

Alchemy 1581

Chapter 1581: Reset

Alex accepted every battle for the next 12 hours, half of them fought by Pearl, and half of them fought by him. In some cases, when someone was too strong for Pearl, but too weak for him, they fought together against that person.

As such, out of nearly 35 different battles they fought through the night, they only lost 3 times in total. Once Alex gave them their pills, they left.

He finally got another breathing period after those battles and got to take a break. He had found out that his location had been spread through the secret realm, so many more would be coming to where he was very soon.

Not to mention that Teng Roukang was still following him while challenging people along the way.

The sun had already risen and was making its way up the sky, slowly reaching noon. Around that time, Alex came across a rather large river on a depressed land. There was no flow to the river from what he could tell, and he could see a few beasts flow through it.

"Hmm? Aren't those sea creature?" Alex thought when he saw one of those beasts come to the surface for a few seconds. Curious, he made his way down to the river. As he came close, he could smell the salty air around him, and tasting the water only confirmed his suspicions.

"Oh, it's ocean water," he thought. Now that he thought about it, there was a river that went through the island. "This must be the same river"

Thinking a bit more, he remembered seeing the river go through the middle of the island, or close to it. "Then... I must be around the middle areas of the island."

Just then, his talisman buzzed.

Alex looked around, confused at what had just happened. "Huh?" No one had challenged him. So, he took his talisman out to check.

"Oh!"

Reading through it, he understood what had happened.

"It hit reset, huh?" he thought. The talisman had reset, not just for him, but for everyone. A new day had started, which meant a new day of Challenges and a new day of Losses.

'But it hasn't been 24 hours,' Alex thought. It had only been around 20 hours according to his Voidsand Hourglass that he could see in his Soul Space.

"It's noon, so they must have synced the reset with it," Alex thought. "Will the next one be in 24 hours? Or will that be in 20 hours as well?"

"Your Majesty!"

Alex turned around, hearing someone shout for him. Teng Roukang made his way down the slope toward him, stopping only moments before him.

"Hahaha, Your Majesty! We can fight now!" he shouted.

Alex felt his talisman buzz and immediately he hated it. "Couldn't you have come a little later?" he asked. "Now I'm going to have to get allocated a Loss."

"Oh," the man looked at him sheepishly, scratching his head. "We can fight now though, right?"

Alex sighed and brought out his sword. The man grinned as well and brought out his staff. Both of their talismans buzzed as Alex accepted the challenge.

The man rushed at Alex first, stabbing Alex with the butt of the staff. Alex swung Midnight, sending the staff aside. Light flashed as both Sword Intent and Staff Intent clashed.

He made a swiping attack, targeting Alex's feet. Having watched so much of Alex's fight, he had concluded that Alex wouldn't fly for some reason. He didn't know why, but he would use it to his advantage.

Alex flipped back in time, but that was what the man wanted. The moment Alex was still in the air, he ran forward, extending his hand which held the end of the staff, and dropped the other end deep into Alex's stomach.

Alex managed to place his arm in between at the last moment and the attack only fractured his wrist. He landed rather ungracefully and rolled a few times before coming to a stop.

The man was about to continue when suddenly the river exploded with water and a large crab jumped out of it, its claws grasping for Teng Roukang.

The crab was only in the Saint Soul 2nd realm, so it was nowhere near strong enough for the man, but still, it dared to attack him.

The man jumped backward in time and dodged the claws right in time. "Stay out of this, bastard!" the man shouted at the crab, hoping to deter it, only to have to frown.

"Dammit! It can't understand me," the man shouted and attacked the crab.

Alex flicked his wrist a few times to make sure it was healed. The pain still remained, but he endured it and looked at the fight in front of him.

The Crab was a large red crab with spindly legs like those of a spider and had rather sharp claws. "It's not intelligent?" Alex thought. He had known that most ocean beasts, despite reaching the saint realm didn't gain much intelligence.

Even if they did, they would still act like a beast, attacking and killing anything they wanted, making territories, and generally acting like they were still the same beasts without intelligence.

The Wyrms they had to fight before coming to this continent was the same, and this one seemed even worse.

The man struck aside the crab's legs that tried to stab for him and then filled his staff with golden energy, something he hadn't used in the fight against Alex until now.

An illusory staff with golden intricacies was crafted around the regular metal staff and suddenly it grew in size, nearly 10 times as large as the staff, the man swung the illusory staff down on the crab.

The crab was strong for its cultivation base, especially when it came to its defense. Even then, against someone 4 realms higher than it, it could do nothing.

The large golden staff landed on the crab, crushing its hard exterior at once. The pieces of the crustacean stabbed into its body, blue blood pouring out of it. It still lived and now tried to make its way back to the water.

However, just then, Alex jumped on top of it, and stabbed his sword right through it, killing the crab at once. The crab's nascent soul flew away, but Alex let it be. He dug his hand into the crab's body and pulled out its beast core.

"Do you mind if I keep this?" Alex asked the man below who was staring at him.

The man shook his head. "If we can continue our battle, absolutely not," he said as his grin returned to his face.

"Let's continue then."

The two of them fought for another 20 minutes. Alex did his best to fight, but he was hit a few too many times, and once he even got hit in the head rather badly. Thankfully, it didn't crush his brain, or else the man would've gotten the nasty surprise of seeing his head heal right in front of him.

After those 20 minutes, Alex was beaten badly enough that the talisman considered him to have lost the match. The battle was over, and he was awarded his first Loss.

Chapter 1582: Rules

Alex handed over a healing pill to Teng Roukang this time around.

"Are you going to challenge me tomorrow as well?" Alex asked.

The man couldn't hide his grin. "It's such an easy way to get pills, Your Majesty. Please don't mind if I do," he said.

"Okay, but can you at least not do it right after reset?" Alex asked him. "I need to win my first match of the day so I don't get a Loss."

"I will try not to," the man said. "I'll see you tomorrow, Your Majesty."

Alex didn't believe he could trust the man's word and was mostly sure that he was going to see him as soon as the talismans reset once again.

He turned around to see another group of people approach him, most of whom were ones that had defeated him yesterday, along with a few more. He couldn't help but sigh as his talisman buzzed again.

He couldn't complain though as this was what he brought upon himself.

5 hours later, felt a pained expression. This wasn't working. He had lost 5 times in the dozen or so fights he fought. Pearl had fought 5 of those, and his was the fight that were the longest.

"We aren't getting any time for ourselves," Alex thought. Pearl agreed as well. He needed to do something. He had been left alone for some time, and now was the time for him to come up with something.

"I need a routine. I need some free time of my own," he thought and brought out a canvas. The people who were giving him some free time looked at him, curious about what he was doing.

After spending 5 minutes on it, Alex finished writing everything he wanted from the fights. Once done, he brought out his puppet and pasted it on its body, letting Whisker control it.

Everyone curiously read what it said.

"What is this?"

