

Alchemy 431

Chapter 431 - Remember What You Never Learned

Alex and Luo Mei along with Meng Yun were seated around the middle of the moving merchant caravan.

The caravan belonged to Heaven's Path merchant group, the 2nd richest merchant group in the whole empire, only behind the official royal merchant group called the Royal Fu merchant group.

"Don't worry sect leader Wen, I have other cultivators employed as well. They will certainly not be in any trouble," said a man from behind Wen Cheng.

He was Zhang Xie, the current head merchant of the caravan, nephew to the owner of the merchant group.

"Thank you, brother Zhang. I will leave these kids in your care," Wen Cheng.

"Haha, don't worry about them, sect Leader Wen. They are old enough to take care of themselves," Zhang Xie said as he chuckled a bit.

Wen Cheng still couldn't help but worry.

"We'll be fine, master. I will take care of senior sister," Alex said.

"Alright, Good. Take care on your journey, I will tell Ma Rong about this later," Wen Cheng said. "Sigh, she's going to get angry for sure."

"Well... I will leave that to you, master," Alex said with a chuckle.

"Remember, I have only marked you absent for 15 days. If not, I will have problems of my own in the sect," Wen Cheng said.

"Since you will reach Rubyroad city by Sunday morning, the merchants may stay there until the next Friday. Remember to get back by that time," Wen Cheng said.

"We understand, master," Alex said.

The caravan started moving and soon they were on the way out of the western gate of the Scarlet City. There were cities to the west, but none were big enough for the caravan to stop.

They tirelessly walked day and night until they reached Rubyroad city in 2 days. Alex was happy that he wouldn't need to wait a very long time to reach the destination, unlike last time.

He looked out of the window of the carriage he was in and looked behind them at the Scarlet City that was moving further and further away from them.

The city gates barely managed to block the sun that was rising from the east as well.

"Well, I guess I will be gone for a week now," he thought.

He put his neck back inside and looked at the two ladies with him.

Meng Yun had changed in a simple commoner's clothes. Alex remembered seeing similar clothes worn by the servants back in the City Lord's manor.

Luo Mei on the other hand still was wearing the Tiger Sect's yellow robes, similar to Alex, and had her head down with a blank expression on her face.

He always remembered seeing his senior sister with a warm smile, or in some cases anger too, but never nothing. This made him feel a little sad for her.

"Are you okay, sister? Are you comfortable?" he asked.

"I'm... I'm fine. You don't have to worry about me. I'm just lost in thought," Luo Mei said.

"Don't worry, young miss. I'm sure the master is fine," Meng Yun said. Now that she was out of the sect, she had started addressing Luo Mei how she originally did.

Luo Mei did nothing to correct her, so Alex believed that she was used to it.

Alex tried to speak a few times on different occasions, but Luo Mei didn't seem like she wanted to participate in any conversation, so he stopped.

Instead, he decided to focus on understanding what medical knowledge he gained the other day.

He quickly sat down cross-legged and started understanding the information he had. For some reason, it was incredibly easy to learn, despite him never learning any part of it before.

He would process the information from the memory and it would implant itself onto his brain like metal to a magnet.

'Is this because of my talent? Can't be. The formation information took way too long to comprehend, and I still need to understand it all. This on the other hand is coming to me like instinct,' he thought.

From what Alex could tell, if normal information was akin to writing on a blank piece of paper, then what was happening to him right now was akin to him ripping off the blank sheet of paper in different places and revealing the information that was already inside.

"Could it be...?" he wondered and kept learning the knowledge more and more. The more he tried to comprehend the knowledge, the more he realized how unnecessary it was.

As long as he even began to try and understand what he had read, information regarding the same subject would pop up in his brain.

Rather than learning something, Alex felt like he was remembering something he had long forgotten.

However, that was impossible since he had never learned it at all. This could only mean,

"This has something to do with the Alchemy God's Knowledge?" he wondered. This made him question more about the 'Alchemy God' in the name of the skill.

Was that a real person? If so, was that person still alive? Or was it just a name made up by the person who had a large enough knowledge about Alchemy.

Also, just how much of this was skill, and just how much of it was the information? If information was a vital part of this skill, then where did the information end?

He still had to unlock at least a single level, if not more. When he did that, what knowledge would he gain next? What skill would he gain next?

Finally, one thing he really cared about and made him think about it all was what was currently happening to him.

"If Alchemists are the doctors of this world... then it's a given that a knowledge about Alchemy would have medical knowledge too."

"Is that what is happening to me right now? Am I unlocking information that is already in my brain?" he wondered.

"If that is true... then why do I need to read it all in the first place? I never felt any of this with information regarding alchemy. Do only medical information do that... or are there other alchemy related, but not strictly alchemy focused information out there that will do this too?' he wondered.

He couldn't help but be excited about what was to come in the future.

He swiftly learned all the information that was on the books from last night and was done with it for the day.

By the time he was done, the sun was reaching the mid sky and the heat of the day was slowly making its way into the carriage.

"Uh, I should go eat something before I start training on the techniques," Alex thought and quickly logged out while he was still in his meditative position.

He freshened up and went out to eat. His part of the meal was kept in the refrigerator, so he simply heated it back up and ate it.

Once he was done, he returned back to what he was doing.

"Sigh, I can only practice half of the techniques, right?" he thought as he remembered through what he had learned.

"Whatever, let's start," he said to himself and started circulating his Qi. Since the technique wasn't a strong one and didn't require a lot of Qi, the Qi it did require traveled through his body at an incredible rate.

Finally, when it reached his hands, it release onto the air. The Qi was of the fire element, but it did not produce fire. Instead, it just dissipated into the air.

To anyone looking from the outside, they would think that this was a failure, however, to Alex he had succeeded.

He had managed to produce Fire Qi and would continue to do so from now on. Fire Qi on its own was pointless as it didn't do anything, however, if he were to mix it together with Wood Qi, that was where the magic would happen.

He could finally empower the wood element he had. That was the entire reason he had learned this technique.

It wasn't just this technique that he had learned. He had also learned to produce Wood, Water, and Earth Qi from his body. He didn't learn any for Metal Qi as he had full control over it and could produce it anytime he wanted without a technique.

He quickly learned all 3 of the remaining ones and practiced producing them. Once they all worked, he was very happy.

There was still one problem to all of this however that he hadn't thought about and that was because he hadn't been able to test it yet.

He was worried that his Metal Qi couldn't be empowered by the Earth Qi and would instead weaken the Earth Qi. But he didn't know if that would be the case as Empowering was quite different from the other 4 results of two elements mixing.

"I should try empowering a few attacks of mine when I reach sister's house," Alex thought.

These weren't the only attacks he had learned. He had also learned bare-handed and sword techniques for each of the elements he didn't have one of.

They were all normal projectiles that could fly through the air and hit the opponent. Unfortunately, he had yet to test them either.

"So many things to do. Thankfully, the medical information didn't take that long to understand," he thought and started sifting through the information to fundamentally understand how medical stuff with alchemy worked.

He had nothing else to do, so he did that for the next 3 hours. That was when something happened that suddenly stopped him from doing anything.

"Oh no! Master was right," he silently said as sweats formed on his forehead and palm out of fear.

He was starting to feel the feeling once more.. He was starting to feel the advent of the beast invasion.

Chapter 432 - Spreading Awareness

Alex started fearing; he knew what this feeling meant for not just him, but the empire itself.

He looked outside. This time, the feeling felt like it came from the southeast rather than just the south.

'What's there to give me this feeling? It's completely different from the one from the desert, and yet I feel it so clearly,' he thought.

'No, now is not the time to ponder on these things. I need to hurry up and do something or else the beasts will attack the caravan.'

He immediately took out his talisman that was meant to message his master. He hoped it was close enough for him to reach, but unfortunately, it didn't. He had come too far away for the low-range communication talisman to function.

He looked towards his senior sister who was still emotionless except for the tinge of sadness in her eyes.

"Sister, I need your help." Alex stood up and walked over next to her.

"Go away, Yu Ming. I am not in the mood to talk right now," Luo Mei said in a low voice.

"Sister, please. Now is not the time for you to be depressed," Alex said.

"Just leave me alone," she said. "I want to be depressed right now."

"Stop acting like your father is dead!" Alex shouted. "He's not dead, okay? Aren't we going there to heal him in the first place? Or have you already killed him off in your heart?"

"Do you have that little faith in your brother that you don't think I will be able to save him at all?" Alex asked.

Luo Mei finally looked up with tears in her eyes. "I can't lose him, Yu Ming. I already lost my mother, I can't lose my father too," she said as tears started dripping down her cheeks.

"Don't worry about your father right now, sister. Worry about yourself. With what's happening right now, we might end up dead before we even reach your father," Alex said.

"What?" that caught Luo Mei's attention for sure. She immediately spread out her spiritual sense to see if there was any problem, but she couldn't find any.

"What are you talking about, little brother? What danger? I can't see anything," Luo Mei said.

"Beast Invasion," Alex said. "Not the second one either. One similar to the first one in the capital. That beast invasion is coming for this caravan right now.

"Wha—?" Luo Mei immediately lost any hint of sadness from her face as she got both confused and scared.

"The beasts will attack at any moment all around the empire. We need to let the master know so he can protect the city," Alex said. "My communication talisman is too low leveled to work. Do you have any that works?"

"Uh... yeah, mine is a higher grade one. As long as we haven't left 1000 Kilometers away from Scarlet City, it will work," Luo Mei said.

Alex frowned. While the caravan wasn't fast by any means, it was much faster than the average car in his real life. Given that they had been on the road for a whole day with no stopping in between, he worried if they had left the range already.

"Try communicating, or rather let me talk," Alex said.

"No, only I can operate it," Luo Mei said and brought it out before sending a message through it.

After a few moments, the talisman glowed a little and made a small noise to let them know there was a message back.

Luo Mei quickly read it and said, "Master wants to know how you know about that. Also, are you absolutely sure?"

"Uh... Tell him I have a similar feeling to the one I had before the first one. I told him about it when the invasion started in Capital too," Alex said.

"As for whether I'm sure or not, I don't think that should matter right now. Just the fact that there is a chance of the invasion should mean that master should get to take precautions," Alex said.

"Yes, you are right," Luo Mei said and quickly sent the message back to her master. After a few more moments, they got a message back again.

