

Alchemy 1431

Chapter 1431: Shi Meiyong

Alex left to roam the colony a day after he was done resting. He was with Whisker who recorded everything for Pearl and went around meeting the various beasts that could talk to him.

He asked about the history of the colony, how they came to live here, and how they were treated when they came.

On the basis of learning about historical knowledge, Alex gathered a bit of information that, when combined with what he had been given by Ren Xiao, revealed a larger picture of this place.

The Shi family had always been the true rulers of the Lion Colony ever since the first Azure Dragon had come to this realm. For ages, their descendants had looked after the people of this land while the ones that got old ones either broke through to the Immortal realm and left this land, or died trying.

Even the previous leader, Shi Guyong had tried to break through and had ended up dying to the tribulation lightning. There were many that still remembered that moment.

It was only after that that Guyong became the leader of the Colony. He had been a leader of the colony for the past 4 thousand or so years, before dying himself due to a Qi deviation.

As for who would take over his place as the leader, everyone unanimously chose the Golden Lion that lived, Zhu Xiongwei.

After learning what he could, Alex returned to his home and brought out Pearl.

"What did you find?" Pearl asked the moment he came out. He had been anxious the entire time and truly wanted to know whatever he could from this location.

"I... learned your mother's name," Alex said. "Shi Meiyong, daughter of Shi Guyong and Bai Meirong."

"Shi... Meiyong," Pearl worded out the name himself. "That... was my mother's name?"

Alex nodded with a smile and went up next to Pearl to pet him a little. He rubbed his back while remembering the giant white cat that had appeared in the Southern Forest of the Crimson Empire so many years ago.

She had been on death's door and yet she had protected her child. Pearl had been way too young to remember any of that.

"What else?" Pearl asked. "What else did you find?"

"That's the weird part," Alex said. "Nothing. I found nothing else at all."

"Nothing?" Pearl turned to look at him in confusion.

"Yeah," Alex said. "The beasts here talked a lot about your grandfather and even a bit about your grandmother, and yet... they know nothing about your mother."

"How can that be?" Pearl asked.

"I don't know," Alex said. "All they mentioned was that their Leader's daughter had disappeared a few thousand years ago, and since then they had never seen her at all."

"They would ask the leader, but they would never get a straight answer. As far as they were aware, she had died."

Pearl frowned. "But that can't be," he said. "I wouldn't have been born if she was dead."

"I know," Alex said. "That's the weird part I mentioned. Also, there's another weird thing that these beasts either don't realize or don't want to think about. It's... a bad news so prepare yourself."

"What's the news?" Pearl asked, solemn in his tone.

"Your grandmother is not alive as well," Alex said. "At some point around the time when your grandfather died... she died as well."

"Huh?" Pearl looked at Alex. "That can't be a coincidence."

"No," Alex said. "And then, the Leadership that was supposed to go to your mother moved to the current Leader, Zhu Xiongwei."

"Are you suggesting that it was him that killed my grandparents?" Pearl asked.

"There is a chance, which is why I mentioned it," Alex said. "But it is a small chance. Something else must've happened for sure."

"Is there no way to find out exactly what happened?" Pearl asked. "What if you use your technique to search the beast's brain?"

"That's not easy," Alex said. "In the first place, I do not know who knows what. One could know nothing and another could be hiding the truth, and I wouldn't be able to tell which one."

"Not only that, even if I did find someone who I know for sure knows the information, I would be leaving myself vulnerable in that scenario as well since my body would be alone."

"I can protect you," Pearl said quickly.

"I don't doubt you would try your hardest," Alex said. "But if I do manage to search their souls, that means I will either have to kill an innocent beast for no reason or get chased by all the beasts of this land as a single man. It's not a very good idea."

"Then?" Pearl asked. "What can we do?"

Alex thought for a bit. "There... is a way," he said. "It's not a very good way, but I might be able to get something done if it all goes right."

"What way?" Pearl asked.

"Let me check if it is viable first or not," Alex said. "I will need to make pills for a while first of all though."

Pearl wasn't sure what Alex was planning, but he trusted him.

The very next day, Alex started making the pills that were requested of him. He had received so many blood and beast cores that he easily could make many of them.

By now, his total number had increased by over 200, closing in on 250 blood beasts from the Beast paradise alone.

Adding in the number from before, he had enough blood beasts to reach 400.

Aside from that, Alex also improved his Blood aura, breaking past the barrier that kept him in Saint Transformation 2nd realm and finally reached the 3rd realm.

His cultivation base was also reaching close to a breakthrough, but once again he couldn't speed up this one. He needed to be very careful, so Alex did his best to ignore his instinct to break through and focused on stabilizing his core as much as he could.

He wasn't sure if that helped at all or not, but it wouldn't hurt to just try. It would instead most likely hurt if he didn't.

He made the pills as many as he can and the lion was more than happy to see Alex's products. He was more than happy to receive the 5 Veined pills, which improved his cultivation speed by such a drastic amount that he still worried that there was some sort of side effects waiting to show themselves.

Then, one night, Alex made a pill that surprised the Lion. The thing that surprised him was that the number of lightning for that very pill had struck 6 times instead of 5.

Alex walked out of his residence, haggard, and walked up to the Lion who had just arrived.

"Senior," he said. "I made this pill with 6 veins. Would you mind testing this and seeing how useful it is compared to the 5-veined pill? I think someone of high cultivation realm like you can see the differences better."

"A cultivation pill?" the Lion asked in surprise. "Sure. I just cultivated 2 days ago, so you'll have to wait for 3 days before I do it again, I think."

"That's alright, take your time," Alex said, sending away the Lion. Once he was gone, his face turned to a smile.

His initial plan had worked. Now, he needed to wait 3 days before his second plan.

Chapter 1432: Shi Mansion

Alex continued making pills for the next 3 days, letting the lightning strikes fall in his courtyard all day long, while at night he cultivated and rested.

This had become a form of routine for him at this point, which he followed a lot. Or so the beasts of this Colony were led to believe.

Just to be extra safe, Alex decided to wait for another day so that the Lion really did eat the pill and went into cultivation.

He made pills for all day, while also conserving his Qi as much as possible while doing so. So, when the night fell and the lightning stopped, he would still have a lot of Qi to work with.

The beasts all over the Colony believed that he had gone to sleep, but the truth was Alex was finally starting the second part of the plan he had made.

Now that the beasts were used to his routine, he was going to use the opportunity to do something they would never imagine he would ever do.

He was going to sneak into the abandoned Shi mansion.

Alex walked out into the dead of night, his body completely invisible and out of aura. People could still sense his aura if they focused a lot, but to stop even that from happening, he tied a lot of Heavenly Silk around his clothes.

Once everything was prepared, he left his courtyard.

The night seemed to be on his side as well since the cloud blocked the moon from shining its light in the night. Since the most the moon ever went dark was half of it, there was never a night that wasn't dark without the clouds in the sky.

There were nocturnal beasts that roamed the streets of the colony at night, so Alex had to walk around carefully. Fortunately, they didn't go around using their spiritual sense at all.

Alex slowly made it through the streets of the town-like Colony and made his way to the Shi mansion.