[I will only accept battles 5 days a week. The last remaining 2 days will be for me to train and cultivate.

The battles will now be based on a first come first served basis. My Mouse, Whisker, will handle the queue of fighters, so join through there.

If reset hits, I will pause all battles until someone whom I can easily beat challenges me. You can also circumvent this by choosing to give me a Win for the day, for which I will give you a pill.

If your Cultivation base is above the Saint Soul realm, You will fight me. If it is between Saint Core 6th realm and 9th realm, Pearl and I will take part together. If it is below that, Pearl alone will be the one to fight you alone.

I will take a 10-minute break after every fight unless it is one where I or Pearl am switching.

Finally, and most importantly, if you do not follow this rule, I will give you an Out of Bounds.]

"Whisker, handle that," Alex said and sat down by the grass, close to the slope that led to the river.

Whisker looked at what was written, took a moment to understand it, and jumped on top of the puppet before speaking to everyone. "Gather around if you want to challenge my brother!"

The people saw the tiny mouse speak to them, surprised that even the mouse had a cultivation base in the Saint realm. They read through the text on the canvas, unsure what to do next.

"Is he making a competition out of this?"

"What does he mean by he will give them an Out of Bounds? Did the kings and Queens give him the power to do that?"

"He must be tired of having to fight one after another. Understandably, he needs a bit of a break. I am all up for this sort of setup."

One person ran to Whisker before anyone. "I will challenge him next!" he shouted.

Whisker looked at him and nodded before taking a talisman out. "What is your name and what is your cultivation base?" he asked the man.

Suddenly, the other people started shouting as well, saying they came here before the other person and whatnot. It took nearly 10 minutes for the chaos to turn to order before the first person who came through got to go in.

He was only a weak man with a cultivation base in the Saint Core 4th realm. As such, he got to fight Pearl.

Pearl was improving quite rapidly. The third battle he felt all this time was slowly being quenched and with it came satisfaction he hadn't felt in a long time.

His battle lasted for half an hour, during which he did everything but use the techniques that would give him away as a White Tiger. So he didn't use White Tiger's Domination Body, or White Tiger's claws, or White Tiger's Steps.

Pearl won with his last attack, which was a direct slam onto the man's body. Alex's talisman buzzed and he had won.

Pearl moved to the side to rest and Alex looked toward Whisker. "Who is fighting next?" he asked.

Alex was very happy to have made the rules as he had.

The battles went on accordingly and Alex found himself improving ever so slightly. After nearly 2 days, he could sense that his Sword Intent was touching the threshold of Saint Core 7th realm. By sometime tomorrow, he should have properly landed on the 7th realm.

If he could improve as steadily, he was hopeful about reaching the most he could reach as of yet by the end of the 2 years he had to stay inside the secret realm.

Sufficient time had passed so that people could judge how strong Alex was. As such, more of his information had been passed around the secret realm. At the same time, the ones who had lost had no intention of challenging him again. As such, they had to leave.

The battle was only going to get tougher, Alex assumed, and he was going to have to waste a lot more pills than he had hoped. Still, he hoped his sword improved along with that.

Some people left, and some joined, and the fight continued. Pearl got quite a bit of a chance to fight as well, improving him.

Night came and went, and day started once again, Alex and Pearl hadn't stopped fighting since yesterday, but the gap they let themselves get had made this training a lot more healthy than it was the previous day.

Alex fought a man in the Saint Soul 3rd realm, fighting sword to sword. He struggled a bit against this man and was certain he would lose, but he intended to stand strong until he could.

As he fought, his talisman buzzed, catching him by surprise. The man's attack managed to land on him during his moment of surprise and he was sent flying back.

His talisman buzzed once again.

"Dammit!" Alex grunted softly. "Did it reset mid-battle?"

He quickly checked the talisman and as he had expected, the talisman had indeed reset at noon. But thankfully, he didn't receive any Loss. It seemed any battle that started before the reset did not count toward the Loss.

Alex sighed in relief and got back up, looking at the people who were waiting for their turn.

"Anyone want to give me a free win?"

Chapter 1583: First Break

Everyone looked at Alex with a weird looks on their faces. They had all read the rules and they all knew what was coming.

The reset had hit and as such Alex needed a win before he accepted any fight. Many people still wanted to challenge him, as the pills were too great to give up on.

However, no one wanted to be on the wrong side of a King, even disregarding the warning he had written on the rules.

A young man with soft gray hair quickly raised his hands. "Me! Me!" he shouted, catching everyone's attention.

Alex looked in his direction and felt a cultivation base of Saint Foundation's 8th realm. He was quite a weak cultivator.

"Do you want to challenge me?" Alex asked.

"I can get a pill if I lose, right?" the young man asked.

Alex nodded. "Whichever of the five pills you choose from," he said.

"Then I challenge you, Your Majesty," the young man said excitedly.

As someone with such a weak cultivation base, the young man had little chance of making anything of himself in the secret realm. He had simply entered the secret realm because he could and because his sect had a lot of members taking part.

Losing in just a month or two was something he expected from this. All he wanted was the experience. However, along with that experience, if he could also gain some of the best pills in the entire world, then it would not be a waste at all.

Alex accepted the match, and not even a minute later, it was over. The young man gratefully took the cultivation pill he got and walked away to cultivate.

Seeing the young man, many people got new ideas on what to do and started contacting weaker members of their sects and clans so they could get their hands on pills without having to win against Alex.

"10 more minutes and we'll continue again."

And it continued

4 days passed by quickly, and Alex's training was starting to show more signs of success. His Sword Intent grew slow but steady. Pearl also grew slowly, getting more and more used to fighting.

They still lost a lot, and with stronger people coming to fight him, the list simply didn't seem like it would stop at any point.

Thankfully, Alex was starting to be able to drag things out for longer and longer and as such he had to fight less and less overall.

Teng Roukang still came to challenge him, beating him every time. But this time around, he seemed more troubled. He was angry that he didn't get to fight Alex whenever he wanted to. He had to follow the rules too, so he could only wait for his turn to come.

One of those days, he had to wait more than a day before it came. He was quite angry about that and he didn't hide it from Alex.

"Your Majesty, you should get rid of this system. You can't grow by fighting weaklings. You need to be able to fight us strong folks if you wish to grow," the man told him during their latest battle.

"That's alright. I quite like it this way. Gives me the breaks I need," was Alex's answer, and he had definitely not like that.

The 6th reset hit while Pearl was fighting someone. After a bit of a tough battle, Pearl ended up losing against a girl with a cultivation base of Saint Core 5th realm. She was one of the only ones with that cultivation base to win against Pearl now, and it was entirely thanks to her defensive armor.

'I'll have to soon increase the level as which Pearl can fight now,' he thought. For now, the current levels felt fine.

After the battle was over, Alex stood up and looked toward Whisker. "Who is in the losing now?" he asked. Due to the influx of people wanting to challenge him on reset to lose and earn a pill, they had to make a queue there as well.

