

Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy #Chapter 81: Learning The Techniques - Read Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy Chapter 81: Learning The Techniques

Chapter 81: Learning The Techniques

Alex walked up to his residence in the middle of the night. The last few days had been tiring, with all the nonstop pill-making, especially today.

'Or should I call it yesterday since it's already past midnight' he thought.

Alex walked straight to the courtyard as soon as he returned. It was time to learn some books. He quickly took out the Earth Grade [Veiled Light technique] and started reading it.

As soon as he finished, he got the notification.

<Congratulations. You have successfully learned [Veiled Light Technique]>

"Alright then, let's try it." He started using the technique. His Qi started flowing across his body and slowly seeped out of his entire body. As it touched the air, the Qi started to move on the surface of his body, slowly warping the lights around him.

The Qi would take the light coming from one direction, move it across his body and send it out of the other direction. To anyone looking from the outside, it looked like there was nothing between the viewer and the source of the light.

This worked omnidirectionally and always kept the light moving towards its original destination. Alex slowly looked down at his hand and realized, they weren't there anymore.

In fact, his entire body was gone. He tried to use his spiritual sense and found out that there was no problem while looking at his hands through the spiritual sense.

He tried walking around with the veil active and trained to keep the veil even under difficult situations. He tried flying with the veil active and realized he could do that as well.

'Oh... I'm flying faster now,' He thought. Getting to the 4th Bone Tempering realm had made him just a tiny bit faster at flying now.

He got back down, still invisible, and took out the next book. He started flipping through the book. This book was about the same length as the first one, but somehow it took him double the time to finish reading.

<Congratulations, You have successfully learned [Immortal Concealment Technique]>

Suddenly, all his Qi inside his body started to stop giving out an aura and stayed inside all the time. His cultivation base started to keep in its aura as well, and he started becoming more and more like a mortal human.

"Woah, that's quite good." He didn't have to do anything for this book, it worked by itself. He opened the description to check.

[Immortal Concealment Technique

Grade: Immortal

Hides your cultivation base and Qi from cultivators that are not at least a major realm higher than you]

'Hmm... so only someone in the True realms can truly know what cultivation I have. And even then, it's hard for them to instantly figure out. Add that to the invisibility, no wonder Song Zun got away with so much theft.'

'Just being invisible meant anyone without a Spiritual sense could not find them when they had the Immortal Concealment technique.'

Alex finally realized how Song Zun had managed to keep his actions hidden from the different elders.

'What else do I need to do?' he thought. 'I still need to absorb that yellow stone. I kept it aside since I had to make the pills, but now that it's over, I should do it... maybe tomorrow.'

He practiced with the technique a little longer and started cultivating.

At exactly 6 am, he woke up. He logged out and got back into the game about an hour later. He waited for Ma Rong to arrive, and learned alchemy from her for a bit.

"Give me your nameplate." Ma Rong said after the classes were done. Alex took out his nameplate and handed it to her. Ma Rong quickly scanned the nameplate and frowned.

"Why haven't you registered a single pill? You should have made at least 5 different ones by now." She got a little irritated at how slow Alex was with becoming a Core disciple.

"Uhh... I will, master. I will start making pills today onward exclusively for registering." Alex got a little embarrassed. He didn't think his master would ask him for the pills so soon.

"That reminds me, master. Here." He handed the 2 books he got from Song Zun to her. "It's the techniques Song Zun was using to sneak around in the alchemy gardens."

Ma Rong took the books and flipped one to the front page. She read the page and said, "It makes you invisible, huh?"

Alex was surprised she was able to tell what the book did from the front page alone. 'Can she actually understand the unintelligible words?' he could only read the letters but was never able to tell what anything meant.

The only thing helping him was the fact that at the end of the book, he would somehow thankfully learn it.

Ma Rong checked the next book and was surprised. "An immortal grade technique? There is only one of those in the sect. Where did that thief get this?"

"There is an immortal grade technique in the sect?" Alex got surprised when he heard this.

"You don't know? You have full access to the library, haven't you checked yet?" she said.

"Uhh... I was so focused on making pills, I forgot about learning new techniques." Alex said with a bashful face.

"Anyway. Keep these books, they are yours now. You can give them to me after you've learned them." Ma Rong said as he gave back the book. magic

But Alex didn't take them and instead just said, "Oh, I've already learned them, master. That's why I am giving you these."

"You already learned them? But you only got it last night. It hasn't even been 8 hours since you got these." She was surprised.

"I learned it last night at around 2 am. I stayed up late instead of cultivating."

"WHAT? You learned it in less than 2 hours?" Ma Rong was getting more and more shocked. "Show me," she said.

Alex had simply stopped the technique from automatically working, so when he let it work again, all of his presence, cultivation base, and aura disappeared in a flash— All Ma Rong could see in front of her was a mortal Alex.

Chapter 82: Teaching

Ma Rong looked at the complete non-existence of Alex in front of her and was surprised. "So he got past the elders using this and the invisibility technique?" she asked.

"Yes. It's quite a good combination actually." Alex said as he used the Veiled Light technique as well.

Suddenly, he was out of sight as well. Ma Rong immediately sent out her spiritual sense, and only then did she manage to find him.

"You learned this technique already too?" she asked.

Alex stopped using the invisibility technique, and also stopped concealing himself. "Yeah."

"Have you already learned the Elemental Guidance technique I gave you?" She asked.

Alex couldn't understand why she was asking all of these questions, so he simply answered, "Of course. I learned it the moment you gave it to me."

'Heavens! Is he even more of a genius than I thought he was?' Ma Rong couldn't comprehend how he could learn everything so fast.

"Listen to me. If anyone asks you how long it took you to learn the techniques, tell them it took you a few days or a week at least. If it is heaven grade or higher, tell them it took you about a month. Never tell anyone you learned it in a few hours."

