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The Pinnacle of Life Chapter 1611 - 1620

This person was one of the main elders within Floral Valley, in charge of the library of Floral Valley, and was fairly older than the president, Alcina Bela. Her name was Cassandra Lane.

Alex was currently holding her by the neck, mid-air. She kept kicking and struggling, but it was to no avail. Her entire face was flushed red. Not only was it because she was being choked, but she was also very embarrassed by her own actions.

Just a while ago, Alex had risked his life to save every member of their clan, yet she, as the main elder, tried to trick Alex into giving her the token. Moreover, her lies were exposed right on the spot as well.

Anyone would've died of embarrassment if this happened to them as well.

Even worse, Luna's words struck fear directly into her heart

If Flora Valley really were to be destroyed because of this, she would be the one to blame.

"I... I'm so sorry!" Cassandra apologized with every strength she had left. "I... I know what I did was wrong, and I'm willing to... Die for my sins. Please, young warriors, please don't put the blame on... The entire Floral Valley!"

After that, she stuck her tongue out, prepared to bite down on it and kill herself.

"Hmph!" Alex threw her to the ground. "Do you think I wouldn't be mad at your clan after you commit suicide? Aren't you a little too indulgent?"

Cassandra's face turned pale as soon as she fell to the ground, her actions interrupted.

"You! Come here!" Alex pointed towards Jasmine.

"Follow us when we enter the Spiritual Valley. I'm a man of my word. I will cure the parasitic worm within you after we find the Dragon Blood Vine."

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Alcina was startled. She turned to Jasmine with a shocked expression. "You... You have a parasitic worm within you?"

Alex decided not to pay any more attention to these people. He just grabbed a man from Hygieia Valley and said, "Bring me to where you bid your treasure."

The members of Hygieia Valley had already lost their fighting spirit, hence they had no objections against Alex's request.

In just a few moments, the member brought Alex and the others to one of the president's rooms. "The treasury of Hygieia Valley is here."

The door was locked. Alex preferred to just kick it down. However, he became very disappointed as soon as he entered the room.

Other than a few gold bars, nothing else in there was unique or of value. They were just ordinary materials to make pills and drugs. Apart from those, there was also a pile of faulty pills that weren't made properly.

"Is that it?" Alex seemed to be unsatisfied as he turned to look at the member.

The member nodded profusely. "Yes, sir. There's only one treasury in the whole of Hygieia Valley. I really wouldn't dare to lie to you, sir. I swear on my life!"

Alex frowned and looked at the faulty pills. "What position are you in Hygieia Valley?"

The man replied. "I'm just an ordinary member, ranked at 109th in the clan."

"So that means you're just on the sideline. No wonder you don't know where the real treasure is," Alex said as he shook his head.

"There's another?" Luna asked.

Alex replied. "Hygieia Valley is such a big place, yet all it has are such average stuff? Would you believe that? And look at these faulty pills; they're definitely not made of ordinary

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materials. None of the stuff here can compare to these. Just look at how many of these are here. There are definitely other inventories of rare materials elsewhere.”

Suddenly, an idea popped into his head.

Alex called for Maiko and ordered her to look around for any secret rooms. Since she was a spirit, it was more convenient for her to travel around the area.

Now that he had achieved Core Formation, his powers and spiritual consciousness had significantly improved as well.

Back then, he could only expand his consciousness to a five-meter radius. Now, it could expand ten times more than before.

However, he knew that he couldn't use this current power. If he were to search a fifty meter radius, he would be exhausted.

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As Maiko continued the search for the hidden room, Alex and Luna sat at a bench and made some tea for themselves, enjoying the drink as they chatted.

Luna said, “Remember what Herschel and Dominique said? Herschel said that he only achieved Nascent Soul after obtaining the secret of Spiritual Valley Dungeon. It would seem that some old spirit managed to steal from Herschel when he was in this very valley.”

Alex replied. “So you're saying the valley isn't safe and that something in there could pose a bigger danger to us?”

“Yep. If Herschel is on Nascent Soul, that old spirit must be of a higher rank. Good thing he must be a remnant soul. His spirit's most likely been heavily damaged before, something that's to your advantage.”

“No wonder he was that powerful. I thought all Nascent Soul cultivators are that powerful!”

