

Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy #Chapter 91: Beast Companion - Read Eternal Cultivation of Alchemy Chapter 91: Beast Companion

Chapter 91: Beast Companion

"A Clouded Tiger cub."

Cai Ping proudly showed off the first item at the auction. It was a newly born monster that they had somehow captured and brought to the auction.

'What is the point of selling a cub? Why not just capture an adult and sell them. Is this for some rich people's amusement? It certainly can't be for the ingredients or even the meat.' he wondered.

"As many of you may know, a Clouded Tiger has an almost guaranteed chance to reach the True realms, and even a very little chance of reaching the Saint realms."

"The cub is 4 weeks old and perfectly healthy. We have checked and found him to have no physical problems as well. We will start the bid at 5 common spirit stones, with 10 gold of minimum increment."

"510 gold"

"520 gold"

530 gold"

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The auction house suddenly started thundering with the sound of the numerous bid. Cai Ping's smile got wider each time she heard a bit. She would get about 2% of the revenue from each of these sales, so the more it sold for, the richer she got.

Within the first 20 seconds, the bid had crossed 10 spirit stones. Alex got surprised seeing this. This behavior was completely different from what he had expected. He thought only a few people would bid for the cub; but seeing so many people bid for it, he realized his idea of what the cub was used for must be mistaken.

Ma Rong looked at his interested eyes and got a little surprised. "Do you want the cub?" she asked him.

Alex was startled as he was focused on the happenings below. He looked towards his master and said, "No, master. I was just curious why so many people would want a tiger cub and not just get an adult tiger?"

"Of course, that's because they want to raise the cub themselves. A monster trained from birth is so much easier to make a companion out of than a normal adult monster." She said to him explaining why so many people were bidding for the cub.

"A companion? What's that? Do you make friends with monsters? Why would you?" he got so very confused hearing his master's explanation. They only brought forth more questions than answers.

Ma Rong suddenly remembered how much common knowledge her disciple was lacking. She laughed a little to herself and started explaining.

"Beast companions are an important aspect of a cultivator's life. Cultivators can make a bond with a beast and control them. They can make the beasts fight for them, or just have them as a friend through their journey as a cultivator. Overall, the beasts can help you in a lot of places."

"That cub right there is a newborn monster. Those are somewhat rare to come by. A young monster is very naive and gullible, so after a few weeks or months of getting treated well by the other party, they happily bond to them. That is why the people down there are so excited to bid for it. "

"If they manage to get it and raise it to the True realms. It can be a true powerhouse that can deter their foes and help them gain fame, money, and status in life. Even if they themselves happen to be weak or untalented in cultivation, having such a beast companion would offset everything."

"In fact, even I am a little tempted to get the cub. But I won't as I am quite satisfied with my beast for now." Ma Rong said.

Alex got surprised to hear that, "You have a beast companion, master? How come I haven't seen it yet? Does it not live in the mountain?"

"Oh, I forgot to mention. Beast companions are a little unique, in that they don't live in the physical world after they bond with a cultivator. Look," she said as she swept aside a bit of her long hair to show her beautiful white skin on her neck.

On the neck was a small circular pattern that looked like it was a long beast coiling. "This is where my beast lives. I can call her anytime I want, and she would fight for me."

Ma Rong let go of her hair and asked, "So, do you want to get the cub?"

Alex gave the question serious thought. From what his master had just said, a beast companion would be an amazing help for him if he wanted to become a stronger cultivator. However, he didn't want that. He just wanted to cultivate normally, and see where life went in the game.

His main focus was on Alchemy, which he both liked and had a great talent in. He had gotten lucky with the technique, and now he was incredibly happy with it. So, he didn't think getting a beast companion could make that any better.

"No, master." He simply shook his head. Ma Rong nodded, seemingly thinking that was the correct choice for him. Distracting himself with a beast right now might hinder his progress in alchemy.

By the time the master-disciple pair's conversation had come to a stop, the bidding war for the tiger cub was also ending.

"13 spirit stones." Someone shouted.

"13 spirit stones, is anyone else bidding." Cai Ping asked the crowd. magic

"13 spirit stones and 50 golds." Someone else shouted from the crowd.

"13 spirit stones and 50 gold, does anyone else have a higher bid?" Cai Ping asked once more. She waited for a few seconds and heard back nothing from the crowd. So, she took the gavel and started saying,

"13 spirit stones and 50 golds going once." Nobody talked.

"13 spirit stones and 50 golds going twice." Still silence.

"13 spirit stones and 50 golds going thrice, Sold!!" Cai Ping hit the gavel on the table with a loud bang.

"The first item of the day, the Clouded Tiger cub, has been sold to the lady on seat 45 for 13 spirit stones and 50 gold coins. Congratulations."

A few staff members came and took the cub away, and replaced it with another box hidden with a cloth.

Chapter 92: Small Money Talk

The next items on the list sold at a similar rate. People started bidding as soon as it was allowed, and mostly the ones who bid were from the lower hall.

The prices of the items were slowly getting higher and higher as the bid price for the latest sold sword started with 18 spirit stones.

Once again, after the sword was taken away, another box arrived with a cloth on top of it. Cai Ping acted exaggeratedly and pulled down the cloth.

The item was an armor artifact. It was in a shiny blue color and looked very thin. "This is an armor made by using the incredibly defensive Blue rhino's hide as the main ingredient. It's a Common Earth-grade armor artifact that is both tough and flexible. Let us show you how strong it is."

Cai Ping gestured as 2 people walked onto the stage. One was a middle-aged man in the Mind Tempering 8th realm, while the other was at the True Lord realm.

The True lord realm wore the armor and retracted his Qi so as to have it not protect the armor. The Mind Tempering 8th realm man lunged and hit the armor without using any techniques. The armor suffered no damage at all.

"Woah," the crowd was surprised.

