

Alchemy 1321

Chapter 1321: General Information on the Eastern Continent

The commander took a moment to analyze the situation and think if he was being asked something he shouldn't answer. Of course, talking about the continent's inner workings would be bad, but... if it were just general stuff that Alex could learn by asking even a 10-year-old kid, then he didn't see what was wrong with that.

"Rather than what you've gathered, let me tell you how it is myself," the man said.

He started speaking and Alex listened.

The Eastern Continent was larger in size than the mainland Southern Continent but was smaller if you counted the Wasteland as well.

However, despite its size, it was clustered with a lot of spirit veins, making it one of the most Qi-dense locations in the entire world. That was how they were able to produce Saint realm cultivators that were nearly 10 times the amount of the Southern Continent.

While the population was also slightly larger, what helped the Eastern Continent the most was the severe lack of uninhabitable places. There weren't many places in the Eastern Continent where civilization couldn't be found, whereas, in the other continents, there were plenty of places that were barren for a very long distance.

The Northern Continent was notorious for this especially due to the nature of the continent. Not many wanted to live in the chilling cold environment where plants refused to grow.

The Southern Continent was also similar in that the Wasteland was truly a waste due to the lack of spirit veins being used.

The Western Continent was a different sort of problem entirely.

Thanks to the great population density and enough Qi to provide for them all, the Eastern Continent had managed to far outpace the other continents in this development.

However, due to this exact same reason, the Azure Imperium alone wasn't capable of governing the entire continent by itself and needed help from others.

Because of this, the very first Dragon Emperor divided the continent into 7 specific regions, each of which was a Vassal Kingdom ruled by its own ruler that was under the Dragon Emperor.

The 7 kingdoms were named the Ivory Kingdom, the Gold Kingdom, the Silver Kingdom, the Emerald Kingdom, the Ebony Kingdom, the Beast Paradise, and finally the Azure Kingdom.

The Azure Kingdom was where the Dragon Capital was, but it wasn't what ruled that kingdom. The Azure Kingdom had its own king as well, a close relative of the Dragon Emperor who reported back to the Azure Imperium.

Alex had already learned about these names from Hao Ya, but going through the records that were in the Palace, he had learned that these places were previously had names such as the Lin Kingdom, or the Shu Kingdom.

To show that he truly did not know anything about the Eastern Continent, Alex asked when these places did not exist.

"The Lin Empire, huh? That was a thing when I was a kid. However... uhh... they were all executed long ago because the kingdoms decided to conspire to attack the emperor," the man said. "Thankfully, the emperor's spies in those kingdoms relayed the information back to the emperor, and the rebellion was purged before it even started."

"Now, to make sure that no ruler finds in them the will to take over the empire, the kingdoms are given names that do not involve a family name. Gold, Silver, Ivory, they were all chosen by his Majesty so that even as a ruler, the Kings could not make use of their names."

Alex was surprised. "Is that so?" he couldn't help but genuinely ask. 'So at some point between 5 thousand years ago and now, the Kingdoms were purged and replaced with other rulers, huh?'

He wondered why they even thought of rebelling against the Emperor. Was the emperor planning on doing something that they were against? Did they not like the idea of attacking the Western Continent?

Or did the Kings simply want to stop being Vassal kingdoms? Or perhaps the Azure Dragon had died thousands of years ago, and the kings saw an opportunity.

Many possibilities ran through Alex's head, and he had to consciously make those conspiracies stop before focusing on the topic at hand.

"I assume the Beast Paradise did not take part? Or was it also involved, but the name was left as is because it didn't need to be changed?" Alex asked.

"No, the Beast Paradise did not take part. Well, the Beast Paradise doesn't really take part in anything. It's the only kingdom in the empire that the Emperor doesn't truly rule."

"The Beast Paradise was created by the first Azure Dragon that visited the Eastern Continent so that the beasts could live in peace without being hunted every day. They are separate from the overall politics of the empire."

"The only reason they even count as a Vassal kingdom is that the King of the beast there still pays taxes every decade to the Empire, as set up in the rules thousands of years ago," the commander said

"I see," Alex said, nodding his head. "If it's the Beast Paradise, then does the Azure Dragon stay there?"

Alex looked into the man's eyes, waiting for his answers.

"No, his Majesty has his own secret realm where he lives in," the commander said. "Although it is at the border of the Azure Kingdom and the Beast realm, just a few distances away from the Dragon Capital."

"Oh, I wonder if I can meet him as a representative of the Phoenix ruler," Alex said with excitement in his voice.

"Hmm, I'm not sure," the Commander said. "His Majesty, the ruler, did say that no one was allowed inside his secret realm without permission, so it will be hard. But his Majesty can communicate with him, so you can ask him when the time comes."

"I see," Alex said. "I will have to request the Dragon Emperor then."

Alex stopped himself from frowning after the small interaction. He had tried to see how the commander would react after hearing him talk about the dead dragon. He wanted to see if he would hide it, or reveal it, but to his surprise, he acted as if nothing had happened to the Dragon.

Either he was terrifyingly good at hiding his emotions, or he had absolutely no idea that the Azure Dragon was already dead.

"You've been in the military for quite some time then?" Alex asked. "I don't suppose you were made the commander just because of your connections."

"If that were true, I wouldn't have to have worked so hard to get where I am," the man explained. "We have to do our best to reach where we are."

Talking a bit about himself, the man delved into the military of the Azure Imperium.

Aside from the Scale Legion, there were 4 other legions, that were the Head Legion, the Talon Legion, the Body Legion, and the Tail Legion.

Each Legion of the army held a variable number of individuals, going anywhere from 200 to 100 thousand.

The numbers were so different because the tasks of the Legion were so different.

The Scale Legion's task involved going outside of the empire to do what they needed to do. There were a lot of islands around the Eastern Continent, and while the Scale Legion usually hung around those islands, it also took up tasks where it went out into the ocean under the empire's order.

The Body Legion had the most amount of soldiers in it, and its main task was keeping general peace over the continent. They were anything from city guards to merchant guards, depending on what they had to do.

The Tail Legion only had a few thousand individuals in it, and its task was to sit in reserve in case any of the other Legions required individuals to replace them for a while.

The Talon Legion was the main fighting force of the army and every one strong was involved in it. Each soldier in that Legion was a bonafide fighter, who had gone through many trials and tribulations to get where they were. These people were almost never involved in anything unless the Emperor needed to fight someone.

Finally, the Head Legion was a small group of elites that were specifically hand-picked to be around the Emperor and the royal family at all times. They were also the head of all Legions and gave orders to each legion when direct orders from Emperor were not required.

The various kingdoms had no army or guards of their own and had to simply utilize the members of the Body Legion.

Hearing the number of soldiers alone on the Eastern Continent blew Alex's mind. Not all of those people were Saint realm cultivators, but even then compared to his own puny army of 10 thousand soldiers, the Eastern Continent's army was a massive threat.

The Commander continued to explain a bit more about the Legions and how they were named after the Azure Dragon, but Alex had already understood that by context alone.

Moving on with his explanations, he talked about the various places in the Eastern Continent that he considered attractions that one had to visit at least once.

