

Reincarnated as an Energy with a System

Chapter 71: Grandfather and Granddaughter

'How do I survive this?' Ning wondered as he looked at the 2 stronger mantises. They were both at Qi condensation 4th realm, A realm higher than the last mantis. While his new, Telekinesis + Attack combo might work on one, he wasn't stupid enough to believe it would work on both.

'This is going to be a problem isn't it,' he thought.

The mantises dashed forward to cut him up, which he barely dodged by ducking once more. He immediately employed the Twin Step movement technique to run away. He ran far into the forest, forgetting about the fruits he wanted to get there.

He looked back hoping he had lost the two mantises, but when he saw that both of them were hot on his tail and catching up, he got scared.

'There is only one thing I can do now,' he thought, and that was to teleport somewhere else. He needed to pick a place and distance fast. The mantises were just near him and pulled their scythes back to attack him, when suddenly,

SWISH SWISH

Two swish sounds came from far to his and he heard 2 thuds to his behind. Through his energy vision, he saw that both the mantises were dead. "What?" he was shocked.

He looked carefully and saw that the mantises had 2 gaping holes in their head. Ning followed the direction of the hole and saw 2 arrows embedded deep into a thick tree. 'Who...' Ning couldn't understand.

He immediately turned around to look at his right side but saw nobody. 'Who could've attacked them?' Ning is starting to get more confused. Only then did 2 people come out from deep in the forest, about 200 meters ahead of him.

One of the people was a bald old man with a kind face. He wasn't very tall, but he wasn't very short either. He wore an entirely white robe. It matched the flowing white facial hair of the old man. He was holding a normal-looking bow.

'Is he who shot the arrow?' Ning wondered.

Next to the old man was a young lady that looked around the age of Ning himself. She was wearing a pink robe with a black sash and had a sword tied to her waist.

"Young Man, are you alright?" The old man asked in a raspy voice.

"Yes, yes. I am alright. Was it you who shot those monsters, mister?" he asked. Ning was still in disbelief as to how this man could possibly shoot from so far away.

"Yes, it was this old man," the old man said.

"Thank you, Mister. You saved my life," Ning said with a little bow. He had learned that from the basic cultivation knowledge.

"Hey, mister, what are you doing so deep in the jungle? You don't seem very strong," the young lady next to the old man spoke.

"I... I got stranded near this island and came out on that beach over there," he said as he pointed in the direction of the beach. "I have been trying to get out of the forest, so I was walking in this direction."

The young lady squinted her eyes, trying to scrutinize his answer, but the old man simply just showed a kind smile. "Is that so, young man? Why don't you come with us then? We can show you the way out of this place," the old man said.

Ning got a little apprehensive at the offer. 'Do I take the offer? He looks genuine. However... whatever. I can just teleport away if I feel something is wrong,' he thought.

"If you will allow me to, it would be my pleasure mister," Ning said.

As such the group of three started walking in the same direction Ning was in the first place. 'So I was right in walking towards this direction, huh?' he thought. Ning looked at the old man again and looked at his hands.

His bow was no longer there. Ning didn't understand where he kept it, but he assumed that it might have been in a storage bag or storage rings, something that was similar to his Interdimensional storage.

"What is your name, young man?" The old man asked after a while. "My name? Its Ning, Ning Ruogong," he said. "What about you guys?" he asked.

"This old man's name is Kaezir Brouch, and this is my granddaughter, Mikaela Brouch," the old man said. "Where are you from, young man?" the old man asked. Ning didn't know where he was from.

He had been to multiple places, but the only places he would consider himself to be from were...

"I'm from Klavis," He said.

"Oh, Klavis huh. I heard it's a nice place," the old man said. The young lady also nodded her head.

'Did Klavis get popular or something?' Ning thought.

Along the way, more monsters came by, but the old man effortlessly killed them all. The old man showed so much ability that Ning even started to fear the thought of checking his info just on the off chance that he might go back into a coma and miss 164 years again.

The young lady next to him did nothing but just look around the forest. Ning didn't realize what she was doing and assumed she was here just to sightsee. 'Must be because she wanted to roam the forest with her grandfather,' he thought.

"There," the girl suddenly screamed, pointing to a tree not far away from them. Ning looked at the tree and struggled to find anything noteworthy about the tree. 'Is there an animal up there?' he wondered.

"Yes, it is the tree. Good work, Mikaela" the old man, Kaezir said as he walked towards the tree. Once he reached it, he took 2 things out of nowhere. One was a small Knife and a small bottle.

He pried open the bark of the tree with his small knife and saw the sap of the tree flow. He then carefully collected the sap and stored it inside the bottle.

"Our job is done here, let's return home," the old man said.

Chapter 72: Starsight

In less than a day, Ning was out of the forest. Following the old man named Kaezir Brouch and the young lady named Mikaela Brouch was not a mistake at all for Ning. Aside from his name and place of origin, the old man asked him nothing. So, Ning decided to not ask anything in return either.

As such the rest of the journey had been a silent, awkward one. From time to time, he would see men and women, both single and in the group, walking around the forest. However, no one seemed to want to talk with anyone.

Finally, only after leaving the forest did he see a city in front of him. "Welcome to Starsight City, my young friend," the old man said.

"Woah," Ning said looking at the massive walls. 'That reminds me of the walls back in the southern continent,' he thought.

"Do you guys get a lot of Monster invasions in this town?" Ning asked directly.

"We used to, but not anymore. Initially, this place was not populated at all, so the monsters ran rampant here. To counter that, the people living at the time built these massive walls here. However, over the course of time, the city got more and more populated, some of which were strong cultivators and they cleared the forest of any strong monster"

"Now, the most they can go without being noticed is 5th realm of Qi Condensation, which most of the disciples in the sect of this city are," the old man said.

"I see," Ning said.

