

Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy #Chapter 41: Explosion - Read Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy Chapter 41: Explosion

Chapter 41:Explosion

Alex had gone to the eastern side of the Scarlet City for 2 days straight now. So, he decided to visit the western side this time. When he walked out of the western gate, he felt a sense of deja vu as he remembered that this was the place he was first brought to when he logged in.

He started combing the outer areas of the forest for alchemy ingredients and was very happy when he realized there were a lot of them here. Unlike the eastern side where he had foraged for 2 entire nights, the western side's ingredients were pretty much in an immaculate state.

He started picking up all the ingredients he could find. He didn't know how many of them he would ever even find a use for, but he still kept them just in case.

He ignored most of the Skin tempering realm monsters unless they were too annoying to ignore, in which case he would just lift them up with his Qi and smash them into the ground. He was at least that good with his Qi.

He was fascinated with the concept of controlling his whole body with his Qi and thought it would be practically flying if he could do that.

But alas, the most he could do with himself was hover about 20 centimeters off of the ground. He had tried a few more times, but 20 cm was the best he could do.

He hadn't tried after reaching Bone Tempering 1st Realm but had assumed the result would be the same. Still, he was happy he could lift other objects as well.

He had also realized that when using Qi manipulation on anything with cultivation, it became increasingly harder to move them with Qi the higher their cultivation was.

It was as if higher cultivation monsters were resistant to lower or similar cultivation's Qi amount.

After finishing the outer part of the forest, he walked into the inner part where the Muscle Tempering realm monsters lived. magic

Alex kept the monkey's corpse and walked along. He didn't see a lot of cultivators on this side of the forest. He had seen quite a few Skin Tempering realm rogue cultivators on the outer edge of the forest, but there were almost none where he was.

It didn't take him long to realize why that was. He had walked for over 5 hours and had yet to see a single monster above Muscle Tempering 6th realm.

Granted he was combing more area due to his search for the materials, but it still should not have taken him this long to see a monster with cultivation close to his.

'No wonder there are no cultivators here. There are barely any monsters, to begin with, and even if there were, one would have to walk in so deep to find them.

Alex kept walking forward. The night was particularly cloudy today, but his vision was still not hampered at all. He walked a little bit further and met his first Bone Tempering realm monster.

It was a giant bird that had a particularly sharp beak. He focused on the bird and something popped up above it.

[Green Blooded Owl: Bone Tempering 1st Realm]

The owl started flying up when it saw Alex. At first, Alex thought the bird had run away because it did not want to fight him. But soon he realized that the owl was actually just gaining some distance to create momentum. Once the owl reached the appropriate height, it turned around and fully dived towards Alex.

Alex activated Focus Mode. Time slowed down. He could see the individual feathers on the bird and could hear its silent dive even from so far away.

Alex readied his sword and started pouring his Qi into it. Every time he did that, he would feel a resistance from the sword as if it was not accepting the Qi but eventually accepted it.

He felt like he was filling a water bottle with its cap still on. Only that the cap had holes in it and could actually fill, but took a lot of time.

As the owl swooped down, he swung his sword, and the Smiting Blade did its job. With the increased penetration powers of the blade, he killed the owl in a single swing.

He kept the bird's corpse in his inventory and took out the core. He looked at it and thought,

'The first time I saw a core, I mistook it for a pill and ate it. Can I still do that?'

Without thinking for another moment, he put the pill into his mouth.

"Oh wow, that's a lot. Should I eat another one too?" he said to himself. He took another bone tempering first realm monster core and ate it.

"Hmm... that's not as much as the first one." He quickly let go of this thought and opened his status. Once he did that, he immediately broke through.

He was now Bone Tempering 2nd Realm. He decided not to eat any more core since he needed contribution points. He wandered around until sunrise, and finally turn back to return to the city.

BOOM

A massive explosion shook the very earth. Alex stumbled a bit from the shock wave he felt. The explosion happened very near to where he was.

He ran towards the sound, and within minutes saw a massive scene of destruction.

Chapter 42: Kill? or Save?

Alex looked at the scene of destruction. Trees were uprooted by the shock wave and were on fire. Stones crumbled to dust were still in the air.

And at the center of the explosion was a massive crater. The crater had not been there previously and was made by the explosion that had just happened.

He walked up to the edge of the crater and waited for the dust to settle down. Once the air was clear, he finally saw what was inside.

The crater was about 10 meters deep and about 20 meters wide. Broken trees and bushes were on fire all over the crater. At the center of the crater was a white and red-figure.

Alex moved a little closer to see what it was. When he went closer he finally realized that the white and red-figure was a monster. Alex's first thought was to run away, but he stuck around once he noticed the monster wasn't moving at all.

'Is it dead?' He thought. He went a little closer to look at what it was. The monster was a cat-like monster with big whiskers. It was about as big as a rhinoceros, and its fur was white with red patches.

'Wait, those aren't red patches,' he thought. He walked up a little closer to see what it was and found out that what he thought were red patches were actually blood.

The cat-like monster was bloody all over. He looked at its wound and saw something sticking out from its back.

'Hmm... ' Alex stopped. He thought he heard something. It was the cry of a cat, but it was very small and didn't feel like one this humongous cat could make.

Meow

He once more heard the meek little cry of a cat. He went closer to the dead cat monster when suddenly it started moving.

Alex ran to the outer edges of the crater before he could even take another breath. The cat wasn't dead. It was actually moving. He decided to check the description of the cat, so he focused on it.

[??????????????]

That was all he got. He could neither see the name, nor the cultivation of the cat. 'How strong is this cat?' he thought.