He also mentioned in passing the fact that there were at least 30 different secret realms in the Eastern Continent, of which 5 could only be accessed by Saint realm cultivators, 12 could be accessed by the True realm cultivators, and the rest were for Common realm cultivators to use.

"How are there so many of them?" Alex couldn't help but ask in surprise.

"They were made by the first Dragon Emperor," the Commander said. "They say that the first Dragon Emperor was a master at controlling space itself."

Chapter 1322: The Many Hidden Realms

"The first Dragon Emperor was a master of Space?" Alex asked with a somewhat surprised face.

The first Dragon Emperor was the human-dragon hybrid that was born to the first Azure Dragon that had come to become the ruler of this continent. From what Alex had gathered, the first Dragon Emperor had left behind no records of death, which led Alex to assume that he had broken through to the Immortal realm and left this place long ago.

It was that, or the Azure Dragon took him away when he left. That event would've happened so far in the past that there really was no way for any information to remain that long without proper care.

"Yes," the commander answered rather enthusiastically, with a surprising amount of child-like glee in his voice when he spoke about the first Dragon Emperor.

"There were many spatial pockets in the Eastern Continent, which weren't being used at all. So the Dragon Emperor, with some help from the Azure Dragon of that time, created the many challenges that Saints can go through to improve themselves," he said.

"I see," Alex said. "So the Dragon Emperor made those many secret realms, huh?"

"Yes," the commander said.

"I assume you've been to a few," Alex asked.

"I have, to all of them," the commander said. "Do you wish to challenge yourself in these secret realms, Your Majesty?"

"I don't see why not," Alex said. "My cultivation base is still low enough that I can't be considered an expert amongst the Saints, so it might do me well to go through them."

"I assume Your Majesty has a competitive spirit by nature, so I suggest you visit the Endless Shadow Abyss of the Emerald Kingdom, and the Transcendent Martial Ground of the Silver Kingdom," the Commander said.

Alex looked at the man weirdly. "Endless Shadow Abyss?" he asked. "That sounds like a place where one goes to get lost forever. Surely that's not your intention, is it?"

"Huh? No, absolutely not," the commander panicked a little. "Endless Shadow Abyss is actually one of the safest secret realms for everyone. Even Common Realm cultivators can go there and be safe."

"Oh, then why is it called what it is?" Alex asked.

"It's just that there is no light in that realm," the commander said. "So it is called that."

"No light?" Alex asked. "That's it? The name is unnecessarily scary then, isn't it?"

"Well... uhh... you could say that," the commander said. "But it was named that way since it was created, so I don't have any say in what it's called."

"I wasn't asking you to change it," Alex chuckled a bit. "Are those two the only ones I can go to?"

"Well, there is the Harmonious Balance Haven, but I don't know if you would like that or not," the man said. "There is... oh, I nearly forgot. There is one secret realm that was specifically designed for non-fighters such as you. I think you would love it, your Majesty."

"Do you mean for Alchemists?" Alex asked.

"Alchemists, Formation masters, Talisman crafters, musicians, painters, anyone," the man said. "I don't know if you would need to go through that, though. I assume you already are at the peak of what you can do."

"I... can take a look. It's never good to push away opportunities just because you think you know everything. Who knows, maybe you can actually learn something," Alex said.

"That's true, your Majesty," the commander said. "If you're going for all, you might as well go for the Boundless Enlightenment Domain."

"That sounds like a place where I can learn Dao," Alex said with an expectant look.

"Yes," the commander said. "That is indeed its main purpose, or at least it was supposed to be."

"What do you mean by that?" Alex asked with a weird expression on his face.

"Well... people don't use the realm for what it is supposed to be used for," the commander said. "It's become more of a... tourism spot than anything."

"Why is that?" Alex asked.

"That's becau—"

"Commander!" one soldier shouted suddenly, catching his attention. The commander quickly turned around and looked at the soldier only to see that he was pointing somewhere out in the front.

The commander quickly turned around and saw small black dots on the horizon that he couldn't make out just yet.

Alex's attention was caught as well and he looked around to see what they were pointing at. When he turned, he saw a bunch of beasts, all the same, flying in the sky in the distance.

They were too far for his spiritual sense to reach, but his eyes could see them.

"Is there a problem?" he asked seeing the commander's serious face.

"Somewhat," the commander said. "Excuse me, your majesty. I'll have to go handle this. Please go back to your room as things may get a little dangerous for a while."

The commander left before Alex could even ask what exactly was going on. Alex turned around toward the flock of flying beasts and wondered if they were going to attack the ship.

The ship changed its direction ever so slightly so that they were moving away from the massive group of birds. However, at the speed they were going, any simple change in direction required quite a lot of Qi, so the commander had to use as little as he could to get away from those beasts.

Around 5 minutes passed and only then did the commander come back on the deck, looking in the distance.

"Did you not go inside, your Majesty?" he asked. "It really could've gotten dangerous."

"I was thinking of going inside when the danger finally did come," Alex said. "What danger is it anyway?"

"Well... hopefully we won't get to see it as it is just that dangerous," the commander said with a small smile on his face.

The ship went further past the flock of beasts that were far off to the side. However, just as they had passed it, something happened.

Everyone suddenly felt a fluctuation in the air as the Qi shifted. Then, the ocean churned as something flew out of it, massive and hungry.

The giant 6-armed, feathered water beast was nearly 3 times larger than the boat they were on, and the leviathan of a beast flew into the sky and opened its jaw to swallow half the flock of beasts in a single bite.

Everyone from Alex, the Commander, the soldiers, and even the Alchemists and their assistant watched as the giant beast moved its 6 long limbs to catch the many beasts that tried to fly away from it.

Some managed to escape away, but most still ended up in the beast's belly.

The massive beast roared, the snake-like body of its coiling in the sky as it did so. The roar of the beast was so powerful that it shook the ship that was in the air, even dozens of kilometers away.

Then, everyone on the ship felt the beast's spiritual sense move past them. And then it landed on them, locating them.

Its head turned, its snake-like eyes looking for them but not finding them.

"Commander?" Alex asked, a little worried.

"Men!" the Commander suddenly shouted for his soldiers on the ship as he pulled a sword out from his storage. "Get ready! We are going to fight the Wyrms."

Chapter 1323: Armed Feathered Water Wyrms

'Wyrms?' Alex's eyes widened slightly and narrowed as he understood that the situation was most likely more dangerous than it appeared to already be.

He had only recently been made aware of what Wyrms were. They were snake-like beasts, with or without arms, that shared a bloodline of the Azure Dragons.

There were snakes, lizards, and even birds that had the Azure Dragon's bloodline in them, but nothing was closer in purity than the Wyrms themselves.

Of course, they only held the bloodline, just some part of it, and they were rarely capable of evolving. In a way, they were to the Azure Dragons, what Pearl was just years ago to the White Tigers.

However, something was missing from what Alex could see.

'Wyrms are supposed to have the Dragon whiskers, are they not?' he thought. 'And those arms? Wyrms shouldn't have that many limbs, not to mention they have feathers.'