"As you can see, the armor is able to defend against even someone at the Mind Tempering 8th realm. From our measurements, It can defend against a fully charged earth grade technique of a Mind Tempering 6th realm cultivator."

"So, the starting bid is going to be 20 spirit stones, with at least 1 spirit stone minimum bid"

As soon as Cai Ping finished saying that, the audience exploded with bids. Before Alex could even comprehend how good the armor was, the bid had already reached over 40 spirit stones.

Even the people in the VVIP rooms were starting to bid. Everyone whose voice came out of the rooms on the upper floors was heavily distorted and no longer sounded like their original voices.

Alex could easily hear the fat merchant head's voice through his spiritual sense, yet when he heard it through his own ears, he was shocked at how different the voices were.

'I assume they do that for privacy reasons. I wonder if they are using formations for this as well,' he thought.

"50 spirit stones," his master voiced in her bid as well.

"Master, do you required that artifact? It should be useless to you, right?" he asked.

"Of course it's not for me you stupid disciple, it's for you." She said.

"For me?" he was shocked. "I don't need that master. You don't have to spend so many spirit stones for me." He said. magic

"So many? It's just 50 spirit stones. That's not much at all," she said.

"Huh?? 50 spirit stones is not a lot? But that's like 50 months' worth of spirit stones for the outer sect disciples master." He said, shocked at how little she thought of so many spirit stones.

"What are you talking about? That's only because they are outer sect disciples and we give it to them. If they were to make pills and sell them, they could make it in well under 3 months. Inner sect disciples get 10 spirit stones every month, so even if they do nothing, they can get 50 spirit stones in 5 months. If they went ahead and made pills, I'm pretty sure they can collect that much amount in less than a month."

"Let's not forget about the core disciples who get 50 spirit stones monthly. If they were to try, they could actually make a dozen of really rare or useful pills with decent harmony and sell them for 50 spirit stones. It wouldn't even take them a week if they tried."

Alex was shocked at what he had just heard. He didn't know about the different monthly spirit stones allowances of the different tiered disciples. But what shocked him more was how little the others valued what he assumed was a rare commodity.

'50 spirit stones are 500 dollars though. So the core disciples get 500 dollars every month.' He thought for a bit and realized where he was wrong.

'This is not the real world. I shouldn't bring my countryside common sense to this place. It's a land of cultivators, it should be no surprise if they are rich. I should stop comparing everything to the real world.'

"55 spirit stones," Ma Rong bid once more. The bidding war slowly shifted from the people at the lower hall to ones at the upper rooms.

There were 3 people left. His master, the fat merchant head, and someone in a faraway room whose identity he couldn't tell because of the voice changes.

All 3 of them kept bidding for a while until the fat merchant took away the armor at 85 spirit stones.

"The gentleman at room B3 has won the Common Earth Grade armor, congratulations." Cai Ping said as a bunch of staff came along and replaced the armor with another item hidden under a cloth.

"Hmm..." everyone suddenly got more attentive as they saw the item that had just been brought to the table was actually really small. The cloth was almost flat on the plate the object was brought on.

If not for the small bump at the middle of the cloth, the people would surely assume that the next item had been accidentally left behind by the staff members.

Cai Ping saw the people's confusion and smiled. She walked to the front and lifted the cloth to reveal a round small green pellet-like object.

'A Pill? But it's not in a pill bottle?' Alex got surprised to see the small round object. A small feeling spawned inside him, one that spawned whenever he saw an alchemy ingredient. But this feeling was very unnoticeable, so he doubted the item was an alchemy ingredient on its own.

Cai Ping started speaking, "Dear ladies and gentlemen, the next item on the list is this seed."

Chapter 93: Yin Gathering Tree

Cai Ping smiled as everyone looked at the seed, and didn't recognize it. These were the times she liked the most when she would reveal what the item was and everyone would be shocked.

"This seed comes from a tree that all of you most certainly know about. This is a seed for the ever famous, Yin Gathering Tree." She glanced at the audience as she made the dramatic reveal.

"Yin Gathering Tree? I think I've heard of it before. But where?" someone said.

"Wait! Is this the same Yin Gathering Tree as the one in the Capital?" another person exclaimed.

"Wow, that's an extremely rare seed."

Sounds of awe and surprise rang out from the entire crowd.

In room B1, Ma Rong who was slumping in her seat suddenly stood up straight and alert. Her eyes burning with desire. Alex had never seen his master in that state. Not even when she had gotten the Spirit Cleansing Lily.

'Can it be that the seed is of greater importance than even the Spirit Cleansing Lily?' he wondered.

Cai Ping once again started talking.

"Please quiet down." She said trying to proceed with the auction.

"Can you tell us who is selling such a precious seed?" someone screamed from the back of the hall.

"The seller has told us that they want to be remained unnamed, so we will not be revealing any information regarding them. Now, let us proceed with the auction for the Yin Gathering Tree seed. The bid will begin at 30 spirit stones, with a minimum of 1 spirit stone increase."

As soon as Cai Ping said that, the people in the hall started bidding one after another.

Before Alex could even ask his master why the seed was so important, the bidding war down below had reached a height never seen before.

"Master, what is the Yin Gathering Tree? Is it good?" he asked.

"It's good for disciples that have Yin-related body, spiritual root, or just a regular Yin-aligned cultivation method. It is very beneficial for them. It gathers Yin energy from the surrounding and makes a certain area around it filled with high-quality Yin Qi."

"52 spirit stones," Ma Rong bid as she answered his question.

"Is it better or rarer than a Spirit Cleansing Lily?" he couldn't help but ask.

"In terms of which is better, it depends from person to person. If I were to look at it from the perspective of a normal cultivator, the Spirit Cleansing Lily is infinitely better than the Yin Gathering Tree. However, If I were to look at it from the perspective of a sect leader, the Yin Gathering Tree can bring benefits to the sect that a single Spirit Cleansing Lily could never."