"Alright, Master is going to start preparing for the attack. He has also taken it upon himself to send messages to the other cities to let them know," Luo Mei said.

"Alright, if others will be fine, then it's time for us to worry about ourselves," Alex said.

"Huh? Oh right, the caravan," Luo Mei said and tried to walk out of the carriage.

"Not the caravan, sister. Me! The beasts follow me. I'm sure they are on their way here right now for me. Imagine the entirety of the beasts that attacked the Capital coming for this one small caravan," Alex said.

Luo Mei's face immediately went pale. Even Meng Yun got scared.

"N-n-no, that can't be. You will die, You will die for sure," Luo Mei suddenly got unreasonably afraid.

"Um, we still have time sister, I can run away," Alex said.

"No, You can't. They will catch you. Oh no, and then they will kill us too," Luo Mei said.

"Um, I'm sure I can go far away so that not even the True realm beasts can catch us," Alex said.

"I'm not scared about the True beasts," Luo Mei said.

"Huh? Then what?" Alex asked.

"The Saint beast," Luo Mei said.

Alex's eyes went wide. "Sister, what do you mean by saint beast?" he asked. "Are you saying there is a beast out there with Saint Realm cultivation base?"

"Yes. There was a Saint Beast, a black Jaguar-type beast, during the first attack. The Emperor himself fought it, but couldn't beat it off. He said that if the beasts hadn't returned back on their own during that time, he would have surely died there," Luo Mei said.

Alex was shocked to hear these 2 new pieces of information.

'So there is another saint beast out there, and the Emperor himself is in the Saint realm too, huh?' Alex thought.

"Alright, let's not waste any more time. If last time is anything to go by, we have mere hours, but it's better if we don't rely on that. It's better to act like we could be under attack at any moment now," Alex said.

"Yes, let's go," Luo Mei said and immediately searched for Zhang Xie with her spiritual sense. Once she found him, she opened the carriage and walked into the evening light.

"Senior Zhang, it's an emergency," Luo Mei said.

"Huh? Little Miss, what's wrong?" Zhang Xie said as he opened the door to his carriage.

"Senior Zhang, I just got a message from my master. He said that there is another Beast Invasion coming and that we need to get away from this path right now and get as far away from the forest as possible," Luo Mei said.

"Miss, this... you aren't joking right?" Zhang Xie said. He had always been afraid of the beast invasion, but despite his uncle's opposition for him to go on a caravan, he had insisted that he would be safe.

And now...

"Senior Zhang," Alex called out. "Take this."

Alex brought out two pills and handed them to Zhang Xie. Zhang Xie looked at the pills for a while, but couldn't understand what they were.

"What are these pills, young man?" he asked.

"These are called the Beast Attracting Pills. When you pour in a little Qi and throw it away, it will attract every beast below True realm to its place. If the situation is dire, use these," Alex said.

"This pill... I've never heard of this," Zhang Xie said.

"I wouldn't doubt you have, but you must have heard about the Royal Alchemist saving the day in the capital during the first wave of Beast invasion," Alex said.

Zhang Xie's eyes shined widely as hope appeared in them. "You mean—"

"Yes, they may be a little worse since I was the one that made them, but they are the same pills as the Royal Alchemist's," Alex said.

Zhang Xie immediately pocketed it with a smile, but then stopped. "Why aren't you keeping it? You can use it if the situation is dire, young man," he said.

"I have some myself. As an Alchemist, I have a lot of such pills," Alex said. "As for why I'm giving it to you is because... I will need to go somewhere else."

"Huh? Where do you plan on going?" Zhang Xie asked.

"I'm going to lure the beasts from here and go perpendicular to the forests. You guys go diagonally towards the Northwest side and get as far away from here as possible. It's a shame you can't go directly towards the north due to the terrain," Alex said as he looked at the uneven hills to the north.

"I can't let you do that, young man. You are my responsibility. I promised sect leader Wen. I can't let you go anywhere," Zhang Xie.

"You don't have a choice, senior Zhang. I'm leaving with or without your approval. Please take care of my Senior sister in my stead," Alex said.

"Huh? No, I'm coming with you," Luo Mei said.

"No, sister. It will be dangerous. You need to go with the caravan," Alex said. "I will lure them away and since I have that escape technique, I will surely be fine."

Secretly, he sent spiritual sense to Luo Mei to say something else.

"Go with them. Since the beasts are following me, you will be in more danger. I also happen to have a boat artifact that I've somewhat managed to learn to use and will get as far away from here as possible."

"Adding onto that my ability to conceal myself and go invisible, the beasts won't find me so easily," Alex said.

"That's..." Luo Mei was torn. She was already sad about losing her father, and now she had to see her newly made brother throw away his life to save theirs.

"Don't worry, sister. I will find the caravan as soon as the beasts return back," Alex said. "Take care."

Alex suddenly stopped moving and watched the caravan and Luo Mei go along with the caravan.

Alex stayed there for a minute or two watch as the caravan changed its course and started heading Northwest where they would most likely encounter any beasts as most would be coming for this area.

The ones that did go there would have to fight the True cultivators in that caravan.

Alex didn't know how many there were, but there should have been enough to fight off a random bandit army.

Once the caravan was no longer in view, he took out a boat from his storage space.

"Alright, time to leave."

Chapter 433 - Jaguar

In front of Alex was a small flying boat that could house preferably only one person at a time, but could fit 3 people if needed. The boat was white in color with a slight purple hue along the outlines.

The design of the boat itself was quite simple.

It was about a meter wide, 2 meters long, and barely half a meter high. It had a small compartment on the front where one could place True Spirit stones inside it to make it run on its own.

The boat was something Alex had gotten after Zexi's death. It was one of the things inside Zexi's storage bag along with everything else he gained.

Being a True rank artifact, Alex couldn't really refine it at all. However, he had noticed that even without refining, the boat flew way faster than if he did normally.

He couldn't imagine how fast the boat would be if he really did manage to refine it once he reached the True realms, however, that would be something he would think about when the time came.

He quickly jumped onto the hovering boat and checked the True spirit stones in the front compartment. Once he made sure the spirit stones had Qi in them, he closed the compartment and sat on the boat.

The boat didn't have any control equipment and entirely relied on the user to control it through their Qi.

Alex put his Qi into the compartment and suddenly, the boat activated and started moving forward.

The boat did nothing but go forward, and since the boat was angled a little off from the north, it started speeding towards there.

"Not there," Alex thought as he slightly pushed the front of the boat from the side using his Qi to straighten its path.

The boat was incredibly fast and moved through the air faster than the sect's giant ship or Ma Rong's own flying artifact.

"I guess you really can't argue that a royal has some of the best stuff," Alex thought. He wouldn't argue if someone came and said that this was a Heaven-grade artifact, even though he knew it was just an earth-grade artifact.

The feeling Alex felt had disappeared by now. But that didn't do anything to make him feel better. In fact, that was the exact same thing that happened last time as well.

The feelings would disappear for a few minutes, then come back up stronger. It would repeat a few times and increase to the point that it would be physically uncomfortable for Alex.

He felt like it was halfway there by now. He flew up the hill and went past another set of the small jungle as he made his way as far north as he could.

Even then, he couldn't get rid of that feeling.

In the veil of the night, he flew for nearly 3 hours when the feeling reached its peak.

By now he was very far away, but that wasn't consoling at all. The beast side had a Saint Beast. If it wanted, it could probably reach him in a third of the time it took him to fly this far away.

He had crossed villages by now, but his fear did not drop in the slightest.

And that was not without reason as he soon felt an enormous aura from many kilometers away. Even at a distance so far away, he could feel the aura of the saint realm.

"Shit! Saint realm is truly terrifying. But... why do I sense two different auras?"

* * * * *

Half an hour earlier.

A massive nearly 3 meters tall and 5 meters long Jaguar flew through the night sky, fully hidden under its darkness.

The black jaguar was flying at incredible speed and headed north while the minor beasts started searching for things to attack mindlessly.

Most of them had all followed behind it. Where ever the Jaguar went, they went as well.

"Just when will these mindless children grow? Just when will the wound upon this land heal?" the beast asked itself as it flew towards Alex's location.

"I already failed the first time when those humans stood in my way.? If I could kill them, I would have already found him by now," the Jaguar lamented.

"And the second time did not bore any fruit as I couldn't locate him, to begin with."

"This time, however, I will make sure to get him and return back," the Jaguar said.

As one of the faster types of beasts, it wouldn't even take half an hour to reach where Alex had already gone to.

It flew without stops for the next half an hour and finally felt that the target was within grasp. It was excited.

"Friend, would you mind stopping for a little bit," A voice suddenly appeared in the Jaguar's mind.

"Yes, friend. We would like it if you could stop for a little chat," Another voice said.

The Jaguar suddenly stopped. The voices had just spoken inside his head, which meant the speaker must have a Saint Realm cultivation base.

The Jaguar suddenly sent out its own Spiritual sense and noticed the two people about a few kilometers away.

"It's you two. How are you two here?" the Jaguar asked.

"Oh, how can we say? I guess we can call it fate," one of the people said.

"Fate... hah! What utter crap," the Jaguar said and immediately sent his spiritual sense all over himself.

"I see... I didn't realize that there was an imprint on me. My age must be catching up to me. I guess I will need to hurry up or I won't get a proper chance to enter the Immortal Realm," the Jaguar said to itself.

The imprint on its body immediately disappeared as if it was never there. The two men standing a kilometer away frowned.

"This seems... troublesome, brother Feng," a red-haired male with short hair and a clean face said. He had an ordinary-looking body and attire, but his attitude and ability were anything but ordinary.

"Truly does seem that way, brother Yang. Unfortunately, we don't have the highness to help us this day," the man named Feng said. Feng had long jet black hair and a thin face which was contrasted by his fat mustache.

"Guess we will have to give our all then," the man named Yang said and flared out his cultivation base, getting ready to fight.

"I guess we do," Feng said and flared out his cultivation base too.

Together, their cultivation base was enough to scare anyone in the entire empire. However, the Jaguar wasn't fazed at all.

The only thing on its face was a frown from not being able to go to where Alex was.

"Humans, I don't wish to harm you, so please let me go do my duty," the Jaguar said.

