

Alchemy 1751

Chapter 1751: A Promise

The hidden story behind Shi Meiyong's death surfaced as she told everyone everything she knew.

"I was wounded by that woman, the empress. Shouchuang's father did what he could to protect us both and teleported us away, which was how we arrived on this side of the world."

"However, even then I already knew going to die. I was steps away from death with my soul fading slowly. I did my best in the end to save Shouchuang and that was when this young man came to save me. And the rest you know."

The look on the beast's face had long since changed to that of anger.

"That bitch!" the Lynx shouted. "To think attacking the Western Continent in our husband's absence was the worst we thought the two of them could do."

"She was the one responsible for killing my granddaughter," Ren Xiao said. "If only she was alive, I would..." She let out a low growl.

"Such an ungrateful bitch. We healed her when she couldn't have a child. This is how she chose to repay us?" the tiger said.

The others let out all sorts of colorful curses and descriptions to call the empress too.

"She is... dead?" Shi Meiyong asked after hearing about them talking about her.

"Yes, she is dead," Bai Jingshen said. "But the Emperor is still alive. Don't worry, we'll do something about him."

"We'll avenge you, Mother," Pearl said. "I will avenge you."

Shi Meiyong turned around, wide-eyed with a look of horror in her eyes. "What?" she asked.

"I will make sure—"

"No!" she said sharply. "You will do no such thing."

"Huh? But he killed you, mother. He... he... I have to avenge your death. Father's death. If I don't do that, how will I—"

"Shouchuang!" Shi Meiyong spoke loud enough to get Pearl to flinch back in fear. "Your father and I didn't sacrifice our lives protecting you so you could do the same to avenge our deaths in return. Child, we don't want you to die."

"We want you to live your life, free of any burden. Please, promise me you won't do that!"

Pearl's mouth was open but he couldn't form any words. He was speechless, completely taken aback by his mother's insistence.

"I—"

"Shouchuang, Pearl, promise me. Promise me you won't do anything reckless. Don't do anything that will get you killed," Shi Meiyong said. Halfway through her words, she had tears forming in her eyes, slowly dripping down the path that had dried up around her eyes.

"Grandfather, please help him see sense. Grandmother, please don't let Shouchuang die. Seniors, I beg you to help my child," Shi Meiyong begged.

She turned toward Alex. "Even if you have to force him, don't let him kill himself."

Pearl looked around at the entire entire group that stood around him, begging them with their eyes.

For the past 20 years, they had made Pearl the one to look for his mother's killers. Now that he had finally figured out exactly who it was that they needed to get their revenge on, he couldn't be told to not do it.

It was just too cruel.

"Shouchuang," Shi Meiyong called him. "Look at me."

Pearl turned his head back to his mother. "Promise me! Promise me you won't try to get revenge on my behalf."

"I..."

"Promise me," Shi Meiyong insisted.

Pearl couldn't say no anymore. "I... I promise," he said. He knew he hated the words as soon as he said it, but he meant it with all of his heart. "I promise... I won't try to find revenge."

"Good!" Shi Meiyong said, feeling glad.

"Child?" Bai Jingshen suddenly spoke, catching everyone's attention.

"Hmm?" Shi Meiyong looked up and then at herself. "Oh... am I... dying again?"

Her body started to fade away slightly, slowly turning transparent. Wisps of white energy flew out of her body one at a time, each turning into mists of spiritual energy.

"M-mother?" Pearl spoke urgently. "What is happening?" He turned around toward Alex. "Brother, do something. Please."

Alex wondered if his body was somehow unconsciously absorbing Pearl's mother and forcing it to stop doing whatever it was doing, but that had not been the case at all.

It was just something that was happening all on its own. Whatever was going on, Alex had no fault in it.

"I... I can't stop it," Alex told him. "I'm sorry."

"NO!" Pearl shouted. "Mother, no. Please don't leave me."

"Shouchaung! Oh, my dear Shouchaung," Shi Meiyong spoke in a soft voice. "I might be gone, but I will always be with you. I'm always here with you."

Her body grew more transparent and she could feel herself disappearing.

"I wanted to talk to you about your father," she said. "I wanted to tell you all about him. You would've loved him, Shouchaung. He was an amazing person."

"Mother, you can tell me all about him. We... we have time," Pearl said as she hugged his mother's body. "I have so much to tell you about as well. My journey, Brother's family. I have another mother now, a Human mother. And a father too. I have a brother who is a mouse and a sister who is a Phoenix. I... "

"That is excellent, Shouchuang," Shi Meiyong said with a mournful smile. "I wish... I wish we had more time. I can... feel my body growing weaker... by the second. I'm... once again going to leave you alone."

Pearl started crying, sniffing next to his mother. "Don't leave me, mother. Please."

"I'm sorry, Shouhuang. At least," Shi Meiyong said slowly. "At least, I'm not leaving you... completely alone this time."

She turned her head toward the rest. "You have taken good care of my son," she said. "Please continue... doing so."

Ren Xiao rushed to Shi Meiyong and took her for a hug, licking the side of their head in love. "You didn't have to ask. Of course, we will take care of your child."

Shi Meiyong gave a satisfied smile and turned to Pearl, seeing his crying face. She had been trying to put on a brave face for Pearl, but seeing his tears made her cry once more.

"I'm... I'm sorry, Shouchuang. I should have been there for you. Both your father and I, we should have... We failed you. I'm sorry we couldn't be there for you."

"No!" Pearl said. "Don't be sorry, mother. You have nothing to be sorry about. It is because of you that I am alive today."

Shi Meiyong licked her son's face. "Don't hate us for what we did," she said.

"Never!" Pearl answered.

"I... I would've loved to see you grow, loved to see who you would have become. You're special... Pearl. You... are something that has never before existed in this world, something unique. A child... of impossibility."

Shi Meiyong's body faded even more and more. Pearl tried to talk to her, but she could no longer hear him. It was just her own voice that she could hear.

"You will become the strongest, Shouchuang. Your future... is limitless."

"So... do your best," Shi Meiyong said. "And remember... I will always be there for you. I love you... my son."

Shi Meiyong's body fully faded away into a mist of spiritual energy, leaving behind her final words, a declaration of unending love for her child.

Chapter 1752: Preparation for War

Pearl remained weeping next to Ren Xiao, who also wept. The other 6 female beasts sobbed in the back as well, and even Bai Jingshen wiped his eyes as they were filled with tears.

Alex found it difficult to not tear up as well.

They remained that way for nearly 5 minutes before Bai Jingshen turned toward Alex. "Thank you," he said softly. "If not for you, we would not have gotten to talk to her at all."

"That's alright," Alex said. "Anything for Pearl."

Pearl turned around too. "Thank you, brother," he said. Everyone else gave him words of gratitude as well.

One by one, the beasts started leaving Alex's Spiritual Sea, and Alex felt the weight lift from his mind. It was a sensation of freedom that he would have never felt unless something had bogged down his spiritual sea.

Pearl looked at the mist of white energy that floated in the air and dropped one final tear before putting on a brave, smiling face. "I love you too, mother."

He too then disappeared from the spiritual sea, leaving Alex alone.

