

Alchemy 921

Chapter 921: Ambushed

A person's meridian was connected to one's dantian in their navel area. A dantian revealed itself after one entered the Saint realm, but until then, it was always hidden, shrouded even from a person's own spiritual sense.

The meridians came out from either side of the dantian, each route separating into 8 different major routes at once.

Each of these routes was the Spiritual roots in one's body.

Alex realized that if he pushed his Qi out from dantian, it would have to go through one of the 7 different routes, which would give an aspect to his Qi.

Going through the Fire Spiritual Root would give him Fire Qi, and going through Water Spiritual root would give him Water Qi.

The final meridian had no spiritual root and was thus simply a normal meridian that could help pass Qi through. People with this type of meridian could never enter the Meridian Tempering realm where their Spiritual roots would be tempered and thus they were unable to continue on with their cultivation journey.

Alex continued learning more and more about one's spiritual roots. After all, that was the beginning of the pathway that defined a technique.

He tried using Flame Mastery Scripture to create a water ball again. This time, he understood what had happened.

Since using the technique forced the Qi out of the Fire spiritual roots, his Qi could never turn to water even if he intended it.

No matter how important one's Intent was when using a technique, the pathways were equally just as important.

He tried using the same technique, but by sending Qi through the water roots, but it didn't take him long to realize that each of the Spiritual roots had its own shape, and using one technique while using another pathway just wasn't possible.

"So I intend to use a technique, then the Qi comes out through the spiritual roots on either side. The Qi then splits off to 4 different major meridians belonging to that root?" Alex wondered.

He checked the other spiritual roots and they all split off into 4 different pathways before separating further to become a thousand different pathways that moved throughout one's body.

'Why four?' Alex wondered, but there were no answers for him at the moment.

Alex continued going through the Ancient Battlefield, making a name for himself that even he hadn't realized yet.

A few days later, the bells rang once more, calling for everyone who wanted to leave to leave.

This time around, Alex was going to go. He had learned wherever he could, and wherever he had not was simply too dangerous because of how strong the aura was.

So, it was time to leave. Besides, if his calculations were correct, the Dao mountain was going to open up very soon.

Alex walked back towards the gate along with Pearl, but before he could reach anywhere, a group of people suddenly appeared in front of him.

They pulled out their weapons at once and stood in his way.

Alex paused for a second and continued on. "I'm sorry if you wanted to spar. I'm afraid I can't indulge you on it today," he said.

"Aww! Come on man, we are leaving today. This will be our last spar. We just want to spar with you before we go," one of the men said.

Alex smiled when he heard that. Some of these men had continued to come and try to fight him and had continuously had their butts handed to them by Alex.

They were all around Saint Condensation 5 to Saint Condensation 7th realm, so they were angry for losing at first.

However, when they started realizing that Alex was holding back during their sparring, they started to be more respectful and developed a friendlier attitude.

"Lucky for you then, I'm leaving as well," Alex said.

"Oh, you're leaving? Where will you go?" one of the women asked.

"The Dao mountain," Alex said. "I need to finalize what I've learned here."

"Woah! Are you planning on learning another Dao?" someone else asked.

Alex smiled, but no one could see his expression.

"So... can we not spar?" another person asked. "The gates will open tomorrow, so we have quite a bit of time."

Alex sighed. "Alright, sure." He pulled out his True rank sword and used it to fight the 7 people in front of him... all at once.

Alex didn't even need to use his Sword Aura when he fought them. Just his Sword Qi alone was strong enough. Even his normal Qi was overkill in most instances.

However, perhaps the most problematic part of Alex's fighting style was the way he weaved in and out of combat by teleporting around.

Alex didn't even need shadows to teleport. He could now be anywhere at any time. Although, he did find it a little annoying that the Saints were acutely aware of his position just moments after his teleportation.

No matter how much he teleported, he couldn't hide from their senses at all. As such, they weren't caught off guard as much as True realm cultivators would in the same scenario.

Still, Alex fought the people. Sometimes he would teleport in, sometimes he would teleport the others out.

His fighting style was chaotic, to say the least. Sometimes, he would even drop on all four, losing his sword, and start fighting like a beast.

The Saints were horrified at how good he was at fighting like a beast. If he wasn't walking on 2 legs just moments before, they would have assumed he was a beast using illusions to appear as a human.

Alex pulled no stop in this fight as he used his sword, his fists, his claws, and even his whip which he had ignored for a while.

The only thing Alex didn't use was his blood aura. He wasn't sure if anyone in this continent had cultivated a blood aura or not, so he didn't want to be the first person to show it and thus become a person of a target for everyone to learn from.

The moment someone showed any signs of knowing Blood Aura, he would begin using it openly. For now, all he did was train with it.

After a few hours of combat, the group all gave up one by one even all 7 together, they couldn't force Alex to make any mistakes or hit him with skills that he didn't simply dodge or brush off.

Pearl walked up to Alex and jumped onto his shoulders. He meowed once, letting them know that they should be leaving soon as the gates would be opening.

So, after an hour of rest, the group of 9 walked together towards the gate where thousands of people were standing around to leave.

People noticed the man in the white mask with the white cat next to him and made way for him to leave.

Alex was surprised that they all knew him already. A few people came up to talk to him, and he indulged them in their queries and curiosities.

Many told him to visit their sects or clans or organizations where they could talk about Dao in peace.

Alex didn't make any promises.

Finally, after a few hours, the gates of the Ancient Battlefield opened up, and one by one, everyone walked out.

Chapter 922: Break the Shell

The white-masked, black-robed Alex was a very popular person in Silvermoon city.

Many people called for him to visit them when he could. They either wanted to learn more about how he improved how he did, or if he wanted to join their sect.

Alex indulged the people for a while, going around to visit them in Silvermoon city, speaking about his insights on Dao and revealing his strength to them whenever they wanted to spar.

They were all curious about how he was so strong, but they all figured it had to be because of his Dao or Sword Aura.

No one ever made the connection that Alex's Qi alone was incredibly strong as well.

It took Alex an entire month to go visit every big faction and sect. This concluded with his being requested to join them no matter where he went.

It wasn't long before Alex realized that every faction with a name out there knew about him now and wanted him to join them. And some of them seemed to be planning to do no matter what they could to get him.

In the end, Alex had to reveal his connection to the Frozen Heart sect through the token to get those people off his back. Even then, people still asked him to reconsider, but they weren't as desperate as before.

Alex returned back to his room he had rented in Silvermoon city where he stayed in close cultivation for about 2 more months.

He had learned that there were about 4 more months till the next Dao mountain, so he took his sweet time.

Now, 3 months had passed and only a single month remained before he was forced to go to the mountain. By now, the Saint-ranked cultivators were giving their names to the Nether Poison sect, whose turn it was this time around to look over the Dao mountain.

'1 more month,' Alex thought to himself. 'I should be able to do it.'

He stayed in the city for no more than a week and left it. He made his way east, and then north, going around the Ancient Battlefield, the barrier to which he could see from afar.

After a day of traveling, Alex arrived at a location that on the map was marked to be completely empty and void of any civilization in a wide area.

Even so, the area here was thick with Qi.

Alex landed on the peak of the mountain, his feet sinking into the soft snow.

"This will do," he thought to himself. He called out Pearl after that, who came out to see the new location.

"Where are we?" he asked.

"Somewhere alone," Alex said. He then picked Whisker from his chest and placed him on Pearl's back.

"Take him and go far away from here," Alex said.

"Huh? Why?" Pearl asked. Whisker wondered the same.

Alex smiled. "I'm going to try and break through here, and it is going to be dangerous for you all."

