

Alchemy 1721

Chapter 1721: Godslayer's Plan

Godslayer had a simple plan.

By providing the Shadow Aura he had kept around for a long time to Alex, he wanted to use the anger and hatred Alex felt to turn the Shadow Aura into Darkness aura.

Once the conversion was complete, he would take it back.

However, he had miscalculated just how strong Alex's anger would grow to be after being fed by the Darkness aura.

Godslayer was busy the entire time making sure that the Darkness aura was not destroyed by Alex's body. With that, he didn't have enough ability to also take it back at the same time.

He watched Alex fight, consumed by his hatred and the subsequent corruption, killing everyone around him with no mercy. Alex's fight was a reflection of his past self, and how he was.

Following his hatred, Godslayer's only thought was to kill and destroy the gods. Was he this lost too when he fought?

He knew he wasn't corrupted enough that he couldn't think straight back then, but there were still aspects of him that were definitely mutated due to the Darkness. Would this bring him back to how he was?

Godslayer watched Alex fight with no care for his body, nearly giving his own life to satiate his hatred. This was bad.

Alex killed more and more, and soon every human in the area was dead or had long since run away, and the only thing that remained around Alex were the blood beasts.

Lost in his hatred, Alex started attacking his own Blood beasts.

"Stop!" Godslayer shouted when he realized what Alex was doing. "Don't! Those are your own beasts."

But Alex would listen. Darkness had taken over him and all he wanted to do was kill those around him, regardless of who it was that was there.

"What have I done?" Godslayer asked himself in a somber tone as he watched the blood beasts get massacred one by one.

The Blood Beasts were somewhat intelligent at the Saint, so when Alex started attacking mindlessly, they knew they had to do something. They couldn't fight back against their master, however, so they chose to run away.

When all the blood beasts were gone or dead, Alex could only float in the air, looking for new opponents.

Godslayer tried to take back the Darkness aura then. However, before he could do it, something else caught Alex's attention.

The ocean was littered with corpses of the Saints that had been cut apart, and their bodies had long since attracted great beasts from all around the ocean.

Eating the flesh of another cultivator was how beasts improved their cultivation. Eating a beast's core was more valuable, but a Saint realm human was no small feast either.

And today, there had been hundreds that had died at once. This was a great feast for all the beasts that dared to come there. And all those that dared were mostly the beasts that were strong enough to do so.

Unfortunately, their own presence made the feast into a massacre.

Alex didn't care who he killed as long as he got to kill them.

He rushed into the water, massacring the beasts that were down there. There were several strong beasts, all of whom tried to fight Alex, but failed.

There were even beasts in the Saint Transformation realms, but all of them fell to Alex.

"Kid!" Godslayer shouted in the spiritual sea, trying to get Alex's attention.

Alex was getting stronger and stronger and was already reaching a level that was impossible for anyone in this world, without using Immortal Qi. Even the Dragon Emperor would struggle to defeat Alex with the strength he had.

But the strength wasn't pure. It wasn't earned. It came from his corrupted body where the Darkness aura was making him strong in exchange for drawing out his life force.

If it was someone else instead of Alex, they would've started weakening a long time ago due to the corruption. It was only because of Alex's body and physique that it was taking the Darkness aura this long to force him to use up every essence of his body.

"Kid, stop!" Godslayer shouted, but Alex didn't hear him. He continued fighting, killing the beasts around him. The entire ocean was bloodied red at this point and yet he still continued fighting.

"Can you hear me, Kid?" Godslayer asked again. "Stop!"

He continued shouting at Alex, but it didn't seem like Alex could hear him at all. But he didn't give up.

After a lot of shouting, Alex finally stopped. He paused long enough that the Darkness inside him wasn't drying him out.

And that was the moment Godslayer could act.

Instantly, Godslayer started drawing in the Darkness aura. He got back only a tiny amount at first, but that was the hardest part. Once there was less Darkness Aura for him to protect from Alex's body, the more he could focus on drawing in.

As such, the amount of Darkness aura that he managed to draw in grew exponentially with each passing second.

He felt the Darkness aura that came in through Alex and saw how potent it had become after lingering in his anger and hatred for so long.

'That kid really was hiding a lot of feelings underneath his facade of normalcy,' Godslayer thought. If there was anything good that came out of this incident aside from the Darkness Aura, then it would be the fact that Alex had gotten the chance to act on his anger.

That would certainly lessen the burden on him and help him deal with his immediate anger issues.

Alex had thankfully stopped moving altogether, and that aided Godslayer in taking away the Darkness aura without any hindrance.

Alex's body started losing the corrupted properties such as the black eyes, dark veins, and the dark ooze that flowed through his veins.

They were all sucked in by Godslayer, using his Darkness Dao, and they were all now gathered around Godslayer like a thick cloud of Darkness.

Once Godslayer was all done, he finally sighed in relief as he realized that he hadn't been too late.

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The feeling of lucidity that flowed into Alex after listening to the words of the distant voice was one that he would likely never forget. It was as if he had been burning and in pain all this time, and someone had finally decided to pour a bucket of water on him.

His mad rage was slowly dissipating and all that was left was a hollow feeling of nothingness. But even that nothingness was one of the best feelings he had felt in a long time.

Alex felt weak. Incredibly weak. He could tell that he was mostly out of Qi, and didn't even have any blood aura to turn into Qi.

The memories of what he had done returned as he watched the surroundings. All the different bodies of the beasts he had killed floated around him in the water that was murky from all the death.

He took a deep long look at everything, taking it all into memory. What had happened to him?

"Godslayer?" he called out slowly. "What did you do?"

"What I felt I had to," a reply came back. "Although, I'm sorry I wasn't able to stop you in time. You might have killed all of these beasts, but the fault is on me."

Chapter 1722: Act Quickly

Godslayer explained what he had done.

Hearing that he had been the vessel to turn Shadow Aura to Darkness aura did not sit right with Alex, especially given what he had done while lost in his rage. However, that had been the sole reason he was even alive right now.

Alex didn't know whether he should be angry at Godslayer or thanking him. The situation called for both.

"Did it succeed then? Did you gather Darkness aura?" Alex asked.

"Yes!" Godslayer said excitedly. "We just need to find a safe space where I can take in the Death aura from that book and then I can improve myself."

Alex nodded. "That will take some time."

He brought out the talisman from the old man and saw that there were multiple messages asking him what was happening. Alex sent a quick reply.

"Leave the island. I killed many of the soldiers, so we'll need to leave immediately. Come find me."

Once he sent the message, he also called back the Blood beasts through the Blood God's manual. It was a good thing he hadn't brought out all the Blood beasts during the fight, and only enough to complete the Hell Emperor's Divine Battle Array.

As the next step in the array was to have 1000 soldiers, Alex didn't have nearly that many blood beasts and thus hadn't brought out every single beast. The problem, however, was that the ones who were still alive in the book were the weaker ones.

Once he gave the orders, he looked around and knew what he needed to do next.

Alex flew around the murky ocean, gathering all the different beasts' bodies and beast cores. The blood of the beasts had spread around the ocean, so gathering it all was impossible, but Alex did what he thought was right in that certain situation.

He took in the water from dozens of kilometers around him into his Soul Space, dragging in all the different items that he hadn't had the time to search around for.

While he sucked in all the water with blood from the surrounding, the Blood Beasts arrived and fell into the water, getting sucked into Alex's Soul Space as well.

