

Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy #Chapter 71: Auction Sales - Read Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy Chapter 71: Auction Sales

Chapter 71:Auction Sales

"Greetings, Daoist. I am so sorry you had to wait so long." Cai Ping apologized as she walked it. She constantly bowed and kept saying how sorry she was. For some reason, she had started calling him Daoist as well.

"Oh, it's ok. I don't mind waiting," Alex got a little nervous seeing her bowing towards her so much.

Cai Ping smiled a little and sat down on the couch opposite to where Alex was currently sitting. She seemed a little tired and distraught for some reason.

"Are you okay, Miss Cai? You seem a little tired," he said.

Cai Ping immediately straightened her posture and looked a little more active as she said, "I'm so sorry for showing you such a terrible sight."

"Is working in an auction house that hard?" he asked.

"Oh no, it's usually really easy. But today was different. The auction was a bit hectic and to be honest, mentally exhausting," she laughed a bit and continued, " Your pills were actually the most problematic of all. Most alchemists don't auction their pills, so when so many pills showed up at once, people kept bidding for it one after another. Those took a lot of time."

"Does that mean all of my pills sold then?" he asked expectantly. He was really hoping to get the 80 spirit stones today.

"Ah, yes. All of them sold. I believe the after-auction transactions are being completed right now, and someone will bring your total here."

"Oh, okay," he said and waited for a bit longer.

About 5 minutes or so later, a knock sounded from the door to the room.

"Come in," Cai Ping spoke from inside. A middle-aged man walked in and bowed to Cai Ping. He then turned to Alex and bowed once again.

Alex wasn't used to being bowed at so much, so he just nodded.

The man walked up to Cai Ping and handed her a bag. Cai Ping looked at the bag for a bit and nodded to the man, who then walked away.

"Your money after the reduction is here, Daoist," she spoke. "Your monster corpse sold for a bit more than expected and brought in 15 common spirit stones. After reduction, you get 13 common spirit stones and 50 gold coins."

Alex was surprised when he heard that. '13 common spirit stones are about 120 dollars right?' he thought.

Cai Ping then continued, " Your pills, however... I have never been so wrong on my estimate before."

Alex frowned. 'Wrong on her estimate? Does that mean I am not getting the full 80 spirit stones she said?' he started to get disheartened. He was hoping for quite a bit of money, but from her talk, it seemed like the pills didn't do as well.

Then, Cai Ping said, "I can't believe they sold for so much more." magic

"Huh? They didn't do badly?" he asked.

"Badly? Of course not. They did amazing in the auction. Far better than I had anticipated." She took out a talisman and started reading something.

"We sold all of your pills separately, which was why the auction took so much longer than usual. First off, we sold your Qi improving pill. We started from the ones with the lowest harmony to the highest."

"These were commonly found pills, so they didn't sell for a lot. Still, the 12 pills in total brought us about 42 common spirit stones."

"The next pills we sold were the swift feet pills. While uncommon, people didn't require them a lot so it didn't get a lot of bids, but still somehow managed to be sold for 32 spirit stones for the 5 pills."

"Next we sold the 2 face-changing pills. These pills sold quite a bit as they were very rare. These pills had quite a few bids compared to others. The 26% harmony face changing pill sold for 15 spirit stones, and the 35% harmony

face changing pill sold for 28 spirit stones. I had no idea this was how receptive the audience would be to these pills."

"Lastly, the 4 Qi Enhancing pills. We sold them last because people really cared about pills that helped them break through their bottlenecks and helped them increase their cultivation. As expected, they did really well. Perhaps, too well."

"It seemed due to the rarity of one of the ingredients for this pill, people hadn't been able to get this pill made by the alchemists at all. So, when they heard we were auctioning Earth grade Qi Enhancing pills, they really bid in droves to get it."

"Similar to the other pills, we started with the one that had the lowest harmony and moved our way to the highest. In total, the 4 different pills actually ended up selling for 83 common spirit stones."

Alex had stopped converting the spirit stones to dollars long ago as he heard the number of spirit stones grow higher and higher. Cai Ping looked at his shocked eyes and found some mutual feelings in them. She too had been similarly shocked when she presented the pills to the audience.

He really did get 194 common spirit stones. That was really a lot.

"When is your next auction?" he asked Cai Ping.

She didn't think much about the question and answered, "It the next Saturday. Though that will be a rather big auction since it's our bi-annual auction, where only items above 5 spirit stones are sold and the auction itself lasts longer than usual."

Alex stayed quiet and thought for a bit. 'I should be able to finish making the pills by the next Wednesday, maybe even Tuesday if I really tried.'

"Can I come back next Friday to put more items in auction?" he asked.

Cai Ping looked at him with a confused look and asked, "Do you have something else to sell, Daoist?"

Chapter 72: Another Rock

Alex heard her ask the question and answered, "Oh, yes. I was thinking about selling some more pills. Is that alright? It did cause a bit of a problem from what I heard."

"Oh absolutely. But, we can only take in items by Wednesday. We will be getting a large number of items to sell for the bi-annual auction and will have to tally the items and send out information about the items we will be auctioning. So, if you have more pills to sell, you will have to get it in by Wednesday."

Alex thought for a while. 'I should be able to complete the pills by Wednesday right? Especially if I make them throughout the night as well,' he speculated.

"Alright then, I will bring some more pills by Wednesday. Thank you for selling my pills," he said and started walking out of the door.

"Wait for a second, Daoist," Cai Ping hurriedly stopped him.

"What is it?"

"Umm... can you tell me who you are?" she really wanted to know his name now.

"Oh, I haven't introduced myself, have I? I am so sorry about that. My name is Yu Ming, and I am a disciple of Hong Wu Sect." He nodded and walked out before she could say anything.

