

Alchemy 961

Chapter 961: Fighting with Dao

Alex stood in front of a snow leopard with a sword in his hand.

The leopard was already looking for a fight before Alex even arrived, so the moment the two laid eyes on each other, they prepared to fight.

Alex used his Qi to strengthen his body, but aside from that, he wasn't planning on using any techniques today. He was well accustomed to using techniques in a fight, so he wanted to try and fight using only Dao.

The snow leopard jumped at him and Alex swung his sword. The thin energy of his sword slash flew off from his sword, empowered by his intent to cut.

The leopard moved away before it was hit and the attack flew far away, cutting various different things in the process.

The leopard's body was covered in ice and then it swung its paws at him. Alex moved his hands in front of him and a golden barrier appeared in front of him, empowered by his Dao of Metal.

Still, when the attack landed, Alex's barrier showed a clear sign of being under stress. But why would it not be? After all, he was fighting against a Saint Foundation 3rd realm beast.

Alex could easily beat a Saint Foundation 1st realm beast with just his Qi and techniques and could win against a Saint Foundation 2nd realm beast if he used his Sword Aura as well.

If he wasn't willing to use Sword Aura, then he could use Dao instead to win against it. Since the two of them were so easily defeated, he had to find a beast with a much higher cultivation base.

Huang Xinyi stood behind Alex quite far away, hidden from anyone's spiritual sense due to Seagem. He looked at Alex in awe, wondering just how someone in the Saint Condensation 1st realm could fight a Saint Foundation 3rd realm.

'So strong,' he thought to himself. 'Should I... try and get him to join the sect?'

Even if Alex didn't want to join the sect, there were ways to force him to. For one, he could force him to say an oath that forever tied him to the sect.

Huang Xinyi felt greed develop in his heart that came naturally with seeing a treasure in front of one that had no owner.

However, he quickly dispelled the thought from his heart.

'No, I can't,' he said to himself. Even ignoring the morality of his own thoughts, the sect master knew why he was wrong to think so. 'He is way too important for us to be greedy like this. '

Once the thought of greed was out of his mind, he went back to being surprised at how well Alex fought. He didn't know of his own disciples fighting so well.

Especially against beasts that were different from fighting against humans.

'Does he have some experience in fighting against beasts?' the sect master wondered.

Alex used his intent to cut the leopard in front of him, but the leopard seemed rather perceptible of dangers and always dodged the attack.

Alex continued using the Dao of cut, but at some point, he realized that if he wasn't going to be fast enough to cut it, then he wasn't going to cut it at all.

He had been intending to improve his Dao of cutting here since it was the one that failed last time against the elder Bu whose Dao made him sturdier. Alas, he had chosen the wrong target.

"Well, next Dao then," Alex thought and instantly fire erupted all around the leopard. The leopard tried running away, but its fur had already caught on fire.

The leopard quickly used its ice skills to create a layer of ice around its body to suffocate the fire, but to its surprise, even the ice was burning now.

The True Fire Dao consisted of the Dao of Burning, which was to say as long as Alex put his intent on it, the fire would forever burn. The only way to stop it was to either use a Dao that went against the burning, fight off Alex's own intent on him, or just have a cultivation base so strong that none of it mattered.

Unfortunately, the leopard had none of these. And so, it burned alive.

The leopard still continued fighting, but with the fire, it was slowly dying on its own. Then, when it realized that it had no way of winning, it decided to turn around and leave.

At that moment, Alex teleported right next to it and swung down his sword that carried his intent to cut.

The leopard was still alive and burning when it was cut in half.

As soon as Alex cut it, he immediately put out the fire on its body and took it into his storage bag.

'Damn, I hope the fire didn't cause any problems to the blood inside,' he thought.

After learning how strong his own blood was, and how strong it could be, Alex had decided to gather some blood from the beasts he killed to use for the ability that came on the first page of the Blood God's Manual.

The Blood Absorption technique.

He wasn't sure how much stronger his blood could get by absorbing the blood of the beasts that were weaker than him, but it didn't hurt to try.

He was already killing them for their cores and body, letting their blood go wasted would be a huge loss of opportunity.

Once Alex was done, he spread his senses a bit, searching for the next beast he could fight.

He looked around with his limited sense. He would've sent out his senses even further, but they were already on the inner range of the Demonic forest, so it was a little scary to show of his presence.

The beasts here worked on a basis of hierarchy based on their strength. Each beast had a territory of its own that it marked and kept away from the other attackers.

The outer range didn't have it as much, but the deeper they went, the more prevalent it got.

The innermost regions of the Demonic forests were separated into a thousand different territories, each marked by a strong Saint beast. The stronger the beast was, the deeper it stayed.

Since Alex was already fighting around the area where beasts had strength that could match him, he didn't want to anger a beast deeper in the forest, as that was certain to be stronger than the Leopard for sure.

Alex knew he could beat that beast. His blood aura was just that strong. But obviously, he wasn't going to show that to the sect master here.

The sect master stayed far away, doing nothing but watching Alex search for his own opponents. Since he had promised to let Alex fight alone afterward if he could prove to him that he could survive on his own, he needed to see if he had the capability.

He needed to see how Alex found his opponent without angering the stronger beasts in this region.

Alex pointed in a certain direction and started flying away.

The sect master and Seagem followed behind him now that he had found another opponent for himself.

If Alex could do it a few more times, he was certain to get his freedom to come here and train anytime he wanted to.

Chapter 962: Blood Absorption

Alex and the sect master returned to the sect after a few days.

Alex was done with his training for now and had to go back to cultivating. He had fought beasts up to Saint Foundation's 4th realm and defeated them, and even managed to survive a 5th realm beast long enough for the sect master to interfere.

Alex now understood how strong his dao was. He was surprised to find that there was a ceiling to how strong his dao could get.

It wasn't a natural ceiling but rather one imposed on him by the heavens. Regardless of how strong his intent was, if the heavens didn't want to help him, he couldn't ask too much out of them.

Still, being able to bring out a power that was 4 realms higher than his Qi was already good enough.

If there wasn't a cap on it, he wondered just how badly a simple Dao could destabilize the entire cultivation world.

'I wonder how much stronger the others can get,' he thought.

He had come to find that not many of the saint realm experts actually knew any dao. It just so happened that the ones he met were some of the strongest and thus knew a dao or two.

Even the elder Bu he killed turned out to actually be a rather talented cultivator in the sect that was once considered to be betrothed to Ren Xiuyin. However, Xiuyin was too young at the time, so the sect master at that time, the current sect master's father, had outright refused to even entertain the thought.

The elders now considered that this might have been where elder Bu's envy of Ma Tianxin had stemmed from.

Alex had asked the sect master how strong his Dao could make him, but unfortunately, the sect master's dao was something related to the knowledge of beasts and thus wasn't applicable in combat.

Alex did come to learn that it made someone a realm or two stronger than they would be normally. The sect master had told him as much.

Alex returned back to his room and called out both of his beasts before starting his cultivation for the day.

Alongside cultivation, he also continued learning more and more about the saint ingredients from his mind. He had quite a few saint ingredients, so he wanted to be done with learning everything about them by the time he went into practical experimentation where he would try and deduce the structure of an ingredient's powder using nothing but only 2 of the ingredients.

At the same time, Alex continued his Undying Physique cultivation, his Demon eyes cultivation, and even his Spiritual energy cultivation using the Mask.

The mask had 9 different stages to help him improve, and Alex was currently using the 3rd stage, but it was starting to get easy too. His spiritual sense had started reaching around 5.2 Kilometers, and soon he would have to up the strength of the mask to the 4th stage.

