

Alchemy 1541

Chapter 1541: Back to Eastern Continent

Over a million people prepared as it was time to return to the Eastern Continent once more. Alex could see signs of mortals wishing to join the cultivators on this journey.

He could see old cultivators that stayed here but did not like life here in the time they remained and wished to return.

He also saw many that came to say goodbye to the ones they would most definitely not see again for a very, very long time, if ever.

Today was the day that senior Yang could finally rest easy, knowing he had made some amends for things he had broken.

Hao Ya was the one that was the one looking over the teleportation on the outside. Since her job was done, she wasn't going to return to the Eastern Continent anymore.

"What will you do next?" Alex asked her as he stood next to her, watching the people walking toward the teleportation formation.

"Focus on my cultivation," Hao Ya said without giving the question much thought. "I've spent nearly half a century helping master with his problems. It's time I live my life for myself."

She turned toward Alex. "You better speed up, or I might be the one to break through to the Immortal realm first," she said with a bit of a chuckle. Her cultivation base was in the Saint Soul 4th realm, so it wouldn't be much of a stretch if she did manage to do just that.

Alex brought something out and handed it to her. "I wish you good luck then," he said.

The girl looked at what she was given and gave a surprised look. "Cultivation pills?" she asked. "You didn't have to. My master can—"

"He can't make pill clouds," Alex said. "Not without revealing himself to the heaven, can he? Use these ones with Pill veins. Unfortunately, I can barely make 6-veined pills without rousing anyone's suspicion on myself."

"If not, I could go for 8-veined pills," he shrugged. "That's the problem with trying to keep my real strength a mystery, I suppose."

The girl looked at the pills for a while before speaking again. "Thank you. Thanks for this."

"I should be thanking you instead," Alex said. "For all you've done for us. All the humans of this continent. They should all be thanking you."

Hao Ya gave a small smile. "Next time we meet, I might be in the Southern Continent," she said. "I will spend some time here, then once master manages to successfully make a teleportation talisman, I will leave this place."

"Why the Southern Continent?" Alex asked curiously.

"To take care of little sister Ronron," Hao Ya said. "She needs me by her side."

"Ah!" Alex said. "Please take care of her."

"I will," Hao Ya said. "Leave for the Eastern Continent without any worries."

Alex nodded and thanked Hao Ya one last time before walking away, mixing with the crowds to go to the teleportation formation on his own.

He had already said his farewells to the Senior Yang and the snake, so there was nothing left for him to do here anymore. His time here had a purpose for which he had come, and the purpose had been fulfilled.

Now, it was time to return to the Eastern Continent and continue his journey there so he could do what he had promised Bai Jingshen, Ren Xiao, all the other wives of the White Tiger, and most importantly, Pearl.

The teleportation roared as the power consumed thousands of people at once. The silver lights gathered around them, grabbing onto every single one of them. Then, at the next moment, they vanished.

Alex reappeared in the Dragon Capital, surrounded by the Azure Imperium's army surrounding the teleportation platform both on the ground and the skies.

They started moving everyone along in a line until they were away from that location in preparation for the next set of people to be teleported there.

Alex was singled out early on by some soldiers and taken away to where his Elders were waiting for them. It had been a year since he had left, so they were more than happy to see him come back in time.

"Elder Yao, Elder Liang, how have the two of you been?" he asked the two.

"We've been good, Your Majesty," the two said. "We're happy you returned at last."

Alex nodded. "I'm sorry I didn't take the two of you. I was sure the senior wouldn't let you two remain in his mansion, so I had to be alone."

"We understand," Elder Liang said. "It might've been better that we didn't leave at all. I managed to gain a Water dao in the time I was here."

"Oh!" Alex gave a surprised look. "Congratulations. What dao?"

Liang Shufen gave a wide smile. "Refraction," she said gladly.

"That's amazing," Alex said. He had yet to learn a single water-related Dao, so he could only imagine how good that was. Having recently learned what he could about gaining more Daos before entering the Immortal realm, Alex was looking forward to learning a few Daos of his own.

Half a dozen more at best. He was sure he could handle such strength from the heavens.

"Welcome back, Your Majesty," the crown prince spoke after a while. His arrival announced the ending of the return of everyone.

Alex turned toward the man. "Crown Prince, it's good to see you again," he said. "How have you been?"

"I've been doing fine," the man said. "Let us return to the palace. I can say I'm positively drained after all this."

Alex chuckled and started moving. "I can only imagine."

The two got onto a carriage that took them to the Dragon Palace which wasn't even that far away. As they went along, Alex asked the Crown Prince what he had been hoping to learn for a long time.

"The barrier... dropped?" Alex asked with wide eyes. He had been hoping for that to happen, but it was still something incredible to hear about. He hadn't very low expectations of it and yet it had happened.

The barrier around the Ivory Kingdom had dropped.

However, the news that came afterward was concerning to Alex.

"Nope, nothing," the Crown Prince answered. "Nothing happened at all."

Alex frowned a bit. "What?" he asked. "How can nothing happen?"

"I don't know," the Crown Prince said. "The Queen herself came to meet his Majesty, and she didn't tell him anything was different."

"Then? What were they doing in the veil for nearly 2 years?" Alex asked.

"Just regular life," the Crown Prince said. "It's confusing really. I can't wrap my head around it. We cannot tell what happened there, or who did anything. Everyone says nothing happened."

"But the barrier is gone and you've checked everything?" Alex asked.

The Crown prince shrugged. "We found nothing," he said. "We might have to wait for a while before the changes start showing up."

"Maybe," Alex said. He wondered if he should ask the man about Immortals, or if that would be giving away too much information.

"Oh right," the Crown Prince said. "I heard that you said you would have to complete part of the trade with my father after you returned."

"Yes," Alex said, remembering. "That is true."

"I see, no wonder my father is out right now," the Crown Prince said. "And no wonder he told me to tell you to find him as soon as you returned."

Chapter 1542: Second Trade

Alex arrived in the resting hall of the Dragon Palace a few hours after his arrival. He had let know the Dragon Emperor of his arrival and was taken to him afterward.

The Dragon Emperor was already there, waiting for him.

"I thought you would come earlier," the Dragon Emperor said. "I had told my son to let you message me as soon as you arrived. Did he forget"

"Greetings to you too, Dragon Emperor," Alex said, sitting next to the Dragon Emperor. "I took my time purposefully."

"Greetings are not needed between us. We only just talked not long ago," the man said, looking at Alex.

"Of course," Alex said with a smile. "To you who had lived for nearly 10 thousand years, a year or two is nothing. But for me it's quite honestly still a long time. Not as long as it would be for a mortal, but my age is still that of a mortal's."

"Showing off?" the Dragon Emperor asked.

"Of course not," Alex said with a chuckle. "Just saying."

The Dragon Emperor nodded, taking to heart no words. "So, why did you make me wait? You said it was purposeful."

"I thought you would need some time to go through the records your soldiers brought back," Alex said. "That was why you sent them away, didn't you?"

"I did," the Dragon Emperor said. "And I got them back as well. I had been intending to go through them later, but you decided to take your time."

"My wait served its purpose then," Alex said.

"Is it true that the country that you come from does not have a sovereign?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "No ruler, no king. Nothing."