Even if the beast was a Wyrn, it had to have a heavily diluted Azure Dragon blood in it, making it just slightly less terrifying than what it could have been.

Still, that was the leviathan of a beast that had just devoured the many Saint-beasts that were flying in the sky. It was still a terrifying beast to be found by.

The commander quickly flew out with the soldiers, all totaling about 40, aside from the 5 that remained on the ship so that they could take care of it if needed.

The commander checked the beast's cultivation base. It was a Saint Transformation 6th realm cultivation beast, that was clearly far superior to everyone present on the ship.

The 6-armed Feathered Water Wyrn stopped a few hundred meters before the commander and looked at him.

"Giving yourself up to become my food so I can spare the ones behind you?" the Wyrn asked in a high-pitched voice. The voice sounded grating to everyone's ears, but the Saints stood tall throughout it.

"Senior, we are members of the Azure Imperium, serving the Dragon Emperor who serves the Azure Dragon himself. Please provide us with a passage through your region. We do not want any conflict," the commander said.

His first and foremost priority here was everyone's safety, so the least he could do before fighting was just ask. He was 2 realms weaker than the Wyrn, so he was a little worried.

He knew he could fight the Wyrms without dying, but if his men started dying in the process, that would be a problem.

While the commander talked, the soldiers were already getting into a formation, the men and women making three groups of 13 from the 39 people that were there.

The 3 groups moved away from each other, staying equidistance away from each other.

Alex could see that they were starting some sort of battle array that was going to help them get stronger most likely.

"I wonder how good it is compared to the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array," he wondered to himself. The two elders were next to him, urging him to get to safety. The alchemists and others were all sent to their safety, and only the three of them remained outside."

"Your majesty, you should really get to safety quickly," Liang Shufen spoke from his side.

"If that beast gets through, is there any safe place to hide in the ship?" Alex asked the elder. He knew himself that it was dangerous, but anything that was dangerous to him now could not be defended by the ship.

Besides, he had his own ways of saving himself if it truly came to that. For now, he enjoyed the show that was being put on by the commander Long Jianyu.

"The Azure Dragon's followers?" the wyrms' eyes shifted for a moment as it was scared at the name. But it quickly got a hold of itself and looked strong. "Unless senior himself comes and vouches for you, I will not believe you"

The commander frowned. "Does that mean you're not letting us go?" he asked, his body slowly powered up by the array that his Legion was helping him with.

"If I came flying through your land's sky, would you have let me fly past, or would you have attacked me?" the Wyrms asked.

"I would've tried to stop you and understand if you were a threat to our people or not. If you were, I would've attacked you, but if you weren't I would've let you go without fighting," the commander answered.

"Well..." the Wyrms spoke. "It's a shame that's not the way I see you. I don't see if you are a danger or not. I see if you are food or not. Given how high your cultivation base is, you will make for a delicious meal."

The Wyrms licked its lips with its forked tongue, ready to fight.

"You damn Wyrms," the Commander shouted. "You dare show arrogance, in front of the mighty Dragons?"

Suddenly an illusory dragon formed behind the Commander, which seemed to be forming from the energy that was put out by the 3 groups of 13 soldiers.

This was the Battle Array that was being set up this whole time. Once it was set, the battle began.

The sky thundered as the Saint Transformation realm man and beast started fighting each other very close by.

Each one of their attacks sends the clouds rolling away. The shockwaves from the attack brightened the many invisible barriers that were protecting them from the outside situation.

The soldiers that were on the outside were directly facing these forces but they hung on.

Long Jianyu swung his sword, sending an attack that was filled with a rather strong Sword Intent.

The Wyrms created a water barrier that stopped the attack, creating another strong explosion in the sky. The place where the attack landed suddenly burst out with vines all around that sought to capture the ones that Jianyu wanted to.

The Wyrms simply roared and the vines were immediately destroyed.

The Wyrms then attacked, sending 3 dragon-shaped water attacks flying in the commander's direction.

The commander stopped it, but it took some strength on his end. He wasted no time and immediately went in to attack the Wyrms again.

He used a Dao, as vines appeared out of nowhere again that tried to bind the Wyrms. Alex didn't recognize the dao, but he did recognize it being used.

The Wyrms's body gleamed, its feathered body turning solid, almost as if it was encased in ice. The ice shattered, and with the shattered ice, it destroyed the pieces of vines that were trying to constrict it.

The commander frowned a bit. He was strong, but if things went on like this, he didn't know how much longer he could keep it going.

The Wyrms was stubborn as well. Even though it wasn't winning at all, it still fought. The arrogance it felt from being the strongest beast around this region for ages was not something the beast could just swallow and let the ship go past it.

Alex watched from the ship as the fight between the Commander and the Wyrms continued on for a while longer, and from the looks of it, neither one was going to win any time soon.

Chapter 1324: The Wyrms's Desperate Attack

The battle lasted for another 2 hours with not a single victor coming out from either side. The Wyrms was strong as it was a Saint Transformation 6th realm beast, and the Commander was strong because he had the strength of nearly 40 different soldiers behind him.

However, anyone that wasn't an active participant in this battle could see that the fight was coming to an end very soon.

The two sides had attacked each other for so long that each side had lost a lot of their strength and was soon going to be running out of Qi to even continue the fight.

The Scale Legion's battle array was either highly inefficient or the people in that group were having to spend way too much energy to constantly save themselves from the shockwaves and blasts that came from fighting the Wyrms.

The Wyrms were also running out of Qi. Out here in the sky, it wasn't doing as well as it probably could've had the battle take place in the ocean.

Both of the fighters noticed this as well.

"Men, give me all you have," the commander shouted. "This is our only chance."

"YES COMMANDER!" everyone shouted at once, giving everything of what they had to the Commander, making him that much stronger, but for just a single attack.

As soon as he had the power, the commander initiated the attack, giving the Wyrms absolutely no time to run away or use some technique.

His sword glowed with bright white light, but it did not come from his Sword Qi. Instead, the light zapped a bit, letting everyone realize what it was.

A lightning attack, and a very strong one at that.

The commander pulled his sword back and stabbed forward. The lightning left the blade, zigzagging through the air, lighting everything in its path as it moved toward the Wyrms.

As it flew, it took the shape of a dragon with its mouth wide open as if it wanted to devour the Wyrms whole.

The Wyrms panicked as it sensed the strength of the attack, but it did not shy away from the attack. Instead, it used an attack of its own.

Ice crystals formed around the beast coalescing in front of it as it formed a strong barrier. It was using the Ice Dao it had learned to form a strong barrier in front of it, using not only its own Qi, but the Qi from the surrounding to power up its shield.

The lightning dragon struck the barrier that had formed and broken it into pieces after a bit of struggle, but in doing so, it had reduced in strength by so much that the Wyrms wasn't even wounded a little.

It came out angry from the lightning strikes, its feathers burned a little at best.

"You damn human!" it cried out. "You... You actually..."

The Wyrms knew that they were fighting seriously, but it had never considered death to be part of the outcome at all. With how long it had survived as the one who ruled this section of the ocean for thousands of years, death was not a concept it thought much of.