The Shi mansion was a place that was completely empty at this point. Its last residents were Shi Guyong and Bai Meirong, who had long since been dead.

Shi Guyong apparently had a sister too, whose son was the current leader. However, she died a long time ago as she wasn't very good at cultivation and had run out of longevity.

As such, the current Shi Mansion was without owner and was more of a historical monument of the colony, than an actual mansion.

Alex pulled out Whisker from his robes and dropped him into the ground. "See if there is anything I can't see," he said.

As a Seeking mouse, Whisker was far more adept at sneaking around and giving information back to Alex that he himself would not be able to gain on his own.

Even with his eyes glowing purple with Demon Eyes technique running, he could not see what Whisker's whiskers could.

His eyes saw a normal atmosphere with relatively dense Qi, but Whisker managed to sense a hidden formation that would activate the moment they got too close.

"Find out if it's a plate, pole, or a carving," Alex quickly told Whisker.

Whisker got to work and searched around without using his spiritual sense before answering back through their Beast bond.

"It's a pole. Should I disrupt it?" he asked.

"Do it," Alex said.

A few moments later, Alex saw a certain fluctuation in the energy where Whisker was and was surprised to realize that the running formation was actually already visible. It was just so mixed into the rest of the energy that he hadn't even realized it.

"Good work," Alex said. "Let go in."

He walked past where the formation previously was and quickly checked what sort of formation it was. Realizing that it was a formation to warn others of intruders, Alex sighed in relief.

He hadn't been caught.

"It seems we'll have to be extra careful," he said and let Whisker search for more.

It took the dismantling of 2 more formation poles, and going around another carved formation before Alex entered the house.

The mansion was bright yellow in color, a shade away from golden. The large hallways were made with the size of many saint beasts in consideration and had golden decorations all throughout the hall.

Whisker walked in first, with Alex behind him.

As they walked, Alex looked around at whatever he could see to get an idea of the house.

The hallways were with nothing but decorations, but the main hall had more than just that. Still with a golden decoration, the main hall also had massive paintings of various members of the Shi family as well as a massive painting of an Azure Dragon in the center.

It was impossible to say which Azure Dragon it was amongst the 6 that had come to this realm already.

The other paintings were mostly of Golden Lions, possibly the leaders of the family, and other various beasts that were married or born into the family.

Two of those paintings Alex noticed were of White Cats.

Both paintings were of young female White cats, but the first one was considerably older looking. The second one was young, with almost a kitten-like face, but with a body that seemed a little wrong for a cat.

It was almost like he was looking at a cat with a body that was more like a tiger.

'That's Pearl's mom,' Alex realized. 'That one must be her mother then, Bai Jingshen's daughter.'

"Any formations around here I should be worried about?" he asked Whisker.

Whisker shook his head. "We haven't been caught, so probably not," he said.

"I guess so," Alex said. "Try and see if you can find some sort of library or room with more pictures. We'll need what we can find."

"Okay," Whisker said and ran away.

Alex then called Pearl out.

Pearl landed right next to him and immediately pulled in as much of his aura as he could. He knew the concealment technique but not the invisibility technique.

He was with black fur at the moment, courtesy of Alex's pill with brown eyes, which was the result of a bit of medicinal paste that he had to put over his eyes.

He stood there for a moment in confusion before looking around at the many paintings in the room. He saw the painting with the massive Azure Dragon, the many Golden lions and various other beasts, and finally his gaze landed on the two White cats.

Immediately, he recognized his mother.

He had no recollections of his mother for the longest time. He knew she had died when he was just a kitten and that Alex had found him when she had died, but other than that, he hadn't thought much of her.

He learned to miss her a little when he was taken to the beast realm, and as he grew and learned more about his own past, he had grown angry for himself and for her.

Even then, he had little recollection of her.

However, during his evolution, he had heard his father's thunderous shout and his mother's gentle face.

The White Cat in the painting in front of him was the exact face he remembered from that memory. There was no doubt in his mind anymore. It truly was her.

Pearl's eyes teared up.

"Mother!"

Chapter 1433: Roaming the Mansion

This was the very first time Pearl had seen his mother so clearly. Even if it was only a painting from a long time ago, he was more than happy to see it

"She looks so young," Pearl said.

"Yes, that's because this was probably taken over 3 thousand years ago, back before she disappeared from this place."

"How old was she here then?" Pearl asked. "I... don't know. Given that she was born around the time Bai Jingshen left this place to go to earth, this must have been about a thousand years after that."

"It's hard to judge her age since it seems she was a talented beast from a young age and reached a high cultivation base very early on," Alex said.

Pearl nodded and looked at the picture for a few moments before moving his head to see the other White Cat. "Grandma," he said softly.

Alex nodded. "And that should be your grandfather," he said, pointing to the picture of the Lion next to the White Cat.

Pearl looked at both of the pictures at once and stared at them for a while. Alex let him be. Instead, he focused on Whisker, seeing what he was doing.

Whisker was scurrying down a different hallway, teleporting in between the walls to go into rooms and look for stuff.

There was a guest area, a living room, some sort of training room, and a lot of bedrooms for members of the family.

As he continued going through, he ended up in a room that was dimly lit on the inside. But, Whisker could see the many scrolls that were on a shelf.

Alex got excited to see that. "Check what they are about," he gave the command. "See if anything stands out."

Whisker nodded and started looking through the scrolls. He checked out the contents on a few different scrolls, and Alex turned back toward Pearl who seemed to be done looking at the picture.

"Are you done?" Alex asked.

Pearl nodded. "I find it weird that I'm in the home where my mother was born," he said. "Even more so the fact that I have to sneak in here."

"We don't have a choice," Alex said. "Everyone here is our enemy, we have to remain careful."

Pearl nodded. "Where's Whisker?" he asked.

"Looking through some scrolls," Alex said. "But it seems it's written in a language he can't understand."

"It's most likely the Beast language," Pearl said. "All the books in great grandfather's library are in that language if I'm not mistaken."

"I don't think you are mistaken," Alex said. "Yao Jia taught me the human language by translating it from the Beast language. Maybe the ones that come from the Land of the Blessed Sun all know Beast Language."

Beast language referred to the alphabet used by the Beasts, which was way less widely spread than the Human alphabet or Demon alphabet.

Even though everyone spoke the same language, the writing language was completely different. There were many other languages as well, like the ones mortals developed in seclusion, or the ones that humans in the Central Continent used.

However, they weren't spread beyond their own small group. Even then they spoke the same language.

The reason they spoke the same language was apparently due to Heaven's Will. The same will that taught beasts the spoken language when they reached the Saint realm.

Even if one wanted to divert their words, sooner or later, the Intent of the heavens would bring it back to where it started from.

"There's nothing there of use for us," Whisker said. "Leave and go check other rooms."

Whisker nodded and left the room to go for another one.

"What do we do now?" Pearl asked. "Do we just stand by and wait for Whisker?"

"That's all we can do," Alex said. "He is the only one of us with the strongest senses without even having to use any spiritual sense. He is biologically gifted as a Seeking mouse and thus—"

Alex's words stuck in his throat as his eyes went wide in shock. "No..." he said in disbelief.