Alex could tell now that Shi Meiyong had been gone from his Spiritual sea, he was free to leave. In fact, he needed to leave quickly, or else there would be trouble for him.

However, seeing the vast cloud of spiritual energy, he knew that he couldn't let it go to waste. Even if it was the energy that formed Pearl's mother, he needed to take it in. Letting it go would just be a waste.

So, he raised his hand, and the yellow fog released from his palm, moving toward the foreign element in his Spiritual sea and attacking it. Whatever it attacked and destroyed, it consumed, turning it into Alex's own power.

Alex felt his spiritual energy grow once again, becoming stronger and vast. It was a noticeable improvement and that made him feel quite happy.

He didn't linger on the thought of happiness and quickly came back outside. The moment he was out, he instantly employed his cultivation technique and started absorbing the absurd amount of energy that came from Pearl's Mother's core.

The White Cat had been in the Saint Transformation 4th realm, and that was a massive enough jump in the amount of energy Alex was used to getting from the cores.

Without hesitation, he pulled out a pill to help him with cultivation and ate it. Soon enough, he was deep in cultivation, giving no thought to the happenings of the events around him.

Pearl was still sobbing and so was everyone else. But Bai Jingshen had long since stopped feeling sad. Instead, a look of worry, confusion, awe, and incredulity filled his face as he looked at Pearl.

'A child of impossibility,' he thought as he remembered his granddaughter's words. 'Without a doubt.'

"Pearl," he called for him.

Pearl turned around. "Yes, Grandpa?" he asked.

"Come with me, I need to have a talk with you," Bai Jingshen said.

Pearl wiped his tears and looked at his grandpa. "What do you want to talk to me about?" he asked.

Bai Jingshen's wives were staring back at them now, curious what they were talking about.

Bai Jingshen looked at them and shook his head. "This has to be only you and me," he said. "I can't say it out loud before I know for certain about something."

"Okay," Pearl said and followed Bai Jingshen, who took him away. The remaining beasts looked around confused, but quickly they too left.

Now, the dome was all empty, except for Alex who cultivated for nearly 4 days in total. By the time his cultivation had come to an end, he could feel that the speed of his cultivation had brought back some feeling of instability, and it was quite the strong one this time.

"Wow!" he couldn't help but say. "There was just so much energy there."

He had cultivated too much and too quickly. Even then, he had progressed quite far into his Saint Soul 9th realm. At the rate he had progressed, he was certain, that if he really went for it, he could reach the Saint Transformation 1st realm within the deadline without a doubt.

That was if he could pass the Inner Demon easily. If not, he would regress in his cultivation base at the most important time of his life.

It was a big risk to take, and Alex wasn't sure if he wanted to take that risk.

"I... I should take my time with the decision," he said to himself. "For now, let me deal with this feeling of instability."

Alex went by his time for the next few months either improving his body, Qi, and blood, or going around making sure the preparation for war was going well.

With Scarlet not involved in any of it, the elders had been looking after it all, so now Alex dealt with what he could there.

Pearl came to talk to Alex during one of those times and expressed his wish for the war. "I want to keep my promise to my mother," he said. "I want to kill that man, but the promise is more important to me. What should I do?"

He seemed to be very conflicted with his thoughts.

Alex petted Pearl's neck. "Don't worry, I'll think of something. I will have you involved as much as I can while still helping you keep your promise to your mother."

Pearl gave a small smile. "Thank you, brother," Pearl said.

Alex pat him on the back. "Come on. We have somewhere to go now. This might help us a lot during the war."

4 months passed easily, and the time of battle was drawing close. As time closed, Alex's chest felt heavy as well as the oath inside of him slowly tightened.

With not much time remaining, he decided it was time.

Alex gathered the nearly 20 thousand soldiers that were ready to go to the war. The remaining soldiers wanted to go as well, but they were simply too weak to be of any use in the war.

As such, only the stronger ones were being taken to the war.

A giant ship hung in the air, with modifications inside to hold all the soldiers inside of it. It hung in the air, glittering with all sorts of runes and formations that were ready to be used.

Alex looked down at the gathered soldiers, at the gathered beasts, his father, his aunt, his sister, his brother-in-law, Zhou Linfan, the elders, and everyone else who wanted to fight in the war.

The war was not just one of revenge, but also one of rescue. So, Alex spoke.

"Today is the day we have been waiting for," he shouted at the top of his lungs. "Our brothers and sisters were killed, even I was nearly killed, and many more of us are being kept hostage."

"The Dragon Emperor thinks he is the strongest and thus can do anything. Will we let him?"

"NO!" a resounding shout returned.

"Will we let him trample on us?" Alex asked.

"NO!"

"What will we do?" Alex asked.

"We will kill him!" "We will kill them all!" They all shouted.

"I wish you all luck and pray that you all make it out of this war alive," Alex said. "But fear not if you won't. Even if you die, your death will mean something."

"We will kill the Dragon Emperor."

Chapter 1753: Through the Voidgate

Alex stood alone on an island to the south of the Southern Continent. This was the island with the Voidgate through which everyone had come from the Eastern Continent.

Now, Alex was going to use it to get back to the Eastern Continent.

He walked into the small cave on the island, faint silver and purple light glowing up the sides of the wall.

He stared into the small and beautiful opening that led into the Void. He stopped right in front of the Voidgate, feeling the aura of Space and Time gently hover in the area.

Alex's chest felt heavy at the moment, out of both trepidation for what was to come and the tightening of the oath that he had made to the Dragon Emperor.

His mind lay heavy as well, making him suffer a little.

His cultivation was at the peak of the Saint Soul 9th realm at the moment. He had tried his best and had been ready to break through too. But he simply didn't want to risk anything, for he was sure that the threat the Dragon Emperor posed to him was one that he could not easily take away from his mind.

Alex took a deep breath, thinking about everything he had planned. There were a lot of plans, and a lot of moving parts, and any of them could go wrong.

He had to be ready for anything going forward from here.

He reached out with his hands and tore open the Voidgate to be wider. A stronger aura of Space and Time flowed out of the Voidgate, and the Void brightened the cave with its dichromatic light.

Then, Alex jumped in.

Immediately, he was back in the Void, a place he had come to a long time ago and had not been in for the past 30 years.

Alex swam through the empty space within the swirling lights that surrounded him, moving him like a fish through an ocean current.

The swirling energy both seemed ridiculously far from him and at the same time, so close that they were practically right in front of him.

He moved through the void, feeling the effect of both space and time.

Alex had a vague understanding that somehow the space was being shrunken in here. That was even without the knowledge that the distance between the two Voidgates was quite low.

He could somewhat understand the mysteries behind the aura within the channel. Only, they were still impossible to figure out entirely.

The Time aura in the Void certainly did something as well. Given how he was told that it would take him 3 hours in here, but barely any time would have passed outside, he could guess that time was stretched in here to be longer.

Even with that knowledge, there was nothing Alex could figure out from the time aura. He tried to close his eyes and see if he could find anything out, but the constant pain in his mind made him unable to focus entirely.

Still, he felt both aura at the same time and was lost in his thoughts.