Before Whisker could answer, an old woman walked forward, ready for the challenge. Whisker nodded his approval and Alex accepted the fight.

The battle ended in just one strike. Alex had begun to efficiently end these battles.

After giving away a healing pill, he looked at the people who waited for their turn. But many already knew it wouldn't come for them today.

"As you all know, this is the 6th day and after every 5 days, I take a 2-day break," Alex said to the ones gathered around. "So, I will be cultivating now. Please do not bother me."

Alex took back his canvas, his puppet, and Whisker before setting up a formation that blocked the outside world. Finding his little privacy, he sat down relieved, and began simply checking before he had anything else to do.

The things that he most desperately needed to check on were the two trees. The Yang tree was a small sapling, giving off some heat and very little light now. The World Tree was also a sapling, but much younger and had its roots move out of the soil they were in, spreading through his Soul Space like tentacles looking to drain anything it could find.

Alex gave the trees some water from his Bottomless Flask, as well as other sources that had nutritional value to the two trees.

Once he was done with them, he looked toward his pile of pills and sighed. He had a lot of pills, but they seemed to no longer be enough for him. If he didn't make some more, at the rate he was losing, he would only have the best pills remaining and he didn't want to give those away.

'I will have to make some when I find the time next,' he thought. For now, it was time to cultivate.

He brought out two cultivation pills and handed one over to Pearl. Since Whisker cultivated through his Undying Physique, he would have to wait.

Quite a bit of Yin Qi had built up in his Dantian, which he could sense quite easily when viewing it through his spirit. His Yin Dao did help mitigate its effect on the body, but it still wasn't good for him to keep it building up.

It could affect his spirit in a rather bad way.

So, without hesitation, he started cultivating. Thanks to the pill he ate, his cultivation speed was rather fast and he quickly got rid of all the Yin in his body.

He sensed the talisman buzz once during the next day and before noon hit after that, he stopped his cultivation session and got rid of the formation plates.

When people got to see him, they all looked at him excited.

"I will take two from the Loss queue. One right now, and one after reset hits," Alex said, letting Whisker get into place once again. "Who is next?"

A young man came up and fought him, losing instantly. He happily left after getting his pill.

The rest of the people were barely holding themselves back by the time reset hit again. Once Alex dealt with another one of his Loss matches, he began his fight once more.

Chapter 1584: Prime Disciple of Cloud Iron Sect

Alex saw two girls looking from a side of the crowd excitedly toward him. It took him only a moment to recognize them even though he hadn't seen them for nearly 13 years.

Talia of the Cloud Iron sect had arrived at some time in the last 2 days and was excitedly waving at him. Next to her was the older, much stronger, Fang Yimu; the Prime Disciple of the Cloud Iron sect.

While Pearl fought, he waved at the two girls and beckoned them over.

"Your Majesty! It is very good to see you again," Fang Yimu gave a deep, respectful bow toward Alex.

"Your Majesty, I'm happy to see you again," Talia said.

"Lady Fang, Talia, it's been a while," Alex said. "13 years I believe."

"I saw you when we left for the Central Continent, Your Majesty," Talia said. "I couldn't come talk to you."

"Ah, right," Alex said. "My apologies. I saw you as well, but I couldn't talk to you either. I had a bit of a responsibility at that time."

"That's alright. How have you been doing?" Talia asked.

"Perfectly fine," Alex said. "How about you two? Did you two come here to fight me?"

"We wouldn't dare," the two girls said. "We heard you were here and came to meet you. That would only be right."

"I see," Alex said. "You can try and fight me if you want to. I would be happy to fight anyone."

"Little Talia has no chance of winning against you, and as for me..." Fang Yimu looked around. "It just doesn't feel right taking advantage of you. You should be so much stronger than me for having defeated the sect leader of that abhorrent sect that was killing children."

"I am stronger, but I am also holding myself back to train my sword. You can join in and I won't say anything."

"Hmm, maybe one fight then," Fang Yimu said. "Should I get registered too?"

"That's alright, we can start as soon as Pearl is done with his fight," Alex said. "As soon as we're done in 10 minutes, they shouldn't bother us at all."

"Alright," Fang Yimu said. "But I won't hold back, so you'll have to be prepared for whatever comes."

"That's alright," Alex said. "If I find myself in danger, I'll protect myself. You don't have to worry about me."

"Alright then," Fang Yimu said, taking the thin green sword that was strapped to her waist. "Stay back, Talia. I'm gonna test out how great His Majesty's fighting is."

Alex smiled and looked toward Pearl. "Pearl, end the fight."

Pearl asked not why and used his White Tiger's Roar to send out a spiritual attack to rattle his opponent's consciousness before slamming onto them at full force. With the combination of those two attacks, he won rather simply.

Alex felt the buzz that marked his win and then turned toward the woman again. "Miss Fang, may I challenge you to a duel."

Both of their talismans buzzed.

The woman smiled. "I accept."

Alex's sword glowed with a white outline and so did Fang Yimu's before it filled it all. "Sword Qi?" he looked at her with a raised eyebrow. "I thought the Cloud Iron sect was known for hits Alchemists, not its sword masters."

"I am the Prime Disciple, Your Majesty," Fang Yimu said, getting into a stance. "I have to know a lot of things."

The battle started with a sword slash from the woman who carried just the Sword Qi. The attack flew in between them rather quickly, arriving right in front of Alex.

Alex found it easy to thwart away her Sword Qi. Despite getting to train it, it seemed her Sword Qi lagged a little behind in terms of strength as well.

'Saint Soul 1st realm? No 2nd realm,' Alex thought. With the woman in Saint Soul's 4th realm, having a Sword Qi in Saint Soul's 2nd realm was not that far off in strength. She was doing quite well, despite mostly being an alchemist.

'She's talented,' Alex thought. It would only make sense as she was the Prime Disciple of the Cloud Iron sect, which was debatably the most popular sect in the Emerald Kingdom.

The woman used a movement technique, arriving next to Alex with a surprising speed. Had it not been for his Demon Eyes, he would've missed her attack. She stabbed with her sword, which Alex stopped with the flat side of the Midnight.

He was still sent backward, dragging dirt along the path he was pushed through.

The girl raised an eyebrow before pulling back her sword and stabbing once more. This time around, 10 different illusory swords formed beside her, all of which came at Alex at once.

Not only were they many, but they were also so strong that Alex couldn't block them. So, he dodged back and away. Most of the attacks missed him, with only 2 landing on him. One he managed to block in time, but the other stabbed through his liver.

It stopped on the other side and couldn't get out of his body thanks to his body cultivation.

"Your Majesty!" the woman cried out in surprise. She had expected him to use his Qi when he was in danger, but he had let himself be stabbed. She panicked a little when she realized she had hurt the King of the Southern Continent.