Alex understood what was happening, but didn't stop. He would deal with the situation at a later time when he would deal with this water as well. For now, everything he could take in, he would.

It took him nearly 20 minutes to take in all the water and, by the end, Zhou Linfan was already there, watching Alex in awe. He had only caught a bit at the end, but even that was already surprising enough that his mouth was wide open.

Alex flew out of the ocean, and the man immediately frowned. "Are you alright?" he asked. "You seem... sickly."

Pearl, who had come with the man, looked worried. He could sense Alex's weakened body and spirit through the bond. He flew closer to make sure he was alright.

"No, I'm not fine, but I will be," Alex answered. He looked at his own skin and realized what the man was talking about. He was much paler than usual and his muscles had decrepit just enough that one could see the outline of the bones.

He touched his face and felt the sunken cheek with the cheekbones hard against the flesh. Even the whites of his eyes were unnaturally yellow in complexion.

Alex's body was showing all signs of dehydration and malnutrition issues despite being the body of a high level cultivator.

He had already eaten a healing pill, but somehow that hadn't dealt with all the problems. He would look at it when he had the time, which he didn't do right then.

"Let's go," Alex said and brought out a ship from his Soul Space before jumping into it. "We will soon have legions behind us. Hopefully, the message hasn't been passed just yet."

Alex got into it, and Pearl jumped in as well. The old man still did not understand what exactly had happened, but he accepted Alex's suggestions and immediately hopped onto the boat as well.

Alex took one look at the sky, and then immediately started flying west.

Once they flew off, Alex gave a small summary of what had happened there, how he accidentally ended up meeting the returning soldiers and fought them.

"I used a forbidden technique to fight them," Alex explained. "I nearly died because of it, but I survived too, thanks to it."

The old man shook his head as he sighed. "You seem to have a lot of those things. I'm going to have you explain some of those one of these days," he said.

Alex put the ship at the highest speed he could and flew above the ocean, heading home. Because of the beasts potentially attacking them out of nowhere, all of them had to be incredibly careful.

Unlike those large ships that the Eastern Continent used, Alex's ship did not have any defensive capabilities and, as such, was much more vulnerable.

They could hide their cultivation bases, but it was impossible to hide the aura left behind by a ship that used Saint Spirit stones to fly across the world.

Therefore, Zhou Linfan decided to fully reveal his aura to the surrounding beasts just so that most would become scared and away from them.

There was the danger of potentially stronger beasts being attracted instead, but that was a risk they had to take here. Otherwise, every other beast could come and bother them along the way.

While Alex would accept all those that wanted to fight him with open arms, the Dragon Emperor or a legion of his strongest would be right behind him at any moment.

Thus, he had to run away as fast as he could.

Alex checked his Soul Space during the night after letting the old man handle the traveling and made sure nothing was wrong there. All he could do there was force the Blood Beasts in the Blood God's manual.

Aside from that, there was nothing he could do with what he had lying in his Soul Space and Storage spaces.

Days passed with them flying without stopping. Alex and the old man cultivated in between, giving each other turns to fly the ship instead.

Alex's complexion got better after cultivating whenever he could.

About 10 days into the flight, Alex had been cultivating and the old man had been in charge of handling the flight. Suddenly, the old man's eyes widened in shock and he stood up in a hurry.

Alex stopped cultivating, noticing that something was amiss.

"What's wrong?" Alex asked the old man.

"Something is coming this way. Something strong," the old man said. "Get ready to fight or we very well may die right here."

Alex immediately stood up as well, bringing out Midnight, ready to fight. However, as he prepared, he felt something inside of him and paused.

"Wait," he said slowly. "That's not our enemy."

A few seconds later, Bai Jingshen arrived right in front of the ship in his giant beast form with Whisker riding on top of him.

"Brother!" Whisker shouted out loud. "You're back!"

Chapter 1723: Returned

Alex and the old man left their ship and got onto Bai Jingshen's much larger, much faster ship. Pearl came out to meet his great grandfather and soon everyone was settled on the other ship.

"The little mouse realized you were moving away from the Eastern Continent, so we came to check on you," Bai Jingshen said as he sat on the ship in his human form. "It was a good thing that we did. There is still a lot of land for you to go through."

"Is that so?" Alex asked as he pet Whisker. "You did good," he told the mouse.

Whisker smiled. He liked being complimented.

Next to them, Zhou Linfan watched the entire exchange between Bai Jingshen and Alex with confusion and fear on his face. He could not believe that the beast they met in the middle of the ocean would be the White Tiger himself.

He couldn't understand what the White Tiger was doing here. He was sure that all were dead or had left the world already. On top of that, how was Alex acquainted with the white tiger? Through the phoenix? Was the little fully white cat also a White Tiger?

Many questions ran through Zhou Linfan's mind, but he kept it all to himself. At least, he could start to see the possible sources for all the mysteries that surrounded Alex. He believed everything he did was something handed to him by the Immortals.

"I was never in the Eastern Continent," Alex started explaining. "I had managed to teleport before that, but I was weakened. Pearl helped me survive, and senior Zhou saw me to health."

"I see," Bai Jingshen said and looked back at the old man behind him. "You saved Pearl and this young man. You have my gratitude."

"It was all I could do, senior," the old man quickly said. He could hear his heartbeat through his ears with the White Tiger staring at him.

They continued talking for some time with Alex explaining everything that had happened to him. At the same time, Bai Jingshen also told Alex what had been happening back in the Southern Continent.

"Scarlet is trying to break through to Immortality?" Alex scratched his face with a thoughtful look. "It was about time. What about my sister, Hannah?"

"The poisoned girl? She was taken to my Palace when we realized she was sick, but Beihan couldn't heal her. She does not want to give the weak girl an Immortal Pill because it could destroy her current body."

"At the same time, she believes that she has a recipe that could work on her, but the level of the pill she made would be too low to be any good," Bai Jingshen said. "She said it was imperative that you made the pill instead."

Alex nodded. "Pill clouds could indeed help," he said.

"That and she didn't start because of something the girl said," Bai Jingshen mentioned. "She said something about your aunt being necessary. Apparently, you told them that."

"I don't know if Aunt Liz is really necessary or not, but with the level of healing pills at our disposal, she was necessary."

Bai Jingshen looked at Alex for a long time. "Then you are confident you can heal her?" he asked.

Alex nodded. "Absolutely."

After some time, Alex and the others saw dark clouds in the distance with a large cluster of islands below it. They had reached the Sunless lands, and a few more hours later, they would arrive at the Southern Continent itself.

As soon as they arrived, they went through a teleportation formation and went to the Sunborn Sanctuary. As soon as Alex walked out of the teleportation formation, everyone was already waiting for him.

"Father!" Ronron shouted as soon as she saw her. But before her, Helen was already the first to move. She took Alex into a hug while crying.

"I'm so happy you are okay."

Ronron arrived just a split second late and took him into a hug as well.

Graham was next. He looked worried all over and was glad to see that his son was mostly okay. Alex still looked a little under the weather as the problems caused by the Darkness aura hadn't yet left him.

Liz, the elders, LinLin, and even Wen Cheng and Luo Mei had come to see his return.

Alex could feel tears forming in his eyes. It had been so long since he had seen all of them and they all had grown so much in his absence. It was good to know for a fact that many people cared about you.

