enter no matter what.

"System, what is this?" he asked.

<That is an opening to a place that is not in your universe>

Ning's eyes went wide. "What?" he asked in surprise. "This leads to someplace outside of our own universe? Then, can I enter the other universe through this?" he asked.

<No. This opening does not lead to any universes>

Ning was confused now. "What do you mean?" he asked.

<The System isn't allowed to talk about this.>

<The system suggests you leave this place. It is very dangerous for you>

"Even in this strong marble, it's dangerous?" Ning asked in surprise.

<No, it is dangerous to you, the energy>

<in that place, there is a very small, but definite chance of the System being ripped away from you. In that case, you will lose your sentience and subsequently, your immortality>

Ning's surprise turned to terror when he heard that. He spent no further minute and immediately escaped from the pond and flew out.

Once he was safe, he asked once again. "Can you elaborate, System? What did you mean by me losing immortality? I thought that was definite."

<As long as you remain in the multiverse, you have are guaranteed to have immortality. But once you leave to venture the other places, there is no longer a guarantee, as the system itself is under threat in those places.>

Ning finally understood the severity of the situation. "I see. So even the system is not free from danger. And here I thought I had no danger whatsoever," Ning said.

<You are free from danger so long as you don't try to find ways to enter those realms>

"I will make sure not to," Nings said. It took a while, but the fear he felt was slowly going away. However, even if the fear went away, that one feeling from the very start was still there and it started really bugging him now.

"System, what is going on? What is this weird sensation that I'm feeling?" Ning asked.

<That is your sense of time sensing the different flow of time>

"...what?" Ning asked with a confused face. "This place has a different flow of time? Different how?" Ning asked.

<The time in this island passes about 13 times faster than it does outside>

"13 times faster?" Ning said with surprise. "But wait, I have been in places where time passed slower before and I never got these feelings."

<Those places had both time and everyone in it moving at the same pace>

<In this island, while the time moves 13 times faster, you move at the same rate as everything outside of this island.>

<Only time moves faster, not everything else>

Chapter 353: Getting people there

Ning still couldn't understand what the system was saying. How could time move fast and yet not? He had a hard time conceptualizing it.

"Sorry, can you explain in a clearer way? I still don't get it," Ning said. If time really was moving at 13 times the speed, he should have noticed many day and night cycles, which he wasn't.

<Only time is moving fast. Meaning, while everything is the same for you, you are now aging 13 times faster than outside of this island>

"Wait, so it had something to do with my perception then?" Ning asked.

<No, time itself is moving normally for everything else; they are only aging faster>

"Hmm, I think I understand what you mean... in a sense," Ning said. "So, 1 day in here is 1 day outside, but I will age by about 12 more days if I stay in here, right?"

<yes>

"Sigh, I will have to warn them then. I don't want them aging faster just to negate the years they get by breaking through here," Ning said.

"Even I will get old here fast. Although, given how early I reached this realm, I will probably stay this way for a long time," Ning said.

"Time to leave then."

Ning disappeared and arrived back outside of the island. The feeling of time moving was gone now, but there was another feeling now.

This one felt like a sort of suffocation as if the air was too stale to breathe in, or they're just wasn't enough air around him to breathe in the first place.

There was also the feeling of suppression. He realized that while his senses had improved, they hadn't necessarily gotten as good as they should have. Also, he felt like his power wasn't as strong as it should be.

"What's going on? Why am I this weak?" Ning thought with surprise. He was getting more confused, but then a thought struck.

"Wait, am I getting suppressed because of the lack of Qi in the area around me? Am I unable to show my full strength?" he wondered.

He confirmed with the system and found out that was indeed the case. Because his current cultivation base was higher than what the world could handle,

"The beasts said that the world was wounded. Maybe that has something to do with this," Ning wondered. "Whatever, I will think about it later. Time to go get the folks."

Ning teleported and appeared outside of the village he lived in. The small village was called Ejwyn. It was a weird name that Ning always found hard to pronounce.

He had come here a few years ago and decided to use this as the place for his stay.

The village had about 50-60 houses in total. It wasn't a lot by what Ning was used to, but it was considered quite a major village in this remote section of the Northern continent.

The people in the village looked at Ning with a weird eye. They weren't used to seeing him out of his house.

"Doctor Ning!" someone ran up to him and called him. A white-haired old man came in front of him while huffing very hard.

"Oh thank god. When your wife said you were outside, I thought... I thought my child was done for," the old man said. "Please come and check my child. He fell from the tree while playing and broke his arm," the old man said.

"Oh," Ning said with a bit of surprise. "Let's hurry." He went to the old man's house. The house was simply a hut that looked almost the same as the ones from Klavia where Hyesi used to live in long ago. Only, these ones were made with mud and wood.

Ning healed the child as well as he could and left the place. The various people of the village greeted him and called him doctor. That was the role he had been playing for these villagers. He was the doctor that stayed in the mountain.

If they were ill, they would either bring the patient there or just come to call for him. People had requested that he get a home for himself down at the village, but Ning preferred the peace and quiet that came with being the only house there.

Ning walked up the mountain, walking through thick bushes and rocks, climbing the uneven path that was made there by people walking on it many times.

After climbing for about 5 minutes, he came to his house. The house was average in comparison to the houses in the village. The most it had was 3 rooms, and Ning didn't even need all of those.

He used a single room, and Ely used the 3rd one. As for the 3rd room, Ning had decided to use it as an emergency room for patients he would need to treat.

Ely sensed him return and walked out. She was wearing a simple red robe that would stand out in no way at all. She smiled when she saw him.

"You're back already? I thought you said it would take a while," Ely said.

"The System came in handy," Ning said with a smile as well.

"Come tell me all about it," she said and walked back inside.

Ning walked in as well. However, he didn't explain anything. Instead, he simply said, "I broke through to Spirit Transformation realm."

Ely took a moment to comprehend the knowledge that was thrust on her. "Wait what?" she said as she stopped walking.

She turned around with eyes so wide that they threatened to fall out of their sockets. She quickly sensed his cultivation base and realized that it had indeed changed. Even though it didn't seem very different from before, there definitely was a change.

"Congrats. You will get a longer life now," Ely said with a teasing voice.

Ning smiled as well. "What do you say? Are you ready to go?" he asked.

"Right now?" she asked.

"Yeah, we'll go there and you can breakthrough too," Ning said. "After you, I will go for the others and bring them there as well."

Ely thought for no more than a fraction of a second and said, "Okay." Her worries all vanished when she thought of the opportunity to break through after so long.

Ning smiled and put forth his hands. Once Ely grasped it, he disappeared. When they reappeared, they were flying on top of the ocean, with no single land in sight.

"Are you ready?" he asked. "The island is hidden inside a secret realm of sort. I will take you there and... you will feel something weird."

"Okay," Ely said while nodding her head. "I'm ready."

"Let's go."

Ning disappeared. When they reappeared, they were both inside the folded space once again. The moment he entered, the feeling of suppression disappeared, and the feeling of moving at a different pace returned.

"Mmm!" Ely grunted.

"What's wrong?" Ning asked with concern. "Oh wait, are you also going to breakthrough?"

He looked around and pointed at an island. "Go there and breakthrough. You are pretty safe here."

Ely didn't say anything and simply nodded and flew down to the mountain Ning had pointed to and started breaking through.

Ning stayed there for a few minutes to see if everything was okay. Once he realized that it was, he teleported out once again.

This time, he went to the very modern Klavia. The houses there had now adapted to the modern way all houses looked all over the world.

Ning looked around and could see people of every color here. After the improvement this village had shown, people started coming to visit here.

That was especially true after Ning made the formation to this exact place connecting to the Galyra empire in the Central continent. This was one of the main hubs of the Northern continent now.

Ning found his way to a very large mansion with a rather open courtyard. He made his way into the mansion with nobody stopping him.

Most were too afraid to talk to him, and others were just too inferior to him in this society that they didn't seem fit for them to talk with him.

Ning walked all the way down in the mansion to the underground where Hyesi was currently cultivating.

"Inikaka, what a surprise," Hyesi said after noticing Ning walk into the place where he and a lot of the old-timers were cultivating to live just a little longer.

While they didn't need that, Hyesi was still very old and needed to save his time on the planet as much as he could.

"Hey Hyesi," Ning said. This was his first disciple, and more importantly, a friend he made in this world.

"Is this a random visit, Inikaka?" he asked.

Ning smiled and shook his head. "I've come here to take you someplace elsewhere. A place where you can get stronger than you are now, and live longer than you are now," he said.

Hyesi's eyes darted around, trying to make sense of Ning's words.

"You found the Origin?" he asked with surprise.

"Yes," Ning said.

"Oh that is wonderful," Hyesi said. "Are the rumors true? Is it really as—wait, your aura feels different. Did you breakthrough already?"

Ning's smile got wider and he nodded.

"Woah! Inikaka, this is a cause for a celebration. I will have the town set a festival for your breakthrough," Hyesi said.

"Haha, you don't have to do anything like that for me," Ning said. "However, for you, the choice is entirely up to you."

"You mean?" Hyesi's eyes shined with hope.

"Let's go. You have a breakthrough to complete."

Chapter 354: Very Close

Ning arrived at Woodlight mountain and took Anya back with him. The girl was very excited to reach the Spirit Transformation realm.

"Did you already do it, master?" she asked.

"Yes, I broke through a day ago," Ning said. "I've already taken Ely and Hyesi there, you are the only one I will take for now."

"Oh, why is that?" Anya asked.

"The environment in that place is full of Qi, and that's what allows people to break through so easily. However, if I bring way too many people, I don't know if there will be any problem there."

"There probably won't be any, but I'm still trying to take it slow," Ning said.

Anya got a little sad hearing that her family wouldn't get the chance to easily break through to the next realm.

"Don't worry," Ning said after seeing her face. "Once you're done, you can start telling a few people, and I will come to get them in a month or two."

"Ah, that makes me happy," Anya said with a smile.

"Alright, let's go," he said and disappeared once more before appearing inside the island with the Origin.

As soon as they were inside, Anya could immediately feel her body trying to break through without her control.

Ning quickly showed her one of the mountains where she sat down and started her breakthrough. He had already explained the process to her, so it should go without any problem.

Ning continued flying in the air and looked at the other 2 mountains where Ely and Hyesi were having their breakthrough too. Although their breakthroughs took a lot of Qi, the massive island thankfully had enough of it.

'I should definitely let it recover before bringing in other people though,' he thought.

Once he was sure they were safe in their breakthroughs, he too decided to rest a little. He flew down next to the Qi pond in the center and sat on the side.

"Hah," he laughed after remembering something. "So, I'm about 12 days older than I would have if I were on the outside huh? I never knew time could be so weird."

He sat there for a few hours, waiting for them to get close to breaking through.

The air in the island shifting a massive aura was released from somewhere to his front.

"Oh, Ely is halfway done," he thought. "It should be a few more hours now. I guess I will just have to wait a bit more."

And so he waited for another hour.

He was a bit bored by now, but still, he waited. Just then, something happened that he was not prepared to hear. The system gave him a notification.

<You haven't reached the cap of energy absorption for the last 3 days>

Ning was for sure confused when he read it for the first time. "I haven't? I'm sure I've been cultivating for the last 3 days. That should have been enough. Did my cap change without me knowing?" he wondered.

But then, he finally realized what was probably the answer. "Wait... does the cap refresh faster in this place? System, is that it?"

<Yes>

"Woah!" Ning shouted with surprise. Just then, Hyesi was halfway done too. The aura he released wasn't any less than Ely's either.

He was distracted for a few seconds and got back to talking with the system again.

"Wait, so is my cap not filled right now?" he asked.

<No>

"Oh, I should fill it quickly," Ning thought and cultivated for just a little bit. Since the Qi in the area was very dense and he was also in a higher cultivation realm, he could now gather Qi much faster.

In just a few seconds, he completely filled his cap for the day.

"When is the next reset for the cap?" Ning asked.

<In 12 minutes>

"Woah, that's awesome," Ning said with a smile. "Then that means I can collect my energy 13 times in a single day, right? That's close to 17 Billion energy in a day right? I can easily collect many with that speed."

"How much longer will I need after that?" Ning wondered. He decided to check his current energy amount.

"Status."

