

Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy #Chapter 51: House with a Courtyard - Read Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy Chapter 51: House with a Courtyard

Chapter 51: House with a Courtyard

Alex got up from his bed. He was feeling terrible right now. All the pain he had to suffer today was so real, that he started to wonder if he was even playing a game.

He went and took a cold bath, washing away all the fatigue he felt until now. The near-death experience had traumatized him to some extent, yet somehow he didn't think of it as a bad thing.

He went to have his lunch with his roommates and went to his classes.

In Deva corporation, a bald man in his late 40s was sitting in a meeting room apparently waiting for someone. He seemed to be both nervous and excited about who he was about to meet.

"Welcome miss Hao, I hope you are doing well." He said with a smile that was incapable of hiding his excitement. The girl felt disgusted but didn't say anything as she walked ahead and sat down at the table.

"Is it ready?" she asked.

The man practically ran towards her to bring her a stack of papers in a neat binding. "Here are the records from the Eternal Cultivation miss. We have prepared them just as you asked."

The young lady briefly looked through the papers and nodded to herself. "Good, I'm leaving." She stood up and started walking away.

"Miss Hao," the man immediately called her, stopping her in her tracks. "Is it possible for us to meet the genius that made this game?" he asked.

The lady simply turned around and said, "You aren't worthy to meet him. Just sit back and hope something new comes along your way. That is all you deserve." She then walked away.

The company had made billions from the game the lady Hao had given to the Deva Corporation, and he as the president would get most of the profits. So, he happily took the woman's insults without any annoyance.

He was now starting to hope the lady would bring along something else from the game's creator. He could only hope that much.

***** magic

Alex returned from his classes. He didn't learn much today as he was mostly distracted by the thoughts of what had happened this morning.

He returned to his room after having his afternoon lunch. As soon as he was done changing his clothes, he jumped back into the game.

He opened his eyes inside the random room he had walked into when he logged out this morning. He walked around the house to check it out. The house had about 5 rooms in it, with 4 of them being normal rooms, and the last one being an alchemy room with a fire pit in the middle.

Behind the house was a small courtyard with an artificial-looking, small pond in it. He walked up to the pond and took a look at it.

What he saw was an unrecognizable man with long black hair and blue eyes. The man was wearing a light green robe with red all over it.

'Is that... me?' he thought. He had only seen his in-game appearance once when he first made the character. That was a 5-second glance that he checked no further after that. Looking at it now after nearly 2 weeks. He was surprised at how different he looked from real life.

He decided to take a bath right here with the water in the pond. He took off his clothes and looked at his well-built body. 'I wouldn't mind having this body for real.' He thought.

He used Qi manipulation to carry some water from the pond and poured it over himself. He started washing away the hardened blood in his hairs and skins.

The water running down his body turned red as they washed away all the blood. As he was rubbing away more blood, he noticed something.

On his left arm, where the wolf had first hit him, there was a red scar. The scar was in the shape of a monster's paw.

'Did the wolf hit me so hard that it left a paw mark even after healing the wound?' he thought. He slowly touched the tattoo-like scar, wondering if it would ever heal.

"Hmm..." he thought he felt something from the scar. Something like a vibration from a sound. He touched it once more, but nothing happened. So, he went back to cleaning himself.

After he was done bathing, he took out his remaining clean robe and wore it. After that was done, it was time to go down to the sect valley for the multitude of things he had to do.

He walked down the sect leader's mountain and quickly reached the bottom. As he was walking out, an elder he had never seen before, came up to him and asked, "Are you, Yu Ming?"

"Yes," he said skeptically, not knowing what the elder wanted.

"Give me your nameplate," he asked. Alex took out his nameplate and handed it to this elder. The elder took out a medallion and held it as he placed Alex's nameplate on his forehead.

Soon after, he handed back the nameplate and said, "With this, you have the freedom to go to the alchemy garden, and can take out anything you want from there without charge. But make sure not to go overboard with what you take. While you may have the right to take the ingredients from there, you do not have the right to waste those ingredients for your own selfish reasons, understand."

The elder seemed a little too stern. Alex agreed without question. Besides, he didn't intend to use that many resources from the gardens anyway. He would only use them when he couldn't find the items elsewhere.

After the elder let him go, he started walking straight to the Disciple Hall. He had taken a 3-day leave and needed to tell them that he was back.

Chapter 52: Testing His New Strength

It didn't take long for Alex to reach Disciple Hall. He looked at the ranking board in front of the hall and realized, he had gone down in ranking.

'I was gone away for 3 days, and I am already down by 200 ranking spots?' he thought. He walked back to the Alchemy Achievements and realized he was down on that side too.

He laughed wryly and didn't think much of it. He had returned now, and with the number of stuff he had got back, he could easily get those rankings back and more.

He went into the disciple hall and let them know of his return. After that, he walked towards the sect market. It was around 4 pm and the sect valley was at the peak of crowdedness.

He walked into the sect market and went straight to the elder's stall. He had to wait a while before his time came up eventually.

The elder looked at him, and asked, "Are you here to buy or sell?"

"Both," Alex simply answered. He then reached into his robes and took out 2 storage bags. He checked the storage bags one more time and handed them to the elder.

The elder was surprised someone actually initiated to hand him a storage bag of their own. He then diverted his attention to the storage bag.

The elder's eyes started to widen. The more he looked, the wider it got. He snapped his head as he looked at Alex.