Alex went straight back to the sect. There was nothing as of yet that he had to do, so he decided to go back to his residence.

He walked along the way when suddenly he sensed something.

'This feeling...' he walked towards where he felt the thing. Somehow, unlocking his spiritual sense had far sharpened his senses, so he could feel it from quite far away.

Following the feeling brought him close to the sect market. He walked into the market and went to one of the disciples who was setting up a vendor there.

"Hello brother, How much do you want for this stone here?" he asked the male disciple setting up the vendor.

The thing Alex was pointing to was a small stone that was slightly yellow in color. This was the same type of stone that he had found in the sect market that one time, the same stone that had turned his Qi to Yang Qi.

"This stone? You can take it for 80 points brother." The disciple said.

Alex paid the amount and took the stone. Then he asked, "Can you tell me where you found this stone, brother?"

The man thought for a while and said, "I think I found it on the ground in the forbidden fields while I was suspended."

"Forbidden fields? What's that?" he asked.

"Don't you know about the Forbidden Fields? It's a place where disciples are sent for a period of time as punishment. You have to survive in that treacherous place on your own." The man said.

"Punishment? Does that mean there are a lot of monsters in there? It must've been dangerous," Alex sympathized with the man. magic

"What? No. There are no monsters. In fact, there are no plants or animals either. The worst part is there is no Qi either. You have to survive on your own in that place with no Qi, and since your Qi gets used up, you start to get hungry and don't have anything to eat either."

"Plus, it's mostly just grassland, followed by an unending desert. It's truly one of the worst places you can be in." The man said with a scared face remembering what it had been like.

'I should ask master about it. If I can find more of these, that would be awesome.' He thought and left the sect market.

He was walking towards his residence, lost in his own thoughts when suddenly he heard someone calling for him.

"Hmm..." he quickly sent out his spiritual sense to see who was calling him and saw a certain man walking towards him.

"Oh hey, Brother Kong. Long time no see." He said as he waved towards Kong Yuhan who was steadily approaching him along with a few different people with him.

"Long time no see? What a weird way to greet you have there, Brother Yu," Kong Yuhan arrived and stood in front of him.

'Do they not say long time to see in this game? I should probably stop saying that,' he thought.

"What are you doing here, Brother Kong?" Alex looked at the 3 people behind Kong Yuhan, who had a curious expression behind him.

"Hopefully same thing you are here for, Brother Yu," Kong Yuhan pointed behind Alex.

Alex looked back and saw the Alchemy hall behind him. 'Does he think I am here for Alchemy?' he thought.

"You are quite chummy with an outer sect disciple, huh Kong?" one of the men standing behind him said.

"Of course. You don't know how much he helped me the past week. He brought me the very rare Dwarf Fruit, and also aided me with creating a Qi Enhancing Pill. It isn't much of a stretch to say I broke through to Meridian Tempering only because of him. " Kong Yuhan was quite genuine when he said that.

Alex checked the 3 people behind Kong Yuhan and realized they all had Organ Tempering realm power. The man that just spoke had an organ tempering 5th realm, while the other man had Organ Tempering 4th realm. The girl on the other hand was higher than the 2 and had an Organ Tempering 9th realm cultivation.

Kong Yuhan saw Alex looking at the three behind him and finally remembered to introduce them. "Oh, I forgot to introduce you guys. This is brother Yu Ming. Brother Yu, this is Wei Xun," he pointed at the man who had talked, " This is Jia Fen, " he pointed at the other man, "and finally this is Zhou Mi."

Alex nodded to them and greeted them. Both the males reciprocated with their own greetings, while the lady only nodded a little. She didn't seem to be the talking type.

Chapter 73:Ascension

"Ascend? What do you mean?" Alex was a little confused by the statement. He had never heard of someone 'ascending' in-game or out of the game.

'Does this have something to do with alchemists?' he wondered. He didn't have any friends he talked to regularly, so he didn't know a lot about the practices in the sect. Even Kong Yuhan was merely just an acquaintance to him.

Kong Yuhan looked like he had realized something when he saw Alex's confused face and said, "Ah, I forgot it hasn't been long since you got here. Ascending means going from being an outer sect disciple to an inner sect disciple or an inner sect disciple to a core disciple."

"In my case, I am one step away from being a core disciple. I have brought a few sets of ingredients with me today, and if I made to make a single pill with over 20% harmony, I can take the exam to become a core disciple."

"Ah" Alex made a sound of understanding. But then he thought of something,

"Brother Kong! If you have to take an exam after creating this pill, then why not call the exam the Ascension. Why call it this one?"

"Well that's because it's a tradition," the silent man name Jia Fen finally spoke.

"You know the reason, brother Jia?" Kong Yuhan turned around to ask the man.

"Yes. Going back a couple dozens of years ago when the sect wasn't as big as it is now, you could promote from being an outer sect disciple or inner sect disciple just by making the required amount of pills, and didn't have to take any tests back then."

"So, when it came to the final pill before promotion, the disciples started calling it 'The Ascension'. But, once the sect got more popular and started getting more and more disciples, they found out that disciples had started to sneakily promote themselves by using pills made by others."

"The elders couldn't keep track of everyone's pills back then, so they started making the disciples take tests for it. They should have stopped after creating

the sect running formation a few years back, but the exam was just an extra layer of security that they didn't want to get rid of."

The man named Jia Fen spoke quite a bit and explained it quite well.

"Is that so... anyway, Brother Yu, do you want to come to watch? I brought these 3 to watch as well." Kong Yuhan asked quite expectantly.

Alex thought for a bit and decided to skip the afternoon lunch today. "Sure brother Kong, I can probably learn something from it as well"

Together the 5 walked into the Alchemy hall. It didn't take Kong Yuhan long to find an empty room and immediately entered it. Alex and the other 3 also followed behind him to the room.