The old man suddenly took out 2 pieces of circular metal and handed them to Ning. Ning looked at it and was surprised. "Coins?" he asked.

"Yes, they are silver coins. You will need 5 bronze coins to enter. You can keep the rest of it for yourself and settle wherever you can in this city. Now, I have some important tasks to complete, so I must bid you adieu my young friend," The old man said.

"Ah, okay. Thank you for saving my life and bringing me all the way to the city," Ning said.

"Take care young man. Amitabha." With that, both the old man and the young lady left the newbie Ning and entered the city in a hurry. He saw the old man not even being blocked by the guard while entering. In fact, he was bowed to by the other people around him.

"Was that man some sort of big figure in this city?" Ning wondered. Quickly, he ignored the thought and started focusing on what he had to do next. He was absolutely unsure of what to do in this Starsight city.

"Well, first of all, I should get in. I can think of other stuff later." Ning walked up to the long queue of people waiting to enter and waited for his turn to come.

As said by the old man, the guard only took 5 bronze coins before letting Ning enter. He needed to go through no other checkups. "They let just about anyone walk in here? What if a terrorist were to come in like that?" Ning wondered.

"Hmm... although, there might not be such a thing as a terrorist in this world. I should not forget that I'm not on earth anymore." He wanted to forget that, but then the houses in front of him would remind him of the period pieces he watched in the orphanage.

"Now that I'm in, what do I do now?" he wondered.

GRRRR

"Well, at least you know what to do," Ning said as he giggled. He asked around and quickly found himself a tavern where he could get some food.

The food here costs about 2 bronze coins per meal, so Ning ate it without worry. "I can create money for myself whenever I want," Ning thought and giggled himself.

"Although, it might be better to learn about this town," Ning thought. "System, give me knowledge on this town," he said.

<All Knowledge about town>

<Basic Starsight City information : 8,800,000 Energy>

<Beginner Starsight City information: 88,000,000 energy>

<Intermediate Starsight City information: 880,000,000 energy>

<Advanced Starsight City information: 8,800,000,000 energy>

<Omniscient Starsight City information: 88,000,000,000 energy>

"Hmm, that is more expensive than I was expecting it to be," Ning said. He contemplated for a while and finally came up with a decision. "I will have to stay in this city for the foreseeable future, so it might be a good idea to buy the Beginner version. Alright, system, buy the Beginner information," he said.

<Confirmed>

Suddenly, the entire beginner's knowledge of the city appeared in his mind. It gave more information than he was expecting it to, So he went over the new information.

"City lord huh? that's something like a mayor or a president, I assume."

"The number of people is also quite surprising. Seeing how small it looked, I assumed the numbers wouldn't be that high. Not to mention, Over 64% of them are cultivators."

"Oh, there are 3 sects around here, and multiple guilds huh? I will have to check them out when I have the time."

The last piece of information was something that really helped and depressed Ning at the same time. It was the geographical information about the city, and the land it was on. That, mixed with the intermediate Map he had, he was able to make enough correlation with the two and easily figured out where he was.

Turns out, he was still on the northern continent. It hadn't taken him more than a few minutes to put those two together.

only thing was, he was on the other side of the planet as well. During the 164 years, he had been in a coma, he had somehow managed to cross the entire globe.

While Klavis was on the side with no Central continent, Starsight was on the side with the Central continent.

Finally, he finished his food and walked out of the tavern. The city was huge, but it was nothing to a cultivator. He walked around the city doing nothing but buying a few small snacks here and there.

In the end, after seeing all the different houses and decorations of the city, he got bored. "Guess I should go see what these sects are like," he said.

Chapter 73: Doubling Acclimation Rate

There were three sects in the Starsight city. They were Eagle Sect, Pure Cleansing sect, and Mist Origin sect.

Eagle sect was a run-of-the-mill sect where budding cultivators went to learn and grow as cultivators. The sect would provide them a competitive atmosphere along with different cultivation methods and techniques that helped them grow as a cultivator.

Ning was currently in front of this particular sect.

The Eagle sect lied on the other side of the city, opposite to where the forest was. However, it was not out of the city, so Ning didn't need to leave the city to see the sect. He wasn't allowed entry, so he just looked at the surrounding, chewing on some snacks he bought a few minutes prior.

'This doesn't look as good as I was expecting it to be,' he thought as he looked at the sect. The sect looked run down from the outside and even the gate looked like it would fall down at any minute now.

'Are they not making much money?' he wondered.

He didn't want to look at the sect any further, so he went back the way he came from and arrived at the center of the city. This was where the Pure Cleansing sect lied.

The Pure Cleansing sect was a sect run by what the system called Buddhist cultivators. From what he could remember with the basic Cultivation Knowledge, Buddhist cultivators seek to do no harm, unless it is for protecting others. The Pure Cleansing sect was focused on healing and cleansing the wounds of others.

Everyone in the Pure Cleansing Sect, however, was bald. Ning didn't like that. He liked his hair very much. Still, the idea of a group of people all learning to heal and protect others made him feel like it was a good sect.

Lastly, there was the Mist Origin sect. It was located outside the city, so Ning didn't bother going to look at it for now. But, according to the system, the Mist Origin sect was a beast taming sect, where the main focus of the sect was in taming monsters found in the wild and taming to work with them.

He liked that idea very much. 'Imagine, I could tame that Yin Demon Serpent,' he wondered.

He looked at the sky and realized it was getting dark. He needed to find a place to stay fast. He quickly went to a tavern marked on the information about the city that also doubled as a lodge for cultivators.

"How much is it for a night of stay here?" he asked.

"2 silver coins for a 1-bed room, 3 for a 2-bed room," the tavern manager said.

Ning nodded and acted like he was taking stuff out from his storage bag, but instead asked the system

"Hey, System. Make me 2 gold coins," he said.

<It will cost you 10,000,000 energy>

'That's cheap for 10 days of stay. Do it,' he said.

