

Alchemy 1021

Chapter 1021: HiddenBay City

Alex cultivated for a few days during which he managed to finally have a completely filled Dantian again. He also cultivated enough that Whisker had finally healed enough that his body was reformed again.

It would still take a week or two for him to be fully back to the way he was before, but Alex could wait for that long.

Once he was fully done with his cultivation, Alex finally checked the mountain he was upon. Since there was a forest here, he could only hope for there to be some ingredients here that he could use to make pills.

Since he was lacking in money, he needed to sell pills to get them again.

Alex stood up from under the tree and looked towards the north where he could still see a bit of land that was the Wastelands.

He needed to find his father and since he already had enough Qi he had thought of going there. However, he still needed to prepare a few things, so he was first going to a town from the south.

A slight feeling of fear grew in Alex's heart when he thought of going south.

During the last few days he was here, occasionally he would sense the spiritual sense of a sea beast pass through him. He didn't know just how strong the beasts were but he could tell that if they were to attack him, his only method of survival was to run away.

'Dammit, I hope I don't get caught,' Alex thought.

He looked towards the south and the mountain ranges there. As long as he went there and flew on land, he would be safe from the sea.

He quickly went around the island, looking for anything worth taking with him. There were a few True rank ingredients and even one Saint rank ingredient, but that was the most there was.

Most of the ingredients were Common rank, and that was just not something Alex wanted to be bothered with. Since he was doing it for money, making common rank pills would be useless.

Alex did think of trying out pill veins with common rank pills, but he could do the same with True pills as well. In the end, there wasn't much from the mountain he could take anymore.

Alex quickly flew away from the island before immediately teleporting away. He had gone invisible and concealed his aura, but if a single Saint beast were to send out their spiritual sense, they would notice him immediately.

Which was why he was teleporting multiple times, even going as far as to push himself to teleport over a kilometer a few times.

He did feel slight headaches when he pushed himself that far. His Intent was strong, but not that strong.

Thankfully, he managed to reach the land without being caught by any of the beasts.

Alex landed by a cliff and looked back at the mountain he had just left a couple of minutes ago. When he saw how far it was, he couldn't help but laugh.

Had he tried to cover the same distance without flying, it would have easily taken him a day or more.

'Flying is so much better,' Alex thought.

He turned around to look past the cliff into the mountains lying in the south. He couldn't see any Qi with his eyes, so he could be sure that there was most likely some Phoenix fire that burned here that was constantly sucking in the Qi from the Spirit vein and the surrounding air.

Alex sighed and flew away.

He hugged the mountain to his right as he flew, going further and further deep into the south.

At some point, he had to finally stop. The road was blocked by a barrier that didn't let entry. This was the same barrier that had stopped him from entering the south a couple of weeks ago.

"So this barrier goes this far around, huh?" he thought. "That mad did tell me something like that but I didn't think it would be so far. I wonder how much Qi they are using up by constantly using this barrier."

Alex continued flying, his Qi reserve barely dropping because of how full he was. After an hour or two, he finally arrived at a certain bay where the barrier seem to end.

By now, the Qi had returned and it didn't seem like any of the tribal men had made it this far.

Alex stood by the edge of the mountain where the barrier ended and looked down. He was on a cliff so there was an ocean many meters below it. He could see people towards the end of the ocean where there was a relatively massive beach.

Beyond the beach were another few mountain ranges, but Alex could already see a city built onto the mountains themselves.

Finally, he had arrived somewhere with cultivators.

He quickly flew away from the edge and flew down to the beach. A few people looked at him with curious eyes, but most weren't bothered by his arrival.

Alex looked at the people here and their fair skin. They hadn't lived in the sun forever as the people from the tribes had, nor had they battled with pain and torture every day to gain their strength.

If these people had half the determination the people from the wasteland did, would most of them already be Saint by now? Alex could only wonder as he walked past them.

He didn't release his spiritual sense, nor did show off his cultivation base. As a result, he wasn't welcomed by anyone or got himself involved with anyone either.

Alex looked at the mountain that was the city and smiled. Was this the first time he was seeing something like this? Every other place that was a city either lay inside a mountain range or on some flat land.

He could only think of sects that lived in mountains, so this was a bit of a surprise to him.

Alex quickly found someone and asked where he was, along with asking for a place where he could possibly gain more knowledge about this city.

"Oh, are you from another continent?" the man accurately assessed his situation.

"Ahh... yes, I am," Alex said.

"Huh... we rarely get outsiders from another continent coming from here. Most usually enter through the Eastwatch city. You're the first in a few years," the man said.

"I see," Alex said. "And about my questions?"

"Ah, right. This is Hiddenbay city. Named after that bay that rarely anyone comes from," the man said. "There is an information center in the city halfway up the mountain. You can pay for more information there. Definitely a lot more than what I might be able to."

"I see," Alex looked at the mountain. "Thank you."

He left the man and walked towards the mountain.

There were houses at the foot of the mountain already. The sprawling city was larger than it looked like from up in the air.

Alex looked at the children that played in the open space, cultivators that fought each other to train, and mortals going by their day carrying various things.

He saw houses made up of wood, stone, mud, and even some that were made up of some sort of sand mixture that looked suspiciously like concrete.

These houses looked newer than others, so Alex could only guess that some players who had knowledge of concrete had already spread the knowledge far and wide and now there were mortals from this continent that were starting to use that knowledge for themselves.

Alex looked back at the beach and understood why they would be spread so fast. After all, this was a place with a lot of beaches, so the concrete wouldn't be that outside the realm of possibility.

There was also the desert in the wastelands, but Alex wasn't sure if those sands worked in concrete or not. After all, they were reddish in color, so there was likely something different about that sand.

Alex took the spiraling road up the mountain.

He could've flown up, but he wanted to see the scenery on the way up. He wanted to see more of the houses, the people.

After all, it had been nearly 10 years since he had seen a civilization like this that wasn't just a tribe living off of nothing.

Alex finally ended up in front of a place known as the Insight Pavilion. This was the place that was apparently full of any and all information that he could want.

A thought crossed for him to ask about his father, but where would he even begin to ask such things?

Besides, there were other things he wanted to ask about.

He walked into the building that didn't hold many people at all. There were about 5 people in total in this relatively large building that weren't staff members.

Alex walked up to a clerk that was free.

"Hi, I'm looking for some information. How much do they cost?" he asked.

"It depends on the information you are looking for, fellow Daoist. Can you tell me what you are looking for?" she asked.

"I'm a little low on money and want to earn it by selling some pills. Do you know what the best way to go about it is? Also to add, I do not have much money on me," he said.

The girl pulled out a few talismans and started looking through them. After half a minute, he had the information ready.

"It will cost you 15 True spirit stones," she said.

Alex currently had about 100 True spirit stones, so he paid the price without hesitation.

The girl quickly transcribed everything he needed to know on a piece of talisman and handed it to him. "Is there anything else I can help you with?"

Chapter 1022: King Surpassing Pill

Alex wondered for a bit. 'Well there's nothing to lose,' he thought.

"Do you know anything about a man named Graham Benton?" Alex asked. "He should be... 70 years old or so."

"Oh, a young man named Graham? I will search," the girl said.

"Ah, no he's not young," Alex said. "He didn't start cultivating until in his 50s if he even did."

"Really? Hmm, it might be hard to find information about people that aren't really talented, but I'll try," the girl said.

"Please do," Alex said.

He waited for a bit but the girl couldn't find any information at all. "I'm afraid there is no information available regarding anyone named Graham," she said.

"I see, thank you for your help," Alex said.

"Please come again next time."

Alex walked out of the Insight Pavilion and brought out the talisman he had just bought. He read it while he walked towards the other side of the mountain.

As per his question, the answer had been tailored to his needs.

The best way to make some quick money with alchemy was actually to make pills and sell them in some auction in the Eastwatch city.

Since they were the first line of entry for foreigners to the continent, that was one of the places that were considered to be great city of the Southern Continent.

As such, they held auctions and similar events very frequently where he could sell pills to make some money.

Alex decided to fly over there immediately. He left the city behind, not even bothering to visit any other cities that were close by.

There were other cities that were on the way, but Alex didn't land on any of them either, going straight to the Eastwatch city.

Alex arrived outside the city a little before it was evening. Since it was getting close to nighttime, he decided to find himself a place to stay in the city.