"Do you want me to aid, Brother Kong?" the girl finally spoke and walked forward.

"Ah, thank you for your kind intentions, Sister Zhou. But I will have to refuse. In the exam, I will have to make the pills on my own, so I should start making pills on my own, without any aids."

Kong Yuhan started preparing by keeping aside the black cauldron and taking out his own cauldron. He started heating his cauldron and took a deep breath as he started meditating.

Alex didn't know what pills he was going to make, or what ingredients he was going to use. He waited in anticipation to find out.

After a bit of time had passed, and the cauldron was finally heated, Kong Yuhan took out the first ingredient and put it in. magic

Alex saw the ingredient and thought, ' A Slim Bane Treeleaf huh, that means he must be making one of 4 different pills.'

After a while, Kong Yuhan took out a second ingredient and put it in. This one gave Alex no information, as this ingredient followed the first one in every single one of his recipes.

'His cauldron isn't transferring the heat fast enough. The energy in the second ingredient isn't controlling the first one as quickly as it should.'

Alex could see the minute errors in Kong Yuhan's alchemy process thanks to his spiritual sense. Even while standing so far away, he could see the happenings in the cauldron very clearly.

Then Kong Yuhan put his third ingredient and put it in.

'Huh?' Alex was surprised. 'That's not one of the ingredients from a recipe I know. Did he get a recipe somewhere out of the sect?'

Alex watched as Kong Yuhan put in more and more ingredients to make a pill that he had absolutely no idea about.

Finally, after a while, the pill came out. Kong Yuhan frowned a little after seeing the pill's harmony. He took out a pill tester and tested the harmony of his new pill.

As soon as the pill touched the base of the glass, the fog appeared from the metal base and started crawling along the side of the tester, until it stopped.

Kong Yuhan looked at the number as sighed.

"Only 16%. Not having an aid really does make it hard. Especially when it's a new pill like mine." Kong Yuhan cleaned the cauldron in preparation for another batch.

"Don't fret brother. You still have quite a few sets left. You can do it." Jia Fen encouraged from the side.

"Yes, Brother Kong. You don't have to get disheartened." Zhou Mi encouraged as well.

Alex and the other man stayed quiet but gave encouraging nods towards him.

Kong Yuhan smiled a little.

"You guys are right. This won't stop me at all. This was only my first time so I failed. The next times will be different." Kong Yuhan switched his attention back to the cauldron and prepared for the second batch of ingredients.

Chapter 74: Unstable Concoction

Kong Yuhan held a pill inside a pill tester. The fog slowly rose up from the bottom of the glass and started going upwards.

Everyone in the room watched as the fog reached the number 16. They watched with bated breaths as the fog slowly rose up to the number 17.

"Go up. Go up," they slowly chanted wanting the pill fog to keep on going up.

18.

"Just 2 more. Go. Go." Kong Yuhan was full of sweat watching it.

19.

"Just once more," Kong Yuahn shouted with his voice full of hope. Alas, the fog didn't rise up.

"No!!! I was so close." Kong Yuhan got dejected. This was his third try at making the pill. The second one had ended up being an 18% harmony pill, so he had wished to make this one have 20% harmony. But his wish remained just that, a wish.

"Alright, I will surely make the next one be it." He got back to making the pill once more without anyone's encouragement.

Kong Yuhan had never focused this much in his life before as he did on the 4th pill. He focused from the start to the very end, careful at every turn, and made as few mistakes as possible.

'This turn has quite a few amounts of mistakes. Maybe he will succeed now.' Alex was constantly checking the inside with his spiritual sense. As long he didn't try to strain his senses, his spiritual sense would last for a while.

After Kong Yuhan finished making the pill and took it out to put it in the pill tester.

Once more the crowd watched as the fog started to rise up. The fog quickly rose up to 16% before slowing down.

17%. 18%. 19%.

The pill tester started to shake a little as Kong Yuhan's had started trembling with nervousness.

20%.

"YES!" Kong Yuhan shouted.

"Congratulations, Brother Kong. You are now eligible to become a Core disciple." Everyone started congratulating him one after another.

"Hehe," Kong Yuhan embarrassed a little over the bombardment of congratulations. His large physical build with an embarrassed face was something you didn't see every day.

"How long has it been since we came here?" Kong Yuhan asked the group.

"I think it's been about an hour and a half. Definitely more than an hour for sure." Wei Xun spoke from the back. Everyone else nodded.

"Oh. That means the room already took my contribution points. Might as well finish the final pill." Kong Yuhan started preparing for the next batch of ingredients.

The others also waited for him to make the last pill. Kong Yuhan wiped away his sweat and started once more. He had already ascended so he had no worries for this particular. magic

He was already tired from making 4 different pills, especially the last one. Plus, he had no need to do everything perfectly, so he was a bit too relaxed while making the pill.

He ended up making more mistakes than usual. Alex caught all of those mistakes.

'He is not getting the timing right. He keeps dropping the ingredients a bit too late, so the energies aren't getting properly harmonized.'

If only the ingredients were burnt and charred instead of turning to powder, the energy could have escaped from the cauldron. But, since they were all powder, the unstable energies were getting taken in by the powder making the powder itself massively unstable.

"Oh no," Kong Yuhan lost control of the situation.

'It's going to blow up!' Alex immediately shot out forwards and used Qi manipulation to throw away the entire cauldron to the corner of the room.

BOOM

A massive explosion rang out from the corner, throwing heaps and heaps of energies towards their direction. Almost instinctively, Alex brought forth his hands and used Elemental Guidance to steer away as much energy from the explosion as possible.

Everyone in the room had a disheveled look as the ringing from the explosion still rung in their ears.

"What the hell are you doing?" Jia Fen immediately cried out.