<Confirmed>

Suddenly, 2 gold coins appeared on his arm that he was keeping inside his sleeves. He took out the 2 gold coins and gave them to the tavern manager and said, "Show me the best one with a single bed. I will stay here for 10 days."

The tavern manager hurriedly treated him like a VIP guest and personally took him to a clean, open room. He tried to sell his food and bathing services to Ning, but Ning simply told him no and closed the door.

He then sat down and started to cultivate.

While his body was cultivating, his mind was thinking of other things. Thanks to Simultaneous thinking, he didn't have to worry about going into Qi deviation.

"Alright system, over 160 years have passed me now. My initial idea of waiting for my body to adapt to the Qi, has it progressed?" he asked.

<No>

<Your body was in frozen time, so everything is the same as it was>

"Sigh thought so. Alright, I need to speed it up. Do you have any idea how I can make it acclimated to the Qi?" he asked.

<There are a few ways>

<You can pay 266,000,000 Energy to speed up the process by 2 times>

<You can pay 1,064,000,000 Energy to speed up the process by 4 times>

<You can pay 40,640,000,000 Energy to speed up the process by 8 times>

<You can pay 216,000,000,000 Energy to fully acclimate right now>

'Sh*t,' he cursed. He needed to cultivate for a while if he wanted to collect so much energy. I should look to doubling my cap for now. The first thing I need to do is find how this kinetic energy can be unlocked.

'Damn system is useless in these regards,' he thought.

He proceeded to cultivate for 5 days straight and collected 200,000,000 energy in the time. He spent that with what was remaining on doubling the process for now.

Suddenly, he could feel his body cultivating much faster than it used to. He was about 20% faster now. He didn't know how much the system had improved his body, but clearly doubling the acclimation rate had shown some progress at the speed of cultivation as well.

He cultivated for the next 5 days as well, not leaving the room at all, and collected another 200,000,000 Energy. Finally, on the 10th day, he stopped cultivating. He could feel that a breakthrough was just around the corner, but he had to go through the bottleneck first.

Soon, he left the room and told the tavern manager he was leaving the tavern. He paid a little to eat some delicious meal for the day and left.

It was early in the morning, and the mist had barely left the city. Ning walked toward the southern gate of the city and walked out. He was now in front of the big forest. However, his plan for coming here had nothing to do with the forest.

It had to do with what lied on the right side of the city.

Chapter 74: Entrance Test

Mist Origin sect was way too intriguing of a sect for Ning to not visit at all. In fact, he wanted to do more than just visit it. He wanted to join it. So, this early morning he had left the city for exactly this reason.

He wanted to join the sect. He had been wondering what joining a sect would feel like ever since learning about the three sects 10 days ago, and now he was going to join one.

Except, he needed to pass their test exam before being allowed to enter the sect.

When he reached the Mist Origin sect's sect land, he nodded to himself. Just as the city knowledge had told him, the sect was in fact on top of an elevated piece of land.

Ning was, however, surprised to see so many people in front of the sect, ready to take the test.

'System did say the exam took every month. But I didn't expect so many to join at once,' he thought. 'Although, most will probably fail. It would've been great if the system could see the future too. It could've told me what the tests were. I would never fail that way,' he thought.

Soon a person came out wearing a red robe and started speaking.

"Everyone, Welcome to the monthly test of Mist Origin sect. We have only two requirements for you to join the tests," the man said.

"First, you cannot be over 25 years of age, or you will be disqualified."

"Second, you must be at least a Qi Condensation 2nd realm cultivator," the man said. After finishing that, the gate opened and everyone was allowed in. Ning got into a queue that led inside the gate and was tested by someone.

Once the person made sure that his age and cultivation requirement were okay, he let Ning go inside.

He was sent to a hall where he stood still waiting for something to happen. Sometime later, a man walked in and started speaking.

"Everyone, Welcome to the actual entrance examination. Soon, you will be handed a set of books that will list the species and rank of the beasts. All you have to do is read and remember it," the man said.

A group of people entered and handed out the different books. Each person got handed two sets of books. Ning started flipping the book and soon realized that it was a list of monsters with names and a ranking next to it.

'We are supposed to memorize this?' he thought in shock. 'What do they think I have? Photographic memory?'

Ning then thought for a second. 'I should have that though. It will be useful. System, how much does photographic Memory costs?' he asked.

<Eidetic Memory costs 2,000,000,000 Energy>

'Thats...' he counted in his mind and said, 'FIFTY DAYS worth of energy gathering. Sh*t, it's either get Eidetic Memory in 50 days or gather energy for 500 days and double the gap. Oh god, why does it all costs so much?' he hated it all.

'Whatever, I should start reading the books,' he thought and started studying it. The monster names were convoluted and hard to remember for someone that had never learned much about monsters.

Not only that, there were multiple monsters of the same type, only a little different and thus of different species that one had to remember the name and rank of. Very soon Ning realized that that was not happening.

'Alright System, I need your help here. Transfer whatever knowledges are in these books straight into my head— NO, better yet, what are the costs for similar information in the system?' he asked.

<All Knowledge on Monster Beasts>

<Basic Knowledge on Monster Beasts: 242,000,000 Energy>

<Beginner Knowledge on Monster Beasts: 2,420,000,000 energy>

<Intermediate Knowledge on Monster Beasts: 24,200,000,000 energy>

<Advanced Knowledge on Monster Beasts: 242,000,000,000 energy>

<Omniscient Knowledge on Monster Beasts: 2,420,000,000,000 energy>

'Sh*t. Why is everything so expensive. I don't even have enough for the basic one. Urgh,' Ning cursed.

'What about turning these books into information? Does that cost a lot?' he asked.

<Turning the two books to information costs 298,000,000 Energy>

'Wait, are you telling me this book has more information than Basic knowledge on monster beasts?' he was surprised.