'Bone Tempering 3rd realm. So how are the corpses here so strong?' he wondered.

"Are you selling these in the place of someone else?" he asked.

"No, those are for me." Alex simply answered.

"Young man, if these belong to someone else, and you stole this, you must confess. Lying will not get you anywhere." The elder got more vocal about it.

Alex didn't know what else to say, so he simply insisted on it being his. "Those belong to me, and me alone elder. I did not steal them from anybody." He said.

The elder was starting to get irritated. "Are you saying you killed this organ tempering realm bird monster?" he asked, mentioning one of the monsters inside the bag.

"No, I didn't. Someone else did. But they gave me the monster corpses, so it's mine." He said.

The elder finally felt like he was getting the truth out of him. "See, these don't belong to you. Tell the core disciple who killed these monsters to come to sell these monsters on their own. "

The elder believed that only a core disciple could possibly be strong enough to kill all of these monsters. He handed the bag back to Alex.

Alex frowned a little but said nothing. 'Whatever, I will ask master tomorrow to sell these in my stead. I will like to see how he will refuse master.' Although he was the sect leader's direct disciple, aside from a handful of elders who were there, and the elder below the mountain, nobody else had the information.

Alex didn't like flaunting his master's name around, and also didn't have anything to prove he was her disciple. So, he simply took out the strong monster corpses and handed the bag back to the elder.

The elder frowned as he looked at the bag once more. This time, only Bone tempering 3rd realm and fewer monster corpses were there.

"Are you saying you killed these?" the elder asked.

Alex simply nodded. There was no way the elder could prove this claim false, so he simply started counting the points. The bag only had corpses and not cores or materials. Alex had learned that both of those latter were extremely useful for pill making.

After a while, the elder spoke out, "52 points for skin tempering realm corpses, 360 points for muscle tempering realm monsters, 220 points for bone tempering realm monsters— for a total of 632 points."

Alex handed him his nameplate and got the points. For buying, he bought some of the ingredients he lacked for making a [Spirit Enhancing Pill].

After getting those ingredients, he walked to the library. He was here just to return the Smiting Blade book. Once he did, he left. He had wanted to get some recipes for new pills but lacked the points right now.

'I will wait until tomorrow when I meet the master.' He thought. Since he still had some time to spare before having to log out for dinner, he decided to visit the Training Hall.

'I wonder how strong a True Mortal grade sword is,' he was really curious about his newfound strength. He placed his nameplate in a wooden post inside the training hall, and a wooden puppet jumped up.

He took out the steel sword and held it in his hand. Even without doing anything, he could feel a sense of connection to it as it started to passively suck in his Qi to glow a bit.

While the amount of Qi it sucked wasn't a lot, it was substantial enough to increase its strength for sure.

Previously, without using a technique, the steel sword did exactly 1 realm lower than his cultivation in damage. Now that he had refined it, he was looking forward to the new damage.

He held his sword in an attacking stance and jumped forward. As soon as he reached the puppet, he simply swung the sword onto the wooden puppet.

BAM

He could tell the damage was much higher than what he could do with his own fists. He turned back to look at the information on the post.

2 realms higher. That was how good a refined True Mortal grade sword was. If simply using this sword without any technique already resulted in such damage, then how much more damage can using a technique give him. magic

The thought of this was starting to excite Alex.

Chapter 53: Ebony Corundum Stiletto

Alex got ready to attack once more. He picked up his sword and started channeling his Qi around his body as per the Smiting Blade technique.

His qi was flowing into the sword at an incredible speed. He had been in a half-dead state when this first happened, so he didn't have to luxury to fully experience what it felt like. But now that he did, it was glorious.

Feeling the Qi slide into the blade with zero resistance was such a cathartic experience. Once the blade was filled to the brim with his Qi, he moved.

The sound the hit made was actually quieter than the last time, yet he could tell the damage was much higher. The penetration power of the sword was much higher with the technique, so it didn't hit enough of the wooden puppet to make much sound.

Alex turned around to look at the damage value.

'4 realms higher?' he was shocked. 'That's much higher than I had expected.' He looked at the puppet which had a deep, almost invisible cut going from its left shoulder to its right waist. It took a few moments for the puppet to heal back.

Now that he was done checking his damage with his 'new' sword, he decided to leave. But just then, he remembered. 'Wait, what about the other sword?'

He decided to check that one as well. He opened his inventory to see the new sword. Once he found it, he brought it out.

BANG

The moment the sword left his inventory, it fell onto the ground with a loud sound. This sound was larger than when he first hit the puppet with his sword.

Thankfully, this was the Training hall, so nobody checked what had just happened.

The sword had been inside the mother cat when he put it into his inventory, so he hadn't seen what the sword looked like and only the hilt. Now that he was looking at the actual sword, he was in awe.

Despite how big the hilt gave the impression of the sword being, the sword was actually tall, but a thin two-sided sword. It looked like it had some sort of marking or words on it at first glance, but looking at it more carefully, it was just the texture of the metal itself.

The blade itself had a brownish color to it with some gold hue to it. The crossguard was quite long for such a thin sword and made purely of silver-like metal. The hilt was wrapped in red leather, probably from some high-level monster.

He focused on the blade a bit, and a panel appeared.

[Ebony Corundum Stiletto

Grade: Earth

]

'It's not giving me any information aside from the grade,' he thought. He checked the steel sword.