"What happened?" Pearl asked, seeing Alex panic.

"We need to leave," Alex said and turned around. "Whisker is dead."

Immediately, he ran out of the house with Pearl behind him. But before he could even get far away, a massive barrier rose around the house while at the same time, a strong spiritual sense flew out from deep inside the house.

Even with his concealment technique, invisibility technique, and the Heavenly silk on his body, the Spiritual sense still caught sight of him and its user walked out less than a second later.

Pearl turned around and growled while Alex brought out Midnight in preparation. Then, they saw the Leader of the Lion Colony, Zhu Xiongwei appear in front of them.

He looked at Alex and Pearl with eyes filled with rage, but he kept a deep calm as he spoke. "May I ask why you are intruding into my Uncle's mansion," he asked.

Alex took a deep breath. "I just wanted to look around how it was inside," he said. 'Dammit! Why the hell is he here and not at his own home?'

"I don't think sneaking in after disabling so many of our formations counts as just wanting to visit," the Lion said. "Please give me a valid reason so that I do not kill you right here."

"When Her Majesty the Phoenix finds out you killed me, you will have to face her wrath," Alex said.

"I suppose that is true," the Lion said, still seething in anger. "But that is no valid reason for why I shouldn't beat you up."

The Lion growled loudly, his golden mane turning golden bright as a gigantic lion face fell down from the sky.

Pearl was about to attack back, but Alex stopped him. "He's too strong," Alex said. "You'll need to hide."

Pearl vanished into Alex's body while he prepared an attack. Filling his sword with Blood Aura, he sent a strong attack flying into the sky.

The attack collided with the lion's face and the collision shook the ground where Alex stood.

'Strong,' he couldn't help but think to himself.

The Lion was a new leader, but he wasn't chosen for no reason it seemed. He was strong, at least in the Saint Transformation 5th realm, judging from how his Saint Transformation 3rd realm blood aura with his Qi and Sword Aura failed to gain the upper hand in the collision.

Same as Alex, the Lion was surprised to see Alex completely fine as well. There was not a single scratch on him despite his attempt to break a few bones at the very least.

"You've been hiding your powers until now," he said. "Forcing people to think you're a weak little human. All that for what? To sneak into our Colony and steal things from us? How many other things have you stolen from the other colonies?"

Alex gave a serious look. "I have stolen nothing," he said. "I wasn't going to steal anything from here either."

"If not stealing then what were you doing here?" the Lion asked.

"I'm trying to find out something," Alex said.

"Find out what?" the Lion asked.

"I wanted to find out how the previous Leader of the Colony, Shi Guyong, died," Alex said.

Chapter 1434: Against the Lion

"What do you mean how my Uncle died?" the Lion asked. "He died due to Qi deviation."

"Did he?" Alex asked, getting more daring now that he had been caught. "Are you sure it was an accident and not a murder?"

The Lion's face fell when he heard that. "You..." he said in a low voice. "What do you know?"

Alex was surprised to see the change in attitude from just angry to serious rage. It seemed he had brought up a topic he shouldn't have.

However, that also gave Alex some idea that the Lion was clearly hiding from him something that he knew. Worst case scenario, the Lion was involved in his uncle's murder and was thus trying to hide information from everyone.

"What do you know?" the Lion shouted.

"I know you're not telling me the truth," Alex said.

"Tell me!" the Lion shouted. His roar created a visible golden ripple that flew toward Alex.

Alex quickly used the All Swirling Elemental Shield while his body bled to form armor on him.

The attack landed on his defensive combined technique and destroyed it, before landing on his body. Coupled with his physical strength, the Blood Armor was able to protect him completely, albeit losing a bit of the aura in a process that Alex quickly replenished.

"You will tell me what you know instead," Alex said and went in on the attack.

He threw out a punch to start, sending 4 golden spears flying toward the lion, who simply swatted it away. At that moment, Alex brought out swords from his ring, 75 of them as they formed his 75 Sword array.

The started spinning like a drill, powered by not only his Qi but also his Blood and Sword Aura. On top of that, he also added the Dao of Cutting into the attack, improving it all that more.

Midnight was at the front, taking charge as it flew toward the Lion.

The Lion frowned seeing the strong attack and his body started glowing golden. A sort of armor formed on his body, made using the strongest metal Qi he could produce at the moment.

'Metal Dao?' Alex realized. It seemed he had the same Dao as him as well.

The Swords slammed into the lion, who roared loudly, sending many swords backward.

Alex quickly pulled the swords back, realizing that his attack was nearly stronger than the Lion's defense.

The Lion realized the same as well and started throwing out attacks of his own. He swung his claws, throwing 3 golden slashes toward Alex.

Alex teleported at the last second, arriving behind the Tiger with a sword in his hand that had no matter or weight at all.

He swung it at the Lion's body, but the Lion suddenly pushed against the air and leaped away. He had managed to dodge Alex's attacks by activating his own movement technique at the last moment.

Alex gathered the 75 swords and sent them flying back toward the Lion.

The lion turned around and roared at the last second, disrupting the attack before it was going to land on his body.

The Lion then created a large golden bell in the air that landed on top of Alex. As it fell, he used another technique.

Alex looked above himself and sent the many swords into the air to destroy it. At the same time, he saw the Lion charging in for an attack.

Alex was about to attack the Lion when he paused for the briefest second. Without hesitation, he changed the attack into his All Swirling Elemental Shield and turned around to send out a flying-blood sword at the other Lion that had appeared behind him.

The Lion swung his claws, creating a sword out of Metal Qi this time around that fought against Alex's own Blood sword, and the two were destroyed.

"Not bad," the Lion couldn't help but say. "You actually saw through my double."

Alex grinned and felt glad that he saw the notice thanks to his Demon Eyes that the first lion was completely made out of Metal Qi.

"You nearly duped me too," Alex said and brought down his sword that he had sent flying into the air.

The Golden lion collected his Metal Qi into his arm and sent it above him, at the falling swords. The paw attack and the sword array landed, creating an explosion in the air that sent both Alex and Lion backward.

However, until the Lion, Alex was pushed back even more. He took a moment to gather himself, but the Lion was already next to him.

The Lion swung its claws, using another claw technique when Alex swung his arms in front of him. The claws and the Qi from the claw landed on the split space that Alex had created, stopping it momentarily.

The split space couldn't handle the force and shattered, returning back into one uniform space, but that had given Alex enough time to create a fire in front of him that exploded with an unimaginable force.

The Lion was sent flying backward, even if unhurt, and Alex took the moment to prepare his next attack.

The Lion got a hold of himself and quickly looked toward Alex before his eyes went wide.

The Swords had gathered in front of Alex again. Only this time, there were far more swords than before.

Seeing that 75 swords weren't enough, Alex brought out additional swords, even making some with Blood aura to compensate for the lacking number of swords.

A total of 123 swords flew in front of Alex in an array that was the strongest attack he could produce at the moment.

After some decent improvement in his cultivation base and his Spiritual energy, he could finally, barely, control 123 swords at once to fight against his opponent.