Alex nodded. "There were some for a brief period in the past I believe, but they soon disappeared as the land was unified and what emerged was a single government, a group of people that did what the people wanted."

The Dragon Emperor mused. "Why did no one try to become its leader?" he asked. "Every other place has one."

"Not every place," Alex said. "The Northern Continent doesn't have a ruler of any sort."

"Those 5 major sects that they have rule 5 regions of their continent. They are rulers, although they don't name themselves as such," the Dragon Emperor said.

Alex thought for a moment and nodded. "You're right. I wasn't thinking of it that way," he said. He thought for a little longer and came to realize that the Central continent was really just the only place in this world without a ruler who could do things the way they wanted without noticeable repercussions.

As for why it was that way, Alex had some idea. It had to do with the world known as Earth, the place where the humans and the culture of the Central Continent had come from.

"I suppose the reason no one tried to become a ruler is because no one thinks like that. Not having a ruler is normal in the Central Continent, so no one wants to become one if that makes sense," Alex said.

"That makes sense under the context of isolation," the Dragon Emperor. "Your previous continent was isolated, never met with the culture of the outside world. But that is not the case anymore. People who have lived a considerable amount of time outside will have brought back a culture that they're used to. Will your continent still remain the same after this?"

"I hope so," Alex said, before thinking deeply about the topic. He hadn't seen anyone try such a thing, despite the strength they brought back and the knowledge that there are people outside that rule over them.

After considering all the facts, one truth remained in his mind. His continent wasn't without a ruler.

"I don't believe your isolated land is without a ruler," the Dragon Emperor said, following a similar logic that Alex took. "While not an outright ruler, your continent still has a secret ruler that people are afraid to go against. The only reason they don't see him as one is because he never shows himself, except sending a message once in a few years."

Alex didn't nod, but internally he knew that to be true. Senior Yang, whether he had wanted to or not, now ruled the broader aspects of the world.

"Maybe," Alex said.

"You know who it is, don't you?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "You've met them."

Alex nodded. "I have," he said.

"Who is he?" the Dragon Emperor asked curiously.

"I can't tell you," Alex said, somewhat surprised he even got the gender right. Senior Yang wasn't doing his best to hide himself it seemed.

"Why not?" the Dragon Emperor asked.

"If senior wanted to, he would reveal himself," Alex said. "I do not wish to be the one to spread his information when he doesn't wish to. I don't want to be on his wrong side."

The Dragon Emperor remained silent for a while, clearly judging Alex's words before letting go of the topic.

"So, moving on, it is time for you to complete that time of the trade, isn't it?" the Dragon Emperor said.

"Is it that time already?" Alex asked with a hint of chuckle. "I hadn't realized."

"You said you would do it before the Cave of Frost opens up. It's opening up in 2 months from what I hear, so it is about time," the Dragon Emperor said. "I already completed my half of the trade, so it's your turn."

Alex nodded seriously this time around.

The last time he had talked to the Dragon Emperor in order to let the people go back to the Central Continent, he had refused. Even after a lot of discussion, the Dragon Emperor simply didn't want to open up a connection between the two continents that had once been shattered.

As such, he had to give away a bit to the Dragon Emperor to open up the gateway to the Eastern Continent, so he could deal with the situation around the two seeds.

Perhaps because Alex had been considering the importance of the two seeds being dealt with a massive priority, the oath they had spoken on ended up giving a bit more leeway to the Emperor, and Alex ended up trading not just for this part, but also the one 6 years later.

As of yet, he only had the final trade some decade later remaining as the next two had been already settled upon.

It was unfortunate, but it was necessary.

He brought out something from his storage ring. Despite his Soul Space, he wasn't using it all the time to not let people know he had it. At least, he would only use it in private.

From the storage ring came out a white mushroom, the second knowledge he planned on trading with the Dragon Emperor. He placed it before him and spoke.

"This is a—"

"World Defying Mushroom," the Dragon Emperor completed his words.

Alex paused. "You know about this?" he asked.

"Of course, we have many here," the Dragon Emperor said. He narrowed his eyes. "We use it all the time. Surely this isn't what you wanted to trade to me today, right?"

Chapter 1543: Switched Trade

Alex was speechless for a moment. What was he to do here?

"Is this what your second trade is?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "I can't accept that. I already know of the mushrooms. There's nothing for me to gain here."

Alex still didn't know what to say. His first trade was supposed to be the recipes that could help the Emperor make better pills altogether. His second trade was to be the mushrooms.

The third one he had planned on was the Immortal pill-forming technique he no longer used, and finally, in the end, he would hand over the Pill Splitting Qi technique. Since so many of his own alchemists already had it, he didn't think it was such a bad idea to hand it over.

It was incredibly difficult to learn anyway, with complexities that would take a regular saint decades to learn.

Still, now he was stuck on a problem and couldn't help but wonder if the next two were going to become the same.

"I'm... kinda in a stump now. I don't know what to do," Alex said. He worried now. Would he die? Would the oath work backward to punish him for not fulfilling his side of the trade?

After a bit of consideration, he came to the conclusion that he would only die after the 20-year period was over. He still had 14 more years to go. Surely he could come up with something else to give the man, right?

'Dammit!' he thought. Had he provided the mushroom and was refused by the Emperor, he could have gotten away with it. But since he had already accepted what he was given and couldn't return it, Alex was forced to bring up something.

For a moment, he even thought of the later trades that he could pull up. But that wouldn't help him. He needed 4 total trades nonetheless.

'Could it work if I give back the Dragon Medallion?' Alex wondered there. 'No, of course not. I can only give items related to improving his alchemy potential.'

His mind was truly running in many directions to try and overcome this problem. In the end, he had to give up as nothing of worth came up.

"You really use the mushrooms every day, huh?" Alex asked the man, disappointed.

"Whenever I require it," the Dragon Emperor said. "So what happens now? What do you give me?"

"Honestly, I do not know," Alex said. "That Mushroom was what I intended to give you this time around. I think I'll have to use the third thing I was preparing here and try to come up with something in the next 6 years."

"I hope you can," the Dragon Emperor said. "Because I've already paid for two."

Alex nodded. He looked through his storage ring, searching for an empty talisman paper. As he hadn't prepared this beforehand, he had to do it now.

Profound Revolution of Myriad Combination. That was what he was going to give away.

He started writing on the talisman paper, and the Dragon Emperor sat there, watching him. He looked curious as to what he was going to be given.

"This isn't something I already know too, is it?" he asked.

"Uhh... I hope not," Alex said with a bit of a nervous laugh before handing it over to him. The Dragon Emperor took it and read it for a bit before frowning a little.

Alex worried that he had failed again but then the man spoke up. "Is this a pill-forming technique?" he asked.

"It is," Alex said.

"I have my own pill-forming techniques," the Dragon Emperor said. "But it seems this one capitalizes on my knowledge of the details of what goes into making a pill. The sub-components that are never truly seen by anyone."

"So you accept it?" Alex asked hesitantly.

"Hmm? Yes. It is better than what I use," the Dragon Emperor said. "And it seems I don't have to strain myself for each pill."

The Emperor seemed interested in the technique and continued reading through it, trying to learn for a while. Alex sat there, watching him read. At the same time, he tried to see what else he could give away.

The only other thing he could give away was the Supreme Elemental Accord technique, and that was the main thing he had going for himself. He didn't want to give it away.