Would it die in the future? Yes. Was its death close? The Wyrms was sure it could go on another few thousand years before even having to think about that. Not to mention, there was a chance, however slim, that it would even become an Immortal.

As such when the attack came, one that if he wasn't careful had the strength to kill him instantly, he got mad.

He got mad at the 40 different people standing in front of it. It got so mad that it was going to kill all of them, right then and there.

The Commander had lost a lot of his strength, becoming weaker than how he was originally. The battle array was doing little to help the commander now.

His body was haggard as he watched what the wyrm did next.

The heaven and earth seemed angry all of a sudden as the air itself began to shake and fear from what was happening.

It seemed to shift around everyone as if something strong had appeared in the surrounding. Even the people standing inside the boat got concerned as they too could sense it all.

The two Elders standing around Alex got concerned, and Alex's face changed as well. He had sensed this sort of power before. Only one time.

As the Wyrms body radiated blue, and an enormous blue wyrm spirit appeared behind it, everyone knew that the Wyrms was using its Immortal Qi.

Since Saint Qi turned to Immortal Qi somewhere around Saint Transformation's 5th realm on average, the Wyrms had to have enough Qi to send out a truly strong attack.

The 40-some soldiers started backing up as they were scared now. They had expected this outcome, but they had hoped the commander would defeat the beast before it came to this.

They even had a secret technique when push came to shove, and yet... it was all for naught.

Water tendrils formed around the Wyrms as it used its Immortal Qi to form an attack that had at least 20 different water snakes, all working together to become a massive attack.

Alex looked at the attack and frowned. "I believe they are going to die at this rate," he said.

"I believe so as well," Yao Ning answered.

"We should help them," Alex said.

"As you say, your Majesty," the old woman bowed.

The Wyrms launched its attack, sending the water snakes flying directly at the commander and his men.

The commander tried to muster his attack, but he had absolutely no strength to do any such thing at the moment. All he could do was watch as the attack destroyed him and everyone else.

He closed his eyes and accepted his fate.

He heard a loud bang and loud cries from behind him. Water splashed onto him, but it came from the top, not the front. Then, he heard a sigh.

He slowly opened his eyes and saw a large golden barrier in front of him. Next to him was the person who had created the barrier.

Yao Ning stood next to him with her arm stretched outward, towards the barrier. Her face seemed without any emotion, maybe a bit annoyed but that was it.

She had stopped an attack with Immortal Qi with just a barrier.

'No,' the commander realized. 'It's not just a barrier. It's a barrier with immortal Qi in it.'

The barrier had cracks, but that was all it had. Aside from cracks, it had no problems defending against another normal attack.

"Are you alright?" the old woman turned toward the Commander and asked.

"Y-yes," the commander said quickly while coming out of his stupor. He checked the old woman with his senses and only then did he realize just how strong this woman in front of him was.

'Saint Transformation 7th realm,' he thought.

This woman was strong enough to become one of the head members of the Head Legion itself were she to ever consider joining the Azure Imperium.

"As a representative of the Eastern Continent, you shouldn't have started this fight when you had so many guests to protect. It doesn't look very good on you."

Chapter 1325: Hundred Arms Golden Sphere Technique

Yao Ning was the oldest human living on the Southern Continent at the moment, and similarly, she was also the strongest.

At Saint Transformation 7th realm, there was not a single person stronger than her. Her cultivation base had also improved a lot in the past few years thanks to Alex's veined pills.

She had come with Alex for the sole purpose of protecting him. When the commander left to fight, she had stayed behind assuming that he would be enough. However, seeing as he had failed and everyone was in danger, she had to step in.

The commander took a deep breath and released an equally deep sigh of relief.

"Thank you, senior for helping us," he said, bowing a bit toward Yao Ning.

Yao Ning nodded. "Go back and take your men with you. I will take care of this," the old woman said before turning toward the wyrm that seemed to fail to realize what had just happened.

It had not even seen the old woman arrive before the man, let alone use her techniques. How had she gotten there so quickly? Was she always there?

Yao Ning turned toward the Wyrms. "Had you just let us be, none of this would be happening to you," she said as golden Qi released from her body slowly filling the air around her as if forming a bubble with it.

The golden bubble completely covered her as the outer layer formed a strong barrier.

"Now that you've dared to try and kill us, I will be killing you instead," the old woman said as the golden bubble released 8 different limbs from its body, each of which turned into golden swords at the end.

Yao Ning had all the limbs under her control, and she began her attacks.

The technique Yao Ning had just used, the Hundred Arms Golden Sphere technique, was the signature skill of the Yao family that had been passed down for generations.

Alex saw the old woman use that skill with quite a bit of admiration in his eyes. The last time he had seen this technique was nearly a decade and a half ago when he fought Yao Bujiang in the Battle Arena that was controlled by the Ren family.

He had used this very same technique, only he had used 4 arms against Alex, while the old woman Yao used 8. From what Alex knew, doubling the number of arms used was a terrifyingly difficult task that only got exponentially harder each time.

Youths of the Yao family started with no arms, then one, then two, and then four. Most didn't even reach four, so the fact that Yao Ning could do 8 went on to show just how much of a prodigy she was from the family.

The 8 arms of the golden barrier worked flawlessly as they moved with such grace that one couldn't even tell just how dangerous those arms were.

The arms moved, releasing bursts of attacks flying toward the Wyrms. The Wyrms defended as well as it could, but not only had it used up its Immortal Qi, even its regular Qi was close to running out.

The threat of death went from being surreal to real all of a sudden as any of the next few attacks could kill it.

The Wyrms fought back, sending out attacks of its own, but not a single one of them did anything to the old woman at all. All of its attacks were simply defended by the golden barrier.

Even when it tried to sneak an attack past the woman, the golden arms easily stopped it.

The old woman was like a chef, showing masterful skills in the kitchen, while the Wyrms were the ingredient lying on the cutting board. And it was about to be cut.

'No,' it thought. 'No, I can't die.'

The Wyrms were on their last life, their bodies bleeding all over, their blue feathers stained red. They no longer thought of their domain, their pride, or even the dangers that lurked below the ocean in the state they were in.

In their minds, running away into the ocean was the only way for them to survive. So, the Wyrms turned around and instantly started diving down.

"No you don't," Yao Ning said as all 8 of the arms around her came together to make a strong attack. Right before she was about to attack, however, she stopped.

The Wyrms didn't notice that. They were simply too focused on running toward the ocean. So, when they saw a young man on his way down, they couldn't care enough to be cautious.

"Surely you don't think you can just leave, do you?" Alex asked with Midnight in hand. His sword glowed white, black, and silver, all at the same time. There were also two other auras on his sword that were hidden to the naked eyes.

Combined with his physical strength, this was the strongest attack the current Alex could use.

The Wyrms noticed Alex's attack as well, but by that time, it was simply too late.

God Rending Death Blade.

Alex flew himself, arriving at the Wyrms in an instant. He struck the head of the heavily wounded Wyrms and at that very moment, the Wyrms realized that it had been too careless.

Alex's physical strength wasn't much, considering it was only around Saint Core 1st realm at the moment even after years of body cultivation.