Most of the staff from the formation ground had been cleared for some time, so it was just them for now.

After a short period, Alex flew to the palace, with the elders taking care of Zhou Linfan in Alex's stead.

Alex walked into the palace through the front gate and saw the confused and surprised looks of many servants and guards who had been there all throughout the night.

"How many know about the situation?" he asked Linlin.

"Not many. We kept it all close to ourselves as much as we could," she said.

"Why did my master and senior sister know?" Alex asked.

"They... just found out. They helped train the princess, and the princess ended up revealing the information by accident," she said.

Ronron seemed to shrink into her shell. "I'm sorry," she said.

Alex shook his head. "That's alright," he said. "The public do not know, right?"

"No," Linlin said. "Although, I fear they suspect some mishap or disagreement with the Eastern Continent. When we had to force the soldiers of the Eastern Continent to leave, they made quite the show."

Alex felt anger being reminded of Long Jianyu and the others. "Forget about them for now," he said. He looked in a certain direction now that he felt Scarlet close by.

He wanted to ask her how she was doing and how her preparation for Immortality was going on but realized that maybe he shouldn't be bothering her. Instead, he just sent feelings of calmness and relief through their bond to help her not worry about him.

"Your Majesty!" Liang Shufen rushed forward when they arrived in a safer location. "Sister Yao Ning, is she..."

Alex nodded. "She protected me as much as she could," he said in a somber tone and died at the Emperor's hand. He could feel the anger bubbling up again and it had nothing to do with the Darkness Aura this time around.

"We'll have our revenge for her," Alex promised. "But there is a much bigger problem upcoming for us. Well, specifically, me."

"What do you mean, Your Majesty?" Linlin asked curiously.

Alex looked toward Liang Shufen. "Have you told them about my deal with the Emperor?" he asked.

The older woman nodded. "I have, in passing," she said. "What about it?"

Alex shook his head. "I need to go finish the deal with the Dragon Emperor, or I will die."

"What?!"

Everyone erupted at practically the same time. They were all confused and angry that Alex was even thinking of going back.

"I swore an oath for the trade," Alex explained slowly. "If I don't complete this, I will die."

Chapter 1724: Talk

The group of people surrounding Alex gasped at the mention of his possible death. Most did not even believe it to be true, but the ones that did quickly realized the seriousness of the situation.

"But to meet with the man that nearly killed you..." Helen was starting to tear up.

"You don't have to go alone. We will all go with you to this trade," one of the elders said.

Alex looked toward the elder. "And we should all die?" he asked. "You do know that the Emperor will kill us the moment he sees us, right? He already killed Yao Ning."

"Can we ask the Emperor to meet us in the ocean to trade then?" Ronron asked. "If he wants it so bad, he will come, right?"

"He is a coward," Alex answered while shaking his head. "He knows that if he leaves, he will die. So unless he is certain of victory, he won't come. Also, he is not the one who is forced to trade by this oath, I am."

"The only thing the oath forces him to do is trade something of incredible value as compared to the thing I'm trading him with," Alex said. "If he doesn't have anything, he can decline the trade, and he's fine."

"That's a very one-sided trade," Bai Jingshen said. He had already heard about Alex needing to return but hadn't heard about the intricacies of the oath.

"It may be," Alex said. "But it did help me stay alive. He couldn't kill me because our trade wasn't complete."

"But if you go back, he can decline the trade and then kill you, right?" Graham asked.

Alex shrank back a little and sighed. "That is exactly what I fear he will do," he said. "That man is mad, I tell you. He kept saying something about how everything that was happening was about fate. I swear he's not right in the head."

"He might have been talking about his prophecies," someone spoke almost as soon as Alex finished speaking, making everyone turn to look at him.

The white-haired Zhou Linfan realized that everyone's gaze was now at him. As someone who wasn't used to being around these many people for a long time, he shrank back a little.

"What do you mean, senior?" Alex asked curiously.

"The Dragon Emperor's prophecy," the old man said slowly. "If he said something about fate, then he must have been talking about his prophecy."

"His prophecy?" Alex asked. "Can you elaborate?"

The old man shrugged. "I don't know much about it myself either, but when I was eavesdropping on him, he and the Empress seemed to always talk about the prophecies when they were alone."

"I don't know the specificity of the prophecies, but most of what they did was because of the prophecies from what I could tell," he said. "Attacking my kin and the other kingdoms, attacking the Western Continent, and most likely even trying to kill you was because of this prophecy."

"You don't know the prophecy itself?" Alex asked the old man.

Zhou Linfan shook his head. "I don't remember them talking about the actual prophecies whenever I was serving them food," he said. "Sorry, I can't be of much help."

"You said that attacking the Western Continent was partially because of this prophecy?" Bai Jingshen asked.

Zhou Linfan nodded before quickly realizing who it was he was nodding to. "Yes, senior," he answered then.

Everyone fell into thought once the information was out. Alex thought of his own prophecy and realized he hadn't been paying attention to it for a long time now.

The one about his death bothered him whenever he remembered it. 'Could the Dragon Emperor be worried about something like that too?' he wondered. But that was only conjecture. Knowing the prophecy would likely not help him either.

"Let's ignore the prophecy for now," Alex said. "There is still sometime before the time of the trade, but—"

"There are ways to deal with oaths," Bai Jingshen cut in. "Maybe we can do something to yours, like destroy it."

Alex looked toward the White Tiger in absolute shock. "What?" he asked.

Everyone else turned to look at the White Tiger as well, unbelieving of what they had heard. They didn't believe they even heard him correctly.

"Did you say there is a way to deal with the oaths?" Alex asked.

"Not one way," Bai Jingshen said. "There are many ways to do so."

"What ways?" Alex asked, filled with hope.

Bai Jingshen pointed to his earrings. "I can deal with my oaths through this. I can erase them whenever I want to," he said.

Alex frowned. "Then why haven't you done so already?" he asked.

Bai Jingshen gave a short smile. "I am left near to death after going Qi deviation if I try to erase the oaths," he said.

"That's... not very helpful, is it?" Helen asked.

"If it means you won't die, I count it as very helpful," Bai Jingshen said. "If you are willing to lose your cultivation for survival, would you not do it?"

Alex sighed. "If I have to take that route, then I have other ways to do so," he said. "Besides, would those rings even work for me?"

"No. My master made them work exclusively by me," Bai Jingshen said proudly. "I was only suggesting that we try and see if we can find a way to save you without sending you to your killer's den."

Alex understood where the White Tiger was coming from. "Thank you for your suggestion, brother Shen, but we have an entirely different problem even if I am taken out of the equation."

"We have our best alchemists in the eastern Continent, and we need to go get them before something bad is done to them," Alex said. "I hope nothing has happened to them just yet though."

"What if the Emperor tries to use them during the trade," Liang Shufen asked with a thoughtful look. "We wouldn't even be able to reject."

Alex frowned as well. "There are a lot of problems here, and we won't be able to solve it in a single day. For now, we should all return to what we've been doing. Have senior Linfan here be treated like my own guest. As for me, I will go take my rest. I need to take a few days to cultivate to deal with some problems I came across."

Everyone nodded and started leaving one by one.

Bai Jingshen left with Pearl too, and even his parents and Ronron left him. The only people in the hall remaining were Alex and Liz.