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 932.56 Trillion

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 551 Billion

Sound Energy: 49 Billion

Qi Energy: 931.62 Trillion

Kinetic Energy: 28 Billion

Aether Energy: 0

Skill: ...]

"Damn, that's so incredibly close," Ning thought. "So, at 1.28 Billion for 13 times a day, I will need 6 days here to reach a Trillion. Meaning, in just under a year, I can get my body."

"Wow," Ning thought. "I didn't realize I was this close already. Still, getting a body alone won't help me much. After my body, I should get my talent too, and then focus on gathering 1 Quadrillion energy to unlock the next energy in line. Or was that just to learn about it. Whatever, I should focus on getting my new body."

He waited for 10 more minutes and he could once more gather energy. Once his cap was filled in just a few seconds, he now only had to wait for less than 2 hours, as opposed to 24 hours he needed to with his normal cap.

In less than an hour, Anya started reaching her halfway point. The aura she released was second to none. In fact, her aura felt even more massive than his own. After all, everything he had and learned, he gave it to his closest people.

And of them, Anya was the only one that got the best from the very beginning. Not even he could compete with her in that. Her foundation in cultivation was perhaps the best in the whole world.

Ning was really proud of that and it showed on his face with his massive smile.

Soon, another hour passed and Ning collected the energy once again. The Aura from the 3 people was starting to give the feeling of getting close to climax.

Soon, they would all successfully breakthrough to the Spirit Transformation realm.

Chapter 355: Thankful

The auras lessened by a third as Ely successfully reached the Spirit Transformation realm. She could feel the clear difference in her strength and senses now that she had broken through to a higher realm.

Her 2 millennia-long cultivation didn't amount to nothing. Tears started forming in her eyes as she got emotional. She released her divine sense and noticed Ning sitting next to the pond at the center of the island.

Without hesitation, she flew up to him.

Ning was focused on cultivating to gather his energy once more. He was so giddy with happiness after realizing how fast he would get his long-awaited purchases, that he didn't even realize Ely coming to him until she was right next to him.

"Oh, you're here? You should have stayed there a bit longer to finalize your brea—"

Ely hugged him without saying a single word.

"Wha—"

"Thank you. Thank you so much for everything you do for me," she said with a voice that was choking on her own tears.

Ning stopped speaking and smiled. "I do that for everyone I care about," he said. "And you are someone special to me. So, if I had to, I would do it all over again, as many times as I need to."

He gently caressed her back until she stopped crying. Ning made Ely sit down and consolidate her cultivation base again

Hyesi was done too, but he decided to stay where he was to consolidate his own cultivation base.

Now, only Anya was remaining. Her aura grew more and more as time went on and slowly reached the climax as everyone's did.

Ning's cap refreshed once more in the time and he gathered the required energy. Anya was done with breakthrough as well and was now consolidating.

Hyesi was done with his and flew over to him. His head full of gray hair couldn't be turned back to black despite adding another 5-10 thousand years to his lifespan, but he did recover his vigor.

Even without doing anything, he could easily live double of how long he had lived until now.

"Inikaka, I can't believe it. I really broke through. I do not know how I could ever do anything that would make it up to you," Hyesi said.

"You know you never have to. I never want anything back from you," Ning said.

"I know, but... I want to do something, anything to help you out. I have all this power and strength, and yet I still get help from you. I want to return the favor too, Inikaka. Please tell me if there is something I can do. I don't know if I will be able to, but I will gladly do it," Hyesi said.

"It's the sentiment that matters. Thank you," Ning said.

Hyesi tried to come up with something to say, but Ning had completely shut down his argument. "If you say so," he said with a dejected face. He really wanted to help Ning, but there was nothing he could do, that Ning couldn't do himself.

"Wait, what about those beasts, Inikaka? Can't I help you out with them? I can go gather them for you while you enjoy your daily life," Hyesi said.

"I've got that covered, don't worry about that," Ning said. "Besides, you couldn't find them without the technique that I was gifted."

"I know you're trying to help me but I really don't want anything in return Hyesi. Just go live your life without the worry of paying me back," Ning said.

Hyesi heard, but he wasn't sure if he could do that. If it was only him who got the help from Ning, he would be okay with Ning not wanting anything back, but with all of his people getting help from him for over 2 millennia, a sense of guilt was budding inside Hyesi the entire time that he couldn't get rid of.

Ning on the other hand couldn't understand that guilt. He never really had anyone help him like the way he helped others. The closest person would be the Creator, but Ning didn't even know if that was a person or just another energy.

Hyesi did help remind him of something, however. 'I should probably go find some more of those beasts. It has been a while since I did that,' Ning thought.

Anya was done consolidating her cultivation base and she returned too.

"Master," she said with a child-like smile on her face. "Master, this is so good. I-I feel so strong. Do you guys feel it too?" she asked.

They all nodded.

"It's been so long since I broke through that I nearly forgot how to do it," she said. She couldn't keep away her smile and was starting to lose a bit of the grace that she got with age.

"You are getting way too excited, Anya," Ely said. "Although, I do understand the feeling. And you got to the late stage even earlier than me, so it must be very awkward for you."

"Hahaha, talking about awkwardness, it really was very awkward. I guess that's what happens when you wait for 2 millennia to go from 9th Nascent Soul realm to 1st Spirit Transformation realm," Hyesi said. He was the oldest of the bunch and had thus waited for the longest.

"Oh yeah, that reminds me. What should we do about reaching the 2nd Spirit Transformation realm? You said that time moved differently here, and we can't stay here forever, right?" Hyesi asked.

"Yeah, you can't. Since time moved differently here, you would die in about 500 years despite getting upwards of 8000 years. So staying here isn't good for anyone besides me," Ning said.

"Well, that sucks. We'll see about getting breakthroughs later then," Anya said.

"We can't cultivate outside, so we will have to ask him to take us back here once in a while," Ely said.

"Well, enough about that," Ning said. "I will think about that later on. For now, you guys can return back home.. As for your family, tell them to get ready, I will come by in a month to get them."

Chapter 356: Getting The Beasts

"Grandmaster, we're done," a middle aged woman said as she came up to Ning and Ely who were staying at the center of the island.

"Oh, good job Sonya. You took quite a bit less time than Tanya did," Ning said.
"Anyway, just wait her for a bit, after the rest are done, we'll leave."

Sonya nodded and sat down next to them and started understanding what had changed after she broke through to the other realm.

After a while, an older man arrived next to them as well. "Inikaka, we're done," he said.

"Oh, good job Junior," Ning said.

"I can't thank you enough, Inikaka. I don't know what I would do if I couldn't break through this time around," Junior said.

"You would do nothing of course. You still had quite a few years before you needed to desperately look for other measures," Ning said. "I would have given you guys pills that would have increased your longevity, but that would have come at the cost of your cultivation."

"Either way, Inikaka, thank you."

Junior went back to check on his wife and son who were finally done consolidating as well.

"You never do call him with his name do you?" Ely asked from the side with a slight chuckle in her voice.

"Come on," Ning whispered a little. "I can't go around calling him Ning too. It just feels wrong using my own name for other people. I will just call him Junior like I've been for a while now."

Sonya laughed a little when she heard Ning.

"Alright, I'll start taking these people back. I will come back to take your niece back later," Ning said.

"Okay," Ely said. "The little girl should still need a bit more time to breakthrough," Ely said.

Ning nodded and stood up before flying with Sonya to meet the other people. Once he was there, he got the people back to their home and came back.

"She's done. She only needs to consolidate now," Ely said after Ning returned.

"I see," Ning said. "Well that helps."

"Are there anyone else left to bring back to cultivate?" Ely asked.

"Uhh... no, not really. Oh right, I should probably get back the three that have been chilling with their kind. They will be the next one then," Ning said.

"Alright, go get them."

Ning nodded and teleported away to the Central continent where he entered the tomb once more.

"You're back. Who did you find this time?" the beasts excitedly asked him when he entered the tomb.

"Oh, sorry. I don't have anyone this time. I'm only here to get my beasts for a few days. After that I will go find someone and bring them back together," Ning said.

"Oh, okay," the beasts said. "You've already found so many of them, that we will be thankful even if you don't wish to do this anymore."

"It's alright. I have nothing else to do these days anyway," Ning said. He left the place and went to the stone door to enter the secret realm.

However, just before he entered the door, he felt something pulse from behind him. "Huh?" he thought as he turned around.

The beasts saw him turn around and asked, "What is it, human?"

"That... did I just feel an aura right now?" he asked. "I think I felt something."

"I didn't feel anything," one of the beasts said.

"Me neither," another one said.

Every other beast said the same thing.

"Weird. I was sure that I—" he stopped speaking and looked at the coffin in the middle of the tomb. 'Did that aura come from there?' he wondered and sent out his divine sense to check. However, there was nothing coming from there.

'What am I thinking? The Primordial Holy Jade should stop all aura from escaping even if there was something happening inside,' Ning thought. 'Let's not waste more time.'

Ning walked up to the door and entered. After flying down from the cliff, he could easily see all the beasts, including his 3.

The beasts were used to him returning every few months, so they didn't show any real surprise, although they did come up to welcome him.

"Master!" Blue shouted as he flew up to him. Aegis and Night flew behind him as well.

"Hey, you all. How are you guys?" he asked.

"You didn't come with someone this time, master?" Aegis asked.

"No, I'm here for something else this time," Ning said. "I'm here to get your guys actually."

"Oh, you're taking us?" Blue said with a weird tone. He wasn't sure if he should be happy or sad that he was going have to leave this place.

"Why? Do you like this place so much?" Ning asked.

"Truth be told master, I really do like this place. I like this place way more than the darkness you keep us in," Blue said. "I don't know what that darkness is, and it is comfortable, but it's also very... lonely."

"I feel the same too. It wasn't until I lived here that I realized what I was missing, master," Aegis said.

"I'm fine staying in darkness, but... I have someone I care about now, master. If possible I would like to stay here for a little longer," Night finally spoke.

"Sigh, I know. I know all 3 of you have people you care for now, and I'm not here to take that away from you guys," Ning said.

"Oh," Blue said with surprise. "What are you here for then, master?"

"I found the Origin," Ning said. "I found it a few months ago. I've been taking people there to cultivate for a while now, and everyone has broken through to the next realm."

"Now, it's your turn," Ning said. "I came to take you guys to the place so that you can break through to the other realm. After you are done, you can decide whatever you want."

"Really?" Blue asked excitedly.

"Of course," Ning said.. "Let's leave now."

Chapter 357: Creating The New Body

Ning walked back into the room in the tomb with his 3 beasts inside his beast space.

"Oh human, you're leaving?" they asked.

"Yes, I'll be back in a few days probably with one of your descendants," Ning said.

"Okay, take as much time as you want," the beasts said.

Ning nodded and walked away to leave. But just then, he felt another pulse of an aura coming from behind him. He turned around and saw that the location the aura came from was definitely the coffin.

"Did you guys feel that again?" Ning said. "Something is up with the coffin."

"With Jha'Akim? We can't feel anything. You shouldn't be able to either, human," the beasts said.

Ning didn't believe them and walked over to the coffin to check it properly this time around. He spent a good chunk of time looking at every corner of the coffin, making sure there was no aura coming out from the coffin.

"That's so weird," he thought. With no result, he decided to go back to the island. When he reappeared out of the tomb, he arrived in a forest over the southern continent.

"Damn that man who made this seal," Ning thought. "Why the hell did he put a teleportation formation in it anyway?"

He then teleported back to the Origin.

Ely was with her niece next to the pond. They were both a bit far away from the pond in fear of what would happen to them if they accidentally touched it.

Ning had made sure everyone learned about that.

"Go say hi," Ning said and let his 3 beasts out.

However, the moment they were out, they could immediately feel the need to break through.

"Master, I can't hold it. I need to breakthrough," Blue said.

"Oh right, go on. Go down to the mountains and freely breakthrough," Ning said. "You can talk with her later."

All 3 of them flew down to one of the mountain peaks and started breaking through. It would just be a day at most before they were done with their breakthrough.

'I am getting closer to my breakthrough too,' he thought. It had been half a year since he had found the Origin and had been staying inside collecting as much energy as he could.

At the same time, his cultivation was also progressing at a terrifyingly fast speed. In the first 2 months, he wasn't sure if staying on the island was a good idea or not, but afterward, he threw caution to the wind and started staying there as much as he wanted.