"I'm alright," Alex said as he stood up.

"But your wound. You—" Her words stuck to her mouth when she noticed that there was no wound where she had stabbed him at all. Instead, all she could see was his white skin.

"Huh?"

"I ate a pill beforehand that heals my wounds as I get hurt," Alex lied. "Regular wounds won't even hurt me. You can fight with less care if you want to."

"Is... that so?" the woman calmed down a little. Her heart still raced, but she no longer panicked. She raised her sword once more, covering it with Sword Qi.

"Come on," Alex said, raising Midnight. "Show me more of what a Prime Disciple of the Cloud Iron sect is capable of."

The woman gave a small smile and nodded. Then she attacked him.

This time around, the woman didn't use any Qi and stuck to just her Sword Qi and her swordplay. Alex had already been doing the same, so it turned into a closed-quarters sword fight for the majority of it.

The two danced around each other to the tune of their clashing sword. Alex was surprised at how talented she was in raw sword fights as well, and the woman was surprised at how strong Alex's attacks were despite him not using his Qi at all.

They fought until the end of the 10-minute mark at which point the woman moved back from Alex and spoke. "I should end this so I don't drag this on for longer," she said as her sword glowed brighter and Fire Qi filled it.

Alex nodded and prepared himself to take on the attack.

The girl let out a deep breath and used her attack.

Alex heard a soft phoenix cry as a phoenix flew out of the sword, making its way to him with a terrifying power.

It marked Alex's loss.

Chapter 1585: 3 People of Interest

Fang Yumi and Talia stayed around Alex for a while before deciding to leave him. Alex only ever fought Fang Yumi once. If they were going to fight again, it would have to be once Alex was much stronger than he was right now.

Alex accepted that. He too wanted to fight everyone again once he was stronger. For now, he would have to lose out on pills.

For the next 5 days, Alex fought numerous more people, of which 3 managed to get noticed by him.

The first person he noticed was someone called Teng Xuegang. This was a person with a cultivation base in the Saint Transformation 1st realm and was one of the natives of the Eastern Continent to reach such a stage at just 800 years of age.

He was someone Alex had first heard of when he had just arrived in the Eastern Continent and had since only met him for the first time

From what he noticed, he was also someone from the same Teng family as Teng Roukang. But for some reason, they were at odds. Even though the young man himself tried to stay away, Teng Roukang would try and start a fight from time to time.

Alex couldn't tell exactly what he was saying to goad him into trying to start a battle without a challenge, nor did he care. He was curious why the Teng clan wouldn't take someone as Teng Xuegang as their own.

The second person who entered Alex's eyes was a man who introduced himself as Zhao Boqin. He had a cultivation base of Saint Transformation's 4th realm, the same as the Crown Prince.

He was an older-looking man, physically somewhere between in the 40s of a mortal. However, he had the movement of a youth and the power of someone stronger.

He was by far the strongest person Alex had met on this continent, and might as well be the strongest. Even with all of his powers, Alex had little doubt he could win against the man. And he wouldn't even have to use his Immortal Qi, which he would've most likely started creating by now.

From what Alex could get out of him, the man turned out to be a part of the military. He was a leader of one of the battalions of the Talon legion, the ones that were supposed to be the fighters of the continent.

Alex had never seen a member of the Talon legion before. He had seen members of the Scale Legion, the Tail Legion, the Body Legion, and the Head Legion. The Talon legions were the spear of the empire, and they wouldn't easily show themselves.

It was needless to say that Alex lost to him in a matter of minutes. He even lasted that long because the man held back out of fake courtesy for the first minute or so.

He was the only one to leave Alex after fighting just once. The others stayed around.

The last person who caught Alex's interest was a woman from the Immortal Saint Pavilion who went by the name Layla. She was from the Ebony kingdom, and Alex knew exactly who she was.

This was the final of the four girls that the Crown Prince had given him information on. If things had gone differently, they would've met on a date of some sort.

When he first saw that it was this woman that he would have to fight, Alex didn't think much of it. But when the fights started, he was more than surprised.

This woman was capable of skipping realms, just like him and Pearl. Her cultivation base was only Saint Soul 2nd realm from what Alex could sense, but the combat prowess she generated when fighting actually put her around Saint Soul's 4th realm.

It was just 2 realms skipping, which in Alex's eyes wasn't a lot. But she was the only other player he had seen outside of his family that he had seen do it.

He could tell there was something about her body constitution that allowed her to produce as much fighting strength as she did, but he wasn't sure what it was. He wanted to ask her, but in the end, decided not to.

Apart from these 3, many other fighters were quite capable and gave Alex quite a bit of trouble during the battles. But none of them were as extreme as them, so they didn't stand out.

After fighting for 5 consecutive days, it was time for Alex to cultivate again.

Reset buzzed everyone's talisman, and everyone sighed in disappointment at having to wait another 2 days before they had a chance to earn these excellent pills. Many of them had already tried out the pills, and the information about them had spread far and wide.

Quite a few number of people had joined by now, so the disappointment was even larger this time than the last time.

Since the 6th day had started, Alex had to fight one more time and win. Without that, at the end of the day, he would gain a Loss, which he didn't want to get.

"Who is next on the Loss queue, Whisker?" Alex asked.

Whisker gave him a name. The person happily walked out and fought Alex before losing. Alex gave him a spirit pill, and he happily walked away.

Alex took away the canvas and puppet and turned around. Just as he did, he heard someone call out to him.

"Your Majesty!"

The voice was familiar to Alex by now. Teng Roukang was rather loud as a person.

Alex turned around to see what it was that caused him to be rowdy.

"I am next," he said. "Can't we just fight?"

Alex shook his head. "If you're next, we'll fight fight thing in 2 days. Until then, fix your craving for battle with someone else in here," he said, before turning around to walk away.

"But that is not fair," the man cried out. "I only got to fight you once in the last 5 days. I thought I would get it now, but you're walking away."

"If it's not you, it's someone else," Alex said. "Just wait. You'll get to fight me soon enough."

"But this is bullshit!" the man cried out. "Why should I wait? I didn't have to wait the next two days."

People were starting to get curious about what Teng Roukang was doing. Teng Xuegang looked from the side as well.

Alex turned around to look at him. "What are you saying?" he asked.

"The Silver Queen announced that you would accept every challenge, no matter who it is from," the man said. "If you don't, you will give us a pill, right?"

"I did say that, and I am a man of my word," Alex said.

"Then I guess I will have to take my pill one way or another," the man said.

"Your Majesty, let me fight him in your stead," Teng Xuegang stood forward. "I won't ask you for anything."

"You can fight him on your own accord," Alex said. "I fight my own battles." He looked back at the Teng Roukang. "Go on. Do what you want to do."

The man grinned. "Your Majesty! I challenge you."

Chapter 1586: Out of Bounds

Alex sighed as he felt the talisman buzzing inside of his robe. He looked at Teng Roukang with a rather disappointed face. 'Maybe it was meant to be?' he thought.