She hugged him once again. "You said you would bring back Hannah and you did. Thank you," she said in a tearful voice.

"Right, where is sister?" Alex asked. "And brother Huan."

"I've put your sister in a special room I devised to keep her from aging at the moment. That young man who calls himself her husband should be in his room resting."

Alex smiled. "You don't approve of him?" he asked.

"I just won't call him my son-in-law until their marriage is official," she said and then smiled before patting Alex's head. "Get some rest. We can deal with everything else."

Chapter 1725: Mixture

Alex ate a few pills once he reached his room and sat by the bed, readying to cultivate. Now that he was finally free and not in a constant state of danger, he could finally take his time with his cultivation to deal with the things he had put off.

Firstly, he had to check on himself to see what exactly was wrong with him after the corruption he had gone through.

Checking through himself, Alex realized that he had lost a lot of body mass and had a mostly weaker Blood Essence. Thankfully, everything else that had gone wrong had either been healed by his physique or by the many pills he had eaten along the way.

'Body mass I can deal with immediately, but the Blood Essence will take some time to heal on its own,' Alex thought. He couldn't help but wonder if it was even a good idea to try to improve his blood aura just yet.

'If I try to improve my blood aura, I will have to deal with Blood Essence first, and will end up wasting the blood aura,' Alex thought. It was better to make use of it later. For now, he could do something else.

Alex entered his soul space and looked at the vastly wide floating collection of blood-red water that constantly moved around but never escaped from its own mass. It was nearly 2 kilometers in diameter and had more water than most lakes did on their own.

Inside the water, various body parts of both beasts and humans were floating around. Most of them were cut into perfect pieces by him, but a lot of them were also in irregular pieces as they were being consumed by the beasts themselves.

Alex started the tedious job of going through the beasts and locating the Beast Core to pull it out for his use. It was a struggle at first. Alex wasn't aware of where each beast's core would be.

But as he went through it, he got faster and faster, and by the end of it all, he managed to bring out all the cores from the beasts with none remaining. Alex looked at the pile of cores in surprise.

There were exactly 266 beast cores there, and the most surprising thing of all was that they were all from very strong beasts.

The weakest core there was from a beast in the Saint Core realm, but the majority of the beasts that dared surface during his battle with the soldiers had been either in the Saint Soul realm or the Saint Transformation realm.

Alex quickly moved over the blood and beasts he had gathered in his Storage ring as well and started counting through all that he had.

Together, he now had 133 beast cores from beasts with Saint Core realm or weaker. He had 112 cores from beasts with the Saint Soul realm. And he had exactly 46 cores from beasts with Saint Transformation realm.

That was an amount Alex hadn't ever expected to gather when he had first decided to go to the ocean to train himself. He hadn't even fulfilled his original purpose for going to the ocean and now he had so

much beast core and blood that he could only wonder just how strong he was going to be in the upcoming days.

Once Alex separated all the cores, he then moved to separate the corpse parts from the bloodied water. The parts that were taken out from the water were put into two piles.

One pile was for parts that would be useful when it came to alchemy, formations, artifacts, or other constructs. And the other one was for body parts that would not be useful to make anything.

Once Alex finished making the two piles, he started transporting the large mass of corpses toward the World Tree and the Nine Yang Divine Tree. He hadn't had the chance to feed the trees anything good for a long time, and they would most definitely happily absorb everything he gave them.

Eating nothing but the flesh and bones of strong beasts and humans would do them very good as well.

Feeding the plants was just leaving the body parts by their roots. The trees would do their job themselves.

Alex took a short time to deal with the rest of the issues in his Soul Space and then finally left it with the Blood God's Manual following him out.

"Godslayer, do you want to start now, or should we wait?" Alex asked the sword spirit in his mind.

"Give it to me. I've been ready for a few days now."

The spirit floated in Alex's spiritual sea, surrounded by a nearly vile tar-like black substance that surrounded it, along with a small dark cloud that hovered around it. Godslayer's real body, the crystalline sphere was no longer visible to anyone who would look for it at all.

"Okay, I'll do it right now."

Alex reached into the Blood God's Manual with his spiritual sense and used his Dao of Death Aura to control an amount of Death Aura inside of there. He formed a thin line with the aura and slowly dragged it toward his Spiritual Sea.

Opening his Sea to the aura, he let the Death Aura fly into his mental space where he let go of the control.

Godslayer immediately assumed control of all the Death Aura that Alex poured into the Spiritual sea. He started taking it toward himself, adding it to the Darkness Aura that had taken the form of the tar-like substance.

Death Aura became a smoky mixture with the dark clouds, turning the cloud more opaque while also turning into a viscous goo of dark liquid surrounding Godslayer's body.

Godslayer continued taking in everything Alex gave adding it to the pile while continuously taking measure of what he was gathering. Sometime later, he realized that he was nearing equilibrium between the two aura.

"You'll have to stop soon," Godslayer notified.

Alex nodded. A minute later, he stopped pulling out the Death Aura under Godslayer's command and put away the book. There was still quite a lot of Death Aura remaining in the book. He had not even taken out a third of the total amount, but that seemed to be enough for Godslayer.

"You will start absorbing them now?" Alex asked.

"In a minute," Godslayer said. "I need to make some preparations first."

He did something with the two Aura, mixing them to the point that they emulsified together. Alex arrived inside the Spiritual sea and looked at what Godslayer was doing.

The ball of black mass that was Godslayer was surprisingly small, but that was only because most of the Darkness and Death aura had concentrated in his vicinity.

"Once you absorb it all, you will improve permanently, right?" Alex asked the Sword spirit.

"I will," Godslayer said excitedly. "So long as you don't let your body destroy me again, I will remain at that strength and won't drop down."

Alex shook his head while remembering the first time he had met Godslayer. The sword spirit's aura covered the entire sky at that time. Compared to how small that cloud was right now, Alex could only imagine how strong the Sword spirit had been.

The only reason he had even lost was because he had entered his body.

"Tell me, are we going to have to find Darkness aura and Death aura each time you need to improve yourself?" Alex asked the Sword Spirit. "Don't you have another method of improving?"

"As a sword spirit? I have no choice but to do just that," Godslayer said. "The only way for me to grow normally would be to find my body first."

"Your body?" Alex asked, thinking for a moment. "You were in that other sword when I found you, but that is not your body, is it? Where is your real body?"

"I don't know," Godslayer answered. "Since I was put in the Sky God's treasury, it might be in there. It might not be. I have no way of telling."

"Hmm..." Alex thought for a bit. "When we are hopefully done with everything here and ready to break through to the Immortal realm, senior Yang will come with us to the other realm. Do you think he will accept it if I say I want to visit the Sky God's Palace?"

Godslayer remained silent for a while before asking. "And do what there?" he asked. "Ask the Sky God to give you my body back? Or do you plan on stealing it?"

"Umm..."

"Do you know what will be the first thing that will happen there if you go?" Godslayer asked. "That woman will put you in a secluded room and look into your Soul Space and Spiritual sea. Guess what she will see when she does that?"

Alex shrank into his body when he thought of what would happen to him under those circumstances. Having Godslayer and a giant Space Stone in his spiritual sea, and having the two trees in his Soul Space would be a bad thing to show the Sky God as the first thing.

"I guess we shouldn't do that," Alex said sheepishly.

"Alright, now give me space," Godslayer said, having perfectly mixed the two auras. "I'm going to start absorbing them."