'What would happen if I kill it right now? It seems to be wounded for some reason. Killing it should be easy. Given the high level of this cat, the corpse and core should sell for a lot.' Greedy thoughts started to appear in his head.

The cat was slowly starting to stand up, but could barely do it. Blood dripped from its body like it was a packet of ketchup.

The cat was standing with 3 of its legs and was holding 1 of its front limbs to its chest. At first, he thought the cat was holding onto its wound in the chest, but he was wrong.

He now realized where that small and meek 'meow' had come from. The giant cat was currently holding a small, newly born cat in its arms.

The cat stumbled once more and fell to the ground. Its wounds were too much for it to handle. Alex just stood there and watched, unsure of what to do.

Just as he was contemplating on what to do, something moved on the other side of the crater. From far away, it looked like a blob of red and white.

When Alex focused to see what it was, he realized it was a silver-colored wolf with a giant wound on its back making it red.

'That wolf...' he thought. It looked very similar. He checked its name, and he was correct. It was the Swift Wolf that Luo Mei had failed to kill.

It was at Bone Tempering 4th realm and was currently making its way towards the wounded cat. The cat made a loud growl that deterred the wolf for a few seconds, but it had more than realized that the cat was in its death bed, and couldn't do anything anymore.

He was scared. The cat couldn't move right now, so it would die to the wolf for sure. Besides, it had its child with it. Alex couldn't stand around and watch the parent and child die.

He decided to help them. He took out his sword and ran up to where the cat was. Listening to something else appear towards him, the cat made another large growl.

Alex felt his spirit grow cold as that growl left him very scared. The wolf also got scared once more. Alex took a deep breath and walked in front of the cat.

"I am not going to hurt you. I am here to save you and your child," Alex said out loud and stood with a sword in his hand. The Cat looked at him with its clear, cat eyes and closed his eyes. magic

'Did it understand me?' he wondered. It certainly acted like it. He turned his attention back to the wolf. He turned focus mode on and prepared his Smiting Blade technique.

The wolf was apprehensive of him. It seemed to have enough intelligence to realize that he was with Luo Mei when it got hurt. It was considering whether to attack or not.

If he was as strong as Luo Mei, that would just be asking for death. The wolf slowly walked around the cats and the human, taking its time, understanding the situation.

It wanted to delay a bit longer, but it was heavily wounded. So if it did not kill the cat and eat its monster core, he was sure to be dead by tomorrow.

It had come all the way to the western side of the jungle to get away from the stronger monsters, and now there was an opportunity for it to not only heal but get stronger in the process too.

Given that the situation was life or death, the wolf no longer hesitated and went for the attack.

Chapter 43: Successfully Refined

The wolf's target was the cat, but it was scared of how strong the human could be, so it first decided to check the human.

Seeing the wolf come towards him, Alex immediately swung the blade. The Smiting Blade-driven sword came down at an incredible speed, and ... did nothing.

The wolf had managed to dodge the attack and jump to the side. Seeing the cultivation he emitted while attacking, the wolf was sure that the human was not strong at all. In fact, he was weaker than himself.

Seeing that Alex couldn't do anything, the wolf went on the offensive. Alex got scared and started using another technique.

[Flame Mastery Scripture]

Alex had never used this technique during his fights against the monsters for one simple reason, there was no fire to manipulate. But now, thanks to the massive explosion, there was fire all around him.

With his left hand, he called a little tongue of fire towards himself, and immediately increased its size, and temperature. He shot the fire towards the incoming wolf.

BAM

The fire hit the wolf right in the face. The wolf immediately whimpered like a dog and ran backward. Its silver fur was now charred around its face.

Gurrrrrr

It started to growl a little. The cat behind him was starting to huff and puff. It was dying, but refused to. It was staying alive as long as it could for its child. It could not die as long as the wolf was still alive and wanted it and its child's life.

The wolf was a little cautious this time. It once again started circling looking for an opening. Alex had brought another piece of fire and was invigorating it with his Qi.

The wolf once again came towards him and tried to attack him. Similar to last time, Alex once more shot the fire at the wolf. But, the wolf was ready this time, it immediately side-stepped the fire.

Seeing this, Alex suddenly pulled the fire backward and attacked the wolf. The wolf however was already near Alex. With one massive swing of its paw, it hit him right in his left arm, breaking the bones underneath.

"Ahhh!!!" he shouted. This was the first time he had felt such pain in the game. The fire caught up to the wolf and slammed it in the back where the previous wound was.

He could now only move his arm from the elbow below. Everything above that was starting to swell. It was hard but, he could still use Fire Mastery.

The wolf had created a distance between them after getting hit by the fire. This time, it even got hit on its old wound, making it start to bleed again.

The wolf needed to attack again. It once more swiftly ran at him with the intention of killing if possible. Alex however couldn't use the fire very well, and instead used it to deter the wolf.

The wolf wasn't going to be fooled. It came straight at his chest. Alex blocked the strike with his sword, but the force of the strike still broke a few of his bones.

The attack made him fly backward and land on the ground. The wolf immediately came upon him and started to bite his head. With the focus mode on, he could feel the teeth of the wolf start to crack his skull.

He was afraid he was going to die.

GROWL

The wolf immediately stopped biting and ran away. The cat had used whatever remaining energy it had left to send the wolf running away.

Alex slowly stood up, his head bleeding profusely. The blood ran along the side of his face and was now dripping to the ground. Some of the blood even covering his right eye completely.

The wolf had fallen for the same bluff 3 times in a row now. It was incredibly angry. It was now preparing for one last attack to kill Alex for sure this time.