Space and Time aura were two things that were meant to be impossible to sense unless you spent a lot of time around it, and even then it was impossible.

Somehow, Alex had managed to sense the both of them.

He had been able to sense Time aura thanks to Scarlet; the bond with the Vermilion bird had allowed him to sense Time aura.

However, he had always assumed that sensing Space Aura had been his own talent even since he absorbed the entire Space stone.

Only now, he was beginning to understand that might not have been the case at all. Just as Scarlet helped him with Time Aura, his ability to sense Space aura must have come from his bond with an Azure Dragon.

His bond with Pearl.

Azure Dragons had an inborn talent to detect Space aura and Teleport, just as Vermilion Bird had an inborn talent to detect Time aura and go through Rebirth.

'No wonder Pearl could learn Teleportation dao so easily,' Alex thought. 'If he still had his bloodline and Supreme Wood Root, he probably wouldn't have required that.'

His thoughts led him to many places, as the 3 hours that required for him to arrive on the other side of the Voidgate passed very quickly.

Alex realized that he had arrived at the other Voidgate that connected this spatial tunnel inside the Void and was ready to go out.

The other side of the Voidgate was in the middle of nowhere, floating like a crack in space.

As Alex neared, the crack widened up on its own and he was tossed outside of it.

Alex flew outside of the Voidgate, straight into a bright barrier that was held around the Voidgate. At the same time, Alex felt his cultivation base severely drop all of a sudden from the peak of the Saint Soul realm to just the peak of the Saint Foundation realm.

He also felt a pressure on his Spiritual sea that further burdened his already burdened mind.

Even before Alex could orient himself at where he had arrived, numerous spiritual senses landed on him at the same time.

"It's him!" a few voices called out.

Alex turned and saw a group of 20 or so cultivators that appeared out of nowhere, staring down at him.

"I'm flattered," Alex said. "Did the Emperor make you all wait for me?"

A single cultivator flew to the front while the rest remained behind, all of whom started using their battle array to empower the singular person who had moved forward.

The man who moved forward was someone Alex didn't recognize, but his dark blue robes were enough for Alex to tell that he was someone high in the military.

Seeing his attitude, Alex was certain the man was even a Battalion leader most likely.

"His Majesty did indeed say you would most likely take this route. You can stay here. We will call the His Majesty right away," the man said.

"I would rather you not," Alex said with a gentle smile, hidden behind which was a threat.

"I suggest you stay," the man spoke back. "Or would you rather be beat up and be forced to stay? Either way is fine for me."

Alex gave a happy grin. "Hurray! Fight it is."

He teleported instantly, arriving next to the man as he kicked him from the sky into the ground. A glow of energy, born from a talisman, protected the man on the ground, but he still grunted in pain.

"Activate it!" the man shouted.

Alex was ready for whatever bad was coming next, but what came instead was a flow of energy as the suppression field around him slowly disappeared.

His cultivation returned to him, and at the same time, the cultivation of the man below him returned as well.

The man stood back up, dusting off the dirt from his robe, and flared the Saint Transformation 5th realm cultivation base that was increased to nearly the 7th realm due to being the focus of the array.

"I see we will have to do it the hard way," the man said. "It is a good thing His Majesty allowed us anything short of death."

The man brought out a giant hammer and prepared for battle.

Chapter 1754: Notice of Arrival

The man flew back up to Alex, his hammer glowing with bright brown energy, as he swung down on Alex.

Alex felt the aura of the attack, and could even sense the Earth Dao that was being poured into the attack. He used the Earth Dao himself, improving the Earth Qi in his body to the most he could, and then used the Jade Body Technique.

His body glowed with soft brown light as he put up his left hand to stop the hammer.

The hammer slammed onto Alex's left hand and the clash created an explosion that nearly destroyed the barrier surrounding them.

The leader felt the rebound pass through the hammer into him and was more than horrified at the feeling he got from it. It was as though he had hit an anvil.

"You should've used your Immortal Qi when you had the chance," Alex spoke, completely unhurt from the attack as he moved a fist toward the man.

The man tried to move back out of pure instinct, but Alex had moved long before he had any idea of what was happening at all. Not to mention, Alex wasn't even punching him at all.

He was in fact slashing at him with a sword that existed in the man's senses but not in his vision.

The Spiritual sword cut through the leader's neck and suddenly the leader lost the connection between his body and mind. He felt incredibly weak and fell to the ground, in which instance Alex actually punched him.

The man landed on the ground with a massive boom. At the same time, Alex let out a wave of spiritual energy, hitting everyone in the area, and knocking out all the 20 soldiers that were forming the array.

Not everyone lost consciousness, but all were too weak to do anything at all.

Alex quickly dealt with them all, feeding them pills that would make them fall into a coma that would last for a day.

He could kill all of them if he wanted to, but he had decided not to. Not only were these soldiers just following orders, but keeping them alive would give them value as hostages. Whoever they were, they had to be important since they were this strong.

Alex looked toward the barrier that surrounded him next. There were two different formations being run here, one that belonged to the barrier, and the other that belonged to the formation that resisted the suppression field of the Harmonious Balance Haven realm.

Alex destroyed the first one, keeping the second one active, and then searched through the entire secret realm with his spiritual sense to see what he could do now.

There were many participants in this year's secret realm opening, so Alex had many people he could use for what he had to do next.

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An entire year had passed since the Harmonious Balance Haven's official opening, and by the rate of the participants that had come out, it would last for no more than another year.

The Ebony King sat in his room, cultivating, and waiting for everyone to come out of the secret realm.

Everyone who came out had a chance to show what treasure they got inside the secret realm, and either sell that treasure to the sect or family that had put it in there in the first place for something in return or take it for themselves.

So, there were many representatives of such families and sects waiting outside the gates of the secret realm.

The Ebony King's eyes opened when another person walked out of the secret realm. It was a young woman, who surprisingly seemed to be in a distraught status.

'Did she fail to get any?' he wondered. The tickets to the secret realm cost any person a lot, so it was a sad deal anytime someone walked out without anything.

People reacted to the woman's arrival and were looking to see what treasure she brought out.

However, before she could even speak, two more people ran out of the secret realm, both in a similar state of distress.

The Ebony King stood up concerned. 3 people coming out at once was quite a coincidence. This late in the game, people coming out together always caused—

Another person came out, and then another.

By the time the 7th person came out, the first woman who had arrived started speaking.

"It's... It's King Alex of the Southern Continent!" she shouted. "He's attacked the soldiers."

"He's demanding an audience."

"He wants to trade with the Emperor."

"He wants the Emperor to come meet him."

Multiple people started speaking at once, creating a buzz in the surroundings as everyone tried to understand what was going on.

Before the Ebony King could move out, his two subordinates, who were really just his puppeteers sent to him by the Emperor, moved out. They arrived before the group and questioned everyone to get coherent information about what had happened.

The information was simple.

King Alex of the Southern Continent had arrived in the secret realm somehow, had killed a few of the soldiers in the secret realm, and was now demanding that the Dragon Emperor come to meet him or he would kill their soldiers.