Ma Rong was very stern about it. Alex didn't understand what she was talking about.

'Why can't I learn it so fast? I'm already using up so much time by not using the system's learn function.'

"Is learning in a few hours good?" he couldn't help but ask.

"It's beyond good. Most normal people take about 2 to 5 days to learn a mortal grade technique. Earth grade techniques take them a little over a week. They can't learn a Heaven Grade technique without studying the book for about a fortnight or more. While Immortal grade techniques may take the cultivators anywhere from a few months to a few years to completely learn."

"I myself was called a genius and it took me about 2 months to learn the [Flickering Shadows] technique. If someone with malicious intent finds out that you have so much talent, they might harm you out of envy and pettiness."

"So, make sure you do not let anyone know about your talents. Doesn't matter if it's in cultivating, learning techniques, or alchemy. Always learn to be modest, and never reveal your true talents. Not even to your closest friends."

Hearing the serious tone in Ma Rong's voice, Alex got serious as well. "I understand, master." He said.

"Good. Go and learn the technique from the library later. It's a movement technique that should help you a lot. Most of the alchemy techniques in the library should be useless to you now that you are so practiced at Qi manipulation and have spiritual sense. As for the battle techniques, don't even bother learning them."

"Since you will go to the Tiger sect in a few days, you can learn the techniques from there. They have a far better collection of battle techniques than we do." Ma Rong advised him.

She taught him alchemy a bit longer, but there was no longer anything left to teach him. Not unless he got into the True Realm.

"I will stop coming here from tomorrow. I don't have anything else to teach you until at least 50% of your Qi turns to True Qi. After that, I will give you advice on how to make True pills." Ma Rong said.

"Turn Qi to True Qi? Don't you just acquire True Qi after you enter the True realm?" Alex got a bit confused.

"No. It's the other way around. Only after turning all of your Qi to True Qi do you finally enter the True realm. Even then you have to break through to the True Realm. Most people with low talent will forever be stuck in the self tempering realm. Few pills help to elevate the chances, but even then it mostly depends on your base talent itself."

"Have you ever felt a bottleneck before?" she suddenly asked.

"Bottleneck? Like the one that stops you from breaking through to a higher realm? No." He said.

"I thought so. Then, you don't have to worry about it much. Just cultivate normally, you will definitely enter the True realm." Ma Rong stood up and started preparing to leave when she suddenly remembered something.

"Oh, and there is something you should know about. In less than a month, there will be an Annual Sect competition that will take place in the Cardinal city. Many different types of competitions will take place there. I want you to take part in Alchemy-related competitions, so prepare for it."

"If we win in the alchemy competitions and we somehow do well in other competitions as well, we might get enough points to become a first-grade sect. The Tiger sect is already ridiculously close to becoming one. We need about a few hundred points to become one. Hopefully, we can do it this year."

Ma Rong seemed hopeful about the competition.

"Master, what's a sect grade?" Alex was a bit confused. He didn't think he had ever heard about those before.

"It's just an arbitrary term made by the Crimson empire to let the various cultivators know how good a sect is or how well it can train its disciples. "

"Every year the various sects from around the empire come together to take part in the competition, and those that win get points. As the points

accumulate, their grade increases. We managed to get to the second grade almost a decade ago. Only now are we finally reaching the point where we may reach the first grade."

"Of the many competitions, we can win in maybe 2. The alchemy ingredients recognition competition. And the pill-making competition. We always did well on those. If we somehow do good on a few more, we will surely get the 1st grade."

"So, I am counting on you to do good on those two. As for the others... we will see when the time comes." Ma Rong left after saying this. Alex got into thinking for a while before logging out to go to classes.

Chapter 83: Qi, Records, and Shadows

At 3 pm, Alex logged back into the game. He had 3 tasks to do today. Make pills for the disciple hall, use the yellow rock, and learn the immortal technique.

He could make the pills a bit later, and he could also go learn the technique when he had to go to the sect valley for his work. So he decided to start with the yellow rock.

"This is going to hurt once more, isn't it?" He could still remember the pain the first yellow rock put him through. The result from using the rock was amazing, but the process itself, not so much.

Thankfully, he had been through worse pain, so he was okay with the pain he would feel now. He took out the yellow rock and took a deep breath. Then, he swallowed it.

The rock immediately melted in his mouth and turned into a smooth-flowing liquid that slid down his throat. The liquid was still the same scalding hot one, but he still felt nothing.

However, he started feeling the pain when the liquid reached his stomach once more. magic

<You have ingested a 'Yang Jade'>

<Sun God's Divine Yang Body is turning the yang energy in the yang jade to Yang Qi>

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 2%>

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 3%>

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 4%>

The already hot and vigorous Yang Qi in his body started to feel more hot and vigorous.

The pain wasn't as bad as he remembered and it disappeared in a few minutes.

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 98%>

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 99%>

<Purifying the Yang Qi in your body... 100%>

<Congratulation, the Yang Qi in your body has been purified and condensed>

<Yang purity at 20%>

The change wasn't as intense as he had expected it to be. All the Qi he had in his body had been condensed to about 90% of the original size, yet it did the same amount of work as the previous 100%. Meaning, when his body was full of Qi, he could now do more.

"Hmm... will my Qi last about 10% longer now? That is more substantial than I had previously guessed."

He tried his new 20% purity Yang Qi on different things. He used Flame Mastery Scripture and found it more manageable. Qi manipulation could carry heavier things now, meaning he could also fly a bit faster. His Smiting Blade was probably more powerful now as well, though he didn't dare use it here.

After he was done testing with his techniques, he decided to try making some pills. Unfortunately, his alchemy skills didn't get any better from having a better Qi.

"So my previous Qi was already good enough for it, it seems." He made about 6 different pills using the ingredients he had left, mixed with the new ingredients he got from Song Zun's storage bag.