His sword aura was also not that strong. It used to be very strong previously, but given how much everything else had improved, the other aspects of his fighting strength had caught up and surpassed the strength of his Sword Aura in some cases.

Currently, his Sword Aura was capable of producing strength around the peak of the Saint Core realm.

Unlike them, however, his Qi was plenty strong. At Saint Core 6th realm, his Qi could produce a strength comparable to the average attack of a Saint Soul 6th realm. Adding onto that strength provided by his Yin Qi when put through Midnight to use the God Rending Death Blade technique, it even went a step beyond to reach the Saint Soul 7th realm in strength.

The silver light surrounding his sword had been Space aura, as he was using the dao of Space and dao of Cutting together to form a spatial blade, the attributes of which he had put into this very skill.

Combined with the force from a Saint Transformation 1st realm equivalent Blood aura, the overall strength of his attack had improved to reach a realm beyond what he had ever been able to produce.

Adding onto all that the Spiritual attack he had learned from the Spiritual Providence technique, this had most definitely been his strongest attack to date without any external help.

What that meant when it came to the Wyrms was that in a single strike, Alex cut through the Wyrms from its head to its tail like a fish fillet.

Not even a Nascent soul remained after Alex's attack.

He turned around and quickly took the beast's body into his storage ring. A body like that of the Wyrms could be considered a treasure on its own.

But what Alex considered to truly be the treasure here was the Beast Core of the Wyrms. With enough time, he would have a blood Wyrms of his own.

Chapter 1326: Closing In

Alex flew back up with the old woman looking down on him with a rather angry look.

"Your majesty! We can't protect you if you keep doing this," she said. "You need to stay in the ship where you're safe."

"Uh... sorry," he said.

"Sorry isn't going to cut it," Yao Ning said. "Do you know what would've happened if the beast had gotten you?"

"It's alright," Alex said. "I wanted the Wyrms's body."

"I could've gotten that for you. I was ready to kill it anyway," the old woman said.

Alex smiled as the two of them returned with Yao Ning having a frowning face. After returning, Liang Shufen joined Yao Ning and started scolding Alex. She didn't go overboard with the scolding as Alex was still their King, but the old lady Yao seemed to have no such fear.

Alex ignored most of their words and turned toward the Commander who was finding it hard to believe what had happened out there.

Old Lady Yao had defeated the beast so easily, and then Alex had even killed the beast himself. He tried feeling Alex's cultivation base, but it wasn't that strong. Was the beast just that weakened?

In the first place, how did he arrive all the way down there?

"Thank you for your hard work, commander," Alex said.

"Please, your majesty, you're embarrassing me," the commander said. "I barely did anything. It was all you in the end."

"No, no, you might not have won against that beast, but that certainly doesn't mean you did nothing," Alex said. "I doubt Elder Yao could've had such an easy time had you and your men not weakened it so much. Seriously, thank you."

The commander finally nodded. "Thank you for saving us," he said. His men behind him bowed all at the same time as well.

The ship began moving again, and the commander and his men ate some pills to get treated. Alex went ahead and checked the commander a bit to show some concern. The commander was thankful and he was very verbal about it.

The alchemists and assistants came out from their rooms now that the danger was over. They had hidden, praying that they wouldn't die here, only to find out that they had nothing to worry about.

Even Alex wasn't aware of that, so they couldn't be blamed. Alex had been worried that they were going to get hurt too. In fact, he was ready to teleport the entire boat, regardless of what it would cost him to use his dao on that sort of scale.

However, he had only relaxed when he realized that the old woman wasn't phased from the very start. When he had asked her, she told him that she could defeat it if she had to.

That was why Alex had teleported her right in front of the commander at the last moment to save them all.

After things returned back to normal, Alex walked to the bow of the ship and watched the serene water go past them all.

The ocean below was a brilliant shade of azure, reflecting the vibrant hues of the sky above. The water's surface rippled and sparkled with sunlight, captivating everyone with its ethereal beauty.

There was marine life, not just beasts that lived in the ocean. From time to time, Alex would see regular, coreless fishes jump out of the ocean, moving as quickly as they could toward some unknown destination.

Time passed and soon night came. However, Alex still stayed there, watching the life below.

The islands flew past him, with hundreds of beasts that he could see even from there. There were volcanic mountains in some locations where lava constantly flowed from the side.

There were waves in the ocean. Most were small, but some reached nearly 20 meters high. Alex watched as one wave submerged an entire island before the water receded enough that he could see the destroyed trees again.

The weather phenomena were a sight to see too. From storm to hail, to rain, to even snow sometimes.

There were also times when the entire sky would turn into a rain of lightning like the Lightning Peninsula from the Northern Continent used to be.

Even more time passed as the people on the ship got used to being on the ship. They lived normally, coming to the deck to socialize when they wanted to, before going back to their rooms to learn and cultivate.

There were beasts that found them from time to time, but none of them were nearly as strong as the Wyrms and were easily taken care of.

Before they knew it, 2 weeks had passed.

The islands in the ocean were starting to get larger now, and the number of strong beasts was quickly dropping in number. They were getting closer and closer to the Eastern Continent.

Alex walked up to the Commander, who was standing in the front of the ship. "How long before we arrive?" he asked.

"Our destination is the Greatwind region of the Silver Kingdom, so I would say about half a day. Maybe slightly longer? We should arrive before sunrise though," the commander said. "We will land near the Blightwind city and take the teleportation formation from there, so we will be reaching our destination soon."

Alex nodded after hearing that. "Half a day huh?" he said. "Then... I will finally be in the Eastern Continent."

Once he arrived, he would have visited to all 5 continents of this realm. Once he explored that continent, there wouldn't be much remaining for him to do in this world anymore.

Suddenly, a massive spiritual sense passed through the whole boat. Something strong had found them again.

* * * * *

In a dark room, a man sat cultivating. His hair was unkempt, his beard scraggly. His hair and beard, along with his mustache covered so much of his face that it wasn't even visible.

He wore torn robes that barely covered him but did great to show off his muscular body. He had forgotten how long he had been cultivating here, just that it had been a while now.

His eyes opened wide when he felt something. He pulled out a small artifact from his storage bag, that told him something that caught his attention.

The old man walked out of the cave and looked in a certain direction where he tried to find something in the sky against the night sky. He couldn't see anything

So, to help him see what was there, he released his spiritual sense in that direction.

He didn't expect much this time around either. He had been doing this for quite a while now, and he knew what to expect most of the time.

Most times, it would just be a person or two flying to and from the continent. Those were not the thing he was looking out for.

However, when he noticed that what was flying was a ship, his attention instantly sharpened. When he saw that the ship actually had an insignia of the Azure Imperium on it, his eyes narrowed in seriousness.

This was what he had been looking out for. His wait here hadn't been in vain at all. A moment later, the man was already flying into the sky, going after the ship.

Chapter 1327: The Old Man

"Another beast?" Alex asked, not understanding what was happening. He, along with everyone else had released their spiritual sense, and it reached nowhere near far enough to cover anything that could've used its spiritual sense on them.

Then, something flew into the range of their senses. Before they knew it, it was already near them.