He focused on the swords, controlling them as he poured Blood aura and Sword aura into them. Then, he added the Dao of Cutting into them to make them all that much stronger.

The Lion roared, trying to disrupt Alex, and while he did so for a second by having Alex focus on defense, he couldn't do it for longer than that.

Once Alex added everything into the Sword Array, he sent it flying toward the Lion in the distance.

The Lion roared again, creating a massive bell in the sky that the attack struck. However, the 123 swords easily tore through the bell and landed on the Lion.

To Alex's surprise, the Lion was torn through as well, completely disappearing as if it were a...

"Fake!" Alex realized, but too late. He focused his senses and found the Lion, but it was already next to him.

The Lion slammed his paw onto his chest, tearing through his blood aura to dig into his body.

Alex felt the pain, but he teleported away to make some distance. Even as he did that, however, he felt something wrong with him.

He looked down and noticed his body slowly turning golden from where he was struck. It was only on the outside, but Alex couldn't stop it as half his body was encased in gold.

It would take him a moment to break through this, but it was not enough time.

In front of him, the Lion was preparing another attack. And this time around, he was using his Immortal Qi.

Chapter 1435: Roar

Half of Alex's body had been covered in gold, one which he couldn't remove in time. And on top of that, the Lion was now using his Immortal Qi to attack him.

If Alex couldn't do anything in time, he would most definitely not come out of this fight alive.

He teleported away, outside of the formation, still constrained by the gold that covered him. He tried flying away, but his speed wasn't as fast.

He made it outside of the colony, but that was barely far enough at all. The Lion's spiritual sense was on him and wasn't letting go at all.

Alex flexed his dantian, sending out as much Yang Qi as he could outside to cover his entire body. The Spiritual sense was destroyed thanks to that, and the gold that grew on his body was also slowly being burned away.

However, it was already too late.

The Lion's body turned ethereal with golden Qi glowing all around him as he became a golden entity that emanated extreme metal energy all around him.

Once the Lion's body was completely golden with nothing else to be seen with one's naked eyes, he was done preparing his attack and finally used it.

His body blazed through the night sky, leaving behind a golden trail as the Lion himself flew up to Alex to hit him with this attack.

Alex used his own skills.

Dao of Space, Dao of Metal, Dao of Earth, True Fire Dao, Dao of Teleportation, Heaven's Impact, 123 Sword Array, Golden Spear Punch, All Swirling Elemental Shield, Spiritual Providence, Blood Aura, Blood Armor, and Sword Aura.

He used everything he had, save for any formations and talismans that he wouldn't have time to bring out. The skills were used one after another in quick succession to protect himself as much as he could before the Lion even attacked.

The offensive attacks flew toward the Lion who flew at a speed that Alex could barely keep up with his eyes. The defensive attacks remained on him, as he prayed that they weren't destroyed.

The Lion slammed into the attacks that Alex had thrown out, and like a red hot metal striking against a piece of paper, it burst through every attack, destroying them all.

The swords fell in disarray, the spiritual attacks barely stopping the Lion. The Golden Spears were torn apart, while neither the Blood nor the Sword aura did anything to stop the Lion.

Even Alex's True Fire Dao was nothing more than a weak attack in front of the Immortal attack that the Lion used.

Before Alex could even realize what was happening, the Lion was already in front of him.

The multiple defensive barriers created using Dao of Space, Metal, Fire, and Earth were all shattered before the Lion even touched it.

The All Swirling Elemental Shield was destroyed in that attack as well. And then, the Lion's attack finally landed on the Blood Armor.

The Blood armor was the strongest defensive skill that Alex had at the moment, and when the Lion's attack landed on it, it was shredded in a single moment.

Nothing Alex could use and had used had brought out any sort of positive result in this clash. And as such, when his final defensive technique, the Blood Armor was destroyed, all that remained to protect Alex from the Lion's attack was his simple body cultivation, which was nowhere near strong enough to stop the Lion.

Alex saw it all happen clearly, with his Demon eyes, albeit barely. So, he also saw the moment the Lion's attack landed on him.

He was going to die.

ROAR!~

A giant golden ethereal tiger's head appeared from within Alex the moment the attack landed. It instantly stopped the lion's attack, sending him flying backward. The head moved out even more afterward as the entire body of the tiger appeared in full view of the lion whose attack had failed.

The lion was in a confused state as his speed and strength had been so high that he could barely keep up himself. So, when he was stopped, he wasn't aware of what had happened.

He looked up and finally saw the entire body of the White Tiger that stood before him.

Alex realized what had happened only after seeing the entire White Tiger. The Defensive skill that Bai Jingshen had put inside of him had activated at the very last moment he was about to die and had protected him from the Immortal Qi attack.

Bai Jingshen's ethereal body stood there, towering over both man and beast as he held his head up high, looking at no one in particular.

"This human is under my, Bai Jingshen's protection," the voice spoke. "Anyone who dares harm him shall suffer my wrath."

The voice boomed throughout the area as the weaker beasts in the surrounding froze in fear even when they understood nothing.

Alex stood in absolute shock as well. He had forgotten at the moment that Bai Jingshen had even put a defensive intent on him that was supposed to protect him in the extreme case of danger.

And thanks to that, he had lived right now.

However, it had been used up and couldn't be used anymore after this.

"No..." the Lion spoke in surprise and confusion. "That... was that really... Lord Bai Jingshen?"

Alex breathed in quietly trying to assess the situation. Was the fear of what happened here enough for him to get away without being attacked? Or was the Lion perhaps daring enough to continue his attacks even after that?

Alex wasn't sure if he should run away or try and figure out a compromise here where the Lion wouldn't attack him anymore.

"How old are you?" the Lion asked.

Alex looked at the lion's face and was surprised to see him lose all sense of anger at the moment.

"About 70 years old," Alex said.

"Then why do you have Lord Bai Jingshen's protection on you?" the Lion asked. "He's dead."

"He's not," Alex said. "Would I have the protection on me if he was dead?"

The Lion had no answer. "But..." he tried to make sense of what he was hearing, but nothing fell into place. "Why were we told that he was dead? It was even confirmed by His Majesty Qing Tianchui himself," the Lion said.

"The Azure Dragon?" Alex asked. "They were all mistaken. Bai Jingshen had gone somewhere, but he is back. He's been back for over half a century now."

"How do you know that?" the Lion asked. "Aren't you under Her Majesty Feng Nuanhuo? How are you acquainted with Lord Bai?"

"I was acquainted with him before I ever met Her Majesty," Alex said. "Why do you call the others His and Her Majesty, and yet you call Bai Jingshen nothing but just lord."

"Unlike the others, he is more than just a Heavenly beast to me," the Lion said. "He is my cousin's grandfather. In a way, we are related by marriage."

"Oh," Alex only just remembered that. "Then do you respect him?"

"Yes," the Lion said.

Alex wondered if he could make use of this opportunity. He wouldn't get another chance anyway.

"Then I insist that you answer my questions," Alex said, taking the chance. "I was sent here by Bai Jingshen to figure out the truth of what happened here 50 years ago."