Alex turned around to see Jia Fen charging at him with the intention to harm. Alex didn't understand why he would do that but immediately used his Qi manipulation to stop him.

Due to their massive gap in cultivation, he was only able to stop him for a few seconds before Jia Fen got free from his clutches and came for him once more.

"Wait brother Jia, It was my fault." Kong Yuhan got out of his stupor and stopped the fight.

"What?" It wasn't just Jia Fen who was confused by the statement. Wei Xun also came forward looking for an answer.

"I was too relaxed and ended up making the ingredients unstable. If brother Yu didn't throw it away in time, I would have been seriously injured right now."

"So, he didn't do it on purpose?" Jia Fen was still quite skeptical about it.

"No. In fact, I had already lost control of the ingredients. It was brother Yu's quick thinking that saved us." Kong Yuhan looked towards the wall. The wall itself had no problems, but the cauldron was now in pieces.

"Aww... I will have to pay quite a few points for this." Kong Yuhan turned around to look at the other 4, focusing especially on Zhou Mi, and said, "Thankfully, none of you were hurt."

"I'm sorry for assuming you did it on purpose, Brother Yu." Jia Fen apologized when he got the chance.

"It's okay." Alex understood why he was mad. He would probably get mad himself if he saw what had just happened.

They all left the Alchemy hall and said their goodbyes. Kong Yuhan kept thanking him for saving him. Alex split from the group and went back to his residence.

He looked at the time and saw it was 5 pm. 'I should be able to squeeze out 4 or 5 pills before it's time for dinner.'

Chapter 75: Wednesday

Alex logged out to get some food after making 6 pills before dinner. He hadn't skipped the lunch today so he was feeling unusually peckish.

After dinner, he logged back to the game and went to the sect valley for his daily work. He took his time and only reached the valley around half past 8.

It didn't even take him an hour in total to pick up all the ingredients. After he was done, he immediately ran back up the mountain to make some more pills.

Throughout the entire night, he managed to make around 22 pills. Today was a free day too, so he decided to make pills once more. He spent the entire day in the alchemy room, making pills whenever possible.

In fact, his next three days went the same way. Every morning, he would have a lesson with his master, and afterward, he would make pills whenever possible.

Finally, on Wednesday, he managed to make a total of 135 different pills. Surprisingly, all of the pills were in the Earth Grade, not one pill below 25%.

He looked at the remaining ingredients he had in his bag.

'Hmm... if I get some ingredients from the alchemy garden, I should be able to make a few more pills than I can register.'

He still had the 194 spirit stones he got from the auction house. He wanted to transfer it immediately to his bank account but didn't since he wanted to see if there were anything important in the auction.

He wanted to buy something himself too. Still, he wouldn't waste much of the spirit stones and together with what he would get from the auction house after selling the current pills, he would transfer them all at once.

Once he was ready, he left the sect leader's mountain at some time around 4 am.

It took him about half an hour to reach the auction house. The path felt quite short this time around for him.

"Yes," Alex let the new lady take him to one of the waiting rooms inside the auction house. After waiting for a while, Cai Ping walked in through the door.

"Ah, good to see you, Madam Cai. I am surprised I only meet you when I come to the auction house." He jokingly greeted the sitting Cai Ping.

"You jest, Daoist Yu. You only see me because I ordered the juniors to let me know when you came." Cai Ping properly seated herself on the couch opposite Alex.

"So, what do you have for us to Auction, Daoist Yu? More pills, I presume." Cai Ping looked at Alex expectantly, waiting for him to take out the batch of pills.

"Yes, Of course. I am an alchemist after all." Alex said with a smile as he reached into his bag and carefully took out 5 bottles, so as to not harm the pills inside.

Cai Ping's eyes lit up as she saw that the 5 newly arrived bottles were all filled with 5 different pills.

'25 pills?' she was happy to see that. Then something weird happened. Alex reached back into his bag and took out 5 more pill bottles, each filled with 5 pills.

"Umm... Daoist Yu? This is?" she asked.

"These are pills of course." Alex reached back into his bag and took 5 more bottles.

Cai Ping started to breathe faster as she saw the 5 new bottles. 'How many pills does he have?' she looked at the 15 different pill bottles and counted 75 pills in total. That was an enormous amount.

But then, Alex reached into his bag and took out 5 more bottles.

"What!!" she freaked out. The newly brought-out bottles were filled with 5 pills each as well.

"What's wrong madam Cai?" Alex was surprised at her loud exclamation.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I showed you something unsightly. I was just surprised that you brought forth so many pills. Did the Hong Wu sect send you as an ambassador for this time's auction, Daoist Yu?" Cai Ping was still calming down from the sight in front of her, but every time she saw the pill bottles laid out in front of her, her eyes would get wide and she would start breathing faster.

"Hong Wu Sect sends ambassadors? I didn't know that. Unfortunately, I am not that. I just wanted to earn some money from my sold pills, so I came here."

He then reached into his bag and brought out another 5 bottles.

This time, however, they weren't completely filled and had about 3 or 4 pills each. He reached back into his bag and took out 5 more bottles with less amount.

Cai Ping just wasn't used to this many pills being taken out at once by a single person.

'And he said he made all the pills by himself? Impossible.' It really was a very hard thing to believe.

Alex finally took out 10 more bottles, each with a single pill inside. Alex looked at 2 of the bottles with a single pill each. There were some pills in other bottles too, but these 2, in particular, were his best alchemy result to date.

The first one was a Hundred Poison Antidote that had a shockingly high harmony of 40%. The next one was a different pill, something he made just this morning.

It was a pill called the Healing Lotus pill. Its main ingredient was a Lotus that grew on earth. It was something he had found in the southern forest.