[Steel Sword: Refined

Grade: True Mortal

Elemental Alignment: None

Weight: 10 KG]

'Okay, the steel sword is giving a few more information now. Is it because I refined it?' he wondered. He tried to recall back to how the refinement actually happened. magic

'Didn't it say something about the sword accepting my essence?' he thought. 'What is essence though? Essence, I have heard of that word somewhere else... That's right.' He immediately opened his inventory.

There was an item in there that he got after killing the cat monster.

[????????'s Blood Essence]

'So does essence mean blood?' he wondered. He remembered that he had never before been bled in the game. The only time he did was the fight

against the wolf. So, if that was the exact time the sword was refined, then blood would make sense to be the essence.

'Do I have to cut myself now?' he didn't want to intentionally bleed. Still, he braced himself and cut his fingertip. Blood started pooling on top of his finger.

He looked at his finger and was actually surprised. His finger was actually starting to close up a bit. 'Is this because I am a cultivator?' he wondered.

He dropped the pooled-up blood into the sword. The drop of blood fell onto the blade, but it just slipped off the surface of the blade and fell into the soil below.

He was curious about what had just happened, so he bent down to grab the sword. Surprisingly the sword was heavy. In fact, it was so heavy that he was unable to move it even a single centimeter.

'How is such a small sword, so heavy,' he wondered. He tried a couple more times to no avail. 'What if I try to put my Qi into it? Will that make it better?' he thought.

He grabbed the hilt of the blade, and slowly started to pour in his Qi. The resistance he felt was massive. The sword absolutely didn't want his Qi and was vehemently refusing it.

He started using more force to put in the Qi, and suddenly massive energy started pouring into him from the sword. His body started to hurt and he immediately stopped forcing in the Qi.

'Any longer and I would've been seriously hurt.' He thought. The sword refused his Qi so much that it nearly wounded him in return. He looked at the sword with a little bit of dread in his eyes.

'The sword is too strong for me right now. I should try again once my cultivation base is higher.' He thought.

He hadn't been here for more than 10 minutes, but the nameplate still took 5 points. He didn't care though. He took his nameplate and walked out of the training hall.

Now that he could think of nothing else to do, he decided to go back to his residence in the sect leader's mountain. Nobody stopped him this time, so his

way to his residence was smooth. Once he was in the house, he looked at the time and realized it was about time for dinner.

So, he logged out.

Chapter 54:Unlocking...

magic

After dinner, Alex logged back into the game. The evening had turned into night, and his new house was lit with lanterns. There were multiple lanterns all around the house for light.

He took a lantern and walked out into the courtyard. The lantern wasn't bright enough to light up the giant courtyard, and only dimly lit it. But that was enough for a cultivator like Alex who could see well even without lights.

He sat down on the grass near the pond and took off the lanterns covering. He was going to practice Flame Mastery Scripture for now. For 2 hours straight, he did nothing but manipulate the fire. By now, he didn't require a lot of Qi to manipulate the fire.

He was worried that his speed at cultivating would be bad for him, and he would start to lose proper control over his qi. Thankfully, 3 nights of hunting monsters had greatly stabilized his fast-growing cultivation.

Now, he just had to stabilize the cultivation he was in, and he could breakthrough once more. He hadn't met a single bottleneck as of yet, which he was unsure was related to his talent or not. The number next to the required Qi amount never dropped below 100%.

After he was done with practicing Flame Mastery Scripture, he started practicing to fly. While he only moved upwards very slowly, he could still learn how to move from side to side.

He brought out his qi and started wrapping it around himself. Once he made the Qi lift him, he slowly started to rise up. At around 1 meter off the ground, he stopped his Qi from lifting him up any further and started to hover there.

After that, he took some more Qi and started to move with it. It was only due to gravity that he had problems moving upwards. Since there was nothing

keeping him from moving sideways, he started to freely float around. His speed at moving sideways was a little faster than moving normally.

He dropped to the floor once more and thought of something. Ma Rong mentioned something about him only being able to hover because he unconsciously lifted himself off of the ground before trying to fly.

'What will happen if I jump first, before trying to fly?' he wondered. Once more, he wrapped himself with Qi and jumped really hard. With his current cultivation, he could easily jump 4-5 meters of height. At the highest height, he suddenly used the Qi to keep him afloat. Finally, it started feeling like flying to him.

At this high, he started to look at the night sky, the open mountain range, and the light scattering into the atmosphere from the sect valley. It all looked so fantastical to him. He realized, at some point while playing this game, he had stopped wanting to play it for the money, and instead wanted to play it for himself.

He practiced flying for a while. Every once in a while, he would try floating some small stones from nearby with him. Splitting his attention between himself and the other things was hard, and that was exactly why he was practicing.

Manipulating his entire body with his Qi to keep it afloat was a very draining task. Before he knew it, he had used up all his Qi. So, he sat down to cultivate.

But, before he started, he had one more thing he had to do. He quickly opened his inventory and took out something. He looked at the thing in his hand, something that he had been looking forward to for the last 2 days.

It was a small flower with 5 yellow petals. The Spirit Cleansing Lily. According to Luo Mei, if he were to hold this flower while he cultivated overnight, he would unlock the spiritual sense that only someone in the saint realm could do.

He took a deep breath and started cultivating. Very soon, his Starry Sky Qi Absorption method was activated and he fell into a deep trance.

At first, it was a normal night of cultivation. Nothing happened with the flower in his hand. But after a while, the yellow flower was faintly glowing with yellow light.