The Eastwatch city was massive, almost as big as the Radiant city from the Western continent. There was a giant wall surrounding the city, with people standing on top of the wall.

Alex saw some sort of purple robe on the people that were standing on top of the wall. He paid a small fee at the gate to go into the city and found some sort of hotel to stay for the night in.

Once he got himself a room, he started cultivating for the rest of the night.

Early the next morning, Alex woke up and went towards the market. He had two sets of things he needed to buy with what little money he had.

He hoped to get himself a small cauldron of some sort, and then he needed to buy some ingredients to make pills out of.

The shop he went to was specifically meant for Alchemy and it sold everything related to it from formation plates for fire or cauldrons.

Alex looked through the cauldron. While he didn't need a good cauldron, it still had to be good enough.

He had no more than 80 True spirit stones, so he had to be frugal so that there was enough money at the end to buy the ingredients as well.

In the end, Alex bought a simple True Mortal ranked cauldron for 62 True Spirit stones and used the remaining money to buy enough ingredients for a single True rank pill.

He would have to start with this pill and hope to earn some money.

At the same time, he also learned about any auctions or sales that were happening in the city.

As it turned out, there was no auction happening for at least 10 more days. However, in 2 days, there was an open market that was going to be set outside of the city in the east.

At that time, anyone with anything to sell could set up a shop and sell the things they wanted.

"That works I suppose," Alex thought and went back to his room.

The ingredients he had acquired were for a pill that helped people break through from the True King realm to the True Emperor realm.

As far as Alex understood, pills that aided in breakthroughs were in high demand anywhere in the world, followed closely by a very good healing pill or an antidote pill that had high usage.

Alex went back to his room in the hotel and started making the pill.

Since he was lacking any sources of continuous fire, Alex decided to skip the fire aspect of the pill-making process.

Instead, he directly heated up the cauldron using his dao.

Heating up the cauldron required more mental focus than just using a flame, but with how easy this pill was going to be to make, Alex didn't have much to worry about.

It took him no more than 10 minutes to fully make the pill.

With ingredients that he improved using Supreme Elemental Accord and a recipe that was the best of the best, he easily made a pill that reached 96% harmony.

The only reason it didn't reach all the way to 100% was because of his lack of proper technique to form the pill.

If he had 2 sets of ingredients instead and used his pill-splitting Qi to make those pills at once, the people of this city would've seen some terrifying lightning certainly.

"I suppose I can make do with just these," Alex thought. Once done, he thought of how he would sell the pill.

He wasn't worried about the pill not getting sold, but rather the publicity that might come with something this good.

After all, he doubted there was anyone that could make such good pills as himself. 'Well, I can't really think I'm the best, can I?' he thought. 'After all, I don't know much about the situation of alchemy outside of the Western continent.'

The northern continent had suffered on the side of Alchemy due to Xue Kuangren, but the Southern Continent's alchemy should have flourished.

Now that he was thinking about it, he couldn't wait to see just what he could learn from the Alchemy of this continent.

The next day, Alex roamed the city and learned about various new things. He visited the site where the open market was going to be held and was more than surprised to see that a small market had already formed here from some early birds coming to set up shop.

They weren't selling much however as most of the buyers wouldn't come until tomorrow which was the actual date of the open market.

'Should I sell my Saint rank ingredient and get more True rank ingredients?' Alex thought. That wasn't a bad idea, but in the end, he chose not to. He wanted to keep some ingredients for himself in case he ever needed any.

The next day came and Alex went over to the market site.

It had been a little past sunrise and yet the entire site was filled to the brim with people selling things.

Alex not only sensed mortals here, but he also sensed the Self-tempering realm and True realm cultivators. Not just that, after checking more closely, he also sensed Saint realm cultivators.

Most of them were selling pills, formations, talismans, and artifacts, but there were also people that were selling normal stuff like clothes and food.

Alex looked around to see if there was something that he wanted, but there were simply too many to go around looking for. Before any of that, he needed a place to sell his pill after all.

He started looking around for a place where he could set up his shop. Most of the important places were already reserved, and those that were still empty were hard to see due to the crowd around him.

He wanted to use his spiritual sense to check, but seeing as no one was using any spiritual sense, he felt reluctant to use it as well.

Finally, after some time, he found a simple place in the grass that was open enough for him to sit.

Alex sat down and placed a single piece of paper in front of him that told the people exactly what he was selling.

'Selling 96% Harmony King Surpassing pill'

A few of the vendors saw Alex's paper and showed a weird look. They said nothing, but Alex could see in their eyes that they thought he was doing a very bad job of trying to scam people.

Alex showed no reaction to their looks and simply waited for someone to come and buy his item.

Eventually, a person saw his piece of paper and had to ask.

"Brother, are you really selling a 96% King Surpassing Pill?" the man asked.

"Yes, I am," Alex said.

"Where is it then?" the man asked.

"In my storage bag," Alex said.

"Can I see it?" the man asked.

"Do you intend on buying it?" Alex asked.

The man paused for a second. "No," he said.

"Then please leave," Alex said and closed his eyes. It was clear that the man had only stopped because he was curious about if there really was a pill, not because he had any intention of buying it.

The man grumbled, saying some things like 'bad vendor' or some such, but he still walked away.

Just as he left, a few people walked past him, stopping before Alex for a few seconds with a curious expression before walking away.

Alex, however, couldn't stop looking at them even as they walked quite far away. The men vanished into the crowd and only then did he finally look away.

"What the hell are these people doing here?"

Chapter 1023: Stunned Crowd

The men that had just walked past Alex had a cultivation base around the Saint Core realm. There was even one amongst the group that seemed to be in the Saint Soul realm as well.

They all wore a black robes with purple outlines and almost looked like they were all from great families going by their attitudes.

However, it was neither their cultivation base nor their attitude that caught Alex's attention.

It was the robe. In fact, more accurately speaking, it was the insignia on their robe that had caught Alex's attention.

On their left chest and either side of their shoulders, there was a circular insignia drawn in purple with a sword in the center with a serpentine creature wrapped around it.

If it were any other place, Alex would've likely judged it to be some sort of coincidence, but in the Eastwatch city where people from the other continents were likely to come, he felt that this was no coincidence.

Because of this, he knew that the serpentine creature was no normal serpent but rather a dragon. It was the Azure dragon that was represented in the insignia, and thus the insignia and thereby the men that had just walked past him belonged to the rulers of the Eastern Continent, the Dragon Imperium.

"What are these people doing here?" Alex wondered. The thought lasted for a few minutes before he stopped thinking about it.

The only reason he was curious about them was because of the sword that was back in the beast realm. That was the sword responsible for killing Pearl's mother.

That sword had the same insignia as the one on these people's shoulders.

Alex had wondered if they were royalties, but given they looked more soldierly than anything, they probably were not.

He focused back on selling the pill and waited for another person to come by.

A curious boy, one that was at the peak of the True King realm stopped in front of Alex when he saw the notice.

"Is this a scam?" the young man asked.

"It is no scam," Alex said calmly. "I have a single pill and that is all I am selling today."

The young man wanted a pill soon enough and was planning to buy one in the near future. However, seeing such a pill available right at the moment, his urge to buy it reached an all-time high.

"How much?" the young man asked.

"I have no specific price for the pill. Anyone that can give me enough so that I'm satisfied with it will be enough," he said. Alex hadn't planned to put a price on such a pill since he had never seen such a pill being sold before.

Was 500 True spirit stones low or high? How did one compare the Harmony between a pill that wasn't even in the 70s and a pill that was 96%? Since it was difficult to put a price on the pill, he decided to let the customer do so for him instead.

"How about 250 True Spirit stones? That's enough right?" the young man asked hopefully.

Alex simply shook his head. "It's a 96% pill, not a 56% one. You will have to pay a lot more than just 250," he said.

"What about 300 then? Is that alright?" the young man asked.

However, Alex just continued shaking his head in refusal. The price was still too low.

"350?" the young man asked. That was already way more than what he usually bought pills with, so he wasn't sure if he should keep going or not.

Alex however wasn't budging at all and kept on refusing.

"Young mna, don't be duped. I bet that guy doesn't even have a pill to sell," one of the vendor owners from the side said.

"Even if he does have one, you need to make sure it's what he claims to be," another one said.