Alex hadn't cultivated in over a week, so he cultivated for 2 whole days before stopping.

He went out with his beasts to get some fresh air for a while and talked with a few people that had stopped to greet him.

Alex talked with them for a while before returning back to his room. Then, he prepared for something he had been wanting to do again for some time now.

He brought out his cauldron full of blood as it was time to make another Blood Beast.

Alex had a variety of beast cores now. After all, he had killed no less than 10 different Saint beasts when he was back in the demonic forest.

Not only that but there were also the beast cores that were given to him by the sect master before he had left.

As such, he had too many choices at the moment and couldn't choose one instantly.

"Calm down, what do I want to test with this beast?" he asked himself. Obviously, he wanted to test how strong a Blood beast created by a certain beast core could get.

But there was one more thing he needed to test. As such, he knew exactly what core to choose.

Alex reached into his storage bag and pulled out a beast core of a beast with a Saint Condensation 7th realm cultivation base.

There were many other cores that were of higher cultivation base of course, but he chose this one specifically because of one single reason. It was the same cultivation base as the Rhino that had become a Blood Beast.

The core he had pulled out belonged to a beast that had died many years ago, so Alex wanted to test one exact thing.

He wanted to test if a Blood beast created from an older beast core could ever rival one created by a newer one.

Alex put the core into the pool of blood in his cauldron and started making a blood beast. He poured his Qi into the blood and the beast core started fighting against the onslaught of his blood aura.

However, his aura was just too strong for an impression of a spirit to fight back against.

Within minutes, Alex overwhelmed the beast core and in the next moment, the blood beast started forming.

The blood flew out of the cauldron into the open air. It flowed around until it became a long, cylindrical-shaped beast that wiggled horizontally.

'A snake?' Alex wondered when he saw the beast. However, he wasn't correct. The shape changed a little as 4 legs appeared on the blood beast and the trail grew thicker, letting Alex realize what it was.

"Ah, a lizard," he thought.

The lizard took a few minutes to form. Its body had protective scales, its tail was curled upward, and had large eyes.

The Blood lizard was about 3 meters wide and a meter tall. Alex brought out the Blood Rhino to compare, and it was taller than the lizard, but not as wide.

Alex moved away and kept his beasts away from harm. Then, he gave the order.

"Attack each other!"

The two beasts wasted no moment and immediately moved to attack each other. They only attacked a single time, but that was enough for Alex to get an answer.

And he was very happy with the answer.

"There is no difference," he said with a smile. "That means that if I ever find a very old, but strong beast core, I can use it without worrying about it not being as strong."

Alex tested the two beasts a bit more. The rhino was tougher, but the lizard was more agile. But when it came down to pure strength, they were the same.

Alex asked the two to fight him as well, and he used his Blood armor to handle the two of them with ease. No matter how strong they were, he was much stronger.

'Well, it wasn't like I had to worry about insubordination anyway,' he thought. Once he was done testing, he put the beasts back into the book and put the book... somewhere.

Alex's best guess at the moment was that it was going to his heart, which made sense considering the artifact was called the Blood God's Manual. But he couldn't find it there, so it was still just a guess.

Then, Alex sat back down and filled the cauldron in front of him with blood again. Only this time, it wasn't his blood at all.

The 10 different beasts he had killed had given him over hundreds of liters of blood. With the cauldron in front of him only capable of handling no more than 30 liters at a time, Alex was forced to bring out 8 more cauldrons before they were filled to the brim.

Then, he closed his eyes and remembered the words written on the first page of the Blood God's Manual. The words for Blood Absorption technique.

He slowly pulled Qi from his body through a certain pathway, one that Alex had noticed was the same one of the four pathways that he used for his other cultivation methods of his.

The only difference was that they used that the Five Yang Divine Path used the pathway in the Yang spiritual root, and the Winter Moon cultivation method and the Undying Physique used ones from the Yin spiritual root.

The Demon Eyes technique used ones from the normal meridian with no spiritual roots attached and this was the same one that Alex was going to use for the Blood Absorption technique.

Once he used the absorption technique, the Qi in his body moved along a particular path that mixed with a lot of his blood vessels creating a pulling aura from his blood that called for all blood aura in the surrounding.

Surrounded by 9 different cauldrons full of blood, the aura immediately attack Alex from all sides as it tried to enter his body.

Alex expected to feel some pain, any pain, but to his surprise, there was no pain at all. Perhaps it was because his body was just that strong or perhaps because his blood aura was stronger than any here.

As he absorbed it, Alex realized that two things were happening. One, his blood aura was getting stronger, and two, his cultivation base was rising.

Alex frowned. He didn't want to raise his cultivation base this way, so he used his intent to force all the absorption to go toward his blood and blood only.

2 hours later, the blood in the cauldrons had no aura and was akin to just red liquid. Alex had absorbed all the Blood aura from them.

Chapter 963: Solo Training

Alex opened his eyes and pulled out some blood from his body. He felt the aura in it and compared it to what it was just days ago.

"It's stronger," Alex thought, but he didn't find much happiness in it. "It's stronger, but not by much."

He sensed it again, and he was right. His blood aura had advanced by maybe a quarter of a realm's worth of improvement if even that.

He would have to find close to 50 Saint beasts in the early Saint Foundation realm to improve it by a whole realm. Then, once improved, his blood aura was sure to require even heavier investment to improve it entirely.

"Well, I don't know what I was expecting really," he thought. With how strong his blood aura already was, he would definitely need late Saint Foundation realm beasts to improve his blood by a lot.

And that wasn't happening anytime soon.

"I should be satisfied with this," Alex thought and let the matter go.

Since the sect master wanted to test him once more, Alex couldn't go back to the Demonic forest immediately.

However, the sect master did promise to take him 2 weeks later, so it wasn't much time before he could.

Besides, Alex wanted the time to make more blood beasts. In the two weeks, he gathered a lot of his blood, ensuring every drop constituted the highest quality of his blood aura.

In the meantime, he continued learning more about the Saint ingredients. There wasn't any major discovery there for him, but there was a good amount of progress there and Alex was happy with that.

He also continued cultivating his Undying Physique and Demon eyes, and he couldn't help but wonder when they would ever upgrade again. The Undying physique would give him the ability to regrow lost limbs within moments.

While Alex was looking forward to that, what he was looking forward to more was the Demon Eyes upgrade. He was certain it would be very useful in any and all situations.

Aside from these things, the only other things Alex did was cultivate and teach Alchemy to Whisker. Seeing him absorb all the information he was giving him at a reasonable rate made Alex wonder if he could make good-grade pills very soon.

He couldn't wait to see it.

Once Alex collected enough blood, he used the highest grade of beast cores he had and made two more Blood beasts.

One of them was a bird with incredibly strong wings that could cut through anything, and the other one was the Snow Leopard that was incredibly agile.

Alex tested the two beasts and found out that they were an entire realm stronger than the other two blood beasts he had created before that.

The higher the beast core was, the better the result really was. Alex couldn't help but look forward to the day he found a beast core that challenged his Blood Aura. At that moment, the blood beast made from that would most likely be something that could turn out to be stronger than him.

After the two weeks were over, the sect master took him back to the inner ranges of the Demonic forest.

Alex's intent here was to train in Dao, so he handicapped himself to use two dao at once. Right now, with the sect master present, he only used his True Fire dao and Dao of Cutting, with the occasional Dao of Teleportation thrown in there.

Alex was more than capable of fighting a Saint Foundation 4th realm beast now without having to worry about getting caught off guard. He still didn't want to go for the 5th realm beasts given just how strong they were but the 4th realm beasts were just about right.