Alex was already on death's door, so he was sure if he took another attack from the wolf, he would die for sure. He pulled what little fire he could with his left hand.

He stabbed the sword on the ground and used his only usable hand remaining to wipe the blood off of his face and eye. The wolf started running towards him. magic

Alex wasn't going to die without one last stand. He picked up his sword, ready to give out one last attack when suddenly something happened.

Three notifications appeared in front of his eyes out of nowhere.

"What?"

The wolf was right upon him. He had lost control of the fire due to his surprise. Seeing the wolf, he immediately used Qi manipulation to stop it.

The wolf was at a higher level than him, so there was no way for him to stop it. However, it did slow down the wolf for just enough.

Alex activated 'Smiting Blade'.

SWOOSH

As if the flood gates were opened, Qi started rushing into the Steel Sword at a speed that was incomparable to the previous times. The sword started to glow in bright yellow color, with enough shine that it seemed to outshine the sun.

Alex turned to look at the wolf that was right upon him. Its right paw was ready to attack his head, but it was moving very slowly due to his Qi. Alex swung his sword and cut off the limb that was outstretched.

The wolf was about to cry out in pain when Alex's sword returned just as quickly and cut off its head.

Chapter 44:Death

Alex slumped onto the ground once he saw the wolf die. As soon as he sat, he started to vomit out blood. It didn't look as bad on the outside, but the attack on his chest had left a hemorrhage inside.

His head was burning with intense pain, and he could barely move his left arm. The blood from his head had once more covered his eyes, but he didn't have the strength to wipe it off this time.

"Thank You," he heard a voice in his head.

'Am I hallucinating?' he thought. 'Is this what being close to death feels like. Full of pain and hallucinations.'

"Thank you for saving my child." He heard the voice once more.

His eyes immediately opened as he looked towards the cat monster. Its eyes had lost their clarity and started to get groggy, but it was still very much looking at him.

"Did you just talk?" he asked, biting through his pain.

"I have two requests. Would you mind listening to my requests?" the cat's mouth didn't move, but he could hear its voice in its head. He was now sure that it was in fact the cat talking.

"Tell me what your requests are. If I can fulfill it, I shall." He said.

"Thank you," the cat spoke in his mind and brought out its child from underneath. "This is my son. I don't know if you will survive your wounds or not, but if you do, please take care of him. His destiny is to grow up to be the strongest, and I, as his mother, can't let him die here," The cat said.

Alex stood up with what little energy, and walked up to the cat. The little kitten was weak and had wounds all over its body as well. But those wounds were mostly just minor wounds, and even without any help, it would survive.

Alex took out the Minor Healing pill from his inventory. It was the only healing pill he had and it only worked on minor injuries. He fed the pill to the little kitten without hesitation. His wounds were not one that he could heal with a meager Minor Healing Pill.

The kitten's wounds healed within seconds, and it started to stand up on its little feet. Alex smiled as he saw the little kitten jump around in his hand and jump down to the ground. It then ran towards its mother and started nudging her a little.

The cat smiled a little and brought out its tongue and started licking the little kitten. Tears started streaming down her eyes as she kept on licking the little ignorant kitten.

Alex's eyes watered a little as well. The cat then looked at him, and said, "Now, for my second request." The cat looked at him and then turned to look at its child for a few seconds, before turning back to him.

After a few seconds of silence, it finally closed its eyes and said, "Please kill me." magic

Alex was shocked. That was not what he had been expecting. He coughed a bit more blood as it was getting harder for him to breathe. he looked at the cat, and said,

" I don't think I can fulfill this request of yours. I myself am nearly dead. Even if you yourself are on your death bed, I don't have enough strength to kill you, even if I wanted to."

The cat looked at him and said, "That's okay. You don't have to kill me with your own strength. Just pull out the sword on my back and I will die in no time."

Alex turned to look at the thing sticking from its back. 'So that was a sword handle huh.' He thought.

He walked up to the back of the cat and tried to pull the sword off. But it was too heavily stuck in there, and he didn't have the strength to pull it.

He tried a few more times, but it was fruitless. He was about to give up when he thought of something. He looked towards the cat and said, "I am about to try something different. If it works the sword will leave your body, are you ready?"

"Yes," the cat said.

Alex looked at the handle and grabbed it. However, instead of pulling it this time, he just closed his eyes. His Qi started flowing around the surface of the sword. He felt some resistance from the remnant Qi of whoever owned the sword, but without someone to guide it, the Qi simply disappeared.

Whoosh.

MEOOW

The cat purred loudly. The little kitten was scared for a moment but returned to nudging its mother. The cat slowly licked the little kitten as Alex heard it speak in its mind.

"Thank You," its tongue had stopped licking its child. The cat was dead.

This was the first time Alex felt horrible for seeing a notification appear.

"Meow?" the little kitten nudged its mother a little more but there was no response. "Meow! Meow!" it kept calling its mother to lick him some more, but Alex knew there was no way the cat was going to do anything anymore.

Tears started welling up in his eyes as he was saddened by the little kitten's cries.

Cough

Suddenly, he vomited some more blood and got lightheaded. He couldn't keep standing anymore and fell down hard onto the ground.

"Meow?" the little kitten saw him fall down and walked up to him.

Alex's mind was starting to get hazy as he couldn't tell what was going on outside. He saw a vague silhouette of the little kitten come up to him. He thought he felt something on his forehead, but wasn't sure if it was the little kitten or just his pain.

Suddenly, white light shined bright in front of him. He closed his eyes as the light was too much for him to look at. He heard a bunch of notifications pop up, but he wasn't in the state to read them at all.