He quickly opened the book once more and realized that the book went in-depth with the explanation more than a few times of the confusing beasts. 'Arhh, I just need to recognize it right? Then maybe I don't need to remember the name at all,' he thought.

'Alright system, just dump the rankings and pictures, and leave out the words and information,' he said.

<It will cost you 122,000,000 Energy, are you sure?>

'Damn that's expensive as hell as well. At least its affordable though. Alright, buy it' he said.

<Confirmed>

Information poured into his brain as he now knew the images of different monsters and swiftly say what rank it was. However, he couldn't know what the name of the monster beast was, or what made it different from a similar monster beast.

He decided to use the remaining time to read the rest of the book and try to remember just as much as he could. While he didn't have an eidetic memory, he still had a far more formidable mental strength when compared to someone with a normal Qi condensation 2nd realm cultivation base.

His superior energy mind combined with his human mind gave him a lead against a normal cultivator. Soon he was done reading the book. It felt like he could remember every single page of the book.

However, he knew that it was just a feeling and in reality, he didn't really remember much. Only someone who was taught this stuff from very early on could remember the name and ranking of so many beasts that were listed in the book.

Chapter 75: 1st Test

Soon, the one-hour time given to them was over, and the man from the start entered the hall once more.

"Alright everybody, please return back your books," he said and gestured to the sect people to take back both of the books. Everyone swiftly handed back the book while some grunted that the given time wasn't enough.

"Now that you are done, we will let you enter this room one by one. You, stand up," the man pointed to a lady that was about as young as Ning and said, "You will be first. Go in and name the examiner all the monsters you remember. If you can successfully rank them in order of highest to lowest too, you will get additional points."

"Every single point matter here," he said and sent the girl forward. He then spoke, "Also, I forgot to mention. Only 100 of you here will move on to the next test, and of that only 20 will join the sect. Good Luck," he said with a smile.

Different murmurs started all over the place as everyone was anxious for their turn to come.

One by one, the people started leaving the hall and going into the other room. None of them returned. Nobody was passed or failed until the end result since only 100 could pass, and they needed to test everyone.

Finally, it was Ning's turn to take the test. He was called forward and told to walk into the room like everyone else. Once he was inside, he was shocked to see the sight in front of him.

There were 10 cages with different types of animals, all laying there in the palm of these cultivator's hands. Ning felt a little bad but didn't let that emotion deter him.

"What's your name?" the female examiner inside the room asked him.

"Ning Ruogong," he said. He didn't get a lot of opportunities to use his full name nowadays.

"Alright, Ning. Can you name these monster beasts?" she asked.

Ning looked at the 10 monster beasts kept in the cages. There were wolves, hyenas, snake, large hornets, crows and etc there. Ning only knew the name of 4 of them.

"Singer Ox, Beryl Hare, Autumn Wolf, Scarlet Hornet," He swiftly answered the 4 he knew and stopped.

Now, he had to use the Qi Analysis technique to know the name of everything else. It took a lot out of him mentally to use the 2nd layer, but he hoped that the monsters weren't that strong.

He used his analysis to look through the different monster beasts and swiftly named them as well. Only the snake and the crow were too high level for him to struggle at, but even then he managed to reach layer 2 of each of them while keeping his wits.

'Damn, that was a 6th realm Tearing Viper and a 5th realm Blazing crow. They must be quite strong,' he thought.

"Oh wow, good job on the perfect 10. Can you rank them thought?" the lady asked.

"Sure," Ning said as he proceeded to tell the rankings of all the beasts here. The woman was left dumbfounded at just how much the young man in front of him knew about the different beasts.

"Fu— Full Marks," the woman said in shock. "You pass this test and are guaranteed to move forth," she said as he sent him to the next room.

The next room was also a big hall where all the participants from before were standing around, loitering. They were waiting for the results to be announced. Soon, all the participants were done with their first test and the results came back.

As expected Ning passed without trouble. The examiners didn't reveal the points each of the participants earned, and only told them who had passed.

Soon, most of the participants left the hall in sorrow and sighs. Only 100 participants were now left in the giant hall. With such a little amount compared to before, it looked like there were barely any people here.

The man from before came back once more and started talking, "Congratulations on passing the first test. I saw that a number of you got very good scores. I am truly happy to see such great seeds in this batch of examinees."

"For your next test, will be something similar. You will once more be given these books to read. However, this time it's not based on who can remember the most, but rather who can understand the most."

The man gestured and a group of people once again walked out from the door and handed each of them a copy of a small book. If the previous two books were a decent-sized meal, then this book was just a little dessert that came afterward.

However, in terms of meals, desserts were always the ones that everyone looked for.

Ning read the title of the book, "Ascending Mist Brand". It was a technique that allowed one to create a brand using their Qi and put it on a willing monster beats to tame them.

"You have one hour to read the book and comprehend the technique," the man said and left.

'Not once again?' Ning didn't want to read another book again. 'System, do the same thing and turn it into a technique for me. Put it directly in my head,' he said.

<Not enough Energy>

'What? Again?' he quickly checked the status and realized that he had about 37 million energy right now. Not enough to do anything, unfortunately.

So, he was forced to read the entire book by himself. He only had an hour to read and comprehend a book he had just got. 'That should be impossible right?' he wondered.

Even eidetic memory wouldn't help at this moment. Remembering what was said in a book and understanding what was said were two very different things.

In the end, he couldn't do anything to get away from reading the book and taking the easy way out. So, he turned the book to the first page and started reading it.

Chapter 76: Enter the Jungle

"I swear, the system is increasing the energy costs on its own for some reason. It probably wants more energy and is asking for more," Ning said as he read the beast taming technique in front of him.

The technique made one able to use Qi to create mists that could be slowly manipulated to form a certain brand called the ascending brand. Thus the technique was called Ascending Mist Brand.