"As for rarity, The tree itself is not rare, as there are more than dozens of them around the Crimson empire. However, the fruit the tree bears is very rare. And to add to that, even the fruits themselves very rarely have a seed in them. So, the seed is considered very rare. It is for sure rarer than the Spirit Cleansing Lily." She said.

"Hmm... master, then why is it being sold for so less?" he asked.

"Well, the seed isn't guaranteed to sprout. Especially if the environment has a lot of yang energy. So, most sellers sell it at a low price of around 50 spirit stones. The auction house probably decided to lower its initial price to gather more bidders to eventually get the price through the ceiling."

As Ma Rong explained this, the bid for the seed kept on going up. It had now reached the 90s.

"1 True Spirit Stone" Ma Rong suddenly bid.

"101 Common spirit stone" a bid came from a room far away from them.

"Damn him. He wants the seed for his honor sect as well." She said out loud. The sect leader of the honor sect that had come to the auction decided to bid against Ma Rong.

"105 common spirit stone," another voice came from a room some distance away. Ma Rong's spiritual sense didn't extend that far, so she couldn't tell who the bidder was.

"110 common spirit stone," Ma Rong didn't back down.

'Master really wants this seed huh,' he thought.

The raging bid kept on continuing. The other bidder had stopped and now it was only the sect leader of the Honor sect versus Ma Rong.

"182 Common Spirit Stones," the Honor sect's sect leader said after some deliberation. He didn't seem like he wanted to spend so many spirit stones on a seed that had less than a percent chance of growing.

Ma Rong fell into contemplation as well. While 180 spirit stones weren't that expensive in her eyes, it definitely was for the Yin Gathering Tree.

"182 Common spirit stones is the higher bid. Anyone who wants to bid higher?" Cai Ping asked.

"182 common spirit stones going once"

"182 common spirit stones going twice"

"182 comm— "

"2 True spirit stones" Ma Rong bid just as the bidding was ending. magic

Cai Ping smiled. She was always happy to see more bids, as 2 percent of the bid always went to her pockets. The honor sect's sect master didn't bid after that and the seed went to Ma Rong easily after the increased bid.

The next item was brought to the table. It was a large table that was wheeled in with a massive cloth hiding what was inside.

"For our next items, we have—" Cai Ping took off the cloth to show a bunch of pill bottles.

"Wow, so many pill bottles!" the people were shocked.

"Did the auction house accidentally bring out all the pills they needed to sell for today?" someone asked.

Alex looked at the newly revealed items and was surprised. 'I'm up next huh,' he thought.

For some reason, he was starting to get nervous and excited. He couldn't wait to see how much the 135 pills would bring him. He very much looked forward to the next bidding war.

Chapter 94: Pill Sales

After the crowd quietened down a bit, Cai Ping started speaking.

"Anyone who came to the last week's auction surely remembers the many pills that were sold towards the end of the show. The alchemist who made the pill had decided to sell the pills with us back then for the first time. At that time, we weren't able to reveal who the alchemist was, not because they wanted to remain unknown, but because the auction house didn't dare ask them for their name."

"However, after last week's sale, the alchemist was happy towards our auction house and decided to give us their nickname. The alchemist from last week will henceforth be known as 'White Wolf'."

"After last week's success, Senior White Wolf has brought us many pills to sell once more. To be exact, there are 135 pills in front of you folks right now."

Cai Ping stopped talking to listen to the crowd.

"Wait, that's all from one alchemist? Madam Cai, is that true?"

"No way! I thought they accidentally brought out their entire pills for today. That's just one person?"

"This White Wolf senior must have taken months to make these pills. The last week's sales were probably him just treading waters."

"Has anyone heard of an alchemist named White Wolf?"

The crowd kept on talking until someone said something that silenced the crowd for a while.

"Madam Cai, how are you going to sell those pills? It can't be you will auction each pill on its own, right? That would take forever." A person from a VIP room spoke.

Cai Ping smiled, "Yes, we have given some thought to that. Instead of selling the pills separately. We will be selling multiple pills as a batch."

"For the first batch, we have a Hundred Poisons Antidote, Minor Healing Pill, Qi Improving Pill, Swift Feet pill, and Body Warming pill. Each of these pills has exactly 32% Harmony. The bid will start at 40 spirit stones with 1 minimum spirit stone bid as increment."

"41 spirit stones"

"42 spirit stones"

People started bidding right away.

"Hmm... those are all common pills, but they are quite good. Someone must've really been preparing for months to sell them at this auction," Ma Rong commented from the side.

"No," Alex unknowingly blurted out while looking at the crowd below.

"What do you mean no?" Ma Rong turned around to look at him after hearing his remark.

Alex realized a little too late what he had accidentally blurted out and turned around to face his Master's eyes.

"I'm sorry for not telling you master, but I decided to auction the pills I made. Those are my pills," He said with his spiritual sense.

"Yours?" Ma Rong was shocked.

Since they started talking using spiritual sense, the girl behind them didn't know what was going on.

"Are you telling the truth?" She asked inquisitively.

"Of course, master. Why would I lie to you?" he simply said.

Ma Rong squinted her eyes and asked, "You made all those pills? when did you do that? the auction house stopped accepting items after Wednesday."

"I'm not stupid master. Of course, I submitted the items on Wednesday. " Alex acted as if he was being wronged.

Ma Rong then slowly asked, "So... how many days did it take you to make these? 8? 10?"

"Uhh... 4."

"What?" Ma Rong blurted out in her real voice. thankfully, the soundproof design of the room stopped other people from listening to him.

"You finished all of these in 4 days?" she then thought of something else and asked, " So, the reason you didn't register any pills was..."

"Uh, yes. I was collecting them to sell in the auction. I really wanted the spirit stones, so I decided to sell them." He let her know. magic

"It's your pills, so you can do what you want, but, Why do you want the spirit stones so badly? Do you want to buy something?" she asked.