It would light up for a moment, and then die down. Light up once more, and die down again. The rhythm at which it did that was erratic at first. But slowly, after some time, it started to harmonize with Alex's breathing. Every time he took a breath in the flower lit up. Every time he let go of his breath, the flower got dark again.

Every single breath, the flower was starting to light up more and more until at one point it lit up so much that some of its lights started breaking off of the flower and floating up.

They slowly reached Alex's face, and he breathed them in. Every single breath, the flower broke more and more into light ember-like fragments that were breathed in by Alex.

After some time, the entirety of the flower was devoured by Alex's breathing. Once they were all inside him, his body started glowing slightly as well. The flowers had reached his lungs. From there, they got into his bloodstream and made their way up to his brain.

The water was turbulent for a while as it grew. After it reached a massive size, it stopped growing and became still. Suddenly, a notification appeared in front of the unconscious Alex.

Chapter 55: Spiritual Sense

The early dawn brought in rays of light that lit up Alex's courtyard where he was currently cultivating. Alex slowly opened his eyes as he got out of what he considered was basically sleeping.

Every time he cultivated, he would always fall asleep. But somehow never wake up later than the morning. He would always wake up at some time between 6 and 7 am for some reason. magic

He had gotten used to that by now. He looked at the rays of light coming in from the front of his house. It seemed his house was facing east. At the same time, he saw the walls of the house, the trees in the courtyard, the multitude of blades of grasses in the ground, as well as the pond that was currently behind him.

'Wait a second. What is going on?' he thought. He could currently see things he wasn't even looking at. The pond was currently behind him, so how could he possibly see it?

The blades of grasses were too many for him to be able to 'see' at the same time. He closed his eyes to clear all of the visions he was seeing right now, but that didn't help.

He could still see everything clearly. Well, almost everything. He could no longer see the rays of light coming from afar, or anything that wasn't in his courtyard.

He could see the walls of his house, and also see beyond those walls, but not far off. He could see the pond, and also everything in it. He could see the many fishes swimming in the pond.

Once he started focusing on specific things, everything else stopped overwhelming him. While he could still see everything, he started to ignore them. Yet even when he focused on something, he could still feel the thing he was looking at had multiple things in it that he was looking at once.

For example, when he looked at the pond, he could see all the fishes at once, and individually at the same time. He felt that he could keep track of all the fishes even though there were hundreds of them in there.

He looked at the multitudes of grass blades on the ground. Since there were easily more than a hundred grasses, he was having trouble focusing on them all at the same time. He had to section off about a hundred or two hundred of the grass blades to see them all at the same time as well as individually.

He could clearly feel his mental strength had improved a lot more. He kept looking around at the different things with his eyes still closed. He kept wondering what was happening, why he could see so much.

Then he looked at his own self and realized something—The yellow flower was gone. Only then did he understand what happened.

'Wait, so this is the 'spiritual sense' that Luo Mei was talking about?' he thought. He used the spiritual sense to look at himself. He finally saw what the other people would see when they looked at him. No more reflected image in the water, this was the true him.

He quietly admired how he looked. He started looking at the different things with his spiritual sense. Slowly, he realized that 'seeing' was not all there was to the spiritual sense.

He could also 'feel' the objects he was looking at. He could tell whether an object was smooth or rough. He could tell whether something was hot or cold. He could even tell apart which objects weighed more, and which weighed less.

As he was looking at the different things, he realized something was being drained in his mind, and before he knew it, he stopped seeing anything. He was now in the dark.

'Did I deplete my spiritual sense already?' he thought

He opened his eyes to look properly once more. Looking with his eyes felt like a degrade now that he had spiritual sense. Still, due to his increased mental power, his eyes could keep track of a lot of different things now.

While the amount wasn't as large as when he was using his spiritual sense, it was still a lot.

He decided to check if he could handle multiple objects with Qi manipulation now that he was able to track multiple things at once. He started floating a small stone. Then, he started to do the same to another stone. And another. Soon, he was individually keeping 5 stones afloat.

He tried some more. At around 8 stones, he started feeling some mental strain, and at 10 he had reached his limits. After moving them all separately for a while, he dropped the stone.

'Hmm... I have an alchemy lesson with master today. I should go and come back to the game as soon as I can,' he thought. He quickly logged out and did all of his morning business. Once he ate his breakfast, he returned back to the room and logged into the game.

He had returned to the game in about 15 minutes, so decided to go to the sect leader's abode as soon as he could. He opened his eyes and started to stand up, but suddenly he noticed something.

The first thing he noticed was that quite a lot of his Spiritual Sense had come back. But that was not what surprised him the most.

He slowly looked around, using both his eyes and spiritual sense. He was no longer where he had logged out and had in fact logged in a room somewhere else.

'Where am I?' he thought. Just as he thought that the door to the room opened, and he looked up to see who it was. He looked at the person who had just entered and said in surprise, "Master?"

Chapter 56: Spiritual Sea

"Are you alright?" Ma Rong asked as soon as she entered.

Alex was a little perplexed as to what she meant. So, he simply answered, "Yes. I am alright."

"What were you doing sleeping in the courtyard? I was worried you were sick or something." She said with a concerned look on her face.

"Oh, uhh... I was cultivating over the course of last night, and must've fallen asleep outside in the courtyard," He said.

'Damn. Does the game not remove your character from the world while you log out?' he thought. Until now he had assumed that whenever someone logged out of the game, the game would remove their bodies from the play so that it didn't hinder anything else.