"We followed you all the way from the capital, friend. We can't leave empty-handed. At the very least we need answers," Yang said with a menacing smile on his face.

"Sigh, I guess being a pacifist really does hurt one from time to time," Jaguar said and suddenly released its cultivation base too.

The two men frowned at first seeing the Jaguar release its cultivation base. They believed the Jaguar was getting ready to fight. However, the Jaguar didn't stop.

Its cultivation base kept on growing more and more, and the frown on the two men's faces slowly turned into fear. Soon, the fear disappeared too and it changed into despair.

Finally, the Jaguar stopped releasing its cultivation base and slowly walked towards the two men with its overwhelming aura.

"Do you still wish to stop me, humans?" it asked.

The two men started fearing for their life now. For all of their nearly thousand-year-long life, they hadn't met anyone or anything with this high of a cultivation base.

"N-no, no," the Yang named man started blurting out on his own. The man named Feng couldn't even speak.

"Leave!" the Jaguar ordered.

"Y-Yes, senior," Yang said and disappeared from there. Feng too disappeared within a second after Yang.

"Finally, no more disturbances," the Jaguar said and was about to follow Alex when it realized it could no longer locate him at all.

"NO! It can't be over already," it said. It looked back and saw the hundreds of thousands of beasts rushing back into the forest.

"I'm sure he's around somewhere ahead of me. I just need to search for him," it said and flew further ahead searching for Alex, but no matter how hard it did, it would never locate something it hadn't seen before. It saw thousands of humans and beasts alike, but it couldn't see the target at all.

"Shit! Today was a failure too. I will have to wait another month again," the Jaguar said.

"I hope that damned puma had more luck than me," the Jaguar said and turned around.

Once again, it had failed. It hated the humans for stopping it on both times it could locate its target.

It lamented the fact that it could not find its target this month, but next month, it promised on its master's grave to find him for sure.

* * * * *

The aura of the two human cultivators that Alex had mistaken as the aura of the Jaguar had disappeared far away behind him.

He had moved too far away to feel that aura at all now.

In the next 2 minutes, the feelings he was feeling disappeared too. 'Is it okay now?' he wondered and flew towards a spot of light in the night.

It turned out to be a small village in the mountains. Alex dropped near there and took in his boat. Then he walked into the village and meshed with the people there.

He acted like he was a cultivator from far away and was only resting. He gave the villagers a few pills in exchange for letting him stay with them for a bit.

A spiritual sense came and went, and Alex was left in sweats. Thankfully the owner of that sense never came looking for him.

So, he stayed in the village for half an hour more and finally felt like it was time to leave.

"Thank you for your hospitality, senior. I will leave now," Alex said to the village chief.

"No, no, lord Cultivator. It is our village's honor that a person such as you came here at all," the chief said.

Alex thanked them again and walked out of the village. It was dead in the night and the sky was cloudy.

'Is it going to rain?' he wondered. He wouldn't mind a bit of rain. Rather, he wanted some.

He quickly got on the boat and started flying towards where he assumed his sister and the caravan would be by now.

He didn't have an accurate map of the land, so he could only base where he was on some crude information he had about the general area of the lands.

"So... that direction?" he guessed as he looked towards a certain direction and flew away in his boat.

Chapter 434 - Huang And Xing

Alex didn't have a compass, nor did he have the night sky to help him know exactly which direction he was going towards.

'How do I tell the direction exactly?' he thought. He had been flying for an hour towards where he assumed was the caravan, but he saw nothing.

"Hmm... what should I do?" he wondered. "Compass... something that can tell me the direction... Ah, maybe I can find those," he thought and immediately lowered his boat down towards the ground.

He then spread out his spiritual sense on the forest below, looking for something.

At first, it didn't seem like he would find it any time soon, but then after a dozen or so minutes, he found one and quickly released his Qi from the boat and stopped it.

"Well, I wanted a sunflower, but that helps too I guess," he thought and jumped down from the boat.

Alex landed next to a small patch of grass where he saw a few yellow flowers blooming.

These flowers were yellow in color and were called Yinful Daisy. These plants contained trace amounts of Yin Qi in them, and always looked towards the Sun for their Yang.

Even at the night, they followed the path of the sun and looked at them. As long as one knew the time of the night, one could infer the direction from these flowers.

"Since it's facing towards me, and it's 2 am in the morning, then west must be—"

Alex stopped. Something was weird here. "Wait, why is it facing towards me? The sun should be below us right now?" he said.

He quickly thought about the flower once more. "Ah, well... I didn't expect to see it attracted towards my Yang Qi. That's... problematic," he thought.

Alex immediately stood up and went far away from the flower. Until a certain distance, the flower looked towards him, but once he was away, it dropped down towards the ground and looked in a certain direction.

"That... should be east, right?" Alex thought. He quickly sent out his spiritual sense around the flower to see if there were any other plants or minerals with yang energy.

Only when he couldn't find it at all did he accept that west was behind the flower.

"Nice. I should go left to the left from West so that I can catch up with Sister and others right? I should at least reach the Southern forest so that I can reach Rubyroad just in case," Alex thought and flew away.

In the next 3 hours, he finally reached the Southern Forest, but he couldn't find any signs of the Caravan. Even if there were any, it was impossible with the beasts destroying almost everything outside of the forest.

Thankfully, there were no villages there, or it would have been disastrous for them.

'I guess beast attacks happen from time to time. Any villages that still stood would have disappeared by now,' Alex thought solemnly.

He then moved again, looking for the Caravan. 'Do I go diagonally too? Or have to change their course back to their original route?' Alex wondered.

He regretted not making plans on how to meet once they were separated. But to be fair to Alex, the only thing on his mind at that time was survival.

Now that he had survived, he would certainly do something about finding the caravan.

"Let's just go through what route I assume they would go through. Even if I don't find them, I can just go to Rubyroad city directly."

So, he changed courses towards the path the caravan might be moving towards.

Time passed and the sun came up, but Alex didn't find the caravan still. He saw a few other types of carriages and caravans, but not belonging to the Heavens Path merchant group.

At some point, he needed to log out so that he could eat, so he flew into a small patch of trees and sat down on a branch.

After making sure he wouldn't fall at all, he used his concealing and invisibility techniques. He didn't know why, but he knew these clones would continue to use these techniques even when he was logged out.

At least, that was what it did back inside the alchemy garden inside the Southern Forest.

He logged out and went to have his breakfast.

"Hey, what happened yesterday. You didn't come out," Emily asked.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I had to go out on a Caravan journey in the game, so I couldn't log out in time. But I did come out later around noon and ate the food. As always, it was delicious," Alex said.

"Thank you," Emily said while blushing a little.

"Urghh! It's too early in the morning for us to hear you being lovey-dovey. Just sit down and have your breakfast," Sarah cried from the dinner table.

Alex chuckled and said, "Maybe you should get a boyfriend too, Sarah."

Sarah then looked at him and said, "Who said I liked boys?"

Alex was a little surprised. Emily chuckled from the side and so did Hannah. "You guys knew?" he asked.

"Of course I knew. She's my friend," Emily said.

"It was quite obvious actually," Hannah said.

"Uhh, alright, I will just eat and go. I'm in a hurry anyway," Alex said and quickly finished his breakfast.

Then, he went back to his room and logged in.

When he opened his eyes, he found himself upon the tree, still fully concealed.

"Haha! It still works," he thought and flew up. He then took out his boat and checked the True spirit stones in the front compartment.

"Wow, this thing is expensive to run. Just half a day and I've already wasted nearly 5 True Spirit stones. Makes me wonder how expensive the sect's ship is to run," Alex thought.

He quickly replaced the true spirit stones and used his Qi to activate the boat. After that, all he had to do for the day was looking for the caravan.

He flew for hours on end but did not manage to find the caravan at all.

"They must have taken a different route. Whatever, I will directly go to the city then," he thought and took a direct route to the west, instead of trying to follow the route.

However, just as he was about to stray from the path, he heard something. Alex looked towards the front and could see some sort of smoke coming out.

He moved his boats in that direction and could finally hear a larger amount of shouting from that area.

"Is that a caravan?" Alex thought when he saw that. There really was a caravan under attack, but it wasn't the caravan he was looking for.

"Bandits!" Alex said when he finally saw what was happening.

He quickly sped up to help the caravan. When he got close, he jumped out of the boat and quickly took it into his storage bag before concealing himself and getting closer to them.

"Damn those bandits. Why are there so many across the empire? I should help those people in the— huh?" Alex was surprised when he finally reached the location of the caravan.

He lifted his concealment and got closer to watch what was happening.

The caravan was indeed under attack and one of the carriages was burning with smoke plumes coming out without stop.

However, the countless shouts didn't belong to the members of the caravan at all.

It was in fact the Bandits. The bandits were currently inside a barrier and were surrounded by green smoke that seemed to hurt them.

Alex looked down towards the members of the caravan and saw them looking at the bandits in horror.

Everyone seemed to be unaccustomed to what was happening, except for 2 people who seemed to be the cause of it all.

Alex looked at their red robes and recognized them, or at least he recognized the sect.

The red-robed man looked towards the Sky to where Alex was and got ready to fight. But then when he saw the Yellow robe on his body, he stopped.

"Xing'er, that man is from Tiger sect, right?" he asked the girl next to him.

The girl turned towards the Sky and saw Alex too. "Yes, I believe so, Elder brother," she said.

Alex was surprised that they met each other in such away. He dropped down to the ground and took another look at the men in the barrier.

They were now starting to claw out their faces from all the pain they were suffering. It was a truly inhumane way to kill someone.

But he did not feel any pity, as bandits were known to do such horrible things.

"Fellow Daoist, may I know who you are?" the man said.

"Greetings, my name is Yu Ming. I came to help, but... it seems you don't need my help," Alex said.

"Ah, these were just minor bandits that thought they could take their chances while the stronger ones were hiding due to the beast attacks."

"Even if we didn't help, this little caravan could have successfully fought them off. But since we saw them, we decided to help," the man said. "Oh right, My name is Xiao Huang. This is my senior sister, Luo Xing."

"Hello," Luo Xing said.

"Ah, yes. I recognize sister Xing. I assume you are going back to Rubyroad as well, right?" Alex asked.

"How... do you know that?" she asked, suddenly getting suspicious. The man named Xiao Huang suddenly flared up his cultivation base as well.