He had recognized that Teng Roukang had been slowly getting agitated due to the lack of fights, but he hadn't thought that he would so openly show his annoyance with the new system.

"Stand back," he said to both Pearl and Whisker, who moved away to give Alex some space. Then, Alex turned around toward the excited man.

"What do you think is going to happen next?" Alex asked him.

"Hehe, I don't know," the man said with a small grin. "You're either going to have to accept my challenge or reject me, Your Majesty. Either way, I suppose I'll be getting my healing pill."

The gathered crowd whispered amongst themselves, and Alex could see many become curious if they could employ the same method to get more pills. If this little stunt of Teng Roukang was going to work, everyone would follow suit as well.

The pills were just so good that they were ready to offend the person who made them.

Alex sighed again. "My rules were clear. If you break them, I will give you an Out of Bounds. Are you not worried?" he asked.

"Worried? About what?" the man chuckled out loud. "Your Majesty, did you think you could add mysticism to your cultivation by simply hiding your cultivation base from us? Everyone here that had won against you knows exactly what your cultivation base is."

"Saint Soul 3rd realm. We knew it the moment you lost to any one of us. We were all handed 33 points, you know?" the man said.

Alex knew that, but it seemed they hadn't noticed his reason for not caring. He scoffed a little. "You thought I was hiding my cultivation base to add mysticism?" he asked, slowly letting his cultivation base fill him once more.

Everyone could sense from him what they already knew by now.

Teng Roukang didn't say anything and instead just smiled. "You are delaying the battle, Your Majesty," he said. "Accept or Reject my duel, but do so quickly."

"Very well," Alex nodded. "I accept your duel."

The man smiled and pulled out his staff, ready to fight, his Saint Soul 6th realm cultivation base flaring to overshadow Alex's Saint Soul 3rd realm cultivation base.

He pointed the staff toward Alex, waiting for him to bring out his sword, but Alex did nothing.

"Hmm? Are you not going to fight back?" he asked. "Where is your sword?"

"I don't need my sword to fight you," Alex said barehanded before gesturing for him to come attack him.

The man paused for a fraction of a second to process what he said and then charged as the disrespect in those words angered him. Arrived next to Alex, his staff glowing with golden energy as he tried to hit him with the end of the staff.

Alex parried the staff with his bare hand, sliding it to the side before grabbing it tightly.

Teng Roukang tried to pull on his staff to attack again, but to his surprise, Alex didn't budge at all, and neither did his staff.

"Hmm?" he was confused a little. He tried to pull harder again, but Alex didn't budge at all. Before he could figure out why his staff was stuck right now, Alex pulled on the staff, pulling the man's entire body along with it.

When he arrived next to him, he slammed the open palm of his left hand onto his chest with enough strength to crush a few good ribs.

At the same time, silver threads of light quickly coalesced around the man, emerging from both Alex and the air itself. The threads took practically no time to surround the man and when they did, Alex activated his Dao of Teleportation.

Instantly, the man was teleported over a kilometer away at once. And having been sent that far away, his talisman buzzed at once, giving him not just a Loss, but an Out of Bounds as well.

The man coughed hard, spitting out a mouthful of blood as he felt intense pain in his chest like he had never before inside the secret realm. He felt the ribs pierce his lungs, so he quickly took out a regular healing pill and ate it.

Once his body healed, he quickly checked his talisman just to learn what he had feared. "I... lost?" he couldn't believe it. How had that happened? Not only had he lost, he had been sent out of bounds.

How was that possible?

"What did he do?" The man wanted to know. He needed to know.

He quickly flew back to Alex, but Alex had already prepared his formation barrier and entered it. "What happened?" the man shouted. "Your Majesty! Come answer me."

"You lost," Teng Xuegang spoke from the side. "You can give up now. You lost quite a bit of face too."

"Bastard! I don't want to talk with you right now," Teng Roukang shouted. "Your Majesty!"

"Look at you," Teng Xuegang continued. "So pathetic."

"Shut up!" the man shouted. "I will have you killed."

"Why don't you do it yourself?" Teng Xuegang asked. "I challenge you to a duel."

Roukang felt his talisman buzz and was angered even more. "Stop getting in my way, you—" he had only just turned around to curse when he noticed something that made his eyes go wide.

"That's..." He noticed the staff Teng Xuegang was holding. "That's my staff."

"Is it?" Teng Xuegang gave an evil grin. "I hadn't noticed. Do you want it?"

"Give it back!" the man shouted.

"Then fight me for it!" Xuegang roared with laughter.

Alex was unaware of the commotion happening outside and had already started watering his trees and feeding them. After doing so, he looked at the amount of pills he had again and knew that he had to make some pills this time around.

So, after cultivating for a while to get rid of his accumulated Yin Qi, he proceeded to prepare to make pills.

The first few hours were spent with him preparing the ingredients, bettering it to the point that he wouldn't require the usage of World Defying Mushroom. Once he was done, he started making pills.

When the dark clouds covered the sky and the lightning strikes thundered the secret realm, he did not doubt that everyone had realized he was making pills. If they didn't, they would still come to see what was happening and figure it out afterward.

What he was doing to make pills was certainly going gather even more people to take those pills away from him.

'It's just for now,' he thought. He had steadily been improving, so the amount of people that could fight him would lower. At the same time, he would last longer during fights as he got stronger.

With that in mind, he continued making as many pills as he could before the 2nd day of his break was over. Right before it was over, he fought one more person from the Loss queue to not go into the next day with a Loss.

Then, it was time to train once more.

Chapter 1587: Improvement to Sword

3 months into the training, Alex came across his first bottleneck. It happened around the time when his Sword Intent became equivalent in strength to Saint Soul 2nd realm cultivation base.

The next week and a half, he couldn't improve his Sword Intent at all, and at long last, he had to defer to an expert of some sort. Godslayer.

Alex wasn't sure if Godslayer was an expert on Sword Intent and such, but given that he was a Sword spirit, he would still certainly know a bit. Not to mention his age.

He went into his Spiritual Sea during one of his breaks and found the spirit.

"My Sword Intent isn't improving anymore, what should I do?" he asked him.

Godslayer hadn't been paying much attention aside from a few times he sensed some strong cultivation bases, so he wasn't exactly sure what was going on.

"When did it stop improving?" Godslayer inquired.

"About 2 weeks ago. There hasn't been much change to my improvement, even though I know there must be so much more," Alex answered.

Godslayer thought for a bit and remembered something. "You've only used Sword Intent in your battles, correct? No Sword Qi or Aura?" he asked.

"Yes, I've only been improving my Sword Intent," Alex said. "Why?"

Godslayer gave an affirming grunt. "I know what is happening. You've hit the barrier of how strong your Sword Intent can be," he said. "You haven't stopped improving, but improving will be very slow and difficult from here on out."