Pearl heard it and realized what it meant. He looked to the cloudy sky and back towards Alex.

"Will you be alright?" he asked.

"Of course," Alex said without hesitation. Pearl nodded and then walked away from the mountain.

Alex saw Pearl and Whisker go away with his senses and sat back on the fresh snow in the middle of the cloudy day.

It had been nearly 2 years since he touched snow this much. The wind picked up, bringing more snow, but not a single snowflake stuck to his body as it evaporated away immediately.

As such, Alex's robe remained black even in the snowfall while his entire surrounding was pure white.

Slowly, Alex started cultivating, bringing out his Yang Qi from his dantian, through the Yang spiritual roots, and sending it around his body as the cultivation method said to do.

Bit by bit, he started drawing in the Qi from the surrounding into his body, and the few remaining True Qi he had started changing to Saint Qi.

Alex continued until all his True Qi turned to Saint Qi, and then once everything became Saint Qi, he focused on enhancing the Saint Qi even further, making it denser.

Making Saint Qi denser wasn't as easy as changing it from True Qi to Saint Qi. At a certain level of concentration, True Qi automatically turned to Saint Qi.

As for Saint Qi, the only way for it to grow denser was through a breakthrough. Only when one entered the next realm did their Saint Qi follow and get stronger.

However, Alex was attempting to do it before even entering the Saint realm.

It wasn't just him that did it. Everyone everywhere had to go through the same scenario. They would have to completely turn their entire Qi to Saint Qi and then force their Saint Qi to get thicker.

It was a hard task, but not as hard as it was for Alex whose Saint Qi was already quite thick. He now had to force his Saint Qi to reach a point in density where it could rival the Saint Foundation realm cultivators, and that was nigh impossible.

Alex didn't care. He was here to do the impossible.

He forced his Qi to condense further and further. It took him quite a bit of time, nearly an entire day, but he did it.

Then, as he continued doing it, his Qi reached the limit of condensation, at which point there was just a single thing left to do.

Alex sent his Qi rushing back into his still-veiled Dantian. He forced his Qi to flow in and then had it forcefully come out.

He collected it again and sent it back before trying to forcefully have it come out.

He did it over and over as he slowly broke through the hard shell of the dantian.

Like a chick inside an egg, he had to break the shell before he could be born, before he could enter the Saint realm.

The Saint realm was what most that had reached a high cultivation base usually called the realm where cultivation truly started.

Everything that came before the Saint realm was just preparation for them to come to the Saint realm.

The Self-Tempering realms were there to forge one's body. It was where one forged their skin, muscle, bone, organ, meridian, and even mind.

The True realms were there to forge one's Qi, make it thicker and thicker until one was ready to handle the real cultivation.

Then, once it was all ready, one would finally be able to become a real cultivator.

However, before one could do that, they needed to free their Dantian.

When born, one's dantian remained in a state which could only be said to be dead from outside. It still worked, but before a person was strong enough, it had to remain in this hardened state where it remained as invulnerable as it could.

The only way to break through to the Saint realm was to remove this hardness, break through the shell and let the sea of Qi be free.

So, Alex worked on exactly that. He pushed his Qi in and out through his Dantian with steadily increasing pressure until he felt a crack in the surface.

The moment Alex heard it, instead of stopping, he went faster. He put more and more force onto it until he heard more cracks.

One after another, more cracks started forming on the surface of the dantian through which white light shone to his spiritual sense.

He could see light spilling out of the cracks on the Dantian, and as bigger cracks formed, he could even see inside a bit.

The dantian looked like a massive sea, not unlike his spiritual sea.

Only in this one, the sea was all just Qi and it slushed around, forcing the hard surface to come off.

Alex continued on, breaking more and more and more of the surface. The hard flakes of the dantian fell off, disappearing into nothingness as the transparent orb inside showed his entire sea of Qi clearly.

More and more of the shell fell off, and after enough of the shell had fallen off, the rest of it easily came off, falling down to nowhere, disappearing to become Qi itself.

As the final flake of the shell fell off, the Dantian revealed itself to Alex for the first time as a transparent ball of Qi with meridians attached to it, gleaming in the white light.

It was beautiful.

The moment Alex's dantian freed up, a wave of Qi escaped from it, rising directly through his body.

It stopped once near his heart before continuing on its way up to the brain. When it reached the brain, it stopped once more, quickly enriching his mind.

As it did, Alex felt his spiritual sense quickly improve.

This was the point when one's Spiritual sea would open up. However, since Alex had already opened it, the energy instead enriched it, making his spiritual sea far stronger.

Bit by bit, Alex felt his spiritual sense spread throughout the mountain. He could only focus on it partly as the majority of it was still focused on his breakthrough.

His spiritual sense slowly grew from the 900-ish meter range he had managed to get it to in the last year and a half, and quickly reached the 1-kilometer mark.

However, it didn't stop there. It continued growing further and further.

1100 meters, 1200 meters, 1300 meters, and so on.

Not having to open his spiritual sense made it so that Alex's spiritual sea grew since the moment he entered the breakthrough process.

It continued growing more and more, reaching 1700, then 1800, and 1900.

It continued on and reached 2000 meters, twice as large as any newly ascended Saint realm cultivator would, but it grew further.

2200 meters, 2400 meters, 2600 meters.

Alex felt his heart skip a beat out of excitement when his spiritual sense reached 3000 meters, and yet it kept on going.

3500, 4000, 4500.

Alex's spiritual sense finally stopped expanding when it reached close to 5000 meters.

5 kilometers, that was his spiritual sense settled on in the end. By now, he could see Pearl and Whisker, waiting far away for him to break through.

Pearl didn't even notice when Alex's spiritual sense passed through him. Alex's sense was so much stronger now that Pearl simply didn't even realize it was there.

Once Alex felt the energy slow down and the Qi recede back, he quickly poured all his focus back on his breakthrough.

The breakthrough itself was almost over. All Alex had to do now was make sure that the Saint Qi that was condensed would remain condensed, putting him at the 1st realm of the Saint Condensation realm.

For that, he had to use his cultivation technique for one last time to send the Qi into a cycle and continue it until he reached the next realm.

Alex started doing just that, and as he progressed, the world around him darkened, and he soon fell into a trance where all sounds faded but one.

His Inner Demon.

"You're alone. All alone," the voice said. "You found your mother, but you lost her once again. Those Saints back in the Western continent will kill her for the offense you did."

"Her blood is in your hand."

Alex heard the voice of his inner demon speak to him. He didn't know he was listening to an inner demon. At this moment, he was in such a trance that he didn't even know what an inner demon was.

This dream-esque world was a reality for him, and his reality was horrifying at the moment.

The voice spoke of endless things. It spoke about his mother being dead, it spoke about the Jaguar being dead. It spoke of how sorrowful Yao Jia most likely was.

It spoke of how he could never return back to the Western Continent. How the people here would never let him leave after what he had shown them.

It spoke of his achievement and how well he was doing, and as a result how much further he was increasing the distance between him and his friends.

He was trying to enter the Saint realm while others struggled to go through the True realms. Sooner or later, the gap would be so big that they would stop seeing him as their friend.

Perhaps the harshest words the voice spoke were when they accused Alex of slowing down Pearl's cultivation.

He spent months on the Ancient Battlefield, learning all these laws and improving his Intent, and yet he didn't give Pearl the same chance.

He made Pearl sit in his beast space while he improved himself alone. And for that, he had increased the gap between him and Pearl in a way that Pearl could never catch up ever again.

The voice went on and on, accusing Alex of every little thing that would sooner or later cause problems for himself and the people around him.