The two members of the Head Legion immediately went into the secret realm and made their way toward where the soldiers would have been gathered.

When they arrived, they saw the scene of destruction as well as a strong barrier, beyond which Alex and the soldiers were.

The soldiers were all bloodied and seemed unconscious, their bodies piled on top of each other. Around them were 3 demonic beasts, bodies made of all crimson as though they were blood, and in front of them was Alex sitting with his eyes closed.

"You are not the Emperor," Alex's voice came from inside the barrier. "I have come to the Eastern Continent to trade with your Emperor. Where is he?"

The two looked at the surroundings, and one of the old men spoke. "If you had come for the trade, then why did you kill our men?" he demanded.

"They tried to attack me. That is what they deserve," Alex said. "Now, please relay the message to the Emperor. I do not have much time remaining."

The two frowned at the order, but there was nothing they could do. It was the Emperor's orders to let him know about Alex once he had arrived.

So, they sent a message as it had been requested.

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Inside the Dragon Palace, the Dragon Emperor sat in closed cultivation, waiting for the day Alex would return.

Alex had no choice but to return after all thanks to the trade that he had made with him.

He had been waiting as such for the past year, and finally, the day had come. He had received the message that said that Alex had arrived.

The Dragon Emperor walked out of the palace. "Find my son, and tell him to come with me," he ordered one of the servants, who quickly left to find the Crown Prince.

A minute later, Long Fangyu arrived next to his father.

Long Fangyu no longer looked as a prince should. He had long, unkempt hair, an unshaven face, somewhat hollow cheeks, with sunken eyes.

His body seemed to droop a little as he walked as well.

"Yes, Father?" he asked in an emotionless voice.

Long Tiankong looked at his son and shook his head, but he said nothing about his appearance.

"Come with me," he spoke as he walked away. "That King is here."

Chapter 1755: Half an Hour

"King Alex is here?" Long Fangyu asked. His face showed a hint of surprise, an emotion he hadn't felt in a while now. He walked quickly, following his father to wherever it was that he was taking him.

"He's arrived through the Voidgate as we assumed he would," the Emperor said.

"Is he... alone?" the Crown Prince asked. "Is Huan with him?"

"I don't think so," the Emperor said. "But it doesn't matter. So long as he has brought us the sword, your brother can stay in the other continent for as long as he likes."

Long Fangyu looked at his father, a glimmer of disappointment and animosity flashing through them before he suppressed them immediately.

The Emperor quickly flew out of the palace, making his way to the teleportation building with the Crown Prince and several of his subordinates right behind him.

The Emperor suddenly felt a talisman deep inside his storage ring buzz once again. He brought out the talisman, only to be surprised that it wasn't a messaging talisman.

Instead, it was a talisman that detected the presence of the Dragon Medallion.

"He truly is here," the Emperor said softly and used the talisman to see where Alex was. However, once again, the Dragon Medallion's presence disappeared.

"Where is he hiding it?" the Emperor felt stunned. He couldn't imagine how Alex was able to hide the medallion. Was he using some sort of talisman? Even that shouldn't have been able to hide the Medallion's beacon.

He would learn soon enough.

The teleportation building already had people ready to teleport, but with the Emperor's arrival, they had to delay it for the others to let the Emperor teleport away.

The Emperor teleported to the Blackheart city and flew toward the Harmonious Balance Haven as quickly as he could. The area surrounding the Harmonious Balance Haven had been cleared for the Emperor's arrival.

The Ebony King walked forward and greeted the Emperor, but the Emperor ignored him and looked at his two subordinates.

"When did he arrive?" he asked them.

"About half an hour ago is our best guess, Your Majesty," one of the men answered. "We notified you 15 minutes ago, and we believe he has been present in the secret realm for about 15 minutes before that. He is waiting for you, Your Majesty."

The Emperor nodded but didn't move. Instead, he thought for a moment. "He came alone?" he asked the two.

"Yes."

"Is he by the Voidgate?" the Emperor then asked.

"Yes, he's established a formation around the Voidgate and has our people hostage," one of the two subordinates said.

"I see," the Emperor said. "Have the Scale Legion in the ocean pay extra attention to what is going on there. His coming here alone is suicide, and I do not believe he is dumb enough to do that."

"He will be coming with people that will help him. They will either be coming from the ocean, or from that Voidgate," the Emperor said. "Has he revealed the Ivory sword yet?"

"I have seen nothing," one of the subordinates answered.

"Then there must be someone on the other side, waiting to come with the sword. Be ready, we might have a large-scale battle on our hands."

"Should we bring more people, Your Majesty?" one of the soldiers behind the Emperor asked. "It might be dangerous with you alone."

"I doubt they have anyone that strong to deal with me," the Emperor said. "Still, get who you can right now to come with me inside. If a fight breaks out, leave the King for me. Don't kill him too soon."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

"Oh, and shut down the suppression field," the Emperor said. "Otherwise we will be on equal playing field."

The Emperor finally walked into the secret realm, followed by everyone else who was standing outside. Their arrival halted whatever fights or games were going on inside the secret realm amongst the participants.

Everyone watched in shock as the Emperor and his group flew through the secret realm, making them wonder just what was happening.

Not everyone knew about Alex's arrival just yet.

The Emperor quickly flew to where the Voidgate was, now no longer a secret spot because of the destruction that had surrounded the area.

The Emperor saw Alex inside a formation and landed outside of it, looking inside. The barrier seemed to stop all senses, and beyond that, there was some sort of hazy energy surrounding Alex, as if he was cultivating a very weird technique.

The Emperor found that suspicious, but he wasn't sure just what was suspicious about this hazy energy that surrounded Alex.

"You have arrived."

Hearing Alex's voice, the Emperor felt a hint of hope for what was to come in his future. Power.

"I'm sorry I took an awfully long time to respond to your... gift," Alex said. "But I have arrived in the Eastern Continent, just as you asked. I hope you aren't going to give me another gift now."

The Emperor scoffed. "Your little alchemists are fine. I haven't touched them if that is what you're worrying about. I will let them go once I get my sword. Speaking of which, do you have it?"

"Can you maybe wait for half an hour more?" Alex asked. "I planned for the trade of the sword to begin an hour after I arrived. We still have some time."

The Emperor snorted. "So, you didn't dare bring it with you. Who is going to bring it? The Phoenix? She can't come here. Or are you planning to fight on your own, like you did on the ocean? I would like to see what it was that you did to kill my soldiers."

"Half an hour," Alex said and kept silent.

The Emperor looked around in a bad mood. He saw the bloodied soldiers on the ground, with 3 beasts that stood atop them, ready to kill them.

"I heard about these crimson beasts," the Emperor said. "My men said they were made up of blood. Is that true?"

"They're called Blood Beasts, so yes," Alex answered. "Are you interested?"

"Quite," the Emperor said. "I'm also curious how you managed to get your cultivation back. As far as I remembered, you were clearly crippled."

"We are all curious about something, aren't we?" Alex said. "I am curious about a lot of things too. But we will have time to discuss that soon. Just half an hour more."

The Emperor felt restless. It was all right there, but he had to wait.

"What about the other trade?" the Dragon Emperor asked.