He logged out to get some food and came back in. He decided to learn the new technique before going to do his work, so he walked down to the sect valley.

He had about an hour before he had to go to work, so he walked to the library. He showed his nameplate through the different floors and reached the 8th floor.

He had an hour to spend, and taking back the book only took a minute, so he decided to go up a floor and read all the records on the 9th floor that he had previously skipped.

Since everything on the 9th floor had to stay there, he started picking the records one by one and started reading them. He read one after another record and realized something.

"Hmm... most of these aren't even alchemy related."

Most of them were just historical records, some about the sect and some about other things. It seemed the sect only went as far back as 50 years, so it didn't have a lot of history in this place.

Some of the records also talked about cultivation rumors and rare monsters. Very few records had anything to do with alchemy, talking about pills with no recipes or ingredients that were very rare and hard to find.

He saw a record of Spirit Cleansing Lily talking about how hard it was to actually pick it. The person who wrote the record had no idea what to do when one actually found it and only talked about how to recognize it.

Alex read through all the records and quickly memorized them. After finishing the records, he looked at the time and realized it was time to leave. He walked down to the 8th floor and quickly found the immortal technique with his spiritual sense.

He took the book down to the ground floor, where the attending elder at the gate unlocked the seal on the book. Every book had these seals to stop the disciples from reading the books inside the library, and the seal could only be removed by an elder with a corresponding medallion.

After the book was unsealed, Alex walked towards the alchemy garden while constantly reading the book in his bag using his spiritual sense.

Before he could even reach the garden, he got a notification.

<Congratulations. You have successfully learned [Flickering Shadows]>

'Hmm... that took about the same time as the Immortal Concealing technique. I wonder how it compares to that technique. Master did say it was a movement technique so maybe comparing those two isn't the best idea.'

He immediately opened the techniques panel and looked at the description of the technique.

[Flickering Shadows

Grade: Immortal

Teleport to any shadow with a larger area than your palm within 10 meters. You can also travel to where ever your own shadow is. Qi used to teleport depends on the distance.]

"Huh?? Teleport?" he was expecting some techniques that allowed him to move really fast when he heard the word 'Movement Technique', but somehow this was on a whole other level.

'If I can teleport to anywhere with a shadow then... isn't that pretty overpowered? No wonder it's an Immortal grade technique.'

Chapter 84: Teleportation

Alex practically ran to reach the garden after learning the new technique. He couldn't wait to learn the technique, so needed to finish his work fast.

'Is it really teleportation?' he was getting a little excited.

He greeted the two elders and was handed the lists to the ingredients. He immediately walked in to start looking for the ingredients. He was looking around with his spiritual sense when he stopped.

There were absolutely no lanterns in the alchemy garden as anyone allowed to enter there was usually elders or other people with authority who already had great eyesight and could see everything in the garden clearly, even at night.

But just because someone could see at night, didn't mean there was light there. Which meant,

"It's all shadows!!" Alex got excited and decided to try out the technique right now.

The Immortal Concealing technique was one that worked on its own and he himself didn't have to do anything. So, this was the first time he was truly using an Immortal grade technique.

The alchemy gardens were forbidden grounds in the sect as they were too precious to let just about anyone in it. So, in order to not make some stupid mistakes and accidentally destroy some plants, he decided to use Focus mode.

Ever since he learned spiritual sense, he had no longer required Focus mode. His mind was just that quick at processing the information he obtained. Especially during alchemy, Spiritual sense had made focus mode pretty much redundant.

Still, Focus mode was amazing at amplifying the 6 senses of a cultivator and elevating their entire state of awareness to another level.

As soon as he activated Focus mode, Alex felt like he had breathed in a new life. Everything started looking so vibrant again. The numerous smells of the alchemy ingredients fragrantly drifting in the air made his nose tingle a little.

The cool air of night made his skin refreshed and he could hear the rustling of leaves and plants from far away.

Although everything was bright to his eyes, he knew they were all dark in reality. So, he started activating his technique. He looked inside of him with his senses and saw a flash of multicolored light before it vanished and he saw his qi.

The yellow in his Qi reminded him of the Yang jade he intakes just a few hours ago. Slowly, the Qi started moving around his body. His Qi moved along the familiar meridians taking a different path.

It moved towards his eyes and brain, and suddenly spots around him started to light up. The spots closer to him had less light, while the ones further had more. The furthest spot was no more than 10 meters away from him.

He used his spiritual sense and realized similar things were happening all around him even without his vision. The Qi suddenly stopped moving when it reached his head, and the light stayed lit up all around him.

'What's happening? Am I supposed to choose a spot right now?' he focused and looked at a spot that was open and not near any ingredients. Suddenly, the Qi started flowing once more, and he felt as if his entire world disappeared.

The world appeared once more, but he was no longer where he had been before. He had teleported to the spot he thought of. The juxtaposition of the previous senses followed by the instant shift to the new senses caused him to not realize what was happening for a brief moment.

He collected himself and looked where he was. He was facing the same direction he had been before and had teleported to the exact spot he thought of. He felt his Qi and found almost none of it had been used.

'I can do this for a long time.' He started moving his qi once more and spots of light started appearing in his vision. This time he chose one that was the furthest away.

The Qi started moving once more from his head, but it took a while before his teleportation activated. Once more, the sudden change was too much for even his spiritual sea enhanced brain to handle.

'I need to practice more.'

He teleported around the place while picking the ingredients at the same time. It took him quite a while to finish picking up the ingredients on this alchemy garden.

He walked out of the garden after a while and met the agitated faces of the two elders.

"Disciple Yu, is something going on inside? We were worried about you. You took so long." Elder Zhan said.

"That's right. We thought you might have fainted or something. Or did you find another set of ingredients missing?" Elder Wang seemed pretty worried too.