It spoke in the harshest of tones and berated him all around.

However, no matter how much the voice spoke, Alex's heart didn't budge in the slightest.

Sure, the words the voice spoke were harsh, and sometimes true, but that didn't mean Alex would be affected by them. His will was simply too strong to be affected by such little accusation.

His will was forged in ice and fire over a hundred different deaths. A simple voice in his head wasn't going to stop him from advancing on his journey. It would never stop him from taking the next step and moving forward.

If he hurt people in the process, he would heal them. If he strained any relationships, he would mend them. If he made a gap between himself and his friends and families, he would help them cultivate faster.

For if he continued to grow stronger, he could do whatever the hell he wanted.

The voice tried to speak some more, but even it knew Alex wouldn't be moved by it. So, in the end, the voice disappeared, and Alex returned back to himself in the midst of thunderous noises.

He woke up from the dream-esque world where heaven accused him of things he knew in his heart he accused himself of. However, his will had grown so much now that they didn't cause him any problems.

Alex felt his cultivation base grow significantly stronger than it was when he fell into the trance. Even when he was in the dream, his body had continued to cultivate and condensed the Qi further.

Alex continued that cultivation and made the Qi even denser. He was close now, just a little more.

He continued the cultivation, sending Qi through his meridians, helping them get used to the much condensed Qi.

It slowly reached a point where he was a hair's breadth away from entering the Saint realm. But, that hair's breadth of difference stopped him from entering it.

To cross that difference, he had to overcome the obstacle put forth in his path by the heavens itself.

He had overcome the mental obstacle of the breakthrough, gaining victory over his Inner Demon.

Now, he needed to gain victory over the physical obstacle.

Alex heard the roaring sound of thunder, threatening him, for he was the one that brought this tribulation.

Alex slowly stood up from his sitting position as he got ready for the final phase of his breakthrough.

He heard the sky roar louder at him, and he knew this was it. The lightning was going to come down any second now.

So, he slowly reached for his mask and took it off, and he used his newly forged eyes to stare back at the heavens.

He was ready to fight it.

Chapter 924: 10 Bolt

For the first time since he had come here, Alex laid his own eyes on the Northern Continent, and the first thing he saw was the purple bolt of lightning that shot down from the sky.

Even as it came down, Alex looked at it with a surprise on his face. He wasn't surprised at the bolt of lightning, but rather how slow it was to his eyes.

The bolt of lightning was very fast of course, but he could easily follow its path as it came towards him.

The bolt of lightning struck Alex before he was prepared. Even though he saw it coming, his body wasn't as ready as his eye was.

So, he took the full brunt of the lightning strike that destroyed the very peak he stood on.

The lightning trail took a second before it glowed down to nothing, and from the wreckage of the destroyed mountain walked out Alex, who looked rather worn out.

'Dammit!' he thought to himself. 'That lightning strike ruined my clothes. I'm already on my 5th set now. Mother didn't buy me that many after all.'

He took off the tattered clothes and a few storage bags fell to the ground, some fine, but most destroyed.

He saw the armor that he had been wearing for so long fall to pieces as well.

'So much for wearing armor,' he thought. But then, he had relied on this a bit too much in the Ancient Battlefield, so maybe that was why it didn't have any durability.

Alex saw many items all over the ground after the lightning had struck his storage bags as well. Some of the items were burned, while others were destroyed completely.

Fortunately, these were items he kept in his storage bags, which meant they were not very important to him. Everything he wanted safe was in his storage ring, which had survived.

"I'm not going to take a risk with this one," Alex said to himself and took his ring out from his fingers. He pulled out a single Saint-ranked sword from the ring before throwing it in Pearl's direction.

"Catch!" he spoke directly into Pearl's and Whisker's minds.

Pearl saw the ring fly down and caught it before looking towards the naked Alex who now only held a sword in his hand.

He was ready to fight the lightning tribulations with only just that.

He saw the lightning crackle in the sky again. Once again, he was surprised by how slow it was to his eyes. However, when he really thought about it, that made sense.

After all, the first stage of the Demon Eyes gave extreme Dynamic vision. With these eyes, not only could he see very far away, but he could also see every single movement in crystal clarity.

Alex could see each of the snowflakes shine in the lightning's glow as the lightning slowly made its way down towards him.

When the lightning bolt fell down, Alex stood in his place, doing nothing. After all, with such weak lightning, there was no need for him to do anything at all.

He understood that the lightning was supposed to be weak as it was for a new Saint realm cultivator. But still, he hoped it would grow stronger so it was much of a fight.

'I wonder how many times it will fall,' Alex thought.

The lightning struck Alex directly, destroying more of the peak he was standing on top of.

Alex wasn't hurt. His body was in pristine condition with not a single wound, and even his sword showed no damage.

The lightning crackled again, threatening to fall, but Alex didn't give much thought to the lightning in the sky.

Instead, he used the moment to learn the properties hidden behind the lightning. It was unlikely he would learn the Dao of Lightning, but if he could even glimpse into the Dao of Lightning Conduction, that would be a major help for him.

He closed his eyes, trying to understand how the lightning moved through him, how it moved through the sword.

'It's too little,' he thought to himself and stared back up. 'I need some more information. Rather than lightning itself, I need the aura in it.'

With that thought, he flew off into the sky as the next bolt of lightning struck him from the heavens.

When the glow disappeared, Alex's body sizzled a bit, but quickly healed itself back.

"Huh? That was stronger than before," he thought. "Was that Saint Condensation 3rd realm level of power in the lightning?"

Alex's body could handle the 2nd realm's worth of damage, but the 3rd realm would start injuring him, and the 4th realm would gravely injure him.

By the 5th realm, if he had no other forms of protection, there was a high chance he would die.

However, when the next lightning crackled and it fell for him, Alex didn't use his Qi still. He could sense that the damage was going to be painful, but not lethal.

Instead, he would use his raw body to handle it for one more time and learn as much as he could about lightning.

The bolt struck Alex, sending him tumbling downward with force this time. When the light faded back, Alex saw his body sizzling with skins torn off at places and even bones showing at some.

However, within a few seconds, his body healed to the point where it looked like he had taken no damage whatsoever.

"This is definitely getting stronger," he thought. "I can't just use my physical body anymore."

Suddenly, his cultivation base of pseudo-Saint Condensation realm flared as he got ready for the next lightning.

The lightning struck from the heavens once again, but this time around he fought it.

All he did was swing his sword at the lightning, and the strength he put forth easily scattered the lightning away.

The destroyed lightning turned into a lightning aura as it lingered in the air, just like how Alex wanted it to. It would disappear soon, certainly, but not before the tribulation itself was over.

Alex would have plenty of time where he could learn from the aura after the tribulation was over.

A stronger bolt of lightning fell, one that he could feel was around Saint Condensation 6th realm in power. Alex easily fought it off once more. Such a bolt of weak lightning could do nothing to him.

However, the storm didn't disappear and his lightning tribulation only got stronger.

'How strong is it going to get?' Alex started to worry. It was weak at first, and he didn't think much of it, but as it continued growing, a slight fear grew in his heart.

Alex destroyed the next 2 bolts of lightning easily, creating more lightning aura in the air, but the tribulation still persisted. Now, the lightning was so strong that anyone not in the Saint Foundation realm would surely die.

Alex simply punched the next lightning bolt and destroyed it, completely shattering the lightning aura in the atmosphere.

However, the lightning continued to crackle again in the sky, getting much stronger again.

Alex couldn't help but frown. 'What the hell? How many times is it supposed to fall?' he thought.

There had been 9 different lightning bolts already, yet it still continued to rain down lightning.