Elder Yao and Commander Jianyu moved at the same time, arriving outside the ship one after another to intercept the person who had come.

The man stopped a few dozen meters from the two, his hair and beard scraggly, his robes mostly torn.

"Who are you?" the commander asked.

The old man stayed quiet and simply looked around. They could see his eyes as well as sense his spiritual sense move through them, as if looking for something.

Alex frowned a little and stepped in front of the many alchemists just in case they needed to be protected.

"Let me into your ship," the man said with a hoarse voice.

"That's not happening until you introduce yourself," the commander said. Even if he knew he was weak, he wouldn't do something to jeopardize the safety of his guests.

"Fellow Daoist, we are guests from the Southern Continent on our way to the Eastern Continent," Yao Ning said. "Would you please tell us why you have come here?"

She could tell that the man in front of her was as strong as her, if not more. She couldn't afford to start a fight here.

The old man finally turned his head towards the woman, away from whatever else he was looking at. His eyes narrowed with a slight hint of confusion to them. "The Southern Continent? What is someone like that doing here?" he asked.

"We are part of the Alchemy Exchange that His Majesty of the Southern Continent and the Emperor of the Eastern Continent set up," Yao Ning said.

The old man seemed to be thinking something for a few seconds before he spoke again. "So this boat is coming from the Southern Continent?"

"Yes," Yao Ning said.

"Then move and let me into your ship," the man said.

Yao Ning frowned. "I'm sorry, Fellow Daoist, but I cannot agree to that. I have to keep in mind the safety of everyone on the ship," she said. "If you continue insisting, I will have to force you away."

She got ready to fight, and so did Long Jianyu.

The old man noticed that and sighed. "Let me into the boat and I promise to not hurt a single soul in there. If I even so much as hurt someone, let the heaven strike me dead," he said.

Everyone felt turbulence in the air as the oath made by the man was instantly accepted. Yao Ning frowned as she didn't know what to do. Long Jianyu was following her in this instance, so he was stupefied as well.

"Let him in," Alex said, walking up to the edge of the ship.

"But your Majesty—"

"Do it," Alex said, nodding towards Yao Ning.

The old woman thought for a moment and quickly nodded. "Fellow Daoist, please come in," she said, moving back into the ship.

Long Jianyu stood confused for a moment, but it didn't take him too long to see what was happening. He went back onto the ship as well and waited for the old man to walk in.

The old man could barely see the image of the ship with his eyes. He had to use his spiritual sense to look at the rest.

He slowly flew into the ship, the barriers doing little to keep him outside. When he entered, he finally saw everyone inside, most of who weren't present on the deck yet.

"How can we help you, senior?" Alex asked.

The old man looked at him. "Who are you?" he asked.

"This is His Majesty Alex, King of the Southern Continent," Yao Ning quickly introduced him.

"King of the Southern Continent?" the man's eyes widened in surprise. "I apologize for the scene I've caused, your Majesty."

The old man was surprisingly respectful for the disrespect he had shown during most of his interaction here. However, that was most likely to be expected from someone so high in cultivation that nothing else mattered to them.

"As long as I and my subjects are unharmed, I don't mind what is happening," Alex said. "May I know what you want to do here? Do you want us to take you along?"

"No," the old man said. He turned towards the commander. "Lower your ship's defenses, all of them."

"What? No, I won't do that," the commander quickly said.

"Do it or I'll destroy this ship to make it happen myself," the old man said.

Everyone frowned at the threat. He had made an oath not to hurt anyone, but he had said nothing about the ship.

The reason Alex had even brought him onto the ship was because he had said the oath to not hurt anyone if he was let in. Alex wanted to put the oath into effect as soon as he could so that he could protect everyone.

However, if the ship were to be destroyed, would the oath still work? He wasn't sure. Logic said that they would still be safe, but his heart feared something else.

"Can you tell us what you wish to do with the ship's defenses lowered?" Alex asked. "I'm afraid we might put ourselves in danger if we do so."

"As I said, your Majesty," the old man spoke in his hoarse voice. "I have absolutely no intention of harming anyone here. I just wish to check a few things, which I can only do when the ship's defenses are lowered, one way or another."

Alex still frowned, but he couldn't see another way out of this situation. He could have Yao Ning fight him on the ship since he couldn't attack her back now, but that would still leave him free to destroy the ship.

And with the strength he had, there was no chance the ship could survive at all.

"Commander, do as he says," Alex said. The man could destroy the ship after the defenses were lowered too, but that would lead to the same result, so there wasn't much merit in worrying too much.

The commander hated that he had to do this, but he saw no other choice as well. "Fine," he said and pulled out something.

A moment passed, and suddenly all formation started lowering. In fact, the commander had to start using his Qi to keep the boat afloat even.

The man spread his spiritual sense, looking for something. "Are all of the defenses down?" he asked the Commander.

"Yes," the commander said.

"I need a definite answer," the old man said. "Swear that to the heavens."

The commander grumbled a bit under his breath and did something else. It seemed he hadn't lowered all formations. "I did it," he said. "I swear to the heavens that all the defenses are down."

The old man wasted no time and sent his spiritual sense into the boat. He could see the many people who were scared and terrified of his senses. However, the man didn't seem to care for them.

He looked thoroughly for another minute or so before withdrawing his spiritual sense. "Thank you for your time," he said. "Please be safe on your journey."

Then, the man left the ship and flew away, leaving everyone in a daze.

Chapter 1328: The Eastern Continent

"That's it?" Liang Shufen couldn't help but ask as the old man disappeared somewhere in the horizon.

The whole thing felt very surreal, with the old man coming out of nowhere, demanding something so outrageous, and then leaving all of a sudden.

"I don't think we need to stay here any longer," Alex said. "Commander, we should leave before any other trouble arises."

"Yes," the commander said and quickly put back all the defenses and flew the ship.

Even as they flew away, the group couldn't help but think of how weird the experience had been.

"That must've been one of the hidden masters you were talking about that cultivates outside in these islands," Alex said.

"Maybe," the commander said.

"Do you know who he is by any chance?" Alex asked. "Have you recognized him now that he's been here so close?"

"No," the commander said. "I'm trying to think of old men that are equally as strong, but it's hard to say. Especially given the fact that this man could've been hiding here for centuries and may have even faked his death to come here."

"Under those circumstances, it's pretty much impossible to tell anything," the commander said.

"Hmm," Alex gave the statement some thought. He could see that the commander was just as confused as anyone else, so he didn't suspect that he was hiding anything. "Oh, does the ship have secret compartments? Or does your ship hold some treasure?"

"Umm... no, none," the commander said. "I dropped all the defenses as he asked, so there was nothing I could hide in here even if I wanted to."

"That's true," Alex said. "I'll go talk with my people then. They seem plenty scared by the encounter."

"I apologize that you had to go through something like this again, your majesty," the commander said as Alex left.

Something was bugging Alex about the whole ordeal. What was the old man looking for exactly?

There were some hints, but not enough for Alex to go on at the moment. He returned back to his assistants who were all calming themselves down. Some had even taken a pill to remove their anxiety.

"Are you guys alright?" Alex asked the group, most of whom nodded, but there were some who shook their head.