"Do you mind moving to the top of the silver mountain?" Alex asked. "I plan on eating a lot of Beast cores so there will be many violent Beast spirits coming into my mind soon. I would not want to bother you with them."

"Alright," Godslayer answered. "I'll let you know when I'm done with it. Don't get into any problem until then."

Chapter 1726: An Uncommon Happenstance

Alex pulled out a cultivation pill and ate it in preparation for the next few days of cultivation. He had already cultivated for nearly 2 years in the Saint Soul 4th realm, so returning to that level wasn't very hard.

As such, his job now was to continue and hopefully break through. Hopefully, he would continue to break through for a long time.

Alex thought of cultivating normally, but with all the beast cores available to him, he decided to use one of them. He took a silvery-pink thumb nail sized core and quickly ate it.

Alex felt the core slide down his throat, past his esophagus, and settle in his stomach. Immediately, his body acted and started consuming the core. Just at that point, Alex felt something enter his Spiritual sea and his mind followed.

At the next moment, he arrived inside his spiritual sea, not far away from the silver mountain atop which Godslayer was cultivating. He made sure to not bring the fight in that direction.

He looked straight to the front where the beast he was to fight had appeared in its spirit form. It was a large eel with a shiny green body that almost looked brown from certain angles.

It had a long fin along its spine that was shiny pink in color and a large tail at the very end with spikes growing out of it. Its mouth was open, showing a thousand different spike-like teeth interlacing with each other.

Alex felt the strength of the beast and knew that defeating it would take no time. "Let's get this done with," he said as he stretched a bit before the fighting started. "It's only in the Saint Soul—"

"Who are you?" the eel suddenly asked.

Alex paused mid-stretch, his eyes wide as he stared at the beast in front of him. It spoke. He was stunned.

"What... did you just say?" Alex asked.

"Who are you?" the eel repeated and looked around at the surroundings, its eyes remaining on the mountain for a short time before moving away. "Where am I?"

'What is going on?' Alex thought, confused. Never before had a beast talked with him when it was just a spirit created from the impression left behind in the beast's core.

"I am Alex," Alex quickly answered, just to get the eel talking. "As for where you are..."

"This looks like a spiritual sea," the beast said suddenly. "But this is not my spiritual sea, is it?"

"No, it is not your spiritual sea," Alex said. "It is mine."

"How did I get here?" the beast asked. "I remember swimming toward something, and..."

Alex was ready to fight the beast, believing that it had remembered how it had been killed. However, it didn't react in any way hostile. Instead, it genuinely seemed confused about the entire situation.

Alex suddenly started feeling bad about killing something that was so genuinely lost. He had already killed this beast when it hadn't attacked him, so killing it again just didn't feel right.

'It's better to get this done with quickly,' Alex thought.

"You're dead." He decided to tell the beast at least that. "I ate your core and now I'm here."

"I... died?" the eel asked in a surprised tone. "How did I die?"

"I am not sure," Alex said.

"I... see," the eel said slowly. "I died... huh? So, this is it."

The spirit of the beast suddenly glimmered a soft blue and started growing transparent. Wisps of smoke made out of spiritual energy floated away from the eel's body, making it more and more transparent.

Then, before Alex could fully take in what had happened, all that was left of the eel was a small cloud of white spiritual energy, rogue to his spiritual sea. As for the spirit of the eel, nothing of it remained.

Alex was more than shocked to see that.

"Did it just... give up?" he asked himself.

Alex swiftly arrived next to the cloud of spiritual energy and put his hand over it, pouring out yellow fog from his body to absorb the spiritual energy. Everything that his yellow fog consumed would then become his own spiritual energy, only making him stronger.

Alex stared at his palm when everything was done, still confused by the entire event. He wanted to ask Godslayer if he knew anything, but the sword spirit seemed plenty occupied with its own cultivation and didn't seem to have paid any attention to what happened to Alex.

Alex shook his head in the end and could feel the trouble outside. He immediately left the spiritual sea and arrived just in time to manage the flood of Qi that left his stomach

The beast's spirit controlled the Qi in the core, and thus it was only after it was defeated that the floodgates would be open and Alex could collect it all.

While the spirit wasn't exactly defeated today, its absence provided the same result.

Alex took control of the Qi he received from the core and immediately used his cultivation technique to pass it around his body. What would have taken him weeks if not months to gather normally, was now collected in just a single second, so Alex had to do his best to not waste any of it.

Thankfully, the pill he ate, combined with his already wide meridians made for the perfect scenario through which the Qi could be absorbed.

Alex spent hours cultivating with the Qi, and the improvement he saw with the Qi was almost unimaginable. It made him wonder why he had even stopped consuming cores in the first place. But of course, that was mostly because this brought stability issues with his cultivation base.

However, at a time like this when a higher cultivation base was more important than its stability, Alex didn't mind using it to break through the many realms that he needed to reach the strength to fight the Dragon Emperor.

At the end of the cultivation session, Alex felt his dantian reach a fullness that came every time he hit a bottleneck. Realizing that it was the perfect time, Alex chose to break through to Saint Soul 5th realm.

The breakthrough lasted no more than a few hours, and that was because he decided to take his time with it. Had he wanted, he could have completed it in just half an hour.

Alex felt his new cultivation base and smiled happily at how strong he had become. He just had to continue this for a while longer.

"I should test with those cores," Alex remembered. "I need to find out if that was a weird scenario, or if those sorts of things happen all the time."

But he was done with cultivation for the time, so testing it was not something he could do at the moment. For now, it was time to leave.

Alex dressed himself in his kingly robes and walked out of the room where the servants were already waiting for him. He asked the servants to call for Linlin first to see if he had anything important to take care of that day.

If he had, he would do it.

If not, then he would go to his aunt and sister and deal with her immediate problem.

Chapter 1727: Checking on Hannah

"Alex, I heard you were back. Are you alright?"

Alex was on his way to find his aunt when Long Huan met him in the hallway. He seemed to be going in the same direction as well and had met Alex by chance.

"Are you on your way to meet my aunt too?" Alex asked.

"Yes," Long Huan answered with a slightly embarrassed look on his face. "I'm trying to get on her good side. I don't think she likes me very much, so I'm trying to appear better in her eyes."

"Good luck." That was all Alex could say to the man.

Long Huan shrank a little when he realized that he wasn't going to get any help from Alex, but quickly put away those thoughts. "I heard from senior Zhou that he found you. I can't believe the two of you actually met."

"Yeah, he took care of me while I was wounded," Alex said as the two of them walked together, while a few royal guards as well as Linlin walked behind the two.

Long Huan looked back at the guards before speaking with his spiritual sense. "I heard you were crippled too, and then somehow got your cultivation back. When he had told that to the elders here, everyone was confused about how that was even possible. I think they want to learn how you did that."

Alex sighed when he heard that. He knew it would have been hard to hide that fact, but he didn't expect it to get out so soon. 'Should I tell them what happened?' Alex wondered.

His elders already knew a lot about him, including the fact that he had learned a physique where he could lose his head and grow it back somehow. They didn't understand how that was possible, but they understood that it did.

Explaining to them that the same thing worked with his Dantian as well shouldn't be a difficult task, even though that wasn't technically what was happening. Healing a Dantian would allow you to be a cultivator again, but not give you your cultivation back, which the Undying God's Physique did.