'Why are they so worried about me? It's not like I took a lot of ti— ' he looked at the clock on the top right corner of his vision and realized it was nearly midnight.

"What? It's been 3 hours?" he was shocked. Elder Wang and Elder Zhan got a little startled seeing his sudden shouting. Alex looked back at the elders and said,

"I'm so sorry elder. I learned a new technique today and was practicing it inside while picking the ingredients. I somehow completely lost the track of time. I will go and pick the ingredients from the next garden immediately."

He said and ran off towards the other garden. He didn't practice his technique in this garden so it only took him about half an hour to finish.

"Here you go, Elders." He handed the ingredients and bid them farewell for the day. magic

He was near the second garden, which was close to the disciple's hall, so he decided to go register the pills he had made today. He looked towards the direction he needed to go and thought about using the technique.

He started moving his Qi to teleport a bit away, but when the time came for the spots to light up, not a single light appeared near him, aside from a few near the bases of the different buildings. Everything else was lit up like the day.

Since he had nowhere to teleport to, he decided not to, except...

"Wait... how do I stop this?"

Chapter 85: Registering Pills

The Qi was now stuck in his head and wasn't moving anywhere. So he constantly saw the places light up in his vision. He looked around didn't see a single place he could properly teleport to.

The places he could were either near a building or in the midst of multiple disciples.

'Wait, let's check with my spiritual sense.'

He sent out his spiritual sense in a 10-meter radius and found more places he could teleport to. Some of them were inside the buildings, some on the roof of the buildings.

But one spot he hadn't thought of had also lit up. It was the underside of everything that touched the ground. From barrels to the lanterns to the numerous people walking, the underside of all of those was lit up. magic

'Of course, those places are always in the shadows. So, I can teleport there, huh?'

He couldn't think of a good place to teleport for now other than his own shadow under his foot, so he chose that. The Qi moved and vanished.

'Huh? Did I even teleport?' the senses never changed so he didn't know if he actually teleported at all or not. But the Qi started moving so he stopped caring about it.

He walked the rest of the way to the disciple hall. He looked at the ranking stone in front of the hall and realized his spot on the stone had fallen down quite a lot.

'Well, I don't think I should even care about the rankings anymore. It's difficult to compare me with the normal disciples.'

He walked towards the back and looked at the rankings there too. The alchemy achievements ranking no longer had Song Zun in the third place like it used to. in fact, Song Zun was no longer on the list.

He walked into the disciple hall and got into a line. When his time came, he walked in and saw an inner sect disciple on the desk. He took out 6 different pill bottles with a single pill in each of them and placed them on the desk.

"I'm registering these pills."

The inner sect disciple was one step away from falling asleep. He wanted to go back to his cottage, but because he hadn't gotten enough contribution points for this week, he was stuck here working through the night.

He said nothing and took one of the pill bottles and took out the pill inside. His lazy eyes immediately got serious as he felt the quality of the pill.

He took out a pill tester and put the pill inside. He watched the fog slowly rise up and stop at 33%. His eyes were wider than they had ever been. Same with his jaw.

He looked up at Alex and checked his appearance closely. Alex had the face of someone who hadn't even reached 20 years old and was wearing an outer sect disciple's clothing.

'Is this a joke?' he thought.

"You are registering this?" the disciple asked.

"Yes," Alex didn't think much of the question.

The inner disciple frowned. "Did you make this?" he asked.

"Of course. Why else would I bring it here to register?" Alex found the line of questioning weird but thought that it probably was the first time the inner sect disciple had seen an outer sect disciple bring a pill that even the core disciples would be jealous of.

The inner sect disciple's frown remained as he took out a medallion to check the latest sales info about Alex. The only info he got was that Alex had bought ingredients on only 2 occasions. Once about 12 days ago, and once about a week ago. Other than that, there was no transaction history between him and the sect.

Furthermore, the ingredients he bought both of the times did not match the pills in his hands, so he started to get more suspicious.

If it had been a normal scenario, he might have sent Alex away saying that wrongly claiming someone else's pill as his own was a crime that was punishable in the sect. But the pill he was holding was one that even the majority of the core disciples couldn't make with their best effort.

So, he immediately notified an elder that someone was trying to falsely register a 33% harmony pill.

"Stay here, I have called an elder." The inner sect disciple said while keeping the 6 pill bottles with himself and went on to do his task starting with the next one in line.

After 10 or so disciples in the line were done, someone wearing an elder's robe walked in. As soon as the inner sect disciple saw the elder, he stood up and greeted him.

"Greeting, Eighteenth Elder."

Alex turned around to see who had just come in and saw the elder's face too.

"Greetings, Elder Lang." This was the same person that had taken his entrance exam and brought him into the sect.

Lang Shun walked in and saw Alex standing to the side and was surprised.

'Did he do something wrong?' he walked up to the inner disciple and asked, "What's going on?"

The inner sect disciple immediately took out the 6 different pill bottles and put the pill back on the pill tester. Lang Shun found the action weird but said nothing. He slowly watched the fog rise up the side of the glass.

He thought of nothing as it reached 10%. When it reached 15%, he was impressed. He was surprised when he saw it reach 20%. But the fog still kept on going and reached 25%— this got him really astonished.

But the fog still kept on going and reached 30% and it was showing no signs of stopping. Lang Shun watched the fog slowly creep up more and only stopped at 33%.

He immediately walked forward and took the pill tester and looked at it closely to absolutely make sure he was reading it right.

"What is this? Who brought this pill?" he asked.

The inner sect disciple simply pointed at Alex and said, "That outer sect disciple over there. He says he made it himself, but there is no proof."

Chapter 86: Just register them

Lang Shun looked at the direction the inner sect disciple was pointing and realized the one being pointed at was Alex. He took the 6 pill bottles and walked to Alex while the inner sect disciple got back to his work.