"I think I understand what it is trying to say," he said in a low voice as he read that. No matter how bad his body was in cultivation, there was no doubt that his mind was still one of the best out there. With the Simultaneous Thinking skill and the fact that he now had an extra brain thanks to his human body, he could keep up with, if not exceed, everyone in the room right now.

He read for nearly an hour and could swear he could make the brand. He didn't know if it was okay to make one indoor, so he looked to the side and saw that everyone was doing it.

Even the ones not practicing were pressured by their surrounding into doing it. 'Whatever, I will try it too,' Ning thought and started to perform the branding technique.

He created a layer of mist in front of him, all made from the Qi inside his body. The mist soon flattened out and condensed to become a thin circular floating object.

However, that wasn't the end of it. That was just the base of the brand, and he needed to add everything on top of it. He tried making the new stuff while keeping the previously made one just as is, but he failed.

'Sigh, even with multiple brains, I can't keep on all the different parts at once,' he thought to himself. At least, it wasn't for nothing. He was slowly getting the hang of it.

"Alright, everyone. Please come with me," the examiner came into the room and called everyone out. During the way out, they took back every single one of the books they had handed out.

They were brought through the different rooms to the outdoors. The forest was right in front of them. Many of them had taken the test before so they were used to it. Maybe were even anticipating the next part.

Ning was still clueless as to what exactly the exam was. Given the book they gave, he was pretty sure he had a general idea of what it was going to be. Getting brought out only helped to reinforce the idea.

"The next exam is simple. Use the Ascending Mist Brand we taught you and bring back a tamed beast from the forest. Your ranking will base on the ranking of your new tamed beast regardless of its cultivation."

"So, we suggest you go for younger, immature beasts," the examiner said. Then he looked towards the sky and said, "You have exactly until the sun reaches the zenith to bring back a tamed beast. Any knowledge of cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the exam and barred from every single one coming afterward."

"Now, leave!" the examiner hadn't even finished talking when half the people were already near the gate. Ning too left swiftly. He needed to find monsters to tame.

'Shouldn't I learn how to make brands properly before I jump into finding the monsters?' he thought. He looked around to see if someone was doing so in the forest, but nobody was there.

'I doubt the returners need to even learn this technique all over again,' he thought and proceeded to try making the brand.

The first time, he failed. He had gotten too hasty at making them and ended up not making part of the brand that made it a whole brand. Now he was going to take his time.

Once again, Qi left his body turning to the mist that slowly forming a circular shape and condensing to form a brand base. He started taking out more Qi and adding to the brand.

Beads of sweat were forming on his forehead as he concentrated on the brand before him. Only after 5 minutes of intense concentration did he manage to finally make one.

A misty, white brand with a blue halo around it floated in front of Ning as he looked at it in awe. It wasn't all mist, however. Since the mist was made up of Qi in the first place, Ning could tell that it had a function without even knowing what it did.

"So, I'm supposed to put this on a monster that is willing, right?" Ning thought. It was time to find one. He started walking deeper into the jungle, but any monster he found was too low on the ranking.

'Sh*t, they probably took all the good ones in previous exams,' he thought. Still, it was a big forest, so he didn't lose hope. He saw a bunch of examinees already putting brands on low-ranked monsters, so he just shook his head.

"Do they not remember that these ones are bad?" he thought. However, he forgot to count on the fact that not all monsters in the ranking could possibly be found in the forest, especially after so many years.

He was at a disadvantage due to being new to the city. His info on the city he had bought only gave him information about the city and not the forests or lands around it.

The outer parts of the forests inhabited lower cultivation monsters. So, Ning didn't both going into the deep forests where he had met the Mantis monsters the other day.

Finally, after a bit of walking, he stumbled upon a little rabbit-like monster that had two giant whiskers coming out of either side of the rabbit.

This was an average ranking monster as far he could remember, however, He didn't know what this rabbit was, so he directly used the second layer of Qi Cultivation Analysis.

Qi Condensation 1st Realm - Whisker Hare

Chapter 77: Night Snatcher

'So that's what it's called. Should I get it? Probably not. They aren't very good in the ranking,' he thought.

The Whisker Hare noticed Ning standing there, watching him. So, it felt threatened and decided to attack him. It immediately jumped at him and tried to head-butt his chest.

Ning let it do that. He was way too strong to care about a Qi Condensation 1st Realm monster's physical attack. The hare didn't manage to budge Ning, let alone hurt him.

It tried a few more times, but couldn't deal any damage. In the end, it decided to run away instead. "Oh, you are leaving now? Let me take you with me just in case I don't find any other," Ning said as he was about to launch forward to grab the hare.

Suddenly, a SWISH sound came from the sky as the hare disappeared from in front of him. Ning could barely see a flicker in front of him when the hare disappeared.

Immediately he put forth his hands to stop whatever was moving. Telekinesis.

A slick, black figure holding the Whisker hare stopped in front of him. Ning was quite surprised to see its aesthetics. 'So black,' he thought. He walked forward while holding the black figure right where it was.

He reached near to realize that it was actually a bird. From the looks of it, it looked like an Eagle to him. He had tended to many in his past life, so he knew them quite well.

But, he had never seen one quite as black. In fact, he doubted if he had seen anything more black than this bird in front of him. Not crows, not buffaloes. This was a different kind of black, like the ones that were meant to hide in the night without a single reflection.

"Hmm... you are quite high on the ranking, aren't you? I wonder why that was," he tried to remember, but he didn't have any information. He quickly used the 2nd layer of the Qi Cultivation Analysis to check the bird too.

Qi Condensation 2nd Realm - Night Snatcher

"Night Snatcher, huh? Shame, I still can't remember anything about you. System, give me some information of this Night Snatcher," he ordered.

As usual, the system gave him different options for the different levels of knowledge he could buy. Unfortunately, anything above beginner's was only a wish for him.

He spent 10 million energy on the beginner's Night Snatcher knowledge and started understanding it.