The Dragon Emperor put down the talisman after a few minutes. "It's truly quite good," he said. "Mind if I ask how you came across this?"

"The senior in the Central continent," Alex told him. It was technically true too. After all, it had come down in a meteor shower, along with the senior.

"Makes sense," the Dragon Emperor said, pocketing the technique. "This is good. You were keeping this for the third trade I assume?"

"Yes," Alex said.

"I see," he said. "It's a shame you chose the mushrooms for the second one. Now you'll have to come up with something else."

"Well, I don't think anything else matters if you manage to form Pill Clouds with what I've given, correct?" Alex asked.

"In a way," the Dragon Emperor said. "But according to the oath, you still have to offer me everything you can."

"I know," Alex said. "And I will."

"I'm curious though, why you chose the mushrooms," the Dragon Emperor said. "I can't see how that helps me at all."

"I mean, it does," Alex said. "I can't form pill clouds nowadays if I can use the mushrooms." If he was in a hurry and didn't have the time to improve the energy of his ingredients, Alex always fell back on the mushrooms.

"What?" the Dragon Emperor asked, surprised. "How can that be?"

"It just is," Alex said. He wanted to change topics to the Ivory Kingdom, but the Dragon Emperor didn't let him.

"The Mushroom is just a substitute for when an ingredient is lacking in amount," the Dragon Emperor said. "How could it possibly help, when you can do the same with the real ingredient."

Alex paused for a moment. "What?" he asked. "What do you mean?"

"World Defying Mushrooms," the Dragon Emperor said. "You use it when you're lacking an ingredient, right? For rare ingredients when you need a lot, you duplicate the ingredient with the mushrooms," the man said. "Half the time, it barely helps me get to 90%."

Alex didn't speak for a long moment before speaking again. "So... let me get this straight, you use the mushrooms to replicate an ingredient," he asked.

"Yes," the Dragon Emperor said. "Why do you act like that isn't normal?"

"Because..." Alex stopped himself from speaking the rest. He was smiling on the inside, happy even. He was excited to learn that the Emperor, and most likely everyone on the continent, had been using the mushroom the wrong way this entire time.

"Why are you smug?" the Dragon Emperor asked. He could see through some of Alex's emotions.

"I'm not smug," Alex said. "Just jubilated. I am happy to learn that I know what my third trade to you is going to be."

The Dragon Emperor was no idiot. "The Mushrooms?" he asked.

Alex nodded. "Let's keep that talk for 6 years later though," he said. "I don't want to give away any more information right now."

Chapter 1544: Snowheart City

Alex teleported directly to Snowheart City, along with his elders and other guards that had been provided to him. He walked out of the building to find an entourage waiting for him there.

The many people there greeted him, along with the woman at the center of them all. The Ivory Queen.

Song Meifen wore a white dress that day, with the only color seen on her body the black of her hair and the reddish pink of her lips. Her smile was one that seemed to brighten everyone's day, and she directed it at Alex.

"I am honored to have Your Majesty finally visit us," the woman said with a bow.

"I'm happy to have met Queen Song again," Alex said.

The woman smiled. "You should have come earlier, Your Majesty," she said. "You truly made us wait."

"I would've come earlier, but..." Alex shrugged.

The woman said nothing. She understood the meaning of his silence.

The barrier.

They got onto a carriage that took Alex and the rest to the palace. Alex looked around the city.

Large curved spires of ancient buildings filled the view wherever Alex turned. They were all of uneven sizes, giving a sort of harmony that usually came with chaos.

The colorful buildings filled both sides of the straight, wide road with giant trees growing on either side. Snow fell from the sky, coloring the land white. Where there was a lava vein, the snow melted, trickling to the side of the road, disappearing somewhere.

Newsboard hung in the sky, announcing his arrival in Snowheart City, as it always did wherever he went. The people on the road stopped and bowed toward the carriage. They couldn't see who was inside, but they knew of it already.

There were no mountains in sight. That was usually a normal occurrence for him. Wherever he went, no matter the Northern Continent or the Gold Kingdom, it was true that where there was snow, there were mountain ranges nearby.

However, in the Ivory Kingdom, most of the land was flat, except for a single mountain range in the east, and that was far enough away that the buildings easily towered over it to Alex's vision.

There was a calmness to this city that he hadn't seen before in any of the other cities he had been to before.

"I asked the Emperor about the barrier," Alex said. "But he told me that it would be better if I heard about it from yourself, Queen Song. Would you mind telling me everything in detail?"

The Queen nodded. "Of course, your Majesty," she said. "But... there's really nothing to tell. There was a barrier that stopped us from moving out, and then after two years, it wasn't there anymore. That's it."

Alex looked at the Queen and tried to discern if there was any untruth to the statement. If there was, she had managed to hide it well. Alex couldn't sense any lies.

"Who created the barrier? Do you know?" Alex asked.

Queen Song shook her head. "As I said, it suddenly appeared one day. We do not know who or why it appeared," she said.

Alex fell into a thought. Did the Immortals do everything in secret, leaving the mortals confused as to why they did or what they did? However, it wasn't as if the Immortals had done everything on their own. They had contact with the humans.

In fact, they had contact with the Queen herself, albeit maybe not directly.

"When the barrier appeared, you were the one that sent out a message that said that no one would have to worry about you in the barrier, correct?" Alex asked.

"Yes, I did," the woman said.

"Why?" Alex asked.

Queen Song looked at him as if he was asking the most obvious question. "To... let the outside world know we're fine. So that they didn't worry about us," she said as a matter of fact.

Alex nodded. "That makes sense," he said. But that wasn't where he was going.

"How did you know that was the case?" he asked her. "How did you know you were safe? A random barrier had after all appeared out of nowhere."

"I knew," the queen said, her voice trailing off a bit. "I just knew..." Her eyes turned sharp suddenly. "You are asking me the same questions his Royal Majesty did when I met him half a year ago. There's something wrong with my explanation, isn't there?"

Alex nodded. "Can you not tell yourself?" he asked.

The queen shook her head. "It feels obvious what I'm saying. It's as if nothing else should be the truth," she said. "I remember the Emperor asking me how I even got the message out as all communication was locked out."

"I was going to ask the same next," Alex said. "How did you do it?"

"I used the talisman to message outside," the woman said, sighing to herself. "Please don't ask me where I got it from. I couldn't answer the Emperor too."

"Yep!" Godslayer spoke from Alex's mind. "Some immortal messed with her memories."

"They can do that?" Alex asked curiously.

"Yeah, it's a simple hallucination trick. You have memory-erasing pills, don't you? This one is simple manipulation. Although..." Godslayer thought for a bit. "To mess with the mind of someone in the Saint Soul realm, that person can't have been a simple Immortal."

"What counts as not a simple immortal?" Alex asked.

"Someone that has learned a specific spiritual technique to mess with someone's memories," the spirit said. "Erasing is easy, but manipulating so that the person isn't aware that their memories are missing is hard. So, it must have been someone talented in such an art."

"I see," Alex said.

"Yeah," Godslayer said. "It's that or... a Divinity."

Alex gulped in surprise. "A Divine realm cultivator?" he asked.

"Their spirit is usually very strong and as a result, they can do things that normal people would find impossible without learning any technique," Godslayer said.