As such, by now his cultivation base was getting close to the next realm, and he could breakthrough if he wanted.

"Well, it's not like I have much use for this body anyway, so why not?" Ning thought and went over to Ely.

He quickly took Ely's niece back to the Central continent and returned back.

"I'm going to breakthrough too," he said and started his breakthrough near the pond as well.

"So fast?" Ely asked in surprise.

"Yeah, it is. I don't know if that's a good thing or not, but I don't really have to care now," Ning said.

Ely understood what he meant and let him breakthrough. Since it was not a breakthrough to a major realm, it only took him an hour at most to break through. Once he was done, he was now in the 2nd Spirit Transformation realm.

"Hmm... I don't feel anything bad. So maybe I'm okay?" Ning thought.

"If it's fine then it's fine. No need to worry," Ely said.

"Yeah," Ning said as he moved around a little.

The beasts were still in the early phase of their breakthrough and they still needed a lot of time to finish their breakthrough.

"I think it's time," Ning said.

"Are you sure?" Ely asked. "You said you paused it right?"

"Yeah, but it's time now. Let me think if I want to change anything," Ning said.

"You're making yourself young right?" Ely asked.

"Of course. Around 18-20 years old. Although, I won't need to worry about that. I've made it possible to freely change my body and age as I want. I know the human body inside out, and can easily do that," Ning said.

"What, you can be a girl too?" Ely asked with surprise.

"That I don't know. The male and female bodies are too different and I probably won't be able to change between each other. If I need to, I can add that ability afterward too," Ning said.

"Well, if you can change what you want later on, then there's no point in contemplating now, right?" Ely asked.

"I guess. I'm more so confirming stuff," Ning said. "Let's see. It's a very durable body, with high pain threshold, fully assimilated to every form of Qi, Aether, Mana, whatever energy a planet might have, and finally, the most expensive stuff that is the constant regeneration."

"After I get this body, I won't have to worry about spending energy to heal myself," Ning said.

"Right, do it then," Ely said.

Ning nodded. "System, make my body."

<Confirmed>

A bright white light appeared in front of Ning as they start to take the shape of a human silhouette. Slowly, the light started making masses and signs of a physical body started appearing in front of him.

Ning felt his whole body drain as all the energy he had gathered up to this point was being siphoned off out of him.

Soon, the body was complete.

The body fell to the ground as soon as it was made, but Ning caught it with his telekinesis and hovered it in front of him.

The new body looked exactly like the old one, except this one had much fairer skin and the hair wasn't as long. The new body also looked quite young compared to how he looked now.

If they were together, the two of them would surely be mistaken as siblings instead of twins.

Ely walked over to Ning and looked at the new body from top to bottom.

"Hmm, not bad," she said. "But, you should probably get it to wear something."

Chapter 358: Test And Change

"Uhh... right. I'll get it some clothes," Ning said as he quickly brought out a set of clothes for his new body to wear.

"Catch me," he said threw the clothes to his other body.

"Hu" wait, what?" Ely didn't understand what he meant, and only instinctively did what he asked. She quickly caught the old body that was just throwing the clothes.

At the same time, the new body opened its eyes and Ning quickly caught the clothes he threw himself. He started wearing the clothes while Ely started complaining.

"Don't do something like this when I'm not ready. You could've caught your own body," Ely said, a little annoyed that he managed to scare her a little.

"Haha," Ning laughed. "You need to be ready for the unexpected."

While Ely said something else, he started checking out his new body. "It's quite light," he said.

"What?" Ely asked.

"Oh, I said it's quite light, this body. Maybe that's because it doesn't have the body cultivation yet," he said. He looked around the pond and found a small stone that he chucked as far away as he could.

Unfortunately, the farthest it could go wasn't even 100 meters away. His hands throbbed from throwing just a single rock. "Damn, I'm quite weak right now. I need more energy and strength. I should quickly cultivate my body," he said.

"What are you talking about? Isn't that way too good for a mortal? Your body is way better than normal," Ely said.

"Uh, I guess so," he said. "Well, time to test the main thing... although I'm not sure how I will even do it."

"What?" Ely asked.

"Sigh, it's the regeneration aspect. It cost me so much just to make a body that will constantly regenerate if I ever take damage. I don't know how I would I try it though, I can't hurt myself considering how durable I am," Ning said.

"Want my help?" Ely asked.

"Are you sure you want to do it?" Ning asked. "It's not a little cut here and there we are talking about. You will have to cut my arms off and blow my brains out and such."

"Wait, does it have to be so extreme? Can't we just do a little injury here and there?" Ely asked concerningly.

"Don't worry," Ning said. "I don't have any sense of pain, so it won't hurt a single bit," Ning said. "You will just have to mentally prepare yourself, that's all."

"Uhh... alright," Ely said.

"Great, use this," Ning said as he handed her his black spear. Ely held it in her hands and closed her eyes to prepare herself.

"I can do it. I won't hesitate. I will do it," he said to herself in preparation.

"Good, get mentally ready. Start off with small att""

"HAH!" Ely shouted as she directly slashed on Ning's temple. The blade of the spear was very sharp, sharp enough to cut through rocks like they were made up of cheese. However, even then the blade couldn't pierce his skin.

However, that didn't mean it didn't do anything to him at all. Since the blade didn't pierce, all the damage he took was blunt damage, and as such, the force behind Ely's incredible body cultivation easily smashed open his head from the other side as blood and brain matters spewed out, scattering all over the pond.

"Ahhh!" she shouted when she saw what she had done to him. "No, no, no, no," she started shouting as the horror of it all unexpectedly caught up to her despite all of her preparation.

Just then, Ning's body started moving, more so wriggling than anything. The blood and brain matters that were scattered started moving back towards the open skull. They all entered the head and the bones that were shattered as well pieced back together.

Soon, what was a fully dead body just a few seconds before now looked like a peacefully sleeping body.

"That was unexpected," Ning said as he slowly opened his eyes and stood up. "I didn't expect the regeneration to work like that. I was certain I was going to regrow things, but I guess this one is more efficient."

He then looked at Ely who was trembling a little. "Hey, are you alright?" he asked.

"I... I thought I killed you," she said.

"Haha, you can't kill me even if you wanted to. You should know that," Ning said.

"I-I know, but that... that was traumatizing," Ely said. "Don't ever ask me to something like that. I can't watch you in that state."

"Uh, I'm sorry. Well, it was partially your fault too though," Ning said. "You should have started normally. Well, I guess going directly for the main even does tell us how it's all going to work."

Ely was still trembling a little, so Ning sat her down and talked to her. It took a few minutes for her to calm down to the point that she was no longer trembling.

That was about the same amount of time it took Ning to realize that he had left his other body without any care.

"Shit!" he said and quickly pulled it next to him.

Ely looked at the old body and asked, "What are you going to do with this now?"

"Uhh... I think I will use it for now," Ning said and quickly switched back to his old body and moved his new body to sit back at the same place.

"Huh? You don't want to use it?" Ely asked.

"I do. I will start cultivating with it once I get the beasts back to their new home," Ning said. "After that, I will have all the time in the world to improve myself."

"Ah, right. That works too I guess," Ely said. "By the way, I've been wondering something. Uhh... why didn't you make the changes to this old body instead of creating a new one?"

"Well, you can see how much cultivation base and body cultivation I have. It greatly affects this body and makes it different, much better than a normal mortal body. So, if I want to make any changes to it, it will just cost a lot."

"Instead it's much easier to just create a new one and make changes to that. Even though it costs a lot, making changes to this body would've cost me 10 times as much easily."

"I see," Ely said.

"Yeah," Ning said. "I wonder how much energy I have left now," he wondered and opened his status again.

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 2.23 Trillion

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 0

Sound Energy: 0

Qi Energy: 2.23 Trillion

Kinetic Energy: 0

Aether Energy: 0

Skill: ...]

"Ah, I still have quite a few remaining. But it seems I used up all of my other forms of energy I had gathered," Ning thought. "Not that any of these matter anymore. I just need to gather them again to unlock the talent. Ah, I should unlock the Spiritual Roots for 500 billion before that."

"I will do that when I start cultivating in a few days," he thought.

He closed his eyes and started cultivating once more. The energy cap had refreshed and it was time for him to gather some more.

It only took him a few seconds in this place to collect the energy required for the cap so he wasn't very worried.

Once finished, he conversed with Ely and waited for the beasts to finish up. It only took them a couple more hours to finish anyway, so Ning freely waited until then.

The aura they released wasn't as strong as Hyesi and the others, but Ning could sense that they were getting very powerful as well.

"Aegis doesn't feel like he had the most increase in power, but Night and Blue are something else," Ning said softly. "Their bloodline powers are starting to show up a little more. Just one more breakthrough to the higher realm and they can surely evolve."

"What's higher than Spirit Transformation realm?" Ely asked. "I don't think I've read it being mentioned anywhere."

"That's not a surprise. Spirit Transformation realm itself was a myth to the beasts before humans even came to prominence. So, there should be no information about the higher realm anywhere on planet Kumia," Ning said.

"As for the next realm, I don't know if that is even possible to achieve in this planet, but it's the Immortal realm. Well, it's more of a category of realms where your age is endless and you don't die of old age."

"Many people seek cultivation for this exact thing and... I don't know how possible it is on this planet," Ning said. "But, don't worry. If it's not possible on this planet, I will take you someplace else where you can cultivate to the highest realm."

"That's... thanks," Ely said.

"No problem," Ning said.

They waited for a few more hours as Ning collected more energy and finally the beast was done. Ning waited for a bit and let them consolidate their cultivation bases before they appeared.

"Master," a voice came from far away.

"Oh, Aegis seems to be done," Ning said as he turned around to look at the beetle coming from far away. Only... the silhouette didn't seem right.

"Master, look what happened," Blue's voice came from far away and his silhouette seemed to have changed too.

"Master," Night spoke from right behind them. He was so fast that Ning couldn't even sense him moving next to him. "Is this normal?" he asked.

Ely put her hands on her mouth to hide her dropped jaw.

"Uh... I forgot to tell you guys about this. This is on me," Ning said. "You see.. After spirit transformation realm, beasts gain the ability to transform to a human."

Chapter 359: Transformation

Night, Blue, and Aegis had all transformed to a human form unintentionally after reaching the Spirit Transformation realm.

Night had silk-like black hair that flowed down to his shoulders and turned to feathers at some point along the way. He had an oval face on his tall body that kept a stoic

expression despite the surprise he was in. His eyes were fully black, with no whites, as if they were doorways to the eternal abyss.

He had also made a cloth for himself that was a black robe with a few hints of white in it.

Aegis has a short build with a wide, naive-looking face. His hair was fully golden and he even had yellow on his pupils. He was the shortest of the 3 and looked the youngest amongst them as well.

He had made himself a white and gold robe that covered every part of his body. The only thing weird about Aegis was the small protrusion on his head that looked like something was growing out of it.

Finally, Blue had short blue hair on a tall body. He had made himself a partially blue and partially white robe. He had an elongated face with blue eyes and two dragon horns popping out of his head.

He also had slightly scaled skins that fully turned into scales the more it went below the neck. Of the 3, his transformation was the most incomplete.

"Congratulations on entering the Spirit Transformation realm," Ning said. "You seem to have unintentionally transformed to a human, that happens. You can just turn back to your usual self if you want to. Or, you can even turn fully human if that is what you want."

"It's better if you don't stay like this. Half and a half probably won't help you anywhere," Ning said.

"Master, is this what it feels to be you?" Blue asked as he started touching his face and body with his hands and fingers. "I've never touched my face before. I can't believe I'm doing it right now."

"Oh wow, these muscles are so soft," Aegis said as he pinched his own cheeks. "Ouch, it even hurts a bit. How do you live like this master? Everything feels so fragile."

Night started to check his own body too. "My balance is... weird," he said. "I'm used to having something behind me that helps balance my body that usually in the front. But... this is so different, I have no weight in front of me or behind me. Can I even walk in this?"

Night tried walking and had to take baby steps as he wasn't using how else he could balance a human body.

Blue and Aegis did the same. They had flown all the way here, so they didn't realize that a new body could feel so different when moving around.

"Master, look! I can touch my toes," Blue said from the side as he bent down to touch his legs. Aegis was hitting himself from the front and the back, trying to figure out if he was still as strong in this current form or if he needed to transform back if he needed to.