'True Realm cultivator? He did look quite old,' Alex thought.

"Please forgive me for not properly introducing myself. I am a Junior apprentice-brother to sister Luo Mei. She is on a caravan ride to Rubyroad city as well. However, during the beast hoard attack, I got separated from them."

"I was trying to search for the caravan when I spotted this one," Alex said.

"You are Mei'er's junior brother?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex said. "It's good to finally meet you, Sister Xing. I wanted to speak during the Annual competition, but didn't get the chance."

"Didn't get the chance? Or did Mei'er just not bother?" Luo Xing asked.

"Uhh..." Alex didn't know what to say.

"Whatever, I need to leave soon, senior brother," Luo Xing said.

"Ah right. I will finish them off now," Xiao Huang said and suddenly upped his Qi input in the 10-meter wide barrier.

The speed at which the men died increased by a lot and within a dozen seconds, they were all dead.

Xiao Huang swiped his hands in a gesture and 6 formation flags came flying towards him.

"Let's go," he said. The Caravan people tried to thank him, but he didn't accept any of it. Instead, he even let those people take the bandit's storage bag.

Just as the two of them were about to leave, Alex called out to them.

"Um, Sister Xing," Alex called out. "Would you mind if I go the remainder of your journey with you guys?"

Chapter 435 - Helping

"It should be fine. What say you, senior brother?" Xing asked.

"Well, if Xing'er is fine with it, then okay," Xiao Huang said and took out a large, red-colored ship.

The design of the ship was similar to the one Alex had, but was larger and could probably house up to 6 people easily.

"Come, little brother. Sit next to me," Xiao Huang said as he sat towards the front.

Alex nodded and jumped onto the ship. He sat down next to Xiao Huang while Luo Xing sat behind them both.

They quickly said goodbye to the people from the caravan and started moving.

"We should reach Ruby road city around midnight. Don't worry, Xing'er" Xiao Huang said.

"I'm not really worried about father. I'm more worried about how Mei'er is holding up. After stepmother's death 10 years ago, she would get depressed whenever something bad happened to anyone."

"Hehe, there was this one time when mother got food poisoning a year before we left for our sects, and she spent the entire night with mother, crying that she too shouldn't die on her."

"I probably shouldn't be laughing, but it's quite a sweet memory actually," Luo Xing said as she thought about the past.

"Oh, how is she holding by the way?" she asked.

"Well, she was indeed a little depressed when we started the journey, but halfway through when we heard information about the beast attack, she stopped worrying about everything else."

"After that, we were separated as I took the task of luring the beasts away from the caravan so I don't know how she is holding up."

"However, since Meng Yun is with her, she should be fine," Alex said.

"Oh, Mengmeng is coming too? I probably should have brought Fei'er too. At least one pair of sisters would be happy to see each other in our household," Luo Xing said with sadness in her voice.

Alex was about to ask something when Xiao Huang asked him another question instead.

"Little brother, what do you mean by you took the task of luring the beasts?" he asked.

"Oh, since we thought the caravan couldn't handle the onslaught of the beasts, I took the task of luring the beasts away from them with this," Alex said as he brought out a pill.

"This is the same pill that the Royal Alchemist used to lure away the beasts from the capital. Using these, I could lure the beasts away."

"I also happened to have a flying artifact that I used to escape away from them," Alex said as he mixed truth and lies.

"Oh, I heard about that. How did you get your hands on the pills? Did the Royal Alchemists sell them?" Xiao Huang asked.

"Oh no, I made them. The recipe was handed to the participants of the new pill-making competition on the 4th day, and my friends gave it to me," Alex said.

"Oh, little brother, you're an alchemist?" Xiao Huang asked.

"Ah, yes. One of the reasons I was going with Sister to see her father was to possibly heal him if I can."

"Since most alchemists are not moving from their cities, I was hoping to at least diagnose him even if we have to roam the empire, looking for clues."

"After all, finding what is wrong is the first step to solving it," Alex said.

"Y-You... came here to find out what's wrong with father?" Xing asked with wide eyes.

"Yes, sister. At least, I hope to help a bit in these desperate times," Alex said.

"Haha! I like you, junior brother. Come, tell us more," Xiao Huang said and started asking questions.

Alex hid as much as he could but eventually let it be known that he was part of the Hong Wu Sect as well.

The two of them got a little surprised but said nothing about it.

Alex asked them a few questions too.

Xiao Huang and Luo Xing were direct disciples of the 2nd Elder of the Heaven's Barrier sect, a popular formation-focused sect of the east.

Luo Xing was one of the best formation makers amongst the students, while Xiao Huang was already an elder thanks to his age and cultivation base.

Luo Keng, the father of Luo Mei and Luo Xing was good friends with both Wen Cheng and the 2nd Elder of the Heaven's Barrier sect, so when it came time to send his daughters to study and enter a sect, he sent them both to two of his friends to grow separately.

Now that he was dying, they were both returning back from their sects as fast as they could.

It was soon nighttime, but the three of them didn't stop at all. It was then around midnight that Luo Xing spoke out.

"We're here," she said.

Alex looked ahead and could see a massive city, around the same size as Scarlet city.

Even though it was midnight, the city was full of light.

"They must be rebuilding after the beast attack," Xiao Huang said. He could see that people were rebuilding parts of the walls that had broken during the attack.

"It... doesn't look that bad, does it?" Luo Xing asked while surprised.

"They must have learned about the beasts attacking like I was let know," Alex said.

"Must be. I wonder how they learned this time? They must have left sentries in the forest or something," Xiao Huang said.

Once they got closer, a few people flew up to see who it was. However, one of the people, an elderly man with a white beard spoke out.

"Young Lady, you're back!" he said.

Xiao Huang stopped the boat and Luo Xing flew out. "Senior Jin, are you out here helping the walls?" Luo Xing asked.

"Ah, yes. Since the lord is unable to, I was tasked with helping them rebuild. We were hoping to finish early, but we don't have much manpower. Most people got hurt during the attack."

"The casualty was quite high this time. However, thanks to the warning we got, the fatalities were none," The old man named Jin said.

"Oh, I hope those men that got hurt are well. You should treat them fast and get them to help with the walls. We can't leave it destroyed like this," Luo Xing said.

"Sigh, I wish we could do that too. But due to the lack of proper healers, we are suffering a bit. We've used all the pills available here, but there are more wounded people here."

"We've sent a few people over to the next city to buy some pills, but... we don't see much hope. Those people must be suffering just like we are," Old man Jin said.

"Excuse me, senior," Alex suddenly spoke from the back.

"Yes, young man," old man Jin said.

"Um, what cultivation base do the wounded have? If they are not in the True realm, I can help a bit," Alex said.

"Umm... you are?" the old man asked curiously.

"He is Mei'er's junior brother in the sect and an Alchemist. If little brother wishes to help, take him with you. Certainly, he will be of much help," Luo Xing said.

"Oh," old man Jin's eyes opened wide. "You are Young lady Mei's junior brother? Welcome to the Rubyroad City, young lord," Old man jin said.

"If you truly wish to help, we can use some. Please come with me," old man Jin said.

"I will go to the house and go see the father. Little brother Ming is here to diagnose father's illness as well, so be sure to give him the utmost respect, senior Jin," Luo Xing said.

"Young Lord is here to check up on the lord? Oh my, please forgive me if I have been rude," Senior Jin said.

"Alright, I will leave now. Come to the house when you are done. Senior Jin will bring you there," Luo Xing said and left with Xiao Huang following behind her.

Alex nodded and followed behind senior Jin to a massive camp laid out outside the walls.

"Here are the injured. We have some people with some medical knowledge trying to keep them alive, but their knowledge isn't extensive enough to heal them," old man Jin said.

"I see... let me see," Alex said and opened the tent.

Suddenly, he was bombarded with a heavy smell of blood. Even when he was doused in the blood of the monsters he killed, the smell didn't seem so heavy.

"How many people are here?" Alex asked.

"Hmm... around 200 I would say," old man Jin said. "There were about 250 originally, but we managed to use what remaining pills we had after the last battle and saved the most injured ones.

"These less injured ones are the ones that suffer the most."

Alex looked around and asked, "I thought having knowledge of the attack would let you guys survive more, but even after that there were still 250 injured? How many were injured last time?"

"Last time should have been around 180 injured," senior Jin said.

"Huh? It was worse this time?" Alex asked.

"No, it was better this time, much better. While the injured may have been more this time, it's unlike last time when about a hundred different people died," Jin said.

'Ah right. I nearly had Survivorship bias,' Alex thought.

Alex walked to one of the injured people and looked through his wounds. He quickly thought of what was wrong with him.

'Shoulder Blade has been pierced through. Even the best common pill won't help with that. However, just healing the rest of the wounds and not moving the shoulder for a month should fully heal him,' Alex thought.

However, he didn't immediately bring out a pill to help him. Instead, he stood up and moved to another patient, and checked him.

Once he figured out what was wrong with that person, he moved to another one.

Senior Jin watched as Alex moved from one bed to the next and checked all the people one by one. Finally, after an hour, he was done with every single one of the 200 patients.

There were other people tending to the wounded that too looked at Alex weirdly. Alex closed his eyes to think for a moment as he sent out his spiritual sense into his bag to check for the pills.

'Shit! I only have 60,' he thought.

He quickly took out the pills and decided to give them to the ones that were most wounded amongst them all.

He went towards the most injured ones one by one and gave them the pills. Once they ate the pill, the people slowly stopped grunting in pain and had a calm face once more.

"Thank you, brother," they said with a sigh of relief. They were on the verge of death, and Alex had saved them.

Alex said nothing and went through everyone he could and saved all of the 60 people he could. They weren't fully healed, as common pills just didn't have that much ability, but they were good enough that they could use their own natural healing to heal themselves now.

Once he was done with them, Alex then took out a blank talisman and brought it to senior Jin.

"Senior, I have a list of ingredients here. If you can help me find a lot of these, I can help around a hundred of these people," Alex said.

"The rest of the 40 people are True Realm cultivators and I don't have the capability to help them currently," Alex said.

"You-You really can help them?" Senior Jin said in surprise. He didn't expect a single alchemist to reduce their problems by so much.

"Yes, you can ask those people that are going over to the next town over to only bring back True pills," Alex said.