'I shouldn't log out in dangerous places from now on,' he said to himself.

"Fall asleep while cultivating? Why would you fall asleep while cultivating?" she asked.

"Huh? Do you not fall asleep while cultivating? I have never been awake when I cultivated," he answered simply.

Ma Rong looked at him like she had just heard something very absurd. "What sort of cultivator falls asleep while cultivating? What if you get attacked while you were cultivating? What would you do then? Simply die?" she asked.
magic

Alex thought for a moment and couldn't come up with an answer. 'That's right. What would I do if something life-threatening happened while I was cultivating? Would I get woken up by the threat? Or would I simply die?' His master's worries made sense.

He followed his master to the alchemy room in his house. There was no need for paying contribution points to use alchemy rooms here.

She sat down on one side of the room and told him to sit on the other side. Once they were both seated, they were both on either side of the fire.

She took out a cauldron and placed it on top of the fire. The cauldron was made up of green material, with gold objects attached to it.

"I promised to give you this cauldron, didn't I? This cauldron is called the 'Golden Jade cauldron'. It was given to me by my master when I surpassed him in alchemy. It's a True Mortal Grade cauldron, and from today on, it is yours." Ma Rong spoke with a bit of emotion in her voice.

"Alright. We will start now. You don't have anything to do before we start right?" she asked.

Alex thought for a bit and decided he should ask her something. He took a deep breath and said, "Master, I unlocked my spiritual sense today."

"Okay. If that is all then we can sta—" Ma Rong stopped as she was talking. "What did you just say?" she looked at him as if she misheard what he had just said.

"I unlocked my spiritual sense today," he repeated once more.

"No way, you are a bone tempering realm cultivator. You cannot unlock spiritual sense until the saint realm. You must've mistaken your normal Qi sense as spiritual sense. Although even Qi sense is only supposed to unlock once you reach True realm," she refused to believe it.

"Master, I used a Spirit Cleansing Lily to unlock my spiritual sense." He told her.

Ma Rong's eyes were wide with shock. "How do you know about the spirit cleansing lily? No, where did you even get it from? They are incredibly expensive," she was still refusing to accept the fact that he had unlocked.

"Did you forget master? I can recognize every alchemy ingredient I see in the wild. I got mine in the western forest, outside of the city," he said whatever he could to make her believe him.

Ma Rong thought for a second. "Does that mean you have a spiritual sea now?" she asked.

"Sea? What's a spiritual sea?" he asked.

"If you really did unlock your spiritual sense, then you must've unlocked your spiritual sea. The Spiritual Sea is where your sense is located. According to the records, the sea is in your mind that you can feel with your spiritual sense. The larger your sea, the more powerful the spiritual sense." She explained.

Alex quieted for a second. 'A sea? Do I have one?' he thought. He quickly started probing into himself with his spiritual sense. He felt no resistance as he looked inside his mind.

Somewhere on his head was a small bubble of spiritual energy. Once he looked at what was inside, he saw a massive, but quiet sea with some occasional waves. The sea looked a bit dried up but was constantly getting back to its previous state.

"Yes, Master. There is something in my head. It's like a bubble of spiritual energy, and inside the bubble is a vast body of water, just like a sea." He said.

Ma Rong was shocked, "So you really did unlock your spiritual sense. That-that is too fast." He was looking at him like she was looking at a monster.

"But-but wait, you said you found a spirit cleansing lily? How did you choose the right one? Do you know that choosing the wrong flower destroys the entire flower bed?" she asked.

"Ah yes. I just know which flower is the right one. I have picked 2 lilies by now. One by myself, and another for Luo Mei of Tiger sect, who I met during my hunt." He said.

"So are you saying, you can pick the right flower out of the entire bed of flowers?" she asked once more. Alex simply nodded. Ma Rong's eyes seemed to light up with excitement.

She abruptly stood up and walked outside. She almost forgot about Alex in her excitement and left by herself. She turned back to look at Alex, who by now had a curious look on his face.

Ma Rong's eyes lit up as she said, "Follow me. If you really can tell apart a spirit cleansing lily from the normal lilies, then you have a job to do."

Chapter 57: Third Lily

Alex followed Ma Rong down the mountain. The time was late morning so a lot of people were already in the sect valley going about their own business.

As soon as she left the mountain, she took a sharp right turn and walked towards another mountain.

'One of the alchemy gardens?' he thought. This was Alex's first time entering the alchemy garden, so when he finally got to see what the mountain was like, he was extremely surprised.

When he first heard the word 'garden', he had expected a well-organized and well-kept botanical landscape. But it was anything but that. This looked more like a jungle that no one had visited in over a century.

There was no proper walking path, plants grew wherever they wanted, and there was no way to tell what was required in alchemy and what was just useless weeds. magic

"Hmm... is this your first time? The garden is always like this. We try not to interfere with how the plants grow and only take what we need. Although sometimes it's hard to find exactly what you are looking for." She said

Alex looked around a bit more. He was ignoring the feeling he had when he saw an alchemy ingredient. He was jaded to the feeling and could control himself now.

He used his spiritual sense to look at the different plants. Various information flooded into him, even telling him what the ingredients were. He didn't even have to focus to know now.

As he went forward, he stopped when he saw his master had stopped as well. He tried to look at what was in front of her. When he saw the flowers, he was surprised.

"A Spirit Cleansing Lily?" he asked.