Ning and Ely just stood there, smiling, letting them get accustomed to their new body. They were like little kids who had gotten a new toy to play with.

After a while, Ning said, "Try transforming back. You won't always have the luxury of being in the human form."

"Oh, why not?" Blue asked.

"The place outside is lacking in Qi, so I do not know if you can keep the human body or not. My understanding of cultivation says you can, but it's still very lacking so anything can happen," Ning said.

"Okay," Aegis said and tried turning back to his beast form. Ning and Blue nodded as well and tried to turn back as well.

"Are they strong in the human form?" Ely asked.

"I don't think so. They can show maybe 60 to 80 percent of their original strength in their human form," Ning said. "It's mostly because some of their techniques and skills can only be used in beast form, otherwise, physically it should be the same."

"Then why did they even gain the ability to transform if they can't use all of their skill?" Ely asked. "Or thinking about it in the other direction, why didn't we get something like that when we entered the Spirit Transformation realm?"

"We can't help it," Ning said. "It's what the world wills. The planet wishes for the most dominant creatures to be humans, so humans are good from the start. Beasts on the other hand are adapting to the will of the world."

"If this were a world where beasts are the ones that have the planet's grace, then we would have likely gained a skill to transform to a beast," Ning said.

"I see," Ely said. "Sometimes I'm jealous of how much you know about cultivation and the rest."

"Umm... I can let you learn it too," Ning said. "System, create a book with knowledge of cultivation at.... Advanced level."

<That will cost you 300 Billion, are you sure?>

Ning paused for a bit to deliberate, but when he saw Ely's expectant face, he didn't have to.

"Do it," he said. He had already spent 947 Trillion today, so another 300 Billion was nothing to him if it meant the others would gain valuable knowledge regarding cultivation.

White light shined in front of him and a massive book appeared in his hand.

The 3 of them struggled for a bit to find the way to turn themselves back to their original beast form, but they did it in the end.

"Woah, you guys got so big after breaking through," Ely said. The 3 of them were much larger than last time so they changed their sizes once more and turned back how they were normally.

The 3 talked for a little longer, and Ning decided to teach them some crucial information regarding cultivation through the book he had just created.. If they decided to stay with their newfound family and friends, then Ning wanted them to have knowledge of a couple of things that may help them down the line when he wasn't around.

Chapter 360: Parade

"Will you stay here or go back home?" Ning asked Ely.

"Uh... I will stay here for a bit. Go and do your work. It shouldn't take that long right?" Ely asked.

"No, maybe a day at most," Ning said. "If it takes too long, I will come back for you."

"Sure, go then," Ely said and sat down to cultivate next to the pond.

Ning nodded and looked at the three beasts that were standing around, eager to leave. "Alright, let's go get one of your friends."

Night had turned into a small eagle that perched on his shoulder. Aegis turned into a small beetle that clung onto his robe like a badge of a chest. And finally, Blue turned to a very small flood dragon and wrapped it around his wrist a few times like a bracelet.

"Are you guys sure you don't want to turn into your human forms or even stay in your normal forms?" Ning asked.

"We are not used to the Human form, master. So we are afraid of making mistakes that would end up embarrassing you," Blue said.

"And our normal forms are too massive to go around in the normal human society if that is where we have to go," Aegis said.

Night nodded, agreeing with the other two.

"Sigh, okay," Ning said and teleported. When he reappeared, he was outside of the Origin. He teleported once more to appear in the Sephyr empire of the Central Continent.

He had, after a lot of tries, learned that the teleportation formation in the tomb didn't teleport one 3 times out of 5 times. The other 2 times it was either of the 2 other continents.

So, the probability of finding a beast was higher in here than on the other two continents.

He floated down to one of the mountains next to the massive forest that surrounded the Sun empire and started using his skill. Slowly, he could feel a faint sense of pulsing coming from deep inside of him. It was like something got his soul on a rope and was pulling on it.

3 very intense pulses pulled on his senses, but he tried his best to ignore them since they were obviously giving him the location of his 3 beasts.

The feelings were very faint and there were many of them, but he could feel it all as clearly as any other. "West," he said as he opened his eyes. That was the direction where the strongest pulse came from. He stood up and flew towards the west until he was on the border between Sepyhr Empire and the Galyra Empire.

He saw a small village that was surrounded by many layers of mountains. The people seemed to live in the valley and it didn't look like they had much contact with the outer world.

Ning didn't find it very surprising considering they were at the border of the empires, and empires tend to not care much for those that were very far from the capitals and other big cities.

He didn't want to scare the people easily, so he flew down to one of the mountains that were covered in nothing but trees.

"This is so very dense," Ning thought as he looked at the trees.

"Is this the place master?" Night asked from his shoulder.

"I think so," Ning said. He used the skill once more and the pulsing feeling was very intense right now. "Yeah, it's definitely right around here. The feeling is so strong that the direction is impossible to tell right now," he said.

"We'll have to ask around if they know of any beasts, I guess," Ning said.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Suddenly, he heard movement from quite far away. A uniform sound of marching appeared from behind him and he turned around to see a bunch of people marching up the mountain going towards the peak.

He could see about 25 people, 8 of whom were carrying a sort of float like it was a parade. He was far enough that they couldn't see him, but he still used his skill to go invisible just in case.

"Is that a parade going on in the forest?" Ning was very confused about what was happening. Of the 25 people, 20 of them were men. As for the last 5, he couldn't tell since they had black hoods on their head.

He then turned to look at the float that the 8 people were carrying. "There's someone in there," he thought and sneakily spread out his divine sense to look at the insides.

When his sense reached inside, he could see a girl crouching inside the small float. The girl was about 20 years old from what Ning could tell, and she was wearing a very fancy robe, at least when compared to the men that were mostly wearing dirty rags.

The most confusing part of the entire thing was that the girl was crying inside the float. He would immediately assume that something bad had happened to her and the men were bad people if it weren't for the rest of the men dropping tears along the way too.

"What the hell? Is this a marriage by any chance?" he wondered. That would make sense given that most of them were crying.

"Little Bel, it's about 10 more minutes from now. Are you sure about this all?" an elderly person asked her.

"I-I'm okay, father. I will do what I need to," the girl spoke through her tears.

"I'm sorry, my child. I, as a father couldn't give you a better life," the man said.

"No, father. It was my choice. I decided to do this for you all. I don't regret it one bit," the girl said.

Ning looked at the whole thing and could see that nothing wrong was going on, but he still felt uncomfortable seeing all of this. "Where exactly are they going up the mountain? What's up there after a 10 minutes walk?" Ning wondered and sent out his divine sense to see that there was a cave that was carved into the mountain.

"Oh, does someone live there?" he wondered.. He decided to stop his search for the beast for a few minutes to see what was going on here.

Chapter 361: Mole

"What's happening, master?" Aegis asked from his chest.

"I don't know, but I don't have a very good feeling about it," Ning said. "Let me follow and see. If I think something bad is happening, I will step in."

The parade went on for a little while before it reached the mouth of the cave. Finally, it stopped there and the 8 people that were carrying the float put it down.

The old man who was the father of the girl walked up to the cave and shouted, "Lord of the hills, We have come with the yearly tribute. I have brought along my daughter as this year's tribute."

They waited for a while before a booming voice came from inside. "Hmm... okay. Send her in and you guys may leave now," the beast inside said.

The father walked up to the float and opened the door. The girl came out as she wiped her tears away.

"Are you ready my child?" he asked.

"Yes, father," she said.

"Ah, my child," the father said as he held her hand to his forehead. "Forgive this father for not being able to protect you."

"It's okay father," the girl said. "It's time I go in. Tell mother and my brothers I love them."

The girl turned around, with determination in her eyes before fiercely entering the cave with no hesitation.

"Aegis, go and stay with the girl. If she's in danger, protect her," Ning said.

"Yes, master," Aegis said before flying into the cave as a harmless little beetle.

"Let's go back," the father said with tearful eyes that hid fury that only others who lost their daughters knew about.

"Yes," the group of people turned around to leave.

The father walked briskly and went to the group of people at the back. The 5 people at the back that were all wearing black robes and hiding their faces stopped along with everyone.

The old man then went on to slowly whisper his next set of words. "That is where the beast lives, please destroy him if you can. I don't want my daughter's sacrifice to be in vain," the old man said.

"Leave that to us. We will exterminate the beast," the 5 people said.

"Oh," Ning thought. "So it's that sort of situation huh?"

The 20-some people left, leaving only the 5 in their hoods.

"Let's go kill this beast," one of them said, and the others cheered. Ning sent out his divine sense to look at their faces, but they were just normal people with a high cultivation base.

The 5 briskly walked up to the cave and into it. Ning decided to see what it was all about as well.

"Man, if this is the beast I'm looking for, I don't know what sort of answer I can give to the beasts in the statue. Maybe I should just not tell them anything at all," Ning thought.

He walked inside the dark cave but had no problem seeing anything. The walls were all the same looking, with seemingly no distinction from anything else.

"Did the beast make these walls like this?" Ning wondered as he walked around. He walked for nearly 5 minutes before he realized that he was getting nowhere.

"What the hell?" he thought and started running towards where he could feel Aegis was. However, despite that, he couldn't even reach the place.

"Master," Night finally spoke after he was running around for a while.

"What?" Ning asked with slight annoyance in his voice.

"I believe we going in circles. I've seen these walls twice now," Night said.

"Are we?" Ning asked. He immediately spread out his divine sense and realized that the path was in fact a fake one. The path network was a closed loop, except for a single path that led outside.

"Dammit! The real one is hidden behind that wall," Ning said after seeing everything through his divine sense. "They are already confronting each other too."

Ning decided to waste no time and teleported to right outside of the main room where everyone was gathered.

When he reappeared, he walked directly into the room in full view without much care. The beast was already going to start fighting very soon, so it didn't matter to him if they saw him and decided to add him into the conflict.

Ning saw the five men in robes that now had their hoods removed. 3 of them were males, and 2 were females, all with a cultivation base in the mid Nascent realms.

He then looked at the girl that was crouched in the corner, hiding her face from the beast and the other 5 people.

Finally, he saw the beast. The beast was a giant mole about 4 meters tall and 6 meters long. It had incredibly sharp nails on its claws that were attached to rather short limbs.

Compared to the 5 other robed figures, the beast was actually not very stronger than them at all. If the 5 decided to fight the beast, the beast would surely lose.

"Where do you people keep coming from?" the Mole was both annoyed and worried as it had never seen so anyone other than the girl he was sent come in, let alone this many at once.

"Who are you?" one of the men in the group asked Ning.

"I can ask the same to you," Ning said with a smile.

"Doesn't matter. We are here for you anyway," the man turned to the mole.

"But why? Why are you after me?" the mole asked.

"They want to kill you because of what you've been doing all this time," Ning said.

"What I've been doing?" the mole looked at him confused. "But I've been doing nothing but staying in this mountain ever since I got here."

"You made the villagers send out their daughters here every year, didn't you?" Ning asked. "They are taking revenge on what you've done."

"Huh?" the mole asked in full exasperation. "But I don't ask for anything. They give me their daughters on their own."

"Are you saying you didn't threaten them to send their daughters?" Ning asked. "You didn't bring any harm to them?"

"Of course, n—" the beast stopped mid-speech. "Ah, is that why they keep sending their young females."

"What did you do?" Ning asked in full seriousness.

"Well, uh..." the beast turned to the 5 people and said, "Can you tell them it was a mistake. I explained it to them long ago, but it doesn't seem like they understood."

"You see, when I came here and made this home for myself, I accidentally threw out all of the dirt and rocks inside into the village down below. They thought I was destroying their home because I was angry."

"After that, they've been sending me their daughters every year."

"Wait, so you didn't do anything bad to them?" Ning asked.

"NO!" the mole answered, almost dramatically.

'System, is he telling the truth?' Ning asked.

<Yes>

"Ah, it seems you have no reason to kill him then," Ning said as he turned to the 5 people.

"See? You don't have to kill me. I'm innocent," the Mole shouted.

The man who had spoken earlier spoke once again. "Don't worry, we were never planning to kill you in the first place," he said.

"Oh," the mole said, a little surprised.

"Oh," Ning said as well, clearly not expecting the response.