Chapter 1436: News of Death

The Lion looked at Alex with a doubtful expression. "How do I trust that you were sent by Lord Bai?" he asked. "Do you have any proof?"

"Proof?" Alex asked. "Was what you saw just now not proof enough? You saw Lord Bai himself."

The lion hesitated when he heard that. He couldn't argue against those words, but it simply felt wrong. Bai Jingshen was said to have died 5 millennia ago. If others were to be trusted, it was even said that he had tried to conquer the Central Continent.

However, there was an unspoken belief in the family that it was a lie. Zhu Xiongwei never knew why they trusted him so much, but they did and so did he.

Still, that didn't mean that he hadn't died. Hearing that he had come back was just too much for him to believe.

He wanted to believe that he had truly come back, but he needed to make sure he wasn't being lied to by someone that just now tried to steal from his deceased uncle's mansion.

"I need more proof," the lion said.

Alex thought for a bit and pulled out a talisman. "This was given to me by Bai Jingshen and his concubine, Ren Xiao, mother of Bai Meirong. Look at it," he said.

The lion looked at the talisman and was surprised to see information from over 5 thousand years ago, something that only those people would know about.

Even so, this wasn't much of a proof.

"I need something more concrete," the lion said. "You tried to sneak into my uncle's house for something. I can let you go if you worked under lord Bai's orders, but you will need to give me hard evidence."

Alex frowned. He didn't want to give him strong evidence just like that, but it seemed there wasn't much choice for him in this matter.

"Alright," Alex said. "I will give you the evidence you want. But, before I show it to you, you must make an oath to not speak of what you see to anyone else. Also, you will not attack me or my beasts."

"I already killed your mouse," the lion said.

"Doesn't matter. Make the oath," Alex said.

"Fine, I swear it," the Lion said. "I will not speak of anything I see here to a single human, beast, or plant. I will also not attack you or any beasts you have, as long as the evidence you bring forth explains well why you tried to sneak into my Uncle's mansion."

Alex felt the world stir a bit as the oath landed. He went over the words of the oath and after finding nothing that could be a loophole, he called out the proof.

Pearl appeared, still in his black fur because of the pill.

The lion looked at Pearl with a confused look. "What is this?" he asked. "Is this your evidence?"

"Wait a second," Alex said and brought out another pill that he gave to Pearl.

Pearl ate the pill and immediately, the effects of his previous pill were countered, washing away the blackness of his fur and bringing back the golden color of his eyes.

His fur turned entirely white, and with golden eyes, he looked so very similar to his mother in the portrait that they saw in the mansion.

The lion's eyes slowly widened. "What... what is this? Who is this?" he asked, a shocked expression clear in his eyes.

"This is Pearl," Alex said. "He is Shi Meiyong's son. He and I were sent here by Bai Jingshen to find out what happened to his mother that lead to her death and avenge it if we can."

The lion's expression disappeared when he heard all those information as if he had to process it all. The rest of the information was too much to begin with, but one stood out more than everything else.

"What... what do you mean when you say that you came here to avenge his mother's death?" the lion asked.

"Exactly what it sounds like," Alex said. "We came to find out who was involved in killing her and how it even came to be."

"But... but... you said his mother is Shi Meiyong. You said his mother is sister Meiyong!" the lion shouted.

"Yes," Alex said, a little confused. "What of it?"

"But that would mean... sister Meiyong is dead," the lion said. "Are you saying sister Meiyong is dead?"

"Oh," Alex's face softened a little. "Were you not aware of her death?"

"You're lying!" the lion shouted, his voice containing a force that attacked everything around him.

Alex quickly brought out his blood armor and blocked the attack. He was about to get ready for a fight when he realized he wasn't being attacked at all.

It was just the lion's way of coping with the news. Had it really been an attack, he would've died because of the oath.

"Swear it!" the lion asked him. "Swear that you're telling the truth. That he is sister Meiyong's son and that she is dead. I do not believe it."

"She is," Alex said. "I swear I am not lying. Pearl's mother, Shi Meiyong died in the Western Continent 50 years ago."

Feeling the oath settle onto Alex, the lion couldn't help but feel devastated. "She... she's really dead. Sister Meiyong is dead." His voice cracked as he spoke. His eyes began tearing up before he started crying all out.

Alex didn't know what to do at all after seeing the lion cry like that. The sound of sadness in his voice was overwhelming to both him and Pearl.

Pearl stepped closer to the lion and stood in front of him before speaking. "Were you close with my mother?" he asked the crying lion.

"Sister Meiyong took care of me when I was just a little cub. She... she's taught me everything I know. She took care of me ever since my mother died," the lion said. "She... she can't be dead. How... how did she die?"

"I don't know," Pearl said. "That's what I am here to find out. My great grandfather sent me and him to find out about the truth behind mother's death and possibly avenge her death if we can."

"Your... great grandfather?" the Lion looked at Pearl.

"Bai Jingshen," Pearl said.

The Lion's eyes went wide for a moment. "Is he... really back?" he asked.

"Yes," Pearl said.

"Then... why isn't he here?" the Lion asked. "Why hasn't he come to visit his family or avenge their death if he knows about it already?"

"He tried to," Alex said. "But he couldn't come."

"Couldn't?" the Lion asked.

"His oath wouldn't allow him to come here at all," Alex said.

"What oath?" the Lion asked angrily.

"The oath that makes him unable to visit another Heavenly Beast's land in his or her absence," Alex said.

"So?" the Lion asked. "What does that have to do with anything?"

"So, Bai Jingshen can't come here because the Azure Dragon is no longer here," he said.

"Huh?" the lion looked at Alex. "His majesty hasn't gone anywhere. He's still in his realm."

Alex's eyes narrowed. "Do you... not know?" he asked, quite surprised.

"Not know what?" the Lion asked.

"The Azure Dragon, Qing Tianchui... is already dead."

Chapter 1437: Servants

"... What?" the Lion asked, unsure if he heard Alex right.

"The Azure Dragon is not in his realm," Alex repeated. "He's actually dead already."

"That's... that's not possible," the Lion said. "It's the Azure Dragon. Why would he be dead? How could he even die?"

"I don't know why," Alex said. "But... it happened around the same time Pearl's mother died, and the same time senior Guyong seemed to have died. That also somehow happens to be at the same time as when the entire Beast Paradise closed itself."

"I'm sure you remember the 3 lightning strikes from around the same time as well before your Uncle died," Alex said.

"As long as you can confirm that the lightning strikes didn't happen here but around where the Azure Dragon lived, then I'm sure that lightning strike must have been a Heavenly Judgment lightning that killed the Azure Dragon."

"It..." the Lion's eyes went wide. "It really did come from his Majesty's general direction all those years ago. Did that really kill his Majesty?"

"We assume so," Pearl said.

"Is... is that lightning strike responsible for my sister's death as well? That's surely not the case."

"While the cause of deaths may not have happened at the same time, there are just too many coincidences for the events to not be related," Pearl said. "Uncle Xiongwei, please help us find Mother's murderer and bring her to justice."

The lion looked at Pearl with a strange look. Hearing the words 'uncle' from the White Tiger was not something he had expected at all.