"I see," Alex said softly. He couldn't help but fear which one this was. And on that of that, he couldn't help but worry about whether they had left or not.

"Pills can't do this?" Alex asked, hoping.

Godslayer thought for a bit. "Maybe," he said. "Pills can do many things and I only know of a few. But, it is more likely what I said is true."

Alex nodded. He had to consider all the possibilities.

"Have you found any abnormalities in the people's daily life?" Alex asked. "Any changes that don't make sense?"

"None so far," the queen said. "We haven't exactly settled back to normal since the barrier only lifted half a year ago. People are still trying to find normalcy and catch up on everything they missed."

"Some people are complaining that they missed their only chance at going back home too," she said.

Alex nodded. That was a compromise he had to make to go back to the Central continent. He had hoped everyone would have come out of the barrier half a year before they left, but alas it lasted for another year.

There was nothing Alex could do at that point. Still, it did feel bad that if he had waited half a year longer, they would have all come out.

Chapter 1545: The Cave of Frost

"I have asked every major sect, clan, family, organization, and anything with more than 3 people in it to look out for peculiarities in their daily life," Song Meifen said. "While I haven't told them why exactly they are doing this, I have given some hints that it might be related to the barrier."

"So, if something has changed, even if it's regarding landscape or some resources, we will know quickly," the Queen promised Alex.

Alex nodded, sitting in a grand hall with glowing chandeliers that burned with an iridescent glow but shined only natural light around the hall. There was some furniture in the room, and some ornaments around the room. Paintings filled the wall, but none even half as impressive as what Alex could make on a whim. At least not when it came to Intent and Dao.

Everyone sat on a few couches, surrounding a hearth on one side of the room. Any silence between them was filled with the fire's crackle.

"Were there any problems here, disconnected by the outside world," Alex asked her.

"Aside from missing 3 monumental events in the span of 2 years, none," the queen said with a bit of a self-deprecating smile. "I only found out later that we missed the Mountain Crushing sect's artifact."

"Would you have got it?" Alex asked.

"Maybe," the queen said. "But let's not talk hypothetical. I heard you were the one that got it, Your Majesty. How is it?"

"Pretty good," Alex said. "Although I'm not gonna lie, it's extremely expensive."

"Haha! I can imagine. I heard how much it costs. My kingdom would run dry if I used it the way it's intended to," the woman said.

"It is supposed to be run by immortals, using Immortal spirit stones. We are lucky to be using it at all the way we can," Alex said. "Still, I wish it was cheaper."

The queen chuckled a bit. "If you don't mind, I would like to use it for a day or two. I will pay you any reasonable amount for the time I use it," she said.

"I want to say yes," Alex said. "But I would only be ripping you off. You can't see much benefit with just a day or two of its usage. You need to do this for months, if not years before you see any benefit."

"That was most likely why the Mountain Crushing sect fell in my opinion," he finished.

"Hmm," the woman fell to a thought. "I don't think that is the reason. Well, maybe part of it, but not entirely. I think Brother Wan nearly told me what happened once, but he didn't in the end. It didn't sound like it was their fault."

"Oh," Alex said. Maybe there was some other reason that he didn't know about.

They talked for a while longer and the topic came back to Cave of Frost, the reason why Alex was here in the first place. At least one of them.

"There's still some time before it opens," the queen said. "I was wondering why you would want to enter the Cave of Frost, your majesty. It's not something that strong ones like you usually enter. Of course, I'm not saying you shouldn't have come. In fact, I'm happy that you did. I'm just curious."

Alex chuckled a little. "Am I considered strong by the cave's standard?" he asked. "I read that it is mostly used by people to test themselves, to see how far deep they can go. I don't remember it saying that Saint Soul realm cultivators had no reason to come."

"That they have," the queen said quickly. "Saint Soul realm cultivators still are capable of testing themselves against the cold, but I'm sure you have a strong body cultivation now. That changes things a little."

"That does change it a little," Alex said. "But that is something I gained on my own, so I should still be able to test myself right?"

"Oh, absolutely," the queen said. "I wasn't implying that you shouldn't. I was just not aware if you knew what the cave was about. I presumptuously assumed that you would not want to test yourselves against someone else if you knew that you had advantages over them."

Alex shook his head while laughing a little. "No, I'm not really here to test myself, so I'm not really worried about what advantage I may or may not have on the others going in," he said.

"No?" the queen asked. "Then... may I ask why you are going into the cave?"

"I hear it's a good place to learn about Yin," Alex said. "Much better than the Boundless Enlightenment Domain. So, I'm trying to see if I can learn about Yin. Maybe learn the Dao in the process."

The Queen's eyes lightened up in understanding. "Ah!" she shouted. "Dao, huh? That is certainly something Cave of Frost is popular for. Maybe women and some men have learned a lot related to the Yin Dao before. I, myself, have learned a lot from there."

"That's fantastic," Alex said. "I can't wait to go there then."

Alex wasn't expecting much from the cave in terms of learning Dao. He didn't believe the Yin dao was so simple that he could learn it just by being in the cave. Even the Yang dao that he should have been so close to eluded him for such a long time, so Yin dao had to be something similar.

Their talk ended sometime later, and the Queen decided to let Alex and the rest return to where they would be staying for some time. As they left, Alex asked the Queen to help him with something.

"I wish to learn the status of a young girl in a sect that should be close by here," Alex said.

"Hmm? What sect, Your Majesty?" the Queen asked. Her curiosity was quite high, but she maintained a level head.

"The Ice Mist Palace," Alex said. "I believe it was your sect that you came from, correct?"

"It is," the queen said quickly. "I will contact the sect leader there, right away. Who are you trying to find?"

Alex thought for a bit. The memory of the white-haired girl, lying on the bed filled his mind, his thoughts returning back to the connection he felt. He quickly dispelled those thoughts and thought of her name.

He hadn't received her full name, but he had her name, and her family name had to come from her father. So, her name was...

"Yan Shumi," Alex said. "That's who I am trying to find out about."

The queen nodded. "What should I ask them? Should I ask them to come here? I can send someone to get her."

"No," Alex said. "I just wish to know how she is doing. She was ill the last time I saw her, so I've been worried." If it was possible, he would rather not meet her before the Cave of Frost opened.

He wasn't sure how his heart could handle it if after talking to her, he found out she was his Master. That nervousness was still there for him.

"I will check right away, Your Majesty," she said. "I will get back to you once I find out."

Chapter 1546: Evening Mist Lake

Alex reached into his soul space to water the two seeds. The seeds were surrounded in the darkness, dozens of meters apart, such that their roots were not touching each other at all.

Each time they grew larger, Alex was instructed to move them further apart. And they had grown larger in the time he had been in the Central Continent.

Given that he had only known what exactly to do with the seeds after talking with the senior, Alex could now help them much more than the time before.

There were formations all around the two roots. One was the Enriching Mist Formation that he had bought from the Golden Auction. Its job was normally to draw in Qi from the outside and keep it centered at one location.

Right now, Alex was instead using it for that purpose, on top of keeping the World Tree's Qi inside the boundary.

Another formation was something the senior called Borrowing Life formation. It was his own product and he used it to gather Life Energy from his Soul Space to further improve the two seeds.