Once the light died down, he opened his eyes once more. The little kitten was there no more.

Chapter 45: Important Figures

Everything was blurry. His head ached so hard he couldn't even think properly. He had accidentally dropped on his broken left arm, and it was starting to burn with pain as well.

His green robe was died red in most parts. The most painful part was probably his chest. Most of his ribs were broken, and he was pretty sure some of them had punctured into his organs.

Huff Huff

He was having a hard time breathing as well.

'Please, just let me die.' All he wanted now was to die. 'How was the cat able to keep staying alive for so long with so much wound. Only 3 wounds and I feel like dying.' He couldn't help but think.

He kept on wishing to die, but for some reason didn't. From time to time warm bursts of energy appeared from deep in his body, that kept him from even fainting. So he had to stay awake and endure the pain.

Whoosh Whoosh Whoosh

He heard multiple objects moving in the vicinity. 'Are these the monsters? Will, I finally die?' he thought. He tried to see what monster it was but his one open eye was too blurry to tell anything apart.

That was when he started hearing voices.

"What happened here?"

"Hey, there is a kid here."

"Ma Rong, this is a disciple from your sect."

He felt someone pick him up and place something in his mouth. He heard a lady say something,

"Young Man, if you can hear me then swallow this pill," he heard. Unquestioningly, he swallowed the pill.

The intense pain from his head, arms, and chest all disappeared as cool energy washed all over his body. He physically felt his ribs go back to normal and could feel his left arm moving again.

Once all the different feelings were gone, and he was back to normal, he opened his eyes.

There were multiple people in front of him, all high authority figures. He saw 3 sets of clothing in between these people. One was the green-robed figures from Hong Wu Sect, the second was the yellow-robed figures from the tiger sect, and the last ones were 2 people, a man and a woman both wearing purple robes.

One of the green robes-wearing figures was holding him up at the moment. It was a woman in her late 30s, but with no sign of aging. She was elegant yet authoritative.

"Are you okay, young man?" she asked. He tried to understand who she was, but couldn't. While she was wearing green robes, the linings looked yellow in the morning sunlight.

He didn't know anyone who wore yellow linings in the sect.

"Yes, I am alright. Thank you...uh, Elder" he said.

She snickered a little as her eyes turned crescent. A green robes elderly gentleman with long flowing white hair and beard walked up to him and said, "Disciple, this is the Sect Leader. Please, do not call her an elder. That is disrespectful."

Alex was shocked. 'The sect leader?' he immediately turned to the lady and saw something he had missed previously due to the morning light. Her robe did not have yellow linings. Her linings were golden.

Bronze linings in the sect belonged to the disciples. Silver linings belonged to the elders. So, accordingly, Gold linings must belong to the sect leader. magic

He immediately apologized, "I'm sorry, Sect leader. I only joined the sect a week ago, and know nothing about the important figures in the sect yet." He bowed down.

"See Great Elder, disciple here wasn't trying to be disrespectful. He just didn't know who we were." She said looking back at the elderly gentleman.

'Great Elder!! So he is the Great Elder of the sect.' He thought.

"You had enough of your talking, Ma Rong? We need to know what happened here. Let us ask your disciple some questions." A big, buff man in his 40s with not a single spot of white in his short hair or scruffy beard appeared behind him.

This man was wearing a yellow robe with golden linings as well. 'Sect Leader of the Tiger Sect?' he thought.

"So, is he alright?" the buff man from the Tiger sect spoke.

Ma Rong took one glance over his body and sighed as she said, "Yeah, he is alright. I would be shocked if he wasn't alright after eating a 'Body Restructuring Pill'. Okay, Disciple, let us ask you some questions."

Alex simply nodded.

"Tell us, What are you doing here? first of all?" she asked.

"The forest? I took a 3 day leave from the sect to come hunt in the forest." Alex answered.

"No, not the- What are you doing here in the crater, where an explosion occurred." She asked.

"Oh. I was nearby when the explosion occurred, so I ran to this place to check what it was. After seeing the parent and child monsters being attacked by a

wolf, I came down to protect them. While fighting with the wolf I got injured and nearly died. That's when you found me." He said.

"Oh," everyone looked surprised. They all looked at the swift wolf corpse at the side with its limb and head cut off. Ma Rong turned around and asked him.

"So, you defeated the wolf. Then, what happened to the parent and child monsters?" Ma Rong asked. It was a question in everybody's mind.

"Hmm...I don't know where the little kitten went, but the mother cat is right the-" he looked around to see an empty spot in the middle of the crater. The little cat, as well as the corpse of the mother cat, had disappeared from the huge crater.

Chapter 46: Invitation

"Huh? Where did it go? It was right here!!" he shouted.

"The white cat monster. It was right there. The white cat's corpse." He said.

Everyone looked around. While there were traces of another monster being here before, there was no corpse here. The presumed sect leader of the tiger sect asked, "Are you sure the cat was dead? Maybe you were mistaken about it dying?" magic

"No way!! I killed the cat myself." He shouted.

Ma Rong's eyes furrowed as she frowned as asked, "Didn't you say you were protecting the mother and child? Why are you saying you killed it now?"

"I did protect it. But the cat's wound was too much for it, and it asked me to kill it." He said.

Everyone presently listening suddenly jerked up a bit. The purple robe-wearing man walked forward and asked, "Young man, you said the cat spoke to you? Can you tell us how it spoke to you?" he asked.

"Well, the cat didn't actually speak. I just heard its voice in my mind." He said.

Everyone's eyes went wide. The sect leader's eyes too were wide as she softly muttered, "Saint Realm"

"The monster was in the Saint Realm? If this is true, then this is big news for us."