"Then... you're going to leave now?" the mole asked, almost happily.

"No, we have an objective of our own, and that is to take you away," the man said.

"What? Why? I told you, I don't do anything to the humans below. I've been living a quiet life all this time," the mole said.

"Who cares about some pathetic humans. They can die for all we care. We are only here for you and you alone," the man said.

"Uh... you speak like you hate humans," the mole said.

"Of course we do. Who wouldn't hate them," the man said.

"Um, then do you hate yourself too?" the mole asked.

"No, because we're not humans. Not anymore," the man said with a sinister smile. "We've long since transcended humanity and have grown to be that much stronger. However, we can grow that much more. So, we are going to take you away."

"Well, I wasn't expecting that," Ning said. "Who are you guys exactly?"

"That human talks a lot, go kill him," the man said.

"With pleasure." A girl slowly walked forward with a dagger in her hand and a sinister grin on her face. She licked the edge of the blade and asked, "Tell me, how would you like to die? Fast, slow, full of a thousand cuts or a straight stab to the heart."

"Just kill him," one of the men in the back shouted.

"Tsk. Let me have some fun. Just because I'm with a gloomy bunch doesn't mean I have to be gloomy too," she said. "Right, where was I?"

"Uh, I don't know about you, but I was going to say that you little miss should give up on the idea of hurting me. While I don't like hurting little girls, I'm not so against it that you will definitely be walking away from here with more than just a few broken bones."

"Hahaha, you're funny, human," she said. "It's a shame you have to die now."

The remaining 4 people decided to go on the beast. Ning looked at the situation and sighed. "What sort of idiots did I come up against?" he thought.

"Night, Blue, go help him," he said.

"Yes, Master."

Chapter 362: Hybrids

"Hehehe, don't run away okay? We are just going to have a little bit of fun," the girl said with a maniacal smile on her face.

"Come on, you don't have to do this, you know? You're just going to get hurt," Ning said.

"No. No backing out now," the girl said and immediately launched forward. She suddenly changed the way she held her dagger to reverse grip and slashed at Ning's right biceps.

Ning put a single finger forward and stopped the blade before it touched him. He was so strong that the dagger slipped away from the girl's hands and fell on the floor.

The girl had wide eyes when he looked down at the dagger that had a finger wide dent on the blade.

"How did you do that?" she asked.

"I told you, you won't win against me," Ning said.

"We'll see about that," the girl as she opened her robes and pulled out two more daggers. This time, instead of coming up to Ning, she stayed away and resorted to throwing away the daggers instead.

Still, that was no problem for Ning. All he did was move a little and the daggers flew past him without touching him.

Ning smiled and started walking in closer. "Don't be so smug yet," the girl said and opened her robes fully, showing the hundreds of daggers that were tucked away all over the insides of her robes.

"Oh my god, you really do love dagger don't you," Ning said when he saw that.

A flurry of blades flew towards Ning with no way to dodge at all. So, he did what anyone that wouldn't take any damage would do and stayed still.

"Tsk," the girl clicked her tongue when she saw that. "You are pretty strong for a human. I have no choice but to do this then," she said.

"Why do you keep saying that you're not a human? You clearly are one," Ning said.

"Heh, can a human do this?" the girl said opened her mouth again to lick the blade in her hands. Only now, her tongue was different from the normal tongue she was using beforehand. Now, it was purple in color and was forked at the front, as if it were a snake's tongue.

As she licked the blade, a green liquid dripped down from her mouth and was smeared all over the dagger with her tongue.

"What the hell?" Ning thought. The girl then looked up to him and he could see her eyes had changed as well. There were slits in her eyes, instead of normal pupils, resembling those of a snake as well.

'What's going on? She's not in Spirit Transformation realm, so she isn't a beast for sure, but those eyes... and that tongue,' Ning thought.

"What are you? You said you were human, but have since transcended humanity, right? What did you d—"

Ning stopped speaking as a realization hit him. "Fuck, it's you guys," he said with slight annoyance.

He moved incredibly quickly and grabbed the dagger from the girl's hand. The girl couldn't do anything to stop him. She couldn't even see him, so she was very surprised when he was next to her, with her blade in her hand.

"Don't mind what I'm about to do," he said and grabbed the girl's hand and slashed at the wrist. Blood started spilling onto the ground uncontrollably and the girl cried in pain.

It seemed that whatever poison or venom she had put on her dagger hurt her as well. Ning put his arm forward and caught a bit of the falling blood.

He looked at the blood closely and sighed. "I knew it. It's you copycats, again. Who exactly are you?" Ning asked.

"Let go of me," she shouted.

"Answer me," Ning said.

"Help me, you idiots. Don't just stan—"

The words stopped in the girl's mouth when she saw them all incapacitated on the floor. "How...?"

"I shouldn't be wasting time like this," Ning thought and put his hand on the girl's head.

Supreme Domination.

He activated the skill and within seconds dominated the girl to do whatever he said.

"Master," the girl said, her usual maniac-like face nowhere to be seen.

"Alright, now tell me. Who are you?" Ning asked.

"I am Ursna, master," she said.

"No, I mean— whatever. Who are you, people? Who do you work for?" Ning asked.

"We call ourselves the Hybrids. We are groups of humans that have injected ourselves with the blood of the beasts and have gained their bloodline. As for who we work for, we work for our boss," the girl said.

"What is the objective of your group?" Ning asked.

"To become stronger," the girl said.

"I see," Ning said as he looked at the blood in his other hand. The girl's hands had already healed on their own, showing the effectiveness of her new body.

"System, how many different bloods are here?" Ning asked.

<There are 2 primary sources of blood that make 45% and 47% respectively. The remaining 7% consists of 98 different types of blood>

"And the 2 primary sources are?" Ning asked.

<Human and Tri-Headed Hydra>

"I see," he thought. He then looked at the girl and said, "Wait here, I have some more questions for you later."

"Yes, master," the girl said obediently.

Ning walked towards the mole where Night and Blue were in their full size. The mole was looking at them with fear and amazement in his eyes.

"Senior, Who... who are you?" the beast asked Night and Blue instead of Ning.

"We are here to take you back to your home," Ning said.

"My... home?" the mole asked with confusion before his eyes widened with pure happiness. "You can take me back to my home?"

"Yes," Ning said. "You must've suffered quite a bit, not being able to return back to your home."

"Yes," the mole said. "Are we going back now?"

"Anytime you want," Ning said.

"Wait a minute then.. Let me do something about this girl," the mole said.

Chapter 363: Taking The Mole Away

The mole walked towards the girl that was hiding at the corner of the room, trembling in fear. When she heard the mole walking towards her, she started screaming in terror.

"Don't come here, you monster. I will rather kill myself than let you have me," the girl shouted.

"Ah, I see you are that type of girl," the mole said. "Little lady, I am not going to do anything to you."

"I won't fall for your cheap tricks, you monster," she shouted. "The other girls might have been gullible, but I'm not one of them."

"I didn't do anything to the other girls either," the mole said.

"You can't deceive me. If you did nothing to them, then where are they? Not a single one of them returned back to the village," the girl said.

"Uhh... they're not here," the mole said.

Ning looked around curiously and even sent out his divine sense as far as he could, but he saw not a single sign of any humans living in the mountain.

"Where are the girls, mole," Ning asked with concerns.

"Well, uh... you see. The girls weren't wanted by their family, so i—"

"So you killed them," the girl said with hatred on her face. However, the hatred soon turned into shock and despair, "No, you ate them, didn't you? are you going to eat me too?"

"What? Stop putting words in my mouth. I did nothing of that sort," the mole said. "I wouldn't eat humans even if I wanted to, I hear you people taste weird."

"Then what did you do?" Ning asked.

"Well, since they weren't wanted by their own family, so I sent them away to the outside world where they could have a life," the mole said. "That door. If you go through that door, you will go through a very long tunnel that will end up outside of the mountain range."

"I take them to the outside world and hand them to a friend I made there," the Mole said. "He handles the rest of the stuff in exchange for a few ores I mine in here."

Ning check the tunnel and it indeed was what the mole said it was.

"You liar. What family wouldn't want their daughter back?" the girl asked with disgust.

"Well, why are you asking me? You are the ones that keep sending them. I thought you had a surplus and didn't want any. Who would've known that you were doing it out of fear for me," the mole said.

"I don't believe you," the girl said.

"It doesn't matter if you believe him or not," Ning said. "Truth is, I am taking him away. From today on, there won't be a beast in your mountain range, and you can happily live with your family."

"Go tell your parents that there is a path here that can lead to the outer world. Your village will be happy to hear that," Ning said.

"I—"

"Good job on being brave for your family, but don't ever do anything so stupid again. You have a single life and make sure to live it to the best you can. Now go," Ning said.

The girl still didn't move as she side-eyed the mole, afraid that he might do something.

Ning sighed and said, "Aegis, can you take the girl back to the village below?"

"Yes, master," a voice came from the girl's back, scaring her. Aegis immediately showed up in full size once again and picked the girl up in a princess carry, he loved doing that.

After that, he flew out of the room and went away.

"It will take a little bit for Aegis to return, do you have anything else left to do?" Ning asked.

"No," the mole said. "Nothing here is worth anything compared to returning home. I can leave at any moment."

"Good," Ning said and looked back at the 4 men on the ground. "Now, what should we do about them?" he wondered.

"Uhh... why don't we just kill them, master?" Blue asked.

"Yeah, that would be the best idea, but I'm not really sure if they are bad people or not. I don't want to kill people who aren't doing anything bad," Ning said.

"Whatever," Ning said as he brought out a pill from his storage and crushed it before sprinkling it all over their faces. "I will figure it out later. They will be unconscious for at least a week now and will likely forget what happened here today."

"So, you will leave them like that?" the Mole asked.

"Kind of," he said. "Ursna!"

"Yes, master," the girl came up to him.

"We will be leaving for a while. Look after them for me until then," Ning said. "If I'm not back by the time they wake up, tell them this mole defeated you all and left. After that, act like nothing ever happened and go on with your life. I will find you afterward."

"Yes, master," Ursna said.

Aegis returned not a minute later and told them how much the girl screamed on their way down.

"They haven't seen beasts before so they are quite scared of anything," Ning said. "After they join with the outside world, they will learn a bit more and stop fearing that which they don't understand."

"I hope they do," the mole said.

"Right, let's leave."

Ning grabbed all of them and teleported out of the mountain directly above the tomb in the middle of the desert.

"Oh, we're back," the mole cried out in surprise. "How did you bring us here so suddenly?"

"Doesn't matter, let's go," he said.

"You know how to enter?" the mole asked.

"Of course, why else would I bring you without knowing that?" Ning asked with a chuckle.

They went into the tomb and people that were there fled once more. Ning felt quite bad that he was disrupting business every time he had to come in or go out.

He shook his head and went on to open the seal once more.. After that, they all entered into it.

Chapter 364: The Hybrid's Hideout

After talking with the statues, Ning went and sent his beasts back to their new home.

"I assume you will want to stay here, right? Have fun. I will come to visit sometimes," Ning said.

"Thank you, master," the 3 of them said.

"Alright, I will go now," Ning said and left the place.

"Thank you, human, for bringing yet another descendant of ours," the beasts said.

"It's fine," Ning said. "By the way, I have brought in what? 50-some beasts by now, do you have a number on how many are out there?" he asked.

"A number? I'm not really sure," one of the beasts said.

"It should be around 150 or maybe 200? Not that many have left, but there have been quite a few," another one of the beasts said.

'200 huh? I wonder how many survived,' Ning thought.

"Alright, I will leave now," he said and left the cave. He flew up to the exit seal once more and was teleported again.

He got out of the tomb and reappeared in the Southern Continent. He grumbled about the teleporting experience for a few seconds and got back to the task at hand.

"Right, back to the mountain," he thought and teleported once again. He returned back to the room inside the mountain range and looked around.

There was no one in the room, not Ursna, or any of the other 4 people, so he sent out his divine sense.

"Oh, there she is," Ning thought when he finally found her and walked over to a somewhat hard-to-find room.

Ursna quickly turned around with a dagger in her hand ready to fight. "Who's th" Oh master, you're back," she said and put down her dagger after seeing Ning walk into the room.

"Why are you here? Did the people come already?" Ning asked.

"Yes, they came a few hours ago," she said. "But they haven't been coming up after they left."