His usage of True Fire Dao continued improving as he understood more about how he could use them. He learned how he could cut the beasts without them running away.

He learned to create the cuts afar. It required quite a bit of Intent on his end, but he was capable of doing it now.

The beasts with better defenses were capable of surviving the intent without being cut, but the weaker ones were wounded from afar and they couldn't do anything about it.

The sect master continued watching over Alex, and Alex continued fighting more and more beasts. He improved his Fire Dao and Cutting Dao to a level where he felt comfortable using them in battles.

After a week of such training, they returned back to the Blue Spring sect.

"I can see that you're capable of handling things on your own," the sect master said after they returned. "So, you can go back whenever you want. Just, make sure to be careful okay? Do not disturb the beasts that are on the inner side of the forest."

"I understand, sect master. Thank you for helping me," Alex bowed towards the man.

"Alright, go do what you want," the sect master said.

Alex nodded and returned to his room and spent 2 more weeks making blood beasts before leaving back to the Demonic forest.

Since he had already killed most of the beasts on this side of the forest, Alex needed to go either left or right of the place to go around the perimeter of the inner range of the forest to find more beasts.

"Let us go right," he thought and went on his own. He hid his aura and took back his spiritual sense to about 500 meters around him at best and searched for strong beasts to fight.

Starting then, Alex trained on the rest of the Daos on his own.

A giant blue-skinned toad sent out its long paws toward Alex. With its cultivation base of Saint Foundation 4th realm, if Alex let it hit him without putting up some sort of defense, he was sure to die.

The dao of metal strengthened a metal barrier he forged in front of him and the toad's limb was quite easily blocked.

Alex took his sword and cut the beast from afar. The right arm of the toad was cut off thanks to his Dao and it cried out in pain.

Alex stopped his attacks and waited.

Suddenly, he saw the toad's right arm regenerate slowly until it was back to normal. Alex had seen this before and had wondered how it was doing that, and it was only after reading up on it last time that he figured out that the toad was using his longevity to quickly heal itself.

Compared to something like the Undying Physique, this was so much worse for the user.

Alex waited until the toad could fight again, and continued. The toad shouted at him, calling him names and telling him that it would kill his entire family.

However, Alex paid no attention to its words and only focused on its regenerative capabilities. There was one thing he had been wanting to test for a long time and now was the time.

Alex clad himself in blood armor for safety and then teleported right on top of a toad. Then, he placed his palms on the toad's body and pushed something into it.

Something deep and dark. Something deathly.

The Dao of Death worked to create a death aura directly into the toad's body, filling it to the brim as if it were a beast on the verge of death.

Alex quickly flew away before the beast could do anything to him and attacked it again, cutting off its arm.

The toad grimaced and tried to regenerate its arms again, but it found it hard to do so. In the presence of so much death aura, the toad's vitality dropped, and with it its ability to regenerate.

With life aura driven from its body, the toad was unable to heal its wound, and slowly felt its life slip away.

The only way to save itself was either to fight off Alex's intent that kept the death aura in its body, or have someone else help drive it away.

The toad tried to force its Qi throughout its body to try and get rid of whatever problem it was having, and shortly after, it did show signs of improvement as the arm started to regrow again.

Unfortunately, however, Alex arrived right in front of it and killed it in a single strike.

Chapter 964: Small Insight into a Dao

Alex went in and out of the Demonic Forest, returning to the sect every 2 to 3 weeks and spending about a week cultivating.

His cultivation speed had dropped vastly, but his overall ability was growing rapidly.

In the last 2 months he had remained alone in the forest, he had trained all of his Dao to the best he could, and then some.

He also helped train Pearl to get used to his Saint realm abilities, but it didn't need much on his end. Pearl was naturally talented and it took him no time to get used to his new strength.

Whisker on the other hand was very troublesome. Despite his cultivation base, he was very easily scared by every beast Alex put him up against and more times than not simply run away.

Alex tried to get him to fight a few times before giving up entirely. If he wasn't meant to be a fighter then that was alright. He would follow him into the production profession and learn to make pills and medicinal pastes.

Aside from that, Alex also practiced his 21 Sword array technique. More specifically, he tried to improve it by adding swords to it while using various pathways in the Metal spiritual root to try and figure out just which pathway was the right one for him.

He didn't learn much, but he did understand which one of the four starting pathways the technique had to start from.

He used that knowledge to see what sort of other techniques he could use with the same pathway, whether it was the same spiritual root or different ones.

Before he knew it, he was going through his various techniques at the same time and categorizing them based on which pathway they started with as well.

Skills such as Iron Fist punch, Palm of the Sun, Metal Barrier, and every other skill that was basically a long-ranged attack used one particular pathway. Most of Alex's skills fell under this very pathway.

Cultivation skills or any that had to do with improving one's body used the 2nd pathway.

The third pathway as Alex came to understand was used by skills such Jade skin technique, or Smiting Blade. It was for skills that could be used to put Qi or Aura into something to make it stronger or give it other properties.

The Supreme Elemental Accord fell on this very pathway as well.

As for the final one, this was what the 21 Sword Array technique used to manifest. After a bit of testing, he found out that there were a few other skills that used this pathway as well.

His Earth Devour technique used this pathway, and so did his Flickering Shadows technique. His movement skills fell under this as well, and so did some aspects of the Flame Mastery Scripture.

And most importantly, this was the same pathway used by his Pill-splitting technique. So, if he wanted to change the technique so that it always worked for a single set of pills, then he needed to use this same pathway.

Alex was very excited to learn about this, but that was the furthest he went with his new understanding. There were still quite a few things he needed to understand, and until he did that, he could forget about understanding the Dao of Technique.

After training for 2 months and killing quite a few beasts, Alex had been able to gather enough blood to push him over the edge of whatever rank he was before with his Blood aura to one level higher.

Alex was super happy about it and was looking forward to making more blood beasts, which this time around would be much stronger than before.

Between fighting and cultivating, Alex didn't find much time to put into learning about the ingredients, which made him quite sad.

Alex planned on returning to the Demonic forest in a few days when someone knocked on his door. Alex walked out to find Ren Xiuyin waiting for him.

"Can I help you, sister Xiuyin?" Alex asked.

"My father is looking for you, brother Yu," the girl said. Alex nodded and went along with her to the sect master's room in the tower.

Alex entered the room and saw the sect master sitting by himself. He turned to look at Alex when he entered and smiled.

"There you are. Come, I want to talk to you about something," the sect master said and gestured for Alex to sit next to him.

Alex sat down comfortably and wondered if he had been called here for something he did.

The sect master started the conversation with some small talk, asking what he had been doing for the last couple of days, asking him how his training had been, and so on.

Only after 5 minutes of such did he finally bring up the topic he had called him here for.

"You will have to slow down your visit to the forest now though," the sect master said. "You will have to prepare yourself before we go to the Dao mountain."

"Dao mountain?" Alex gave a confused expression. Had it been that long already?

Alex thought back to the time that had passed since the last one and was quite surprised.

Indeed, 11 months had already passed, and in less than a month, the Dao mountain would open up again.

"Oh, I didn't realize it was opening so soon," Alex said. "But there should've been more time, right? Or am I forgetting a few days?"

"Oh no, you're fine. It is the Blue Spring sect's turn this year to plan the Dao mountain, so we naturally get to be the first ones to get their names in it," the sect master said.

"Ah, I see," Alex nodded. "So is that why you called me?"

"Of course," the sect master said. "Although, knowing you, you will definitely go and show off some new dao. I should have just registered your name in there and be done—"

"I'm not going," Alex said, cutting off the sect master mid-speech. "I'm sorry, but I don't have any Dao I can just learn. I've been busy learning the ones I already got after all."