"The monster must've spoken using spiritual sense. Only Saint realm and above have those according to the records."

"Wait, if the monster really was in the saint realm, then this kid could not have killed it. Either he is lying about killing the monster, or lying about the monster having spiritual sense." An elder from the Tiger Sect spoke.

Everyone immediately realized that what he had just said was true. Ma Rong looked at him and asked, " how did you say you killed the monster?"

Alex realized what was happening. he thought, 'If what they say is true, and the white cat was, in fact, a Saint Realm monster, then I can't let them see the weapon it came with. But, if I don't tell the truth, they will think I'm hiding something, and may forcefully look through my stuff. That would be very bad.'

He thought of something and pulled out a sword, and said, " The cat had this stuck to its back. It told me that if I took this out, it would die due to the wound it would leave behind."

The purple-robed man took the sword from Alex without his permission and looked at it closely. "It's a True Mortal grade sword. The cat monster must've been attacked by someone in the higher realms and didn't mind letting go of this sword to kill the monster" He came to a conclusion.

Alex had decided at the last second to bring out the Steel sword and tell the truth about everything else.

Seeing a true mortal grade sword with him, no one doubted him anymore. While a true grade sword was tempting, everyone present here already had better artifacts, so they returned the sword back to him.

"Good job, disciple," Ma Rong came from the side. "You managed to meet a saint realm monster and lived to tell the tale. What is your name?" she asked him.

"Disciple's name is Yu Ming," he said as he bowed a little.

The sect leader was about to say something when a loud voice came from someone else, "YU MING!!! Is that true, kid?" Wen Cheng, the presumed sect leader of the Tiger Sect cried out.

'What's going on? Am I in trouble?' he was surprised.

"Are you really Yu Ming?" he asked once more.

"Yes," Alex replied in a small voice.

"Where were you yesterday night?" he asked.

"Yesterday? Umm... I was in the eastern side of the forest hunting monsters." He replied simply.

"And you didn't meet anyone else?" he asked. His presence was very heavy on Yu Ming right now.

"Umm... I did meet a few people. Namely Luo Mei and Meng Yun of the Tiger Sect." He said.

"So it is you. I have been searching for you the entire night on the eastern side. To think you were out here in the west." Wen Cheng said.

'Searching for me? Why?' he couldn't understand.

"What's going on?" Ma Rong said from the side. "Why is the sect leader of the Tiger Sect searching for my sect's disciple?" she asked.

"Ma Rong. I want this disciple of yours. I want him to join our sect." Wen Cheng said.

"Oh," Ma Rong got curious. "And why do you want him, exactly?"

"Uhh... My direct disciple told me that she met an outer sect disciple from your sect with great talent in cultivation. From her information, that disciple was this kid. Since you people focus on alchemy, and not cultivation, it would be a waste to let a gem get buried under the mud in your sect." Wen Cheng tried to give reasoning as to why he wanted him.

Of course, he didn't give out the fact that he knew Alex had cultivated for less than 10 days and had reached his current cultivation. Or the fact that Alex had

a fantastical ability to find alchemy ingredients. Most of all, he didn't tell them of the fact that Alex was also a genius in alchemy too.

If Ma Rong were to find that, he was absolutely sure she would never let go of her disciple.

Ma Rong wasn't stupid either. She knew he was hiding something, but couldn't be sure what. There was no reason for a Sect Leader to go around searching for an outer sect disciple of Hong Wu Sect, just to invite them.

However, she couldn't stop making the choice to go to the Tiger sect either. If he was an inner sect disciple, she could have made some arguments. But, since he was an outer sect disciple, one that joined very recently as well, she couldn't keep him forcefully at all.

Ma Rong was now stuck in a dilemma, and couldn't come up with any reason why she should decline Wen Cheng.

Chapter 47: Double Invitation

"I can give you a True Earth Grade artifact if you let me take him right now." Wen Cheng saw that Ma Rong was in contemplation, so he offered a transaction.

Seeing Wen Cheng actually offer something so expensive, Ma Rong was more than sure that there was something he wasn't revealing right now.

The other Tiger sect elders in the back started to murmur, and wonder why their sect leader would ever make such an offer. Was the kid really worth that?

Alex was stunned too. 'Did Luo Mei tell him about me? Is that why he is making such an offer?' He wanted to say something but couldn't think of what to say in front of such an important crowd.

"Sect Leader," suddenly, a voice shouted from the back. Ma Rong looked back and found it was the Great Elder who had just spoken. magic

"What is it, Great Elder?" she asked.

"You see, about a week ago, the Eighteenth elder came to me and talked about how fruitful that week's examination was, and that over 25 participants had passed at once." He started talking.

No one understood where this was going, so they kept listening.

"Apparently, one of those participants got a full score on the examination test. They had identified all 100 ingredients in their bag, and had managed to get a silver library token." He said.

Ma Rong seemed to know what he was alluding to, so she asked, "Are you trying to say that he is that disciple?"

Ma Rong looked at Alex and asked, "Did you get a silver library token when you entered the sect?"

"Yes, Elder lang gave me one the day I entered," Alex replied.

Ma Rong smiled. She finally had a reason to decline Wen Cheng's offer. "See, Wen Cheng, My disciple is talented in alchemy as well. Even before joining the sect, he already knew a lot about alchemy. So you should give up on trying to force him to join."

The purple robes duo were watching the ongoing drama with a little smile on their faces. Ma Rong and Wen Cheng kept going back and forth on how one wanted the disciple, and another didn't want to send him away.