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Luna had a scornful expression, gawking at Alex as if she was looking at a complete fool. "How powerful do you think Nascent Souls are? A little more than you, a Core Formation cultivator, perhaps? I'd let you know that you are so wrong! True Nascent Souls are stronger than him!"

"No way?"

"The powerful ones are tens or hundreds of times stronger than Herschel."

"Holy s... Then wouldn't one Nascent Soul be able to kill all of us with just their power alone? That's way too shocking, you've got guts."

'If Herschel could beat you to death, wouldn't that mean you have a death wish for trying to kill a Nascent Soul?'

Luna said, "You can't say that. Even if it were to be a normal Nascent Soul, we both can still put up a battle. Besides, the two mystical tools on Herschel went beyond my expectations."

Alex nodded. "I noticed that a while ago too. That guy's defense mystical tool is way too powerful. We couldn't even land one hit on him. It's more powerful than my Mystic Armor! Oh right, where are those mystical tools now?"

Thud!

Luna took out a bag the size of a wallet, her beautiful, star-like eyes fixated on Alex's expression.

"This... This is..."

Alex was shocked, reminded of the legendary tool.

'A storage purse!'

"Do you know what this is?" Luna asked.

Alex nodded.

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“Do you want it?”

Alex nodded again.

Although a storage purse, a space related treasure, was considered a low-level mystical storage tool, this was the first time Alex had ever seen one.

‘There’s a mysterious flow of energy around it. That’s probably the power of space within!’

Transportation circles require the power of space as well. They require a higher power of space compared to a storage purse. However, the power within transportation circles only appears when it’s activated. On the other hand, the power within storage purses will always be surrounding them.

Luna’s eyes curved up in glee. “And what should you call me?”

“My queen!”

“Massage my legs too!”

“Yes, my queen!”

Although he was massaging Luna’s tender thighs, Alex’s eyes were fixated on the purse instead.

Luna then said, “Hmm, I don’t have a storage purse either, but since you’re such a good boy, it’s yours now!”

“Thank you, your grace.”

Alex took the purse, thinking, ‘This was well too worth it! I don’t mind calling her a queen as long as I get to have this treasure. This thing is absolutely priceless, a must for traveling too.’

Luna didn’t have one, yet she was willing to give it to Alex just like that, which was very generous of her.

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Alex then inserted his spiritual conscience into the area within the storage purse and realized that it was around ten cubic inches, a rather large space considering it was just a purse. Most were just a few cubic inches after all.

If one only had one cubic inch, the owner could only store some important personal items. Surprisingly, a sword and a worn-out talisman were inside.

The sword was the Soul Harvesting Sword. The worn-out talisman, however, was an unknown item.

'Could this be the reason why Herschel had such a strong defense?'

Just then, Maiko came back to him. "Master, I found the hidden room!"

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The hidden room that Maiko found was right under the room where the president of Hygieia Valley lived. It was very well hidden as the entrance was right under a bed. They had to move the bed away and flip over the floorboards to be able to enter.

If it weren't for Maiko's ability to pass through objects, no average human would be able to find it.

As soon as they entered the room, Alex could make out the scent of quite a few rare medicinal herbs. Extremely overjoyed by this, his eyes lit up.

"This is a black reishi!"

"That's goblin weed!"

"Oh my god, this is unreal... I think this is the nine-tailed dragon flower..."

Alex started describing each rare herb that was in the room. He then opened the purse in a hurry and stuffed the herbs into it. He would be restless until he managed to get each and every one of them.

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Luna walked into the room, barefooted like a model. She paced around the room since she wasn't familiar with herbs, nor was she interested in them. After noticing a bookshelf in the corner filled with hundreds of books, she walked over.

Alex, on the other hand, was getting more and more excited as he continued to collect the herbs.

'This is what we call a treasury!'

He currently lacked such large amounts of rare herbs to make pills. For example, he hadn't been able to find the materials to make the healing pill that he promised Holly for months, yet all of them could be found here. He planned on making the pill as soon as he got home, figuring that the little girl would be overjoyed if he did so.

Some of the herbs were even more precious than most. They were of higher quality, after all. He didn't have any use for them for now, so he had to wait till he was of a higher cultivation rank.

Despite this, he still couldn't seem to find any Dragon Blood Vines.

"The storage purse really came just in time, else, I wouldn't have been able to take this many things with just my hands!" Alex mumbled under his breath after collecting almost all the herbs.