The Healing Lotus pill itself was one of the best pills he knew of. The pill was regarded as the number one healing pill below the True pills. There was no other healing pill that could rival its healing power. magic

And somehow, he had managed to make this pill with a harmony of 45%. This pill was also to this day, the pill with the highest harmony level he had made.

Chapter 76:White...

magic

"There are a total of 135 pills in here. All of them are Earth Grade pills. You can check them as you please."

Alex then showed the two pills in his hand and said, "These 2 are my best pills yet. This is a Hundred Poisons Antidote with 40% harmony, and this is a Healing Lotus pill with 45% harmony. Please be careful with them."

He let Cai Ping take everything into her own bag. Cai Ping, however, was still in her shock and didn't manage to get out of it in time. Only after a while did she realize that she was dazed and hurriedly took out a pill tester to check the pills.

28%, 32%, 27%, 29%, 38% ... 26%, 40%, and 45%.

Cai Ping reeled in her shock as she carefully tested each of the pills. In total, there were about 8 total types of pills here.

"Do you have anything else to sell?" Cai Ping asked him, but she didn't expect him to bring out anything.

"Oh, no. These are the only ones I have, unfortunately. If I had more ingredients, I might have been able to squeeze in 4 or 5 pills, but that's it. Making so many pills in 4 days took a lot of physical and mental effort"

Cai Ping suddenly stopped what she was doing and looked back at Alex. With a peculiar smile, she asked, "Umm... Daoist Yu, did I mishear, or did you just say you made all of these pills in 4 days?"

"Hmm... oh yeah. Well, I made some on Saturday night, but others I made in the last 4 days." Alex didn't mind clarifying her confusion.

Cai Ping had a really hard time believing it. She already didn't believe it was him who made the pills, but hearing him say he made them in 4 days just made it even more unbelievable.

She decided to inquire a bit. "Daoist Yu, from what I have heard of Hong Wu sect, they say you guys have to make 10 pills with 10% harmony to become an inner sect, and 20 pills with 20% harmony to become a core disciple, is that true?"

"Yes, that's true." Alex got confused. 'Why would she ask me this?'

"Then why is Daoist Yu still an outer sect disciple, if you don't mind me asking."

"Well, things are kind of complicated in the sect regarding me." Alex scratched his head with a bit of embarrassment.

"Shouldn't you be a Core disciple by now, with all of these pills you have made?" Cai Ping thought she was getting closer and closer to getting him to slip and fess up who really made the pills.

"Oh no. I am a long way from being a core disciple. To become one, We have to give away the pills to the sect for the pills to count. Also, each pill has to be from a different recipe. Since I wanted to sell my pills instead of giving it away, I still haven't been able to become a core disciple. Although I hope to become one in the near future."

Alex was quite confident in his answer. Cai Ping on the other hand got dejected that she couldn't make him tell who really made the pills.

'I can almost guarantee that he is just an errand boy for someone more important. But still, on the off chance he is a genuine golden goose, I cannot offend him.'

"Why don't we set up the contract now?" Cai Ping said as she took one of the talismans laying on the ground and wrote it will everything Alex had brought to her.

She then signed the paper with a signature using her Qi and handed it to Alex.

"By the way, Daoist Yu. We will have to use a name to represent the pills here. Do you mind if we use your real name or do you want to use some other names?"

Alex thought for a bit. 'A different name? Like a nickname huh, what should I name myself?' He couldn't think of anything to call himself. He thought of

calling himself 'Alchemy God', but immediately erased the idea since that was way too pretentious and most definitely a lie.

He looked around the room hoping for inspiration. He looked at his own body as well looking for just anything that can help provide him with an idea for his name.

Suddenly, he stopped. He slowly brought up his right hand to touch his left arm. More accurately, He touched the scar on his left arm.

Then, he suddenly remembered back to the wolf that gave him this wound, and he also remembered the cats that were there. The cats that he fought the wolf to protect.

He remembered the giant mother cat with its bright white fur covered in blood.

'White... White Wolf.' Alex smiled. That wasn't a bad name if he said so himself.

"White Wolf, You can use the name White Wolf for me."

Cai Ping smiled as well. "White Wolf, huh. I quite like that name. I shall refer to you as White Wolf from now on in the stage, Daoist Yu."

"By the way, Madam Cai is it okay if I come to the auction. I don't know if I can buy anything, but I just wanted to see what an auction was like."

Cai Ping laughed a little, "You are more than welcomed to be in the auction, Daoist Yu. We shall prepare a VIP room for you."

"Oh, no. That's not necessary. I can manage in a normal room as well. Please give your VIP room to the guests who can actually buy something."

Cai Ping smiled and complied. Alex took the contract and bid farewell to Cai Ping. He walked out of the auction house and reached his residence back in the sect in about half an hour.

He had made it in time for dinner, so he logged out.

Chapter 77: Missing Ingredients

"Good Evening, Elder Wang. Is the list ready yet?" Alex arrived at the foot of the alchemy garden late at night. He had purposefully waited as much as he could without doing anything before coming here.

"Oh, you are here, Disciple Yu. Yes, Elder Zhan has prepared the list. Here you go." He handed Alex the list of ingredients.

Over the last couple of days, Alex had come to know the elders quite well. He respected them as elders and they respected him as someone with talent.

They would still be surprised every time he walked out of the garden within an hour.

"How do you do it, Disciple Yu? The mountain is quite huge, so how do you manage to find the ingredients so fast." The elders asked.

"Oh, hehe... that's a secret. I can tell you that it's because I know where every single ingredient is already. So I just go and take it. I don't have to waste time searching for it."

Ma Rong had told him not to reveal anyone about his Spiritual sense yet, so he tried to work around the question and answer them without really answering the question.

"I'll be off then, Elder Wang." Alex walked into the valley in search of the ingredients. He quickly scanned the list and thought of where all the ingredients were.