Alex prepared himself for the next bolt as it fell, not even giving him much breathing space in between.

He could feel that this lightning bolt was going to be stronger than the last, but not by much.

From what he could see, it was strong enough to defeat a Saint Condensation 9th realm cultivator but weak enough that a Saint Foundation realm cultivation.

The jump in strength for the lightning had slowed down quite a lot, but there was still an increase. However, if this continued, the damage would certainly be stronger and stronger.

9 bolts had already fallen for him, and he had fought it, but the tribulation still persisted.

"How many more?" Alex shouted at the heaven, and in response, the heaven struck back.

The bolt of lightning, slightly green in color this time, as opposed to the white bolt with a purple glow, fell down towards him.

Alex poured Sword Qi into his sword and struck back. It wasn't hard to destroy the lightning bolt, but when he felt the aura around him, he realized that the aura contained mysteries, the answer to which he already knew.

The lightning strikes now had some insights from a Dao he knew. The Dao of Plant Growth.

Chapter 925: More Lightnings

Alex stood wide-eyed in the sky as he felt the aura of the Dao he was familiar with in the lightning bolt.

He understood what that very likely meant.

As the lightning crackled again, Alex got ready for the next lightning bolt to come down, and when it did, it was going to have a Dao he learned in it.

'It's going to strike me down for each dao I've learned now, isn't it?' he thought to himself.

When the bolt of lightning struck down, Alex used his Sword Qi to fight again, this time barely destroying the lightning bolt.

This bolt was stronger again, more so than the last one, definitely in the range of what a normal Saint Foundation realm cultivator could put out.

If Alex wanted to continue fighting, he would need to handle the strength of the bolt he would have to use his stronger skills now.

'Dao of Heat Conduction,' Alex thought when he felt it. 'Is it starting with the weaker ones?'

Alex looked back at the sky. If he was correct in his understanding, then there were 4 bolts of lightning coming for him. And each one of them would be stronger than the last one.

Instead of sword Qi, Sword Aura flared this time as sword-shaped Qi started appearing all around Alex as he got ready to attack.

The next bolt of lightning fell from the stormy clouds, and Alex sent his Sword Aura flying into the air.

The sword slash struck the lightning and destroyed it once again.

'Dao of Five Elemental Interactions,' Alex thought when he felt the aura. Now, three more remained.

The next lightning fell soon after, heating up everything in the area.

Fortunately, Alex felt absolutely nothing from the heat as he was now immune to heat by now.

However, the lightning was still dangerous. He struck it as hard as he could with his Sword Aura.

The aura flew into the sky, hitting the lightning bolt in its path, barely blocking it. The bolt tried to push through, but Alex's sword aura persevered. It kept moving on and finally destroyed the lightning bolt that was full of laws from the Dao of Heat.

'2 more,' Alex thought to himself.

He wondered what the next one was going to be. Explosion or Teleportation?

The answer came in a form of a red lightning bolt, full of Fire Qi. The explosive lightning fell from heaven, and Alex realized that Sword Aura alone would not be enough this time around.

And so, on top of Sword Aura, he used the Penta-Sword strike to send his attack flying back at the bolt of lightning.

When they clashed, Alex felt the shockwave from the explosion. The sound that rang from it threatened to deafen even the thunder above it.

The lightning that crackled in the sky seemed dimmer in front of this explosion, and when Alex felt it, he realized that the next one was going to be stronger.

Suddenly, blood oozed out from every pore of his body, slowly covering him all over. Alex felt a bit anemic from so much of his blood being forced out, but he could survive it.

Some of the blood on his armor seeped down into the sword, slowly mixing as his Blood aura mixed together with the Sword Aura and his Metal Qi to become stronger.

At the same time, Alex burned his sword, the flames glowing brightly on it.

Then, when the lightning fell, he sent him flying.

The fire, blood, metal, and sword aura all flew to the sky, hitting the lightning right as it came down.

The attack landed, and Alex immediately realized that he was the weaker of the two.

His Quad-Aura attack was somehow weaker than the bolt of lightning that carried the Teleportation Dao. This was the last strike, but Alex had a problem beating it.

It was just that much stronger.

However, Alex wasn't done yet. He reached his hands into the sky and he used his Intent as well as his authority the best he could.

"Explode!"

The flames that burned in the sky burst into a loud explosion, far stronger than the one that came down with the lightning last time. The massive explosion was so strong that Alex feared he could kill a Saint Core cultivator if he was given the chance for it.

The explosion was obviously stronger than the one that came with the lightning just before, and as a result, Alex was about to defeat his final lightning strike.

However, something happened that he definitely should have expected to happen.

The lightning bolt teleported, appearing right in front of him.

"Shit!" Alex thought. That was the last thing he did before the bolt of lightning struck him directly.

Alex tumbled through the sky, thrown off by the bolt of lightning. He quickly found his balance, but that took some time.

He breathed out a deep sigh of relief when he realized that his blood armor had blocked the damage for him. But he didn't doubt that he would have still been safe given how much his attacks had weakened the lightning.

Alex took a deep breath and looked towards the sky, and suddenly his heart skipped a beat when he realized that the sky hadn't lost its darkness yet.

The storm still lingered and so did the lightning. The lightning coalesced in the sky, preparing to come down again.

"For what?" Alex shouted out, but there was no answer. He didn't know why the next lightning would ever fall. He had no more Dao that he understood at all.

And from what he could tell, this lightning was going to be much stronger.

Alex felt the aura around the lightning as it continued to get bigger and bigger. Soon, he could freely sense it all and realized what the lightning was for.

It was for every single law or mystery that he had gained an insight into, every single Dao that he was close to learning, but hadn't learned yet.

"That's... not possible though! Why would I be struck for something I don't have yet?" Alex complained, but heaven wouldn't listen to him.

The lightning grew stronger and stronger, and Alex used every single skill he could to protect himself.

The Jade Skin technique, the Five Elemental Barrier, and the Blood Armor came out to protect him.

His Sword Aura flared, his Penta-Sword Strike got ready, and the Blood Manipulation skill was used to prepare his next strike.

A fire burned far above him, as he readied the rest of his Dao to fight the next lightning bolt.

He was as ready as he could be at the moment.

Just when he expected the lightning to fall onto him, a single ray of light fell from the sky.

Alex's body moved faster than his mind as he sent his attack flying into the sky. However, all it did was pass through the storm clouds that had started to part to let the sunlight in.

His tribulation clouds were disappearing and with it the lightning that was prepared to fall.

"What?" Alex looked up with surprise. "So it was only supposed to fall when I learned the Dao. Dammit! Scared me for nothing."

9 lightning bolts fell in a tribulation no matter what. After that, 1 fell for each of the Dao ones had learned.

Alex didn't know the number, but he knew now.

He survived 15 different lightning strikes, and he was more than happy with it.

Pearl quickly flew through the air as he came towards Alex. He paused a bit when he came close to him, but continued on nonetheless.

He arrived next to him and gave him back his ring. Alex quickly dressed up and sat down to cultivate.

Now that he had broken past his lightning tribulation, there was only one thing left to do.

So, he quickly focused on his cultivation to condense his Qi just that much further and within moments of sitting down, he did it.

The heavens drifted down from above like they always did when someone broke through to the Saint realm or above, which could be easily mistaken for someone learning a Dao.

When they did, Alex felt a rush of power surge within him as all of his Qi condensed into his Dantian, making it certain that without a shadow of a doubt, Alex had broken through to the Saint realm.

Chapter 926: Yin and Yang

Alex sat down and cultivated. While he had now broken through to the Saint Realm, there still were a few different things he needed to do before he could just stand up and walk.