"Uhh... " he didn't know how to answer that. 'Do I tell her I'm doing this for money? probably shouldn't.'

"Something like that." He simply sidestepped the entire question.

Slowly, the bid down in the hall started to die down and the batch of pills was sold for a total of 88 spirit stones. Alex felt that was quite good.

However, there was one thing that kept bugging him for the last few days, and it had been enhanced right now.

"Master, how much does a pill usually cost someone?" he asked.

" Well, that depends on the pill and its ingredients. When it's not in the auction, one would have to gather the ingredients by themselves. If you give the alchemist the ingredients, that would cost you as little as 5 spirit stones."

"However, if the alchemist finds ingredients on his own, that costs the buyer a lot. Just like how your auction for the pills is getting a lot of spirit stones."

The next batch of pills was being sold right now, and the bid had reached as high as 60 spirit stones already. Every single batch of pills had pills with higher harmony, so the bids were also getting higher now.

Soon almost all of the pills on the table were auctioned off. Only two pill bottles were remaining. The audience watched with anticipation as they knew whatever was in the pill was definitely something of high harmony.

Ma Rong always knew her disciple was talented, but getting a first-hand experience like this was a very surreal feeling. Alex on the other hand, had a big smile plastered across his face as he realized he had managed to gather about 27 True spirit stones by now. That was about 2700 common spirit stones.

Or in his real-life terms, he had just earned over 25 thousand dollars. And the final 2 pills were still yet to be sold.

Chapter 95: Priceless and Worthless

The staff members had taken away all but 2 pill bottles. Cai Ping picked up a bottle and said, "This pill bottle contains the Hundred Poisons Antidote. While we did auction off a few Hundred Poisons Antidote just now, this one gets to have its own time in the spotlight, because, it has a harmony of 40%."

A bunch of incoherent noises started appearing from the crowd as they whispered amongst themselves. Cai Ping waited for the noise to die down a bit before she started speaking once more.

"This pill is able to cure any poison below the True grade. So, the starting bid for this pill will start at 30 spirit stones, with 1 spirit stone minimum increase in bid."

The crowd started bidding for the pill. Even after this many pills, their enthusiasm for the pills had barely died a little.

Ma Rong looked at Alex and asked, "Did you make the 43% harmony Tiger strength pill after this pill? " she asked.

Alex was surprised. "You know about that pill, master? Oh wait, you must've seen what I registered. That was a pill I made 2 days ago. While this one, I made it on Sunday, so 6 days ago."

"Good. You are improving a lot. Make sure you don't get overconfident from just this and change your personality. While you are naive, people like naive fellows more than snobby ones."

Alex was relieved she didn't get angry.

The bidding ended with a person buying the pill for 63 spirit stones. Alex was quite happy about this. Managing to get 63 spirit stones just for a single pill was beyond his dream right now.

Then Cai Ping revealed his next pill. "This is the second-best pill we have today. However, the other one is a True grade pill, so I don't know if it even makes sense to compare them."

"This pill is a Healing Lotus pill. Anyone who knows about pills knows that this is one of the best healing pills of all the common pills, maybe even the best. This pill can even bring you back from death as long as you have a little life left in you. Diseases heal just like that if you take this pill." magic

"And senior White Wolf has not only provided us with such an impressive pill, but They have also managed to make this pill with an incredible 45% harmony."

Cai Ping made sure everyone heard that.

"45%? Did she just say 45%?"

"Oh lord. That is 5% away from becoming a Heaven grade pill."

"Can it be that this Senior White Wolf is a True Earth Grade alchemist, and he simply decided to grace us with some common grade pills?"

The shock the crowd showed towards the pill was way more than Alex had expected. They were acting as if 45% was a hundred times better than the 40% pill they just saw beforehand.

He looked back at his master, who was also slightly surprised.

"You keep on surprising me these days. You even managed to make a 45% pill?"

"Is it really that impressive when you already know I made 43% pill?" he asked.

"Of course. It gets harder and harder to increase the pill's harmony. A difference between 43% and 45% is about the same increase in difficulty as 10% to 18%. The higher the pill's harmony, the higher the difficulty. This just goes to show how talented you are."

Ma Rong cleared his confusion. 'No wonder the people are so shocked about it.'

The heated bidding war slowly came to an end as Alex's eyes widened by the final bid.

"139 spirit stones, going once."

"139 spirit stones, going twice."

"139 spirit stones, going thrice. Sold." Cai Ping slammed the gavel on the table. A staff member came out and took away the pill. Another staff came out with a small plate, hiding something rectangular, going by the shape of the silhouette.

"The next item on the auction is this book." Cai Ping unfurled the cloth to reveal an old, dusty, almost rotting book. The outer cover looked a little torn but overall the book seemed to be without damage.

Cai Ping held the book and showed it to the audience. The outside of the book had something written on it, that was visible even though the book itself was very dirty.

The letters seemed black in color but shined like they were made of gold. Cai Ping started by saying, "This book has the potential to be the best item we have ever sold in our auction house. However, it might also be the worst item we have sold as of yet."

Cai Ping stopped talking to create some suspense.

"Best item, yet worst item? What are you talking about, Madam Cai?"

"Yes, please explain, Madam Cai."

Cai Ping started talking once more. "This book was given to us by somebody who wished to remain unknown. This book is the family heirloom that they have guarded for thousands of years. According to their ancestors, one day, people flew down from the heavens and stayed in their tavern."

"Those heavenly folks didn't have money with them at the time, so they gave the tavern owner this book instead, and left back to the heavens."

"Within those thousands of years, many cultivators came and went in their family, yet not a single one could comprehend this book."

"Given to them, by what could only be immortals of the legends, yet unable to even read the book. This book is truly both Worthless and Priceless. If your customers can't read it either, It's the worst item we have sold yet. However, if you can read it, it's the best item we have sold yet."