'There are 2 there, 3 next to that, only 1 near the top...' he revised the locations in his mind and walked off.

Ingredients started to fly on their own and landed inside his storage bag. His Qi manipulation and Spiritual sense coordination had gotten just that good.

One after another, he started finding all the ingredients in the list. It took him half an hour to finish it all, so he walked out.

"Always so punctual, aren't you? Disciple Yu. " Elder Wang spoke as he saw Alex coming out of the garden.

Alex just smiled and said, "I will head to the other garden." He walked across the valley to the other garden and entered.

He once again started looking for the ingredients.

"Hmm... it's missing." Alex knew for sure there was an ingredient here yesterday, but there wasn't one anymore. 'Did some animal take it?' he wondered.

He kept on looking for the other ingredients. Once more he found another ingredient missing.

"That's the second time. Is there really some animal in here?"

He searched for more ingredients. By the end, he found about 4 different ingredients missing. And those were just ones he searched for because of the list.

'Let's check everything.' He immediately sent out his spiritual sense and looked at all of the different ingredients growing in the valley. He found out more than 20 ingredients had been stolen by now.

He quickly thought of the materials and realized they were ingredients for the pill [Heart Stopping pill]. It was a common-grade pill that would kill anyone below the Mind Tempering realm by solidifying their blood and stopping their heart from pumping blood.

The only thing that could possibly save a person that had taken a Heart Stopping pill was either the Healing Lotus pill or a True Grade healing pill. He didn't know of any pills other than that, that could possibly save a person.

Of course, this was with his limited knowledge of 200 pills. There were many other pills out there that he had no idea about.

"Master, I thought I was the only one allowed to pick from the gardens for now. Someone else is taking ingredients for a Heart Stopping pill in the alchemy garden." He sent out a message using the communication talisman Ma Rong gave him.

He walked out of the valley and gave the ingredients to elder Wang and elder Zhan.

"You took quite some time today, Disciple Yu? Were the ingredients hard to find this time around?" Elder Wang asked.

"Oh, no. I just found some ingredients missing from where they should have been. So I looked around for a while and realized that a lot of ingredients had been taken in the last few days. Are elders allowed to take away ingredients nowadays? I thought I was the only one."

Elder Wang and Zhan lost their joking smiles and immediately got serious. "Someone took away ingredients? Are you sure you didn't make any mistake?"

"No. I counted and realized about 20 ingredients were missing. All ingredients required for a Heart Stopping pill are missing."

Elder Wang contemplated a little. "If that is true then we need to call the sect leader."

"No need. I am already here." Ma Rong flew down to where Alex and the elders were.

"You said somebody took ingredients for a Heart Stopping pill? " She asked Alex.

"Yes. I don't know when they were taken as I only found out about them missing today, but I can guarantee they were there 3 days ago, and I did not pick them."

Ma Rong knew about the amazing memory of someone with a spiritual sea so she believed him instantly. magic

"Who had entered aside from my disciple?" Ma Rong looked to the elders.

The elders only stood outside every day and took requests from the disciples so they didn't know. Ma Rong immediately sent out a sect-wide message for every elder who had to enter the garden within the last 5 days to gather here.

Within 10 minutes, a group of about 10 elders was standing in front of Ma Rong.

"Did anyone of you take out ingredients from the garden in the last 5 days?" Everybody denied having taken any ingredients. At least not since the sect leader took away their authority too.

Ma Rong frowned and took out 2 pill bottles, and 10 pills flew out of them to the elders' hand.

The elders had a confused look as they looked at the pill. Immediately, their eyes went wide with shock. All of the elders knew what the pill was.

Chapter 78: Questioning

"Eat it," Ma Rong said as they looked at the elders standing in front of her. Her cold eyes and voice made all the elders shiver.

The majority of the elders ate it at once, while a few reluctantly followed. Suddenly, their eyes started to get lazy and their arms limped a little. Their entire body posture slumped and they have no emotions on their face.

"Now, Answer me again. Did anyone of you take away ingredients from the alchemy garden in the last 5 days?"

"" No"" A collective answer came out of all the elders.

The elders once again all denied it. Ma Rong looked confused. There was no way someone below the saint realm could possibly lie after eating a Truth-Seeking Pill.

She dismissed the elders. After they started recovering once again, they left. Ma Rong got to thinking once more.

If it was not one of them, then it would be near impossible to catch the culprit unless they were stupid enough to make a transaction with the ingredients or the pill.

Ma Rong immediately took out her medallion to check the records, and she found someone selling a Heart-Stopping pill.

'5 hours ago? By an outer sect disciple, no less.' She checked the buying records of the disciple and found no ingredients for the pill.

"Come, we are going somewhere." She grabbed Alex by the arm and started flying away. The two elders just stood there and watched them leave.

Soon the sect leader and Alex were in the outer sect mountain, and Alex slowly flew down to one of the cottages.

"You do the talking." His master's voice rang inside his mind.

'Wow. She can already talk to my head? I forgot that was even possible with a spiritual sense.' He simply nodded to his master and walked up to the cottage.

Knock. Knock.

A female disciple slowly opened the door and looked at Alex confusedly.

"What do you want?" she asked in a very unfriendly tone.

"I am here on behalf of the sect to ask you a question. You sold a Heart-Stopping pill with 22% harmony today. Did you make the pill by yourself?" Alex asked the girl.

The girl was somewhere in her early 20s. As soon as she heard his words, she frowned.

"How do you know that?" She started getting a little apprehensive.

The girl started to get a little scared and answered, "I only sold the pill, I didn't make it myself."

'Now we're getting somewhere.'

"Can you tell us where you got the pill from?" he asked

"Someone found me and asked me to sell the pill for them."

Alex frowned a little. "Ask who it is." Ma Rong's voice came to his head. magic

"Who is it that asked you to do that?"