The main thing he had to do for now was making sure his foundation was stable.

As he did, he also started looking into the mysteries in the lightning aura that lingered around them.

Pearl came and sat next to him, and so did Whisker. Pearl too started looking into what he could in the aura around him.

Alex tried to learn the mysteries the best he could, but it wasn't very long before he realized there was something wrong with the lightning aura.

It wasn't just lightning that had struck from the heavens. It was tribulation lightning, something that was completely archaic and distant from anything any cultivator could ever hope to understand.

While normal lightning stemmed from Wood Qi, tribulation lightning came directly from the heavens with no aura that anyone would be naturally familiar with. It was heaven's one and only weapon for making sure those that did not deserve something did not have it.

As such, Alex had a hard time finding the law behind the lightning. Still, he tried what he could.

Who knew, maybe one day he would learn the Dao behind the Tribulation lightning itself.

As Alex continued, Pearl continued as well, slowly understanding what he could of the aura that still lingered.

He was surprised how much easier this aura was to understand given how hard a time he had on the ancient battlefield.

Unfortunately, he couldn't learn a new dao. The aura simply didn't linger long enough for him to understand it.

Alex realized that the lightning aura had disappeared as well. So, he stopped focusing on the aura and started focusing on himself.

He sent his new and strong spiritual sense all around him, surprised at how far he could see with the 5 Kilometers distance.

He looked outside with his new eyes, seeing everything slow down again.

The bright sunlight that had passed through the sky after his tribulation was over was once again filled with clouds as it continued snowing.

Alex then closed his eyes and looked into his own body. With a stronger spiritual sense, he started looking into his own body.

He started with the head where he saw his Spiritual sea. Alex entered it and saw that not much had changed there aside from the lake being a lot bigger and denser.

'Actually, has the mountain changed size?' Alex wondered. He couldn't tell exactly as he never focused on the shape of the mountain when he entered here.

"You broke through, kid? Congratulation," Godslayer spoke from the side.

"Yes, thank you," Alex replied. "Do you think this mountain looks a little smaller than before?"

"Of course it does. It's supposed to," the Godslayer said. "You can't expect to come here from time to time, absorb so much of it, and still have it remain the same."

"Right, I have been doing that, but it still looks smaller than I expected it to be. When was the last time I came here?" Alex wondered.

"Beats me," Godslayer said. "I can't really tell how much time has passed."

Alex thought about it for a bit and realized that he hadn't entered this place since after he learned Sword Aura and broke through to the 8th True Emperor realm.

'It has been so long,' he thought. And yet, somehow there weren't that many silver threads floating in the sky.

'I wonder what happened to them,' Alex wondered. 'Can I subconsciously absorb them now?'

Alex poured his yellow fog onto the mountain, but nothing happened. It was all the same.

Once he checked everything, Alex returned back out and continued. He checked his bones, his skin, his muscles, and even his meridian as he went down.

His organs were fine, so he quickly moved down until he reached his newly forged dantian.

To his senses, the dantian was a transparent ball of pure white energy. The light that shined through it was incredibly sharp and strong.

Alex easily saw the spiritual roots coming out from either side, the 16 different meridians, 2 each.

Then, he went deeper and saw his own Qi. The sea of Qi that was the Dantian looked clean and pristine. With nothing blocking his view, Alex could now see how much Qi he had and he didn't have.

Currently, his dantian was barely half filled and he somehow felt full.

'I wonder if I will have to completely fill this up to enter the next realm,' Alex thought.

Just then, he felt something. Alex's attention shifted to something that was inside the Qi, hiding beneath the sea.

Alex slowly sent his own sense down through the sea and was beyond surprised when he saw something.

Hiding deep underwater in the ocean was a ball of pure yellow energy and an orb of pure bluish-white energy.

The two spheres were constantly pulling and pushing each other, sending out waves of energy. When one energy overpowered the Qi around there, the other one would also send its own energy to balance that out.

However, instead of destroying each other, the energy merged to become just single pure energy.

There was no chance Alex wouldn't recognize it at all.

The yellow sphere was the fruit he ate back in the deserts beyond the Forbidden Fields, the Nine Heavens Yang Fruit.

That was the fruit that went into his Dantian and stayed there for years, constantly turning his Qi into Yang, and thus imbalancing his entire body to be nothing but full of Yang.

It was only solved when he ate the other sphere in there, the one whose name he did not know yet.

He knew both these spheres were in his body, and he even knew they were in his Dantian, but this was the first time he was seeing them so clearly.

This to him was very surprising and enlightening.

At the same time, people from all around the state of Dong and Shuang started flying in his direction.

The phenomenon that Alex had created when he went through his lightning tribulation hadn't gone unnoticed. People were only extremely scared to get in between someone's attempt at breaking through to the immortal realm.

They only came afterward to either see someone ascend for the first time in what eons, or see them fail as every single other person had in the last thousands of decades.

Alex sensed them when they entered his range of spiritual sense and in the next few seconds, their spiritual sense was on him.

When they realized that the person who was there was just a young man, they were quite surprised.

They flew up to him without hesitation when they came to understand that he was just a newly ascended Saint realm cultivator.

Alex quickly placed Pearl and Whisker into their beast space and slowly got up to greet the many people who had arrived.

When they all finally saw him clearly, they were surprised to realize that they had no idea who he was.

"Young man, who are you?" they asked.

Alex looked up at the many people that stood around. He was surprised that he recognized quite a few of them, as most of the people that had come were from the Frozen Heart sect.

He bowed a little towards them. "Greetings, seniors.

It was indeed I that broke through just now."

"You brought down the lightning just before?" someone asked.

"Yes," Alex said calmly.

"Ah! We expected too much, I suppose," one of the elders said. They were all surprisingly calm about what Alex had just done.

He would've expected people to be more surprised than they seemed to be.

"So, we have another one, huh?" someone said.

"What is it now? 3?" another person said.

"I think so?" someone else replied.

'3? Are they talking about new Saint realms that went through a lightning tribulation?' Alex wondered. That would mean that there had to be other people that learned Dao before entering the Saint realm.

'Ah, right,' he thought. He remembered at least one person like that. An image of a woman veiled in a red robe floated in his mind. The same person he had seen 2 years ago on the Dao mountain.

'There must be more than me then,' he thought. It wasn't as surprising of information as he would've thought it would be, but it certainly was interesting.

Chapter 927: Temporary Return

"What's your name, young man?" a woman asked.

Alex smiled as he looked towards her. "Does elder Xuan not recognize me without my mask?" he asked.

The woman was a little taken aback, but when she focused on the voice rather than the face, she instantly recognized him.

"Yu Ming?" she asked with a surprised expression on her face. The other elders standing around were quite surprised as well.

One way or another, whether it was through his double Dao in the Dao Mountain, or his feats in the Ancestral Battlefield, people had come to know the True realm cultivator who could match up to the Saint realm cultivator.

And now, that very person had broken through.

"Isn't that your disciple, elder Xuan?" One of the men with purple robes spoke. Alex looked at the man, but besides knowing that he was from the Blue Spring sect, he had no other idea.

"He is," elder Xuan said. "He left to train 2 years ago after the Dao mountain."

She turned back towards him. "You should have come to the sect so you could break through in peace, instead of out here in the middle of nowhere," she said.

Alex smiled. "I knew there was going to be a lot of thunder and lightning, so I didn't want to implicate anyone like the sect leader of the Snow Immortal sect did all those years ago," he said.

A few of the people in the group flinched a little when they heard him speak about that incident.

"Well, then let us get you away from here," the elder Xuan said.