"As such, we will first let you people check the book for yourself." A staff lady came out and took the book.

"We will pass it along to you all, so you can check. The people in the hall will have only 10 seconds to see if you can read the book. The people in the VIP will have 30 seconds to see if they can read the book. As for the ones in the VVIP, they will have a whole minute to check the book."

Cai Ping nodded to the female staff, and the lady walked down the hall passing along the book to the various people.

Chapter 96: Heaven's Impact

Cai Ping sold quite a few items as the dusty old book traveled from one person's arm to another's. Slowly, more than an hour had passed. Alex realized while he had probably earned the most from this auction in general if he counted individual prices, his pills came nowhere close.

The latest items were being sold at 5 True spirit stones at starting bids alone. By the end, most of them crossed 10 true spirit stones.

Cai Ping showed off the third to the last item for the auction today. She unfurled the cloth to reveal that it was a pill bottle.

"This pill is a Soul Reuniting pill, that was made by Hong Wu Sect's sect leader, Ma Rong. In case you do not know, the Soul reuniting pill is a True grade pill that can increase your chances of breakthroughs in the True realm by at least 3 fold at Mortal grade.

"At earth grade, it can increase your chances by at least 10 fold. "

"And at heaven grade, it can pretty much guarantee your success at breakthrough."

"This pill on my hand has a harmony of 48%. That means, whoever gets this pill, is guaranteed to move forward in their journey as a cultivator. For the starting bid, we will start with 20 True spirit stones, with a minimum increase of 10 common spirit stones. "

The crowd started speaking so loudly that Cai Ping didn't even manage to comprehend what the first few bids were.

"21 Spi...."

"21 spi..."

"22 spi.."

Someone would be half finished with their bids before the other one started. Alex on the other hand was just stunned at the harmony of the pill.

He turned around and said, "Master, You are more talented than me. You made a 48% harmony true grade pill."

"It's not talent. It's experience. Once you get enough experience, you will be able to do that as well." She said.

Alex simply nodded and turned around to look at the people climb over each other to bid for the pill. He finally saw how much people cared about their cultivation and how far they would go to increase it.

'Do people really have a lot of trouble for a breakthrough?' he wondered. He himself had never cared for it, as he always had a 100% chance of breaking through. In fact, he had to slow down, cause he was too good at it.

His master's pill was still being bid, and it didn't seem like it was going to stop anytime soon.

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The staff lady inside opened the door to let more of the staff in. Another lady appeared with a book on a tray. "Here you go, sect leader Ma," the girl spoke respectfully.

The dusty old book had finally arrived at the VVIP rooms. Ma Rong picked up the book and started reading it. At first, she had hoped to understand just a few sentences to see what the book was called and what it could do, but to her surprise, she couldn't even read a word of it. magic

The language was just too foreign for her. She flipped through the entire book, which was filled with words, to see if there was anything she could read. On the last page, she finally found something she could read, only to be disappointed by the fact that it was the family's message saying that it was their heirloom.

A minute had passed, so she gave back the book to the staff, who bowed and swiftly left the room.

She sighed and turned back to see how the auction for the pill was going. Suddenly, she saw Alex who was concentrating on something. He wasn't looking at the auction, that was for sure.

"Yu Ming? What's wrong? You seem serious." She asked.

Alex got out of his stupor and smiled as he said, "Oh, it's nothing master. I was just surprised that one could even use spiritual sense to attack other people. That was truly eye-opening."

"Use spiritual sense to attack other people? What do you mean? There is no way anyone can do that." Ma Rong said, wondering just where he got such an absurd idea from.

"Huh? But that's what Heaven's Impact does, right?" he said.

"Heaven's Impact? What's that?" she had never heard of such a thing. This just brought more confusion to Alex's face.

Alex smiled a little and said, "What are you talking about master? It's obviously the book we read just now."

"The book?" Ma Rong got confused for a split second before her eyes started opening wide. "Did you read the book just now?"

"Oh, was I not supposed to? I'm sorry. I only read the introduction page though, so I didn't really read it all." He said.

Ma Rong was shocked. "You read it. You can read that book?" she practically shouted at this point. Thankfully, the room was entirely soundproof other than when one was bidding.

"Of course I can, master. Can't you?" Alex was surprised now.

"No! Didn't you hear what the auctioneer said? No one can read the book?" she said.

"I mean, isn't that how all higher grade books are, master? Even you said it took you about 2 months to read the immortal technique. Maybe, the family members weren't as talented, so they took forever to read it."

Ma Rong was stupefied. Her disciple had completely misunderstood the difficulty of the situation here and done something seemingly impossible in her eyes.

"Yu Ming, Can you read that book?" she asked once more.

"Yes," Alex answered seriously, hearing the tone in her voice.

"Then you can read that language?" she asked.

"Language? What language?" he asked.

"Obviously the language the book was written in," Ma Rong started to get angry now.

Alex was surprised. "That book was written in a language? Aren't those just scribbled lines that are supposed to put information into your brain?" he asked.

"Of course not. Those are words you are meant to read and comprehend. That's how you learn a technique in the first place."

Alex was stunned. He quickly took out the Flickering Shadows book he had with him and showed it to his master. "Master, are you telling me these lines are a language too? And that you can understand them?"

Ma Rong was even more stunned as she said, "Of course that's a language. Are you telling me you learned the book without knowing the language?"

Chapter 97: Sold

"Master, are you telling me that people can read this language?" Alex asked while pointing to his book.

"Of course. Everyone can read this book, how else are we supposed to learn new techniques?" Ma Rong said.

"But, the writing on the walls and such don't have this language. Most buildings I've visited also don't use this language in their name. How can everyone read it if they don't even use the language?" He said.

"By everyone, I meant the cultivators. Every cultivator starts by learning this language. Since it's just our own language, just written differently, it's easy to learn. Only after that can they learn a cultivation method in the first place."