"That is the trade that is keeping me alive. I would be stupid to trade it right away. That would of course have to come at the end," Alex answered. "As I said, just a little while longer, Emperor."

One of the Emperor's subordinates moved forward. "Your Majesty, more of our soldiers are making their way here. Should we let them come?" he whispered.

The Dragon Emperor thought for a moment and nodded. "Let them come," he said before turning back toward Alex. "Alright, let us wait. Just half an hour more."

He sat down right where he stood, and so did the others. They waited for the next half an hour to pass.

Chapter 1756: Time Up

More of the Dragon Emperor's soldiers arrived in the secret realm, seemingly prepared for when a battle broke out. The many participants of the current competition had been told to leave the secret realm for some time as well.

Long Fangyu waited with his father, his eyes on the barrier in front of him, but his mind somewhere else.

He couldn't believe over 2 years had passed since that day when he found out the truth of everything. All the words his father had said that day, they all flowed right back into him.

His father was a criminal, a murderer, someone who had gone against the Azure Dragon himself, and yet here he was still without any consequence.

He was even going to kill another King just because a prophecy said so. The prince felt even worse than he had for the past 2 years.

'Mother, what should I do?' he thought. Why was he so bad at choosing any sides and sticking to it?

The Emperor waited for half an hour to pass. He wanted to talk more with the King about many of the things he had surprised everyone with, but it seemed the young man didn't want to talk, so the Emperor let him be.

Time slowly passed and the half hour was gone. The Emperor waited for someone to come out of the Voidgate once the time had passed, but even as they waited, nobody flew out at all.

The Emperor waited patiently, but even as minutes passed by, nobody came.

"Your time is up. What is happening? Where are your men?" the Dragon Emperor finally lost his patience and asked.

"Who?" Alex asked.

"Your men," the Dragon Emperor said again. "Where are they?"

"What do you need with my men?" Alex asked back.

"You bastard! Are you playing with me?"

The Dragon Emperor stood up in anger. As he did, the hundreds of people that had gathered behind him stood up as well, ready for whatever command they were to be given.

"Where is the person that is to bring the Ivory sword?" the Dragon Emperor asked. "Why has he not arrived yet?"

"I do not know what you mean, Emperor. Nobody is bringing the Ivory sword. I brought it with me myself. I will be the one trading it after all," Alex said.

The Emperor felt as though he was being played with. "What nonsense is this?" the Emperor asked. "Did you not say earlier that someone was going to come from the Voidgate with the Ivory sword?"

"I never said that," Alex replied. "I only said that I was going to trade you with the sword half an hour later, as I had planned for the trade to begin an hour after I had arrived."

The Emperor and his subordinates frowned. They couldn't understand what was happening, but they all knew they were being played with somehow.

"And it has been an hour," the Dragon Emperor said. "So let us trade the sword. Or do you wish for the alchemists to die?"

"Of course not," Alex said. "But can we wait just a little while longer? Just a bit more."

The Emperor's anger peaked. "Break down that damn barrier!" he shouted at his subordinates. "Don't let him escape."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

His subordinates immediately dashed forward and started attacking the barrier with a barrage of attacks. One after another, the bombardment of multicolored attacks left the barrier constantly rippling and weakened.

Then, in less than a minute, the barrier shattered like glass, the pieces disappearing into motes of light even as they fell to the ground.

Immediately, the Emperor's subordinates flew beyond Alex, covering his escape to the Voidgate.

The Emperor smiled a little when the barrier was broken down and walked toward Alex. "There is nowhere for you to hide. Just bring out the sword, and whatever it is that you wish to trade with me in regards to the oath."

Alex said nothing. In fact, he didn't even seem phased by the entire event. He still sat cross-legged, his eyes closed and the hazy aura around his body constantly obscuring his image.

The Emperor stood right next to Alex and slowly his smile faded. He looked at the soldiers that were supposed to be injured or dead, and not a single one of them was. Everyone seemed unconscious at best, but they were all still breathing.

As for the Blood Beasts that looked so menacing, all of them had a cultivation base of the Saint Foundation realm. They only looked menacing visually, but their aura made them pathetically weak.

Finally, the Emperor looked down at Alex and his unmoved body.

Something was wrong.

"What is going on?" the Emperor demanded as he grabbed Alex by his robes, but somehow he felt his palm miss the robe entirely.

The Emperor frowned and reached deeper, only for his entire arm to be swallowed into Alex's body.

"No..." the Emperor said quietly. His aura suddenly buffeted around him and the image of Alex in front of him flickered for a second before slowly dissipating.

What remained afterward were just two talismans on a small stump. One was a talisman for speaking, and another was a talisman to receive sounds and images from the surroundings.

"Oh, wow!" Alex's voice came out from the talisman. "Hahaha! I can't believe you actually fell for this. Since you are already duped, would you mind telling me where my Alchemists are?"

"Where are you?" the Emperor asked instead.

"I asked first," Alex said. "My alchemists?"

"AARGH!" the Emperor shouted and punched the talisman and the stumps, instantly destroying everything there. "RAARGHH!"

He continued shouting in anger.

His subordinates watched him in horror, realizing that their Emperor had been played with.

The Emperor took a deep breath and a look of pure hatred filled his face. "Find him," he said slowly. "He shouldn't have left the place yet. Find him!"

"Yes, Your Majesty," most of the soldiers instantly sprinted off.

"The rest of you, have the alchemists in the Dragon Palace be gathered right away. I'm going to kill them all."

The members of the Head Legion looked around at each other before quickly nodding. Then, they all proceeded to leave the secret realm.

* * * * *

Alex arrived in the Dragon Capital, flying atop a small Immortal sailing vessel that gave him speed that surpassed even the fastest ship that he had seen to date.

The ship was red, purple, yellow, and orange, the colors of the Phoenix; it was gifted to him by Scarlet once she had finally been able to access her Soul Space as well.

'This ship truly is incredible,' Alex thought as he landed outside the Dragon Capital.

He had teleported to the Brightfalls city in the Emerald kingdom and had then flown straight in this direction from there.

What had once taken him half a day of travel, now took him only half an hour with the new ship.

Alex was already disguised, so he made his way into the capital, finding his way to the Royal School of Alchemy.

He had no idea where his alchemists were kept, but he hoped they would be in the school. As such, that was the first place he had to start searching from.

Thinking so, he arrived at the school and went in.

Chapter 1757: Search In The School

Alex casually made his way through the Royal School of Alchemy, wearing on his chest a metallic '6' to denote his Level of alchemy, which he had made just to infiltrate this place.

As everyone walked around with a level on their chest, walking around with one of his own helped him not stick out in the school.

He kept his head down, one that still burned with pain, as he walked past many of the students. None of the students there turned to look at him at all. He crossed the many buildings on the way and arrived at the other side of the school where his alchemists were kept.

Arriving close to that area, Alex slowed down and became less casual. He started being more careful who he came across and searched to see if his alchemists were around at all.

As he got closer to the building, he slowly pulled out Yang aura from within him and encased himself with it to hide himself from anyone's senses.

Then, he directly teleported into the building in the distance where his alchemists would be kept.