A few people turned to look at what brought on such responses from the people they were buying from. When they saw the piece of paper and the words written on it, they were immediately curious to learn even more.

So, they walked up and gathered around Alex as well.

Before the young man could even try to ask anything else, the new people started asking questions of their own.

Alex answered the question as best as he could.

He told them that he had made the pill 2 days ago, confirming that he was the alchemist behind the pill.

When asked why he wasn't selling this in an auction, Alex said that he needed money and couldn't wait until the auction. After receiving his money, he would make some more pills to sell in the auction.

"Hey, can I see the pill? I need to be sure if it is true or not," one of the people in the group said.

Alex nodded and brought out a small ceramic bottle where he had kept the pill. "This is the pill," he said while popping open the lid.

The few people checked inside and saw the pill.

"How do we tell that it is a 96% pill thought? We need to see it being tested," one of them said.

Alex frowned a little. He didn't have any pill testers on him, so he couldn't prove himself.

"Regarding pill testers, I—"

"No, we can't trust your pill tester. We need somebody else's," one of the people said before Alex could even finish speaking.

Alex shrugged. "That works for me," he said.

"HEY! DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PILL TESTER WE CAN BORROW?"

The few people that were gathered started shouting out loud to various people, bringing the attention of many more towards them.

A larger crowd gathered while a few of the newcomers brought their own pill testers.

"We should check on all of them just in case he paid a few to go with his scam," a few people suggested. The other people agreed.

"You're free to check however many times you like," Alex said and let the people do whatever they wanted. He wasn't worried about the pill at all since it wasn't a very important pill at all.

If it was damaged in any way, he could simply make the people that damaged it pay for it.

Without waiting for his approval, the people started testing the pill with the pill testers that were given to them by the crowd.

A man in a brown robe took up the initiative to be the one to test it all. He placed the pill in the tester that looked not that different from the pill tester in the Northern Continent.

These were the ones that gave the instant result, and as such the moment the tester was activated, the crowd saw a 96% written on the tester.

"Woah!"

"No way!"

"Check it again."

The crowd spoke excitedly, making even more people gather around Alex's location. Soon, even the saints were curious about what was causing such a commotion.

The man in the brown robe tested a few more times using different testers, but each time the result was the same.

"Holy shit! It's true. It really is a 96% pill," someone said.

"That's as close to perfection as we will ever get."

"How can someone make such good pills when there are talented people struggling to make pills with 70% harmony?"

The crowd was justifiably shocked. After all, finding pills with such great harmony was pretty much impossible anywhere.

Not only was there a lack of recipes to make good pills, but there was also a lack of knowledge to make those recipes. As such, it would always depend on someone's luck to create a recipe that could create high-quality pills.

"Brother, how much are you selling this for?" the man in the brown robe asked.

Alex took back the pill and placed it inside the bottle again. "I have no set price. I will go with whoever pays the most."

The moment Alex answered that the crowd instantly started shouting out their amount.

The young man who had come at the start was bewildered by the amount quickly reaching 600 and above, something he would've never paid for.

Thinking that this was an opportunity he couldn't miss, he decided to jump in to.

Alas, as a rogue cultivator, he could never have the same amount of money as someone from a sect or a clan.

Alex watched as the numbers quickly reached over 800 and was surprised at just how much the people were willing to pay for a 96% pill. Maybe he truly had underestimated his own pill.

"Everyone, move!" a voice came from behind the crowd, loud enough that the crowd was forced to disperse a little.

"Is this where that pill is being sold?" a young voice came from a slightly chubby young man that was at the peak of the True King realm.

"Brother Huang, this is the place," another young man said. "Look, that's the kid that is selling the pill."

"Kid, how much is this pill for?" the young man asked.

"I'm selling to the highest bidder," Alex said.

"Oh, what's the bid now? 860? Was that what I heard earlier?" the young man asked.

A few people nodded with a bit of hesitation. "Haha, great! I will pay 860 spirit stones then. Anyone else want to pay more?" the young man asked.

"I can pay 870," a man that didn't know about the newly arrived young man's reputation quickly said.

Suddenly, a wave of cultivation bases landed on the man, suffocating him from all sides. "Did you say you will pay more?" the young man asked.

"I... I..." the old man couldn't speak from the pressure.

Alex's eyes narrowed and a frown appeared on his face. He did not like what he was seeing.

Chapter 1024: Selling the Pill

"Are you here to buy my pill or disturb my business?" Alex asked the young man.

"Hehe, of course, I'm here to buy your pill," the chubby young man said. "860 Spirit stones was it?"

"If you're going to buy my pill, stop harassing my customer," Alex said.

"Heh! You're quite courageous to speak up to me like this. You must be new here so you don't know about me, do you?" the young man asked.

"No, I don't. What's your name?" Alex asked.

The young man was about to proudly answer when Alex lifted his hand to stop him.

"It would be better if you just tell me what backing you have to go around flaunting yourself," Alex asked.

The young man frowned a little. "My name is Huang Fenrou, that is all you will get, bastard," he said. "Dammit, you ruined my mood. Now give me my pill so that I may leave this place."

"Sure," Alex said. "Right after everyone is done bidding as well."

The young man looked confused for a second before laughing out loud. "Haha! Do you really think they would bid now that I'm here? Hahaha, you can just try."

Alex was pissed off now.

"Leave!" he said. "I am not selling to you. Whoever else wants to buy, please start naming your price again."

However, not a single person started bidding. It seemed they were too scared of the young man.

Alex couldn't help but sigh. "You don't have to be scared of him. Just name your price, I will sell it to you," he said.

However, the people weren't going to purchase from him now at all.

"You see? They aren't going to buy from you. Now, sell it to me. I need to go home and break through now," the young man said.

"I already said I'm not selling to you, just leave," Alex said.

"Huh? Do you really think I will leave without the pill?" the young man asked in a hateful tone. "I'm leaving with the pill today. Whether you want to get paid or not, that's your choice."

"No, you'll leave without it. I'm done arguing with you," Alex said. "You three, carry your young master home."

"Carry me ho—" the young man's eyes turned white as he fell face-first onto the ground. Nobody noticed what had happened, just that the young man had fallen down.

"Brother Huang!" the people shouted immediately and came to his aid. However, the young man was unconscious and would not wake up for a long time.

"You! What did you do?" the men furiously came towards Alex.

"You three better calm down, or else..." Suddenly his Saint realm aura assaulted them just as they had assaulted his other customers.

The three of them fell to the ground in shock. "No... Saint realm..."

"Leave! This is your last warning," Alex said as he stood up.

"P-please don't hurt us," the men said as they quickly got up and started running away, only remembering a second later to take their young master with them.

'That's probably going to come to bite me back somehow. I should think of leaving this place quickly,' he thought.

"Is there no law here that stops him from doing this?" Alex asked the group of people who were gathered there.

The crowd didn't speak a word out of fear of angering a Saint realm. Finally, the young man that had come to the shop first spoke up.

"Senior... that young man is from the Huang family. They have too much power to simply be stopped by law. Especially when they aren't outright hurting people," the young man said.

"Huang family? That's a major family of this city?" Alex asked.

"No, not just the city, but rather the entire Southern Continent," the young man said, surprising Alex a bit.

"Continue."

"They are part of the 10 Sects and Families that are responsible for everything in the Southern Continent. I hear this young man is from the main family line and has been staying in this place for the last couple of years," the young man said.

"10 families huh? I should learn about them soon," Alex thought.

He wondered if the Phoenix in this region were reclusive like the Black Tortoise as well. Although, they were at least more outgoing than the Black Tortoise as they had given Phoenix flames to the Wastelands.

"Anyway, let's continue our bidding. I would like to be done," Alex said.

The rest of the crowd immediately jumped at the words and started bidding more and more. Finally, the bids stopped around 1040 spirit stones, which was the most they were willing to give.

Alex accepted and took the money from one of the people that were buying. The woman who got the pill happily walked away, while the rest kept asking if he had any more.

"I don't have any to sell at the moment. That was everything of value I had on me, which is why I sold it. Now that I have some money, I will be making more soon enough and will be selling in the auction that will happen in 8 days."

"If you want to buy any pills at the time, do so. Not only will I make pills for breaking through, but healing pills, as well as pills that will help someone restore their limbs while in the True realm," Alex said.

"Restore limbs?"

"Is that possible?"

"Senior said so, then it must be true."