"What?" Alex couldn't believe his ears. "I've hit a barrier? What sort of barrier is there?"

"There is usually just one barrier when it comes to improving your Sword, and that is your Intent itself," Godslayer said. "Now, Intent itself depends on your cultivation base a lot of the time, and that is what stops the improvement of one's sword."

"That is why you rarely see people with Sword Intent stronger than their cultivation base, as their Intent is just not capable of moving past the level of their Spiritual Sea. Only in rare conditions like yours do we see Intent stronger than one's cultivation base."

Alex took a moment to understand what was being said to him, but he understood it. "Since Cultivation base determines how much Spiritual Energy one has, and that determines the strength of my Intent, which then is how strong my Sword Intent can be."

"Yes, but there is something else that can be a barrier itself," Godslayer said. "And that is your level of Sword Qi and Sword Aura."

Alex was taken aback. "Huh?" he asked. "What do you mean?"

"When was the last time you trained Sword Intent alone without ever focusing on the other 2?" Godslayer asked.

"Umm... never," Alex said. "Not after I learned them."

"That's the thing," Godslayer said. "You can't grow one too far away from the others. The dissonance between them will cause one to drag the other down. If you want to improve your Sword Intent, bring the other 2 up to speed first. Then you can improve it more."

"Oh," Alex said, a little surprised. "So I was holding myself back from improving by not using Sword Qi and Sword Aura?"

"Yes," Godslayer said. "There is a reason why people need to enter the next stage of Sword so they can become stronger. Gaining Sword Qi isn't just to become stronger, but also to push the ceiling much higher."

"So I should stop what I've been doing," Alex said.

"No, that's not what I said. What you did resulted in a problem, but what you did itself is not a bad thing. Many people train that way. They just know when to stop and move on to the next to push their ceiling even further above."

"As long as you do that, you are fine too."

Alex nodded to himself.

"Don't worry. Since your Sword Intent is so high up, the others will take no time to catch up, and then you can train the same way once more," Godslayer said.

"I see. I will do that then," Alex said. "Thank you."

"One more thing," Godslayer said before Alex could leave.

"If you want to improve your Sword skill overall, there is one thing you can do to aid your journey," the spirit said.

"Hmm?" Alex was made curious now. "What do I do?"

"Make a sword skill," Godslayer answered.

Alex paused for a moment. "Sword skill? Like... a sword technique?" he asked.

Godslayer nodded. "Better yet, make a bunch of them. Each with a different purpose," he said.

"What sort?" Alex asked excitedly. He had made techniques before, but they had all been random. Never had his techniques been similar at all.

"What sort? That's for you to figure out," Godslayer said. "I cannot tell you what your techniques are. Create one. And don't worry about if they are strong at the start. You are going to be improving them throughout your life along with your sword."

Alex slowly fell into a thought. He couldn't come up with something instantly, so he thanked Godslayer and left his Spiritual Sea. He ate a cultivation pill and started cultivating, but even as he did, he thought through what Godslayer told him.

'My techniques,' he thought. 'I've done that before. I should be able to do it again.'

He thought of a bunch of techniques that he had made. Golden Spear Punch, All Swirling Elemental Shield, and Bursting Blaze were all techniques that were crafted by him.

However, he also realized that all of these techniques were something that were either fusion or already had a base to them.

The Golden Spear Punch was a mix of Iron Fist Punch and the Golden Spear technique.

All Swirling Elemental Shield was a mix between Swirling Water Shield and 5-Elemental Barrier.

Bursting Blaze was his attempt at adding the Dao of Explosion onto a simple Fire slash. If any, this was the one that he could say was his the most of all.

Even then, he didn't feel like it belonged to him.

'A bunch of sword techniques, that do different things,' he thought silently.

Godslayer's final words ran through his head. 'I don't have to make a strong one. Just a good one to start with is enough,' he thought.

The question now was what was he going to make as his first technique?

Alex had a rudimentary idea of what it could be, but he would have to give it some more thought. 'I have to keep the technique simple at first,' he thought. 'But it can't be very simple. It needs my signature.'

Thinking of the techniques, especially what they would do would take some time, so Alex focused on improving his Sword Qi and Sword Aura for the time being.

Sword Qi he used against his opponents for the next few weeks, surprising many, and Sword Aura he used on his own against the puppet to train.

He did not want to showcase his Sword Aura just yet to strangers. It took Alex just 2 weeks to improve his Sword Qi and Sword Aura. Since they were up to par, he returned to just using Sword Intent.

However, this time around, it wouldn't just be Sword Intent alone. After all, in the last 2 weeks, he had figured out what his first technique should be as well.

Chapter 1588: Nothing

Alex was surprised when he realized that he only knew 2 Sword techniques that did more than just slashing.

They were the Heavenly Sword Slash and the Bursting Blaze.

He had many other sword techniques such as Penta-Sword Strike, 75 Sword Array, and a few others, but they either used more than one sword or didn't truly require a sword for the technique.

As such he only had 2 strikes that were more than just regular slashes.

One created a lightning strike, and the other created an explosion.

Given he had so little, Alex wanted to create a sword technique that was quite versatile so that he didn't have to worry about missing out.

After thinking for a while, he landed on something.

Instead of making a specific sword technique that tried to include everything, he decided to make a sword technique that could include everything as they were required.

After that, he came across another problem. What type of sword technique should he make?

There were 3 types of Sword techniques from what he could tell. The Offensive type, the Defensive type, and the type that didn't belong to the first two.

Alex wasn't sure if he was right to make the last category, but it felt right. As for right now, he wanted to make an Offensive technique.

An offensive sword technique that was in all essence just the base that he could use to grow it.

Alex sat around with Pearl and Whisker in the barrier, talking with them. "Should it be just a regular slash? That doesn't feel right to me," he said.

"What else can it be?" Whisker asked. "It is just a sword strike, right?"

"Sword strikes don't just have to be slashes," Pearl said. "There are ones that take the shape of swords itself. Others take the shape of snakes, wolves, birds, and so much more."

"That's right, it doesn't have to be just a slash, it can be so much more," Alex said.

"What shape do you want it to be?" Whisker asked. "A Phoenix, like sister Scarlet? Or a Tiger, like brother Pearl?"

Alex thought for a moment. That wasn't a bad idea when he thought about it, but he shook his head. "I cannot do that. It wouldn't fit my plan of making it just a base for everything to be added on."

"Why not?" Pearl asked.

"My mental image of phoenix involves fire. So if I ever want to make a Water attack, I wouldn't be able to make a smooth change since my perception of the attack will still be fire. I can surely get used to it, but I don't want to make it too difficult."

"I need some other ideas," Alex said.

The two beasts thought through what they could and suggested some more ideas, but none felt right to Alex. He simply didn't want to lean in just one direction.

After so many rejected, Pearl and Whisker were blank with ideas.