Night Catcher was a very strong and gluttonous bird monster that liked to hunt its prey at night. Its dark, non-reflective black feathers made it completely hide in the darkness of the night and even a cultivator had a hard time finding it.

Adding onto that a very swift speed and frightening accuracy, it could snatch up its prey from very far away. Night Snatchers with a higher cultivation base were said to be able to turn day into night when they hunt. However, that was just a rumor.

Even more frightening rumor was that they had the blood of an ancient god and could evolve into them given sufficient cultivation base and enough resources.

However, Ning couldn't see any more information about these things.

Ning judged the size of the bird with the information in his mind and realized that it was barely a teenager in bird years. He walked up to the bird and looked at its face and the hare it was holding.

The hare was already dead with the sharp talons digging deep into its body. The bird was struggling to move, so it opened its beak and said, "Hungry. Need food. Stuck."

"What? Did I just... what?" Ning was surprised. He stopped talking and listen to the bird once more. It repeated the same things once again.

"Hungry. Food not. Stuck." Ning was sure he could hear the bird speak now. 'But why?' he was surprised. He didn't have any skills that could let him hear the birds talk.

"Do I?" he wondered and immediately opened the status page.

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 26,000,000

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 454,000

Sound Energy: 98,000

Qi Energy: 25,448,000

Skills: Simultaneous Thinking, Intermediate Map, Omniscient Klavis Language, Candle Fire, Yin to Heat conversion technique, Night Vision I, Interdimensional Storage (Stopped Time; 112 KG), Air Cutter, Telekinesis, Yin to Sound conversion technique, Water Filtration, Earthly Jade Cultivation Method, Sun God's Morning Cleansing Technique, Qi Cultivation Analysis, Body Cultivation Analysis, Basic All Language, 2x Qi Acclimation rate]

There was nothing like a beast language skill. There was, however, a Basic All Language skill.

"Is that what is letting me understand it?" he was shocked. He had assumed that the All Language meant all human language. However, if it meant, Any Language... then things were different.

'Damn, the system wasn't lying when it said the All language skill was in discount. Such a broken ability should have cost a lot more than it actually did,' he thought.

He looked towards the Night Snatcher and asked, "You want food?"

The bird jerked its head to the side and stared dead in his eyes. "Me. Food. Hungry." The bird spoke in broken sentences. Ning couldn't tell if that was because of having a

BASIC language skill or because it was actually a monster with limited intelligence and couldn't form a coherent sentence.

Ning immediately undid a little of his telekinesis and let the bird slowly fall to the ground along with its dead prey. "You can eat it here," he said.

The bird seemed to understand what he said and started ripping apart the hare and eating it. Ning sat back and looked at the barely 30 centimeters long bird.

Once the eagle finished the hare up until its bone, it stopped and looked at him. Ning felt a little weirded out by the way the bird was looking at him and asked, "Are you still hungry?"

The bird made no reaction or movement whatsoever and said as he kept on looking straight at him.

"Hungry. More Food. Need."

Chapter 78: Taming

"Sigh, didn't an entire Hare fill up your stomach? Is that what that information meant when it said you were gluttonous creatures. Let's see what you guys like. Hmm... it does say you guys are carnivorous birds but not what you like to eat. Does any meat work?" he asked.

The bird couldn't comprehend such a line of thought and didn't speak. 'System, what food do they like exactly?' he asked. For a few thousand energy he got an answer.

Snakeskins.

"Holy... that's some taste in food you guys have," he said while feeling disgusted.

"Damn, where am I supposed to find snake skins now? Do I waste the final bit of energy I have?" he wondered.

"Whatever, system. Make a kilogram worth of snake skins," he ordered. Thankfully, that didn't cost a lot. If the snakeskin had energy in it, it might have cost a lot more, but only snake skins itself, it cost him about 2 million energy.

A long strip of snakeskin dropped in front of him that made him feel disgusted, but the bird's eyes seemed to light up when it saw that.

"I hope it doesn't leave," Ning said as he slowly let go of the Telekinesis. He needed to focus all of his attention on making the Ascending Mist Brand.

While the bird was eating the snakeskin, he diverted his focus into making the brand. Mists started spilling out of his hands as they gathered in front of him and made a brand.

It took him about 9 minutes to make the brand this time. He was a minute faster than before and fortunately, the bird was enjoying the snakeskin very much.

Ning couldn't help but pet the eagle and slowly dropped the brand on it, hoping it would accept it. The brand changed colors from blue to bright orange as it fell onto the body of the bird.

A sizzling sound escaped from where the brand hit the bird. "Burn. Pain. Hurt," the bird started speaking. Ning got a little worried it would escape now.

He immediately started caressing the bird as he said, "It's okay. It's okay. I'm here. Just bear with it and I will give you more snake skins to eat. You will get more food," he said.

"More food?" The bird stopped struggling and let the brand do its work. Soon, Ning felt a connection being established between himself and the bird.

"So... the bird is tamed and controlled by my body and not me?" he was surprised to learn that. However, it did make sense since the Qi was his body's and thus the brand would belong to it as well.

"That's a shame. So, if I ever change bodies, then I wouldn't be able to use the bird huh?" he thought.

"Food?" the bird asked.

"Haha, yeah, yeah," Ning said as he made the system made a kilogram of snakeskin once more. "Come on, jump on my shoulders, I will feed you," Ning said.

However, the bird didn't move. "Here, come," Ning said as he patted his own shoulder. The bird flew up and landed on the shoulder on one leg and slowly lowered the other one.

"Huh? What's wrong? Is your leg hurt?" Ning asked.

"Leg. Hurt." The bird said. Ning picked him up and started checking the talons. The bird was very submissive after being tamed, so he had no worries. Still, he gave it a snakeskin to chew on while he checked.

He checked the talons and found nothing wrong. He moved a little up and check the featherless part of the leg, there was nothing wrong either.