Alex arrived in an abandoned building and looked around. He checked his surroundings and realized this place had long since been empty.

His alchemists weren't here at all. He spread his senses to the other rooms and found those all completely empty as well. There weren't even any formations running in any of the rooms at all.

'They're not here,' Alex thought. He frowned a little as he understood the situation.

'They've been moved,' he thought. 'But to where?'

Alex didn't know about any prisons in the Dragon Capital where they could be.

If they were in some other

Whisker flew out of his Beast Space and stood in front of Alex on the ground.

"Can you help me search if the alchemists are kept in some other area in this school? They're not in their regular place," Alex said. "And hurry, the Emperor knows that I'm not there now, so he should already be searching for me everywhere."

"Okay," Whisker said and ran away from Alex, melding into the walls and disappearing away.

Alex rubbed his head as the pain continued to increase. How much longer could he hold?

He sneaked out of the front door and walked away from the building, acting as though nothing was wrong. He wanted to check the other buildings before he left, so he made his way to the opposite side of the land.

He went to 3 different classes, checked the faculty room, and entered the library to check for his alchemists, but it was certain now that they weren't there.

It was already close to being half an hour since he last talked to the Emperor, so he couldn't delay it any longer. 'Dammit!' Alex thought.

Just as he thought of leaving the school, he saw an image from Whisker who was looking at a young man in the middle of a library, seemingly reading up on some books.

"Good job!" Alex said as a bright smile appeared on his face. He quickly made his way toward where Whisker was and found the young man who was reading in the library.

"Wu Shun!" he called out to him hurriedly, while in a whisper and sat opposite to the young man.

The young man quickly looked up and frowned as he saw a face he did not recognize at all. "Who... might you b—"

"It's me, Alex," Alex quickly said. "Are you alone?"

Wu Shun's eyes widened. "You... Your Majesty, is that really you?" the young man asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "Where are the other alchemists? I couldn't find them."

"You came to save them?" Wu Shun asked. "They were taken away. I believe they are in the Palace right now."

"Taken away to the palace?" Alex frowned. It seemed he was going to sneak into the palace. Was that even possible? "How did you survive?"

"They didn't take me as I wasn't part of the group of alchemists that arrived with you, Your Majesty," the young man said. "They don't realize that I was taught by you as well."

"Good," Alex said. "I'll go now. I have to save them. I'll see you later."

"Yes, Your Majesty," Wu Shun said quickly. The young man looked with an expression of awe as Alex left. He couldn't believe that the King of another Continent, who was known to be a criminal for stealing Empire treasure and running away had somehow managed to sneak all the way into the capital itself.

"Incredible," the young man thought. Realizing that some big things were going to happen next, he closed the books. Just as he was about to leave, he heard a loud voice spread through the entire sky.

"King of the Southern Continent!" the voice spoke with massive intensity. "If you want your alchemists alive and well, you will present the sword that belongs to the Royal Family right now."

Alex stood in the middle of the meadow as he was walking out and looked toward the eastern sky where the Emperor hung in the air with a few dozen men behind him, and his Alchemists, all of whom seemed very docile at the moment.

Alex frowned.

He noticed that it wasn't just the Emperor who was speaking, but also there were newsboards all around spreading the same message throughout the continent.

"You have 15 minutes to make yourself known to any of my soldiers. If you do not, I will kill all of your alchemists."

'Dammit!' Alex thought. It seemed that was all he could do sneaking around. 'I should be happy part of the plan went well at least.'

He slowly walked out of the school, taking his time as he thought of a new plan with a mind that constantly felt as though on fire.

* * * * *

"Father, are you sure he is even here?" Long Fangyu asked his father. He looked back at the 20 Saint realm alchemists who were only of half-mind at the moment, clearly given some sort of poison or pill to make them half-conscious.

"He is here," the Emperor said. "I do not know what he is planning, but he is here. He couldn't have talked through that talisman otherwise. And he definitely used his Dragon Medallion. I do not believe he was using someone else to mess with me."

Long Fangyu said nothing to that. There wasn't anything he could say. He only hoped that if someone did come with Alex, he hoped that it was not his brother.

"Your Majesty," a woman from the Head Legion moved forward. "We know where the medallion was used."

"You found out? Where was it?" the Emperor asked.

"He used it to authorize an immediate teleportation to the Brightfall city in the Emerald Kingdom."

The Emperor frowned. "The Brightfalls city?" he asked. "Did he not want to directly teleport here, in case we ended up meeting him?"

"We can't be certain of his motives," the woman answered.

"At least it is confirmed that someone did come here with the medallion. He won't be far away either," the Emperor said. "Pass along my message to everywhere. I won't be played with anymore. Either he arrived in the next 12 minutes, or they will die."

Chapter 1758: First Trade

Time passed by the minutes, and the Emperor continued flying in the sky, waiting for any sort of message of Alex's arrival. With the newsboard continuously sending out messages all around the continent, he had to have known by now what was happening.

As the minutes came to an end, the Emperor could wait no more. It was time to stick to his words and kill these alchemists.

"I'm here."

Alex spoke at the very last second, flying slowly up toward where the Emperor and the rest were in the sky.

He floated close enough to them and yet far enough that he couldn't be surprised. His spiritual sense was constantly on the lookout for anyone trying to sneak close to him.

The Emperor was a little surprised to see Alex arrive in front of him. He hadn't expected Alex to be in the capital. Had he sneaked in before they had put a temporary stop on the teleportation buildings?

"Is this really you?" the Emperor asked in a cold voice. "I do not want any more surprises."

Alex pulled out the Ivory sword in his hand. "It's me alright," he said and pulled out something else. A talisman.

"No funny business or I will be gone before you can say anything," he said as he waved the talisman around.

"A teleportation talisman? That will be no problem," the Emperor said. "Nobody does anything without my order."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" A congruous response came from everyone standing behind the Emperor.

"That should do it right?" the Emperor asked.

"That should do it," Alex said. He looked at the Emperor's subordinates. There were about a hundred different of them here. If he did it right now, could he kill the man?

'No, let's save the alchemists first, and then deal with the trade. I can't kill him before that otherwise,' Alex thought.

"Are my alchemists safe?" Alex asked.

"As safe as they can be. They're half-conscious so that they won't act. It should leave their system in a day or two at most."

Alex slowly nodded. That was a good thing. "Then let us trade."

"Alright, give me the sword," the Emperor said.

"No, give me my Alchemists first," Alex said.

The Emperor gave an unhappy look. "I won't do that. I can't trust you." He looked back at the alchemists, thinking about something.

Alex shook his head. "Same here. I can't trust anything from a man like you." He so wanted to tell everyone about what he knew of the man, but he couldn't let it all blow over just yet.

He had to wait.

A long pause settled between the two of them before the Emperor said. "Let's make an oath then. Neither of us will attack each other or run away for 5 minutes after this trade."

Alex thought for a moment. The trade itself was fine, but making him wait was...

"Sure, I'll make the oath."

The two sides spoke the simple oath one by one where Alex had to hand over the Ivory sword and the Emperor had to hand over the alchemists without hurting them. During or after the trade was completed, neither side was allowed to attack each other for the next 5 minutes either.