Alex looked at the people and stood up. "Don't get your hopes high. I will need to find the right ingredients so they do so in the first place. Anyway, I'm leaving. Make sure to check out the auction if you want any more pills with over 95% harmony," he said and left.

The crowd talked with each other for a while about what they had just seen, but slowly they had to disperse. A few of the followed Alex, but that was useless anyway.

As he left, Alex sent his spiritual sense back at the young man who had appeared first and spoken to him. "If you want a pill, just gather up some ingredients and find me," he said. He gave the young man the information about his hotel so that he could find him.

Once that was done, Alex went back to the Alchemy store to buy more ingredients. With over 1000 spirit stones, he was free to use whatever the hell he wanted.

He bought various different ingredients, all True rank for the moment as Saint rank ingredients still cost quite a lot.

Once he was done, Alex returned back to his room and started making some more pills.

He had only finished 2 when he heard a knock on the door. Alex sensed that it was the young man from before and called him in.

The young man had indeed brought some ingredients. As one would do anytime one wanted pills to be made, the young man had brought 3 sets of pills.

"Wait outside, I'll be done in a bit," he said and got to work. It didn't take him very long to make the pill for the young man, but when he went to give him his pills, Alex realized that some trouble had arrived.

Chapter 1025: Forever Spring Auction House

Alex looked at 2 Saint realm cultivators that stood outside of his door, alongside the young man that was here to make pills.

"Here, take it," Alex handed the young man's pill and let him go. With him and another two Saints here, the young man would definitely be too scared to do anything while they were around.

As soon as the young man left, Alex turned to look at the two people waiting for him. Looking at their clothes, he couldn't determine anything as it seemed these people didn't have dedicated clothing if they belonged to a family.

He wondered if only sects and organizations had uniforms in this continent.

"How can I help you two?" Alex asked them.

One of the saints was an older man while the other one was a younger girl.

"Are you the alchemist that sold the miracle pill?" the older man asked in a rather respectful manner.

Alex was a little surprised. "Yes, I am," he said.

"Was it you then who hit our young master with a mental attack?" the older man asked.

"You're servants of that young man surnamed Huang?" Alex asked.

"We are not servants, but relatives of the Huang family," the older man said. "Our family head wishes to see you. Would you come with us?"

"What if I say no?" Alex asked.

"Then there's nothing I can do but walk away empty-handed," the old man said. "But, please reconsider. Our family head wishes to meet you so that you could make a pill for him. He holds no grudge for you attacking his son."

Alex smiled. "Then you can return. I have no intention of meeting anyone before the auction opens," he said and closed the door.

The two Saints that remained outside were left confused.

"I told you, we should've used force," the girl finally spoke.

"You can't always solve things with force, dear child. Why would you want to get on the bad side of an alchemist with such potential?" he asked.

The girl frowned a bit. "What do we do now then?" she asked.

"What else can we do?" the old man asked. "We will go back home and report our failure. The family head was always aware of the chance of failure when he sent us here."

"Alright," the girl said. "If he gets angry, I'm blaming it all on you," the girl said and started walking.

The old man shook his head and followed behind her.

Alex returned back to his room where he was free to start making pills once more. Since there were quite a few days before the auction, he made his pills one at a time, taking as long as he wanted.

In between the pill-making session, he would cultivate his Qi as well as his Undying physique and his Demon eyes.

Unfortunately, he couldn't improve his mental prowess due to losing the Mask along with everything else.

Between cultivating and making pills, his days went by very quickly before he made the pills.

The items for the auction needed to be provided 3 days prior to the event as they would need to advertise it to attract more bidders.

The pills were simple as he had mentioned to the crowd before. They either healed you or helped you in improving your cultivation, nothing else.

He could've gone for the other pills, but since these were the ones that were contested the most, he made them for monetary reasons.

Alex waited 3 more days until the auction was to start.

Auctions in Eastwatch city were frequent, but even so, each one was just as popular as the other. They were monthly events that the entirety of the city as well as the newcomers looked forward to.

Alex walked over to where the auction was being held, at the most popular auction house in the city called the Forever Spring auction house.

It was a massive auction house that held multiple different auctions at once.

People of different financial statuses could pay to go for the auction with better items in it.

These restrictions only fell only on people that weren't saints yet. Every saint was allowed free access to go for any of the 3 different auctions that were being held.

Alex naturally chose the highest tier, the one where his pills were being sold. Despite being True rank pills, since they were 95% and above pills, people were more than excited to get their hands on the pill so that they could buy it for their family members.

Alex found himself a simple seat in the main hall. There were VIP rooms but they cost a lot of money to book, so there was no chance he was getting to sit there.

Besides, he wasn't going to buy anything today. He was just here to see just what sort of items got sold in the Southern continent.

Alex watched the hall get filled and any minute now the auction would start.

However, before it could start, one of the staff members walked up to him. "Senior, you are being requested to experience the auction today alongside our guest in room 13," the girl said.

Alex looked at the girl curiously and turned to look towards the VIP room that had a high viewpoint. Nothing inside could be seen from here, so he turned back towards the girl. "Who exactly is asking for me?" he asked.

The girl hesitated a little. "I'm sorry, senior, but our guest has forbidden me from revealing that information," she said. "But he said you would know who he was just by the fact that he was requesting for you again on Auction day."

Alex sighed. "I see," he said. "He's calling me to enjoy the auction?"

"Yes, senior," the girl said.

"Okay then, let's go," Alex said and left the seat.

He walked away from the hall and went up a flight of stairs before arriving in front of room 13.

The staff who had brought him here knocked on the door and another staff from inside opened it.

Alex walked without any hesitation into the dark room with only 2 men inside. He recognized neither of the two, but seeing how one was seating on the seat next to the window and another was off to the side, he could guess which one was more important.

"Ah, you're here," the man turned around. The man couldn't be called fit, but he couldn't be called chubby either.

He had a short beard and mustache, and a head full of hair that flowed down past his shoulders.

"You are family head Huang?" Alex asked.

"I am," the man said. "What might your name be?"

Alex walked up to the side of the family head and sat on the empty seat that was most likely kept empty for him.

"Yu Ming," Alex said.

He subtly checked the cultivation of both of the people around him. The servant was in Saint Foundation 5th realm, while the family head Huang was Saint Core 3rd realm.

The man was stronger than Alex whatever angle one looked from. Still, Alex wasn't phased. He had a lot up his sleeve as well.

"So, why did you call me here, family head?" Alex asked. "It can't be to punish me for what I did to your son, right?"

Chapter 1026: The Sun's Womb

"Punish you? Maybe I should," the man said. "My son woke up 3 days later. I was going to storm into the hotel to kill you had the physicians not promised me that he was absolutely fine."

"Of course, he was," Alex said. "I wouldn't hurt a junior just because he was becoming a little annoying."

"Haha," the man laughed. "I hear you've placed some pills of your own here or were at least planning to."

"I am," Alex said. "You should have seen it on the item list."

"I did," the man said. "But it's hard to believe that such a thing is possible at all. I mean, who in their right mind would ever believe a 95% pill would exist in our mortal world? Only the immortals of the past should've been possible of such a thing."

"They most likely still are," Alex said. "I just got lucky."

"How did you get those recipes?" the man asked.

"From a secret realm that I visited. That's all I can say really," he said.

"Secret realm huh? Which one?" the man asked. "The Sundering Sanctum? Or the Forbidden Orchard?"

Alex got curious as he had heard neither of the names before. "Neither, I'm afraid. It's a secret realm from another continent."

"Oh, you're from the Eastern Continent? No wonder your alchemy is so good," the man said. "How did you come here with such a weak cultivation base?"

"I didn't," Alex said. "It was a teleportation malfunction that sent me here. I'm looking for a way back."

"Oh, I don't think I've ever heard of people traveling like that," the man said.

The curtains opened up front as the auction began. The auctioneer, a woman that looked to be middle-aged, came out and started introducing the auction.

Around the same time, a thought came to Alex.

"I hear your family is part of the 10 that is responsible for ruling the entirety of the Southern continent. Is that true?" Alex asked.

"Yes, we are," the man said. "Although I would say governing is a better term than just straight-up ruling."

"Does that mean you have access to the teleportation formation?" Alex asked. "I wonder if I may use it somehow."