" I don't know. I only met the person today. They were wearing a black hood over his head, and said that if I sold the pill, I would get 10% of the contribution points from it."

Alex fell into contemplation.

"Do you remember how the person looked like? How did they act? Maybe their gender or even the fact about if they are disciples or elders?"

The girl fell into thought. "I can't tell if they were a disciple or elder, but they wore a really dark green robe underneath, so they must've either a core disciple or an elder. As for the gender, I think they are a male. They tried to hide it but my instinct said they were a male. Aside from that, I don't know."

"I only met them about 6 hours ago so I don't know a lot about them. But, there was something weird about them. The person felt like a completely mortal person with no Qi. I can't tell if that is helpful, but that's all I have got."

Alex nodded. "Oh right. I am supposed to get the ingredients I bought with the remaining 90% of the contribution pill to them in the sect market tonight at midnight." The girl suddenly shouted.

"I see." Suddenly, a talisman fell from above. "Tell her to carry this with her." Ma Rong spoke to him.

"Keep this on your person when you go to the sect valley tonight, just in case."

Alex left the outer sect mountain. For a while, the walk to the sect valley was really silent.

"This person is smart." Ma Rong spoke from above. "Not only are they making other people sell the pills made out of stolen ingredients, but they are also even making the other disciples buy the ingredients for them. They are doing absolutely nothing to get tracked by the sect running formation."

"You are right, master. Who knows how many such stolen pills they have sold already." Alex was shocked that someone was deceiving the sect in such a manner.

"I don't have any hiding abilities, so everyone will see me if I keep flying in the sky like this, especially in the sect valley with all the light. And I can't show up in the sect valley itself, since that might deter away from the culprit."

She turned towards Alex and said, "So you will have to be the one to find this culprit. As soon as you see him, call me. Before that, I can't be seen. "

Ma Rong immediately flew away. 'What did I get myself into?' Alex wondered as he got back to the sect valley. Thankfully, he was done making for the auction or he would have regretted finding out about the missing ingredients.

He decided to wait for the culprit in the sect market, so he went and looked around the market as if he was looking through the different vendors.

About 2 hours later, midnight arrived. And so did the female disciple. He stayed about 15 meters away, hidden in the crowd, constantly surveying the area around the lady, waiting for the culprit to arrive.

Chapter 79: Song Zun

Alex made sure he didn't stand out in the crowd, so he split his attention keeping most of it on the woman and around her, and some of it on acting like he was there to buy something.

He had his master's communication talisman in his hands, ready to call her any moment.

The female outer sect disciple seemed to not know where to find the person, so she looked around hoping the person would instead find her.

Minutes passed by and nothing happened. Still, it was the only midnight now, so both Alex and the female disciple stayed there. The female disciple especially was in a jumpy mood.

From her understanding, she had gotten involved with something bad and wanted to get out of it as soon as possible. If even the sect was after this person, then he must be really bad.

Alex watched the woman's nervousness increase as she started getting fidgety. She was still walking around the market, unsure if the person would even come.

Suddenly, she turned stiff.

"Have you brought the ingredients?" a voice entered the woman's ears that made her jump.

Alex had his spiritual sense on the woman, so he heard the voice too. 'It's a man for sure. But where is he?' he looked through the crowd towards the female disciple but saw nobody standing around her.

'This is weird.' He immediately sent out his spiritual sense and found a figure in a cloak standing beside the woman.

'He's invisible. And it's just like she said, he has no aura or Qi. It's almost like he is a mortal.' Alex finally understood why he couldn't see the man at all.

Thankfully, he had a spiritual sense. The man's techniques could hide his aura and Qi, and hide his body, but it couldn't hide his figure from being seen with his spiritual sense.

He looked at the man and was shocked. 'So young!' the man didn't look a day over 20. Alex looked at the robe linings and realized he was a core disciple.

He immediately sent out a message. "Master, he's here. It's a core disciple. But be careful, he is invisible and has no qi or aura. Only your spiritual sense works on him."

The man was giving off no qi so he couldn't guess or see what his cultivation base was.

"Give me the damn ingredients." The man demanded in the woman's ears. The woman slowly took out a storage bag which the man immediately snatched. As soon as the bag left the woman's hand, it vanished as well.

The man started leaving and Alex started following. Suddenly, Ma Rong flew down from above. The man stopped and looked up to see the sect leader was landing nearby. magic

But he didn't seem to care much about it. He started walking away, still invisible.

Most of the disciples at night were outer sect disciples who had never seen the sect leader, so when she dropped they only assumed an elder was flying.

The elders from the stalls stopped what they were doing and walked out. "Sect leader, is something wrong? Why are you here?" they started wondering if they did something wrong during the sales today.

Ma Rong ignored everyone and looked towards Alex.

"Where?" She asked as soon as she flew down. Alex immediately pointed to the invisible man walking away, "There."

The invisible man turned back to see Alex point directly towards him, his eyes staring right at him. Ma Rong looked in his direction as well and within seconds her eyes that were looking everywhere else suddenly locked onto him.

"Not good." The man started to immediately run away, but there was no way he was going to be faster than the sect leader herself.

Ma Rong caught up to him in what felt like a blink of an eye and immediately pushed him down to the ground by just releasing her cultivation base on him.

The man stopped using his techniques and instead flared his cultivation base to struggle against the sect leader's power. His figure was finally visible to all.

Ma Rong saw the face and exclaimed with surprise. She immediately took him and flew off. Alex followed in their direction as well.

Ma Rong landed in front of the elder's hall surprising the many elders that were standing nearby. She had just been here a moment ago, and flew off with no indication, and came back just as quick.

Now, she even had a core disciple with her.

"What is going on, sect leader?" the elders asked.