"Yes. It has been in this garden for years now. It's highly regulated by the elders, so nobody gets to even look at it under normal circumstances."

She turned towards Alex and asked, "Can you tell me which one is the real one?"

Alex looked at the flower bed and walked towards it. After reaching it, he simply pointed to a blue flower in the midst of the flower bed.

Ma Rong looked at him nervously, "Are you absolutely sure?" she asked. He nodded confidently. Ma Rong took a deep breath and grabbed the blue flower with a nervous hand.

"Here goes nothing." She picked the flower. She half expected all the rest of the flowers to wilt, but they didn't.

"I did it. I did it. Haha, I finally got a Spirit Cleansing Lily." She was so excited that she nearly jumped up and down. After she settled down from her excitement, she looked at Alex like he was a gem. "So, you really have the talent to tell apart the alchemy ingredients huh. That is gonna come in handy very much."

"Give me your nameplate." She said. Alex took out his nameplate and handed it to her. She was about to change something in the nameplate when she noticed he already had a pill registered under his name.

"You have already made pills? Didn't you join less than 2 weeks ago?" She asked.

"Yeah. I made it the day before I left to hunt." He answered.

'Monster,' was all she could think.

"When did you start making pills?" she couldn't help but ask.

"Oh, I started the same day." He replied

"Oh, is this the only pill you were able to make that day?"

"No, I made 8 of those pills. I had sev- Nine batches of ingredients and failed the first time. After that, I succeeded in all the other attempts. I gave the 10% harmony one to the disciple hall, and sold the remaining 7 for points." He answered.

'Monster. He can't be called a genius any longer. Monster is the only word that fits him.' She was shaking internally hearing his success rate. 8 out of 9 success rates was something normal alchemists would only hope for.

A beginner making a single mistake and succeeding the rest of the attempts was unheard of.

"You gave them 10% one? What was your highest harmony level?"

"Hmm... if I remember correctly, it was 16%."

Ma Rong's eyes were wider than the flower she was holding. "Monster," she said out loud.

"What?" Alex asked. 'Did she just call me a monster?'

"Nothing," she said as she focused back on his nameplate. She did something to the nameplate and returned it. And then she said something that shocked Alex, unlike anything he had felt before.

She said, "You are now a core disciple of the Hong Wu Sect, with the privileges of an elder."

Alex had a problem grasping at the concept of what had just happened. "But I haven't completed any tests. How can I be a core disciple?" he asked.

Ma Rong simply said, "Of course you can. I am the sect leader. If anyone had problems with that, they can come to talk to me. I will go tell the elders about what you did, and not even they will argue against me."

She took out a medallion from her storage bag and started talking into it. "Great Elder and all the numbered elders. Please come gather in the Elders hall within the next hour. I need an emergency meeting with you all to talk about some important topic."

All around the sect, the great elder and the different numbered elders, namely first elder to 18th elder heard the announcement and started preparing to go to the Elders Hall. It was not always that the sect leader herself called for a meeting.

Once she was done making the announcement, she turned towards Alex and said, "Thank you. Thanks to you, I can also unlock my Spiritual Sea and

Spiritual Sense. Go back and do what you want, for now, I need to go to the meeting. I will come to meet you tonight."

Alex watched as she left the garden. He looked at the time and it wasn't even 9. He decided to look around the garden a bit longer.

Chapter 58: Misuse of Authority

While Alex was going around the garden looking at everything, while the elders were convening in the elder's hall.

Some elders arrived before even 15 minutes had passed after the sect leader's message had been sent out. There were 20 seats in the meeting chamber inside the Elders Hall.

3 of them were on top of a small podium, while the rest of them were on either side of the room. Elders started to enter the room and seating in their respective numbered seats.

"Oh seventh elder, you came rather early." A young man walked into the room. He was in his late 20s but didn't look that old.

"Oh, Elder Lang congratulations on making into the numbered elders rank. Your father and master must be proud. Oh, I should probably start calling you eighteenth elder so that I don't confuse you between you and your father." The seventh elder laughed as he said this.

"I don't think that is even possible, Seventh elder. My father won't respond to anything you call him other than the first elder. he is way too used to it now." Elder Lang laughed as well. magic

Lang Shun was the son of the first elder, Lang Luoyang, and a direct disciple of the Great elder, Chang Peng. He had shown great progress in both alchemy and cultivation and had recently been granted the title of Eighteenth Elder.

As the Eighteenth elder, his primary task was to filter the disciples entering the sect. This was how he had come to learn about Alex's incredible test results and had given him a Silver library token.

Time passed slowly, and more and more elders entered the room. The seats on either side of the room started to slowly fill up. The seats on the podium however remained empty.

Sometimes later, the sect leader finally entered the meeting hall. Following behind her was a white-haired, and white-bearded old gentleman, who was the Great Elder.

Slightly behind them was a man that looked young, but wasn't, based on the whites in his hair and beard. He looked an older image of the eighteenth elder. This was the first elder, Lang Luoyang.

The sect leader walked up the podium and sat on the middle seat. The great elder sat to her left, and the first elder sat to her right.

Ma Rong looked at the elders in the hall and was about to start the meeting when she noticed two of the seats nearest to the podium empty.

"Have the 2nd and 3rd Elder not returned from the capital?" she asked the group.

"Hopefully they didn't forget to get back the information about the upcoming competition. Since we are all here, let's start the meeting." Ma Rong said.