"You're really not going?" the sect master asked. "Even if you think you don't have enough knowledge to gain a new Dao, you might start learning about it on your own when you stay in the smell and cultivate there."

Alex shook his head. "I'm confident that I won't learn anything new that I can't just skip a year over. I have been training recently and am getting close to understanding some new things, so I want to continue doing that for now."

"So you're really not going?" the sect master asked.

"I'm afraid not," Alex said. "But thank you for thinking about me. If I had wanted to go, I would've completely missed it this time around."

"Never mind that," the sect master said. "Well, I guess it's fine if you miss this Dao mountain opening. You'll go to the next one right?"

"Definitely," Alex said.

"Alright, you may return then. I have nothing else to say to you," the sect master said.

Alex nodded and left the room before going back to his own room.

Chapter 965: Ice Moose

A few months passed, and Alex was having a hard time finding beasts to train against. Populous as it may be, the saint beasts in the Demonic forest weren't infinite.

So, with time, the beasts were either dead or just too scared to come to fight him.

Since they were smaller in number, Alex had been spending most of the days lately simply training on his own or cultivating in the forest.

He had also finished learning about his saint ingredients and a couple more that were in his mind. Now, he only needed to start training on a few things to improve his pill recipes, then he could start making pills as well.

'That's it then,' Alex thought to himself. It was time for him to return back to his aunt who must've returned from her training by now.

Alex sighed as he looked at the vast Demonic field in front of him and thought to return once he was much stronger.

He was about to turn around to return when a snake came slithering towards him. Alex stopped and got ready to fight. The snake was in the Saint Foundation realm after all.

The snake came hissing at him and stopped a few meters away from him. It hesitated for a moment before speaking, "Are you the one who's been killing all the beasts around here?"

Alex looked at the snake curiously. Did it not want to fight?

"Yes, It is me," Alex said.

"Then die!" the snake lunged at him.

The snake was large and had a thick body, yet it was still surprisingly agile.

However, Alex had fought many such beasts and could easily defeat them. He took out his sword and slashed at the snake.

The snake's Saint Foundation 4th realm body was strong enough to survive his attack once, but when Alex slashed a second time consecutively, the snake died.

"Not very on guard, was it?" Ning thought and took the snake's body into his storage bag.

Just then, out of the corner of his currently limited spiritual sense, he sensed something dashing at him with incredible speed.

Alex tried to move away, but whatever it was, it was too fast for him to dodge in time.

The beast slammed onto Alex, and Alex felt something dig into his left arm and chest. He was sent flying into the distance where he crashed with a tree, destroying it.

The momentum carried him over, crashing into another tree only to destroy it and keep going on.

He destroyed a couple of different trees before he finally came to a stop.

Blood poured out of the holes on his arm and chest, marking the snow below him crimson. Alex felt his head go blank for a second before it came back to him.

"What the hell?" he said softly as his unfocused eyes tried to look in front of him. His eyes cleared a second later and he saw a massive moose with ice-like antlers that were very sharp and at the moment red in some part.

They had his blood on them.

The holes in Alex's arms closed up a moment later and he could start up as if nothing had happened just now. The only evidence that he was even wounded was the blood on the floor.

"You survived that? No wonder you could kill so many of them," the moose in front of him said.

"It seems you hate me for some reason," Alex said. "Although I don't remember fighting any moose."

"No, you've hurt no one I care about," the moose said. "But you have hurt something I care about, balance. Your presence has brought an imbalance in the forest that is causing problems and I don't like it."

"I got it," Alex said. "So you want to fight, huh?"

"Fight? No, this won't be a fight," the beast said. "I have nearly entered the Beast Core realm, while you're struggling with breaking through to the 2nd real of Saint Condensation. Ours will be no fight, but a massacre."

"Is that so?" Alex asked. He held confidence even against a beast that was sure to kill him if he breathed wrong. However, Alex didn't fret. There was no reason to worry at all.

In fact, there was a reason to get happy even.

Finally, he had found a strong beast without having to go into the inner ranges where many of them would be, and together they might be able to kill him.

However, alone, it would be quite hard.

Blood poured out of his body and clung to him, forming armor around his body. He put away his sword and instead extracted the blood from the snow below him and formed a sword.

The moose looked at him weirdly. "What are you doing?" it asked.

"I'm testing," Alex said. "I'm testing to see if I can kill you or not. At the very least, I should be able to keep up with you in this fight now."

"Hah!" the moose exclaimed. "I told you human, this will be no fight."

The moose's ice blue antler's glowed suddenly and giant ice javelins were shot at Alex.

Alex didn't dodge the attack and instead struck it with his sword, destroying it at once. He hadn't even used his Sword aura or any sort of dao in this attack, but he doubted they would be of any help with such a big difference in power.

The moose looked at him in shock. "Ho-how?" it asked.

Alex too looked at the result with a hint of surprise. He had expected his Blood aura to be strong, but he hadn't expected it to be at the peak of the Saint Foundation realm in terms of strength.

He could most likely get it to Saint Core realm too, but he would require a bit more blood of strong—

His eyes fell on the moose. "Well, thank you for delivering yourself to my doorstep," he said as he prepared to attack.

The moose, despite being scared fought back as well. It had seen Alex beaten and bloodied the last time it had attacked, so this time as well, it moved.

Alex could see the moose's movement quite clearly this time around as he was looking at it with his eyes. And yet, the moose was still quite fast.

There was some sort of technique it was using to move in the snow through incredible speed.

Alex could dodge if he moved in time, but he didn't feel the necessity for it. The moose slammed onto him and he skidded a few steps backward, but other than that, he was alright.

The moose, however, hadn't expected Alex's armor to be that strong and found his head ringing from the pain of slamming onto what was essentially a heavy rock for him.

The blood in Alex's hands suddenly turned into a bunch of beads that he sent at the moose. The beads struck the moose and while they didn't penetrate its body, they did leave nasty wounds all over it.

The moose sent out more ice attacks through its antler, but Alex used the same blood beads to destroy them before they could even go anywhere.

He moved his right arm and the blood beads flew back to him, changing into a sword. Then he used his other arm to tug on the moose using the blood that was still plastered on its antlers.

The moose tried to struggle, but the pull on its antler was too strong. In the end, it let go of its antlers, discarding them like a lizard dropping its tail.

The antlers flew towards Alex, which he quickly stored in his storage ring. He looked back at the moose and saw terror in its eyes.

Without even thinking about it, the moose turned around to leave. However, 4 different thin strips of blood caught onto its 4 legs, stopping it in its tracks.

Alex then teleported right up to the moose and stabbed the blood sword in his hand through the moose's chest.

Blood poured out of its chest as the moose started dying. Then, Alex decapitated it, killing it entirely.

He sighed and took a deep breath once the battle was over. He looked at the blood flowing on the ground and decided not to waste it.

He sat down and started using his Blood Absorption skill to improve his blood aura even further.

Chapter 966: Going West

Alex improved his blood aura by just the right amount needed to send it over the ledge to the other realm.

He was certain that his blood had reached the Saint Core realm in terms of quality.

He tested out his blood abilities a bit, and after being satisfied with it, he left the Demonic Forest altogether.

He then returned back to the Blue Spring sect and met up with the sect master.

"Are you really leaving?" the sect master asked.

"I'm afraid so, sect master. Everything I've come here to do has been done," Alex replied.

He had been in the sect for about 7 or so months now, and it was time for him to return.

"Where will you go?" the sect master asked curiously.