He hoped he wouldn't have to explain to them how it truly worked because frankly, he had no idea too. Not a single one of the people who he gained the memories from knew how it worked.

Alex then arrived outside his aunt's quarters in the palace and waited for her to leave.

Liz walked out soon enough and looked at the two men who were in front of her room. She ignored Long Huan quickly enough and took Alex's head in her hands, turning it around to look at his head from every direction.

"You look much better now," she said before slapping him lightly on his shoulders. "You will need to eat something for those muscles though. It will take a while to gain them back if you rely on cultivation alone."

"I plan on asking senior Zhou to make me something," Alex said. "Has he made anything for anyone here?" He posed the question to everyone.

Linlin shook her head quickly enough and Liz gave a frown. "Why in the world would we ask our guests to make anything for us? He's being treated like a guest, being made to feel comfortable and all," Liz said.

"Ah, right." None of them had tasted any food the man-made, so they didn't yet understand what Alex was talking about. "I'll go talk to him later on. For now, we have something more important to deal with."

Liz's eyes sharpened instantly. "Is it about Hannah?" she asked.

Alex nodded. "Where is she? I plan to check on her before I go and talk to Lady Beihan," he said.

"Come inside," Liz said before turning to Long Huan. "Not you."

Long Huan seemed troubled but said nothing against the order. Alex walked into his aunt's room and the door closed behind him.

"Why are you so hard on him?" Alex asked. "He'll just grow to hate you later on."

"He's the man that got my daughter like this. Do you think I should be thanking him instead?" Liz asked in a rather angry tone. She wasn't faking it at all.

"I... suppose he was at fault," Alex said. He understood that he should hate on the man for getting Hannah involved in all of this, but for some reason, he couldn't. After all, Hannah had to have known what was happening, and she had made the choice to go with him too.

Besides, they were married in the first place. Anything that had happened to them was just bad luck, and nothing was done out of maleficence.

"Until my daughter tells me she forgives him with her own mouth, I'm not forgiving him," Liz said. "Perhaps, not even after."

Alex gave a dry laugh and quickly shut that up too when he saw his aunt's glare. "Anyway, where is sister?" he asked, looking around the room.

Liz's room was orderly with a large bed in one corner, with two nightstands on each side. There were multiple rugs in the room with intricate details and tapestries that hung along the wall.

The other corner of the room away from the door was sectioned off with a metallic cube that was lifted above the ground with another two large wooden plants, with multiple formation flags surrounding it completely.

Even from where Alex stood, he could sense a faint sense of aura around the metal box that was so very specific for him.

'Time Aura,' he thought. He couldn't tell what was being done with the time aura just from the sensation he got, but he could tell that time aura was being involved there somehow.

"Is sister inside there?" Alex asked as he walked closer to the apparatus.

"She's experiencing slowed time in there," Liz said. "I use my Dao every day to keep it slowed beyond the capacity of the formation. To Hannah, she entered that room just 3 hours ago, but over a month has already passed."

"That... is a very strong time difference," Alex said with surprise clear in his face. It was nearly as strong as the Timeless Palace in the Demon Realm back in the Western Continent.

"You should stop it," Alex said. "Bring her out so I can check on her."

Liz nodded and walked toward the formation. She first used her Dao to take away the effect she had put on there, then she stopped the formation.

Time flowed back to normal, and Alex could feel the Time aura slowly disappear from the room.

Liz then undid a few latches on the side of the metal box and the front metallic plate flung open, revealing Hannah dressed in a simple white robe, asleep with her head on the side of the room.

"Do we wake her?" Liz asked.

Alex thought for a bit and shook his head. "I'm just going to see how her body is handling the block to her Dantian," he said and moved closer to Hannah.

He clutched her left hand with both of his hands and closed his eyes for a few long minutes. Afterward, he opened them with a bright smile.

"She's doing fine," Alex said. "We'll start once we return. Until then, don't bother using your Dao again. In fact, go cultivate and be ready. You will be the most important in this task."

Chapter 1728: Luo Beihan

Alex only realized that Pearl had been taken back to the Western Continent the day they had returned by Bai Jingshen when he searched for him so he could take him there.

Alex left on his own, even though his subordinates didn't want him to, and quickly flew toward the Southern Forest where the White Tiger's palace was.

He arrived at the formation and was quickly led to Bai Jingshen. After telling Bai Jingshen the reason he was there, he was quickly led to Luo Beihan, Bai Jingshen's 6th wife. That had come as a surprise to Alex when Bai Jingshen told him that.

Wen Meirin, Luo Beihan, and Pearl's great-grandmother, Ren Xiao were initially just concubines. However, after Pearl's ascension to a White Tiger, Ren Xiao needed to be given a better status in the family. Bai Jingshen knew he needed to make her a wife as well, but didn't want to let the other two down, so instead he made everyone his wife.

Now, he had 7 wives and no concubines.

"Young Alchemist, I have been waiting for your arrival," Luo Beihan spoke when Alex arrived in the room she was in. Except, instead of being in her beastly form, she had turned to her human form.

She was a bronze-skinned woman with orange robes and long black hair. She wore a few jewels around her body, but not too much.

"Sit," she said, letting Alex sit next to her.

Alex nodded and sat down opposite her, ready to ask her for the pill recipes. However, before he could ask her anything, the woman spoke up first.

"Tell me, have you learned anything new yet? I'm excited to learn if you've made any improvements to your alchemy that I can learn from," she said.

Alex grimaced a little and shook his head. "Unfortunately not, senior. I might have reached the highest level of alchemy I can reach in this world that I'm capable of with my cultivation realm. Anything more will require me to break through and move to other words."

"Nothing?" Beihan asked unbelievably before clicking her tongue. "And here I was so excited too."

Alex gave a rueful smile. "I can give you a technique to help you make pill clouds every single time," he said.

The woman's eyes sharpened suddenly. "What did you say?" she asked.

Alex repeated what he said and watched the woman's eyes widen in shock. He could see the beast-like hunger in her eyes to get what he was proposing to give her.

"Are you certain?" she asked.

Alex nodded and provided her with a talisman. "I've given these to so many others. I think you deserve it too. You've helped me so much that I can't think of any other way to repay you. I just hope you won't share it with others very easily."

The woman took hold of the talisman and slowly read it while mouthing the words 'Vortex of Perfection'.

"This is a pill-forming technique?" she asked with a somewhat confused look. "Is it different from the other one you gave me? The Profound Revolution technique."

"It's definitely different," Alex said. "As you can probably see, it is in a way automatic when it comes to forming pills."

"I see," she said and continued reading it.

Alex waited for her to read it all. When it seemed as though she was done with it, he asked her a question that had been bothering him slightly.

"You don't have meridians in the same shape and path as humans do, right?" Alex asked.

"Not when I'm a beast, no," the woman said. "But our human form changes even our meridians to be closer to humans. While it won't be the exact same, it is close enough that we can learn human techniques to use it. The effectiveness of the technique is usually low when copied from humans though."

"Oh," Alex said. "Won't that cause this to be problematic?"

The Vortex of Perfection was the pill formation technique that Alex had created by altering the pill-splitting Qi. Instead of separating a pile into 2 perfect pills, he made the technique to create just one perfect pill from the whole pile.