"Yes, yes, I will get on it," senior Jin said and left. The people working inside the tent finally saw hope for the patients and smiled.

They and the ones that were healed thanked Alex once more.

"It's too early to thank me.. I still have a lot to do."

Chapter 436 - Lie

"Can you guys help me find an Alchemy room somewhere? I have some ingredients of my own that I can immediately turn into pills that can save these people," Alex told the healers there.

"Uhh, there is one a little north of the city center. Oi, Bingbing, come show senior here a way to the alchemy hall," the woman said.

"Oh, okay. Come with me mister," a little girl, who didn't seem phased by the people dying around her, took Alex towards the city.

They were stopped by the guard when the little girl said, "Mister is an alchemist. He is going to make pills to heal the people."

"Oh, the one Senior Jin was talking about? Please come," the guards immediately let them in.

Alex suddenly grabbed the girl and started flying. "We don't have time to waste," he said.

The girl screamed with joy when she was high in the air. "You are strong, mister. You can fly so high," she said.

"Where to?" Alex asked.

The girl pointed towards a direction and Alex flew to the Alchemy hall. Once he reached there, he immediately told the people what he was here for and they let him enter the empty alchemy hall without any problem.

The girl left them, and Alex was taken in by a young man. "Are there seriously no alchemists here?" Alex asked.

"No good ones," the man said. "The ones we have can't even make Earth-grade pills. The good ones saw the danger the city could face in case of another beast attack, and left in fear."

"Can't say I blame them though. I would have probably done the same. We are after all one of the weaker cities that barely even has a sect," the man said.

"I see. Well, I should hurry. Have someone stationed here so I can easily pass along the pills as I make them," Alex said and entered the room.

He quickly opened his storage bag and realized he had about 25 sets of ingredients all together to make pills that could help those people.

He probably would have had more if he could make True Pills as well, but since he couldn't, he had to stick with what he had.

He quickly sat against the fire and took out his cauldron before putting it on top of the fire.

Then he hurried with making his pills. In the first hour, he made 7 pills. He handed those pills to the man stationed outside.

In the second hour, he learned to cut back on unnecessary parts and made 9 pills.

In the third hour, he refined his pill-making process more for the night and made 10 pills.

By the fifth hour, he was done with all 25 sets of ingredients he had and made about 35 pills.

When he walked out to hand over the 5th set of pills, instead of a random guard, it was senior Jin who had been standing outside.

"Young lord, here," old man jin brought back a storage bag from somewhere.

Alex quickly looked at the storage bag and saw that it had about 45 sets of ingredients in total.

'That's enough for 45 people; 68 if I get lucky. I already have 35 pills of my own... let's hope that's all that is needed,' Alex thought.

"Um... Young lord, I heard you've been in there for 5 hours. Don't you... need to rest?" old man Jin asked.

"No, senior Jin. There are still people I can save. Don't worry about me, I'm young. I can do this all night," Alex said and handed him the remaining pills before walking in.

Senior Jin looked at the pill blankly and said, "But... it's already day."

Alex lost sense of time as he made pills after pills after pills. In fact, he even lost count at some point.

Everywhere he looked, he could see the shape of the ingredients, or the color of the fire, or sphere shapes like the pill. He even started seeing them whenever he closed his eyes.

He had made a lot of pills but never had he forced himself to make this many pills, under such a small span of time, while being under pressure to do the best.

"I can do it," he thought and did the best he could. It took him 7 hours to finish all of the 45 sets of ingredients and managed to make 70 pills out of them.

He had given his best, and fate had taken his side. He walked out with the last 9 pills and instead of handing them to anyone, flew directly to the outside of the walls.

He went over to the tent where people were coming out of one by one. When he walked in, there were only about 45 people left.

Alex walked over to the last remaining 5 self tempering realm people and gave them the pill.

Soon, they too started to get healed and rejoiced as they could make a full recovery.

Everyone got emotional and started crying. The patients and the healers started thanking Alex.

Alex was happy he could help. He was happy that the little knowledge of the medicine he had learned had helped him.

He walked outside of the tent and was about to take a deep sigh when he saw someone up front.

"Sister," Alex called out.

Luo Mei immediately ran forward and hugged Alex. "Thank god. I thought you were dead again," she said and started crying.

"Young lord, I am happy that you are okay," Meng Yun said.

"I'm fine. I tried to find my way back to the caravan and didn't know which way you guys went after the beasts stopped moving," Alex said.

"I stopped the caravan to wait for you to catch up, but you never came, so I thought... thank god you're okay. Old Jin told me that you were here and helping the people since midnight yesterday."

"How did you even get back here so quickly?" Luo Mei asked.

"Well, I told you I had a boat right? So I took half the journey in the boat, and the other half, I met sister Xing on the road and came here with her," Alex said.

"You met Luo Xing?" Luo Mei asked.

"Yes. She's back already," Alex said.

"Damn, old Jin. He didn't tell me that," Luo Mei said.

"Grandfather knows about your irrational hate towards Young Miss Xing, so he likely kept it to himself," Meng Yun said.

"It's not irrational. It's... whatever let's just go," Luo Mei said.

"One moment, sister. I need to speak to senior Jin about something," Alex said and ran over to old man Jin and told him about everything.

When the people there learned that majority of the injured had been healed, they were extremely happy.

Alex then suggested what else could be done in regards to extending the remaining injured people's lives until the others brought back the True rank healing pills from the city over.

"Alright let's go," Alex said and the 3 walked towards the gate. When the people saw Luo Mei, they all greeted her. Luo Mei too greeted them back as politely as she could.

"By the way, how long did you guys wait for me outside the tent?" he asked.

"Hmm... we had just arrived, so maybe 10 minutes?" Luo Mei said.

"Oh, then you haven't gone to meet your father yet?" Alex asked.

Luo Mei's face suddenly lost all colors as she was reminded once more why she was here.

"It's okay, sister. I am here. I will definitely do something," Alex said, seeing her blank face.

Luo Mei shook her head to get back her thoughts. "Yes, it will be fine," she said.

The Rubyroad city was not very different from the Scarlet city. Only, it had a single 2nd Grade sect that had just upgraded a few years ago, and as such, it wasn't that populated.

The city was also ruled by a distant member of the Royal Fu family, but the ones with more position in the city were the heads of House Luo and House Tian.

Both of these houses belonged to a noble of the empire, so they had quite a bit of backing too.

The Luo household was southwest of the city center, while the Tian household was to the northeast. These two houses had quite a good relationship with each other as well.

The 3 walked through the street as Alex finally started to feel the fatigue from 12 hours long, fast-paced Alchemy session.

"Are you okay?" Luo Mei asked a little worried.

"I'm fine. I'm... just tired after making the pills," Alex said.

"You should rest after we reach back home," Luo Mei said.

Finally, Alex could see a massive house, smaller only to the City Lord's house back in Scarlet city.

"Woah!" Alex said.

Luo Mei smiled when she saw her home. "It's been a while since I've been back," she said.

She walked over to the gate and the guards immediately opened the door. "Welcome back, young miss," they said.

"Huh? Young miss, did you not take a carriage?" a woman who saw her said.

"Oh, young miss, you are back," another woman said.

"Oh, Mengmeng is back too. Welcome back, you guys."

The servants seemed quite used to talking with Luo Mei, and Luo Mei herself was quite fond of talking with the servants.

Luo Mei walked through the main door and was about to ask where her father was when he heard loud laughter from the house.

She was surprised and followed the sound of the laughter, while Alex and Meng Yun followed her.

"Haha, it's just a small white lie to get them here. It won't hurt anyone. Besides, our household merging together is a really great news," A loud man said.

"Hahaha, right? Ask your two daughters and see what they say. I will leave, for now, you damn old fart," another man said.

"Haha, see you later old fart," the loud man said.

A hawkish-faced man with a beard walked out of a room just as Luo Mei was getting close to it.

"Oh, little Mei, you're back?" the man said.

"Yes, uncle Tian. How are you?" she said.

"Haha, I'm fine, I'm fine. I will take my leave for now. Please talk to your father about my proposal I just put forth inside," the man said and left.

Luo Mei stood still for a moment and then walked towards the room. When she saw what was inside, she started to grow angry.

Inside was a middle-aged man with black hair and beard, drinking wine from a wine glass as if he had no care in the world.

"What was that just now?" Luo Mei asked in anger.

The man nearly spilled his wine when he heard her. "Oh, Meimei, you're back," he said happily.

"Don't 'meimei' me. Did you lie to bring us back? Do you know how worried I was about you dying? Do you know that we nearly were attacked by the beasts when I came here?"

"I nearly lost my junior brother on my way here, and all for what? Just so you can make arrangements of marriage with the Tians?" he asked angrily.

"Oh, you heard that?" the man's smile dropped a little. "I was just—"

"Why would you lie about dying? Is this a game to you? Did you even help the people out there?"

The man tried to speak, "No, I was just—"

Luo Mei continued harassing her father with her words while the man couldn't find openings to talk back. He started getting more and more agitated as he started feeling uncomfortable.

Suddenly, he started vomiting all the wine and food he had just ate, along with some amount of blood.

He took a cloth from the side and wiped his mouth. "That finally shut you up?" he asked.

"What?" Luo Mei was confused.

The man then wiped a layer of makeup from his face and showed his pale and sunken face.

"I didn't lie, Meimei.. I really am dying."

Chapter 437 - Hannah's Question

"What?" Luo Mei lost her train of thought and immediately sprinted forward. "No, no, no, no, no, no. Father, what's going on? What is happening to you?"

"I don't know, my child. I've been asking myself that as well. Unfortunately, COUGH COUGH something is really wrong with me," her father said.

"Then what were you talking about with him?" Luo Mei asked.

"Oh, he heard about me being sick from somewhere, so he acted like he came to check up on me."

"But that bastard was really just trying to ask your hands in marriage. That bastard, he thinks he can get my lovely daughters just because I'm sick? I will be dead and still not hand you guys over to that bastard," her father said.

"Oh," Luo Mei said. "I'm sorry. I got overly emotional, father."

"Haha, it's alright, COUGH COUGH. Let's go somewhere else, this place is dirty now," he said and walked out.

"Oh, Mengmeng, you came back too. Go meet your mother, Meimei is fine now," he said to Meng Yun who swiftly took her leave.