"Uh... I'll go and see if my aunt has returned yet or not," Alex said.

"Well, she wasn't back in time for Dao mountain, so you might still be out of luck," the sect master said.

"I realize that," Alex said. "I'll still go and check. If she's not back, then I'll just go west. I have a few things I've been meaning to do for a while."

"I see," the sect master said. "When will you be leaving?"

"Tomorrow," Alex said.

After talking with the sect master, Alex went and spoke with Ma Tianxin and Ren Xiuyin. They hadn't expected him to leave this early, but they were more understanding than the sect master.

Alex spent the night in his room and the next day he said his farewells to the sect master and the two couples. He wished them good luck with their upcoming marriage and left.

Alex flew out of the Blue Spring sect, flying south. There was a snowstorm in front of him, but he didn't care.

He flew for so long that the snowstorm passed away. However, somewhere in the distance, he could hear the sounds of lightning and thunder.

It was distant and faint, but he could hear it in the sky where there wasn't much noise other than the wind rushing past him.

The tumultuous sound made Alex think at first that there was a massive storm incoming from somewhere, but when he saw a purple glow in the distant south, his thoughts changed.

"Wait, that isn't storm," Alex thought. Now that he thought about it, he knew exactly what that was.

"Ah, the lightning peninsula," he thought. He remembered reading about it before. Formed 8 thousand years ago randomly, the lightning peninsula was a place where lightning rained down as if it rained.

You couldn't walk in there without fear of lightning striking you to death.

Alex didn't believe that the lightning was any stronger than what the tribulation could produce, but it must still be strong enough to destroy most Saint cultivators.

Otherwise, there would be a constant stream of people going in and out all the time, which he had heard was practically impossible due to the density of the lightning strikes.

Alex was lost in his own thoughts about how such a phenomenon could come to be.

The most popular belief was that it had something to do with the gulf being right next to it and as such it got a constant supply of storm clouds in the air that rained down lightning when it reached the peninsula.

There were a few flaws in the logic, but this was one of the easiest to understand regarding this topic.

Another hypothesis was that there was some sort of ore in the land there that was unearthed during the period 8 thousand years ago and that it was this ore that attracted lightning all the time.

Whatever the answer may be, however, it was certain that this was a land where no human, even the Saint realms could survive for very long.

The longest anyone had managed to stay there was apparently 20 or 30 seconds before the lightning chased them off.

However, there was also another weird rumor regarding this place and that there was someone else living inside the lightning rain.

Alex found it hard to believe, but then he was in a world he didn't know fully about. It could very well be that this was true and someone had found a way using some sort of talisman or script or formations, or even just skills to survive inside the place.

Now Alex wanted it to be true just so he could do it too someday.

He then stopped worrying about that and continued on his journey with the purple glow and lightning in the distance.

Not long after, Alex arrived close to Silvermoon city with not that many people in it.

It had been 2 months since the battlefield had opened up, so there was no point anymore to stay here. They could go back and return when it opened again.

Alex had no business with the city, other than the fact that it was on his way back to the Blazing Earth sect.

The snow had dwindled now to the point that there wasn't even any snow there anymore. Then, he moved into the State of Re, where there definitely wasn't much snow at all.

It was nighttime, so Alex could see the orange outline in the distance coming from the various volcanoes. He was close.

After 2 more hours, he finally reached the Blazing Earth sect, who all invited him into the sect without question.

Alex talked with the sect master of the Blazing Earth, Bai Qiyi sect for a while, telling him what he had done.

The sect master was a little surprised that the Sect master of Blue Spring sect had let him do even half of the things Alex had said just now.

He inquired if Alex was okay, to which Alex obviously replied yes.

"So... my aunt isn't back yet?" Alex asked.

"I'm afraid not," the sect master said. "They should be back in... 3 more months? Yeah around that time."

"I see," Alex said. "Then I should go west while I can."

"West? For what?" the sect master asked.

"I've yet to visit the remaining two wonders, sect master. So I intend to go there and witness it all," Alex said.

"Ah, that makes sense. Which two do you have yet to see?" he asked.

Alex told him the two and the sect master nodded. "Come, let me take you to the first one. It's close anyway," the sect master Bai said.

"Don't you have work to do here, sect master?" Alex asked.

"Not really," the sect master said. "It will only take a few hours of my time at most anyway."

"I see," Alex said. "Let's go then."

After planning that, the two of them flew west in a medium-sized ship that flew surprisingly fast.

They talked for an hour about various different things, and Alex asked the sect master why everyone called him important and such.

"Honestly, I have no idea," the sect master said. "All I know is if the ancestors say it, so it must be true."

"So they didn't tell you either?" Alex asked. The hell kind of conspiracy were the old timers from the different sects planning?

"I guess I'm too young for them to tell me," the sect master said. "I did only take up this rank only a dozen years ago after all."

"I see," Alex said. The question still went unanswered. "If I may ask, how old are you?"

"My age? Hmm... let's see," the sect master thought for a bit and said, "about 3 and half thousand years old, I believe. It definitely hasn't reached 4, that I am sure of."

Alex was a little surprised when he heard that. "You're so old? But you look so much younger," he said.

"Haha, that's only because the others are the truly old ones. Besides, I was talented in my early cultivation and managed to keep my youth for much longer," the sect master said. "You will be the same as me. Perhaps, you will look younger in the future."

The ship continued sailing until it finally slowed down on top of a flat piece of land that was surrounded by mountains with no signs of civilization in sight.

There were cultivators at the location, and they were all doing nothing but working as a guard there.

They bowed when they saw the sect master, but the sect master ignored them.

"There it is," the sect master pointed down below and Alex watched with an expression of disbelief.

"That's the Intercontinental Teleportation Formation?"

Chapter 967: Ghostbane City

The Intercontinental Teleportation formation was a giant piece of stone with carvings on it, just like any other formation Alex had seen.

Yet however, it was maybe over 5 times the size of the teleportation formations that he had seen before in the Western continent.

The Intercontinental teleportation formation wasn't just a single formation, but a bunch of formations working together to bring a single result.

Alex had half expected the teleportation formation to be the same size as the teleportation script from the Demon realm, so he was surprised to see them easily 10x the size of the teleportation scripts.

"Wow! It's so large," Alex said as he hovered a few meters away from the stage that was also the formation.

"Yes, it is big. Most people are surprised by how big it is," the sect master Bai said. "They were very generous when they made it and they made it so large even."

"Sorry... they?" Alex asked curiously. He had in fact never heard who exactly made this teleportation formation. His first guess was the humans, but they were too weak and too lacking in knowledge to do it.

His second guess was the Demons but they only knew Runes, and they had made a teleportation script made up of runes anyway.

That left behind 2 other candidates, and Alex had a guess which one it was.

"Before I tell you about who made the teleportation formation, I must tell you about a great war that took place nearly a hundred thousand years ago," the sect master said.

"They say that hundreds of heavenly warriors came down to rid the world of demons and left behind 4 rulers when they were gone to make sure the demons never return."

"The 4 rulers ruled the four different continents and thus decided to make their meetings easier by adding teleportation formations to each other."

"That was how the formation was created," the sect master said. "Now that's a little history you didn't know."

Alex wanted to tell the sect master that it was him who knew nothing of history, but he decided not to. Instead, he simply looked at the massive size of the teleportation formation and asked, "what exactly does it need to run? From what I can tell it's working."

"It is working," the sect master said. "It accepts teleportations whenever they come around. It has been ages since someone has used it, but it still waits for them."

"What about using it then? Has anyone used it?" Alex asked. "More specifically, is there a way for me to access it?"