He then moved a little up and found some crusted blood on the feathers there. He slowly parts the feathers and found that the bird was still hurt.

"Was it me?" he thought at first. He wondered if a sudden telekinesis stop had done this. But seeing how old the blood looked, that would've been impossible.

"The blood has fully clotted, so it should be at least a few days old. What happened?" he asked.

"Human. Harm."

"Ah," Ning realized. "Someone found you and tried to tame you didn't they?" Ning asked. "Sigh, they must've gotten your legs when they tried to take you down before branding you."

"You shouldn't be out during the day then. Your kids are supposed to hunt at night, what were you doing hunting during the day?" Ning asked.

"Hungry. Injured. Didn't eat."

Ning made sense of the jumbled-up words and felt bad about asking the question in the first place. "I see. So you couldn't hunt while you were hurt and came out anyway today because you were very hungry, huh. I should have realized that."

"System, can you heal uh... what should I call you?" Ning thought and couldn't come up with a name. "Let's just call you Night for now. That should work. System, heal Night's legs," he said.

<It will cost 4,600,000 Energy, are you sure?>

"Yeah, do it."

White light shined from the bird's leg and in less than a second, it was healed. No longer feeling any pain from its legs, Night started to twist and turn its head in confusion and happiness.

It didn't understand what had just happened, but it didn't care as it was healed and was happy now.

"Congratulations! Here, have some food," he said as he gave Night another snakeskin. Night ate that piece of meat with great joy. Ning smiled a little as he saw the happiness in Night's face and said, "Don't worry. You will get loads of these from now on."

Night understood that and cried out in joy. Ning just shook his head and looked to the sky. There were a lot of trees in the forest, but even then they couldn't block the sky and where the sun was.

There wasn't much longer before the sun reached the zenith. Although it didn't feel like it, he had been here for more than an hour. So, he turned back around and went back to the Mist Origin Sect.

Chapter 79: Pass

About 10 minutes before the test even ended, Ning walked back to the sect's gate outside the forest. There were already many people standing there after finishing their test.

Some had beasts with them, some didn't. "Huh? Did they fail already? Why didn't they stay back in the forest and try a bit longer? There are still 10 minutes left," he said to himself.

He took out a snakeskin from his interdimensional storage and fed it to Night. He went to a corner of the sect grounds and waited for the test to end.

Soon, the remaining 10 minutes passed, and only those who had come by now would be eligible to pass. The examiner from before came to the group of 80 something people and spoke.

"Congratulations to those who managed to tame a beast for themselves. Hopefully, the beast you tamed is good enough to make it into the sect, " he said.

"I will call out your names. Please enter the room when I do so," the man said and called out the first name. A scrawny-looking man with a serious look walked forward.

"Wait! Take your beast out of your beast pouch before entering," the man said.

The scrawny man just nodded and brought out a small child of a mammoth before walking in. People started talking about how great the beast looked and all.

Ning realized that the mammoth-like beast was actually lower ranked than his bird. Soon, more and more people were sent in.

On one particular announcement, a man called Yacius was called. When the man walked out of the group of people, Night jerked up and stared at the man.

"Man. Bad. Man," it said.

"Bad man, Him?" it took a second for Ning to realize what Night meant. "Wait, was he the one who hurt you?" he asked.

"Bad. Man. Hurt. Hungry." That settled it. This Yacius fellow was in fact the one that harmed Night a week ago. "He probably failed last week and is back now to hunt," Ning thought.

As Yacius reached the door, he brought out a gorilla monster. It was still a child, but seeing the gorilla made everyone shocked.

"That's an Iron Gorilla, right?" someone asked.

"Yeah, those are so hard to come by. Especially because they stay attached to their parents. And fighting the parents is a bad idea," another person spoke.

"How do you think he came by a child then?"

Numerous questions rang out from the people in there. Ning didn't know much about Iron Gorilla, but he did know about rankings. And Iron Gorillas were high up in the rankings.

He caressed Night who was resting on his shoulders and said, "Don't worry, you are still much better than him."

More people were called, and finally, it was Ning's turn. As soon as his name was called out, he started walking towards the gate. Just as he was passing through the gate, the Examiner looked at his tamed beast and said, "Woah," in a low voice.

Ning felt unusually happy at that moment. Once he walked inside, he saw a single person with 2 doors behind them. The person squinted as soon as Ning arrived and asked, "Where is your beast?"

Ning was a little confused and simply pointed at Night. Night had at some point just sat down on his shoulders and snuggled up to a ball, such that it was unrecognizable from an actual black rag he was keeping on his shoulders.

"Night, stand up," he said. Suddenly, Night woke up from its slumber and stared around it. As a Night Snatcher, a beast that was used to hunting and living in the night, Night was used to sleeping in the day.

The only reason it was even awake during the day for today was cause it was hungry after not having eaten for a long time.

The person in front of Alex saw the majestic black eagle unfurling its wings and screamed in surprise, "A Night Snatcher. How did you find it?" they asked.

"I was looking at a hare when he came by and snatched it in front of me," Ning said.

"That's not what I meant. Night Snatchers as incredibly fast and impossible to be stopped unless one is an entire realm above the beast. How did a Qi Condensation 2nd Realm cultivator like you find it?" the person asked.

"Oh.... Well, that's a secret," Ning said. "Anyway, do I pass or not?" he asked.

"Oh, wait." The person took out a strange metallic plate and threw it on the ground and asked, "Step on it." Ning complied and stepped on the metallic plate without hesitation.

At first, he couldn't figure out what was going on, but eventually, he did. He saw it happen from the side of his right temple. Night was standing right there and a blue glow was coming out of it before entering his own body.

'What the hell is that?' he wondered. Ning looked closely and realized that the blue glow was coming out of the exact same spot where he had put the brand on.