"And... are you Meimei's junior brother that Xingxing told me about? Wen Cheng's youngest disciple, right?" he asked.

"Yes, senior. I am Yu Ming," Alex introduced himself.

"Oh, good to see you, young man. Since you are Meimei's disciple brother... you can call me Uncle Keng," Luo Keng said.

"Yes, Uncle Keng," Alex said.

"Did little Xun not come? It's been a while since I've met him too," Luo Keng said.

"Senior brother is the leader of the guards. He can't leave whenever he wants," Luo Mei said.

"Well, at least your junior brother is free to go around as he likes. Haha, COUGH COUGH," Luo Keng said.

"He is not that free, he came here with a purpose father," Luo Mei said.

"He did? Oh, right. Xingxing told me about that," Luo Keng said.

"I just saw Meng Yun leave. Is Mei'er back?" A woman's voice came from the hallway. Luo Mei immediately walked out and hugged a middle-aged woman.

"Mother, I'm back," she said.

"Oh, my sweet child. You must be tired from your journey," the woman said.

The woman was wearing a refined, violet robe. She had a fair face and had her hair braided down the side.

She looked nothing like Luo Mei, but did have features belonging to Luo Xing.

"Oh, and who's this young man?" She asked when she saw Alex.

"This is Meimei's junior apprentice-brother who came with her, Yu Ming. And as far as I can tell, he's going to be my doctor for the next few days," Luo Keng.

"Ah, the boy Xing'er was talking about. I am Shi Nangong, Mei'er's stepmother. Welcome to the house, young man. Think of this as your own home," the woman said.

"Mother!" Luo Mei screamed in annoyance.

"Haha, yes yes. Mother, not stepmother. Mei'er hates when I say otherwise," Shi Nangong said.

"Mother, show little brother to the guest room, please. He's been making pills non-stop for the people injured in the beast hoard attack. He is extremely tired," Luo Mei said.

"What?" Luo Keng said. "You've been helping the people all night long. You must be extremely tired. My bad young man for keeping you here."

"Honey, show him to our guest room," Luo Keng said.

Shi Nangong took Alex through the house to an area where the guests stayed at. There were multiple rooms there, and all of them were for the guests.

A door suddenly opened as a young man walked out.

"Oh good afternoon Auntie. Huh? Junior brother, did you just come?" Xiao Huang asked as he saw them.

"Yes, I just arrived with my sister," Alex said.

"Oh, so your sister made it back safely? She wasn't attacked by the beasts or anything right?" Xiao Huang asked.

"Oh no. Mei'er is fine. Little Yu here on the other hand is particularly tired from helping everyone overnight. I was bringing him to his room to rest," Shi Nangong said.

"Ah, yes of course, Auntie. Sorry for stopping you, junior brother," Xiao Huang said and left.

"This is your room. If you need anything, just ask any servant in the house. I will leave you alone now," Shi Nangong said and left.

Alex entered the yellow-colored room and walked up to the bed. He felt how soft the bed was and just fell on top of it.

"Arghh, that feels... good." He felt himself losing his mind to sleep but made no effort whatsoever to stop it.

The moment he fell asleep, his eyes opened up. He was inside of his capsule once more.

"Oh right, people automatically log out when they fall asleep in the capsule," Alex said and pushed open the lid.

Alex got out of the capsule and went to go get fresh. After that, he went to the kitchen to get his meal.

There he saw Hannah heating her food in the microwave.

"YAWN, good afternoon, sister," Alex said.

"You woke up late too?" Hannah asked.

"Yeah, I ended up making pills from midnight until noon. 12 hours of nonstop pill making. I'm feeling mentally fatigued out of the game too," Alex said.

"Oh, take care of your body then," Hannah said.

"Yeah, I need to exercise more often," Alex said. "What about you? Why'd you wake up so late?"

"Oh, uh... I just cultivated for a little too long I guess," Hannah said.

"Huh? I thought you didn't need to cultivate," Alex asked.

"Whatever, it's my matter. You don't need to know. Here, heat your food too," Hannah said.

"Why are you getting angry all of a sudden?" Alex asked as he put his bowl in the microwave.

"Let's change the topic. Actually, I wanted to ask you about something," Hannah said.

"I'm all ears," Alex said.

"Sigh, do you still believe that the game is real?" Hannah asked.

"Huh? Why are you asking this?" Alex asked.

"Recently... I've started... experiencing stuff that feels way too real to be fake. When I thought about it, I remembered you saying that the game is real. Do you... still believe that?" Hannah asked.

"More than ever actually," Alex said. "Someone in the game looked into my memories of real life. That sort of thing shouldn't be possible normally. Not to mention, I've... recreated the formation in the chip and it... works."

"The plate I made it on was wrong so it did nothing, but it was the right formation. From what I could tell, it's a super high-level formation, one that is not possible in the world of Eternal Cultivation," Alex said.

"What about you tell me it's just an easter egg?" Hannah asked.

"Maybe. But given everything else that has happened. All the senses, all the information of how taking over a dead body as a clone works to how the people are all so real. Even the language is different in each place. Those sort of thing is hard to make, especially by people that don't have a strong company behind them," Alex said.

"So believe what you want, but I will believe it's real. That was why I stopped mom and dad from playing too," Alex said. "I didn't want them to live in such a world of murder and violence. They would be traumatized if they ever found out it was all real."

"I...see," Hannah said. "You truly thought quite far ahead. I guess you're not the little Alex I knew after all."

"I... guess," Alex said. He himself felt like he had been hardened as a person after living in the world of Eternal Cultivation. It was a gradual process, and there was never an immediate change, but he surely felt it now that he thought about it.

"Alright, we'll talk about this some other time. I need to go back soon," Hannah said and quickly finished her meal.

Alex slowly ate as he had nothing to look forward to in the game for at least 6 hours.

'If I remember correctly, I can't log in while I am asleep right? Or was it only when I fainted?' Alex wondered. 'Whatever, I will just stay outside.'

Alex finished his meal and went to watch some TV. The house was silent with the only sound coming out of the TV. Alex spent the next 6 hours just relaxing, doing nothing.

Finally, once night fell, he went back to his room and got into the game.. It was finally time to go see what the hell was wrong with Luo Mei's father.

Chapter 438 - Diagnosis

Alex logged into the game and slowly woke up from his sleep. He felt well-rested even after just 6 hours of sleep.

'I probably could've just cultivated... but then I wouldn't get to choose when I wake up,' he thought.

He opened the door and walked out. It was evening time and the hallway was lit up with normal lanterns.

'Are normal lanterns expensive?' he wondered. He didn't know a lot about formations yet so he assumed there was a reason for all of these.

He walked into the main hall of the manor and found a servant.

"Excuse me, miss. Do you know where sister Luo Mei is?" he asked.

"Please come with me, young lord," the servant said and took him over to a room.

"Young Lady Mei, you have a visitor," she said from outside the door. The door soon opened and Luo Mei looked out.

"Oh, you're awake. Are you fully rested?" she asked. Alex saw the blue-colored room inside that was bigger than his guest room.

"Ah, yeah, I'm fine. I was thinking of going to check Uncle Keng," Alex said.

"You're ready to check father?" Luo Mei asked with surprise. "I thought you still needed to read some more?"

"I can read later," Alex said. "The learning part after reading takes time, so I wanted to see what I can get from Uncle's illness as fast as I could."

"I can always read afterward and try again if I can't," Alex said.

"Oh, okay," Luo Mei said and walked out.

"I was actually hoping you would go find some medical books for me while I check up on Uncle," Alex said.

"No, need. I will just have some servant do that. I can't go out and look for medical books anyway. That's like telling the Tians that my father is ill and I'm looking into whatever I can to heal him," Luo Mei said.

"Those vultures will come to eat us alive before we can even heal father."

Alex was surprised at the tension between the two families. "Aren't the two families supposed to have a good relationship?" Alex asked.

"On the surface, yeah. Even most servants in the house would think so. But underneath, there is a lot of envy and jealousy between the two houses."

"You can imagine what money does to people. The old man Tian came to ask our hands in marriage because he knows father doesn't have sons, so our entire fortune is in the hands of me and my sister."

"He wants to intervene in fast enough to get that fortune. Fuck that guy! He should see how ugly his sons are first," Luo Mei said angrily.

"Anyway, let's go."

Alex followed Luo Mei along the inner hall and walked to the backyard.

"Oh, Young lord Ming seems to have rested already," old man Jin walked from the side.

"Oh, hello again, senior Jin," Alex said.

"Grandpa Jin, I have a job for you," Luo Mei said.

"Anything, young lady," old man Jin said.

Luo Mei quickly tasked him with finding every medical book in the city as well as getting the ones in the library.

"I will do it as quickly as I can," old man Jin said and left.

"Come," Luo Mei then walked up next to a big pond where Luo Keng and Shi Nangong were spending their time together.

Right next to them were Xiao Huang and Luo Xing talking with them as well.

"Oh, you guys are here," Luo Keng said. "Are you rested, nephew Ming?"

"Yes, uncle," Alex said.

"Father, Yu Ming wants to examine you," Luo Mei said.

"Oh... right now?" Luo Keng was surprised. "Very well. What do I do?"

"Well, you can start by answering some questions," Alex said. "For starters, when did you notice you were ill?"

"Hmm... when was it, honey? About a month and a half ago?" Luo Keng asked.

"Yes, about that time," Shi Nangong said.

"What are the symptoms?" Alex asked.

"I... feel generally weaker. I vomit blood from time to time. Nothing I eat stays in my stomach for long either. There are times when I feel piercing pain in my stomach."

"I send in my Qi to use Qi sense and see what is wrong, but it doesn't work as it should," Luo Keng said.

"Other than that... I'm fine. Ah right, cultivating no longer works. I can cultivate, but I only get weaker instead of growing stronger."

Alex mused on the information he was given. The symptoms seemed to match with a few of the things that were in his mind, but he needed to learn a bit more.

"Can I check your pulse?" Alex asked.

"Sure," Luo Keng said. "Do whatever you have to."

Alex walked up and pulled up Luo Keng's sleeves to show his not so muscular arms.

Luo Mei's eyes started tearing up when she saw her father's weak body. She knew he was dying but didn't expect the situation to be so bad.