Alex nodded and flew up. He said his farewell to the rest of the people that had come and flown away from the mountain.

The ladies from the Frozen Heart sect flew as well.

After reaching a bit far away, he thanked them. "Thank you, elder Xuan. I wouldn't have been able to get away so easily from there had it not been for you," he said.

"I would be surprised if you had been able to. With the stunt you pulled, anyone would be interested in you," the elder said.

The other elders flew next to them as well, but they didn't speak much.

"Yes," Alex said. "But I'm not the first one to do what I did, am I?"

"No," the elder sighed. "The Blazing Earth sect's Li Zhumei did it about a decade ago now. There was also another one that did that, but he couldn't survive the lightning and died."

"I see," Alex said. He was surprised to hear that someone that had nearly broken through to the Saint realm had actually died due to the lightning tribulation.

This was the second time he was learning of someone's death from tribulation.

"You left because you wanted to grow and improve, didn't you?" Elder Xuan asked. "Are you willing to return now? This time you will be an elder too."

Alex thought for a moment, but he didn't need to. "No," he said. "While I appreciate the offer, I do not wish to get tied down to a sect."

"Is there a reason?" the elder asked.

Alex remained silent for a bit. Was there a reason? Of course, there was. But could he tell them? Could he let them know that he came from the Western Continent?

Alex tried, but he couldn't think of a reason why not. Maybe he could even get them to help him teleport back to the Western Continent.

But then again, would that be of any help given that the Intercontinental teleportation formation back in the Western continent was clearly destroyed?

So, he decided to keep the real reason until he was strong enough to defend himself from any irrational hatred these people may have for the ones on the Western Continent, or even just until he was big enough that they actually cared what he asked for.

"I just want to continue being strong," he said, which was true too in a sense when you remembered that he still had to fly over the entire ocean to return to the Western Continent when all else failed.

"You can be strong while remaining in the sect too," she said. "Now that you are a Saint, you have thousands of years ahead of you. There is no hurry anymore."

Alex smiled, but he said nothing else.

"Sigh, I assume you will want to return to the Dao mountain this time around?" she asked.

"I do, actually," Alex said. "I was actually planning on going to the sect once to get myself easily put on the list."

"Good, there's still time for that," the elder said.

Alex chatted with the elder about what he did for the last 2 years while he flew as fast as he could.

He could tell that the elder was slowing herself down for his sake, but it was still quite fast.

Within a couple of hours, he could see the Frozen Heart sect fully for what it was.

The circular city-like walled sect was mostly covered in snow. Especially this time of the year, the snow was thicker than normal as well.

The group landed somewhere away from the main tower at the center and Alex took a few seconds to recognize where he was.

"The alchemy house?" he asked confusedly.

"Now, don't worry, you're not making pills or anything," the elder said. "Unless you want to, that is. We're only giving you this room because it is the safest room out there."

"Safest?" Alex asked. He couldn't tell how his old room could possibly be safer than the tower at the center of the sect.

"Stay in the room. If anything dangerous happens, use this token to teleport away from the room using the formation. I expect you to know what I'm talking about," she said.

Alex nodded. There was a teleportation formation under the bed in the room he had lived for nearly a year before. He had never cared about it since it was a one-way formation, and also because he needed authority.

"What danger could come to the Frozen Heart sect?" he asked the elder, but she said nothing.

"It's just a precaution. You have nothing to worry about," she said. "Now, I'll let you be for now. Take some rest and deal with your cultivation base. We will talk later."

"Thank you, elder," Alex said and turned around to go back to the house. On the way, he stopped and looked at the small garden that he had been growing, which was now nothing but a ground full of snow.

It was sad, but there was nothing he could do. He did leave this place to improve, and he would do it all over again.

He returned to his alchemy room, which didn't seem to have been changed as much. He noticed the bed and the formation underneath it.

"What danger?" Alex thought to himself again. He couldn't think of any at all.

In the end, he shook his head, sat down on the bed, and started cultivating. As he did, slowly started learning about the new things that were available to him.

After all, he had broken through to the Saint realm, which meant that an extra layer had been removed from the Alchemy God's Knowledge.

Chapter 928: Ingredients From Pill

Alex went through the knowledge he had learned, trying to understand what new thing was not available for him to understand. He started accessing the new knowledge he had acquired from the Alchemy god.

As he went through his mind, he realized that there were exactly 2 new things that he had no idea about before, that he now knew.

There was also one other thing that he had learned. It was similar to his ability to improve common pills just by making them but for True pills.

However, this time, it didn't just happen, but rather he knew a bit more about how pills worked.

Alex chuckled a bit when he realized that the Alchemy God was slowly giving him bit-by-bit information about Combinations and Structure.

He would likely only learn about it fully when he reached the Immortal realm.

The other 2, however, were something he wasn't expecting to learn anytime soon.

The first one was a knowledge skill. It wasn't a skill that was used using Qi, but using one's understanding of alchemy, like how one would solve a math problem using formula.

The thing he had learned was how to figure out all the ingredients used in a single pill.

Alex could do this with pills he was used to, but he didn't know how to do it if he was ever given a new pill he had no idea about.

There were a set of rules that Alex could use to determine the ingredients. That included knowing the different energy types that are in harmony in a single pill, then going from there to figure out the rest of the ingredients that would have such energy.

Along with that, the color, smell, taste, and mainly the effect of the pill were used to determine the ingredients.

At first, Alex didn't think much about the knowledge he had just received. After all, how many times would he have to worry about finding out the ingredients behind a pill?

There would certainly be some moments when he came across new pills that he wanted to learn about, but those would be rare, even if they were important.

However, when he gave it a bit more thought, he started realizing the significance of the situation.

Yes, he could analyze the ingredients using the energy interaction, color, smell, taste, and its effects. But if he could do that, then the reverse was also certainly possible, right?

Sure he would fall into some fallacies here and there, but he didn't want the exact information, just a possibility. If he was given a random set of ingredients, and he knew that he could make a pill that did some specific thing using those ingredients, that alone would be quite amazing for him.

Alex understood that just because something worked one way, it didn't necessarily work the other way too.

Just because he found ingredients using all those information, didn't mean that by using those ingredients, he could come to an inevitable conclusion on what its resulting pill would do.

After all, any given set of ingredients could have as many pills as permutations were possible, which was only amplified by the change in energy released from each ingredient.

But, if he could look at a list of ingredients and say that this ingredient can be used to make that sort of pill, he could worry about finding the exact recipe later on.

He looked more into this information and frowned a little.

'That's going to be tough,' he thought.

It seemed the Alchemy god was done holding his hands for now and wanted him to do everything by himself.

Alex now had knowledge of what color, smell, taste, or effect was related to which ingredient. Since he already knew the elemental composition of every ingredient out there, there was that for him to take knowledge from too.

However, he would no longer get instant answers as he did with everything before. Instead, Alex would have to now go through his knowledge base and figure it out on his own.

It was like the Alchemy God was giving him homework and would not teach him how to complete it beyond the textbooks and formulas he was given. Everything else, he had to figure out himself.

'Very well, let's test it out then,' Alex thought and brought out a random True rank pill. It was one of the few True rank pills that he had no idea about as he had gotten it from the hands of the people he killed back in the Demon realm.

Alex looked at the bluish-green pill and closed his eyes to use his senses on it. Since he knew the color, he went with the scent.

For some reason, he got a distinct idea that smell wasn't the best way to figure it out at all, but he couldn't tell why. After all, every single pill had a fragrance to it, right?

Maybe it was because of how little variations smells could have. But then, that was true of color too.