"I don't think we can do it right now," Pearl said. "Let's try thinking some other time. Maybe we can come up with something that better fits you, brother."

"Why are we complicating things?" Whisker asked. "Is just keeping it a simple sword slash too bad? It doesn't have to be anything else."

"That is true, but I still want my brand—" Alex paused as his eyes narrowed a little. His head tilted in thought. The two beasts stared back at him with curious looks.

"Brother?" Pearl asked.

"Hmm..." Alex made a small sound. "That... could work. I can't tell just yet, but, I will try if I can do that."

Pearl and Whisker both looked at Alex curiously. "Do what?" Pearl asked.

"Hehe," Alex chuckled a little. "Nothing."

He went through some preparation in the free time he had and created the overall idea of what the technique was to see if it even worked in the first place.

He wasn't going to wait until his first match to try and create it.

Unfortunately, Alex didn't have the years to try and come up with the techniques, so he would have to take a bit of a shortcut. That meant using his Qi as well as Dao to form the basis of the technique that he could then copy to make his own.

The most important part of his technique was the Dao of Malleability and the Dao of Sharpness. Using those Dao to shape his Qi was not something Alex had ever had to try to do before.

This was one of the harder things he had to do in life. He struggled a lot, the first few times requiring him to use his Intent a lot.

However, after the first few times, it got easier. Then, he just had to mold the technique until it fit his criteria and then do it without using Dao.

That was the harder bit, but he had confidence in himself.

When it was time to fight again, he was ready. Once he went through someone from the Loss queue, his first opponent of the day showed up.

An older man with bits of white hair on his beard and a bald head challenged him. The man had a cultivation base of Saint Soul 9th realm and was just steps away from entering the Saint Transformation realm.

Alex planned on testing his new technique on him.

The man used two battle axes to fight, one that was capable of using a flame lion-shaped attack, and another that was capable of using a wind eagle-shaped attack. They were the innate skill of the axes.

Alex concentrated before the fight even began. He took a deep breath and focused on his sword. The sword glowed with a white outline at first, and then entirely with Sword Qi.

He released some Qi too, as little as he could afford to give shape to the attack as needed. Without it, the technique wouldn't work at all.

Then, he concentrated on it. 'Smaller, even smaller,' he thought. 'Denser.' He strained all of his Intent to make something happen that would normally require power.

He took a deep breath.

'Become nothing.'

The man used the flame lion attack and Alex slashed diagonally.

The color of his sword dulled the moment the energy surrounding it left it. The man barely saw a flash of light in the air, thin like a thread, if that.

He saw the lion split into two out of nowhere, stopping right there. And then the man felt it on his own body.

Without him realizing when it had happened, the thin attack had landed on his body, sending him flying backward. Blood spurted out from his chest from a deep and thin wound that appeared on it.

The man could barely understand what had happened. All he knew was that he had lost.

Alex remained stunned at the site of the outcome. He hadn't expected the damage to be this high, regardless of how much Qi he had to use.

His talisman buzzed, but he ignored it. He was transfixed at the outcome. The attack hadn't worked as well as he had wanted to, but there was time.

For now, he was happy that he had managed to create a new technique.

Chapter 1589: Practice

Alex wasn't sure what to name the technique he had created. He went through many different names and in the end decided not to name it. He would name it when it was a bit more established.

As he had wished, the technique was only in its base form. Even then it wasn't completely perfected. And he had so much to add to it to create different techniques. He would have to name them individually.

It was better to do that later.

He trained for the next month using nothing but either Sword Intent or this technique. As a result, his fighting prowess grew a lot more as well.

Godslayer hadn't been lying when he mentioned that creating a technique of one's own helped improve one's Sword. In just one month, Alex had managed to improve his Sword Intent to Saint Soul 3rd realm.

It was supposed to have taken much longer the stronger he got, but the sword technique helped him improve at a relatively faster rate.

A month more of practice and Alex had more or less perfected the base version of his sword technique.

A woman stood before him, head full of graying hair and a sword in her hand. She was an elder from some big family that didn't matter to Alex. Her cultivation base was in the Saint Soul 9th realm and even then, she was afraid of what was coming next.

She swung her sword before Alex could, sending out a wave of fiery attack that seemed to target unconditionally. Alex swung his sword, sending a simple, but strong Sword slash made up of nothing but Sword Qi.

The slash didn't completely stop the incoming attack. It couldn't with its Saint Soul 5th realm power. It did, however, lower its intensity so that Alex wasn't harmed even when he took the attack head-on.

He could have run away to dodge it, but instead, he focused on his technique. Intent and Qi poured into Midnight, amalgamating into something incredible.

The woman prepared her defensive techniques. As she knew the strength of what came, she knew how hurt she could be if she didn't.

And then Alex swung his sword diagonally.

The woman had her eyes on his sword, she had been paying attention to it the entire time, but even then she saw nothing. She didn't even see a glint of light.

She did sense the incoming attack. The attack was so fast and so incredibly condensed that it was impossible to sense it with anything but just her senses. Even with the senses, without looking for the attack, she wouldn't have been able to know where it was.

All she could have otherwise sensed was its aura. She would have never known what hit her.

Her defensive technique created a lotus flower below her feet, the golden petals opening around her. There were 12 petals in the lotus flower, spread out in 3 rings with 3 petals in the inner ring, 4 in the middle right, and 5 in the outer ring.

3 petals on the outer ring of the lotus were destroyed at once, and the remaining 3 moved to replace them. When they were shattered without any effort, the attack landed on the middle 4 leaves.

Even this close, the woman couldn't see the attack, only sense it. The shape of the attack was undoubtedly still a slash, but it was so compressed that it felt wrong to call it one.

The thinness of the attack was even lower than the breadth of a hair and the width of the attack was somewhere in between a blade of grass and a snowflake.

Alex had packed so much into so little, that the level of the attack itself had gone up as a result.

The middle petals of the defensive lotus burst into bright golden light and then the inner petals cracked as well. The woman couldn't put up another defense in time and put up her sword to block the last bit of attack.

Her sword bent slightly before she was pushed back by the attack. The power of the attack dwindled past that point, but it still left a mark on her body as the outer robe she wore had a paper-thin cut to it.

She looked up in fear, realizing that there was no way to defeat him anymore.

"I give up!" she shouted quickly.

Alex stopped before he was about to send out another attack and looked at the woman. "Oh... okay," he said, realizing his talisman had just buzzed a little.

The woman nodded toward him and quickly walked away. He watched her as she walked not just back to the group, but away. She was done with this.

He looked at the few remaining people that weren't as strong. He could only sigh. "Do you guys want to continue this? All the strong ones got the pills they could want and left," he said.

The remaining group looked at each other. Few of the ones that were there were there to fight Pearl, and the rest were there to fight Alex realizing they couldn't defeat him.

They were still struggling to figure out how he was ever consistently defeating people so high above his own rank, but they couldn't figure it out. In the end, they realized that they too couldn't defeat him.