Their growth was slow but apparent. That was what the senior had said it would be. They were incredible plants that wouldn't grow in the span of a few years. Decades would pass before they could even be considered an actual sprout.

It wouldn't be a surprise if it took them millennia to reach any form of maturity. Alex could only take it all slow, and wait for the trees to grow slowly. He used his spiritual sense to grab onto the Bottomless Jade Flask and poured a bit of the water around the trees.

The trees would take a few days to take in all the water there and grow again. One of the trees turned everything to light, heat, and Yang, and the other one turned it all to Qi.

As a result, their growth was slow and that was why Alex was going to have to wait for a long time.

'Land,' he thought to himself. 'Where will I possibly find the perfect land for this?'

He didn't need a very large land, just a couple hundred meters wide and a few dozen meters deep. But he also wanted it with a Spirit vein inside of it. He had an extra spirit vein on him, but finding a land here without anyone else finding out about it would be hard.

Maybe he could find fertile land during his visit to the Ivory Kingdom. "Ugh, maybe not in the North," Alex thought. "I will have to go south. Ivory won't do it. Silver Kingdom maybe?"

But then he remembered the Great Blightwind region, where all the plants had died and the soil toxic. "Whatever, I'll find someplace certainly."

He wasn't in any hurry yet.

His attention moved away from his Soul Space when he heard a voice coming from outside of his room. Queen Song had returned.

He quickly opened the door and let her in. She walked through the white marble floor, her feet creating a sonorous sound with each step as she arrived in front of the bed he sat on.

Alex could feel the presence of others with her, but it was her alone that was here inside.

"Your Majesty," she said hurriedly. "Can you repeat the name you told me to search? It was Yan Shumi, right?"

Alex nodded. "Yan Shumi, that should be correct," he said.

The woman shook her head. "There is no Yan Shumi in the Ice Mist Palace," she said. "Are you sure that is her name or that is the sect she hails from?"

"That is definitely the sect she's from," Alex said before falling into a thought. "As for her name, maybe I'm mistaken there. I assumed it was Yan Shumi, but if it was not, then... it has to be Bing Shumi."

The Queen thought for a bit. "Are you sure about this? If you don't know her name clearly, I can use other descriptions of hers to find her," she said. "Any notable feature."

"That shouldn't be necessary. It isn't like the person I'm searching for is some unknown disciple in the sect. Her name is Shumi. Her father is Yan Changying, a person I have heard is quite bad at managing his anger. Her mother should be the twin sister of the sect master of the Ice Mist Palace... uhh... Bing... Zheshuang?"

"Master Bing?" the Queen asked with a curious look. "Her... twin sister's child?"

Alex nodded.

"Senior Taizhen's child?" she asked again.

"Ah yes! Taizhen. That was her mother's name," Alex remembered.

The Queen slowly nodded while thinking about a million things. "I will try to contact them again," she said. "I wasn't aware senior Taizhen had a daughter. Did they hide it from me?"

The queen walked away from the room, her sonorous footsteps leaving with her.

Alex returned to what he was previously doing, thinking nothing of what had just happened. He would wait for the Queen to return once again.

The Queen returned 2 hours later, this time her footsteps hurried, disorderly. She didn't have the grace that she had when she left.

Alex opened his eyes to look at her worried look and frowned.

"What is going on?" he asked.

"I am being told that there is no such person as the one you are looking for," she said. "I could have told you that, but I checked just in case, and it's true. Lady Yan Taizhen has never had a child."

Alex frowned. "She most certainly has," he said.

"That's not true," the Queen said. "It's just not. You might have been duped, your majesty. Someone used their name."

Alex nodded. "That is possible," he said. "But I won't agree with that until I've seen them myself."

He got out of the bed. "Let's go," he said. "Let's go to the Ice Mist Palace."

"Right now?" the Queen asked, worried. "It's the middle of the night."

"Doesn't matter," Alex said. "It's important."

He called out his two Elders and they quickly arrived by his side. "What are we doing, Your Majesty?" Yao Ning asked.

"We're going to find a young girl," he said as he continued walking outside the palace.

The two elders looked at each other, worried and confused. "Why are we going to look for a girl in the middle of the night?" they asked.

"Because I say so," he said, not bothering to explain how special this girl was.

The Queen had no power to stop Alex, so instead she went ahead of him and prepared for his departure. However, Alex didn't bother with ships or anything. "We're flying there ourselves," he said and left off.

The two elders flew next to him, and the Queen as well as a few of her subordinates flew by him as well. Together, about 7 of them made their way to the Ice Mist Palace in the dead of night, their path lightened by the silver glow of moonlight on the white snow.

The Queen quickly took the lead and showed them the way to the Ice Mist Palace. Two hours later, they saw they saw a large body of water, large enough to be considered a sea.

Evening Mist Lake.

And on the southern side of the lake, covered in the mist that grew from it, was the Ice Mist Palace.

Chapter 1547: Outside the Ice Mist Palace

The Ice Mist Palace was large. It was one of the greatest sects in the entire Eastern Continent, placing it at around the same level as the 5 ancient sects of the Northern Continent.

Those sects called themselves ancient with just 8 thousand years of history of their own and a few dozen millennia of stolen history. Ice Mist Palace had more than that of its own.

Its strength ran deep and its history deeper.

The mist from the lake covered the entirety of the sect, but light still peered through the mist, giving a very vague and basic outline of the sect.

At the front gates were a few figures waiting for their arrival.

As the 7 of them landed, they finally saw who it was waiting for. Alex looked at them, recognizing a few of the faces from his memory of that time in that courtyard. He didn't know their name at all.

All except the one at the center.

He knew her name well. Bing Zheshuang, Sect Master of the Ice Mist Palace.

"Master," the Queen bowed a little.

"Queen Song," the sect master bowed a little as well.

Neither bowed too low because of their positions, but anyone could tell that they were close. Song Meifen had once been a disciple of the Ice Mist Palace, learning directly under Bing Zheshuang herself. Even becoming a Queen and moving away from the sect didn't destroy that connection.

The sect master's eyes moved to Alex, landing on him for a moment before she bowed again, deeper this time than for her disciple.

"Greetings, King of the Southern Continent," the woman spoke. "To what do we owe the pleasure of having you come here at such a time?"

Alex bowed a little before speaking, "I'm sure you are aware of what I am here for," he said. "Queen Song should have let you know what I am looking for."

The woman's facial expression didn't change much at all as she turned toward the Queen. "All those Questions Your Majesty asked me, was it..."

"It was His Majesty's questions," the Queen nodded. "He wanted me to check."

The woman looked back at Alex and then at the woman standing beside her. She spoke a few silent words, and with some looks of confusion on her face, the woman walked back into the palace, disappearing into the mist.

"Will we just talk outside?" Alex asked. "Will you not invite us in?"

The woman turned back at Alex. "I'm sorry, Your Majesty, but the Ice Mist Palace is a place where only the girls are allowed. No man can—"

"You will make an exception for our King," Yao Ning said loudly, cutting her off. "Surely you won't reject showing hospitality to a King of another continent, would you?"

The woman's face fell just a little, which she tried her best to not show.

"It is just the unwritten law of the Ice Mist Palace, Your Majesty," the Queen spoke up on behalf of their master. "It's just the way things are."