Alex didn't understand why, but he didn't dwell on it for very long.

After learning the color and the smell of the pills, the number of ingredients he could choose from had reduced drastically, but there were still so many different names floating in his head.

Some of which he had never heard before at all. It wasn't just the names too, he could distinctly visualize every single plant-type ingredient even though he hadn't seen it ever before.

The next task was to check the harmony in the pill between the different energies.

Overall, it looked like the pill was just a simple pill with water energy, but when looked deeper, there was a different answer.

He could see water energy through his senses, but he could also see 9 different other energy hiding behind the overall water energy.

'10 different energy,' Alex thought. '10 different ingredients.'

He was getting somewhere now. He focused on the pill's water energy and focused on it even further. He focused so much that the water-energy no longer looked like water, but rather 6 different energy.

'A True rank ingredient,' Alex understood. It was an easy guess given that it was the energy at the forefront, but that was still good to know.

However, what surprised Alex even further was that he could see the minute differences in energy now.

'So this is how it manifests huh?' Alex thought. He hadn't expected much from it, but he was glad that his Dao of Five Elemental Interaction was coming to some use here.

He could now see, in vague ideas, the general composition of energy for that ingredient based on the single energy type.

While the energy was mostly water, it also included the other type of energy, and now he could tell how much of the other energies were present in the ingredient.

Yang and Yin barely counted for anything in the energy, and even if they did have a large part, Alex would be blind about it for the most part.

There was also some fire, a little more earth, and a little less metal. Overall, those accounted for less than 1% of the entire energy which was just water.

That composition of energy helped him vastly narrow down the list of ingredients until there were but 3 different ingredients in mind.

He cross-referenced that with the color and smell, and one of the ingredients was immediately disqualified from his mind.

Between the last two, it was a hard choice, but he would find his answers when he ate the pill and saw its effect.

For now, he focused on the other 9 energies and tried to figure out their ingredients.

By the time he was all done with the energies, he had a list of about 17 ingredients, out of which there was a contention between 7 pairs, while he was sure the final 3 were confirmed.

Finally, he placed the pill into his mouth and swallowed it without hesitation.

The pill entered his stomach and slowly dissolved before... doing nothing.

"Oh... right," Alex remembered. He was now a Saint realm cultivator, so a True pill wouldn't work on him anymore.

"Well... that was a waste," he thought. He was a little disappointed that the pill didn't affect him at all, but he still brought the list of ingredients for the pill down from infinity to just 17, out of which 10 were correct.

"I will see that as a win for now," he thought and moved on.

Chapter 929: Supreme Elemental Accord

Alex moved on to the next thing he learned, which he was very surprised to learn.

Without waiting, Alex closed his eyes and learned the new technique he had received.

'Holy shit!' he couldn't help but cuss out loudly when he realized what the new skill he had learned did.

Alex pulled out a wooden box from his storage bag and opened it. Inside was a bright blue flower with a white center. It had 3 different petals drooping downward and five more pointed upward.

The stalk itself was rather blue as well, giving the flower a unique look.

This was a Saint-ranked ingredient known as Blueheart, and one of the few Saint ingredients that Alex had yet to use since the beginning of his life as an Alchemist.

Found in the Northern Forest in the storage bag of the alchemist that fled this continent, today was the first time Alex had taken out this ingredient to do anything more than just look at it.

The flower was a Wood attribute ingredient with Fire and Earth elements missing, which could easily weaken and ruin the Wood element of the ingredient.

Alex took the flower out of the box and into his palm. Then, he activated the technique.

Waves of Qi swayed back and forth in his dantian as they slowly emerged from either side of the dantian.

Alex focused on the Qi as it surprisingly took all 8 paths on each side. There was not a single spiritual root that the Qi didn't pass through.

As such, the resulting Qi that would come out of Alex would have all 7 elements and a portion that belonged to no element.

The combination of Qi then entered the flower Alex was holding and suddenly some of the Qi he sent in was being used up.

Alex could visibly see the multicolor Qi fizzle out from the flower slowly, but he continued sending in more Qi. After he had used what was nearly a tenth of his entire Qi pool, he finally stopped and took a deep breath.

Then, he stared at the flower in his hand with a wide grin on his face.

If what the technique said was correct, and if he had made no mistakes, then according to the technique, the flower was full of energy with not a single bit missing.

Meaning that the flower was now one of the, if not, the best ingredients he had ever seen.

With not a single bit of energy missing from it, if Alex could use the flower, and similar ingredients to make pills, there was a very high chance that he could reach 100% now.

'I can do it,' he thought to himself. 'I now have a way to reach 100% Harmony.'

Alex was happy that he didn't even understand how to celebrate it. Did he jump up and down? Did he shout? What should he do?

Overwhelmed with thoughts, he instead just sat there, wide-eyed, looking at the Blueheart in front of him.

Surely, the technique he had just learned, the Supreme Elemental Accord, was going to help him get closer to the 100% harmony that he had been seeking for such a long time.

It cost him a tenth of his entire Qi to fully add the required energy to just one ingredient. If he wanted to make a single pill with 10 ingredients, he would have to lose his entire pool of Qi and then cultivate it again to continue it.

'Well, that should get better with time,' he thought. He was only in the first realm of Saint Condensation realm. As he continued, his pool of Qi would get bigger and better, requiring him to use less Qi.

'Although, I shouldn't need much Qi for true ingredients, right?' he thought. He quickly brought out a True rank ingredient and used the Supreme Elemental Accord on it.

Instantly, all 8 of his spiritual roots worked once again to pull out Qi into Alex's hands, from where it poured onto the ingredient.

Within moments, the ingredient was filled to the brim with energy. Whether it had lost some energy, or never had it, to begin with, the ingredient instantly became full and thus a candidate to push his Alchemy results to the peak.

Alex thought of teaching the skill to Whisker, but then he sighed when he understood that there was really no one he could teach this skill to.

Possibly, only he and his mother were capable of learning this skill amongst every single one that he had met.

After all, the technique required one to have not all 5 but all 7 Spiritual roots, making it almost feel like the skill was made for him.

With the Supreme Elemental Accord, Alex could now do what most people would never be able to.

Alex thought for a bit about it. He wondered if he could somehow change the technique to make it so that people with not many spiritual roots, like Whisker, could use it too.

However, when he remembered how energies in ingredients were stored, how there was more than one element even when it looked like the ingredient just had a single element, they couldn't do it.

Alex also thought of using more than a single person to purify the ingredient, but that was a lot of thinking for his mind at the moment.

He didn't need to think that far ahead when he was in no trouble from using the ingredients.

He spent some time improving a few more Saint-ranked ingredients he had and finally stopped.

There were just too many ingredients for him to improve, so he decided to do so when the time came or he was free enough to do so.

With the new knowledge, he had gained to reverse engineer the ingredients of the pill, and the new technique to make any ingredient the best it could be, the upcoming pills he was going to make would certainly be some of the best out there.

Once Alex was done, he went on to the various other things he had received from entering the Saint realm.

From what he understood, there were 3 more things he had likely come to improve upon.

The first one was the Flame Mastery Scripture, which wasn't as great as he would've hoped for, but the ability to improve his Fire Spiritual roots was quite an addition.

'I will have to wait a bit for that,' Alex thought. There weren't any good Fire elemental treasures for him to use the technique to improve his fire roots just yet.

Other than that, there was also the Five Yang Divine Path where he could now use the 4th path of the 5, the Immortal Yang path. With the new cultivation method, he would increase his cultivation speed by quite a lot.

Finally, there was the Blood God's Manual. With his new cultivation base, Alex's bloodline would have improved as well, allowing for him to view at least the next page of the manual.