"It will take them a while to truly believe that the monster is gone. The threat will keep them away for quite a while still before they truly believe that the monster is gone," Ning said.

"Anyway, forget about that, I have some questions for you," Ning said.

"Please ask, master," Ursna said.

"How did you acquire the bloodline of a Tri-headed Hydra?" Ning asked.

"I don't know, master," she said. "I went through a process, where our leader made us unconscious and did something to us. I only know that when I woke up, we were no longer human. Although, I think it has something to do with injecting the blood of the beast onto us."

"You are not sure though, right? That's a shame," Ning said. "Then can you tell me what you were planning to do with the mole once you caught him?"

"Oh, we bring him back to the hideout and there the physicians draw out blood from the beasts. That blood will be used to make us strong, I think," she said.

"So, what you're saying is you go out hunting for beasts so you can get their blood to become stronger?" Ning asked.

"Yes," she said.

Ning's face turned a little cold. This was torture that they were doing and that meant they weren't a good person in the least.

"Do the beasts die?" he asked, fully expecting an answer.

"Yes," she said, proving his hypothesis.

"I see, you people aren't good, are you? Tell me then, why didn't you want to kill the mole? Don't you just want his blood?" Ning asked.

"We do," the girl said. "I've suggested it many times, but we always get the same answer. They say we aren't as good as the physician in this sort of stuff since they need to be delicate to not dirty the blood, or whatever that means."

Ning stopped speaking for a few seconds. "What sort of beasts do you go after?" Ning asked. "I assume only the ones that have bloodlines of the legendary beasts, right?"

"Yes," Ursna said. "Our leader tells us where the beasts are and we just go looking for it."

Ning took a deep breath, trying to calm his anger, and asked, "How many people do you have in total?"

"There are about a few hundred Hybrids. We haven't reached a thousand though," she said.

"And how many beasts have you collected by now?" Ning asked.

"About 50 I think. This should've been 52nd or 53rd," she said.

"And after drawing out all the blood, they can't survive at all, right?" Ning asked.

"Yes," she said. "Well, they were at first trying to keep the beasts alive and draw out as much blood as they could by just keeping them there, but lately they have been drawing all of the blood and killing them."

"I see," Ning said. "One last question. What do you do to humans that you encounter during the missions to get back the beasts?"

"We do what we feel is needed, master," the girl said. "If the beasts are in the wild, we don't interact with humans at all. But if they are in a city, or sect, or family, we will go so far as to massacre them all just so we can get the beasts. We make it look like a normal attack though."

Ning sighed after hearing all of this. "I should've known after you tried to kill me," he said. "Well, I have one final order for you."

"What is it master?" the girl asked.

"Kill them all, and then kill yourself."

Ning stood up and left. He could faintly hear words that sounded like 'yes, master', but he didn't care much for it.

We walked out of the mountain range with rage in his eyes. "System, how many beasts have escaped the seal until now?" he asked.

<212>

"And how many have fallen victim to these hybrids?" Ning asked.

<145>

Ning's eyes widened. He didn't expect the girl to be so incorrect about her assumption. 'She must've joined late then, or the leader keeps stuff from them,' he thought.

"Let's go stop these people from killing any more beasts," Ning said.

He asked the system for the location of the hideout and disappeared. When he reappeared, he was in the northern section of the central continent.

He looked down at the massive forest that extended past the normal forest that surrounded the sun empire.

"So they stay here, huh? I guess that makes sense given how they seem to have gotten their hands on so many beasts. Only the central continent would have so many," Ning thought.

He then flew down to the ground and sent out his divine sense to check on the hideout. "Oh, there's a cave here," he thought and started walking.

Ning activated his skill to find signs of the beasts and all he could sense was a gigantic pulse coming from around here somewhere.

"It's like there are many beasts in there at once and the sense is all jumbled together," Ning thought.

He continued walking and came upon the opening to the cave where two people were keeping watch.

"Who's there?" they shouted the moment they heard him come.

Ning wasn't trying to be sneaky either. He was quite angry about what was happening and walked up to them in full view.

One of the guards was a man with claws for hands and had furs growing from all over his body, and the other person was a girl with a tail behind her and two wings sprouting from her back.

"So they have taken in the blood as well, huh?" Ning thought. Ning did not bother asking the system if they were innocent or not. Someone being part of something this horrendous could not possibly be innocent at all.

Ning pulled out his black spear without any notice and slashed it towards the man. The man tried to block it with his arms, but before he knew about it, his arms were on the ground, with blood gushing through the cut.

"AAAH!!!" the man shouted for just a fraction of a second before his scream was cut short from his head being cut off.

"Is your leader here?" Ning asked the girl who was on the ground, scared for her life.

"Y-y-yes," she barely answered.

"Good," Ning said and slashed her head off before she realized as well. He then walked into the cave with blood dripping from his spear.

On the initial steps of the cave, it looked just that, a normal cave. However, the further he went, the more lived in the cave became.

There were barrels and boxes all over the cave on the deeper end. A few people came running his way after they had heard the shout from the front.

The people who saw him were confused at first. They didn't see anything familiar about him and stopped to look at him. However, when they saw the bloody spear, they immediately recognized an enemy in him.

Ning was a little surprised when he saw them as well. These people were all different from each other, and every single one of them had some sort of body part augmented to look like that of a beast.

"Intruder, who are you?" they shouted at him.

"Where are you keeping the beats? I'm here to save them. If I can take your leader's head in the process, that would be better," Ning said.

"What? What do you want with the beast?" someone asked.

"I'm here to save them from you," Ning said. "So will you tell me where your leader is?"

"No way. Guys, he's here to mess with us. Kill him," someone shouted.

"Arrgghhh!" people shouted as they charged towards Ning with all of their beast skills they had acquired from the blood transfusion.

Chapter 365: The Red Crystal

A bolt of lightning flew past Ning and hit the ground behind him. A wave of fire spread everywhere in front of him and hit him. Roots appeared from the ground, wrapping him and constricting him to that place.

Spears of water flew at him, as well as thorns that seemed to have poison in them. Scythes of wind hit him, intending to cut him as well.

Similarly, dozens of attacks flew at him from the people that were all enhanced due to the blood of the beasts.

"These are all skills of beasts, aren't they?" Ning wondered. Based on the attacks and the different body structures the people in the cave had, Ning could tell that all of them had multiple different beast bloodlines in them.

'Just how did it come to be like this?' he wondered. He casually broke through all the restrictions he was put under from the different attacks and walked forward.

"Stop!" the people started shouting at him, but Ning didn't stop at all. He kept walking forwards.

The ones that had acquired superior strength from their bloodline rushed at Ning to stop him physically. However, that too didn't work.

Ning casually caught any physical attacks that flew in his direction and crushed it, whether it be weapons and projectiles, or even hands and fists.

He then started slashing with his spear everywhere, slicing out anything that stood in his path.

One after another, the many hybrids that were in the cave started dwindling in number as they were killed in both body and soul.

A river of blood flowed in the pathway as torn-up corpses were scattered everywhere. The ones that were still alive were shocked and scared when they saw this.

"Moster!" they cried out.

"Why are you killing us?" they asked.

However, Ning wasn't in the mood to ask questions. He sent out a few more attacks and killed the people there.

He then flew across the air, not stepping on the blood anywhere. The thick scent of the blood was nauseating, but he had been through quite a few of these such that it didn't phase him anymore.

He came across more people who attacked him the moment they realized he was an intruder. He followed the path with more people in it and eventually reached a place that looked like a big hall that lead to a much different room.

The hall was fully absent with most of the people already dead before he even arrived here.

He looked at the empty hall that only had a single thing in it. There was a small blood fountain at the center of the hall with a single blood crystal about 2 meters tall in it.

The fountain of blood was all sprayed directly into this crystal from where the blood pooled up at the fountain that would be thrown back at the crystal again.

"What the hell is that?" Ning wondered. "System, can you explain?"

The system didn't answer for a few seconds, confusing Ning since it always answered the moment he asked the questions. However, it did answer after a few seconds of pause.

<That crystal is an anomaly that should not exist in this place. The crystal was not created naturally and does not obey the rules of this universe. It is something that is truly hated by both the Creator and the system>

<if you can, please destroy it>

Ning was confused for a second. "What is it though? What's its purpose?" he asked.

<The crystal was created from nothing and works as a transfer point where one can store or send whatever is given to it. In this case, being the blood.>

"Store or send blood? Are you saying these guys ar—"

"Who are you?" someone shouted at him, interrupting his thought process.

"Dammit," Ning said softly and looked at the newcomer. The person who had just arrived was wearing something that didn't match anyone else he had seen before in the cave.

'That looks like a uniform of the sort,' he thought.

"Who are you?" Ning asked in return as well.

"I'm one of the physicians," the man said. "Now tell me who are you?"

"A physician huh? Let's see what exactly your job is then," Ning said and walked forward.

"Stop, and answer me," the physician demanded, but Ning ignored him. The physician went on defensive, but against Ning, he couldn't do anything.

Ning grabbed the physician and immediately used Supreme Domination.

"How may I be of assistance, master?" the physician asked.

"You said you are a physician, right? What exactly is your job here?" Ning asked.

"I am in charge of preparing candidates so that we can slowly take them through the process of changing them from humans to a beast-human hybrid so that they can have more power as they desire.

"Do you know how you guys gather new candidates?" Ning asked.

"I'm not sure on the exact process, but we look for people who are down on their luck and need the extra strength, or people who want revenge and will do anything to acquire it. There are also power-hungry fools who will give their humanity to become strong," the physician said.

"I don't see anything wrong with you. Are you not a hybrid?" Ning asked.

"No, becoming a hybrid poses an extreme risk and the chance of success is very low, so none of the physicians who know this stuff dare to go through the process on their own," the Physician said.

Ning nodded as he got more information. "Why did you come work for these people?" Ning asked.

"The leader promised a large sum of money, so I accepted," the Physician said.

Ning then asked the question that he was burning to know about from the very start. "What exactly is this process? From what I understand, you guys pump the blood of the beasts into these candidates, right? Is that all enough to change them? Or do you do something extra?" he asked.

"We don't pump them with blood at all, master," the physician said.. "At least, not anymore."

Chapter 366: Leader

"Oh," Ning said, a little surprised. "Was that girl wrong then? Just how new was she that she got so many things wrong?" he thought.

"What do you do then? Tell me the process by which these hybrids are made?" Ning asked.

"Well, we did first use to pump blood into the volunteers to give them powers, but it usually did not work. What would happen is their body would reject the blood immediately and show the adverse effect to their bodies."

"The changes would happen, but they would also die. I and many of the physicians tried different ways to perfect this stuff," the physician said.

"We tried lowering the dose of the blood, or changing the number of different blood that was put into them, but it didn't work. It showed some improvements, but the death count was still high, being as much as only 1 working out of every 20 candidates," the physician said.

"That many died?" Ning asked in surprise. "And the volunteers still agreed?"

"We never told them. All death was dealt with in secret and the only ones that knew were leaders and us physicians," the physician said.

"So? What happened? What changed?" Ning asked.

"So, we decided to stop infusing blood. Since the beast's blood was fighting the volunteer's blood, we needed to make it so that the volunteer's blood always won in that fight, and that was when our leader came up with the idea."

"Instead of pumping in blood, we used bone marrow. We performed a bone marrow transplant from the beast to the people and immediately started seeing success. The death rate went down from 19 out of 20, to 3 out of 5 in just a few experiments."

"Now, every other bone marrow transfusion we do results in a new hybrid," the physician said.

"Bone marrow? Ursna didn't say anything about it. Do the hybrids not know about it?" Ning asked.

"No," the physician said. "If we tell them, the leader is afraid that they will stop working for him and instead go and try to do it themselves," the physician said.

"What about the beasts? Are any still alive?" Ning asked.

"No," the physician said. "Let me show you, master."

The physician walked into a certain room and Ning followed behind. There were a few other people in that room wearing uniforms similar to the physician.

"What is this?" Ning asked when he saw the horrifying scenery of a giant squirrel hanging on the wall. Not only was the squirrel dead, but it was flayed open as well.

Besides the squirrel was a vulture-like bird that was similarly flayed open. The guts of both of these beasts were on the ground and the physicians were stepping on them to reach the beasts' chest and limbs.