It was time to leave.

A few of them bowed toward him and walked away. The remaining were the ones that were here for Pearl, and they were hesitating.

"I won't be staying here since the strong fighters are gone. I'll have to go look out for them as well," he told them. "You guys should leave as well."

They looked at each other a few times and then bowed toward Alex again before walking away. They had gotten all they could hope for in the past 6 months, so it was time for them to move on too.

Alex took back the puppet and the rules and was about to prepare to leave as well when he saw one final person still standing in line. Whisker had already left, so the person alone was there.

The young man looked no older than him and simply stood there with his hands behind his back.

Alex wondered what was going on. "Umm, do you want to challenge me?" he asked. "You can if you want to." The young man wasn't very strong compared to him, so it would be a rather quick fight anyway.

The young man shook his head instead, confusing Alex.

"Then... what do you want?" Alex asked him.

"Nothing," the young man said. "Don't mind my presence, Your Majesty. Or if you do, just tell me. I will move away to give you some privacy."

Alex frowned.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"My name is Shan Wangjiu," the young man said.

"And do you want something from me?" Alex asked him.

"Only if you can give it to me," the young man said, taking a step forward, his eyes bright with hope.

That concerned Alex a bit.

"What do you want exactly?" Alex asked him.

As if being allowed to finally speak, the young man fell to his knees and banged his head on the ground in kowtow.

"I want you to teach me the ways of the sword," he shouted out loud. "Please become my master."

Chapter 1590: Shan Wangjiu

"Uhh..."

Alex wasn't sure how to respond to such a preposterous request. The obvious answer was to reject him, but the man was down on his knees. Heck, his head was slamming into the ground.

He was too taken aback to say anything immediately.

"Master?" he looked up after getting no response.

"Don't call me that," Alex said. "I'm not your master. I haven't taken you as my disciple."

The young man looked disheartened and went back to kowtowing with his head to the ground.

"Stop! I'm not going to accept," Alex quickly said, realizing the man still held hope.

The young man quickly looked up. "Why not? Please. You're so good at it. Teach me," he said. "Just one technique. That technique you used earlier. Just that. I just want to learn that technique."

"I can't teach you that. I'm still working on it," Alex said. "I haven't developed it to its fullest potential."

"Huh? You're developing it?" the young man asked. "Don't tell me you created that technique by yourself."

"Yes, I did," Alex said with a sigh. "Can you leave, please? I'm not taking any apprentice."

"Can I follow you at least?" the man asked. "I promise I won't interfere. And I will stay away if you want me to."

Alex frowned. He didn't think much about letting a man follow him if all he wanted to do was learn his sword. He already had so many people see him fight, so there wasn't much to it.

"Fine, you can follow," Alex said. "But if you ever disrupt me, I will beat you until you are gone from this secret realm."

"Yes!" the young man said excitedly. "Thank you, master."

"I'm not your master," Alex said.

"Haha, then you can't tell me what not to call you. Can you, master?" the young man asked.

Alex failed to see a flaw in his logic.

"What if I told you to call me that instead?" Alex asked.

"You'll be my master?" the young man asked excitedly.

"No," Alex answered quickly.

"Then you can't tell me what to or not to do," the young man said grumpily before crossing his arms.

Alex felt a headache coming. "As long as you don't lie to people you are my disciple, do whatever you want," he said and walked away.

He set up a barrier formation and sat to deal with a few things. It hadn't been more than 3 days since he last did this, so he didn't need to cultivate. As a result, this would be quick as well.

Alex went to his Soul Space to deal with the trees before leaving back outside. After all this time, he was finally free to rest for as long as he wanted to, and there was one thing he knew he needed to do.

His technique had come a long way, so he needed to evaluate it, learn from it, and see if there were ways to improve it.

He closed his eyes and thought through the process of how it was made.

He would gather Qi into a sword and optionally add Sword Qi or Aura into it. Then, he added the Dao of Malleability into it.

Dao of Malleability was normally used to make metals thin and flat, so using it on Qi alone was not something he could casually do. He had to force the Dao to work for so much Qi.

The Intent that he had to use on that alone was not normal, but on top of that, he needed to add the Dao of Sharpness to it too, to make the attack sharper than it was.

Because of the two dao working together, the result became a very thin and flat slash that was incredibly sharp. On some occasions, he even felt it distort space or even cut it when he attacked.

He had some ideas on what he could do thanks to that, but that was for some other days. For now, he just wanted this to be the base version.

He did not make a regular slash with bright colors, or one that took the shape of an object or animal that told the enemy when the attack was coming.

Instead, his was a thin and sharp slash that his opponents wouldn't be able to anticipate. Even when they were looking for it, they would have a hard time finding it.

He didn't yet know how he could hide the attack's aura. That was the one thing giving the attack away when he used it. However, he didn't have any idea of how he could conceal it.

There wasn't any possibility of using the concealment technique for this either. So, he had to let go of it.

"Advantages, it is incredibly powerful," Alex told to himself as much as he did to Pearl and Whisker who were around him. "Due to the incredibly concentrated size, the attack has ended up being stronger than it could ever be."

Techniques were weaker when they had to spread their damage and stronger when it was concentrated. There was also the amount of Qi that it depended on, but regularly, the area of the damage was the determining factor.

As a result, by making the damage area so much smaller, Alex had managed to concentrate that damage on one area, making its effect stronger than it was.

"The downside is that it's too reliant on me heavily spending my Intent on it," he spoke softly. "I have to spend my Intent twice on two Dao, both of which use it heavily. Can I lower it in any way?"

Pearl and Whisker didn't know what to suggest. He had to think all for himself.

"Could I remove Dao of Sharpness?" he thought. "No, but then it wouldn't be sharp. What am I thinking? I need the sharpness. Hmm, what about adding Dao of Cutting instead of Dao of Sharpness?"

He found that idea to hold a little more potential than the other one. But this too he quickly got rid of.

"Dao of Cutting is good, but I'm already using a Metal Dao with Dao of Malleability. Using Dao of Sharpness is much easier than Dao of Cutting under this scenario."

That idea was shut down as well. He came up with some more, but none were good enough.

"No, I guess this is it," he thought. "This is the best I can come up with. Which means I will have to stick to it."

He sighed and nodded to himself. "I will just have to suffer through this for now. Once my Intent becomes stronger, I won't have to work as hard to use this technique."

Having decided that, Alex decided to spend some time cultivating just to rest himself from all the fight he had been through.

His rest period came to a stop when his talisman buzzed and it was time to go look for a fight again.

Alex stood up and took down the barrier. The river he had arrived at 6 months ago was still to his left, and the uneven ground was looking much more open without any people.

Any except Shan Wangjiu. He happily waved toward Alex as he walked out of the barrier.

Alex sighed, turned around, and then walked away.

The young man followed close behind.