"Then we demand—"

Alex put up his hand before his elders could finish. "Very well, if you want me outside, we can conduct our business outside," he said.

His sword appeared out of nowhere and hovered behind him where he sat on top of it as if it were a chair. He put one leg on top of the other and leaned against his knuckles with the elbow to his knee.

"We can continue."

The sect master saw this and couldn't help but feel bad. Still, she took a deep breath and nodded. "Your Majesty came to get some answers, but I believe I had already answered all of them," she said.

"You did," Alex said. "But I would like to hear it all once again. Where is Shumi?"

The woman gulped a little. "There is no Shumi here," she said. "We checked. There is no disciple by that name."

"Are you trying to hide her?" Alex asked. "Is it because she's your niece?"

"No, I have no niece," the sect master said.

Alex looked at her, letting the silence fill in between them, letting her get more and more anxious. "Will your sister say the same thing?" he asked.

"My sister?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Can you call out your sister? I would like to hear it from her own mouth."

The woman hesitated for a bit. "My sister isn't here right now," she said. "She's away."

"Oh, where?" Alex asked.

"I... can't tell you," the woman said.

"Master, where is senior Taizhen?" the Queen asked.

"She left the sect to go out. The barrier only recently came undone, so she took the opportunity to go out," she said.

"And Yan Changying?" Alex asked.

The woman looked back at Alex, very much confused. "How does His Majesty know about my brother-in-law?" she asked.

"Does it matter?" Alex asked.

"No," the sect master said. "My brother-in-law is with my sister. The couple went out together."

Alex only smiled at that. "Yan Changying and Bing Taizhen... went out together?" he asked. "Last time I saw they were ready to kill each other."

"Last time? Your Majesty, you act like you are close to the two of them," she said.

"Not close at all," he said. "Barely know the two. But, I do have to talk with their daughter, so please, let me meet her."

"Your Majesty, there is no daughter. There is no—"

"I'll stop you right there," Alex said. "I can see this conversation is going nowhere, so I'll stop playing around." He reached into his storage bag and brought out something before putting it over his face.

The Hell Mask.

As black patterns appeared over the white mask, the sect master's eyes widened in shock, forcing her to take a step back.

"You!" she cried out. "But your name..."

Alex put down the mask as it was no longer necessary. "You asked me how you could repay me for what I did," he said. "Well, I'm come asking for my payment, and I want to be paid in truth."

"Where is the girl?"

The sect master had no words to speak. No lies she could speak would fool anyone anymore. But she could speak no more words. Her head slumped to the side, her mind racing to come up with things to say.

In the end, she could only sigh. She reached for a talisman in her storage bag and brought it out. She looked at it for a while before letting it float toward Alex.

"Everything you want to know is written in that talisman," she said as Alex grabbed it.

Alex looked at the talisman, seeing complex runes etched on top of it. He couldn't tell exactly what the talisman was for, but he could see some runes that told him it was a recording talisman.

There was some sort of recording in there.

Alex reached it with his spiritual sense and read what was in there.

And that gave way for the Intent inside the talisman to work on him. Alex heard a deep grumbling laughter as something entered his Spiritual sea before he could even pull his spiritual sense away.

Panic flared through his entire system as he realized that he had done something he should not have done.

Chapter 1548: Fairy

Alex entered his Spiritual sea the moment he sensed something else doing the same. He could feel the pressure building up inside his Spiritual sea and was worried about what was to come.

The moment he entered, he searched for the thing in the gloomy domain of his mind. Staring at the silver mountain, he found a spirit hovering there.

It was the spirit of a woman with long flowing purple hair, wearing a white robe that seemed transparent in most places. She turned her face to look at something that floated toward Alex, her eyes narrowing as she looked at it.

Godslayer arrived next to Alex, and her vision landed on Alex who was next to him. And Alex saw her.

She looked at him for a few seconds, during which Alex's mind went through many different thoughts, one of which scared him to his core.

The woman didn't just have purple hair. She also had deep green eyes, and two pointed horns coming out out from her forehead.

Alex searched for any signs that would tell him that she was a beast, but he could find none. He couldn't doubt himself this time around anymore.

She was most definitely a demon.

Next, he tried to see if she was a soul or just a spirit, but it was hard to tell. He wasn't knowledgeable on this topic, and it didn't feel right to ask Godslayer while she was there in front of him.

The woman's face turned to a smile after those few seconds. "I have never seen a space stone inside someone's spiritual sea," she spoke. Her very first sentence reverberated through his mind, causing the sea below to undulate and splash around.

"And is that a soul or a spirit that has such a large amount of Shadow around it that I can't even tell," the woman said. Godslayer's shadow aura that he kept to himself didn't let her see anything else.

"And you..." she looked at Alex once again. "I can tell that you are the owner of this body, of this world. And I must say... I like your eyes."

Alex was taken aback at those words but he quickly understood what she meant.

"Where did you get them?" she asked.

"Through an inheritance," Alex said. "Left behind by someone who died a long time ago."

The woman nodded. "I should be working, but you are too fascinating to not learn a bit more from before I am gone," she said.

Alex was surprised that despite the pressure he felt, there was no animosity in this woman's presence. No desire to harm him at all. So, he wondered what she was doing here and what she would want from him.

Because one thing was for certain now.

This was definitely the spirit of someone in the divine realm.

"My name is Alex. May I ask who the senior is?" Alex asked.

"You don't need to know," she said. "We will likely never meet again."

"You are in my Spiritual sea, senior. I request that you introduce yourself after having barged into my world," he said.

The woman stared at him for a few seconds which felt like eternity for Alex. With each passing moment, he could feel the pressure pushing him more and more.

But he had learned to handle such pressure from Senior Yang after he entered his Soul Space nearly a hundred times in the time he had been there. He could handle her for an hour longer if this was all he would have to bear with.

The woman suddenly smiled and chuckled a bit. Her laughter echoed through the world, the same laughter she made when she slipped in here.

"You are straightforward," she said. "I like that. You can call me Fairy Xin. I will not give anything more than that."

Alex nodded. "Greetings, fairy Xin. May I ask why you are in my spiritual sea?" he asked.

"If I am in your spiritual sea, it is because you asked about someone that you should not have asked about," the woman said.

'Shumi?' Alex thought to himself.

"Do not worry," the woman said. "I will simply wipe away the part of your memory that has to do with the girl we took away. Everything else will remain intact. You will have felt a minimal amount of damage to your spirit as well."

"Can I ask not to have my memory wiped?" Alex asked. "I would rather not lose anything if that is possible."

"I'm afraid that it's not," she said. "I will have to erase not just your memory, but also the memory of that... thing next to you."

"My name is Godslayer, Bitch!" Godslayer suddenly shouted. "I'm no thing."

"Rude!" the woman's face fell.

"Godslayer!" Alex shouted at him.

Godslayer remained silent for a moment before saying, "Shit! Sorry."

"I suppose I will have to start with the little ball of shadow," the woman glided toward the two of them. Alex moved in front of Godslayer, protecting him. He looked at the woman and quickly spoke.

"Fairy Xin, please calm down," he said. "He didn't mean any harm by those words. He's not used to being good around people."

"Doesn't matter to me. Stand down and let me erase your memory. I don't have much time," she said.