"I am holding this meeting to talk about 2 things, both regarding my disciple."

Many of the elders that heard her were confused. "Sect leader has a disciple? Why have I not heard this before?" some of the elders started discussing amongst themselves.

"The first reason is I am going to make my disciple a core disciple" The sect leader simply said.

Most of the elders didn't say anything. If the sect leader had a disciple, then the disciple must be a high leveled alchemist. Only the fifth elder, the ninth elder, and the Great elder looked at the sect leader in surprise.

They were there on that crater where the saint realm cat monster had landed, and they had firsthand seen that the disciple was only an outer sect disciple. Even if he became a direct disciple, he would still have to go through the normal procedures to become a core disciple.

"Sect leader, are you sure that's alright?" the great elder asked from the side.

"I will go into the reason soon, great elder," she reassured the elder about her decisions.

"The second reason is I am here to authorize my disciple to have free access to everything in the sect. " This decision was a lot more controversial than the first one.

Nearly every elder chimed in to give their piece of opinion on the matter. Giving a disciple free access to everything in the sect, was a massive deal to the elders. While an elder may have more authority than such a disciple, they would still be bounded by rules in the sect, and not be able to access everything freely.

Ma Rong had expected the cries of refusal, so she was ready. She brought forth her palm in the air to stop them from talking. Once they saw it, the elders all quieted down.

The 6th elder spoke, "I am sorry but this feels like a blatant misuse of your authority, sect leader."

"Yes, sect leader. Can you tell us why you are doing this?" the 12th elder asked.

In response, Ma Rong simply took out a 5 petaled blue flower. "Does anyone recognize what this is?" she asked the crowd.

The first elder and the great elder immediately got more attentive to the flower in her hand. They recognized what it was, and understood what it meant for the sect. This flower was a major deal for the progress of the sect.

As for the other elders, they were stumped. The flower was too... normal for them to recognize what it was. They turned around to look at each other in the hope of finding an answer.

Ma Rong looked at them and understood that not everyone could recognize this flower without reading its description in the records. She looked towards the first elder and said, "First elder, could you please tell the other elders what the name of this flower is?" she had seen his reaction and knew he recognized it.

The First elder slowly spoke, "Sect leader, is that really it? Is that the Spirit Cleansing Lily?"

As soon as the crowd heard the name, they were in absolute disbelief as well.

Chapter 59: Granted

"What? That's the Spirit Cleansing Lily?"

"No way. That is the flower that gives you spiritual sea and sense?"

Ma Rong looked at the elders' incoherent noises and waited for them to quiet down. Once the voices stopped talking, she spoke,

"Yes, this is the Spirit Cleansing Lily, and the one who got this is my disciple." She continued, "What do you think is the contribution to finding one of these for the sect?"

The crowd was stumped on that question. No one had ever been able to pick out a Spirit Cleansing Lily without harming it as far as they knew. There were only the occasional lucky people who did pick them, but that was more luck than technique.

"Did your disciple get lucky, sect leader?" one of the elders asked.

"No, this was the third lily he picked from what he has told me. He has already used one for himself, and found another for someone he met during one of his hunts."

The Great Elder himself was curious, "Is this about what he said back in that forest, sect leader? About him being able to find any ingredients?" The Great Elder had also seen the bag full of ingredients that Alex had gathered in the forest.

The sect leader simply nodded.

"Then the contribution to the sect is beyond imagination. An alchemist with a spiritual sense can be dozens of times better than an alchemist without one. If sect leader were to gain one now, it would increase your ability by a lot. You might actually be able to make heaven-grade True pills." The Great Elder said in shock.

The first elder spoke, "how about this, sect leader. Since your disciple's contribution is unimaginable, we can give him free access to everything in the sect, but he must still go through the normal procedure to become a core disciple. How long will it take him to make the 20 different high-tier mortal grade pills?" magic

The sect leader chuckled a little when she heard this. The Great Elder and the other 2 elders smiled wryly too.

The sect leader looked at the others and asked, "What do you guys think about the first elder's suggestion?"

The elders felt that was the correct choice. While his contribution was unimaginable, one didn't become a core disciple on contribution alone. If the sect leader's disciple was made one, based on it, then it would be unfair to the other disciple who was learning alchemy day and night.

So, all the elders started voicing their agreement to the first elder's words. Ma Rong thought for a bit and realized they were right.

'I got hasty in my excitement,' she thought. "Very well, then. We will do what you guys say. From now on, my disciple, Yu Ming will have unobstructed access to everything in the sect, aside from the sect treasure of course."

"Now, there is another thing I wanted to talk to you guys about. It's regarding the alchemy gardens." She said. "I am thinking of changing how we work in the alchemy garden for 2 weeks."

"Tell all the elders working in the garden itself to stop. Only keep elders for guarding the garden and maintaining it, and not picking the ingredients."

The elders were confused. "Huh, then who will pick up the ingredients, sect leader?" they asked.

"My disciple will. He has an unearthly ability to recognize alchemy ingredients, and now that he has spiritual sense, it would be much faster for him to do the searching, than the other elders and disciples." She said.

"Have you thought of how we will go about it, sect leader?" the Great elder asked.

"Yes," Ma Rong replied, "Every day, we will ask the disciples to request what they need, and put it in a list. And that night, my disciple will go around the garden looking for the ingredients. This is only for 2 weeks because I want to see how good my disciple's ability really is."