"Alright. I have confirmed that you really did tame the beast and you did it today. Congratulations, you have passed the test. With a beast like Night Snatcher, you pass automatically. Please walk into the room on the left," the person said.

Ning thanked the person and told Night to go back to sleep. He then walked out of the left door and into a hallway that led to another room outback.

Ning entered the room and saw that there were already 4 people in there. According to the examiner, 20 people were supposed to be selected today, and of those, it seemed 5 were guaranteed now.

There were 2 young men and 2 young women. Both the women seemed to have a cold face, while one of the men was in the back staying alone by himself.

The last guy was trying to strike up a conversation with the ladies, who clearly didn't want to talk to them. Ning looked at him and sighed. "Of course, it had to be this guy."

Chapter 80: Entrance

"So, since when did you learn beast taming? I have been learning it since I was 3 years old. My father got me a crimson hamster when I was 3, and I played with it throughout my childhood. Oh, you know who my father is? He is the head of the Flying Beast company. If you guys ever need to go somewhere, just let me know. I can get you free rides around these islands."

"We actually get monsters from the forest. Most people don't know this but there are quite a lot of flying beasts in the forest. Speaking of which, how was your time in the forest today? I myself had a very nice time. You know I caught an Iron gorilla, right? It

was kinda hard to get it I'm not gonna lie. If my father's people hadn't told me there were some in a certain area, then I would've never known about them."

"Speaking of which, I was actually with my father's people looking for some more beasts for his company. We found quite a few beasts. He was using bows and arrows, haha. We didn't want to kill them though. Just injure them enough to make them stop moving and take them back with us. We heal them afterward and tame them."

"Man, there was this really fast bird that I wanted to catch. I only threw an arrow at it. I think I grazed it, but it got away afterward. Damn, it was so good. I wish I knew what bird it was."

Ning felt like his ear would fall off from listening to the constant blabber from the fellow named Yacius. He wasn't even the main recipient of the talk, however.

The true people being tortured right now were the two girls that wanted absolutely nothing to do with the guy, but he just wouldn't get a clue.

At some point, one of the two girls turned to him, looked at him straight in the eye, and said, "I have a boyfriend."

Ning snickered a little when he heard that. The girl was so fed up with him that she used the number 1 most effective phrase to get a boy to leave her.

Yacius turned to look at Ning with hateful eyes when he heard the snickering and then turned back to talk with the other girl. He was only talking for another minute when the girl turned to him and said, "I have a boyfriend too."

"Pfft." Ning couldn't hold in his laugh this time. "Hahaha," he laughed out loud.

Yacius got ticked off. "What are you laughing at?" he said as he came towards Ning. Ning couldn't stop laughing even as the man he was laughing at came right next to him and stared at him.

Ning still couldn't stop laughing and just laughed out louder.

"You... " Yacius was about to say something when the examiner came in with 15 different people.

"Alright, you 20 people are the ones that have passed the exam. Go stand around and I will tell you a little more about the sect." The 15 people that were brought by the examiner mingled with the rest of the 5 people.

Yacius backed off to another spot and slowly made his way to another female that had just come in.

"Mist Origin sect is the largest sect in the Starsight city. It is the strongest beast taming sect in the scattered isles and is one of the top 10 sects in the scattered isles. You will find stronger sects only on the main continent. "

"Everything in the sect costs you gold coins. Even remaining on the sect could cost you gold coins. So make sure to go get or earn some from time to time."

"You will be free to use whatever facility there is in the sect as long as you have enough gold coins for it. Every month, there will be a competition between your beasts that will decide whether you get to stay on the sect or not."

"However, you don't have to worry about that, since you know, coins."

"You will all start as Outer sect disciples that will have to share houses with the other disciples. You will be staying 5 people in one house. Inner sect disciples are 2 people in a house, and core disciples all have their own house for them," the examiner said.

"However, as a disciple of the sect, you must take part in one of the 3 different sections. Beast Care, Beast feeding, and Beast training."

"Disciples in Beast Care will take care of cleaning and making sure the Beasts in the sect remain healthy."

"Disciples in Beast Feeding will have to feed the beasts every day, Both food and water."

"Disciple in Beast Training will have to train the beasts to obey the new disciples when they come to tame them. This one is the hardest, so not everyone can choose to be in this and will have to take a separate exam for this."

"Any questions?" he asked.

One of the new disciples raised their hands and asked, "How do we promote from outer sect to inner sect?"

"Ah, good question. Like I said, every month, there is a sect-wide competition where your beasts fight. If you place in the lower half of the ranking there, you will have to pay to stay. However, on the upper half, more accurately the top 16, if you manage to land there, you will be promoted as long as you are Qi Condensation 4th realm and below 25 years of age."

"You will find out the requirements for core disciple very soon."

"Now, go in. These disciples will help make you something for your identity and show you your new place to stay," he said.

Soon the disciples started walking away, and Ning walked along with them. He was kinda sad that he would have to share the place with 4 other people but didn't care all that much about it.

Soon he was taken out of the hall and into the real grounds of the sect.

"Woah," he said as he looked at the place. The place was beyond big. There was a small slope here, and most of the buildings were there. On the lower slope, there were the sect buildings most people visited.

As they went up, there were the houses for the Outer sect, inner sect, and core disciples. And at the very top of the large hill was where the elders stayed.

Ning, along with the rest were taken to a building at the foot of the slope where he got an identification card. Apparently, he could now go in and out of the city without paying the fee at the gate.

Along with that, he got a rulebook and a... pouch.

"Is this a storage bag?" he wondered. He had heard about these things. They could store lots of items in a very small space, similar to his Interdimensional storage. He had seen them in use too but never seen the real thing itself.

<No, this is a beast pouch>

Ning wasn't expecting that. 'A beast pouch?' he tried to remember if he knew anything about it, but all that he knew about it was that it was used to store one's beasts.

"Can you tell me more about it?" he asked the system.

<Please use the shop>