"Please, Fairy Xin," Alex said, thinking of ways to stop her. "May I ask why you came here to this world? This world belongs to the humans after the war, and there is an Azure Dragon here to protect this continent."

"Why should I care about a useless serpent from the beast house," she said. "If he was any good, he would have never been sent to this world." She continued moving toward him.

"Why did you come then? Was it just to take away little Shumi?" he asked. "How did you know she was here? How did you find out?"

The woman said nothing.

"Was it because she has the Moon Goddess's body?"

The woman finally paused and looked at Alex with wide eyes. "How... do you know that?" she asked.

Alex sighed in relief. "I didn't know," he said. "But I had my guess."

"Have you told anyone else?" the woman asked seriously this time around.

"Yes," Alex said. "A couple of people."

"I see," the woman said, her hand to her chin in a thoughtful expression. "If that is the case then I can't let you live."

"What?" Alex asked.

"I must kill you," she said. "I'm sorry. This is too monumental of information to leave at the hand of a mere Saint." Her aura exploded and the pressure Alex felt early on tripled.

He felt as if his world would break at any moment and all would be lost.

"I'm sorry," she still spoke, her voice thunderous now. "I must kill you, and I must find the ones you gave away this information to. Only then can we be safe."

"Only then can our future survive."

Alex grunted in pain, but it was too much. He had never had such a strong person actively try to kill him.

"Alex!" Godslayer's voice flooded his ear. "Fight!"

Alex nodded. There was too much risk to his survival for him to not fight.

The water beneath him floated next to him in the shape of a fist, and Heaven's Impact became the beginning of the spiritual war.

Chapter 1549: Elements

The fist-shaped ball of Spiritual energy hit the woman in the chest, but it did nothing to her at all. She continued gliding toward Alex and Alex retaliated with stronger attacks.

Spiritual attacks he had learned from the Fu clan ancestor flowed out from the sea beneath him, waves of Spiritual energy crashing onto the woman named Xin. They dissipated as quickly as they came.

Then Alex struck out a palm.

A yellow palm strike flew out from his hand, flying towards the woman. The woman's eyes stopped at the color of the palm strike and only destroyed it when it was too close to it.

She felt the destroyed aura dissipate and couldn't help but be surprised.

"Yang?" she asked herself, confused at what she was sensing.

A ball of fire flew next to her when she was caught off guard. She used her energy to push it aside, but just before she could do it, it exploded in front of her, the waves of the attack pushing her back, the head burning her ever so slightly, and the fire aura catching up to her.

"Fire?" she asked. It was another element this time.

Alex punched the next time, 4 golden spears forming from this single punch of his, all flying directly at the woman. His Golden Spear punch struck the woman, a metal aura filling her senses.

"Another one?" she cried out in surprise. "How is this possible?"

Alex could understand what she was feeling right now. His attacks which should be forming due to his spiritual energy had an elemental aura to them. That was something that should have been impossible.

Alex didn't know why that was the case, and neither could anyone else tell him. This was a mystery he would have to figure out himself. But for now, this was a fantastic help to him.

Alex creates numerous icicles around him that are hovered in the air and then lets them shoot out. They shot at the woman, the ice aura striking her.

'Water now?' the woman thought. She couldn't comprehend the situation, despite the years of experience she had. She couldn't understand why a Saint had something, not even a Divinity could have.

One's Spiritual sea was not something that could use Qi, so having elemental affinity to any attack was not possible. But it did, and the woman was dumbfounded all the more for it.

Alex wished he had a sword with him. He could make fake ones, but those wouldn't work. He could only use Sword Intent through them and no techniques. There were so many attacks he could make, but this was all he could do with techniques that didn't use swords.

Still, he didn't stop attacking. One after another, he threw out all the attacks he could at the woman.

Having gotten used to the situation, the woman stopped feeling surprised and started her attack as well.

She wasn't here to kill. The Intent that put her in the talisman was meant to erase the memories of all those who could let someone of importance know what had happened here.

But now that she had realized that Alex knew the identity of the girl they had taken away, she went against her own Intent to kill him. That was what she thought was the best thing to do here.

She started striking, each strike stripping away chunks of Alex's spiritual energy from him. Still, he had a lot for how weak his cultivation base was.

"You're a prodigy," she said. "A pillar of the future. I am saddened that I have to kill you, but for our own future, I will. Please accept that this isn't easy for me either."

She shot around another random attack.

Alex had put forth the All Swirling Elemental Shield by now and the damage he took was the damage his shield took. It wasn't direct damage, but in this instant, losing spiritual energy was equivalent to dying.

The woman's eyes flashed when she sensed the aura in the shield. '5 elements?' she thought. 'And he put out Yang before too. That makes it 6.'

She couldn't believe that he had access to 6 different ones. 'No Yin, however. I wonder why not?' she thought. It hadn't crossed her mind that Alex was only capable of producing the elemental aura he used as a technique.

Alex was hardly ever not on the defensive after the woman focused and she slowly approached him step by step, attack by attack. She could see the water beneath her becoming shallower and shallower with each step of her, with each attack.

And she continued it. It took her only 5 minutes before she was right in front of Alex and she used a strong burst of attack to destroy his shield.

Alex could barely look at her anymore. Even though it was just an avatar, his face reddened with pain, his breathing heavy, his head aching with a thumping noise that wouldn't go away.

"Alex..." Godslayer said softly from far away. He was ready to help, to throw away all the shadow aura around him to attack the woman with what he could.

But he didn't. He was told to stay away.

The woman looked at him with a pitiful look in her eyes. She just looked at him as Alex created another shield in front of him to protect himself, so much weaker than the last time.

"I would have just wiped your memory with barely any damage to your spirit had you not told the others about our goddess," the woman said. "Now, only death awaits you. I'm sorry."

Alex chuckled. "You're not the main spirit of Fairy Xin, are you?" he asked. "You're just a small chunk of her, right?"

The woman looked puzzled. "Yes, I can't even be considered that in reality," she said. "I'm barely anything."

"And yet you dared to be so nonchalant about it all," Alex said. "With this weak spirit, you should have been more prepared. You shouldn't have let yourself be weakened to this level."

"What are you—" the woman's words stuck to her throat as a wave of panic flashed from all around her. She had no Divine sense here And she had not seen this coming.

Yellow fog appeared out from underneath her immediately, grabbing onto her leg, then her torso, her arm, and then her face.

"What is this?" she shouted, trying to use her Divine energy to attack, but most of it was absorbed by the fog. What escaped it was stopped by Alex's shield.

Alex felt life flow back to him as the attack was absorbed and more life flowed back as the rest of her spirit was taken away. She screamed the entire time the yellow fog devoured her and even as this piece of her spirit was torn away, she didn't understand how she lost.

"I hope you won't be this antagonistic if we ever meet for real," Alex said and sighed in relief.

"That was close," Godslayer said from the side.

"Yes," Alex said. "But I had to take the chance. If she didn't think she had the upper hand, she wouldn't have weakened herself, and I don't know I could have absorbed her so easily."

Godslayer nodded.

"And I'm glad I did," Alex said excitedly. "My spiritual energy has improved by not a small margin once again."

There had come a reward for the tedious battle he had just fought.

"You can get excited later on," Godslayer said. "Go deal with what is happening outside first"

"Oh right," Alex said, quickly leaving for the outside. When he arrived outside, he smelled a flowery smell and saw chaos.