"Nothing. I just found a thief who has been stealing from the alchemy gardens." She said as she tossed him down. Alex arrived just in time to see the man look up to the numerous elders with fear creeping up in his eyes.

"Song Zun?" the elders were surprised. "Are you sure there is no mistake here, sect leader? Song Zun is one of our best students. There is no way he could be a thief."

Ma Rong sighed and said, "I know. But a thief is a thief. And we don't look away from someone's crime just because they are good."

Alex looked at the man. 'Song Zun... I've heard of that name somewhere before.' He thought. He tried to remember, but couldn't think of where he had heard of him.

"What exactly did he do, sect leader? Couldn't we pardon him with a little punishment if the crime isn't that big?" one of the elders said.

"Let's see how big his crime is then, shall we?" Ma Rong pulled out a pill bottle and took out a single pill from it. It was the same Truth-seeking pill that she had given to the elders.

She force-fed it to Song Zun, who immediately got passive with no emotion in his face.

"Did steal the ingredients from the alchemy garden to make a Heart-Stopping pill?" she went directly for the question.

Song Zun couldn't lie or say anything other than the truth, so he simply said, "Yes."

Chapter 80: Immortal Concealment Technique

"Yes."

As soon as the elders heard him confess to stealing something from the alchemy garden, they gasped.

The alchemy garden was one of the forbidden lands in the sect that not everyone was given permission to enter. Only elders were allowed in it to pick the ingredients previously, but even that had changed.

Now the elders were only allowed to care for the garden, and not pick up anything. That task was apparently given to the sect leader's new disciple. The elders didn't know if that was the right choice, but they heard nothing but praise from Elder Wang and Elder Zhan who took care of it now.

So, when they heard that Song Zun had entered the alchemy garden to steal ingredients from it, they knew there was no pardoning him.

Ma Rong was starting to get angry. "Why did you steal the ingredients and not buy it?" she asked.

"I am not going to do these menial tasks just to buy something I can easily steal. All I want to do is make pills and nothing more" Song Zun said with a blank face.

"Why do you want to make the pills so bad?" she asked.

Alex was surprised to hear that as well. ' First in Alchemy Achievement...Alchemy Achievement...' suddenly he remembered something.

'That's right. Song Zun is the name of the third-ranking disciple in Alchemy Achievement. He is the anomaly in the black rock who has a high alchemy achievement with a very poor contribution ranking. Does that mean he didn't do many contributions to the sect at all?' he suddenly thought of something.

"How long ago did you join the sect?" he walked forward and asked Song Zun.

"Hey who are you?" the elders cried out.

"Go away disciple, this is not a place for you."

Ma Rong suddenly shouted "Quiet!" and all the elders quietened down. She waited for Song Zun to reply.

"4 years." He said.

"Where are you going with this?" she asked Alex.

Alex gestured her to wait and see and asked another question. "How long ago did you become a core disciple?"

"1 year ago." Song Zun was still under the effect of the pill, and it didn't look like it was going to go away soon.

"And how many contribution points have you earned after becoming a core disciple?" he asked. Ma Rong started getting curious as to why he was asking such unrelated questions.

"I make the weekly required 100 contribution points." Song Zun replied.

"Then, where do you get the ingredients for your pills to rank third in the Alchemy Achievement?" as soon as she heard this question, Ma Rong's eyes turned wide as she finally thought of a possibility that she had forgotten in the heat of the situation.

She looked back at Song Zun, and the answer she dreaded came out of his mouth. "I steal all my ingredients from the alchemy gardens."

Ma Rong immediately questioned "How many ingredients have you stolen so far?" the revelations were getting too much for her, but she still had to ask the question.

Song Zun stayed quiet for this question. The deafening silence lasted for a few too many seconds before he opened his mouth to say, "I don't know."

Ma Rong was shocked. She changed the question, "Since when did you start stealing the ingredients?"

This question he didn't think at all and said, "3 and a half years."

The pill's effect ran out with the answer and Song Zun realized what he had just said. "No! No! That was a lie. That was wrong. I wasn't thinking straight. Sect Master, please give me a chance. Elders, please help me. I am one of your best students. I am so close to becoming an Earth Grade alchemist. Please don't punish me. I can change. Please."

Ma Rong felt disgusted looking at his face. She scanned his body with her spiritual sense and pulled out 3 storage bags. She threw them each towards Alex and said, "This is your reward for your contribution tonight. If not for you, this criminal would have gone unnoticed by us."

The elders were looking in shock as Alex took all 3 bags. Alex quickly scanned the bag and found most of the items inside were just alchemy materials, pills, and a few dozen spirit stones.

There were also 2 books that he quickly scanned the cover of. One of them was called [Veiled light technique]. It was an Earth Grade technique that used Qi to cover one's body with refracted light to make them invisible to the surrounding.

This was what Song Zun was using to hide in the sect valley.

The second book was perhaps the best book Alex had found as of yet. It was called the [Immortal Concealment Technique]. It was a technique that ran on its own and hid people's cultivation base from others as well as their aura and Qi. magic

To anyone that is not at least a major realm higher than the user, the user would appear to be a simple mortal with no cultivation. To top it all off, it was an Immortal grade technique. The first one he had ever seen.

"Thank you, master."

Ma Rong nodded and looked back at Song Zun, whose eyes were glaring daggers at Alex, who had been the one to find him. He was the one that had pointed at him back in the market and had asked those questions that got him to where he was.

And now, he also had all of his items.

Ma Rong closed her eyes and said, "Throw him into the forbidden fields for 2 months. That shall be his punishment."

A few elders with a badge on their robe that said 'Protect' walked out and carried Song Zun to take him to the forbidden fields.

"Go back and rest." Ma Rong said towards Alex and went along with the elders, leaving Alex alone.