"Who is that?" one physician in the room asked.

"I don't know," another one answered.

"Oi, is that a new candidate?" another one asked. "Why did he come from the front? All newbies are to come from the back."

"No, this is my master," the physician replied.

"What the hell? Your master? Since when do you have a master?" the confused physician asked.

Ning coldly looked at the group of physicians who were drawing out blood from the beasts in a bucket and got angry.

He brought out his spear that he had kept away and slashed at the unassuming physicians. They were much easier to kill than the hybrids, but that was obvious.

Ning attacked killed every single one of the physicians. He then sent out fire towards the two dead beasts and immediately burnt their corpse to ashes. "I hope your next life is better," he prayed softly.

"Oh no, master, the blood," the physician said. "The leader will get mad if we pollute the blood."

"Why would he be angry for polluting blood? Don't you need bone marrow more than blood?" Ning asked.

"Yes, but the leader wants all the blood, and he wants it to be pure. That is why he doesn't want to let the hybrids take care of the beasts on the outside. Partly because he doesn't want to let them know that blood marrow is what we actually need to make new hybrids, and partly because the leader doesn't want the blood they bring to have impurities in it," the hybrid said.

"I see," Ning said. Then he pointed towards the door behind him and asked, "Is he your leader?"

The door burst open and a tall... being walked in. The beastlike human or humanlike beast had long black hair, a face with 8 different eyes, ears in the shape of cats, dragon scales going up through his neck, two fangs pointing out of his upper jaw as two tusks coming out of his lower one.

There were bat wings behind his back, but they also looked like they had feathers in them. There were gills along the side of his neck and his chest looked hairy like that of a chimpanzee.

His hands looked like tiger paws with claws on them and his lower legs looked like the legs of a horse with hooves on them.

He stared at Ning and the physician with blood-red eyes.

"Leader, you're here," the physician said nonchalantly.

"Is this treason?" the leader asked.

"No," the physician was confused. "I am just showing my master around."

"Your... master? That should be me," the leader said. "Did he kill everyone in the cave?"

"Yes, my master did," the physician said.

"And you helped him?" the leader looked at the physician with hints of anger and confusion.

"Well, since you are already here, no need to keep you around," Ning said. "Go and attack him with all you've got. I want to see just how strong he is."

"Yes, master," the physician said and rushed at the leader with no regard for his own life. He brought out a sword and started attacking left and right. However, his strength did not stand up to the strength of a Hybrid with the bloodline of what seemed to be many creatures.

"Not bad," Ning said, looking at the leader. "You are the strongest one I've seen in here.. You do deserve to be the leader."

Chapter 367: Transferring Blood

"You killed your subordinate just to test my strength? I have never seen someone so evil and cowardly as you," the leader said in a hoarse voice.

"Oh, that guy wasn't my subordinate or anything. I just met the dude like 5 minutes ago," Ning said.

"But he called you 'master'," the leader asked with a face full of confusion.

"Yeah, I can see where the problem is, but it doesn't matter. Since you are the leader, you should have more answers than these dead guys," Ning said.

The leader didn't say anything and instead looked at the bucket behind Ning and suddenly got angry. "You ruined that bucket of blood, didn't you?" he asked angrily.

"The hell? What do you want to do with that blood? Drink it?" Ning asked. "So what's wrong if it's polluted? You guys use the blood marrow anyway."

"You will die for this," the beast shouted and lunged at Ning.

The leader slashed his sharp claws at him and managed to land his attack, however, instead of making any sort of cuts, his claws instead broke off.

"What?" the leader shouted in surprise.

"You think it's going to be easy to fight me? You hate humans right? They got defeated by me will be quite disgraceful to you," Ning said.

"Don't get ahead of yourself human. Just because you blocked one attack won't mean you will block this one as well," the leader shouted.

Suddenly, a sharp scythe appeared on either of his arms as if he was wielding two tonfa. The scythe seemed to belong to one of the legendary mantises that Ning had learned about.

"You seem to have a hell of a lot more augmentations done to your body than any of the other people I've seen here. Did you start off by experimenting on yourself? You must've been one sick bastard," Ning said.

"What need do I have to experiment? Hmph! Enough talk from you, you will die for what you've done here today," the leader said.

"Can't you say anything else? Because there isn't a way for you to kill me," Ning said.

"We'll see about that," the leader shouted and ran towards him.

Ning sighed and caught the two scythes with his bare hands. The leader was once again shocked to see his attack be stopped like this. There wasn't even a hint of blood coming from Ning's own hands that caught the scythe.

"What the hell are you?" the leader asked. "There is no way a normal human should be able to catch such a sharp scythe with their own hands."

Ning was about to say something when the leader attacked him once more. He launched a fire attack towards Ning that threatened to engulf him fully.

However, that too didn't work on Ning. Ning easily extinguished the fire as if it was nothing.

"No way," the leader said in shock. "Even phoenix fire doesn't do anything to you. Are you a beast in disguise as well?"

"What?" Ning felt that the question was absurd.

"No, that's not it," the leader said as he looked at Ning with a scrutinizing eye. "I see, a Spirit Transformation expert. No wonder they are all dead and even I can't do anything to you."

"Oh," Ning said with a hint of surprise. "You not only know about the spirit transformation realm but could also tell I had broken through to it."

The leader said nothing and started calculating stuff in his head.

"Give up, dude. Everyone in your base is dead, and you will soon follow through as well," Ning said.

"Hmph! Why would I care about my death when I'm so close to achieving what I've always wanted?" the leader said. "As for those that died, good. I wanted to get rid of those failures somehow. They would only harm my army in the long run."

"Your... army?" Ning asked.

"What? You thought you got all of my Hybrids? The ones that succeeded are safely waiting for me to come back," the Leader said.

"So the ones that I fought weren't the ones that succeeded?" Ning asked. "Makes me curious what the ones that succeeded look like."

"You will never see," the leader said. He took two more breaths and sighed. "I was so close. Just a few more beasts and I would've succeeded."

"What are you talking about?" Ning asked.

The leader suddenly glared at Ning. His eyes turned purple and two beautiful butterfly wings popped out from behind him.

The spiral designs in the wings started moving around and a sense of calmness entered Ning's mind. He felt like he could just lie down and rest for a while. There was no need to worry about anything in the world.

This was true bliss.

The moment Ning felt this way, he shook his head and sent away the thoughts. But in the short period of time it took him to do that, the leader had run away.

He had fallen victim to the hallucination technique of a ShadowGod Butterfly.

"Tsk, where did he run off to?" Ning wondered and quickly ran out. He went outside of the room he was in and arrived at the hall he was previously in.

There at the center, the leader stood with his back turned to Ning.

"You didn't run away?" Ning asked curiously.

"My work here is done, so I have no need to run away at all," the leader said. "I would've loved to have the blood of 5 more beasts to cross the threshold, but no matter, I have other ways of doing that."

"What are you ta—"

Suddenly, the blood fountain behind the leader started vibrating as the blood-red crystal at the center of it started shining.

The blood in the fountain started spiraling at it started entering the crystal.

Ning couldn't understand what was happening, but before he could even begin to try to understand, all sorts of changes appeared on the leader's body.

"Since I no longer need to live, let me take you along with me."

The leader's body seemed like it was constantly phasing through multiple different beasts at once.

Sometimes he would have long sabertooth, sometimes he would have tusks. Sometimes he would start popping out wings with feathers on them of multiple colors, while other times he would have bat wings.

Furs grew on his body that changed to scales that changed to furs again. His eyes changed colors constantly, and so did his hair.

Seeing all the different aspects of the beast in the leader truly shocked Ning. 'Just how many different beasts' blood and bone marrow did he acquire?' he wondered.

The leader jumped at Ning with the full intent to kill and die in the process. Ning dodged the attack and punched him back.

The leader was sent far away with a single attack.

Although the changes were surprising, they weren't of many effects against Ning. Ning could easily kill him if he wanted to right now. But he was a little concerned about the crystal behind him.

"What is that crystal? What is it doing?" Ning asked.

"No need to ask. Just kill me," the leader said. He had fully given up on his life, but he was still trying to fight Ning.

"If you want to die then stay put. I will kill you," Ning said.

"No, I will do whatever I can to you here. I don't know how strong you are, so I need to be cautious," the leader said.

"What?" Ning was more confused. The leader constantly changed his intentions in his speech. Sometimes he would say he wanted to die, and sometimes he said he needed to be cautious.

'Does this guy have a mental problem?' Ning wondered.

The leader jumped at Ning once more and attacked him. Fire, water, wind, rocks, lightning, blades, bashes— whatever the leader could do, he did.

It didn't have any effect on Ning, but he was very relentless. Ning started getting tired of it all and decided to end it.

Just as the leader was jumping at him, Ning jumped forward too and punched him directly on the chest.

The leader's chest caved in and a few ribs even poked out of his chest. He smashed on the side of the cave and was stuck there.

Blood started flowing down the cracks on the wall and onto the ground. The leader started wheezing as the air barely stayed in his lungs at all.

"Hehehe," the leader started to laugh in between his wheezing.

"This psycho— why are you laughing?" Ning asked.

"I've remembered your face," the leader said with a crazy smile on his face. "I will be sure to kill you the next time we meet."

"What are you—" Ning stopped speaking as he felt massive vibrations coming from behind him. He turned around to see that the blood in the blood fountain had completely dried up. The red crystal lost all of its colors and was now just a simple white crystal on top of an empty fountain.

"It's done," the leader said with happiness appearing on his face. "It's finally done. After so many years, I have completed my duty."

"What the hell are you talking about?" Ning asked, but the leader was slowly dying. He was on his last breath and either didn't want to talk anymore or couldn't reply anymore.

"Who are you?" Ning asked silently and decided to check. He used the Qi Analysis to check him, but that didn't provide any information.

One interesting piece of information that it did provide was that the leader did not have a name. "That's never happened before," Ning thought and used the Omni-Analysis on him.

The same stuff started appearing at first, but as Ning read more and more, his level of confusion kept on increasing instead of decreasing.

Finally, he saw information that was perhaps the most intriguing of all. "The leader... was a clone?" Ning thought and reread the part just to be safe that he was correct.

"A clone of what? Or wh—" he stopped speaking as the answer popped up in front of him.

Ning's eyes went wide as he finally understood. "He was a clone of Jha'Akim," Ning thought in shock.

"What... what did he do?" Ning thought. He suddenly turned around and looked at the crystal once more. The crystal was something that the system said was unnatural and needed to be destroyed.

"System, tell me. What is the purpose of that crystal?" he asked.

<The crystal is used to transfer blood from this point to someplace else>

A deep, terrifying feeling appeared inside of Ning. He swallowed his saliva and asked, "Transfer blood from here to where?" he asked, praying that what he thought wasn't right.

<The Crystal is being used to overcome space to transfer blood from the fountain to a being called Jha'Akim>

Chapter 368: Hurrying Back To The Tomb

Jha'Akim, just before he entered the Spirit Transformation realm separated part of his body and used its regeneration capabilities to create another clone. He did it so that in case he ever died during his breakthrough to the Spirit Transformation realm, he could still have something to take revenge for him.

However, he never needed that clone and it stayed in its infant form for a long time. But, when Jha'Akim was imprisoned, he seemed to have needed more blood for himself. So, just before he was put behind the Primordial holy Jade, he sent a message to his infant self to do one thing for him.

That was to kill as many high-level beasts for him and feed it to the crystal, the same crystal the clone was grown in.

The clone took an extremely long time to mature without the care of anyone and didn't come out of the crystal for almost ten thousand years. The crystal seemed to be linked to Jha'Akim himself, so until he died, the crystal would remain standing.

When the clone finally got out, he started cultivating to get as strong as he could. He started forming an army for his real self and experimented with humans and beasts to make hybrids like his real self.

And he succeeded. He managed to find a way to create human-beast hybrids that were the same as he was.

The next task the leader needed to do was bring the crystal as much high-level beast blood as he could. Even that he had succeeded to some level.

In the end, the leader had died, but he died after accomplishing everything he had set out to do.

That was what Ning learned after using Omni-Analysis on the leader.

"Shit! I thought he was some sort of copycat, but it turns out he was a clone," Ning said angrily after a little while it took him to read through all of the information.

The leader had died and the crystal had stopped working. Everyone in the cave was dead, and an eerie silence took over.