"So, why doesn't everyone write in the normal language then? One wouldn't have to learn this language in the first place." Alex said after giving it some thought.

"Oh, and what would you do if you come across some ancient texts written in that language? You can already see what is happening right now by people not being able to read that dusty book. What would happen if everyone stopped learning this language?" she asked.

"Hmm... I guess you are right. If that's how the language started then that argument is valid," Alex said.

"Now you get it. Besides, using 2 different languages helps separate a cultivator's text from a normal person's text. But let's forget about that for now. I want to know how you can read that text." She asked.

"I..." 'I can do it because the game developers made it so.' He wanted to say that, but he couldn't. "I don't know. I don't understand the language but can somehow read it. Same with our own language." He said.

Ma Rong couldn't make heads or tails of the answer, so she decided to give up for now and instead focused on her pill being sold. The soul reuniting pill sold for a total of 43 True Spirit stones.

The next item on the auction was an alchemy ingredient called Revitalizing Ginseng. Alex remembered the name from the records he had read on the top floor a few days ago.

"An ingredient for the Body Rejuvenating pill? But I thought those were pretty much extinct?" he said.

"You read the records too? Yes, they were said to be extinct, but it seems our information is wrong." Ma Rong commented.

Cai Ping started explaining the ingredient. "This ginseng on my hand is called a Revitalizing Ginseng. This is the main ingredient for the pseudo-Saint rank pill called the 'Body Rejuvenating Pill'. The pill is incredible, as it can increase a person's life span by an entire Century regardless of if you are a cultivator or a mortal."

"Oh wow. A 100 years?"

"That's a lot!"

"Can anyone really make that pill though? It's a pseudo-Saint rank pill."

"Maybe Hong Wu sect leader can make it, if not, we can ask the Royal alchemist for it."

Numerous people talked about the ingredient in the crowd. Cai Ping continued, "The auction will start at 30 True spirit stones, and each bid has to be 50 common spirit stones higher."

The crowd didn't bid as much this time. 30 True Spirit stones were a lot for most of the people on the ground floor. The people in the VIP however, bid as though their spirit stones grew in their home's backyard.

Alex watched as his master also bid. He had read the records so he knew how good the ingredient in front of him was. A mortal on average lived around 60 years and 100 years at max.

A self tempering cultivator however could live from anywhere between 100 to 200 years on average. Some even lived as long as 300 years.

A True realm cultivator on the other hand could easily live between 500 to 1000 years on average. Maybe even 1500 in some cases.

The Saint realm cultivator's life span wasn't recorded in the records but they were sure to be high in number. Just looking at that, to anyone who was a True realm cultivator or less, a Body Rejuvenating Pill would be a miracle. Especially when they were at the end of their life.

The bidding was quickly ended at the merchant head fatty managed to outbid everyone with his immense wealth. He bid 100 True spirit stones for the Revitalizing Ginseng and snatched it away from everyone. magic

After buying Ginseng, the fatty immediately walked out of his room and left the auction house. He wasn't a good cultivator so the next item was useless for him.

Quite a few people left the auction house, acting as if the auction was over. After a few minutes, only about 10% of the original audience was left. Most of them being in the VIP and VVIP rooms.

"Finally, here we go fellow customers. You have all checked the book, please bid whatever you feel this book deserves." Cai Ping said not expecting the people the bid at all.

"1 common spirit stones" someone bid as Cai Ping had not set a minimum bid. Cai Ping felt bad but didn't say anything.

"2 Common Spirit stones."

"3 Common spirit stones."

People started slowly increasing their spirit stones in the hope that they could get the book at a low price, and maybe sell it somewhere else for a higher price.

Suddenly, Ma Rong spoke, "10 True spirit stones."

The entire auction hall became silent. The people who were slowly increasing their bid hesitated as 10 true spirit stones was a lot of money. But then why would that person pay it?

The people in the VIP and VVIP rooms were confused as well, but they didn't bid either. Cai Ping on the other hand became grateful towards the guest in room B1.

She waited for a bit for others to bid, and when they didn't she started the countdown.

"10 True spirit stones, going once."

"10 True spirit stones, going twice."

"10 True spirit stones, going thrice. Sold" she hit the gavel on the table with a loud bang. "The final item in the auction has been sold to the Customers in Room B1."

Chapter 98: Back To Sect

Once the book was sold, Cai Ping thanked everyone for coming and waited as everyone left the hall. Ma Rong took Alex with her as the lady in the room guided them to a room outside.

After waiting for a while, an old man with white hair finally entered the room.

"Hello, miss Ma. It's good to see you again." He said as he bowed towards Ma Rong a little.

Ma Rong also nodded a little and said, "Hello senior. It's been a while, hasn't it?"

Alex took the opportunity to greet as well. The old man then proceeded to take out two bags of storage and handed them to Ma Rong and Alex. "Please check it," he said and sat opposite them.

Alex looked into his bag and realized there were about 27 True spirit stones and a few Common spirit stones. After taking their cut of the sale, this was what the auction house had given him.

Even after giving 10% of this to the Deva Corporation, he would still have about 25K dollars for himself.

"Take it," suddenly he heard Ma Rong say something from the side. "Hmm..." he turned around to see that she was holding the dirty old book in her hand, giving it to him.

"Me?"

"Yes, I bought it for you. So take it." She said.

"Thank you, Master." He said and gladly took the book. He read the introductory page and was still amazed that the writings on the book were languages that people spoke.

'Why would the developers change the language?' he wondered. 'If most mortals speak the real-life language, I don't think it was necessary to make an entirely new language right?'

"Let's go," Ma Rong started walking away, and Alex followed her as well.

Most of the people had already left the auction hall, so they didn't meet anyone while walking out. Ma Rong took out her flying boat and flew back to the sect along with Alex.