"It's alright," Alex said. "He's gone. You guys can relax."

After talking to the alchemists for a while, he returned to the bow of the ship where he looked out for any other such instance.

As the ship got closer and closer to its destination, the number of islands was slowly increasing as well. Larger and larger islands passed by the group, all of whom looked down with great curiosity.

Someone of the islands was even inhabited by humans, surprising the group. They had built giant cities and were a full-fledged society.

The sun had started to come up, making it more clear for everyone to see the things below. The number of cities increased by a significant number, with some islands having more than just one.

There were other islands that were close enough that they had a bridge forming between them, connecting every single island in that archipelago.

As the ship continued flying forward, Alex could see a giant island on the horizon. He could see the continent. He waited patiently for the ship to reach there, but there was something to cross beforehand.

A line of soldiers stayed in floating ships that were there to check any ships that went in and out of the continent. And they were dense enough to cover the entire shoreline.

The ship moved forward confidently and the commander came up to the front before slowly bringing the ship to a half in front of them.

A man flew out of the ship from the other side, a man with a clean-shaven face and his hair tied in a ponytail.

"Commander Jianyu, you've finally arrived," the man said.

"Commander Beiquan," the commander greeted back. "Have you been waiting for us?"

"For two days," the man named Beiquan said. "Why were you so late?"

"We had some trouble in the ocean. A couple of beasts decided to fight us, we had to take a bit of detour, and one man even stopped us for something," the commander said. "This was more troublesome than most other times."

"I see," the man said before looking beyond the commander toward Alex and the others. "Ah, those must be the people from the Southern Continent."

"Ah, yes. Let me introduce you to him," the commander said and brought the man over to Alex and the rest.

The man was called Jin Beiquan and was one of the commanders of the Scale Legion. The Scale Legions' task was to deal with things outside of the continent, so they mostly stayed guard around the perimeter to make sure no one sneaked in without letting them know who they were.

Alex and the rest greeted the man and finally, they were let sent on their way with more soldiers added for protection.

"Welcome to the Eastern Continent, your Majesty," the commander said as they entered the air space of the continent itself.

The massive continent showed its face to them. The flat lands in front of them, the mountain range in the distance. Everywhere their eyes reached, they could see tiny hints of civilization at each instance.

"We're in the Silver Kingdom right now, the Greatwind region within it," the commander explained where they were. "It covers a vast land on the western side of it and is named after the strong winds that flow in from the ocean to the west in summer."

"Within it, we're going to the Blightwind City. You will see a patch of land soon that is completely deserted because of a plague that was blown in by the wind that caused all the plants to die. Fortunately, people still managed to change the tide against the plague in time and formed a city here, and named it after that."

He gave some trivia knowledge about where they were going. As the man had told him, there was indeed a path of land in front that looked like it belonged to the desert.

A bit further away, Alex saw the city in the distance. Past the deserted-looking region was a city full of rivers and ponds all around it.

There were many people fishing in the rivers and ponds, and many bridges going past them. There were children playing in the water, cultivators flying on top of it all.

There was no wall surrounding anything as the city simply began at one place and went on as far as it could.

There was a massive building at the center, which the Commander said most likely belonged to the mayor of the city.

If Alex was not wrong, that house was better than either palace he had been to in the Western Continent.

'Amazing,' he couldn't help but say.

The people watched as the ship arrived and landed outside of their city. Everyone noticed who the ship belonged to and made sure to not cause any problems.

As the ship landed, the formations were shut down one by one. As the barriers started to disappear, the atmosphere of the Eastern Continent finally entered the ship.

And only then were the people from the Southern Continent introduced to the dense Qi that was everywhere in the Eastern Continent.

Chapter 1329: News Board

"It's so strong," Yao Ning couldn't help but say. "No wonder people here reach Saint realm so easily."

"It truly is something," Liang Shufen said. "I haven't sensed air this potent with Qi in all my life."

"This is comparable to some places I've been to," Alex said, looking around. The beast realm and the ancient sects of the Northern Continent were similar to this. His palace was slightly weaker, but not by much.

However, this was just a random city at the edge of the continent. He could only imagine how much stronger the Qi would get when they got in closer to the center.

A few carriages seemed to have been prepared as everyone got on it and went towards where the teleportation formation was.

Alex watched out of the window, watching everyone outside who was watching him. They first crossed a bridge, and he could see the people in the ocean looking back at them.

Kids that looked as if they were 12 years old had a cultivation base already. Teenagers were at the peak of the common realm, and some were even in the true realm. Most adults were in the True realm entirely.

Alex saw a few Saint realms too on his way to teleportation formation.

He observed their cultivation base, their clothes, their mannerisms, and many other things on the road.

The people of the Eastern Continent wore robes just like them, but they seemed to have quite a few things hanging from their clothes, like little trinkets or a small piece of cloth.

The women wore colorful dresses, with patterns or flowers or other prints on their robes. Their sleeves were mostly flimsy and transparent, which seemed to be the fashion these days.

They also seemed to wear quite a lot of jewelry that wasn't even artifacts.

The people here were slightly scared of the soldiers it seemed, but that was to be expected of anyone anywhere. Even if you did nothing wrong, seeing a soldier would freak you out most of the time.

The architecture of this city was quite amazing too. The inner they went, the more compact the city became. The roads were large all the same, but they started to look better and better, all covered in walking stones.

They were so uniformly placed that the carriage didn't even rattle as they rode on top of it.

"Commander, how would you rank this city overall when compared to all the other cities of the empire?" Alex asked.

"Rank?" the commander thought. "Let's see, it would say it's a little below average. It might have been average if there was at least a large sect or something close by, but as far as I know, there isn't much of that here."

"Still, if I were to rank it just a place to live in, it's definitely above average," the commander said.

"I see," Alex said as he looked around. "It sure does seem like a place to stay in."

After a bit more time on the carriage, the carriage arrived in front of a place that was wide and open. Alex could see the teleportation formation from where he was and it seemed no one was using it at the moment.

"Surely you didn't reserve the teleportation formation for us, did you?" Alex asked.

"You are our precious guests, your Majesty," the commander said. "This is the least we can do to not inconvenience you."

Alex gave a smile, not feeling like saying anything to that. If someone important came to his continent, he would do the same as well.

Alex moved to the side, along with the elders as he waited for the rest of the carriage to stop one by one and the alchemists to get off it slowly.

As he waited, his eyes wandered around the place, looking at the designs of the buildings that weren't that different from the other continents. These people were so strong that they probably hadn't had to change anything in ages, so it was obvious that this place would remain similar to everything.

Even if something did break, no one would want to rebuild something into an aesthetic that didn't fit the city just due to fear of being singled out by others.

Still, there were a lot more buildings with curved, slanted roofs like pagodas than he was used to. This place hadn't seen a change in ages for sure.

As he was looking around, his eyes moved towards the sky where he saw something he hadn't noticed before. A giant floating cube was in the sky, with screens on each side that were showing something the same on each of the screens.

From what Alex could see, it was mostly words, but there were images there from time to time as well.

"What's that?" he asked the commander, pointing toward this cube.