"You really are sister Meiyong's son, huh?" the Lion said petting Pearl with his paw. He seemed incredibly happy to see his nephew whom he never knew existed.

While he did not replace his sister in heart, it did lessen the pain knowing that while she had died, she had left someone behind that he could care for.

"I didn't realize she had ever even found a husband. Is your father one of his Majesty's servants too?" the lion asked.

"Father?" Pearl asked, feeling ever so strange. He cared about his mother so much and wanted to avenge her death just that much as well. Yet, he never thought about his father at all.

It wasn't just him; no one around him brought up his father either. Bai Jingshen never said anything about his father and neither did Alex.

"I... do not know who my father is," Pearl said in the end.

The lion paused for a moment. "You don't know who your father is?" he asked. "How old were you when it all happened?"

"Young enough that I don't remember my mother either," Pearl said. "I barely remembered a fragment of a memory just a few years ago, and that's it."

"Dear god!" the lion exclaimed. "You must've been very young then."

The lion looked at Pearl and then Alex and finally took a deep breath. "Fine, come with me. I'll see how I can help you all. If possible, I want to take part in killing the person that was involved in my sister's death if that was a murder and not a normal death."

"Thank you," Alex said and followed the Lion back to the Colony that he was so far away from.

"Go back to your own thing, everyone," the lion said. "It was a misunderstanding."

The many beasts that were waiting to see what was going to happen between the two of them were somewhat disappointed to see that nothing came out of that fight.

They left, and Alex was taken back to the mansion.

"Where's my nephew?" the Lion asked after not seeing him.

"Inside his beast space," Alex said. "He's bonded to me, so he stays there for the most part."

"Let him out then," the Lion said.

Alex shook his head. "I won't bring him out where so many beasts can see him. His mother's enemies exist in this continent, so I have to be extra careful," he said.

The Lion landed inside the mansion and Alex walked in.

"You're safe to bring him out now," the lion said.

Alex nodded and brought out Pearl once again. Pearl looked around, trying to make sense of where he was.

The Lion walked to the end of the hallway, arriving at the large hall where he sat. He gestured for both Alex and Pearl to sit as well.

Once the two were seated, the lion spoke.

"So you two are certain sister Meiyong was murdered and didn't just die on her own?" the lion asked.

"Pearl's mother was halfway to her death, bloody, with a sword stuck to her body when I found her. She was also in the Western Continent, the entire realm away from where she should've been. So, I'm sure that she was murdered and didn't just die," Alex said.

"The Western Continent..." the Lion thought.

"Do you have any idea who the murderers might be?" the Lion asked. "We can ask the beasts in his Majesty's realm if you don't know."

"We... have a general idea of who is responsible," Alex said. "Just not who exactly or in what capacity."

"Who?" the Lion asked curiously.

"The Azure Imperium," Alex said. "I'm afraid the ones involved must be the Emperor of the Eastern Continent and his people. I haven't confirmed if he was involved directly or not, but that seems like the safest conclusion to draw from the situation."

"Same for the Azure Dragon, just because he is associated with the Azure Imperium in some way," Alex said. "Although, the more I'm staying here, the more I'm confused about how the Azure Dragon's death could be related to Pearl's mother dying."

"Actually... that makes perfect sense," the Lion said. "After all, sister Meiyong was amongst the few chosen ones that were sent to take care of his Majesty while he was sick."

"Huh?" both Alex and Pearl spoke up at the same time.

"Mother was chosen to take care of the Azure Dragon?" Pearl asked.

"Wait, was that why she went missing over 3 thousand years ago?" Alex asked.

The lion nodded. "I only found out later on, but because his majesty was wounded during his fight in the Central continent, he needed servants to take care of him. Sister Meiyong volunteered to help him, alongside many other beasts."

"They were all meant to stay with his Majesty for the next 4 thousand years until it was time for him to safely leave this realm," the lion said. "That must have been where she met your father as well, and where you were born."

Alex was surprised to hear that. That did explain why Pearl's mother was involved with the ones from the Azure Imperium in the first place. She was one of the Azure Dragon's servants.

"Wait!" Alex realized something. "Do you think it is possible that we can search for the other servants from the Azure Dragon's secret realm and ask them these questions?"

"You can try," the lion said. "Unfortunately, I cannot help you with this task."

"Hmm?" Alex looked at him. "Why not?"

"The Beast Paradise was closed off to never open up again for a long time. If I, a leader, were to freely move in and out, it would be a breach of trust between our region and the empire. As such, for that thing in particular, I will have to stay out of it."

Chapter 1438: More Questions

Alex kept quiet for a bit, thinking to himself of the things he just learned.

Pearl's mother wasn't in the Beast paradise when she was attacked. She was in the Azure Dragon's realm. That made it more obvious that the Azure Dragon's death was somehow related to Pearl's mother's death as well.

The question now was on which side of the conflict was the Azure Dragon?

Alex could see him being on either side.

He could have been a benevolent master, helping one of his servant during an attack. He could have showed himself to the heavens during that moment and brought on the wrath.

Or, he could be a hateful Heavenly Beast who realized that Pearl's mother had the White Tiger's blood essence in her on the same tier as that of the White Tiger progenitor, and wanted to kill her for that.

Although, the sword that killed her belonged to the Azure Imperium. 'Why would someone like the Azure Dragon need the help of puny Saints to kill a Saint beast?' Alex thought.

He gave it a bit of thought and remembered that the Heavenly Beasts weren't allowed to kill anyone from this realm. 'He would have required help to kill her if that was what he wanted,' Alex concluded.

It was still all hypothesis on his end. The thing he would need to figure out was who the sword belonged to in the Imperium, and how much the Emperor was involved.

At this point, Alex had already considered his involvement in the crime to be a fact. It was the rest he wasn't sure about.

Unfortunately, he couldn't just bring out the sword and ask people who it belonged to. Due to the insignia of the Azure Imperium being carved on it, it was obvious that this was a special sword and not just anyone would use it.

Also, given the fact that it had somewhat of a sword spirit inside of it made it harder for Alex to just bring it out in the open.

'If only I could meet someone that was inside the realm when the Azure Dragon died, I could—' Alex paused. He thought of something for a moment and quickly looked up at the Lion.

"Wait, something doesn't make sense," he said.

"Hmm?" the Lion looked at him. "What doesn't make sense?"

"If Pearl's mother was in the Azure Dragon's realm then... how did her parents die?" Alex asked. "I don't see how these two events could be related."

The Lion stared blankly at Alex for a moment. "Do you... not know how my uncle and aunt died?" he asked.

"No," Alex said. "Should I?"

"But... you said that their death wasn't an accident like Qi Deviation. You said there was something more," the Lion said.

"Yes, because of everything that has surrounded Pearl's mother's death, I said it couldn't be normal," he said.

"So you really don't know how he died?" the Lion asked.

"No," Alex said. "That's why I'm asking you."

The lion sighed. "I don't know," he said. "I thought you knew. That's why I attacked you in the first place. I thought you knew and were hiding from me."

"Of course not," Alex said. "I only found out he died after coming to the beast realm. It took me a while to learn that senior Bai Meirong was dead as well."