It had taken them nearly 3 hours in total, and Alex wanted to go get some food. He logged out for his afternoon lunch and returned back. magic

'Should I leave my dorm room, so I can have a flexible schedule for myself?' he wondered, but immediately shook his head. Being in a dorm room had given him the freedom to play whenever he wanted, and also the university was just 5 minutes away.

If he were to leave now, he would have a hard time balancing his university, home, and game time.

'Alright, let's send my money first.' He opened the settings and found a button that opened the bank's panel for him. He put in the information for his bank and saved it. Then, he pressed another button that opened a panel to transfer his spirit stones to the saved bank account.

He put in all of his spirit stones and hit send.

<Do you want to send '2560 (\$25,600) to XXXXXXXXXXX343?>

He clicked yes. The spirit stones disappeared from his inventory, and he logged out. He waited for a moment and heard a notification sound.

He quickly opened his phone to see a message on it.

<\$25,600 has been successfully transferred to your account>

He kept staring at the number and was shocked. It had been less than a month since he came to the city, and he had already earned so much.

"I should buy my own helmet on a free day," he thought. He marveled at the money for a while and went back to the game.

He took out the dusty old book and started reading. For some reason, this book took him an exceptionally long time to read. Almost twice as much as the Immortal Grade techniques. He didn't know if the reason for that was the difference in language, the length of the book, or the fact that it was just that exceptionally hard to understand.

Still, after about 10 or so minutes, he fully learned it. He opened the description to the technique. For some reason, the information took a couple of seconds to load, instead of loading instantly like every other time.

[Heaven's Impact:

Grade: Heaven

Use your spiritual sense to hit your opponent's mind with a mighty blow. The greater the difference in mental prowess, the more the damage]

He wanted to test it out, but there was nothing he could try it on. This stumped him for a minute. 'I guess I'm not going to test it anytime soon then.'

He had nothing to do now, so he went to take some pills. There were still a few pills he could make today, and tonight he would have to get some ingredients from the alchemy garden to make the remaining 20 pills to be a core disciple.

He started making simple pills with the remaining ingredients for already made pills and went on to try out the new pills. He was already used to making high-quality pills, so every pill he made ended up having over 30% harmony with ease.

Around evening, he logged out to get his dinner and came back to the game to do his task for the night. He met elder Zhan and elder Wang and took the list for the ingredients.

He walked into the alchemy garden and got every single ingredient on the list as well as the ones he required for the pills he was going to register.

Between the two gardens, they had enough ingredients that he could use to make 7 of the remaining 130-ish pills he had recipes of. After handing the collected ingredient, he walked to the disciple hall. By now, his alchemy achievements had shot through the roof. While he wasn't in the top ten yet, at this rate it wouldn't take him more than a week to be at the top.

He went into the hall to the core disciple's section and registered his 3 new pills to the elder working there. Afterward, he returned to his residence.

"Alright! 7 more pills and I will become a core disciple as well."

Chapter 99: Spiritual Attack

Early in the morning, Alex woke up from his cultivation. He was tired from yesterday's auction, so he had decided to just cultivate for the night.

He opened his status to check his current Qi. He had about 1.6 million Qi right now. If he wanted to, he could easily break through to the Bone Tempering 9th Realm. But, that would be bad for his foundation as his cultivation base would be hugely destabilized.

The further one went, the worse it would be. He logged out to get some breakfast and came back. Just as he logged back in, his master arrived as well.

'Huh? Are we going somewhere today too?' he wondered.

"Come, it's time for our lesson." She said as she walked into a room that was not the alchemy room. Alex was more surprised now.

"Master, weren't we done with lessons? At least, until I was able to turn 50% of my current Qi into True Qi?" he asked.

"I am not here to teach you alchemy today. I'm here to teach you about the basic knowledge every cultivator should have, that you certainly don't."

"Let's start with language..." Ma Rong went on to teach him how to read the language for about 2 hours. She was confident he could learn it in two hours with his superior memory and mental strength.

In two hours, Alex was good, if not better than most of the cultivators out there in reading the language.

"Alright, take out that old book. Let's see if you can translate that book." She said.

Alex nodded and brought out Heaven's impact book. Ma Rong looked at the book and asked, "See if you can read it now that you know it's a language."

He tried to read it, but he couldn't understand a single word in the book. To him, they were just another piece of paper with scribbles on it.

"I can't master. I can't read it." He said.

"Hmm... didn't you say you read the introduction page?" she asked.

"Oh, that. I didn't exactly read it. It's more like after I look over it, the information just comes to my mind." He said.

Ma Rong frowned a bit. The book had an unknown origin, meaning if anyone could read these books, they might be able to use abilities not yet seen in the Crimson Empire. "Alright then, did you learn it?"

"Well, I did learn it, but..." he trailed off.

"But what? Is this not a technique? Is this something else?" she asked.

"Oh, no. This is a technique. It's only that I couldn't use it at all since I didn't have a target to practice on. So, I still don't know exactly what it does, only that it uses spiritual sense to attack another person's mind."

"Hmm..." Ma Rong contemplated for a moment and said, "Alright, attack me."

"Umm... are you sure master?" he asked.

"Yes, if it does in fact attack the mind, I'm confident that my mind is stronger than yours." She said.

Alex felt the reasoning made sense. "Ok, then, here I come master." He immediately started using the technique. He expected his Qi to start flowing as he started the technique, but to his surprise, they stayed where they were.

Instead, his spiritual sea started churning like crazy. Suddenly, a vortex appeared in the middle of his spiritual sea and quickly drained as a quarter of his spiritual sea dried up within a second.

All of the disappeared sea turned into a massive cloud of spiritual sense that started forming what he felt was a solid shape. They came together to form a fist, ready to launch outward.

He looked towards his master and regarded her as the target. Suddenly, the newly formed fist made up of spiritual sense flew out of his Spiritual sea and slammed right into Ma Rong's head.