The elders stopped for a second and then accepted it. If a disciple could find a Spirit Enhancing lily, then it would be better to let that disciple do all the alchemy picking. Besides, he had a spiritual sense.

He would already be better than most elders at locating ingredients just based on that.

"Alright then. The meeting is over. You can all go now." Ma Rong said. All the elders slowly started to bid farewells to her and left the room.

"I will take my leave as well, sect leader." The first elder left as well. Only the sect leader and great elder were left in the room.

The great elder took a big sigh and spoke, "What are you doing Ma Rong? You will antagonize the elders if you decide to randomly make decisions like that. They will view it as you giving priority over your disciple compared to others. They already think you made Lang Shun an elder just because he is your junior disciple brother but doesn't dare to voice it."

Ma Rong was silent for a bit and then spoke, "But master, Wen Cheng wasn't lying when he said Yu Ming is a genius. He has already made a 16% harmony pill on the first day he tried alchemy. That was 7 days after he joined the sect."

The great elder's eyes widened, "are you sure he isn't just lying?" he asked.

"No, he isn't. I checked his sales records, and he really did sell 7 Spirit Enhancing pills ranging from 12% to 16% harmony the day after he bought the ingredients. He is a genius in alchemy that comes once in a thousand years. Now that he has unlocked spiritual sense this morning, he should be much better."

"I will properly teach him starting tomorrow, and I am sure he will rise very fast." Ma Rong said.

"Ho... If my grand disciple really is that talented, then I can't wait to see what he can do in the future."

Chapter 60:Work

Ma Rong left the hall and went back to her mountain. The other elders had already been informed of the decision and the disciples were let known that they could request an ingredient from the elders in either garden.

The elders usually kept a list of what they could find in the gardens so that they could pick it later if needed. The students could also use that list as a sort of menu to order for it using their contribution points.

Ma Rong quickly reached Alex's place in the mountain and looked for him.

'Is he back or not?' she wondered.

She checked the house and found him asleep in one of the rooms. So she decided to leave him alone for now.

Around 4 hours later, Alex opened his eyes. He had gone to his classes and come back online just now. He stood up and suddenly noticed something, there was some sort of vibration from one of his storage bags.

He instinctively checked what it was using his spiritual sense. He was a mental image of his nameplate slightly flashing with light as it vibrated inside his storage bag.

'Wow, I can check the items in my bag with a spiritual sense too? So, I don't even need the inventory anymore,' he thought. He thought of taking the nameplate out, and suddenly it came out on its own.

'Wha- do I not need to take it out on my own? Does it come out as soon as I think?' he tried a bit more with a few more items and turned out he was right.

He looked at his nameplate to see why it was shining and realized he could read the plate with his spiritual sense. He was learning some very important things with his senses.

The nameplate read, "You are still an outer sect disciple, but you now have free access to anything you want in the sect. In exchange, you will have to gather ingredients from the alchemy garden per a list given by the elder at around 8 pm. I will continue your alchemy lessons tomorrow morning at 8 am."

"Oh, I have work now, huh?" he got out of his courtyard and walked down the valley. He thought of what he could do now that he had free access to everything.

There was so much he could do now, so he had a hard time choosing what he could do. He thought for a bit and walked to the sect market.

He walked up to an elder and asked, "Greetings elder, Can I get all the recipes in the sect?"

The elder looked at him with a blank expression. "Do you have the points for that?" the elder asked.

Alex passed along his nameplate. As soon as the elder scanned the nameplate, he understood what he meant. "So you are the sect leader's disciple huh. I didn't expect you to be an outer sect disciple still." The elder was surprised, and he continued, "You don't need to buy the recipes here. Since you have free access to everything, you can go read the recipes stored on the top floor of the library."

"You can't take them away, like normal techniques, and will have to stay there and read. But, since you are allowed to stay there as long as you want, it's not really a problem." The elder explained to him quite a few things.

Alex thanked the elder and walked to the library. He had thought of learning some new techniques but ignored that thought right now. First, he had to learn some recipes, and then make some pills. It had been a long time since he had done anything alchemy-related.

He greeted the elder at the front door and walked straight to the 4th floor. He showed his nameplate to the elder on the 6th floor. He knew he would get distracted if he started looking at the techniques now, so he rushed to the 9th floor.

He had to show his nameplate once more on the 8th floor. Apparently, only elders were allowed on the 9th floor, and there were no techniques there, only old records and pill recipes. magic

There were only 2 shelves on the top floor. One was filled with normal pages of paper that held records that were either very important or very old. The other shelf was filled with all types of pill recipes.

This was different from instinctively knowing what to use, and when to use it. It was more like his memory power had upgraded several times. He tried to think of what else he could remember, and realized, he actually remembered every single thing he had experienced from this morning till now.

He was genuinely surprised. 'Do I have eidetic memory now?' he wondered.

It took him around an hour to fully read every single recipe in there. In total there were about 200 recipes in the room. About 140 of those were for common pills and the rest for true pills.

Although he read a lot of recipes, once he reviewed them in his mind, he realized that most of them were actually just worse or better versions of other pills. Or they did just the same thing but targeted a different part.

He spent a bit more time in there basically trying to learn what he had memorized. His genius memory once more came in very handy. With his spiritual sea already so big, he had no problem understanding the process of the alchemy behind the recipes.

His master had now given him a task, to gather ingredients at the alchemy garden, that he had to do every night, and it was about time for that. So, at 6 pm, he got out of the library and went back to his residence to log out.