"Ah, that's what you wanted to ask, huh?" the man said as he shook his head. "Unfortunately, I am not the one you are looking for."

"Despite being a family head of one of the 10, I have almost no say in anything that goes on in the actual council. The council itself is made up of 10 ancestors from various different sects and families, and they are the ones responsible for it all."

"The best I could possibly do is provide some minor suggestions here and there," the man said. "It is the ancestor that chooses everything else."

"I see," Alex said.

He remained quiet after that and simply focused on the auction. The family head was here for the auction too, so he started focusing on the auction too.

The auction auctioned off various different things from weapons, armor, artifacts, and formations to puppets, pills, and even newborn beasts.

Alex was surprised by the quality of the items being auctioned off in this place especially since this was a monthly auction.

The man by his side bought many of the items as well, each of which easily went over 1000 Spirit stones.

Alex remembered the feeling of being so rich. He didn't appreciate it at the time, but now that he wasn't, it truly was an amazing feat.

'Whatever, I'll make it back again,' he thought.

"Do you want something bought? Do tell me," the man said.

"It's alright," Alex said. "I don't need anything really."

"Is that so," the man said. "Then how about I gift you something instead then?"

"Gift me?" Alex looked toward the man. "Why would you want to do that?"

The man chuckled. "Isn't it obvious?" he asked. "I'm trying to get on your good side."

"If that is so, then I won't stop you," Alex said. "I'm not going to refuse free stuff anyway."

"Haha, let's see if I do come across something you will like," the man said.

Alex looked forward to seeing what he would be gifted as well.

Time passed by and Alex's pills were sold as well. Given how great they were, the crowd had gone into a frenzy for every single one of the pills.

In total, selling those 10 or so pills got him over 12 thousand spirit stones in total. With that sort of money, he was back to being able to afford most of the things.

As long as he didn't go for anything in the Saint rank, he would be fine for a long time.

"Oh, I think you will like this one," the man said suddenly.

"Hmm? What's next?" Alex asked. Since he didn't have any money, he hadn't bothered looking at the items being sold in today's auction. Besides, he wanted to be surprised anyway.

When he saw the large object being pulled out, he could tell by the shape just what it was.

"Oh, they're selling a cauldron, huh?" Alex said. The round shape was an immediate tell.

"Yes," the family head said. "I hear that this cauldron belonged to someone from thousands of years ago when the Phoenix still ruled the Southern Continent."

Alex got a little surprised when he heard that. "Oh, the southern continent was ruled by Phoenix before?" he asked.

"Yes, but that's thousands of years ago," he said.

"Why did they stop?" Alex asked.

"Who knows? I hear that the Phoenix simply went into the Sunborn Sanctuary and stopped coming out. That was thousands of years ago," the family head said. "All I know now is that in the absence left behind by the Phoenix, our 10 ancestors rose to the occasion and took control of the chaos that came from an ungoverned continent."

Alex thought of something. 'The phoenix was one of the 5 beasts that fought the inhumanly strong person in the central continent, right? Maybe he too is hiding in the Sunborn Sanctuary because of a possible Heaven's Judgment being dropped upon him?' he thought.

He wondered if the reason for the Phoenix was the same as the reason for the Black Tortoise. After all, they had both given their all with their Immortal cultivation base in a world that held no Immortal Qi.

It would be rather strange if some of them didn't have to survive Heaven's Judgment.

Not just that, Alex wondered if the other half of the Black Tortoise, the Snake was also hiding somewhere because of its own Heavenly Judgement. While being the same being, they were also separate, so they both could have been hiding from it at the same time.

Following the train of thought, Alex wondered what had likely happened to the Dragon on the Eastern Continent.

Was that the reason why all the Heavenly beasts that had returned from the fight had disappeared from the minds of the common people?

Alex's attention was pulled back to the auction by the family head next to him who had bid 14 thousand True spirit stones for the Saint Earth rank cauldron in front of him.

Alex finally saw the cauldron too and saw that it was covered in colors depicting Phoenix flames.

"What did they say the name of this cauldron was?" Alex asked.

"They called it the Sun's Womb," the man said. "Apparently it can handle a lot of heat."

Alex nodded. 'Memory could handle a lot of heat too,' he thought. Once again, he was reminded of the things he had lost.

The bidding for the Sun's Womb went on for another 5 minutes before finally ending with 37 thousand True spirit stones being the final bid.

The man next to him had indeed won it. "I hope you like this gift of yours. It cost quite a bit more than I was expecting, to be honest," he said.

Alex turned to look at him. "Why are you doing this exactly?" he asked.

The man gave a confused look. "I told you, to get on your good side," he said.

"I understand that," Alex said. "But why? What do you get out of being on my good side?"

Alex leaned in closer and said, "I can see that you want something from me. Tell me, is there a specific pill that you want me to make?" he asked.

The man suddenly smiled. "Finally, I thought you would never understand it," he said. "I do want something. For the last 2 decades, I've noticed that my cultivation speed has slowed down a lot. As such, I've been looking for a way to speed it back up."

"And you want pills for that?" Alex asked.

"I can't see any other way, really," the man said. "I will be needing pills and lots of it."

Alex got confused. "Why me then? Certainly, there are other alchemists that could make those pills for you," he said.

"They can, but eating so many of their low-quality pill will cause problems for me sooner or later. I need stuff that I can chomp a handful at a time and I would still be fine," the man said.

"I see," Alex said as he rubbed his chin. "So you are worried about pill poisoning. That's a valid reason to be afraid of eating many pills."

"Right? So..." the man asked.

Alex nodded. "I do have a recipe for a pill like that," he said.

"Great," the man said with a happy face. "Let's talk about this at my home once the auction is over."

Chapter 1027: True Sun Copper

The auction ended not long after. The items being sold after the cauldrons were quite good, but Alex couldn't buy any. Not that he needed any of it.

He left the room with a staff member who was to take him to a room to get his money. The family Head of the Huang family on the other hand walked away with a staff of his own to show him over to get the items he bought.

Alex received his money and was asked to sell some more pills as he had done today. He was planning on doing that anyhow so those people didn't even have to say.

Once done, Alex walked outside and met with the other man that had been in the room. This was most likely someone from a secondary branch of the family and was thus acting as the family head's guard or something.

The family head walked out not long after.

"Here you go," he said as he handed a storage bag to Alex. "It's quite good, I must say."

Alex sent his spiritual senses inside and checked the cauldron. The color was nice to look at and the cauldron itself seemed solid, however, he wouldn't know just how good it is until he tried to make a few pills with it.

"Let's go," the family head said and they walked away.

The Huang Family's mansion was not far away from where they were. It was on the southern side of Eastwatch city and was massive enough to be considered a small town.

The number of buildings and open space in there would make one think that they were actually entering a small town.

Alex was taken to the main building where the main family resided. As he walked along, he could sense a few spiritual senses landing on him.

'Not bad,' he thought. 'They're quite strong.'

If he wasn't wrong, there were people here that were above the Saint Core realm in cultivation. There were definitely quite a few that were stronger than the family head himself.

'Why is he the leader then?' Alex wondered. He came to the conclusion that it was either because he was the most capable, or more likely, he was from the main branch and was thus allowed to take up the mantle of the family head just because it was his birthright.

Either way, Alex didn't have much to consider as he continued looking at the building designs in there. Compared to the Wasteland, which was simply just a bunch of rocks, bones, and mud put together, this was much better.

However, compared to the rest of the world, it wasn't anything unique.

Alex entered the largest building and was taken to a room at the center of the house where the sun shined through an opening in the roof.

Alex sat down and so did the other two. Refreshments were immediately brought out without even being called for.

Alex drank the refreshing fruit juice that most definitely came from some semi-exotic fruit and placed the glass down. "So, let's talk about those pills," he said. "When do you want them exactly?"

"Actually, I would appreciate it if you could sell us the recipe instead of the pills themselves. We can make the pills ourselves as we have many alchemists, but it's the proper recipe that we lack," the man said.

Alex shook his head. "I can't do that. It's not a recipe I can just sell given just how good it is. You surely don't expect me to give the golden goose away, do you?" he asked.

"What if I were willing to give you a large sum of money? Would you reconsider?" the man asked.

Alex shook his head. "I can't. I will make you many pills so you won't have to worry about ever running out," he said.