"Do you want to go back to the Western continent?" the sect master asked.

Alex was surprised he knew about it for a split second before remembering that his aunt's master had told the man everything about him, so there was a lot that he knew about Alex that even he didn't know could be known.

Alex nodded back at the sect master and asked, "I hear it's hard. Is it really impossible?"

The sect master hesitated for a bit. "I'm not that well known about this since it hasn't been used in my lifetime. As far as I do know, there needs to be a landing platform on the Western Continent's end if I were to try and teleport you there, which they don't have at all."

"Even if they did work somehow, the cost of using the teleportation formation across the two formations would be about 2 Saint ranked spirit veins. No one is willing to do that for you now that the hub is gone," the sect master said.

Alex sighed and nodded. He knew this was exactly the answer he was going to get, and yet he still expected to get a different answer. Alas, he couldn't change reality at all.

"It would've been not as wasteful if the formations in the central continent still existed, but some stupid beast's breach of peace destroyed it all.

Alex didn't say anything and just continued nodding. He knew more about the situation, but that came with explaining things that either made the Northern continent one of the bad guys or made it look like he was hateful towards the other continents. So, he did nothing but looked around with his spiritual sense.

Alex spent the next half an hour looking more carefully at the formation, trying to learn how they worked exactly.

There were concepts put into work here that he was only vaguely familiar with. The more he looked at it, the more confusing it got for him to the point where he felt like he knew nothing about formations at all.

He found some truth in his own thoughts as there were likely intricacies in the other profession as well that was as deep and vast as the inner workings of Alchemy.

He was just so much of an outsider to the professions that he didn't know them well enough at all. All he was good at was copying what others had done before him.

Alex shook his head to send away the thoughts. He didn't need such rogue thoughts in his mind as he never considered himself that good in formations and talismans, nor did he want to.

He was perfectly content with just following other men's works if it mean he could do what they did just as well, or maybe even better.

"They must've been worried about the teleportation formation being damaged when they made this since they made it so big that stealing just wasn't possible anymore," the sect master said.

Alex nodded as he looked around. It was quite amazing that such a large formation was just out in the open like that.

The two of them talked for a while longer before Alex was done looking at the Intercontinental teleportation formation. Since there was no way to use it to get back to his mother and friends, Alex lost all interest in it.

"I've seen everything I wanted to, sect master," Alex said. "We should leave now."

"Do we return now?" the sect master asked him curiously.

"Ah, no. I'm planning on continuing west," he said. "Is this the furthest you will go, sect master?"

"I'm afraid so," the sect master said. "I cannot just leave my sect for days without prior notice."

"I see," Alex said. "This is farewell then. Let us meet again in a few months when I return. Hopefully, my aunt will return by that time."

"Yes, let us meet then," the sect master said his goodbye and left.

Alex too left for the western lands. He took a deliberate, slow flight west, going over many towns, cities, and villages.

He looked at the green hills towards the north that were snowcapped at the top. He saw the ocean towards the south, so blue that he didn't know where the water ended and where the sky began.

Bird beasts flew close to him, threatening to hurt him for using the same space as them, but with a single roar from Pearl, these measly beasts always left the area.

After nearly a day of travel, Alex arrived at the border to the State of Bing where the landscape once again changed to that of ever snow. There was even a small snowstorm that he had to fly through before coming up to a city a few hours north.

Alex landed outside the city and entered it. He paid no fee since he was a Saint realm cultivator, and he also got rid of his white mask since he wanted to remain anonymous in this location as he was planning something.

The city was called Ghostbane city, named after one of the most common poisons out there. In fact, every city in the State of Bing had a name that had something to do with poisons somehow.

It was a decree put forth by the Nether Poison sect to change their part of the continent after the fall of the Snow Immortal sect.

Alex was quite happy that he had finally arrived in Ghostbane city. There wasn't anything unique about the city itself but rather the hill that was just north of here where there were 9 different wells with water that never froze and people lined up to drink it all day long.

That was the location of the 9th wonder of this continent, counting the Lightning Peninsula he had seen from far in the distance.

The Nine Wells of Time.

Chapter 968: The Nine Wells of Time

Alex found himself a small house towards the west of the city that was isolated by itself. He found the formations and runes there the most appealing to him due to his requirement for privacy, so he rented the place for the next 3 months, to begin with.

Once he got it, he left the city and walked towards the small hill known as Time Hill, where the 9 different wells were located in.

There was quite a massive queue of people for the hill, and Alex got in the queue as well. The line he was in was far away from the hill, showing just how many people there were coming to take a taste of the waters of time.

'I wonder how many of these are first-timers like me, and how many are not,' he thought as he looked around.

Alex couldn't help but wonder about the legitimacy of the site in front of him. Yes, they said that the wells could show you your past and future, but who knew really? No one really spoke about it, and those that did spoke in vague terms, so Alex wanted to see it for himself.

Still, the Nine Wells of Time was one of the nine wonders, Alex was sure there was something special about it to make it onto the list.

As Alex got closer to the hill, he paid a few spirit stones to a booth that was set up by the Nether Poison sect and read the small description left about what the wells really were.

Many hundreds of thousands of years ago, a man capable of a high level of divination had come to this world and from his gourd of time, he had poured 9 drops of the divine liquid.

The 9 liquid had grown to become wells of their own, an infinite spring that was capable of telling someone their past and future.

The line moved forward quite quickly, and Alex arrived in front of the first well where one of the people working there handed him a small cup of water he drew from the well in front of him.

Alex took the cup and moved away while he moved away from the first well. The line had already dispersed on the very first well as everyone took their cups and sat in the open hill to see the visions that the water showed.

Alex drank the water in a single gulp and felt the water trying to affect his body. He didn't understand what was happening, but he freely let the water course through his body as he fell into a trance where the memories of when he was but a young child played out.

Alex remembered the times when his mother took him to play with the two kids from the farm next to his own. He remembered the times she taught him in his home.

He remembered the times his father taught him how to milk a cow and the times when he took his to a festival.

He remembered the time when he played with his grandfather when he was but 2 years old.

He remembered various many things, all of which were from his young age.

These were memories that Alex had all but forgotten. So when he was starting to remember them, he couldn't help but tear up silently.

He stayed on the short grass, reminiscing about the past when everything was normal. He rejoiced in the nostalgia of the memories of days he would never get back.

After a while, Alex stood up and went to the next well where he got his cup full of water. Alex drank it once more and remembered the past again.

This time, the past was from when he was a teenager. These were memories that he hadn't forgotten, but they were memories he had no way of keeping himself from forgetting either.

Once again, the nostalgia for the old memories was quite fun for him. There were some parts he would rather not remember like when his master died, but the memories of him spending time with her made it all worth it.

'Even if the rest of the wells are a sham, just these two wells alone make this place worthy of being one of the wonders. What people would do to remember the past they have lost,' Alex thought.

If he was ever strong enough to traverse the ocean without worry, he thought about bringing his mother here so she could remember the past too. Maybe his father too once he found him.

He thought of making Pearl drink some water too, but he had opened up his spiritual sea even before he was capable of making memories, so Alex doubted it was necessary.

He could give him back the memories of his mother that he had lost, but then, he would also remember the day she died. Alex wasn't sure if he could do that or not.

He decided not to and went for the 3rd and last well that was supposed to show him his past.

This was a useless well for him as the past it showed was from the time he clearly remembered, so he quickly got rid of the memories and moved on to the 4th well.

The 4th well apparently showed possibilities of the future. Alex was curious about what it really was all about, so he drank the water he got from the 4th well.