"Martial nephew, did you bring in these pills?" he asked.

"Yes, elder." Alex simply answered.

Lang Shun smiled a little and said, "Don't call me an elder. Call me martial uncle. You master and I are disciples of the same master."

Alex was surprised. Ma Rong had never mentioned anything about it. "Yes, martial uncle. I brought those pills."

"The disciple says you claim to have made these pills yourself, is that true?" he asked.

"Yes. I made these pills today by myself." Alex answered.

"You know that you shouldn't lie about these things, right martial nephew? Even if you are the sect leader's disciple, you can get punished for these sort of things." Lang Shun tried to be gentle with the approach. magic

Alex found it funny, and said, "You don't have to worry about that, martial uncle. I didn't steal them or anything. I made them on my own."

Lang Shun felt a problem coming. He turned back towards the inner sect disciple and asked, "You said there was no proof or something. What did you mean?"

The inner sect disciple who was busy dealing with something immediately stopped his work, and said, "Elder, there is no sales information regarding the ingredients to his pills." The inner sect disciple said.

Lang Shun got curious and asked, "Where did you find the ingredients from then?"

"From the southern forest. I spend 3 days searching day and night for the ingredients before being found by master in a near-death situation." Alex answered without hesitation.

Lang Shun got a little surprised. 'Searching for alchemy ingredients in the southern forest? And what is this about him being in a near-death situation?'

Lang Shun thought for a bit and said, "Alright. You can go. I will take these pills and see what I can do about registering them." He assured Alex, so Alex went back.

Lang Shun also walked out with the pills and called Ma Rong in her communication talisman.

"Sister, can you come to the elder hall for a bit. Your disciple did something that is creating a little sticky situation."

He himself walked to the elder hall and waited for Ma Rong in a private meeting room. Ma Rong flew down and immediately found Lang Shun with her spiritual sense.

The elder around her almost expected to see a disciple get thrown to the ground like yesterday. But alas, she was alone.

Without batting an eye to anyone's greeting, she walked straight to the room with Lang Shun.

"What's going on? Is something wrong with Yu Ming?" she started asking the moment she walked through the door.

Lang Shun wasn't expecting her to be so stirred up. He tried to calm her down by saying, "Nothing is wrong with your disciple. He is fine. It's more like he might have done something wrong."

Ma Rong got a little confused, "What do you mean?"

Lang Shun took out a pill bottle and put the pill inside it to a pill tester. Ma Rong watched the pill tester fog up to 36 to signify that the pill had a 36% harmony.

But she still couldn't understand what was going on. "Did you make the pills? Why are you showing me this?"

"No, I didn't. But, your disciple claims he did, and he got caught at the disciple hall today while registering these."

Ma Rong heard that and said, "Oh, he finally started registering, did he? Took him long enough. So? What is wrong here? I still don't understand."

"Sister, your disciple obviously didn't make these. He joined the sect 2 weeks ago. It's impossible for him to have made these." Lang Shun tried to reason.

Ma Rong just found that funny. She forgot that she was one of the only ones who knew about Alex's talent.

"Check the other pills." She said.

Lang Shun complied and tested all the different pills. 33%, 35%, 34%, 43%, and 39%. Together with the previous 36%, the 6 pills all had a ridiculous amount of harmony. Something impossible for even someone in the top 10 list of Alchemy Achievements ranking.

"Hmm... he is getting better than I thought. Alright, register those pills under my disciple's name. If that is all, I'm leaving." She started walking out.

"Wait, sister." Lang Shun was shocked at how little she cared about the situation. She should have been showing more interest in this situation since her disciple was involved.

"What is it now? If you won't register it then make the elder who called you register it." Ma Rong started to get irritated.

"Why are you giving this situation so little care, sister? Your disciple is trying to cheat here. So blatantly, as well."

Ma Rong just laughed it off now. "He is not. He made those pills. I've watched him make similar pills every morning. Just go register those pills. And also tell the elder who 'caught' him to stop thinking about it."

Lang Shun was surprised to hear that Alex had really made this. He still found it unbelievable, but if his sister was saying that, then he had no choice but to believe.

"Alright then, I'll register them and tell the inner sect disciple who stopped him to forget about it." Lang Shun said sluggishly.

Ma Rong stopped in her step, and turned back, "Inner sect disciple? Why would an inner sect disciple stop him instead of an elder?"

Lang Shun cocked his head and said, "Of course an inner sect disciple would stop him. Do you even know how the disciple hall works, sister?"

Ma Rong was taken aback a bit. "Of course I know how the disciple hall works. I'm just asking why an inner sect disciple would ..." suddenly she realized something and sighed,

"Don't tell me that idiot tried to register in the outer sect portion of the disciple hall?"

Chapter 87: Evaluating the Pros and Cons

"Of course, he would register in the outer sect section of the disciple hall. He is after all still an outer sect disciple. Where else would he register then?"

Ma Rong felt a headache coming. "I should have told him to go to the elders directly. I can't believe he tried to register such important pills through an inner sect disciple. I can see now why you were called."

"Honestly, I don't understand how someone can be so talented in cultivation and alchemy, yet so dumb when it comes to having the most basic of sense. It's almost like he was born a month ago, or at least was born in a place where cultivation isn't a thing at all."

Lang Shun was stunned at his senior sister pretty much bashing on her disciple. Still, something she said caught his attention.

"Is he really that talented? I knew he was good from the entrance exam, but I didn't think he would be so talented to make 30+% harmony pills in less than a month." He said.

"You don't even know the half of it. If he were to break through to the True Qi realm right now, he would best you in making True grade pills in less than a month, and best me in a month after that. That's how good he is."

Ma Rong immediately changed from bashing on her disciple to praising him.

Lang Shun didn't know what to say, but the praise felt a little too unbelievable. "Do you really believe that?" he asked.