The Lion sighed even further. "I don't know what to tell you," he said. "I have no clue how they died at all. One day it was all normal, and the other day their corpses were found in the mansion."

"Nobody knows how they died or what killed them at all," the Lion said. "All I know is that they were dead, and there wasn't any sign of battle around either of them."

"That's... weird," Alex said. "And you have no idea if anyone could've attacked them?"

"No," the Lion said. "My uncle was strong. There is no one in this realm that could've silently killed him if he decided to ever put on a fight. Which was why the other leaders concluded that he went through Qi Deviation."

"It's completely unbelievable given the circumstances, but there isn't a better explanation at all," the Lion said.

All three of them fell into thoughts trying to connect the two events, but it was difficult.

"What are the chances that Pearl and his mother were the main target?" Alex asked. "Is it plausible to think they were just collateral damage?"

"That could be possible if what you said about the Azure Dragon is true," the Lion said. "But... given that my Uncle and Aunt were attacked as well, it is doubtful there wasn't any direct connection there."

Alex nodded. "About the Azure Dragon's death, will you be telling the other beast leaders now?" he asked.

The lion fell silent for a bit. "I don't think I have to," he said. "They might already know about it."

Alex's eyes widened. "You think they know?" he asked.

"That is what I would do if I knew our ruler was missing too," he said. "I would close all borders and wait for the next ruler to come. That is most likely what the other 6 planned. I only joined late and was kept out of it."

"That is possible," Alex said.

"Uncle," Pearl spoke up. "How did my grandparents die?"

The Lion shook his head. "As I just told you, I don't know. The circumstances surrounding their dea—"

"I'm not asking you how they died exactly," Pearl said. "I'm asking if you knew the exact cause of death. If their corpse was here, did you check to see what killed them?"

The Lion shook his head. "I... I don't know," he said. "The... the other Leaders came after they heard the news and helped with their funeral. I never even got the time to think of checking to see how they died."

Alex frowned. "Were they buried or cremated?" he asked.

"Cremated," the Lion said.

"Is that normal around here?" he asked.

"Cremation? Yes. The dead beasts are cremated all the time," the Lion said.

Alex frowned. "Tsk. Their bodies would've most likely not rot this fast given their cultivation base. I could've checked to see if their meridians were destroyed or if Qi had wrecked havoc in their body to cause Qi deviation."

"I'm... I'm sorry, I never thought to do that," the Lion said. "I should've done that."

"Do you think the other Leaders were trying to hide something?" Pearl asked.

"Who knows?" Alex said. "As it is right now, everything we know is just a conspiracy theory. Until something gets proven to be true, everything is possible."

Alex frowned on his own after saying what he did. He had come to the Eastern Continent with two mission.

First, he was going to find Pearl's mother's murderers and bring her to justice.

Seocnd, he was going to find sister Hannah and bring her back to his family.

3 years had passed since he came and he had made barely any progress on either mission of his. At this rate, he would get nowhere.

'Should I actually try and make a deal with the Dragon Emperor for answers the next time we trade stuff?' he couldn't help but think.

He decided not to be so rash for now. He had lost Bai Jingshen's protection, so his life wasn't as safe as it was previously. He had to tread carefully henceforth.

Chapter 1439: The Scrolls

"Is it possible for you to ask the other leaders to find out what happened back then?" Alex asked.

"I can try," the Lion said. "I can't guarantee if they will answer me or not though. If it was something I should've known, they would've told me already."

"Then... they are either involved in this conspiracy, or have made an oath to say nothing of what had happened," Alex said. "My elders back in the Southern Continent did the same while her Majesty was absent from the throne."

The Lion nodded. "We won't get any answers from just discussing this anymore. I will ask them when I have the time," he said to himself.

Alex nodded as well. "Let me know if you remember something else or find out something," he said.

"I will," the Lion said before pausing. "About that beast of yours... I'm sorry."

Alex didn't say anything about Whisker. "It's alright. It was my fault," he said.

"Still, I shouldn't have been so angry and hasty," he said.

"It's fine," Alex said. "Although, that reminds me. What were you doing here?"

"Cultivating," the lion said. "You said you wanted to figure out how good the new pill is, so I wanted to test my cultivation in this place. This mansion has one of the best formations, so it is quite useful to judge one's cultivation speed."

"Oh!" Alex said. It turned out it was his own preparation that had hampered his mission tonight. Still, it had done something quite good, so he couldn't complain.

"Come on," the Lion said. "Let me show the rest of the mansion to you."

"Oh, can we?" Alex asked.

"This mansion belongs to Pearl here technically. So yes, you can come to see the rest of it."

The Lion took them to see the rest of the mansion which was quite massive with many different rooms and halls. There was also an entire backyard that Alex hadn't seen from the sky.

After a while, they came across the room full of scrolls that Whisker had found, which he couldn't read at all.

"What are here?" Alex asked the Lion.

"These are records of the past for us to remember throughout the various generations," the lion said picking one up. He opened it and read it.

"This one is about Shi Jushun, the 4th leader of the Lion colony. He was born during the time of the 2nd Azure Dragon and was notably one of the strongest Golden lions of that generation."

He put the scroll back and opened another one.

"This speaks of the time when Shi Niangong, the 7th head of the Shi family was appointed to become the Leader of the Lion Colony after his father Shi Fexiong ascended to the Immortal realm."

He picked out another few scrolls and read them to Alex.

Alex couldn't tell if what he was reading was what was written on the piece of paper, but there was no reason for him to lie at all.

The records were of the various family members of the Shi Family, mostly involving the family head or the Colony leader of that time.

"This one speaks of Shi Rewei, the family head before Shi Guyong, and his journey to the Western Continent over 5 thousand years ago in order to find Uncle his wife."

"They met up with Lord Bai Jingshen's family and remained there for a while before returning with a bride for Uncle Guyong. That was when Aunt Meirong was married to this family."

"Hmm? I thought I heard that Senior Guyong had no parents when he married. Did I hear wrong?" he asked.

"Oh, Shi Rewei was not uncle's father. I believe he was his uncle," the Lion said. "The family head's role is passed down to the strongest person of that generation, which was my Uncle."

"He had quite the competition at that time given that Shi Rewei had many sons, but his uncle still emerged victorious. It's a shame he never had a child after sister Meiyong. He might have had a son that took over the family."

"Instead, I had to take over," the lion said.

"You're still a Golden Lion," Alex said.

"Yes, but I'm not part of the Shi Family," the Lion said. "I might think of myself as one, but that won't change the fact that my father's surname is Zhu and not Shi. Not that I would want to get rid of my own surname anyway."

The Lion went on to open a few more scrolls and say what was in them.

"Sister Meiyong was born just a few days before the incident at the Central continent. The news of lord Bai Jingshen's death is recorded here as well, but there are hints of doubt in this letter itself."

"They knew for some reason that lord Bai wasn't dead. I wonder how," the Lion said.

Neither Alex nor Pearl said anything. Both of them knew that before Bai Jingshen had left for earth, he had come here and thanks to his master's help, he had left behind the purest White Tiger's blood essence in Shi Meiyong's young body.