His vision blurred within a few moments as he saw some vague scenes. He saw storm clouds and broken shards of metal, and he saw madness.

Alex came out of the slight trance wondering what he had just seen. Rather than seeing the future, it was more like feeling it. He didn't know what he had seen but he felt he knew it.

"Was that a future of mine?" Alex wondered. Broken shards of metal gave him an idea that he was likely going to lose a sword fight in the future, were it true.

He didn't know what the storms were supposed to represent. Were they to be taken literally or figuratively?

Also, what about the madness? Was he going to go mad in the future?

"What the hell?" Alex thought. "This has certainly got to some sort of bullshit."

And yet, he couldn't help but go to the 5th well and get a cup of water before drinking it once again.

This time, he saw something different. He felt something different.

A fire raged all around him. It was warm and gentle, but it was fire nonetheless. He saw himself suffer the pain of loss, and then find joy in his new gains. Then, he saw a crown.

It lay on his head.

Alex was taken aback once more. 'What the hell was that?' he thought. "What was the crown for? Am I a king? No, that has to be figurative at best."

"What about the loss and gain? What's that about? And that fire, is that representative of my True Fire dao since it can no longer do anything to me?" Alex wondered.

The 4th and 5th well were vastly different from the first 3 wells, but he couldn't exactly say they were bad.

So, he walked up to the 6th well too, and got himself another cup of water.

Chapter 969: Divination

Once he drank the water, Alex found himself in another trance that showed him more visions.

He saw the vague silhouette of a girl, which changed to another girl, and then another one.

He saw lightning crackle all around him, some came from heaven and some from somewhere else.

He saw a circle, one that shocked him to his core.

He saw himself losing a power that someone else gained.

He saw the truth behind his existence.

Alex woke back up. "What was that?" he thought. Compared to the other two visions, this one had more visions for him to see and was more sporadic. He didn't understand what those visions represented.

What were the girls about? Were they real? Did this well know who he was going to meet? What about the lightning? What was that lightning for?

The feelings of the vision, rather than the vision itself were what remained with him after he was out of the trance so he didn't know what he had actually seen.

Alex mulled over his feelings for a while before standing up to go to the next well.

The man working at the 7th well did not fill his cup, instead, he explained what he was to do there.

"You will have to submerge here. The prophecies do not work by just drinking from here forth," the young man said.

'Prophecies huh?' Alex thought. The wells were big and could fit about 10 people at once, but there were already people in there, so Alex had to get into a line once again.

After a while, his turn came and so he jumped into the water. He slowly sank to the bottom of the well, waiting to fall into some sort of trance but nothing happened.

Instead, he heard a loud and archaic voice that filled his mind.

"You hold the key to a fallen power. You shall help restore that power, and that shall bring your death."

The single sentence was all Alex got to hear in the well, and that was all he needed to hear. The deep archaic voice rang in his ears and his mind for a long time before he flew back out of the well.

Alex sat by the grass once again, thinking back to what he had just heard.

"I hold a key to a fallen power?" he thought to himself. What was that power? The problem in his mind with the prophecy wasn't that it didn't make sense, but it made way too much sense to understand what it was talking about.

He had many things that could be considered key to some sort of power. He had the Nine Heaven's Yang tree's seeds and leaves, which could be used to restore a power that had fallen.

He had the seed of the world tree, which could be used to restore another power that had fallen.

He had Pearl, who was the key to restoring the White Tiger's legacy that had fallen as well.

He also had Godslayer, who in a way was a power that had fallen too.

Maybe Alchemy God was considered a power that had fallen since Godslayer had supposedly killed him. Or maybe the Undying God was a power that had fallen, which he was restoring.

There were so many options, and as such, if he were to believe that prophecy, then each one of them was going to signal his death.

'Fuck, what do I do now?' Alex started to worry. This was going to make him feel unnerved regarding every little action that went to help people.

"What is going on?" a voice boomed in Alex's head as it stirred around in anger. "Kid are you okay? Whose intent was that?"

"Intent?" Alex asked with a surprised look on his face. He hadn't even realized there was some sort of intent in those prophecies. He closed his eyes and went into his spiritual sea to speak with Godslayer.

"It's fine, or at least I think it's fine," Alex said as he looked around the spiritual sea to see if the Intent had gone anything to him.

"What was that?" Godslayer asked.

"I'm at a place called the Nine Wells of Time. That just now was a prophecy from one of the wells," Alex said.

"Prophecy? From a well? What sort of sham is this? Do you think divination is such an easy task that one can do it without even being present?" the spirit asked.

"I... don't really know anything about Divination," Alex said truthfully.

"Do you know how well someone's understanding of the Dao of Time has to be for them to even begin to hope to see an image of the future?" the spirit asked.

"So... what I heard was not true?" Alex asked.

The spirit paused for a moment. "More likely than not, yes," it said. "Even if the divination isn't a sham and someone did divine something from the future, more times than not, it is a wrong future that can be easily changed."

"So I don't have to worry about what I hear?" Alex asked.

"Are you planning to sit in a cave and meditate for the rest of your life, without making any actions for the rest of your life?" the spirit asked.

"No," Alex said, obviously.

"Then any little action you take will have an impact on your future. With that, it is very easy for even the best of divinations to turn out to be wrong," Godslayer said.

"I see," Alex said. "So I shouldn't really trust them, huh?" He felt a sense of relief that would've likely never come had Godslayer not talked to him.

'I would've stopped trying to help everyone in fear of my own death,' he thought.

"Thank you for telling me all this," Alex said. "Man, I really would've trusted these prophecies otherwise. I can't believe they let these shams make prophecies too. They should totally be banned."

"Not all divinations are wrong," Godslayer said.

"Oh," Alex replied.

"Usually the ones done by people with a high understanding of the Dao of Time is quite accurate, especially when done for a small time frame. It is easier to get things right when one only needs to divine a few days forward," Godslayer said. "The further in the future one divines, the more chances of it being wrong exist."

"However, there used to be one that never failed," Godslayer said. "He used to be known as the Divination god, but he hated that name. One of the reasons I don't hate the man. Every divination he made came out true, every word something from the future."

"Unfortunately, he's no more," Godslayer said.

"What happened to him?" Alex asked.

"Who knows? He went missing one day, never to be seen again. Many believe he's dead, I do too," Godslayer said.

Alex paused for a moment. "What if he's the one that made these wells?" he asked.

"Why would someone that wants to hide from the world make some wells in the middle of nowhere? It is impossible for it to be him," Godslayer said.

"But there is a possibility," Alex said.

"It's almost as possible as finding two people finding the same grain of sand from an entire realm. I would suggest not thinking much about what you hear from these wells," Godslayer said.

"Got it," Alex said. "But that also means I can hear it, right? The Intent won't hurt me, right?"

"I suppose not," Godslayer said. "You can go."

Alex quickly left, leaving Godslayer all alone who fell into thought, thinking about the Divination god. "Surely not," he thought and went back to resting again.

Alex lined up for the queue to the 8th well and jumped into it when it was his turn.

As soon as he plunged in, the voice returned once again.

"When two unworthy hands meet a stone, the truth shall reveal itself."

Alex got back out and wondered what that could possibly mean. Sure he wasn't going to overthink these things as they were most likely false futures, but still, he wondered what sort of future there would be for when that prophecy came true.

"My hands are unworthy?" Alex wondered if that was what they meant. "And what truth is this that was going to be revealed?"

Whether this prophecy was true or not, it was a much better scenario than the previous one where he would have to die.

There wasn't much to think about this one given how vague it was, so Alex went to the final well and jumped into it when it was his turn.

The voice spoke once again.