Ma Rong simply said, "You will see in a few months after he reaches True realm. Maybe it won't even take that long since I will start teaching him when half of his Qi transforms to True Qi."

Ma Rong left after that. Lang Shun just stayed there stunned as only one question ran through his mind. 'Bone tempering to True realm in a few months... Is that even possible?'

Alex, in the meanwhile, had finally returned to his residence. The entire way through, he kept practicing the Flickering Shadows technique. He didn't walk a

single step from the base of the mountain to his residence. He teleported the entire way through.

He was starting to get the hang of it but still had some trouble mentally processing the instant change of environment.

'I wonder if I would be better at it if my spiritual sea were to get larger.' Gaining spiritual sea had vastly increased his mental capability, so it would go without question that he would start thinking this way.

He went to his courtyard to train some more. He learned quite a few things while practicing the technique.

The technique had features he didn't expect, but also had a multitude of limitations he hadn't even thought of.

The technique was best used during the nighttime when everything was in the shadows. He could teleport to walls, trees, or even the shadow on some things underside, and would always appear to the side or upon it depending on which was closer without harming the cultivator.

The next thing was that the teleportation was pretty much instantaneous. He threw a rock towards the pond and waited for the rock to just touch the surface. He then instantly teleported to the rock and managed to graze it with a few fingers before it sank to the bottom.

While his aim was still a little off, he did learn that there was no time between moving from one spot to another.

Another thing he learned was that there was almost no downtime between his teleports. He could teleport to one spot and immediately teleport to another spot. Theoretically, he could go around the entire city and return to this spot within a dozen seconds.

However, life wasn't always so easy. Along with those incredible abilities, the technique also came with a lot of limitations that stopped him from doing what he wanted to do.

The first and most obvious thing was that his mental ability wasn't strong enough to process where he was and where he needed to go fast enough for him to teleport without stops.

The second most obvious problem was that the ability was useless during the day, in an open ground like the training areas or deserts, or other flat surfaces where there were not a lot of shadows in general.

The more he thought about this problem, the more he found how annoying the problem was. If he were to someday fight while flying, the technique was pretty much useless as there would be no shadows in the sky.

Also, while the amount of Qi used during the teleports wasn't substantial, it would still accumulate after a while to become a moderately big factor for getting low on Qi.

Another thing that bugged him was that while it was called a 'movement technique', it more so focused on dodging and getting surprise attacks on the enemies. It would also help him to get out of traps or another enclosing.

'They should have instead called it an escaping technique, instead of movement technique. I should probably get an actual movement technique when I go to the Tiger sect.'

Still, despite all its flaws, it was an amazing technique befitting of its immortal grade. The next day, he split his day between practicing the Veiled Light technique, the Flickering Shadows technique, and making some pills to register.

His master had messaged him and explicitly mentioned that he should only find an elder in the core disciple section of the disciple hall if he wanted to register the pills.

His night went similarly as well. He started his evening going down the mountain to complete his job in the alchemy garden. Then he went to the disciple hall's second floor amongst the confused and curious eyes to register the 4 new pills he had made, each above 30% in harmony.

Then he went back to his residence to practice the Flickering Shadows technique once more. He had made massive progression in it with just days worth of practice. He couldn't wait to see how good it would be when he used it to its fullest potential. magic

Chapter 88: Experience for a Cultivator

Alex had practiced the entire night without stop. His Qi was enough for him to practice more than 8 hours before his Qi ran dry.

Still, he cultivated after three-quarters of his Qi was gone so that he could recover it for now. He decided to check where he was with his status.

"Status"

[Player Name: Yu Ming magic

Cultivation: Bone Tempering 4th Realm (300,000 Qi : 100%) [Breakthrough]

Body: Sun God's Divine Yang Body

Talent: God

Spiritual Roots: 5 elements Yin-Yang roots

Cultivation Method: Starry Sky Qi Absorption Method

Qi: 1,825,388

]

He had managed to accumulate a lot of Qi, but if he were to breakthrough right now, it probably wouldn't be enough to even reach Bone Tempering 9th realm.

'I should have stabilized my cultivation base enough, right? It has been a few days since I broke through,' he thought and pushed the breakthrough button once.

<Congratulations. You have broken through to 'Bone Tempering: 5th Realm'>

"Alright, let's go get some food." He decided to log out to get some breakfast when suddenly, he sensed his master coming.

'Hmm... didn't she say she would no longer teach me? Why is she here then?'

He walked out to greet her. "Good morning, Master. Do we have alchemy lessons today?" he asked.

"No, I was on my way down to the sect valley when I remembered something. Do you have anything going on today?" she asked.

He didn't have to think to know that today was the day his pills were getting auctioned off, so he was looking forward to going to the auction to check out how it was. "Yes, Master." He simply told her.

"Cancel that then. Today you and I are going somewhere else." She said.

Alex got a little surprised. "Umm... master, does it have to be today? I was quite looking forward to my thing today." He said.

Ma Rong frowned, and asked, "Do you need to do your thing, or want to do your thing?"

Alex thought for a bit. 'I don't really need to be in the auction for my pills to sell. I only wanted to check them out, that was all.'

He sighed and said, "I just wanted to, master."

Ma Rong looked proud like she had just won, and said, "Good. I will come to get you in a few hours, and we will leave then."

She then left.

Alex got a little disappointed at the fact that he wouldn't be able to view the auction. He finally accepted the fact and logged out to get some breakfast.

He went back to the game to make a few more pills before logging out once more for lunch. He went back to the game after lunch once more.

He decided to stabilize his cultivation base while he was waiting for his master. He started using the various different techniques he knew, aside from the Immortal Concealing technique.

Otherwise, his master might actually miss his existence and not find him. He was in the middle of flying when his master walked into the courtyard.