"But that's going to cost me a fortune, isn't it?" the man asked. "I could handle the cost if it were spread over the course of many years, but if I have to pay such a sum in a single year, my family will become homeless."

Alex smiled. "Say I were to sell you my recipe. You should know that there will be almost no alchemists in this continent that can go over 90% in this continent. Heck, even reaching 80% will be hard for them," he said.

Alex knew that the only reason he could make such high-quality pills was because of his Dao and his techniques that added energy as well as helped in forming pills that adhered to the Structure and Combination that the pill asked for.

The man didn't believe him, however. It was an obvious thing to lie about for Alex to not have to sell the recipe and instead make the pills themselves.

"Fine, let's go with just pills then," the man said and turned to his subordinate that followed him around. "Is guest room 1 or 2 empty?"

"I'm afraid not, senior," the other man replied. "Guest rooms 3 and 4 are empty, however."

"I see," the man said. "Prepare guest room 4 for our guest here. He will be staying with us for a few days to make some pills."

"I will get the servants to get on it right away," the man said and send his spiritual sense to give some orders.

"Now, please give us the ingredients list so I can send someone to fetch it for you," the man said.

"Sure," Alex said. "Do you have an empty talisman?"

Once handed one, Alex wrote all 11 ingredients required in that one pill and handed the talisman back.

The family head got his subordinate to go out and buy the ingredients while he himself took Alex to the guest room.

The guest room was outside of the main building, in a separate building that was entirely for a single group of guests. As Alex was only one person, he got to keep this entire house.

"Please rest for a while. I will call you once the ingredients are here," the man said and left.

Alex nodded and went into the building and found his way to a room. As soon as he was in, he slumped onto the bed and gave a tired sigh.

"This is getting so boring," he thought to himself. "When should I go search for father"

He wanted to take a few healing pills with him when he went searching for his father, which was why he was so focused on earning at the moment. He did not want a repeat of what happened with Li Yun to ever happen again.

He quickly moved his thoughts away to something else and remembered the cauldron he had just received. "Right, I should check that," he thought and quickly opened the storage bag.

The multicolored cauldron came out and landed on its 4 legs. There were two birds that were on either side of the cauldron that was just there for decoration.

Alex checked for any peculiarities with the cauldron. He checked for its Qi lines, its artifact spirit, and even the properties of the metal.

"Hmm, that's weird," he thought at the last part. The metal that was used in making the cauldron was very receptive to heat. Even just placing one's palm was enough to heat up the entire cauldron with one's temperature in mere moments.

The speed at which the heat traveled through this metal was quite amazing. "That's unfortunate," Alex thought after learning all of this. After all, for someone with the Dao of Heat and Heat Conduction, such a metal provided no additional function.

"Still, that's not bad. Maybe I can just focus on the fire with this cauldron instead of trying to heat everything," he thought.

He looked around a little more before he was called outside.

"Shall we head over to the Alchemy room?" the family head asked. "The ingredients are here."

"Oh, that was quite fast," Alex said. "How many are there?"

"Uhh... should be about 60 or 70 sets. That was all that was available at the moment," the man said.

"That should be enough for me to make for a week or two," Alex said. "You can gather more by then."

"Yes," the family head agreed to those words. "By the way, did you check the Sun's Womb? How was the cauldron?"

"Oh, it's quite good actually," Alex said. It couldn't compare to Memory, but it was a fine cauldron after all.

"I'm glad my gift wasn't a waste," the man said.

"It wasn't," Alex said. "Speaking of which, do you know what metal my cauldron is made out of? I found it quite unique."

"Metal? I'm afraid I don't know much about your cauldron. I did buy it to gift you," he said.

"Well, then do you know any metals that are well known for transferring heat very fast?" he asked the family head.

The family head looked at Alex for a bit. "Oh, is the cauldron made up of True Sun Copper?" he asked.

"True Sun Copper?" Alex asked. "That's the name?"

"Yes," the man said. "It's a metal with very niche usage as it is only good for heat transfer."

"I see," Alex said. "I don't think other continents have that metal."

"I wouldn't doubt that," the man said. "There are different types of metals that are exclusive to the different continents. True Sun Copper just happens to be one of those."

"There are other metals that are unique to the Southern Continent?" Alex asked.

"There are a few," the man said. "They are usually mined in the mountains of the Sunless lands."

Chapter 1028: The Alchemy Room

"The Sunless lands, that's... in the east right?" Alex asked.

"Yes, it's a group of small islands southeast," the man said.

"Oh, why is it called Sunless?" Alex asked.

"It's mostly cloudy there, and it rains a lot. So most people call it the Sunless lands," the man said

"I see."

Alex wondered if there was any merit in trying to mine some more metal here as well. Not that he needed any immediately, he still wanted to get some to make some more swords.

Now that he had lost all the swords he had made before, he had to start anew from somewhere. 'I'll worry about that later,' he thought. 'It's not like those swords were that rare. I can make some after I find a way to return to the Northern Continent,' he thought.

"Here we are," the man said as they arrived in front of a small building. Another man walked out from inside, the same man doing errands for the family head.

"Are the formations inside working?" the family head asked.

"Yes, senior. It is all ready for our guest," the other man said.

"Let's go inside," the man said and brought Alex along with him.

Alex walked inside and saw a rather large room with a fire burning in the center. "This is quite good," he said. His spiritual sense moved around the room looking at everything.

"These are formations to help you keep your fire under control. These should aid you with heat manipulation. That formation over there is useful to keep your mind cool at all times, and that is a formation for testing your pill's quality. I'm not sure how they do it in the Eastern Continent, but that's how we do it here," The man said. "There are other formations around the room, mostly defensive. But it's unlikely you will ever need any defensive formations here."

Alex looked around the room and there were indeed formation flags dug into all of it. He even noticed something peculiar about one of those flags.

"You have really put a show of just how rich one of the 10 families of the Council members can be," Alex said as he looked around.

"Of course not," the man said, a little offended too. "Being a family that brought forth the 10 Council members gives you no direct financial support."

"Oh, not even a little?" Alex asked. That was akin to saying that the prince of a royal family wasn't rich even though their father was the Emperor.

"I won't lie, there is some help. But it's not direct. It's more of an opportunity than anything. When you try to trade with someone, they won't outright reject our family because of the connection, but in the end, it still depends on how well we perform for those connections to remain," the man said.

"There are many other sects and families out there that are richer than us. Hell, even the Mayor of this city is nearly as rich as our family, and he's just one man. In the end, the connection isn't everything. If you want to succeed in life, you need true power," he said. "Fortunately, you will now help me gain it so much faster."

"Yes, my pill should help you a lot," Alex said. "Now, I should get to cooking. I want to try out my new cauldron too."

"Okay," the man said and brought out a storage bag. "Here are the ingredients."

Alex took the bag and started formulating a timeline in his mind of exactly how long it would take him to make 70 different pills.

After all, not only did he need to make the pills, but he also had to do it slowly enough that they didn't realize just how good he was. Aside from that, he couldn't think of anything else that he needed to be careful about overall.

"I should be able to finish it all in a week or so," Alex said as he looked into the storage bag. "Hmm? Why are there only 3 sets here?"

"Oh, right. I wanted to test you a little. These ingredients cost quite a lot so I don't really want to just let you make it all without knowing what sort of quality I'm going to receive," the man said. "After all, I have never seen a Saint pill made by you."

"That makes sense, I suppose," Alex said and sat down before the fire. "Please leave me alone for a while. I will let you know of the pill's situation once it's done."

"Yes, of course. I will return in half an hour," the man said and left.

Alex pulled out the ingredients and looked at them one by one. 'This is a little annoying,' he thought. He needed to improve the ingredients before every pill-making session, and they took a while.

They were obviously faster than the first time he had done it, but it still took 10 to 15 minutes per set of ingredients. If he wanted pills of quality, they were necessary.

'Whatever, I'll just make a single one for him,' Alex thought and started the process.

Just as he had expected, it did indeed take 15 minutes to fully add the missing energy from the ingredient. After doing so, he lost a significant portion of his Qi, leaving him with less than half his original Qi.

'Saint-rank ingredients require too much,' he thought to himself and went to work.

One by one, he put in the ingredients and started making the pill. The pill-making process was the second best thing he could do without making pill veins themselves.

It lacked the usage of teleportation and Pill-Splitting Qi, but other than that, it was perfect.