"This is it, I'm afraid," the Lion said. "This was the second last record before the record of how uncle and aunt died, which I had to write. This is it."

"Thank you for showing us all of this," Pearl said.

The lion rubbed Pearl's head. "This is your house. You don't have to thank me for showing something like this," he said. He then placed the scrolls on the shelf and walked out of the room.

"I will return back to cultivating. The pill you gave me will work well, won't it?" he asked.

"It will," Alex said.

"Good. You guys can stay around here if you want. I won't say anything this time around," the lion said.

"It's alright," Alex said. "I like the courtyard I was given. Besides, I have more pills to make later on, so for now I will have to cultivate."

"You still want to continue that?" the lion asked.

"I truly need all the resources I can get from here," he said to the Lion.

"Very well," the lion said. "Do what you want. I will come to visit you in 3 days then."

Alex nodded and left. He walked back with Pearl, talking about the things they had learned and witnessed today.

"I still can't figure out who attacked your mother precisely," Alex said. "Or who killed your grandfather."

Pearl thought for a moment. "Are you sure we're taking the right approach to all of this?" he asked.

"What do you mean?" Alex asked.

"We are trying to find WHO did all of what happened," Pearl said. "And we're failing to come up with any answers. How about asking different questions?"

"Like how your mother was attacked? Or why she was attacked?" Alex asked. "I've tried coming up with answers to that question and only one answer comes to mind."

"What answer?" Pearl asked.

"Your mother was attacked because the blood that was in her body was very precious and it got a few people greedy for it," Alex said. "To acquire that blood, she was attacked."

"As of now, that is the only answer I'm even remotely confident is the right one," Alex said. "As for the other answers, we will have to take our time with them."

Chapter 1440: Regression

It had been a few days since Pearl had left to remain with his uncle to see the rest of the Colony and just be together with him and learn about his mother and grandparents.

As for Alex, he spent his time making pills and cultivating.

After some time, he finally decided to do what he had gotten so close to doing over the last few days. He decided to break through to the Saint Soul realm.

Alex was very excited about the Saint Soul realm. There were so many things new that came with the Saint Soul realm that he was more than happy to experience.

After preparing everything, he closed his eyes and began his breakthrough.

Then, an unknown amount of time later, he opened his eyes again. His body ached uncomfortably while his head pounded with an unnatural thumping rhythm.

His core felt cold, and his dantian hurt a lot.

As for his cultivation base, it reached Saint Core 8th realm.

Alex took a few deep breaths to control himself and looked at his dantian again. The Golden Core inside of it had gotten smaller than it was before.

He sighed when he realized what had happened. His cultivation base had regressed a realm.

He had gone through Qi Deviation.

"Dammit!" he couldn't help but shout angrily. "What went wrong?"

Was it the worries that he already held that had gotten to him? Was it about Pearl's mother? About his sister? What was it?

What had the Inner Demon used against him this time around that it had affected him enough to make him go through Qi Deviation?

Unfortunately for him, there was no way for him to know anything about what went on with his Inner Demon. He didn't know what it said or how he reacted.

In the end, all he could do was accept the fact that his cultivation base had regressed and thus he needed to work on fixing it again.

"I was so close to Saint Soul realm too," he thought to himself before working on his cultivation base.

Fortunately, the damage wasn't as extreme as it could be. A month or two would be enough for him to reach the Saint Core 9th realm again and after that, another year to reach the Saint Soul realm.

Only... could he get there? What was the thing that the Demon used that caused him to fail this time around? Could he fix it without knowing what it was?

"Time to do what I did back then, I guess," Alex said taking a few deep breaths. "I need to accept all my shortcomings, all the possibilities."

"I need to accept that I might not be able to help Pearl get his revenge. I might not be able to help avenge senior Meiyong."

"I need to accept the fact that sister Hannah might already be dead."

Saying them alone was hard enough for him to accept. He could only wonder if he would be able to get over those feelings by the time he had to face his Inner Demon again.

"I got too complacent," Alex thought. "I never faced trouble with it once I reached the True Lord realm, so I thought it couldn't affect me."

He shook his head. "I need to do better," he thought. He would do better.

Alex cultivated for a while, stabilizing his cultivation base as much as he could at the moment, and then proceeded to cultivate his blood aura and make some more Blood Basts.

The lion had provided him with the most number of beast cores out of any other Colony just because of his connection with Pearl and Bai Jingshen. He had also given a lot more Blood than any other Colonies.

In exchange, Alex started exclusively making 6 Veined pills instead of 5 veined pills to give back to the Lion.

And that was how Alex spent a month and a half in the Lion's Colony. It was the longest he had stayed at any colony, coming close to 2 entire months.

At this time, he had reached back to the Saint Core 9th realm and was once again on his journey to reach the Saint Soul realm. As for if he would succeed now or not, he could only hope.

He tried his best to do what he could to prepare for it all, but the actual result wouldn't be apparent until he was done with the breakthrough and then opened his eyes.

There was still a year's worth of time before that happened, so Alex had no reason to worry about any of that at all.

He went over to the Shi family mansion where Pearl spent the majority of his time with his uncle. There, Alex found them in the garden at the back with the Lion talking about Pearl's mother.

"No one could come to the mansion without losing a thing or two before they left. When searching for it, they would usually find the item in your mother's room."

"She was quite the mischievous child my uncle used to say. She would be the one to steal everyone's stuff."

"And of course, no one could do anything to her since... who could do anything to the leader's daughter?"

"I never got to see that side of her. By the time I was born, she had already matured and was an adult who knew how to act well. I wish I had a chance to see that side of her though. I wish you got to see that too."

Pearl was so fully entranced in Lion's words that he didn't even notice Alex walk in. The Lion had to stop and look toward Alex for Pearl to realize.

"What brings you here so early in the morning?" the Lion asked.

"I wanted to come to let you know that I'm nearly done with all of your pills," Alex said. "In 2 days, I should be able to leave."

"Oh," the Lion looked surprised. "Does that mean Pearl will be leaving too?"

Alex looked at Pearl, letting him answer himself.

Pearl hesitated for a brief moment before nodding. "Yes, I will leave," he said. "I would love to stay here and learn more about my mother and my grandparents, but I have other things to do out there."

"I cannot stop the mission I was sent here to complete," he said. "So, I must leave."

"It's understandable," the Lion said. "It's a dangerous task, however, so you must be extremely careful."

Pearl nodded.

"Have the Colony Leaders agreed to your meeting yet?" Alex asked the Lion.

"Not yet," the Lion said. "I can't tell if they're genuine or are making excuses, but they continue saying that the pills you gave have made them all want to go into closed cultivation. Unless something big happens, I don't think they'll be leaving their colonies."

"Hmm," Alex thought for a bit. "We still have a lot of time. Let it happen when it does. You can always send us a message with what you find out."

"I might have to do that," the lion said.

"Anyway, I'll go back to finishing your pills. I'll see you when I'm done."

Alex returned back to the courtyard where he continued making the remaining pills. When it was all done, it was time for them to finally leave the Beast Paradise.