Her eyes widened a little as she saw him freely, albeit slowly, flying through the air. 'His Qi can already carry his weight so much? How thick is his Qi?' she wondered.

Alex looked at his master and realized she was weaker than before. 'Did something happen to her?'

"Master, is something wrong?" he asked.

Ma Rong got a little confused, so she asked, "No, why do you ask?"

"Oh, it's just that you felt weaker to me." He said.

Ma Rong laughed a little and said, "That means it's somewhat working. I have started learning the Immortal Concealing technique. I can somewhat use it right now, but it only hides a fraction of my Qi, not all. That's why you thought I was weaker."

"Oh. I should have known that. How long do you think it will take you to completely learn it?" he asked.

"Hmm... I can't tell right now. Although it's going smoothly right now, I might hit a bottleneck somewhere. However, it shouldn't take more than a few months at most. I am quite confident about that." She said.

She then thought of something and asked, "Did you learn the Flickering Shadows technique?"

Alex immediately got more attentive and said, "Yes, master. It's such a good technique."

He then activated the technique and started randomly teleporting to different shadows. Some of the walls, some of the trees, and some even of the hidden side of the rocks near the pond.

Ma Rong looked at him with a bunch of envious eyes. 'How can he be so talented. When I first started teleporting, I had to vomit because I couldn't handle the sudden change in scenery. Is it because of his spiritual sense?' she wondered.

"Alright, stop," she said and watched Alex teleport to a shadow next to her.

She looked at him and asked, "Is that your best robe? It looks a little dirty." Alex looked at his robe and realized it had a lot of dust on it, and needed to be washed. He had been wearing this robe for almost 10 days now.

"I have a new robe I haven't worn yet," he said. He had gotten a replacement robe after he had notified that his first one had been torn apart from the fight in the forest. Fortunately, thanks to his full access to everything, he was able to get the robe without giving a single thing in return.

"Alright, go and change into those." She said and waited for him to change.

Alex came back out within minutes in his clean, new robes. "Are we leaving now, master? Is it okay if I ask where we are going?" he asked.

Ma Rong simply said, "As a cultivator, you lack a surprising amount of common sense. It might be because you are new to cultivation and don't know much about it. But now that you are a cultivator, there are things you need to be experienced on if you want to be successful in cultivation."

"One of those is to find appropriate cultivation methods, techniques, artifacts, and pills for yourself. So, today we are going to the best place to get these things, which is an auction house."

Chapter 89: Pink Cloud Auction House

"Huh... did you just say auction house, master?" Alex thought he heard her wrong.

"Yes. Auction house. You need to learn how to search for items in auctions as well as have the proper etiquette in there." Ma Rong repeated.

'Oh, so we are going to an auction after all. I wonder if it's the same auction house as the one I was going to. I should have checked if there were others.'

"Alright, master. Let's leave." He said as he started walking outside.

"Where are you going?" Ma Rong asked him.

"Uhh... to the auction house?" why would she ask him this?

Ma Rong chuckled a little and said, "get back here." She then proceeded to take out her boat-like artifact. "We aren't going to walk all the way there. It's too inefficient. We are going to fly there."

She jumped and got onto the boat. "Oh, right. Make sure to not use the Immortal Concealment technique today. It's not good to show other people that you can hide your cultivation from them." She also canceled her technique and her cultivation base started giving off the same strong aura as before.

Alex wasn't using his technique so he just nodded and told her he won't use it today. He got onto the boat without asking and settled himself on the back of the boat.

After seeing everything was ready, Ma Rong flew off. Ma Rong hadn't sped up or anything. She just flew at her normal flying speed that just made Alex feel a cool breeze on his face.

Still, they ended up reaching the auction house in less than 10 minutes. 'Not having to go up and down the mountains or walk jagged path really does help trim down your travel time a lot,' he thought. He couldn't wait for the time when his flying speed would be faster than his walking speed.

Ma Rong flew down in front of the auction house and jumped down. Alex followed behind her as well. He was happy to find out that this was the same auction house as he wanted to go to. Somehow fate had taken away his chance and gave it back to him.

"This is the Pink Cloud Auction house. This is their secondary branch, while their main branch is in the capital of the empire, Cardinal city. There are only these 2 branches. Today, they will sell quite a lot of things, so I brought you here to check it out."

Alex hadn't even come during the auction time so he was quite shocked at the number of people waiting outside. "Come," Ma Rong said as she walked towards something she seemed to have noticed.

"Greetings, City lord, lady," Ma Rong greeted a purple-robed couple that just flew down. These were Fu Wen and Mo An, the husband-wife pair that ruled the Scarlet City under the authority of the crimson empire.

"Ah, Sect leader, you are here early." Fu Wen said with a big smile. Mo An greeted from the side as well.

Fu Wen then saw Alex to her side. "Oh, isn't this our little friend from back then? Hello." He said with a smiling face.

"Greet the city lord," Ma Rong's voice sounded in his head.

"Greetings, City lord, lady," he used the same greetings as his master.

"Let's go inside," he said and started walking towards the door. Alex looked around and saw the many people still standing outside. There still sometime before the auction started, and seeing the many people standing outside, he wondered if he would even be allowed inside so early.

But, he seemed to be overthinking things. The people he was with were some of the VVIPs in the city. The auction house wasn't going to offend the City and one of the only 2 sects that was in the city, just because they arrived early.

He had just walked inside the door when he saw a girl walk up to his master— No, she was walking up to him. He looked at her face and realized who it was. magic

"Hello, sect leader Ma, little brother. It's good to see you here." Luo Mei had arrived in front of them.

"Hello, Lady Luo," Ma Rong greeted her.

"Hello, Daoist Luo," Alex greeted her as well.

Both Ma Rong and Luo Mei looked at him weirdly. Both of them suddenly started chuckling. Alex got weirded out as he couldn't understand why they were laughing.