"Let them go," the Emperor ordered.

One by one, the alchemists were sent forward, who unintentionally flew toward Alex in their thoughtless state.

Alex caught each one with his Qi and checked on them to make sure they were alright. Thankfully, they were just slightly intoxicated and there was no threat to their life.

"Now the sword," the Emperor said.

Alex looked at the Ivory sword for a second and sighed as he passed it along to the Emperor. The sword flew in an arc and landed right in the Emperor's hands.

The Emperor looked at the sword, feeling the spatial aura that vaguely surrounded the sword, and smiled. That was indeed the Ivory sword that he had been looking for for the past 70 years.

Finally, it was in his hand. The thing he had wanted the most would be his in just a couple of minutes.

Long Tiankong couldn't help but hold a wide smile on his face as he stared at the sword. "Thank you for bringing this back to me," he said and looked away from the sword toward Alex.

"I'm not going to lie," he said. "I am surprised you gave this to me. It appears I did a good thing that I did not kill your alchemists when I wanted to. I might have had to work harder to get the sword back."

Alex gave Jia Heiyun an antidote pill and watched her slowly get back her consciousness. It seemed antidote pills worked on whatever it was that they had consumed.

"You seem busy," the Emperor said. "I'll talk to you in a bit then."

The Emperor flew back down toward the Palace, leaving Alex and the rest in the sky.

"Your Majesty?" the man's subordinates called out in a confused voice.

"Just make sure he doesn't do anything stupid. I will be back in a bit," the Emperor said and left.

Alex looked at the Emperor leaving and gave a scornful look.

"Your Majesty?" Jai Heiyun called out to him. "You're here? No! Why are you here? Please tell me you didn't come for us."

"Don't fret about it," Alex said. "I am forced to come here because of an oath I made long ago. Me coming here had nothing to do you guys."

Alex handed over a bunch of antidote pills to Jai Heiyun and had her take care of the other 19 alchemists.

Alex then turned toward the group in the sky consisting of the Crown Prince, members of the Head Legion, and other soldiers.

"Prince Fangyu," Alex called out slowly. "How have you been? Has life been fun since you gave up your brother?"

Fangyu's face showed a look of despair and dark thoughts seemed to cloud his mind. He looked down, unable to answer, and said nothing.

Alex looked at the rest of the subordinates. "Are you people aware of where the Emperor is going right now?" he asked.

"That is of no matter to any of us," one of the men said.

"It is," Alex said. "Are you guys aware that the Azure Dragon is dead? And your Emperor had a hand in that."

A look of shock, surprise, and doubt flashed through each and every face in the sky.

Those who were shocked and in doubt were hearing something this preposterous for the first time in their life.

However, the ones who were surprised were clearly surprised because they hadn't expected Alex to know the secret.

Alex was somewhat shocked himself. "So most of you do know?" he asked. "And you still follow that bastard?"

"Do not talk about our Emperor that way!" one of the men shouted back and was about to attack but stopped himself at the last second, remembering the Oath the Emperor made on their behalf.

"The one you should be following should be the Azure Dragon," Alex said. "And yet you do not care about him at all it seems."

"I bet none of you even care that your Emperor is on his way to desecrate the Azure Dragon's corpse by stealing all of his treasures."

Chapter 1759: The Emperor's Anticipation

A bunch of the lower-level soldiers that were gathered around looked at each other and at their superiors, trying to judge whether the words coming out of Alex were in any way true.

"He is currently on his way to the Azure Dragon's secret realm, and you're going to just let him?" Alex asked. "He and the Empress were responsible for the Azure Dragon's death 70 years ago."

"Don't listen to him," one of them said. "Do not listen to the enemy's words. That is the first thing you should remember during the war."

A bunch of discordant yeses came from the soldiers that were getting confused. Their look of confusion faded away and a look of determination filled them instead.

'Shit!' Alex thought. He was relying on some of the Eastern Continent's army to turn against each other to hopefully win the war, but it seemed as though that was not happening.

At least, it wasn't going to happen on a small scale like this.

Alex frowned fully as he thought of what he was going to do next. He had made the vow to not attack or run away for the next 4 or so minutes, so he was going to have to wait for that to pass.

* * * * *

A young man trained in spear with a woman, constantly fighting her but never getting close to getting an upper hand at all.

They fought purely with spears, with neither side using any Qi, so the fight should've been mostly close, but the young man still failed to win against the woman.

The two of them trained in the gardens at the back of the Dragon Palace, the place that stretched for a few kilometers in all directions.

The entire garden was filled with soft grass underfoot and an array of flowers and fruit filling most of the area to the back.

The woman looked as though she was in her late 30s, and the young man looked no older than in his early 20s.

The woman stopped halfway through a stab and flung her spear upward, disarming the young man. She then quickly turned around and bowed.

"Your Majesty," she said, speaking nothing further.

The Emperor strode past the massive back door of the palace, ignoring any of the servants who were bowing to him.

He walked into the garden, walking straight to where the two of them were training.

The young looked at the approaching Emperor as well and stopped reaching for his spear. He showed a flash of surprise to see the Emperor coming his way.

"Father," he asked, walking forward. "Is something wrong outside? Should I--"

"Move aside, boy. Don't waste my time!"

The Emperor shoved the young man away, walking past him, not even looking back to see his fallen son on the ground.

He was a blur that soon vanished deep into the flower field and then disappeared in a burst of light.

The young man sat on the ground, looking toward where his father went, and felt dejected. He then turned toward the woman and felt anger bubbling in his heart to see that she was still bowing at the Emperor.

"Why do you keep doing this, Mother?" he asked. "He's your husband. You are the Empress. You do not have to act like you're his servant. Act like the damn wife you are."

The woman said nothing and slowly looked back up. This woman had long since given up any hope of being the real Empress of the Eastern Continent.

There had once been a fire inside of her, once had the soul of a fighter and a leader, who wanted to do good for the empire. However, after being chosen to be nothing more than a puppet to be placed on the throne, only there to do nothing but fill the seat. She had long since lost her vigor.

She thumped her spear to the ground with a loud bang. "Pick up your spear. We continue training."

* * * * *

The Emperor teleported into the Azure Dragon's secret realm.

Everything that had happened since he gained the Ivory sword had been a blur in his mind. How had he entered the palace? How had he reached the teleportation formation? How had he arrived here?

Everything was a jumble of information his mind had put aside for the sheer burning glorious sun of anticipation that brightened his thoughts at the moment.

He could tell in the back of his mind that only one of the two main tasks that he needed to had been done. He knew there was another thing he had to do.

He had to kill the king so that his prophecy didn't come true.

However, he could care little for that at the moment. The only thing he cared about was wondering what magnificent treasures there would be held in the Azure Dragon's soul space.

If he could get even the weakest Immortal weapon, he could easily kill the King right away, not that he needed it or anything.

So long as the King did not run away, he could kill him. However, if he did get a particularly strong weapon, then he could maybe even be able to fly out into the other continent and contest against the other Immortals.