Liang Shufen was holding onto him, screaming his name, trying to feed him some sort of pill that she couldn't push through his mouth. In the distance, Yan Ning had the sect master of the Ice Mist Palace at a spear's edge, ready to cut her down.

It was only the people around her that had managed to stop her. The Queen was with her master, asking what she did, shouting at and could only use her vision to see what was happening.

Godslayer nodded.

"And I'm glad I did," Alex said excitedly. "My spiritual energy has her.

"Your Majesty!" Liang Shufen shouted when she saw him open his eyes. Her voice alerted the rest, bringing the other to him to check up on him.

"Your Majesty, are you alright?" Yao Ning asked.

"Your Majesty," Queen Song came to him as well.

"I'm alright," Alex said, slowly moving away from Liang Sufen and standing on his own. He felt the slightest hint of dizziness from his depleted spiritual energy.

He felt a slight buzz from behind him, a small feeling of worry passing through him that he nearly missed. He turned around to find Midnight in the snow.

He couldn't help but smile. He reached out to it and cleared the snow before telling it, and everyone else, "I'm fine. Don't worry."

He put Midnight inside his storage ring and looked around. "Where is the talisman I had?" he asked.

"Talisman?" Yao Ning asked. "We... we saw you fall unconscious, so we destroyed it. Should we not have done that?"

Alex thought for a moment and shook his head. "Never mind," he said and looked toward the sect master in the distance. She was being held by two men, both members of the Head Legion.

She was strong enough to break out at any moment, but she didn't. Alex could see the guilt in her eyes.

"I want to speak with the sect leader privately," Alex said. "Can you all step aside please?"

"Your Majesty, she tried to—"

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing," Alex said and moved toward the sect master, and the two men moved away from them.

Alex stood in front of her and used his spiritual sense to ask the first question.

"So... your sister, her husband, and their daughter were taken away to the Immortal realm, correct?"

Chapter 1550: No Answer

Bing Zheshuang shuddered at the question that was asked of her. She held her face stern, making sure to not let herself show even the tiniest hint that she knew the answer.

Letting Alex know that she knew what had happened would trigger her oath, killing her instantly.

Alex watched the woman who did her best to remain quiet. He fell into a bit of thought, at which point Godslayer spoke from his mind.

"She can't answer," he said. "That Divine realm woman from before definitely forced her to make some oaths. Look at her, she'll practically die before giving us anything."

Alex agreed. "I especially asked that question because I thought it would give her some leeway in case she was in an oath," he said. "But it seems her oath has more to do with ignoring the fact that Shumi ever existed at all."

"But she can talk about her sister, can't she?" he asked.

Alex nodded and took the question there. "How old is your sister supposed to be currently," he asked the woman, taking her thoughts away from the question. He could see relief fill her face now that she did not have to answer.

"She is the same as me, 6 Millennia old," the woman answered.

"So you can talk about your sister?" Alex asked her.

The woman hesitated but nodded in the end.

"Can you tell me truthfully where she is?" Alex asked her.

The woman thought for a bit and shook her head. "I'm sorry for what I did earlier, Your Majesty," she quickly said. "I did not know what would happen. I was told to hand it over to anyone that—"

Alex gestured for her to stop. "Don't worry about what you did," he said. "If I wanted to punish you, I would've already. Right now, I just want to know what I can."

"I'm afraid I cannot tell you much, Your Majesty," the woman said.

"Is it the oath?" Alex asked.

"There is an oath, but even without it, I would never tell you anything," she said. "If you force me to, I will have to retaliate."

Alex sighed. That was the truth in the end. Family first. She would not betray her sister and niece by telling where they had been taken to if that was dangerous. He thought for a bit and asked another question.

"Did Fairy Xin introduce herself to you?" he asked her.

The woman's face shifted, looking surprised that he even knew the name. Slowly, she nodded.

"Was there anyone else other than her that came?" Alex asked.

The woman kept quiet at that, not answering his question. Alex wanted to ask if it was her oath or just her who was not answering, but he found it unnecessary to ask. He wasn't going to get an answer regardless.

"Fine," he said. "I came here to meet your niece, but since she's not here, I will ask you what I would have asked her."

The woman still didn't say anything, her complicated oath making it hard to talk about anything in this subject matter. Still, her silence was an approval for Alex and he asked the question that burned in his heart for a long time.

"Did she say anything about the name I gave you?" Alex asked her. "Was there any sort of reaction to the name, Yu Ming?"

"Yu Ming? The fake name you gave us?" the woman asked.

Alex nodded. It was technically still his name, but he ignored the technicality for now. He simply waited for the woman to give him an answer.

And her answer came in the form of a head shake that meant no. "We never really talked about you at all," the woman said. "Maybe the others did, but I certainly wasn't there, so I don't know if there was something that happened."

"Dammit!" Alex couldn't help but say it out loud. He had been hoping to get some sort of answer, but there was nothing.

There had been 2 reasons he had used the name Yu Ming back in the Hundred Blossom Valley.

The first was simple. He did not want people to know that he could heal too. He had healed something that no one in the Ivory kingdom could heal, so his name would have most likely spread. If no one else, the Emperor would've heard this feat of his.

He didn't want that.

The second reason was the more important reason. He wanted to use the name Yu Ming so that when the white-haired girl did wake up from her coma, he wanted her to know that she had been treated by him, a person named Yu Ming.

If she was the reincarnation of his master and had somehow retained partial memories of her past life, he hoped to reawaken it with his name. He hoped to bring back Ma Rong if she was still in there.

Alas, it seemed he would never know what had happened.

"Was your niece different after she woke up? Had her personality changed? Anything? Please," Alex asked, but the woman could only stare.

She could not say anything, lest she accidentally acknowledged the existence of her niece. She had vowed to not do that.

"I see," Alex said, realizing he was not going to get any answer. "Very well, I won't bother you anymore then. Take care."

The people that were around them this whole time, watching the two talk with their spiritual senses were confused. They had no idea what the conversation had been about, and the only word they did hear was Alex's sudden curse 'dammit'.

The Queen above all was most confused as this was the sect she had come from, the person in the snow was her master, and yet, nothing of what was happening made any sense to her.

"It seems I was mistaken," Alex said out loud. "Let us leave then."

The sect master of the Ice Mist Palace could only watch in silence as they all walked away. She bowed deeply, happy knowing that she had kept her family's secret safe.

Even if they knew her sister and niece had been taken away, they would never know where to. And that was the most important thing here above all to her.

Even if death came to her, she was ready to hide this information from anyone who sought to know it.

"Your Majesty," the Queen spoke as she flew close to Alex. "Are you alright? What did my master do to you?"

"Will you be reporting this to the Emperor?" Alex asked her with his spiritual sense.

"Even if I don't want to, they are his subordinate," she said, referring to the 3 men and women from the Head Legion that flew next to her. "They will definitely report what happened here today."

Alex nodded. "If you want your master to have an easier time in case of an upcoming investigation, divert their attention toward her sister," he said. "She has spoken an oath to not speak about her niece, and it would kill her if they forced her to."

The Queen's eyes widened in terror. "I see," she said. "I wasn't even aware there was a niece."

"You did," Alex said. "Your memory of it has been erased is all."