Since it was the Alchemy God's technique, it was an incredibly frustrating technique to learn that required the person to have the Qi pass through unbelievably complicated pathways just to be used.

That was partially the reason why every alchemist he gave the technique to still found it hard to learn as keeping track of the most minute passageways in one's meridians was strenuous. One would even call it unnecessarily complicated if the end result wasn't so great.

Maybe that was the reason why it was so great at all.

The woman understood what Alex meant by it being problematic and smiled. "Don't worry, I can learn this," she said. To an Immortal, even a few centuries was nothing compared to how long they could live.

"I'm not really concerned about whether you can learn it or not, senior," Alex said. "I'm more so concerned about the effectiveness. If the effectiveness of the technique drops then it might not work as perfectly as its name suggests."

"Oh, that was what you meant," the woman said and put the talisman away. "You don't have to worry about that either. I can have it be changed to fit my meridians as a human."

Alex got curious when he heard that. "How?" he couldn't help but ask.

"Didn't my husband tell you?" she asked. "I remember him mentioning that he told it to you before. That was how you learned it in the first place, he says."

Alex frowned a little. "I'm not sure what you are talking about, senior."

"Dao of Techniques," the woman said. "You've learned it right?"

"Yes," Alex said, and the memories flooded back. "Oh! Right..."

The entire reason Alex had learned Dao of Techniques in the first place was because Bai Jingshen had told Alex about it when he was training him in the Luminance empire as Shen Jing.

Alex only now remembered Bai Jingshen mentioned that he had learned the technique too.

"Oh, so you plan on having him change it for you," he asked. "But it will still take him a long time."

"You don't worry about that," she said. "You worry about your cousin. That young girl needs to be treated quickly."

She brought out two talismans and a bunch of wooden boxes.

"This is the recipe for the pill that can heal your sister's poison. I had a hard time tracking it down, and an even harder time tracking down these ingredients."

Alex took the recipe and ingredients.

"And this one is for opening up her dantian," she said. "I don't know if you have one or not, but I prepared it just in case. That young girl that came with your cousin told me that you would be needing one."

"Lady Luoyang did?" Alex asked. He hadn't seen her after returning. "I have a recipe for that, but this is highly appreciated too. Thank you."

"No need to thank me for this," she said. "After what you've given me today, I wouldn't mind if you told me to give you everything I owned."

Chapter 1729: The Two Pills

Alex alone returned to the Southern Continent sometime later and immediately went to his room to start making the two pills.

He first spent his time going through the recipes to make sure they were the perfect as they could be. Thankfully, pill recipes from the Immortal realm seemed to always be as perfect as they could be.

Once that was sorted out, Alex then spent some time adding energy to the ingredients, preparing them before he made the pill. Adding energy to the ingredients took some time overall, but as Alex grew in cultivation base, the process became faster and faster.

What would have taken him an hour during the early days, now took no more than just 20 minutes. To go through all the ingredients he had with him currently, it took him 40 minutes.

Once everything else was done, Alex finally started making the pill.

The pill he made first was called the Heavenly Opening pill: a pill that was used to expand and open one's meridians and dantian. It was primarily a pill that supported one's ascendance to the Saint realm when sometimes the Dantian wouldn't open up as it was supposed to.

In that instance, this pill was given to the person to help them transition into the Saint Realm without any problem.

The recipe for the pill included some unconventional ingredients like the Roots of a Fluorescent Tulip plant that had died for at least a year and 3 petals of the Yellowtail Lotus that were recently pollinated by the Rockhoney Bee.

The rest of the ingredients, however, were common.

Alex took a few minutes to follow the recipe and used up all the ingredients he had. The energy in the cauldron told Alex that he would not need the World Defying Mushrooms, so he proceeded to use the Vortex of Perfection technique to form the pill.

Outside, clouds gathered in the sky with small crackles of lightning occasionally flashing as they prepared to fall onto the Palace.

Many of the servants looked up in surprise, but surprise was all they showed before they went on their way. Even the newer servants showed no change as such an event had become incredibly common in the palace by now.

The pill cloud formed inside the room as well and Memory was struck with a brilliant bar of pure white light that left behind a bluish hue where it passed.

Alex easily protected the pill against the first bolt of lightning.

He waited for a bit and then the second one fell as well, which he protected his pill from just as easily.

The next few lightning bolts were also pretty simple for Alex to protect the pill from, all the way up to the 7th lightning bolt.

The 8th lightning bolt required someone to have the cultivation base of Saint Transformation realm to even begin to stop the lightning bolt.

It fell, and Alex stopped it as well. By now, his pill had 8 veins, and he waited for the last one.

The last time Alex had gotten 9 pill veins was when Alex made the pill to close his sister's dantian. At that time, he had used all techniques he could to enforce the defense inside the cauldron against the falling lightning bolt as its strength would be in the Saint Transformation 5th realm.

However, since Alex was in the Saint Soul 5th realm now, with the battle prowess of Saint Transformation 5th realm, he did not feel the need to use any techniques or other auras to aid him.

He was confident with using just his Qi.

Alex didn't trust his confidence this time around as his sister's life was on the line. He did just use his Qi to protect the pill overall, but underneath it, he also employed various defensive techniques just in case.

The final bolt of lightning fell and struck Alex's first layer of defense, which was just his Qi. The strongest lightning bolt from a Pill Cloud produced a terrifying light and sound as the thunderous roar scared many of the servants and guards around the palace.

Everyone had subconsciously been counting the number of bolts, so when the pill cloud did not stop with the 8th bolt and instead had the 9th one fall, everyone was more than surprised.

Normally, they were used to having no more than 4 or 5 lightning bolts each time something like this happened. However, seeing 9 lightning bolts fall, each one stronger than the next made them wonder just who it was that was making a pill.

Many of the individuals instantly guessed that it was Alex, and even then they were surprised. Most of the elders hadn't been aware that Alex could even do that. 9 was said to be the most number of lightning bolts one could bring down during a pill cloud.

With all 9 bolts having struck by now, the pill cloud indeed dissipated. The people outside wondered what sort of magnificent pill was being made in the palace.

Alex watched with wide eyes but also a smile on his face as the various defensive techniques he had used underneath the layer of pure Qi remained intact. That meant that he was now indeed capable of making pills with 9 veins with nothing but just his Qi.

Alex excitedly took out the pill and looked at the 9 pill veins for a moment before putting it into a pill bottle. Then, he took a small break of two minutes and began preparing for Memory to make the healing pill.

The healing pill was called the All Jade Healing pill: a pill that cleared all poison and any other effect from one's body and healed it at the same time. It was especially effective in fighting poisons that harmed one's spirit.

Alex followed the recipe given to him and used up all the ingredients he was given to make the pill. He had to be extra careful this time around as this was the only set of ingredients.

The pill cloud formed once again as it always did, and threw down lightning bolts that Alex effortlessly defended against. He only had to put any effort into the final one, which he once again defended against with just his Qi.

As soon as the pill was done, Alex took out the pill from the cauldron and took it along with him as he quickly walked out of the room in a hurry.

Several individuals gathered outside his door, mostly elders, hoping to get a chance to talk to him about cultivation pills. However, Alex quickly got past them without waiting to hear them.

He made his way to his aunt's quarters and knocked on the door.

Liz opened the door and gave a serious look when she saw Alex. "Are we starting now?" she asked.

Alex nodded. "You seem ready, so we can start," he said and walked in without asking.