Alex placed his two fingers in Luo Keng's wrist and took a deep breath. He felt the generally slower pulse that Luo Keng had but knew that it was the result of whatever was happening, not what started it.

He hesitated a little. He knew what he had to do now; the process was etched onto his mind. However, he had never done it, so he was a little nervous.

'No, I can do it,' he said to himself and slowly released Qi into his blood system.

Luo Keng felt something hot enter his veins through his wrist. It felt like a small section of his blood was boiling, but he endured it.

'What the hell is this kid's Qi? Why is it so hot?' he wondered. But he didn't let it show on his face.

Alex closed his eyes and tried to feel where the Qi was moving. The Qi was connected to his fingers through a fine line of Qi, so he could monitor where it went.

Alex knew the human body's veins and arteries inside out after learning it from the book so he carefully navigated to see what he could find.

When he reached the stomach area, he found that his Qi didn't go ahead as he had expected. Instead, he tried to move through the side.

'What? There shouldn't be any path there. Is he injured in that spot?' Alex wondered.

Suddenly, his Qi disappeared and the connection broke.

"What?" Alex said in surprise.

"What's wrong?" Shi Nangong asked in fear.

"I... have a general idea of what is wrong, but nothing absolute. The Qi I was using to check inside disappeared before I could see what the problem was for real. Although the problem is right around his stomach," Alex said.

"You say you have an idea of what it is," Luo Xing said. "Can you tell us what you think?"

"Um, before I say this, you have to understand that I am not 100 percent sure about this. But I am at least 80% sure," Alex said.

Everyone there nodded and waited for him to speak.

"Uncle... did you eat a beast's meat anytime before you were ill?" Alex asked.

"Beast's meat? Of course, I did. After we fought off the beasts in the first beast invasion, we feasted on the corpses of the dead beasts," Luo Keng said.

"And... who cooked the meat? Or rather, how was it cooked?" Alex asked.

"We all cooked it. We're not cooks, so we just put it on a stick and lit a fire beneath it," Luo Keng said as if he was remembering some glorious moment.

"Is that what is causing him so much problem? Uncooked meat?" Shi Nangong asked.

Alex shook his head. "It's not the meat, but rather what was inside of it. One that he ate along with the meat."

"So, I think there is a type of worm or parasite inside Uncle's stomach. One that feeds off of Qi. I think that is what ate my Qi just now, and what eats Uncle's Qi every time he cultivates," Alex said.

"If... if that is true then... how dangerous is it?" Luo Mei asked.

"Well, you see how Uncle can't cultivate right? And if what he says is true and the food won't remain in his stomach, then at some point... he will stop having enough energy for his organs to function... after that..." Alex spoke no longer.

"Is there a cure?" Luo Mei asked hastily.

"I... don't know. I don't even know if what I think is correct. I will first have to verify the existence of whatever is inside, but if my Qi disappears, I can never know," Alex said.

Suddenly, Luo Mei's voice drifted onto his mind. "If Qi disappears, then... why not try spiritual sense?" she asked.

"Of course," Alex said as he face palmed himself. He had been so tunnel-visioned on his medical knowledge, that he forgot about the other tools in his arsenal.

"Uncle, let me try one more time," Alex said.

"Sure, go ahead," Luo Keng said. Alex once again held his wrist and sent in Qi, but along with that, he also sent his Spiritual sense.

The spiritual sense couldn't look inside a human or beast's body so easily. There was a sort of veil on a human body that wasn't easy to navigate using spiritual sense unless that body was one's own.

Alex had tried it multiple times, and it hadn't worked. However, now that he had his Qi to help him navigate, along with the medical knowledge, he looked through the inside of Luo Keng's body.

He saw the blood in the veins and the red walls. He saw the Qi flow through the blood until it reached the stomach. There he saw what the problem with his stomach was.

'Damn, that's a giant hole,' he thought. Suddenly, the yellow blob of Qi he had was devoured by something, and he clearly saw what it was.

'A parasite. I was right,' he thought. But then came another problem.

"Um... I have located the parasite; there is in fact one," he said.

"Oh, that's... good news, right?" Luo Keng asked.

"Depends on the next bit of information I will give to you," Alex said.

Luo Keng and the rest got silent and listened carefully.

"So the first minor thing is that the parasite is something that I do not recognize. But that most likely has something to do with my lack of medical knowledge rather than the parasite itself being rare," Alex said.

"I also have both the recipe and the ingredients to the pill that should cure you," Alex said.

The others smiled a little but still waited for Alex to finish speaking.

Alex sighed a little and said, "but... here comes the main problem."

Chapter 439 - Hundred Lives Parasite

"What's the problem?" Luo Keng asked softly waiting to hear the main concerns.

"Well, the first problem is that the pill recipe I have is not something that others have. It's called a Parasite Erasing Pill. The pill basically kills the parasite in your body without harming you."

"One of the ingredients to the Parasite Erasing pill is the root of a small herb known as Lavender Bloodweed, and I only have a single one of that ingredient."

"I will need to know the grade of the parasite after a few more examinations to know exactly how strong of a True Rank parasite it is. But, normally, the pill will need to be at least Earth grade to be successful," Alex said.

"So... we only have a single chance at making the pill?" Shi Nangong asked.

Alex nodded in affirmation. Both Luo Xing and Luo Mei gasped in horror when they learned that.

"How long do you think I can survive like this?" Luo Keng asked.

"From what I can tell... you will start having problems moving around in a week or so, and soon after that lose functions of your organs one after another. After that, it's only a matter of time before..." Alex stopped.

Luo Xing started sniffing as tears streamed down her face. Luo Mei was still in disbelief.

"C-Can't you wait until you know more before you make such conclusions?" Luo Mei asked.

"You're not wrong, but the fact still remains that we need to make an Earth Grade True Pill. That alone is clear to me. I will let you know if there are other methods," Alex said.

"An alchemist who can make True rank pills with Earth grade Harmony on the very first try... that is going to be troublesome," Luo Keng said silently.

"The number of people that can possibly do that can be counted on a single hand," Xiao Huang said from the side.

"Oh right, can't your master help father?" Luo Mei asked. "We can take him back and you get get your master to make him a pill."

The surrounding people were confused about who Luo Mei referred to as master when they should be disciple siblings themselves.

"Master... should be unavailable at the moment," Alex said. He didn't want to reveal that Ma Rong could no longer make pills like she used to. She had received a boon and a curse after her constitution awakened.

"Then... then... then the Royal Alchemist? He should be available. Let's go to the capital," Luo Mei said.

"Isn't the Royal Alchemist impossible to be found or recognized? He changes his face every time he moves around. Unless you have direct communication with him, you can't find him at all," Xiao Huang said.

"I've heard the same," Shi Nangong said.

"Then..." Luo Mei tried to think of other possible ideas.

"Meimei, enough," Luo Keng said. He then turned around to Alex and said, "I can't really move around a lot, so travel itself should be out of the question. Nephew Ming should try and see if there are other ways to heal me."

"Don't worry, Uncle. I will do my best," Alex said.

Luo Keng looked over to his girls and said, "Don't cry. At least I got diagnosed. Just a day earlier even that seemed impossible. Surely something better will happen in the coming days."

Old man Jin return a few moments later and stayed away from the group. Alex saw him standing at the side and walked up to him.

"Senior Jin, did you get it?" he asked.

"Yes, young lord. It's quite a few books though, I don't know how you will finish these," Old man Jin said as he took out about 30 books from his storage bag and handed it to Alex.

"Oh wow, there's so many," Alex said in surprise. He quickly took it into his storage bags and thanked the old man Jin.

"Uncle, Auntie, I just got some medical books so I will go and try to find out more if I can," Alex said.

"Sure Nephew, go," Luo Keng said.

Alex nodded and left them there. He went back to his room and looked at the time.

"8 pm huh? This... will take me a while," he thought and took out the books and started reading them one by one.

Since he was just reading and nothing else, he used his focus mode to the max to read the books as fast as he could. In fact, he didn't even read the books properly but simply just looked at them and moved on to another page.

When he tried to recall the information, he would simply just think back to this page and then could read it all properly at that time.

In such a way, he finished reading through all of the books in just 2 hours. However, at the end of the reading, he felt very mentally fatigued once more.

"Wow, using Focus mode to the fullest for so long is so problematic," he thought. He quickly tossed the books back into his storage bag and got into a lotus position to start learning about the books.

Memories of something he had never learned before started returning to him as he thought about the information one by one.

He still couldn't believe how weird it felt. 'I am easily allowed knowledge of all plants, but medical knowledge I have to read to get,' he thought.

The more he read, the more he remembered. The entire night passed by before he knew it and it was the morning.

Still, he was a little more than halfway done learning everything. Alex stopped after that.

He looked back at how much he had learned. Unfortunately, even though he learned about 20 books of content, a lot of them were content from books he had already read so most of it turned out to be a waste of time.

Still, he learned about 13 books worth of content, so he was quite happy. He looked through his understandings and at some points he got a little confused.

'Did I read that somewhere?' he wondered when he looked into the memories of the books. But from what he could see, he never read it anywhere.

It was minor information that he could've easily skipped, but he caught it, and now it was making him really curious.

"Wait, am I remembering more than I read?" he thought. If that was true then it would be glorious for him.

He tried to experiment with it a little and started remembering just one more book. There was information in the book that he had already acquired back in the Tiger sect, but most of it was new.

As he read the book, he realized that during some of the information he tried to understand, a few more information would be released in his mind.

"Are these... extra information, or just more accurate information?" he wondered and continued learning.

After a few more times it happened, he compared the results and saw that it was both. Sometimes the information would be something a little different from what he learned, and sometimes it would be a little more than what he learned.

It was never entirely new or entirely different. It was just extra.

Alex felt a little happy learning all that and logged out. He went on with his daily life for the rest of the day.

He went to get his breakfast, studied a little, checked the internet to see what was happening, went to his classes, and finally returned back to his game.

Once he was back in the guest room, he decided to finish learning the rest of the books. It took him quite a bit of time before he did so.

Only around 10 pm did he finally finish learning everything.

'That's a lot of information to keep track of. Thankfully, my mind does it for me. Alchemy God's Knowledge really is great,' he thought.

It was finally time to see if he could find some more problems or solutions for Luo Mei's father.