The purple-robed female finally talked for the first time. "How about this then Sect Leaders? Why don't we ask the young man himself which sect he chooses?"

Ma Rong and Wen Cheng stopped arguing and thought for a second. Wen Cheng was the first to agree.

"Yes, Lady Mo is correct. We should let the disciple choose." Wen Cheng stepped forward toward Alex, who was still dazed. "Your name is Yu Ming right? If you join my sect, you will have free access to all the cultivation methods and techniques in the sect. I will also allow you to choose 1-NO, 2 artifacts from the sect treasury. And on top of that, I will make you my direct disciple."

Everyone's eyes opened wide as they heard Wen Cheng's proposition. Ma Rong was also astonished. Even the purple-robed couple's eyes were wide at what was being offered.

Amongst them all, however, nobody could top the surprise that Alex felt listening to the Tiger Sect's Sect Leader. Even though his heart said to stick with Hong Wu Sect, his brain argued that this was a brilliant chance that he could not pass.

He had joined Hong Wu Sect so he could play games and earn money, and alchemy was the best at that. But that wasn't the only way. Even by playing normally, one could earn a lot of money. If he were to join Tiger Sect right now, he could do that as well.

He was in a dilemma. Thoughts ran through his mind at a speed faster than he could understand what they were.

Ma Rong looked at Alex and saw that he was starting to get swayed. She didn't know what this disciple had aside from good talent in cultivation and the knowledge of alchemy ingredients.

From her perspective, Alex was a good disciple. Maybe even one of the better ones. But there was no way she would give out as much as Wen Cheng even for her best student.

'He definitely knows something I don't. But, what?' she couldn't understand, but she needed to do something quickly.

"Disciple, if you stay at Hong Wu Sect, I will make you my direct disciple as well, and let you live in the Sect Leader's mountain. You will have full access to both the alchemy gardens, and," she reached into her storage bag, and brought out something, "I will also give your this True-Earth Grade artifact."

The thing she took out was a large green and gold cauldron. Alex looked at the cauldron in awe. This cauldron was many times better than the one used by Kong Yuhan. It was incomparable when it came to the black cauldrons in the Alchemist Hall.

"Umm..." a new offer had arrived that left Alex speechless. Now that there was an incentive to stay at the Hong Wu Sect, he was getting more and more restless, unable to make a decision by himself.

He was close to ripping his long black hair out in frustration. Both of the offers were brilliant, so it was hard to make a choice.

Going to the Tiger sect meant being the sect leader's direct disciple, with access to 2 items from the sect treasury, and full access to all of the sect's cultivation resources.

Staying at the Hong Wu sect meant being the sect leader's direct disciple, full access to all alchemy ingredients in the 2 alchemy garden, and also get the True earth grade cauldron.

'Should I choose the Hong Wu sect since my original intent was to learn alchemy, and staying now would give me better access to the ingredients?' he thought.

He had decided. He was about to speak up when the purple-robed man walked forward and spoke.

"I don't think the young man can choose if both of you offer him something so good. So, I might have a solution to your problems, Sect leaders."

Chapter 48: Why not...?

"What solutions do you have, City Lord Fu?" Ma Rong asked.

"I wouldn't mind listening to a suggestion from City Lord Fu." Wen Cheng spoke as well.

The man in the purple robe was the city lord of the Scarlet city. His name was Fu Wen, and along with his wife Mo An, was in charge of the Scarlet City.

"Here is my suggestion. Since both of you want this disciple so much, why don't you both accept him as your disciple? This way you can both teach him, and he can be part of both of your sects." he said to the two sect leaders.

""Hmm..." both the sect leaders fell into deep contemplation. Ma Rong looked at Wen Cheng and asked, "Tell me the truth. Why do you really want him?" she asked.

Wen Cheng was about to lie but instead decided to just tell the truth, "Your disciple has only cultivated for 10 days to reach the cultivation he is at now. He really is a genius in cultivation."

Ma Rong stared at him, too shocked to speak. She immediately turned to Alex and asked, "Is this true?"

Alex was surprised for a second. 'How did he know?' but soon realized that it must've been Luo Mei who told him. He had let himself speak a bit too freely at that time.

"Yes," he said softly.

"Is there any way you can prove it?" she asked him. She was having doubts since there was no way a person could cultivate bone tempering 2nd realm in just 10 days. At least not without incredibly fortuitous encounters.

Alex thought for a bit. "I don't have anything to prove it, but I can do this." He said as he opened his status and hit [Breakthrough]. He could break through about 3 times if he wanted to with the Qi he got from the pill but decided to stick with a single one.

Still, that was enough to cause a stir in the crowd. The elder, the sect leaders, and even the city lord and lady duo were surprised at how casually the young man in front of them just broke through.

Ma Rong asked with her eyes still wide, "Why are you in Hong Wu Sect if you have such talents in cultivation? You are wasted in our sect." She said. Even she believed that sending him to Tiger Sect was the right choice.

Alex simply replied, "That was because I am really interested in alchemy, and have some talent in it as well."

Ma Rong sighed and said, "I understand what you mean. Being able to name all the ingredients in the test is good, but it's nothing compared to your actual talent in cultivation." Ma Rong was now trying to talk sense into him.

Wen Cheng was pleasantly surprised at the change in Ma Rong.

Alex on the other hand was starting to get nervous. 'I have an alchemy skill with the word 'god' in it. If it's anything half as good as it sounds, it will be a waste to not learn alchemy properly.'

"Ever since I was young, I can name every single alchemy ingredients I come across, and have an uncanny ability to recognize them in the wild." He said. He was spilling his own beans, gambling it at the fact that he would somehow get to have the cake from both of the sects.