He walked through the peacefully haunting overgrown meadows of the Azure Dragon, never maintained after the battle so long ago, blossoming with innumerable flowers nourished by the blood of the Saints and the Immortal.

He had to leave the Azure Dragon's body in the secret realm for the past 70 years as there was nowhere to keep it.

The body itself could most likely be held in another storage treasure, but the fact that the Azure Dragon had a Soul Space made it impossible for it to be put away somewhere.

From what he could understand, a space could not be put inside of another space. Had it not been the case, he would have long ago taken the body elsewhere.

Flying up to the lake, he arrived at the spot where he had put the Azure Dragon's body inside of the lake itself.

Or rather... where it should have been.

The Azure Dragon's corpse was no longer where it should have been.

* * * * *

Alex failed to hide the pain from his face. It had been a while and his mind hurt him more and more by the second. He couldn't even eat a pill to heal it as it wouldn't do much right now.

But that was nothing to worry about. The 5 minutes was coming to an end.

The 20 alchemists floated around Alex, waiting for something to happen. They weren't sure as to what just yet, but they had been warned by Alex to prepare to be teleported.

Alex looked at the soldiers in the distance one last time as he stared at the Voidsand Hourglass in his Soul Space and counted the time.

"Does anyone here wish to defect the Dragon Emperor and fight by my side?" Alex asked the soldiers. "You have learned what I told you, so I will give you that chance."

Everyone gave him weird looks, some even scoffed and ignored him.

Alex simply shook his head. He brought out a talisman to empower his voice to reach a distance that it wouldn't have normally.

And then he spoke.

Chapter 1760: Declaration

Long Tiankong, the Dragon Emperor, stood atop the lake, his senses looking all around for any signs of formations or artifacts hiding the Azure Dragon's body.

In the first place, he couldn't even imagine who could have come here in the past 70 years as he and he alone had the one key to the secret realm.

Without the teleportation key, a medallion, that he kept in his storage, there was nothing he could think of that would allow one to enter the domain of the Azure Dragon.

Just as he thought that, he realized that was not true in the least. There were indeed more things that could aid one in entering and existing a spatial pocket such as this.

There were two swords, in fact, and one of them was with him right now.

But it hadn't always been.

A flicker of thought passed through his mind, one that had been bothering him for a while after his subordinates had told him, but he hadn't put enough consideration for it to come up with anything useful.

Before him, Alex had the sword. But he couldn't have had the time to come by here, could he?

"Brightfalls city..." the Emperor said softly. That was the city Alex had gone to before coming to the Dragon Capital. Why had he gone there?

It was in the Emerald Kingdom, up at the border, next to the Beast Paradise. Had Alex wanted to teleport to the Dragon Capital, he could've gone to any other city, and not Brightfalls exactly.

And that was when it hit the Emperor.

If one were to fly from the Brightfalls city and not take the teleportation formation along the way, they would end up at the Azure Dragon's realm.

Which meant... Alex had most likely been through here and had taken the Azure Dragon's body.

There were many things Alex could do, and hiding himself from the soldiers that surrounded the secret realm for a constant watch would most likely not be able to catch him if he wanted to hide away from them.

"But no," the Dragon Emperor told himself. "He couldn't take away the body at all. Even if he dragged it outside, there are soldiers in the area. Even if he could hide himself, he couldn't have hidden the body at all. How could he have—"

The Dragon Emperor's head turned downward, and he stared at the sword in his hand. Alex had that sword before him.

Alex had come here, with this very sword, and... he knew what the Dragon Emperor's plan was.

"And he must have done it himself," the Emperor realized. "He carved the Soul Space. He took them out."

The Emperor turned, rushing to the teleportation formation to teleport back to the Palace. He was very much certain now.

Alex had the Immortal treasures he wanted. And the Emperor had left him alone.

'No!' he thought. 'I can't let him get away. I can't let him teleport again.'

The Emperor was played with back at the Harmonious Balance Haven, where he had been distracted by Alex while he had done this all.

He didn't want to believe that not just had he been duped into being in the wrong place; he had been duped into letting Alex free entry into the Azure Dragon's realm and to his treasure.

As soon as he arrived back in the Dragon Palace, he didn't bother walking back outside. He directly flew into the sky, hoping that he wasn't too late.

He looked up and saw his subordinates gathered there, and not far away from them, so was Alex.

Alex held onto a talisman in his hand.

'Is he about to teleport?' the Dragon Emperor wondered.

And then Alex spoke.

"I am King Alex of the Southern Continent. To all those that look up to your Emperor, Long Tiankong, I will now tell you his crimes."

Alex's voice boomed in the sky, traveling dozens and dozens of kilometers in all directions, filling the ears of every person in the Dragon Capital and beyond.

Everyone had already stopped what they were doing to look at the sky because of the Dragon Emperor's earlier. And now they were ready to hear Alex's words.

"6000 years ago, your Emperor killed 5 Royal families, belonging to the Kingdom of Lin, Kingdom of Jang, Kingdom of Xuang, Kingdom of Fang, and Kingdom of Fen, by manipulating truths and using deceitful tactics to false fully accuse those kings and queen of treason when they had done nothing of those sort."

"5000 years ago, your Emperor led an army to the Western Continent, to raze it to the ground, to destroy all that was strong and good in that continent, under the lie that he was doing it in revenge for the White Tiger attacking the Azure Dragon, when the White Tiger had instead saved the Azure Dragon."

"70 Years ago, your Emperor then handled the death of the Azure Dragon and his wife, Shi Meiyong, when he attempted to kill their newborn child."

"69 Years ago, your Emperor attacked his own son and daughter-in-law, and nearly killed the both of them."

"2 years ago, your emperor killed my subordinate, a guest of his in cold blood, and nearly killed me as well."

"Not even a month later, he apprehended my alchemists, and killed all the soldiers that had come along with them, sending their heads to me as a gift."

"I am sure there are many other crimes that can be associated with this man, but these are the only ones that I know of."

"And therefore, as one chosen of the Phoenix, I declare this man an enemy of the realm, and make the Judgment of death on him."

"Anyone who follows him and his commands shall bear the same judgment from me as well."

Alex looked at the Dragon Emperor who had flown to the sky with anger in his eyes, but had to stop himself because of his previous oath.

But Alex had been counting and the 5 minutes were just about to be over.

"This is war! I have come for your head."

He raised his right hand forward as though presenting something, and his mind, which had been laying heavy on his head, suddenly felt free of all burden.

And above him appeared a colossal ship of nearly 300 meters and 100 meters in width, with a bulbous center that was around 150 meters in diameter.

The Dragon Emperor's eyes widened in shock as he felt thousands of people inside the ship, all of whom were appearing outside.

Thousands of people surrounded Alex in seconds, all in formation, all in uniform.

A foreign army had arrived within the heart of their empire, and a war had been declared.

Alex pulled out Midnight and pointed toward the Dragon Emperor and his subordinates. He took a single deep breath.

'I have delayed as much as possible, but I can do nothing much longer,' he thought. 'It is all up to the rest you. Hurry.'

He then stared at the group in front of him as the Oath to not attack for the 5 minutes disappeared from his chest.

"Charge!"