"Why are you acting so distant towards her?" Ma Rong asked.

"Yeah, little brother. You should call me sister now that we have the same master." Luo Mei said as well.

Alex was a little surprised. Then he understood what was going on. "Oh, I didn't know that. In that case, I should call you senior sister."

Ma Rong looked towards Luo Mei and asked, "Lady Luo, are you here with your master?"

"Oh no. I'm here with my friends. Master should be arriving anytime soon by himself. I came early." She said.

"Oh, my friends seem to be restless, I will see you guys later." She left towards her friends somewhere deeper in the hall.

"Hmm... did she try to run away from us?" Ma Rong got a little taken aback.

"I don't think so, she probably saw her friends and went back." Alex simply said.

"Can't be. She didn't even turn around." Ma Rong said.

"Oh, did you forget master? She has a spiritual sense too. I told you I only learned about spiritual sense after she asked me to pick up a Spirit Cleansing Lily for her."

Ma Rong didn't remember much from that day. The whole day had gone by in a flash because of how unbelievable that day was.

She cleared her thoughts and started walking down the hall once more.

"Come on, let's go. The auction should start anytime now." They finally reached the end of the hall where a lot of staff members, both high and low ranking of the auction house were standing there waiting to guide the newly arrived guests to their rooms.

Chapter 90: Auction Starts

Alex looked around and didn't find Cai Ping anywhere in the hall at all. 'Is she somewhere else, busy preparing the auction?' he wondered.

A girl walked up to them and took them to a VIP room from where you could see the stage, but nobody else could see you.

There was an array of seats inside spread among the almost 10 by 10 meters big room. Alex sat on a random seat near the window at the front where the view was the best. Ma Rong sat where she could only see the stage.

The girl who came with them also stayed in the room but remained standing next to the door.

There was time to spare, so Alex decided to ask his master something. He made sure he wasn't loud enough for the girl to listen.

"Master, how do I speak into someone's head?"

Ma Rong wasn't expecting such a question in an environment like this. Still, she answered. "It's easy. Just send out your spiritual sense to someone's head and say things in your mind. They will be able to hear it in their head."

Alex heard it in his head and decided to try. He sent out his spiritual sense towards Ma Rong and asked, "Can you hear me?"

"Yes," an answer came to his head. He was happy learning it had worked. Now he didn't have to worry about communicating in secret if the need ever arises.

Time passed by as more and more people came and sat at the seats in the open down below.

"Oh, he's here too." Ma Rong seemed to be quite surprised by someone's arrival. Alex looked below the window but didn't recognize anyone. So he asked, "Who are you talking about master?"

"The man with the black hat, 5 rooms to our left. He is the sect leader of Honor sect from Rosewood city." Ma Rong said.

He tried to look who it was, but his spiritual sense couldn't reach so far away. 5 rooms were about 50 meters in total length, even when stretched to the maximum, he could only cover a radius of 30 meters with his spiritual sense. So, he couldn't see who his master was talking about.

"You can see that far master? What is your radius on your spiritual sense?" he couldn't help but ask.

"My radius? It's about 50 or so meters. I can do about 75 at best. I need to eat more spirit-enriching pills to be able to increase it more." She said.

'Wow, so far,' he was amazed at how far she could send out her spiritual sense. 'But what's a spirit-enriching pill? I don't remember any pill like that in the recipes I got from the library. Nor did the records have anything about them.'

"Do you have a recipe for that pill, master?" he asked.

"Yes, I do. It's a personal recipe my master handed down to me. I will give you the recipe when you have True Qi. Since it's a True pill, giving it to you now would be useless." She said.

Alex accepted the reasoning and sat back. He watched as the entire room filled up. There weren't a lot of people he recognized here if any. He saw some disciples from both of his sects, most of whom seemed to be a core disciples. magic

He sent out his spiritual sense to the 2 different rooms on either side of his room and realized he didn't know any of them either. The world was big, and he hadn't lived in it for long. So it was obvious that he wouldn't recognize them.

There was one thing that surprised him, however. There was a person in a room next to the room adjacent to his left. The thing that surprised him regarding this person was that he was fat, extremely fat.

It looked like he could barely walk, especially with all the jewelry he was wearing. There seemed to be 4 people next to him all fit and seemed to be very alert.

"Master, who is the fat guy 2 rooms over?" he asked through his spiritual sense.

Ma Rong checked the room and said, "That is Huo Zemin, he is the head of the Victorious Snow merchant group originating in our Scarlet city. They are the third richest merchant group in all of the Crimson Empire."

'Third richest? I wonder how many spirit stones he has.'

Alex moved his attentions elsewhere waiting for the auction to start. He looked at the talisman on the table. He had already scanned it and realized it was the list of items that would be auctioned off today.

He wanted to be completely in the unknown so didn't read it at all.

Finally, once everyone had arrived and the seats on the base were full, the lights in the room and the hall started to dim, while the lights on the stage started to shine brighter.

Everyone waited with bated breath as the curtain on the stage finally started to move and a woman walked from the inside.

"Good afternoon, everyone. I hope you are all settled and ready for the auction. Welcome to the bi-annual mega auction of the Pink Cloud auction

house, presented to you by myself, Cai Ping." Cai Ping had finally appeared in a beautiful blue dress. She swiped her hands and a large desk along with a wooden hammer appeared out of nowhere.

"If you are all prepared. We will bring out the first item." She said, and a few people walked up with a square-shaped box with a cloth on top of it. They placed it on the desk and walked away.

Cai Ping walked ahead of the box with exaggerated theatrics in her motion and held a corner of the cloth.

"And for our first item of the day, we have..." She paused for a moment to increase the suspense and finally lifted the cloth to show a small uneven ball of yellow color with a bunch of white patches all over it.

"A Clouded Tiger Cub."