The pill finished forming a few minutes later and he pulled it out. '92%, ' he thought. For a pill that he hadn't tried his hardest, these were anything but bad.

"I've finished the first pill," Alex said to the servant that was standing outside. The girl quickly walked away to pass along the information.

Not long after the family had returned to the alchemy room and Alex passed along the pill to him. "These are the sorts of pills that will be made," he said.

The family head placed the pill on the testing formation and saw the number 92% pop up on it.

"Amazing," he said with a look of awe in his eyes. "I cannot believe that there actually exists someone that can make pills with over 90% Harmony. If the entire Continent were to learn of this, you can only imagine how much insanity we would witness just so they could get you to make some pills for them."

"I wouldn't doubt it," Alex said.

The man quickly put the pill into a bottle and stored it in a storage bag. "Although, I have to ask," the man said. "How much of this incredible result?"

"Hmm," Alex thought for a moment. "It's hard to quantify in numbers. You can give a bad alchemist the best of recipes and ingredients, and he will still make bad pills. "

"But, if you give a good alchemist some mediocre recipe, he would still struggle to make anything good. So, I would say they are sort of half-and-half. It's the mix of two that makes it possible to make such a pill," Alex said.

"I see," the man said. "So I was right."

"Right? About what?" Alex asked.

The man looked towards him. "I am right in that I don't necessarily need an exclusive Alchemist. I just need a few to make pills following a perfect recipe. They will all make the same quality of pills as you," he said.

"You're not wrong," Alex said. "Although, finding perfect recipes are harder than just asking for it."

"You have one," the man said. "I just need that recipe."

"I'm afraid mine is not for sale," Alex said.

"Who said anything about selling?" the man asked. "We are going to trade it."

"I don't want anything though," Alex said.

"Oh," the man turned towards Alex. "Not even freedom?"

Suddenly, a barrier arose from all around the alchemy room, which the family head barely managed to walk out of.

"Let us begin our discussion on how long you want to stay inside that room," the man said. "Don't worry, I've got days to waste here."

Alex looked around the room at the perfectly formed barrier. It was a strong barrier that anyone that wasn't in the upper realms of the Saint Core realm would be trapped inside.

The purple barrier originated from the many formation flags that were part of the Alchemy room, the same formation flags that Alex had thought were peculiar early on.

"That's not the expression I was hoping to see," the family head said. "You don't seem worried."

"I'm the last thing that should be worried in this transaction," he said. "As long as you don't have the recipe, I will be safe, isn't that right?"

Besides, Alex had already noticed that there were formation flags there that were specifically worked to trap someone. He had stayed there knowing that.

"You're not wrong," the man said. "I do need to keep you safe until I get the recipe, but I can still make you work for me until you are ready to give me the recipe."

"You think that just because you can use some recipes you are a good alchemist," the man said. "No, that makes you a mediocre alchemist with a good recipe. Once I get my hands on it, you will be nothing."

Chapter 1029: Dual lightning

"You seem angry," Alex said. "Is it because I hurt your son? I don't even think that counts as hurting. I could've taken his limb in that instance, and I would've been justified to do so with how disrespectful he was to not just me but everyone around me."

"No, I'm not angry about my stupid son. Sooner or later he will learn and change his ways. I was the same before," the man said. "The reason I'm angry is that you refuse to sell me the recipe."

"I don't see why you should be angry because of that," Alex said. "It's not like I stole it from you and won't give it back. In the first place, why do you want it so bad? Is there a reason why a family head like you would want to advance so fast? You should take it slow, and enjoy your life."

"Shut your damn mouth. You don't know what my life is like. You don't know how much pressure one faces when they hold such a high position without having a cultivation base to back it up," he said. "I have to agree to everything the others say and rarely get my own say in my own household out of fear of the others walking away."

"Once I'm strong, I won't have to worry about any of that at all," he said. His eyes dropped to his hand and he looked at the pill bottle. The pill there was going to make his dreams come true.

"I'll go cultivate for now. You can spend some time to think what you should do in your situation," the man said. He turned to his subordinate and said, "Keep an eye on him. Give him a set of ingredients one at a time each time he makes a pill. And if he's ready to make the transaction, call me. I'll be in my room."

"Yes, senior," the other man said and stood outside the barrier, besides the door.

The family had walked away while the other man remained. He turned around towards Alex. "You have 2 more sets of ingredients right? Please make those first," he said and turned around.

Alex chuckled and bit and sat down. He sat in front of the fire thinking as to what he should do next now.

'It shouldn't take that long to go through the entire Wasteland, right?' he thought. Looking at the map again, the Wasteland was but only a fourth of the entire continent, and given how the north was filled with beasts, it was likely that if he was going to find his father, it was going to be down south.

'I should start from those mountains on this side of the continent and make my way south slowly,' he thought.

Alex couldn't think of a better way to find his father.

"Yeah, I should do that," he thought. "As for ingredients, I don't really need many. I have enough to make enough healing pills for anyone in the Wastelands."

Thinking so, Alex stood up. There was no more need to stay inside here.

With but a thought he concealed himself and left behind a copy of himself that seemed to be cultivating. In aura, shape, and sight, there was nothing that could distinguish that it was Alex.

As such, when he quickly teleported out of the room, the man standing outside did not notice his arrival at all.

The moment he was out, Alex used multiple Heaven's Impacts on the man, hitting him with a mental attack that quickly incapacitated him.

The mental defense artifact that the man had was easily broken through. Still, with a saint realm mental strength, it was unlikely the man was going to stay down for more than a few minutes.

He needed to act quickly.

"I can't leave without taking anything for trying to capture me, right?" he thought and quickly took the man's storage bags.

Then, he teleported away, leaving the Huang household without anyone's notice. He teleported outside the house, arriving in a random alleyway before quickly making his way to the Alchemy shop.

Alex bought everything he could there with his money and left the place.

The Huang family would be in shambles very soon. The family head would leave his cultivation session with a massive smile on his face after seeing the effectiveness of the new pill.

However, when he would go to check on Alex, he would find nothing but disappointment and anger in knowing that he had escaped.

He would raise hell trying to find Alex, but by that time, Alex would've left far away.

* * * * *

A day or two later, Alex arrived back in the Wasteland. He could've come here far earlier, but he had to spend some time searching for his father through the various tribes that were set up on the way.

Since he didn't find him, he made his way back to the Wasteland.

Since it took him 2 days to get here, Alex was low on Qi. Coming through a place with absolutely no Qi at all, he needed to take some days off before he could go out again.

Alex made his way out to the ocean, teleporting each time so he wasn't caught by some strong sea beast.

Thankfully, he made it to an island with relative ease and he sat down to cultivate once more.

"Hmm, maybe I should eat my own pill to cultivate. I do need to get stronger even faster," he thought. Since he had the ingredients for quite a few pills, he needed to use them.

For now, he could only cultivate since there was nothing he could do without Qi.

Alex sped up his cultivation until he had half of his Qi back. That was all that was needed for now as he needed to quickly make the pill.

He pulled out the Sun's Womb and started preparing 2 sets of ingredients for when he was going to be making the pill.

It took about an hour and a half to completely prepare the ingredients, and by the time he was done, he was all but out of Qi.

Alex took a few deep breaths and cultivated for a bit before getting ready to make the pills.

He pulled out a set of formation flags that he had bought in Eastwatch city and quickly set up the formation.

When the formation was done, a fire blossomed at the center of the formation, on top of which Alex put the Sun's Womb.

He used his Dao of heat to quickly bring the heat of both fire and cauldron to the appropriate level. Once they were both more or less ready, he began.

One by one, he placed in the ingredients in pairs and started processing them. Since he had been doing this for so long, it felt very easy to him.

The ingredients turned to powder at a steady rate that was neither fast nor slow, Alex kept the consistency and his Dao helped a lot towards it.

He was soon at the end phase of the process where he would have to form the pill from the powder. So, to do that, he used his Pill-Splitting Qi which entered the cauldron and started making forming the pill.

The pile of powder was split into two sections which quickly formed the two pills, and as the energy was driven into the newly formed pill, the sky above him started darkening.

'It's starting,' he thought as he looked at the massive storm brewing in the sky. Just then, he noticed something peculiar about this storm.

"Is it stronger?" he thought. He didn't know why, but the lightning flashes in the sky looked stronger than every other time he had witnessed it.