"Name every single alchemy ingredient and recognize them in the wild? What do you mean?" Ma Rong was slightly confused. 'He doesn't even look 20, there is no way he could have lived long enough to see and remember every single ingredient in alchemy.' She thought.

In response, Alex brought out 3 storage bags and handed them to Ma Rong, and said, "These are all the ingredients I gathered from the forest in the last 3 days." magic

Ma Rong took a look inside one of the bags. As soon as she saw what was inside the bag, she shuddered a bit. She immediately opened the other 2 bags.

'There are just too many shocking things happening, one after another today. This amount of ingredients is what we collect on both the gardens in a week, and this kid collected it in just 3 days? That too in the southern forest.'

The Great Elder came forward after seeing the sect leader basically stop doing anything. "What is wrong sect leader?" he asked.

Ma Rong didn't speak and simply passed along the 3 bags. When the Great Elder saw the bag, he was shocked as well.

Ma Rong looked at Wen Cheng and said, "I'm sorry, but it seems I can't let you have this disciple all to yourself. How about we share him just as City Lord Fu suggested?" she asked.

Wen Cheng knew there was no way Ma Rong would accept anything less after learning the young man's talents, so he simply agreed.

"That settles it then. Young man, from today on I, will take you on as my direct disciple, do you agree?" he asked.

"Yes, and I, as the sect leader of Hong Wu Sect, will take you as my direct disciple as well, do you agree?" Ma Rong took the opportunity to ask as well.

The elders and city lord duo were watching something extraordinary unfold in front of their eyes. Alex was too shocked and forgot to answer for a second.

As soon as he realized that, he spoke out, "I agree.". The two sect lords smiled.

The Great Elder spoke from the behind and said, " Young man, greet your new masters."

Alex immediately realized what he had to do, " I, Yu Ming, greet both of my masters." Alex bowed towards both Wen Cheng and Ma Rong.

Both the sect leaders smiled, and Wen Cheng said, "That settles it then. Let's go to your new sect now, disciple."

Ma Rong immediately chimed in, " No, he will stay in the Hong Wu Sect for now."

The sect leaders were once more starting to quarrel with each other.

Chapter 49:Returning back to sect

"He will stay with me. I need to teach him cultivation techniques and martial arts. They take a lot of time."

"No, he will stay with me. I need to give him my alchemy knowledge. They take more time."

The surrounding elders watched the two sect leaders quarrel with a wry smile on their faces. The two sect leaders were always like this, whenever they met.

Alex listened to the argument between the two as he too was unsure of what to do exactly. He thought for a moment and spoke.

"Master!!"

"What?" both sect leaders looked at him together.

"Uhh..." he didn't know how to let them know who he was speaking to. " Martial Master, I have a request."

Wen Cheng realized he was talking to him, so he spoke, "Go on, tell me your request."

"My request is that master wait 2 weeks before taking me into the sect. Currently, I am in the middle of learning Alchemy, and I don't want to stop. I have a lot of alchemy ingredients, and I want to use them to make pills. I should be done with all of these in 2 weeks and after that, I will come to stay

at Tiger sect for 2 weeks before returning to Hong Wu Sect, where I will stay 2 more weeks."

He stated his request.

Ma Rong spoke, "So you will stay 2 weeks with us, and then 2 weeks with Wen Cheng, huh? That's not a bad idea. Very well then, we should do that."

Wen Cheng sighed as well, and said, "Alright. I guess I can work with that. But be prepared, after you join, I will not only teach you about cultivation. You will be learning how to fight from the ground up. You will be learning many different martial arts and finally, you will learn other techniques."

"I understand, Martial Master. Thank you."

Hearing his new disciples thanks, Wen Cheng breathed a little in, and said to his elders, "Look around a little, and see if you find the cat's corpse. Also, take a little bit of this blood from where the cat landed in the crater. We might get some use out of it."

He then turned to Alex and said, "I will see you in 2 weeks, disciple." After saying that, he started to slowly hover, and fly away.

Alex was shocked. 'So you can fly with your Qi. Why is it that I am not able to then?' he wondered.

Ma Rong looked back at Great Elder and said, "Great Elder, I think we should take in some of the blood as well. They might come in handy for some alchemy research."

"I shall do as you say, sect leader." The great elder went and gathered some blood from the place where the corpse was.

"Alright, Let's return," Ma Rong said as she took out a small boat-like artifact, and jumped on it. She turned back to look at Alex, whose eyes showed awe towards the artifact, and said, "Come on up. I will fly us back to the sect."

Alex got out of his stupor and jumped up onto the boat. The other elders simply started flying on their own without any artifacts, similar to what Wen Cheng did.

'Is the sect leader not capable of flying on her own?' he thought. The boat started flying at a faster speed than the other people.

"We will take our leave now, City Lord and Lady," she said and flew away.
magic

The speed at which the boat flew reminded him of the bullet train he took to get to Oakleaf city. 'Does flying in a plane feel the same?' he wondered.

He looked around and saw that the other elders were now flying faster and catching up to the boat. So, he decided to ask.

"Master, why are we using this boat to fly when the other elders are flying on their own with equal speed?"

Ma Rong looked back and answered, "Flying alone is easy, but when you have multiple people to take with you, it's hard to split your attention to the different people. So, instead of flying all the different people individually, flying a single boat with people on top of it is easier."

"As for the reason why we aren't faster than the other elders is because I am choosing not to go that fast. You are only at bone tempering realm, if you were to fall at the full speed of this boat, you would fall, and not be able to handle the impact of your fall."