So, he pulled out the book and held onto the sharp blade to pour his blood onto the book.

The book drank the generous amount of blood that Alex was pouring onto it and finally, it shined crimson to flip onto the 4th of the 7 pages.

Page 4: Blood Beasts

Chapter 930: Back to the Mountain

Blood Beasts.

By drowning a beast's core in one's blood, one could reinvoked the beast's spirit hidden in the core and forge a body for it using that invoker's blood.

The forged beast would be without any intelligence, but it would carry over the natural instincts the beast may have had in its lifetime.

The strength of the beast depended on whichever was stronger, the cultivation base of the dead beast, or the Blood Aura of the owner.

Alex read the amount of blood one would need to form a single blood beast and almost felt anemic thinking about how much blood he was going to have to use.

Furthermore, it seemed that the process had a certain amount of success rate, which reached its highest when the owner's blood aura was stronger than the Beast's cultivation base.

The greater the difference in the other direction, the easier it was to fail.

Alex didn't exactly know how strong his Blood Aura was as of yet, so he would have to test it out sometime soon.

"I don't have beast cores too," he thought to himself. He had either fed it all to Pearl or eaten it himself. He would have to get it from somewhere if he wanted to try it out.

"Should I buy some? Or can I hunt some for myself in the Demonic forest?" Alex wondered. The Dao mountain's opening was coming closer, so he couldn't waste his time on experiments at the moment.

So, whatever the answer was, he would have to figure it out after he left the Dao mountain. he was also going to leave making Saint ranked pills and improving his Fire Spiritual roots after he had come out from the Dao mountain.

For now, he decided to focus on the upcoming Dao mountain and prepare for that. He told Pearl to do the same as well, and together they started thinking about many laws they had learned in the Ancient Battlefield.

There had been way too many Daos, and he needed to organize the mysteries he had understood at that time. The information in his head was knotted up pieces of rope that he would have to untangle.

In the meantime, he would be called by the elder from time to time to talk with her. He learned that Lady Xuan had missed the last Dao Mountain opening and was thus going along this time.

Between that and his cultivation, Alex spent away most of his time. During this time, his beasts also surprised him.

After remaining in his beast space for over a year and a half, Whisker's cultivation base had come incredibly close to breaking through and he had only needed a bit more time. During these few days Alex had, Whisker managed to break through and finally entered the True realm.

Pearl had also improved a lot and had entered the True Emperor 9th realm during this time. With a bit more cultivation and a few more years, Pearl too would end up as a Saint, just like him.

After a few more days, Alex heard a knock on his door.

An elder came to take him with them to the ship where everyone was ready. The day had come when the Dao mountain was to open up.

Lady Xuan and many other elders as well as 100 different disciples were lined up, waiting for the ship to open appear so they could board it.

When Alex arrived, the girls looked at him curiously. They didn't understand why a black-robed Saint realm man was going with them.

"You didn't change?" Lady Xuan asked.

"I didn't see the need to," Alex said.

In the midst of many crystal-blue-robed ladies, he was the only one wearing a black robe and thus stood out like a splash of ink on a white canvas.

"What about your mask? You should wear your mask," she said.

"I don't need it anymore though," Alex said. "My eyes are healed. Besides, my face does more for anonymity than my mask."

"You're not going to wear a mask to remain anonymous. You're going to wear it because that's your identity now," the elder said.

"Ah, then it's all the more reason for me to not wear it," Alex said with a smile. "I wish to remain anonymous. I've had too much trouble with people recognizing me when I came out of the Ancient Battlefield."

"Are you sure?" Lady Xuan asked, and Alex nodded. "Very well then. You can do as you wish."

The ship flew through the night and arrived in the morning when it came time for them to form the fighting stage for the True realm cultivators.

More ships arrived and soon all 5 ships were here.

Alex sat on the ship and watched as the battle proceeded one by one. It felt weird not being down there, fighting, and instead being up here with the 'adults'.

'I guess I am an adult now.' He chuckled to himself. It was weird how even at 30 years old, he still felt like a young man, but once he entered the Saint realm his feelings changed.

His view of the world shifted as he had raised a little higher and could see from the same viewpoint as most others.

Throughout the day, Alex saw several saint realm cultivators arrive and stay in the vicinity. Some conversed with each other, while some remained alone.

Most were with groups however as that was where the name list was first derived from for the Dao mountain.

Important sects, clans, and organizations would receive that information first, and thus they would be the ones to give all the names they could, before leaving the rest for the rogue cultivators and smaller factions.

The fights below came to an end around midnight and there were 23 True realm cultivators that had passed. After some time, everyone was called to gather up as the mountain would open up at any time now.

Alex went down and stood in a group of 2000 people, that listened to the words of one of the ancestors from the Nether Poison sect.

Alex had already heard the explanation before, so he didn't need to hear it. Instead, he focused on something else.

Ever since coming down, he seemed to have grabbed the attention of a few different people.

He didn't know if it was because they recognized him or simply because he came with the Frozen Heart sect. There was a lot of jealousy towards a man that could intermingle with the Frozen Heart sect.

People's senses landed on Alex all around, but after seeing that he was but a weakling in their eyes, their senses retreated.

However, one still remained.

The old man in front of them finished talking, but the sense still lingered on him. It wasn't just there, it was checking him, staring at him.

Alex followed the sense back and was surprised to realize who the owner of the thread was.

'Her?' Alex thought when he saw the woman in the red veil that was known as the Veiled Fairy. According to Lady Xuan, her real name was Li Zhumei.

Alex wondered why she was looking at him. He turned his head to look towards her, but instead of trying to act like she had been caught staring at him, her sense fell on his even harder.

The sun rose from the east and the elders started working on opening the gate.

"Can I help you?" Alex asked through his spiritual sense.

He got no answer for a while, but as the gate opened, he heard a question.

"What's your name?"

Alex heard the girl's voice. He was surprised at how young she sounded.

"Yu Ming," Alex answered. He wondered why she wanted to know.

"Yu Ming? Are you the young man that wore a mask last time?" she asked.

"Yes," Alex replied. He was surprised the girl had bothered remembering his name at all. Although, he had learned two Daos in a single session.

The old ancestor woman from the Blazing Earth sect came to take her disciple along with her to the top.

But the girl refused. She instead walked towards him.

"What's your name?" the girl asked him, this time speaking directly, rather than using her spiritual sense.

Alex was slightly surprised, not because she spoke to him, but because she was repeating the same question.

The other people that were supposed to go up also paused when they heard the Veiled Fairy speak for the first time and turned to look towards her and Alex.

The girl frowned and flicked her sleeve. Suddenly, Alex felt the world come to a still.

The air he breathed felt thick, and the people around him were moving extremely slowly. Even the aura in the air refused to disappear.

This was exactly what he had experienced back on the Ancient Battlefield.

It was almost as if... Time itself had come to a stop.

'Time Dao!' Alex's eyes went wide when he realized what it was.

"What's your name?" the girl asked again.

Alex looked at her. The two of them were the only ones unaffected by the stillness. Or rather, they were the only ones affected by the swiftness of time.

"Do you mean my real name?" Alex asked, considering they were both players.

The girl nodded.

"Why do you—"

"Are you Alex?" the girl asked.

Alex's expression immediately changed. "How do you know?" he asked.

Suddenly, he heard a happy giggle coming from the girl as she lifted her veil to speak.

"I knew it!" she said. "You've grown up quite a lot. Now you look just like big brother did when he was young."

Alex looked at the girl's face with wide eyes when he realized who it was.

"Aunt Liz?"