Ma Rong had been waiting for the attack to arrive, so she had been monitoring with her spiritual sense. Suddenly, she felt something move near her disciple. And out of nowhere, it struck her head.

Ma Rong felt her consciousness die for a moment as everything around her dimmed to the point she couldn't see anything. Her body went limp without the control of her mind and started falling to the ground.

Within mere split seconds, she caught herself from falling and stabilized herself. Her breathing had gotten disorderly and there were traces of fear in her eyes.

"Are you okay, master?" Alex asked as he was worried that she might have been hurt.

"I- I'm fine. I'm fine." She was shocked at just how strong the attack was. Even without considering the difference in their cultivation, she had more than twice his mental strength, yet she had lost consciousness for a second there. magic

That went to show just how terrifying this ability was. "How is your spiritual sense? Any changes?" she asked.

"Changes? No, but I did lose a quarter of my spiritual sea on that attack." He said.

"I see. Well, it only makes sense for you to do so much damage if you had to use such a high amount of spiritual sense. Don't worry, after mind tempering realm, you will have a much stronger mental strength and can easily use that technique multiple times." She reassured him.

"Mind tempering realm? I understand master." Alex was looking forward to growing stronger as a cultivator now.

"Alright then, try and see if you can somehow understand the language there. It will help me as well if I can understand that language. As for alchemy, how many pills do you have yet to register?" she asked.

"7, master." He said.

"Alright. Do what you want for now. I will return back around noon to continue our lesson." She said and walked away.

Alex was just happy that his master was investing so much time in him. He was looking forward to seeing what his master would teach him now that she was done teaching about the languages.

"I guess I will have to wait and see. For now, let's go get some lunch." He logged off.

Chapter 100: Master's Lessons

Ma Rong came back at noon, exactly on the dot, and spent the next 3 hours teaching him the various things one would have to know as a cultivator. She taught him from the smallest things such as what a cultivator should and should not call each other to things such as the different cities and the powerhouses in them across the Crimson Empire.

She taught him about the Royal Fu family and Fu Tian, the King of the Crimson Empire. She taught him how the royal Fu family sent its descendants around the empire to rule as city lords and ladies.

She also gave him a map of the crimson empire to learn and memorize where all the cities were relative to one another.

She also taught him about how a cultivator fought. Some fought with weapons, some fought with their bare hands, some fought using impressive techniques, some fought using poison, some fought using beasts, some

fought using bugs, some fought using formations, some fought using talismans, some fought using weird artifacts, and some even fought using pills.

She also taught him about the other production methods aside from the alchemy itself. Some made formations, some made artifacts, some made solely weapons, and some made talismans.

"The last thing, make sure to hide your true talents in front of others. Like I said before, people are envious creatures. Cultivators are no different either. They will betray you the moment they learn you have something they don't. It won't matter to them whether they can obtain it or not, if they can't have it, no one can."

"You are young and you are pure-hearted, but that heart will for sure dye in the filth of the world of cultivation. Make sure you never let that filth stick to yourself. You might get drowned in it, but you have to learn to climb over it."

"For that, you can't just be an alchemist and hope to live in the cultivation world safely. There are strong people out there with bad motivation that might force you into working for them if you aren't strong enough to defend yourself. So, you have to be strong, strong enough to fight off your enemies. I wish you never have to kill anyone, but I know you will have to, even if it's just to defend yourself and your loved ones. The only thing I can do is hope is you don't lose yourself along with your enemies."

"Alright, that's enough for today. You don't have to worry about all these things right now but keep it in mind. I taught you almost everything I could. There are many things I still haven't taught you but that's just because I am not too knowledgeable in them either. You will hopefully learn them soon."

"I'm leaving now, you do what you have to." Ma Rong left the room and walked outside. She took out a medallion and used her spiritual sense to send out a message to all the elders saying, "Starting tomorrow, all the elders who used to work on the alchemy garden are to go back to working on it."

The elders got confused why the sect leader would do that, but they accepted them anyway.

Alex on the other hand remained stunned in his home. He had learned a lot today, yet the final words of his master were what remained to playback in his mind.

'I will have to kill people.' He didn't question the statement and took that as a fact. He knew that was true. After all, this was a game and killing was just an aspect of it. Still, for some reason, killing people wasn't something he would look forward to.

He spent the next few hours absorbing the information his master had just gave him. After he was done learning everything, he left the game to get some dinner.

After dinner, he came back and went to the sect valley to work. This day, he hadn't got the time to make any pills, so he wasn't going to register any. After finishing his work, he went back to his residence and managed to make the 6 different pills throughout the night.

After today's lesson, he didn't have the mental energy to make any more so he just cultivated throughout the rest of the night. In the morning, he logged out of the game and stayed logged out to do some of his classwork.

He only returned back to the game after his classes were over. After logging in, he looked at his storage bags and realized he only had one more pill to go. He was feeling unusually fresh today, so he went on to finish the last pill.

Ma Rong came to his house at around 4 pm. She walked in and sent out her spiritual sense to find him in the middle of alchemy. She walked into the alchemy room to see his absolutely focused face carefully looking at the cauldron.

After a few minutes of intense concentration, he finally opened the lid and a pill flew out of it. As he pulled the pill out, he slumped in exhaustion.

The pill that had just formed was blood red in color and used blood ginseng as its primary ingredient. It was called the Blood Improving pill. It was a common rank pill that would instantly refill a person's blood after they have lost a lot of blood. Or if they did already have blood, it would thicken it and invigorate it with more strength.

This pill was especially important to people in their old ages or people with anemia, as it would counteract their loss of blood and give them a much-needed boost in stamina. magic

Alex looked at the blood-red pill in his hand and felt its aura. Just the smell alone nearly brought him out of his fatigue, while the aura was something he had never felt before.

He focused on the pill to look at its information as a small panel popped up on top of it.

[Blood Improving Pill: 50%]

He had just made his first Heaven-grade pill.