"When the 2 becomes 1, All shall become One as well."

Alex waited for a bit more. 'That's it?' he thought. He flew out of the well, all confused. 'What was it so short?'

He couldn't make sense of the prophecy at all with how short it was. Worse of all, it was just numbers in the end. 2? 1? All? What did it mean?

"Godslayer was right," Alex thought. "I shouldn't give much thought to these things."

He shook his head and left the mountain. With that, he had done visiting the 8th wonder of the continent.

The only one remaining for him to visit was the Lightning Peninsula, and there was no way he was ever going to go there.

Alex then returned back to the home he had rented for 3 months and rested for a day. Once he was fully rested, he brought out his cauldron and some other materials.

It was about time he improved some Saint-ranked recipes.

Chapter 970: Improving Saint Recipes

Upgrading Saint ranked pills' recipes were much harder than True ranked pills simply due to the scarcity of resources.

Fortunately, Alex had learned of some possible ways to do it all using as few resources as possible. Still, the ways were still just possibilities, so he needed to test them out a little first.

Alex pulled out one of the ingredients he had plenty of thanks to the Beast realm in the Western Continent and tested it how he normally would. He had a recipe for that ingredient, and for now, he simply followed that recipe.

Alex took notice of how quickly or slowly the energy was released and couldn't help but be surprised by how easy it was to follow that.

This was the first ingredient he was refining in 3 years. A first certainly since he had entered the Saint realm.

It somehow felt both familiar and distant at the same time.

Whisker watched from the side, taking in every little minute detail of what Alex was doing, and learned what he could from it. Alex also explained the best he could without losing attention.

"They definitely weren't wrong when they said Saint-ranked pills were hard to refine," he thought. The mental strain he felt while just refining a single ingredient was loads more than what he would feel with a True rank ingredient.

Were it not for his improved spiritual sense, Alex would've very much likely had to take breaks in between every 5 pills or so.

Now, he would be able to go on for at least 50 due to how fast his mental strength recovered.

Once Alex was done with refining the ingredient and memorizing what it did, he brought out the same ingredient again, only this time he wanted to test and see if it brought the same result with cut-up ingredients.

He tried half the ingredient at first and came up with the same result as when it was full.

He then tried a third of the ingredient, which brought the same result, and so did a fourth of the ingredient.

Alex tried with the 5th one and failed. He tried it once again and the 2nd time around it worked.

He was a little confused about why that was and tried it a few more times to realize that the rate at which the ingredient was receiving heat had lowered to a point where it was no longer the same.

"The surface area is too small so it's a hit or miss," Alex realized. At a certain point, the rate of heat being transferred to the ingredient was so low that it changed how the ingredient released its energy.

"Either I make sure the surface area is big enough, or I stop at a 4th of the ingredients," Alex thought. He decided to stop at a fourth its size. He would have to test it a few more times with other ingredients to see if size mattered differently for different types of ingredients, but for now, he ignored that as he stuck with the basics.

Next, Alex closed his eyes and thought back to a random True rank ingredient and picked 3 of its variations for the same recipe. He had done thousands of refinements, so it became easy to find one in his mind.

Once he found the 3 variations, he used the knowledge he gained from the Alchemy God's Knowledge to plot out a mental map of how the shapes changed as the heat, speed, and direction of the ingredient changed.

It was a little tough to do in his mind as he had never done something like this before, and he also had to consciously stop himself from thinking back to the answer he already knew.

He got a general idea of how it changed using the 3 points of reference and mapped out the entire thing.

Then, he compared what he came up with what he had in mind.

"Oh, that was so close," he thought. He compared the two until he had an idea why he was wrong and redid the same thing over and over with different True rank ingredients until he ended up on an accurate result.

He continued for a bit longer and only stopped after he was right 100% at least 10 times in a row.

Then, he returned back to the Saint rank ingredient, which he did the same with as well.

He had already made what could be considered the middle of the 3 different settings under which the ingredient was refined, so he did it with 2 others that were as far apart as he could keep them.

Once all 3 points of reference were ready, he used his newfound knowledge to plot them out. He found a certain line of information about the different shapes, which he now had to figure out was accurate or not.

Before that, however, he did the same thing with a quarter piece of the ingredient to make sure they did give the same result even when cut up.

Thankfully, they did, so he could move on to the more annoying part of the process. He now had to sit there and refine the ingredients many, many times over.

For the sake of preserving ingredients, he cut every one of the ingredients into 4 pieces before proceeding to the experiment.

It took him a whole day, but even though just half of it, he could see that he had got it right.

The technique that the Alchemy God had left behind for him to figure out the various shapes of the True ranked ingredients worked even on Saint ranked ingredients.

Once the whole day had passed, and his result was a success, Alex took half a day to cultivate himself back to his peak.

Then, starting the next day, he began improving the recipes to the best level they could be.

The world went about its days as Alex cooped up in the house he had rented and did nothing but improve the recipes. He made a few healing pills once he refined the recipes, but after that, He didn't bother making any more pills and only focused on the recipes for now.

The healing pills were the very first Saint-ranked pill he had ever made, pills that every saint would pay thousands upon thousands to buy from him.

And somehow, on his very first attempt, the pill had come out to be around 92%. Alex tried it 3 more times, and each came to be about 95% Harmony.

That surprised Alex for a bit, but once he gave some thought to it, it made sense why it would be so high.

He was using Supreme Elemental Accord to help improve the ingredients. Each ingredient he used was the best it could be. It was more of a surprise he wasn't getting a full 100%, but that was most likely due to the fact that the Profound Revolutions of Myriad Combinations techniques not being the best technique for forming pills.

That was still his Pill-Splitting Qi, which he was gradually getting closer and closer to figuring out how to use on a single pill. Or at least he hoped so.

There was another small problem Alex was facing at the moment, and that was the fact that his cauldron showed some signs of unstableness when making pills. The strain he had to put it through to refine Saint ranked ingredients was too much for a True Earth grade cauldron.

Still, it wasn't a big enough problem to damage his pills, so he ignored it for now.

It took him 2 weeks to finalize the recipes for the healing pills.

Once he finished making the healing pills, Alex moved on to antidotes for poisons, venoms, and toxins. Those took nearly a month altogether.

After those two, he moved on to Qi gathering pills, and pills that helped him break through. Each of these took about 4 days to 6 days, resulting in another month of work.

There weren't many pills that he could improve the recipes for. After all, he only had 20 recipes after all.

Even amongst them, he only had the ingredients for 17 of them, and those were the only ones he had improved.

"Sigh! Finally done," Alex thought as he finished fixing all the different recipes. It had taken him nearly 3 months, but it was worth it.

He finally took a few days of rest and simply cultivated all day long. The next few days were peaceful and without worry, and in such time, Alex felt his cultivation base reach the peak of the Saint Condensation first realm.

It had been close to 20 months since he had entered the Saint realm, but it was still a surprise to him that he was about to break through.

"It's been 5 years since I've come to this continent," he thought to himself. "I started as a True Emperor 4th realm cultivator, and now I'm entering Saint Condensation 2nd realm."

It had taken him such a long time to reach where he had and that made him wonder how much longer it would've taken him had he been using the Heaven grade version of the Five Yang Divine Path, and not the Immortal grade one.

"Very well, no point in waiting any longer," he thought and closed his eyes to meditate. Within an hour, Alex had easily broken through to the 2nd realm of the Saint Condensation realm without any big showing.

Once done, he cultivated a bit more to make sure his foundations were stable. After that, he left the house he had rented.

Since he was done with what he wanted to do, he decided to go back and see if his aunt was back from her training.