"Dammit, what is going on? What was the purpose of feeding blood to Jha'Akim? Did he grow stronger?" Ning wondered.

"I need to hurry there," he thought. But before he left, he decided to destroy the crystal since that was what the system requested of him.

The crystal was quite tough, but it wasn't tough enough to be unbreakable against someone with the physical strength of a Spirit Transformation realm cultivator.

Once Ning was done destroying the crystal, he took one last look at the entire cave with his divine sense to make sure he did not miss any beasts or hybrids.

It turned out that there were a few more beasts hanging from the wall in some other room, so Ning took care of them as well.

Finally, he teleported out of the cave and into the Sun empire and went to the tomb once more.

There was a small hint of fear in his heart as he slowly drifted down to the tomb. He was expecting something to go wrong with the place already, but it seemed that everything was fine.

"Am I on time?" Ning wondered and went into the tomb with a lot of people still visiting in and out. There didn't seem to be any disturbances so he was a little relieved.

People were used to leaving when he came, so the guards had already cleared people away. Ning set the formation once more and opened the seal to enter.

He reached the bottom of the drop and quickly ran over to the open hall. But when he reached there, his eyes went wide in shock and fear.

He could see the coffin wide open and nothing inside of it. On either side of the coffin were broken stones as if the statues had been torn apart.

"No!" he thought and quickly ran forward to check it more carefully.

"Shit! He must've run away already," Ning thought and looked around at the scene of the massacre. There were blood and bones coming out of many of the stones.

It seemed that the first thing Jha'Akim did when he got out of the coffin was kill the ones that kept him imprisoned.

"Dammit," Ning shouted. Then he suddenly remembered, "my beasts!" he thought and ran towards the door.

However, instead of entering, he slammed against the door and made numerous cracks on it.

"What?" Ning thought in confusion. There should have been a portal here, but the portal was now missing.

"Did Jha'Akim destroy this?" Ning thought. "Shit, is he already inside?"

Ning started to get worried; he didn't know what to do now and was incredibly worried about his 3 beasts. "Can I teleport to where Night is?" he wondered. He would have to try to find out.

He closed his eyes and tried to teleport to them, but he was unable to. "Dammit, I need to know where they are if I want to teleport there," Ning thought.

"System, give me the exact location of Night," he asked.

<The location is 8 kilometers due southwest from here>

"8 kilometers... let's see," Ning thought and spread out his divine sense so that it expanded as far as he could.

"Got it," he thought and teleported. When he reappeared, he was in the sky above the forest inside the secret realm.

He immediately looked down for any signs of fighting and noticed a large number of beasts gathering at a certain location.

"Is that it?" he thought and slowly flew down.

The beasts quickly noticed him and all got into fighting stances. However, they stopped when they saw how it was.

"Master," Night called out to him.

"What's happening?" Ning asked. "Is Jha'Akim here?"

"Human, you're here," a voice called out to him from beyond the group of beasts. Ning looked at the center of them all and noticed a red dragon-like lizard with half of its right arm missing and blood pouring from its sunken left eye.

His already scrawny physique made him look even worse with all of this wound on him.

"Are you... the drake from the statue?" Ning asked.

Chapter 369: The Man In A White Robe

"Yes, that is me," the drake said.

"What about the others? I saw many broken statues in the cave. Did Jha'Akim do that?" he asked.

"Yes," the drake said. "We couldn't stop him at all. He suddenly gained a massive boost in strength and physically pushed open the coffin before proceeding to slaughter us all."

"He was so strong that the only thing we could do was stay there and die to him. He started smashing our statues one by one, but it seemed that he didn't know about this secret realm. So, to save them, I jumped into the portal and closed it off from this side," the drake said.

"In fact, I am surprised you even made it here somehow. Is it because of this teleportation skill these children say you have?" the drake asked.

"Yes," Ning said. "But let's not talk about that right now. I will go and find him," Ning said. "Hopefully, he's not too strong."

"No, don't!" the drake said. "That bastard is much stronger than he ever was. I don't think you can fight him at all."

"Don't worry, I'm strong too. But, I will be careful," Ning said.

"No, you will just throw away your life," the drake said. "Oh god, if only we could cultivate to the Spirit Transformation realm as well. We wouldn't have to worry about this monster coming out of nowhere."

The drake's lament reminded Ning of something he had been curious about but always forgot to think about.

'The reason they can't breakthrough to a higher realm is because of a wound, right?' he thought. 'System, do you know what wound these guys are talking about?'

<Yes>

'Well, what is it?' he asked.

The system gave an answer that surprised Ning on a level he hadn't expected before. He thought about it for a bit and asked, "is there anything I can do about it?"

The system gave him another answer where the main process of healing the so called 'wound' was to sacrifice himself.

"Yeah, I'm not doing that," Ning said. "Let's think of this later. I need to find out where this Jha'Akim guy is at."

"I will go now," Ning said to the beasts.

"Master, we want to come help as well," Night and the others asked.

"No, it's too dangerous. I don't know exactly how strong this guy is. He's been biding his time for years, so he should be way stronger than he was when he was put into the coffin."

"I don't want anything to happen to you guys," Ning said.

"No, master. We want to help. Even if it's not directly fighting, there should be other ways to help," Blue said.

Ning was about to refuse once more when he thought of something. 'That bastard has people working for him, doesn't he? If Jha'Akim himself is too strong, then I might not be able to take care of all of them myself,' he concluded.

"Alright, come. Let's go," Ning said.

"Yes, Master," the beasts said as they happily jumped into his beast space.

Ning was about to leave when he stopped and reached into his storage bag before taking out a pill. He threw it towards the drake and said, "it will heal you to a certain degree. Use it."

After that, he left. He didn't bother flying to anywhere and directly teleported to the cave with the broken statues.

"May you guys find peace in death," Ning silently prayed for the dead beasts and flew towards the exit seal.

"Most of these beasts were heavily lacking in anything organic. Their blood and muscles were so low that it wouldn't amount to a single beast's if we combined it all. So, Jha'Akim shouldn't have gotten anything out of these dead beasts," Ning thought.

Ning passed through the exit and reappeared inside the tomb.

"There was no commotion here when he exited, so he must've been teleported to either of the other 2 continents," Ning figured.

"The clone said that it was a little early for him, but he would find a way to get stronger, didn't he? Now where exactly would Jha'Akim go to incre— Oh no," Ning said as a sudden realization hit him.

"ELY!" he thought and immediately teleported inside the island that was the Origin. When he reappearead, he could see in the distance two people fighting with each other.

One one side was Ely with her numerous artifacts flying in the air, both going on the offensive and defensive at the same time.

The many artifacts made her very hard to deal with, but even then Ning could see that she had a broken right arm and was incredibly hurt right now.

On the other side was... a human. A normal looking human flew in the air wearing nothing but a simple white robe with fully white hair. The male human didn't seem to be having much trouble fighting Ely at all, and even seemed to be enjoying it.

Ely was standing on a chariot with a spinning disk in front of her that she was continuously throwing at the man.

However, the man was too fast to be hit by anything. He has a smug smirk on his face and he dashed forward once more.

Ely brought out a shield to block his attack, but that wouldn't stop him at all. At the most crucial moment, Ning teleported right behind the shield and stopped the man's attack together.

"Ning, you're back," Ely said with happiness and relief returning back to her face. However, Ning's face did not have any of those emotions.

"Don't be so happy Ely," he said. "This guy is too strong, even for me."

The man stopped and looked at Ning as a face of confusion and question appeared in him.

"Have I seen you somewhere? Your face looks... familiar," the man said.

"Tsk, so you are Jha'Akim, huh? I don't see any beastly features in you," Ning asked.

The man didn't speak and instead kept looking at Ning. Finally he realized where his sense of familiarity came from.

"I see," Jha'Akim said. "It was you who made me come out right when I was ready to breakthrough, aren't you?"

Chapter 370: Rage

"I didn't expect you to look like a human," Ning said as he raised his fist and punched back at the man.

Jha'Akim instinctively blocked the punch but was sent flying quite a bit far back.

"Wow," he said. "I was already surprised at how strong the girl was. But I didn't expect you to be stronger. I couldn't really tell your strength through my clone, but it seems you are one of the stronger ones on this planet."

"Are you okay?" Ning asked Ely while still keeping his eyes on Jha'Akim.

"Yes, yes, I'm fine," Ely said. "My left arm is a little hurt, but it's nothing that won't heal on its own."

"Good," Ning said. "We should—"

Jha'Akim suddenly rushed forward from his place and came towards Ning with an open palm. However, as he got closer, his palm turned to that of a tiger's paw and slammed onto Ning.

Ning blocked the attack with his arms, but he was still sent flying back. Ely had to catch him midair to stop him from flying further away.

"Are you alright?" she asked.

"Arghh! His punch hurts," Ning said.

"I know. He hits like a beast. His body also changes to one from time to time," Ely said.

"That's because he is," Ning said. "That's the guy that was supposed to be trapped inside the tomb, but he's out now."

Ely's eyes went wide. "That beast with the powers of other beasts? That's him?" she asked. "Just how strong is he?"

"Very," Ning said softly. "From what I can see, he has a cultivation base of nearly 4th Spirit Transformation realm. That alone would've been fine, but he also seems to have a physical body equivalent to that of 2nd Spirit Transformation realm."

"Can you handle him?" Ely asked.

Ning couldn't help but shake his head in denial. "Overall, he's stronger than me. I don't think he can win against me, but I can forget about winning against him too."

Ely started getting worried. "He's a bad guy right?"

"Even if he wasn't, what he did before coming here is already enough to make him one," Ning said. "All of the beasts that were watching over him except one are dead."

Ely gasped. She remembered seeing those beast statues and talking to them. To think so many of them were dead, just like that.

"What is he? Does he have any weakness? Check it," Ely suggested.

"Not right now. He's stronger than me so the pain I will have to mentally suffer to learn it is not something I can afford to get right now. Let me get you to safety first. After that, it won't matter what happens to me," Ning said.

"Okay, let's go," Ely said.

Ning nodded and disappeared

Jha'Akim who was just looking at him was surprised. He got a little apprehensive and spread out his divine sense once more and checked the entire island, but he couldn't find Ning or Ely no matter what.

However, not even 10 seconds later, Ning returned back to the island. Jha'Akim was surprised when he saw that as well.

"How are you going in and out of this island? Do you know how to leave a mark on it as well?" he asked.

"Leave a mark on it?" Ning was confused. "I'm afraid I don't know what that is, but let's not talk about that. What are your intentions here? You killed so many beasts just get out of imprisonment. So, what is it now that you want to do? Rule over the world? Kill all the remaining beasts?"

"Hmph, what makes you think it's only the beasts I will go after? I will kill every single beast and human on this planet. I have no intentions to rule a bunch of cowards that could do nothing but harm what they couldn't understand," Jha'Akim said.

"The beasts are guilty of how they treated me, but the humans aren't saints either. They not only shunned me away but my father as well, just because I was his son."

"This hatred of mine will only stop when I know that there are no more beasts or men. In the end, the only thing there will be is Hybrids."

"I will turn everyone into a hybrid, be it by force or fear. Once everyone is a hybrid, no one will be a hybrid," Jha'Akim said.

Ning frowned. "You are planning to doom an entire planet just for revenge?" Ning asked.

"When did the planet ever care about me, for me to care about it? The beasts, the humans, are all the same. All they care about is themselves. If they come in contact with anything that is remotely not like them, they start fearing it, even if the thing they fear is a harmless young child."

Jha'Akim's face was starting to shift between shades of red and yellow. Veins started popping up on his forehead from all the anger he was bottling inside.

"Do you know how it feels to be beaten by the humans and beasts every opportunity they get because you are a freak? Do you know how it feels to be shunned by society so much that you can't even live your life properly?"

"Do you know how it feels when the other beasts kill your weak and helpless mother just because she gave birth to you? Do you know how it feels when your father kills himself because he can't handle the stress from being mentally tortured by society?"

"Do you know how it feels to live off of scraps in the forest, unable to get food as a 3-year-old child just because you walk differently from the others?. Do you— never mind, I let my rage show once more," Jha'Akim said as he tried to calm down.

"I wish for not a single other human or beast in this entire world to go through what I have," he said.. "And for that, I will make a world where no one is different from the other."