The commander looked up and said, "Oh, that's just a formation we use to broadcast news to the people everywhere. It's all connected throughout the empire, and shows everyone the same news."

"News," Alex was surprised to hear that. It was like a newspaper from the central continent or even the internet. Except, one didn't have to go look for it, as it was always here.

"Yes, there's a group of people in the capital that gather news from throughout the day and verify it, then send it to every city in the continent to show it like this."

"It's a recent thing that we've set up after getting some suggestions from a few Players, so we implemented it," the man said.

"Ah, you took ideas from Players, huh? Not bad," Alex said. It made a little more sense now. He continued looking at the cube and the words that flashed on it.

'Teng Xuegang of the Realms Beyond school has recently broken through to the Saint Transformation 2nd realm at the young age of 1200 years.'

A young man could be seen in the image, standing in a regal pose with his strong and fit body, and a long weapon strapped horizontally behind his waist, which was hard to make out based on the fuzzy image.

'Fang Yimu of the Cloud Iron sect, who emerged victorious in this year's opening of the Eternal Shadow Abyss, has commented that she wishes to go back again to prove to everyone that it was not a fluke.'

The image following that news was of a slightly older woman with tanned skin, with long flowing black hair that had gold and jewels all over her head and neck. She was wearing a fashionable white and black robe and held a very thin sword in her hand that was hard to make out in the image alone.

The text shifted to something else this time.

'The envoy from the Southern Continent that includes the King of the Southern Continent, Alex Benton, as well as 20 great alchemists under him have arrived in the Great Wind region. They should be reaching the Dragon Capital very soon as well.'

There were no images this time around.

"Oh, they already know about us," Yao Ning pointed. "We just came. How do they know about us?"

The commander gave a sheepish laugh. "News travels fast here, I'm afraid," he said. He then saw that every one of the alchemists had arrived and was standing, so he turned to Alex.

"Your Majesty, we should leave now."

Chapter 1330: Long Fangyu

Alex, the two elders, 20 Alchemists, 20 assistants, and the commander got onto the large teleportation formation that could easily fit 2000 people inside of it.

Alex was quite surprised at the size of the teleportation formations as most other continents had rather small formations that could take maybe 200 people at once.

Alex could also see just how old the formation was from the slowly fading surface of where he was standing. It wouldn't be long before these people had to fix this formation, but since it was made up of metal, they were probably used to it.

Between Metal and Stone, Metal had the advantage of not having to worry about how the Qi was being delivered to it as it was capable of equally distributing all Qi it was given.

As such, the people could also fix it whenever it broke by just asking someone with the Metal dao for help. A person like that could quickly fix up the places where it was broken within an hour.

The formation was activated and Alex felt the teleportation aura grab onto him. The next second, he was teleported away.

As soon as Alex arrived on the other side, he noticed 3 distinct things.

First, the Qi around him was much, much thicker than what he was used to. In fact, it was thicker than anywhere he had been in all the world, including the White Tiger's palace, The Demon realm where the Black Tortoise lived, and Scarlet's dome.

Second, the people around him were a lot stronger than him, and there were many of them. Alex wasn't even there for 2 seconds, and he could already sense at least 4 Saint transformation realm cultivators, who weren't even hiding their cultivation base.

Alex didn't think this was a ploy to intimidate him and the others, but rather that they were all simply used to being around people with similar strength to them so they had no reason to hide anything.

Finally, there were many people waiting for them. Astoundingly many. And each one of them looked rather important too, going by their clothes.

"Your Royal Highness," the commander spoke all of a sudden when he saw someone important in the crowd.

He got off the formation and gave a deep bow toward a man that looked about as old as Bai Jingshen did in his human form. He looked to be in his 30s, but Alex had no way of telling just how old this man was.

'Is this the Emperor?' he wondered. There was a very old image of the Dragon Emperor, and the man that stood before him looked somewhat like him. He wore regal clothes with azure dragon embroidery all over them and had a small patch of beard just like the image Alex saw.

However, he wasn't called 'Majesty', but rather, 'Highness' so it couldn't be the emperor at all.

"Thank you, Commander Jianyu. You will be greatly rewarded for bringing our important guests through such a treacherous route," the young man said as he opened a golden paper fan with a blue dragon inside of it that almost looked like it moved around the fan.

The commander thanked the man and moved away to the side as his job here was done.

A very old man with a thick white beard and a dark birthmark on the left side of his face was the first to speak to him.

"Welcome to the Dragon Capital, your Majesty King Alex, and our friends from the Southern Continent," the old man spoke. "This humble one is Long Huogang, and I would like to introduce His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of the Azure Imperium, Long Fanyu."

"My warmest welcomes to you and your people, King Alex," the crown prince spoke and bowed toward Alex and the others in respect.

The others behind him bowed as well and spoke words of welcome.

"My warmest greetings as well, Crown Prince Fangyu," Alex spoke to the man that was not the Dragon Emperor, but his son.

"We have carriages ready to take you away, King Alex. If you and others would follow me," the Crown Prince said and showed them all the way out of the building.

Alex nodded and started walking, the two elders walking on either side of him. Behind them, the rest followed.

Yao Ning had a blank look on her face, her wrinkled face giving away no emotion for anyone else to read.

Liang Shufen was bright, happy, and full of smiles, enchanting many of the people that were around them.

Alex on the other hand looked handsome and regal with the royal robes he wore that had many phoenix-like birds embroidered onto them. His long jet-black hair flowed in the wind as he walked.

As soon as they were out of the building, Alex and the others saw a large number of people, either on the street or in the houses, that were gathered there to just see them.

Alex and the rest were made to walk through a large, empty space when going to the large carriages that were prepared for them.

The crowd cheered at the sight of them, but Alex wasn't sure if the cheer was for him or the crown prince in front of him who was waving his hands around at the many people around him.

From what he could tell, it was the both of them, but the crown prince was definitely being cheered for more.

The smiling man who waved to his subjects looked ever the more king-like than anyone else Alex had seen till now, and he was still only a prince.

The carriage they were getting on was truly large with the middle portions entirely open so everyone could see outside and inside all the same. It wasn't a carriage that was made with people's privacy in mind at all.

Alex got on first, sitting towards the front with Yao Ning and Liang Shufen on either side of him. The 40 other people came in with Hao Ya sitting away from them, trying to be as inconspicuous as she could be.

The crown prince finally got in last, walking to the front of sitting down opposite Alex. The old man named Long Huogong had also entered along with him as well as a number of people that Alex wasn't introduced to yet.

He checked the two people's cultivation bases and could tell that the prince was around Saint Transformation 4th realm, while the old man next to him was much stronger than Saint Transformation 6th realm.

The others were around the same range as well.

The crown prince looked outside and waved at the crowd once more before speaking to the rider at the front to move the carriage.

The carriage smoothly started moving and soon they were going through an open road that was cleared for the day just for them.

"May I ask where we are heading to right now?" Alex asked the Crown Prince. "Are we heading to the Palace?"

"I'm afraid it will take a while before we can go to the palace," the prince said. "Right now, we're heading to the Royal School of Alchemy where everyone has been eagerly waiting for your arrival."