Hannah lay asleep on the bed, her wrinkled face showing no emotion as she rested.

Liz arrived right beside Alex and looked at her daughter as well. "Should I wake her up?" she asked.

"Please do," Alex said. "It might be better if she is awake."

Liz walked right beside Hannah and gently shook her, waking her up. Hannah woke up to confusion and quickly started waving for whoever was closest. She touched her mother and quickly moved to her face to recognize her.

It was only after she knew it was her mother who woke her up that she calmed down. She started waving around to try and talk to her mother, but Hannah had no way of communicating her words to anyone else.

With her incapable of using Qi at the moment, her only mode of communication had been ripped away from her, and she had no other methods to communicate.

"Damn boy! He could have at least taught her sign language when he had years to wait around," Liz complained. She found another problem to assign to her son-in-law that she did not want to claim as one just yet.

Hearing her call Long Huan a 'boy' made Alex nearly snicker. A woman who was only just past her first century of life was calling someone over 2 millennia old a boy.

It was weird to think that Long Huan had a mother-in-law who was many, many years younger than him.

While Alex had his thoughts run amok with such thoughts, Liz had started explaining to her daughter what was happening and what was going to happen next.

Immediately, Hannah sat up straight and started moving her hands around as if to try and touch something. She also tried to speak, but her vocal cords could not form any coherent words. All that came out of her throat was discordant sounds.

Still, Alex immediately realized that she was reaching for him.

Unlike the others, Hannah had not been told just what had happened in the past month and more. She had only known that Alex had been left behind in the Eastern Continent, and since then she had spent the entire time in just the past few hours where she had fallen asleep.

She had fallen asleep with Alex missing and had woken up with him ready to fix her.

She had only just found out that he had indeed survived the entire ordeal and was more than happy to learn that.

Alex walked up to Hannah and sat beside her where she took hold of him and hugged him as she cried in relief. That continued for a minute or so before Liz spoke up.

"Alright, what do you need me to do?"

Chapter 1730: Healing Starts

"Do you understand her situation?" Alex asked.

Liz nodded. "Something about the poison being stuck in her dantian where her soul is protected by her Qi, so you closed off the dantian so that the Qi did not escape."

Alex nodded in return. "Then do you understand why it is troublesome to treat her?" he asked.

"We can't destroy the poison because her dantian is closed off. And we can't open the dantian because then the Qi could escape in great amounts and the poison could kill her."

Alex nodded again.

"So what do we do about it?" Liz asked. "The lady Luoyang said that eating the two pills at once would not work since the effects of the pills would destroy each other."

"It will end up producing a different result is what will happen, but saying they destroy each other is not far off," Alex confirmed for her.

"Then?" Liz asked. "What is it we do?"

"Sister needs to eat the pills with enough gap in between them that they don't conflict with each other," Alex said. "We cannot let the two effects mix together."

"But that won't work," Liz said in an exasperated tone. "We just talked about it."

Alex sighed. "If you let me finish, I would have told you that while she will eat the pill at different instances, it will affect her at the same time."

"How?" Liz asked.

"That is what I want you here for," Alex said. "I hope you can slow down time in her dantian. More accurately, after the dantian takes in the energy from the pill, I want you to slow down time for everything inside of it. The poison, the Qi, the soul. Everything. Can you do that?"

"In just the dantian?" Liz asked. "No, not even that. Just the inside of it?"

Alex nodded. "If the time there is slowed, we will have sufficient time to have sister eat the second pill which will help her. Honestly, I've already done my part with making the pills. Now it is all in your hand."

Liz felt the sudden pressure of her daughter's life being on her hands. "I..." she wanted to refuse, but she knew for a fact that she was indeed the best for the job.

She took a deep breath, calming her heart in the process, and opened it to show the resolution she had brought herself to. "I will do it," she said. "Let me test it on your first."

Alex nodded and let his aunt use him as a test puppet.

Using one's Dao in a particularly small area or a large area came with its own problems. While larger usage of Dao simply required one to have more Intent to use, smaller areas required proficiency in using the dao. The user couldn't just call for the dao and have it work.

As such, Liz needed proficiency in using her Dao for what she had to do next. On top of that, she had to use the Dao on just a small organ inside of her daughter's body. The Dantian was no bigger than a fist and was hidden behind layers of skin, muscle, and fat, all of which were hard to see through with the spiritual sea as a living human body rejected all spiritual sea.

So, not only did Liz have to slow down time in a small area, she had to find the area in the first place, making the problem compound upon itself.

Alex explained how to find a dantian in a human body. Since using spiritual sense directly didn't work, one had to follow the path through the meridians to finally reach the dantian at the end.

Liz practiced it on Alex and Hannah a couple of times just to find the dantian. Then, once she was done, she practiced using her Dao on Alex to slow down the Qi inside.

Alex felt the Dao of Time Stagnation being used on him; he felt the time aura surround his dantian. As the Time aura entered his body, Alex felt a sense of sluggishness through his body, one he couldn't have explained, had he not known what was happening.

"What are those?" Liz asked with a struggling look on her face. "They are rejecting my Dao."

"Hmm?" Alex wasn't sure what she was talking about. So, he concentrated on his soul and looked through its eyes. While he couldn't see any changes immediately, he realized that the information his spirit and his body gained were coming at a different rate.

While minutes passed outside, only a few seconds passed in his dantian. The time stagnation was most certainly working. He then looked for what his aunt was talking about and saw the Yang Source and Yin bead spin around at an inconsistent speed, almost as though they weren't sure if time really was being slowed or not.

"You can stop," Alex quickly told her aunt outside, and Liz let go. She sat back on the bed, breathing heavily as the usage of Dao had taken a lot out of her.

She took minutes to calm down and at the end of it, she was now confident that she could do it.

"Where are the pills?" she asked.

Alex brought out both the pills and pulled out the first pill. "I'll open her dantian," Alex said. "You get ready to stop it from releasing any Qi."

Liz nodded and prepared.

Seeing her aunt ready, Alex fed Hannah the first pill and helped her swallow it. "It's activating. Get ready," Alex informed.

Liz was ready. Her eyes were closed and she entirely focused on her spiritual sense to feel the flow of energy toward the dantian.

The energy flowed down Hannah's meridians moving to every part of her body, expanding them as they went along. Then, it arrived at her dantian where its effect started showing.

As soon as the energy fell on the dantian, it started opening.

At that very moment, Liz sent her spirit to the edges of the dantian and used her Dao on whatever was inside. She had been warned against the poison, so she did not dare enter the dantian entirely.

The Dao of Time Stagnation landed on just the inside of the dantian and not on the dantian itself. So, the opening of the dantian was not stopped in any way.

Alex sent his senses into Hannah's body to check on its status. The 9-veined pill truly had a lot of energy to spare, so there was still a bit going through her body.

"How long?" Liz asked through gritted teeth. Over a minute had passed, and she was still continuously using her Dao on that one small specific area, which was causing her a lot of mental duress.

"Just a little longer," Alex said, keeping watch on the energy level.

Another minute passed and Liz kept at it. Sweat flowed freely down the side of her face, dripping down to her knees while she continued using her dao with the same effectiveness.

Alex looked at Hannah's body and waited until all of the energy had either done its work or had gone stale and dissipated out through her body, no longer affecting anything.

That was the moment he fed her the second pill.