Granted, all the times he had seen the pill cloud were inside rooms where he couldn't see the lightning from the start. Now that he was in the open, maybe this was how it was usually.

But still, it continued to feel weird for him.

Alex put his Qi into the cauldron and placed it around the pills to protect them. Then, the lightning flashed and the bolt struck his cauldron.

The Sun's Womb was an amazing Saint rank cauldron so there was no way it was going to break. The lightning entered the cauldron and struck the pill, but his energy easily protected it.

However, just before Alex could take a bit to be ready for the next lightning bolt, another lightning bolt of the same intensity dropped from the sky.

Alex hastily used what Qi was inside and protected the pill. Thankfully, the lightning didn't harm the pills at all.

He got ready for another one, but it seemed it was going to take a few seconds more. He took a deep breath and put in more Qi this time than necessary.

At the same time, he wondered why there were two lightning bolts. Were there already two Pill Veins on the pill inside?

He quickly looked at the pills he was protecting and saw that the pill only had a single pill vein. However, just as the confusion of the situation hit him, he also saw something else.

The 2nd pill had a pill vein too.

"Woah! No way," he thought and quickly looked up at the sky. "No wonder there are two bolts of lightning. No wonder it feels so weird."

Both of the pills in his cauldron at the moment we're going through pill tribulation. That was the reason why there were two lightning bolts striking the cauldron one after another.

Chapter 1030: Eating the Pill

The next 2 lightning bolts struck his cauldron again, hitting the layer of protection around the pill before dissipating.

Alex protected his pills from another two lightning strikes, but the upcoming ones were going to be stronger.

While he was certain his Qi could still defend it, he wanted to be sure. So, instead of Qi, he pulled out his blood aura from his body.

The blood aura entered the Sun's Womb and made another protective layer around the pills.

The 3rd pair of lightning bolts struck the cauldron again, and Alex protected his pills once again.

Soon after, as the 4th pair of lightning bolts prepared to fall, Alex put in some more blood Qi and protected them the best he could.

When the lightning struck the pill and he managed to protect it, Alex immediately pulled the pills out. His blood aura was still slightly stronger, but there was no guarantee that it was strong enough to survive a single one of the 5th strikes, let alone two.

Alex took the pills and looked at them. The pills had 4 different lightning scars on them, each one of which was uniquely shaped. He could tell that this was a fantastic pill and was as effective as eating at least 3 or 4 of the 90% harmony version of the pill.

He kept one of them in the pill bottle and then ate the other one. As soon as it entered his body, Alex could tell the difference between a normal pill and a pill with a pill vein.

The difference between a pill with a pill vein and one without it would be the difference between swords that were made with tempered metal and swords that were made without any tempered metal.

They were simply incomparable.

As the energy in the pill started diffusing into his body, Alex quickly stored everything that was outside in his storage ring and started cultivating.

Using the new energy, Alex started using the Immortal version of his Five Yang Divine path technique to quickly cultivate.

The movement of Qi in his body was normal, but the rate at which his body was drawing in Qi from the outside was extraordinary. His already wide meridians were bulging as they struggled to contain the amount of Qi he was getting.

The pill allowed him to draw in Qi at a rate that made his meridians full each time, and his Dantian had to work extra hard to quickly process through all the newly brought in Qi.

Soon enough, the dantian was getting full as well, so each time Qi was being added to his dantian, the dantian was compressing the Qi, even more, trying to reach a high state of Qi.

It wasn't very good at that, so it would still lose a lot of Qi in the end. However, overall it was still an incredible improvement for Alex.

His cultivation speed had increased by over 20 times with just a single pill he made in just 2 hours.

With 2 hours and a few Saint rank ingredients, he was doing 20 days' worth of cultivation in a single day. This was a speed that had likely not been seen in this world for the past few thousand years.

Alex continued his cultivation and soon enough he fell into a rhythm where he could do it without worrying.

It took nearly 2 days for the pill's effect to wear off, and in that time, he cultivated over 40 days' worth of it.

As the effect of the pill wore off, Alex felt the backlash that came from eating the pill. His meridians were slightly sore and his dantian was weak.

Judging by the 'backlash', he wouldn't be able to cultivate for the next 5 or so days at least.

Alex was fine with that. It was still on average what it would take him 33 days to achieve. With that sort of speed, he could reach the Saint Condensation 9th Realm in less than a month.

'I can use the 5 days of downtime I get to go look for father while using the rest to cultivate,' Alex thought. That was surely the best method out of all.

As his cultivation came to a stop, Alex began cultivating the Demon Eyes and the Undying Physique. These two would take him half a day, but they were so easy to do that he had already established a muscle memory for both of them.

Alex immediately started cultivating the Undying physique first as that was the way to get Whisker back quickly.

Whisker's body had already reformed, but there was still a bit of healing left to be done by his own Undying physique which was slowly siphoning off Alex's Qi.

At normal times, this siphon worked slowly, but when Alex cultivated the Undying Physique, it improved the connection significantly enough that Whisker could heal even faster.

As he did so, Alex remembered about the other person that needed to quickly regain what he had lost.

It had been a while since Alex had seen him, so he decided to go and check if anything had changed.

As the Undying Physique was being cultivated, Alex entered his own mind and arrived in the Spiritual Sea, flying above the deep water below him.

"How long has it been since I've come here?" he thought. The last time he came here was after leaving the crater in the north of Wasteland where he had fallen. He had quickly come to check on Godslayer at the time.

Godslayer had given his all to fight against Xue Kuangren, allowing Alex to break off his Tribulation warding pendant. After that, he had gone dormant.

That time when Alex had come to check on him, Godslayer's crystal body was clear without the black flame that forever burned at the center.

Alex could tell at the time that Godslayer wasn't going to come back anytime soon, so he had left this place and never come back.

"Geez, how long has it been since I was here?" he thought to himself. "3 months?" That felt like the right amount of time.

The silver threads that floated in the air from the silver mountain were barely there back then, but now they were taking over the entire sky.

"I'll have to clean that up soon," Alex thought, but for now he had to check on Godslayer.

He floated next to the crystal ball that had hovered down to just over the water. He picked up the crystal ball and looked inside. There was the tiniest bit of flame inside but it didn't seem to burn at all.

"Well, that's still better than last time," Alex thought to himself. He tried thinking of ways in which he could help Godslayer at the moment. The only way he could think of was to provide some Death and Darkness aura which he could feed on.

'Maybe I can go around searching for some Death aura. That is the only thing I can gather anyway,' he thought.

However, just then remembered something. "Wait, didn't he use to become stronger from the beast cores I ate? He could gather what he destroyed in here, right?" Alex thought. "Can I maybe get some beast cores and see if that helps him in any way?"

That wasn't a bad idea in Alex's eyes. Even if it didn't work, he could still use the beast's core to improve himself, the body to make pills, and the blood to improve his own blood.

"That settles it then," Alex thought. "I'm going to go kill some beasts."

Since that was the case, he was most likely going to have to wait a few more days before he went to search for his father again.

'Maybe I should wait until I've broken through before going to search for my father,' Alex thought. However, in the end, he decided to do it all simultaneously. There was no reason to waste that much more time.

"Let's go kill some beasts," Alex thought and left Godslayer.

He was about to leave when he saw the silver threads floating in the sky like a swarm of bees near a hive.

"Urgh!" Alex couldn't help but make a hateful sound when he saw that. It was going to take so long to fully clear it all from the sky, and why? There wasn't even a point in cleaning up these threads anyway.

Still, who knew what bad things could happen if he let it be? Since collecting the silver threads had worked for the last 25 years of his life, there was no point in not doing it again.

"The mountain is definitely getting smaller though," he thought. "Maybe I will see something inside of it when it's all gone."

Alex hoped to see anything from this mysterious silver mountain that had been staying freely in his mind for the last 25 years.

He slowly floated up to the mountain and landed on the peak. He raised his hand to grab onto one of the silver threads.

As he did, the silver thread turned into silver light before vanishing into his body.

Other silver threads floated nearby Alex, but he was too shocked at the moment to do anything at all. He slowly brought the hand he had just used before him as he looked at it with shock.

Unbelieving what he had just sensed, he quickly grabbed onto more silver threads and absorbed them. However, each time he did so, he got the same exact result.

He was finally starting to gain an understanding of what these silver threads were.

"That... that's Space aura."