Ma Rong's eyes widened as she heard what he had just said, " You can hover with your current cultivation?" she asked.

"Yes. I mean last I tried was before I entered the Bone Tempering realm about 3 days ago. I haven't tried with my current cultivation." He said.

Ma Rong turned towards the other elders and said with a serious face, "Everyone, I'm going to go first. Take your time coming back." She then looked towards Alex and said, "Hold on"

Alex didn't know what was going on, but he gripped the boat on both sides. As soon as he did that, he felt a massive whiplash as the boat sped through the forest, and within 5 minutes reached Hong Wu Sect.

Ma Rong didn't stop there and flew the boat directly to the sect leader's mountain and stopped it only after getting to the peak. She got off the boat, and Alex followed right behind.

His legs shook a little as he landed on the ground. The speed was a bit too much for him to handle.

'It took me an entire night to reach that place in the forest, and she brought me back in less than 6 minutes?' he was shocked beyond belief.

Ma Rong was a little out of breath as well. It seemed she had to use a little too much Qi to speed up the boat by this amount.

'Why did she do that?' he thought.

"Yu Ming, you said you could hover? Show me." She said simply.

Chapter 50: "Science" Behind Flying

He had assumed he would stop at around 20 cm, or maybe a little more since he broke through a bit. However, he started floating continuously without stopping. The speed at which he was rising was very slow, but he was rising nonetheless.

When he got to about a meter high, Ma Rong told him to stop. He landed on the ground. magic

"So you can do it." Ma Rong was in disbelief once more. 'How is a bone tempering realm cultivator able to carry so much weight with his Qi?' she questioned.

She looked at Alex, who was looking at her expectantly for an answer. She sighed and asked, "Do you know how cultivators normally fly without artifacts?"

Alex thought for a second, and said, "isn't it by wrapping themselves with their Qi?"

"Yes, but what I'm asking is, do you know why that works for the cultivators? But doesn't work much for you?" she asked.

Alex simply shook his head. Ma Rong answered, "You see, our Qi increases in quantity when we breakthrough. It keeps getting thicker and thicker as we keep on breaking through the realms. At some point, it gets so thick that we can physically pick objects off using it like a rope or a stick."

"The thicker they get, the heavier the object they can carry. Imagine Qi as balloons. Once the balloons have more air in them, they become able to carry objects. The more air there is, the heavier the objects they carry."

"What do you think would happen if I tie a balloon light enough to carry 50 kilograms of weight, on a 50 kg rock?" she asked.

"It will carry the rock?" he said.

"No. The balloon will stay stationary. Since the balloon is tied to a 50kg rock, it is now effectively able to carry 0 weight, so it doesn't fly away. Now, what if I were to break off a small piece of the rock, what would happen?"

"The rock will now start to fly." He answered confidently.

"Yes, but between the balloon carrying the rock, and another balloon of the same capability carrying a 25 kg weight, which do you think would rise faster?" she asked.

"The one with the less weighing rock." He answered.

"Yes, Exactly. Qi is similar. When you were not in the bone tempering realm, your Qi was thick enough to only carry your weight. But once you broke through, it is now able to slowly lift you higher. Since you couldn't change the weight of the rock, you made the balloon even lighter."

"So, you are able to float up every so slightly. Once you are at a higher realm, your Qi will get thicker, and you will be able to fly faster." She explained.

Alex felt like he learned something important today. 'So, I can fly once my Qi is able to carry more weight, huh?' he thought.

But then he thought of something, "But master, I was able to carry monsters up easily when I was at the 1st realm of Bone Tempering. My Qi shouldn't have been so thick at the time."

Ma Rong chuckled a little, "That is simple. Take the balloon and the rock for example again. Since they have 0 weight effectively, any outside influence from you is able to lift them up easily."

"But when you are tied to the balloon, that doesn't work. You can't push the balloon to carry you higher, since the balloon and you are one entity. You

were probably hovering above the ground at all because you lifted your feet in anticipation of flying."

Alex seemed to have understood a bit. 'There is a lot more science involved in this than I previously knew' he thought.

Ma Rong then said, "I know you may be excited to fly soon, so you might try to break through a lot, but don't. You need to stay a bit in each cultivation base to understand the intricacies of it. If you keep on breaking through without stabilizing your cultivation, your foundation will be bad for the future, and you will be sure to end up in Qi deviation, and might lose your entire cultivation as well as your life. "

Alex was a little surprised. 'Stabilizing my cultivation? I haven't heard that before. Is leveling up too fast really that bad,' he wondered. Still, the threat of death was enough for him to accept it.

'Alright, come with me," Ma Rong said as she walked down the peak. In less than a few minutes, they reached a large, but simple-looking house.

A step below the house were other several houses with their own courtyard. "Choose any of the houses. Since you are my disciple you will be staying here for now. Starting tomorrow, every morning I will teach you about alchemy. You will take what you learn and use it to try out alchemy. While you are my student, you are still an outer sect disciple. Quickly make pills to become an inner sect disciple."

"Also, there is an alchemy room in each of these houses, so you won't have to go to the alchemy hall to practice alchemy. However, I suggest you don't do any alchemy today and finish other business. It's better if you wait until I teach you some basics tomorrow morning."

"Now go and take a rest. You nearly died today, and are still full of blood and dirt. Go clean yourself."

Alex nodded and said his farewell as he left for the left-most house below the sect leader's house. Once he entered, he looked at the massive interior of the house, with its own backyard and a pond.

This had been a long night and day now. He looked at the time and realized it was nearly 10 am. He had unintentionally missed his breakfast today. He sighed and walked into a random room, and then logged out.