So he started searching for answers. As soon as he started looking for them, answers started flooding his mind like they were hungry dogs seeing meat.

"This..." he thought as he looked at what answers to the problems were.

The first thing he figured out was the name of the parasite. He had seen the parasite using his spiritual sense yesterday, so when he thought about it, a parasite with a similar description came to his mind.

Long and thin worm-like organism, with a gaping hole for its mouth. The parasite had giant wing-like flaps with spiky carapaces next to its tail to firmly attach itself to the host.

The overall color of the parasite was white but looked red in most parts due to the blood it was in. It had fine black circular lines across its body and would consume any Qi thrown towards it.

If it came across something that did not have anything to do with Qi or Blood, it would force the host's body to throw it away.

"A Hundred Lives Parasite, huh? Let's see..." he thought as he checked through the information. At first, it was normal stuff he read that all parasites could do, but when he reached the part about curing the host of the parasite, his eyes went wide and he smiled.

"This... this can be done. We don't need the pill or an alchemist. But..." Alex looked at the only problem there was for curing Luo Keng.

"I hope this helps a little," he thought and opened his status page.

Then, he clicked Breakthrough.

Chapter 440 - Mind Tempering 1st Realm

Notifications started appearing in front of Alex's eyes. But none of them were as captivating as what was happening inside his own body.

Most of the time, when he broke through to a realm, his Qi would get just a bit denser and increase just a little more in amount.

During minor realms, those increased by quite a bit more, but not a lot.

Aside from that, the main change came in the body being tempered a little more to gather more Qi during the self-tempering realm.

That was what happened every single time Alex broke through without question. However, this time was a little different.

Along with his Qi and body changing slightly, he felt a hot rush of Qi that flew up through his body and entered the brain. They stayed there for a few seconds without any discomfort and left.

When they did, he felt his mind grow cool and just a little bit stronger.

Finally, he opened his eyes and looked at the notification in front of him. When he saw it, he smiled.

<Congratulations! You have broken through to the Mind Tempering 1st Realm>

'Finally, I'm on the last stretch of realms before I enter the True realms,' he thought.

He felt a lot fresher now that he had broken through. 'Did reaching the Mind tempering realm really help my spiritual sense?' he wondered and released it.

"Woah!" he was surprised when his spiritual sense immediately reached 25 meters.

"It increased by around 3 meters," Alex mused to himself. He tried stretching his spiritual sense and it nearly reached 40 meters mark.

He quickly brought back the spiritual sense and entered his spiritual sea to see how it had changed.

"Oh!" he was surprised. He was expecting to see denser water, but surprisingly, the water was vaster as well.

"Wait, not only did it increase in density, but it also increased in amount?" Alex thought in pure happiness.

"And this is just the first realm. Will I have nearly 50 meters of spiritual sense by the time I reach the True realms?" he thought.

He quickly stopped and got up. However, he decided not to leave now. It was already late night, so there was no point in leaving right now.

'But, I will have to see him very early tomorrow morning to explain what is wrong,' Alex thought and went back to his bed.

It had been a while, so he decided to cultivate. He called out Pearl and gave him a monster core.

Pearl meowed as he ate the core.

"How are you feeling today, Pearl?" Alex asked. He was hoping for some sort of complex answer.

"Happy" however was all he got.

'Well, I guess it will take some time before he can fluently speak,' Alex thought and asked Pearl to start cultivating.

Cuts started appearing around his body but the pain wasn't as high as it should have been.

'Sigh, Pearl is falling behind once more,' Alex thought. He shook his head and started cultivating as well.

Soon, sleepiness overcame him and he could no longer keep his consciousness up.

When he woke up once again, he realized that it was 6 AM the morning. He stopped Pearl from cultivating any further and asked him to go back to his space.

Once the cuts disappeared and Pearl was gone, Alex got up to leave, but then... he felt something weird about his body.

'Huh? What's going on?' he thought. In just a single part of his meridian, he could feel just the slightest hint of something strong.

That single small part has a stronger aura than his entire cultivation base.

'Is this...?' he wondered as he tried to send his Spiritual sense to check inside. When he reached that part of his meridian, he could see a viscous bright yellow Qi that outshined the other Qi around him.

Alex's eyes went wide in both shock and surprise.

"True Qi!"

He didn't know what to think for a while as his thoughts ran array in a million directions. He quickly gathered them all and tried to think about it all.

"Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait! How do I have True Qi? Isn't that something I can only gain after I reach halfway through the Mind Tempering realm?" he wondered.

He thought back to the information he had already read, and it only confirmed what he already knew.

"Yeah, around 5th or 6th Mind Tempering realm, the common Qi gets condensed so much that I turned from Qi to True Qi. It doesn't normally happen before that. So why is it happening to me?" Alex thought.

The Qi was really way too small to be of any use to him, but it showed that he could easily jump up to the True Realm when the time came.

"Wait, how well can it work?" Alex thought. He wanted to try out a technique using this True Qi, but he couldn't think of a single technique that could be of use inside a room.

"Ah, let's try the fire," he thought and quickly reached into his storage bag before bringing out the Fire formation.

He did have a fire palm technique that could produce fire, but he wasn't sure he could control that fire fast enough to stop it from hitting the wall, and he didn't want to damage the house at all.

So, he quickly set up the formation on the floor and watched as fire appeared on top of it.

He tried to normally control the fire as he would with his Common Qi and it was very easy. He was very used to it so there was no problem.

Then, he started to do the same thing with the one strand of True Qi that was running around his meridian.

He slowly brought it from all over his body to his hands and released it into the fire.

He didn't know what could go wrong if he tried to change the size or temperature, so he decided to go with changing its shape for now.

He wished to turn the fire from the normal shape it was right now, to a cube.

He had just visualized a cubic fire when the fire swiftly changed into it.

"What? That was so smooth," Alex said in surprise. "He tried to change it to something else and it change into that too very quickly."

He then tried to turn it into a sphere, but that took about 3 times as much time. That was still very fast to normal eyes, but to Alex, it felt abnormally slow.

"Ah, my True Qi vanished," Alex said with a sigh. "I guess I will have to make more. I... just have to cultivate like everyone else right? I wonder if leveling up will give me more True Qi."

From what he had read, cultivating condensed the common Qi that was already very condensed to an extreme level and the Qi changed its very essence to something higher.

That was what happened to normal people. His body, however, was anything but normal. So, anything could happen and he would just have to wait to know.

"Hmm, maybe I am getting True Qi faster because I have denser common Qi than everyone else," Alex thought.

"I wonder what will happen if I reach 100% yang Qi purity," he wondered, but that was something he would have to think about later.

For now, it was time to give the Luo family a semblance of good news in these dark times.

He didn't ask anyone this time and directly walked to his sister's room and knocked.

Luo Mei came out of her room in white robes. "Oh, you're finally out, brother. What's going on?" she asked.

"Sister," he said excitedly, "I found another way to heal Uncle."

Luo Mei's eyes went wide. "You found it? Oh... OH! We-We needs to go find father," Luo Mei immediately sprinted to a room a long while down the hall.

She then knocked on it loudly. "Father! Father!"

The door opened and Shi Nangong walked out. "What's going on, Mei'er? Your father is cultivating. It's not a good time to stop him," she said.

"Oh, junior brother found another cure for father's illness," Luo Mei said loudly.

"What?!" Shi Nangong was surprised too. "Oh dear, maybe I should wake your father up."

"What happening? COUGH COUGH. What's the noise about?" Luo Keng walked out too.

"Uncle, I've found another way to cure you. It... is quite hard to do, but it's definitely easier than finding an Alchemist to make the pill," Alex said.

"Oh, if there is a chance then I will take it. Tell me what needs to be done," Luo Keng asked excitedly while he coughed.

"So, I learned that the parasite inside your body is called a Hundred Lives parasite. It's a type of worm beast that eats your Qi to get stronger," Alex said.

"The reason it's called Hundred Lives is that it can eat up to 100 people's worth of Qi before it dies. So, if we can feed it 100 people's worth of True Qi, it will be fine," Alex said.

"So... that's it? 100 people's Qi and it's done?" Luo Keng asked. That seemed... too easy for him.

"Yes, but of course, there are some problems," Alex said.

"Ok, tell me, I'm ready," he said.

"First of all, we don't have much time. At the rate your body is deteriorating, we have maybe 2 weeks at most before we kill the parasite, maybe less."

"Also... um, how many days have you cultivated since 2 months ago, after the beast invasion?" Alex asked.

"I... don't remember. Maybe a few times before I found out I was ill. After that, I have maybe missed a week at most," Luo Keng said.

"So, on a low estimate, we can say you've cultivated for 40 days, right?" Alex asked.

"Yes, that number sounds about right," Luo Keng said.

"Since the parasite releases all of the Qi it ate when changing host, the parasite must've eaten only those 40 day's worth of Qi, so about 40 people's True Qi by now."

"So, in the next 14 days, we need to feed you 60 people's worth of True Qi, maybe even more just to be safe," Alex said.

"...and how will we do that?" Luo Keng asked.

"You will have to gather people to give you their Qi so that we can send it to the parasite to eat. Once it eats it all, it will give birth to more parasites and die," Alex said.

"Wait, more parasite? No, but won't that be bad?" Luo Mei suddenly said.

"Let me finish sister. The new parasites will be common ranked at best, so I can make some Common pills to remove parasites from your body. In fact, you might even be able to remove it with your True Qi as well, Uncle," Alex said.

"Okay, so let me get this straight... I need to gather around 5 true realm people to give me Qi to feed the parasite for about 12-15 days, right?" Luo Keng asked.

"Yes," Alex nodded.

"Hmm, if we could ask random people, it would be fast, but... those people need to be trusted too," Luo Keng said to himself.

"By the way, how will you pour in the Qi? Through my mouth?" Luo Keng asked.

"Um, since the parasite is stuck next to a blood vessel, it's best to send it through the closest blood vessel. That way, in case there is some problem in the Qi, we can stop it from affecting your important organs in the chest," Alex said.

"Also there is another important thing that I haven't mentioned. You definitely need a medically talented person to navigate the blood vessel using their Qi. Otherwise, the problems that come from the random movement of Qi inside your body would be no different from going into Qi deviation," Alex said.

"But don't worry... I have an idea for who can help us with that."