He left the common ones in the room since he was too lazy to collect anymore. His purse didn't have enough space for them as well.

His eyes were now filled with warmth and gentleness as he turned to look at Luna.

"What are you looking at?" He approached her and asked.

Luna replied, "These books are related to alchemy. Do you want them?"

Alex took one and flipped through the pages. There was nothing special about them.

Compared to the Ultimate Book of Medicine stored in his mind, these books didn't matter to him. However, he didn't know if such information was included in the legacies of the

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Immortal Doctor, hence he picked out a few valuable books for Cheryl and stuffed them into the purse as well.

"Huh, what's this? It's so heavy."

At the corner of the bookshelf was a small log, seemingly being used as paperweight instead. It was charcoal black, and it looked like a rock that was the size of a fist. It felt quite heavy as well, approximately thirty kilograms, which was considered heavier than most metal.

"What log is this?"

"I don't know, don't ask me. "

Alex used his spiritual conscience and tested it on this log, yet he realized that he couldn't enter it at all. It didn't seem to be spiritual either.

Just as Alex was about to throw it aside, the Chaos Bead within his mind palace started to rumble. Following that, it started to shake hysterically, bumping all over the place.

"What's happening?" Alex was stunned.

The Chaos Bead seemed like it would kill him as soon as he put the log down. It felt like it was trying to shatter his soul.

'The Chaos Bead wants this log. But why?'

No matter what the reason was, Alex figured that he had to keep this in his possession for now. The bead stopped making a ruckus after he placed it into the purse as well.

He made his own assumptions.

'This must be an extraordinary log.'

After quite a while, the two left after confirming that they didn't miss any other valuable items.

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Just then, Alex realized that Alcina had brought some people along with her and was waiting outside the door.

“Miss Bela, is there anything I can help you with?” Alex asked.

Alcina smiled awkwardly. “Master Rockefeller, I’ll be frank with you. We, the members of Floral Valley are here for the Spiritual Valley Token. The Spiritual Valley Dungeon opens once every three years. We’ve been there a few times in the past, so we know that quite a few herbs are in there. We urgently need some right now. So could you please spare us a few?”

Alex asked, “Oh? What herbs?”

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Alcina replied. “Grave weeds, we need it to save lives.”

In reality, they definitely needed more than one herb to do so.

Alex pondered, but Luna spoke up instead. “We can give you the token, but what are you guys offering in exchange for it?”

“What would you guys want then?”

“Do you have any formation blueprints?” Alex blurted out.

He needed that urgently. First, he needed to unlock all the swords in Dragon’s Bane of Thirty-Six, hence he needed to research large numbers of blueprints. Secondly, he had to fix the teleportation circle that his father used.

Alcina took a few glances towards Alex, not saying a word.

Alex knew that something was up when he noticed her expression. This indicated that Floral Valley did indeed have some formation blueprints.

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"We do have a set of formation boards, but I have to mention that the boards are incomplete, so they're basically useless. As for formation blueprints... The only one in our clan that's researching this is Jasmine."

Alex looked towards Jasmine. He then was reminded that she managed to sneak in from outside of the formation circle as well. She may be a low ranking cultivator, yet she was able to break through the formation circle with ease. It was obvious that she had tricks up her sleeves.

In the end, they struck a deal with each other. Alex took the incomplete formation boards and decided to bring Jasmine back with him for a few days. She was obligated to tell him everything she knew about formation blueprints.

Alex, on the other hand, gave the members of Floral Valley ten tokens of the dungeon.

"When will the dungeon reappear?"

Alcina replied. "Soon, possibly around these two days."

Just then, a ringtone rang from Alcina's pockets. "We're all in this together..."

It felt quite humorous to hear that in this setting. It was unexpected from the president of Floral Valley to like such ringtones.

'Could she be into square dancing?'

"President! The dungeon has appeared!"

Alex and Luna immediately heard the voice that came from the other end of the phone.

"So it appeared early huh? Alright, we'll be there in a bit."

Sitting on the boat that Floral Valley provided, Alex decided to call Dorothy.

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At that time, Dorothy was at home, staring coldly at the two unexpected guests, The Assexs, Anderson and Emma. The two were currently kneeling before her, begging profusely.

During this time, Dorothy had been completely hands off her business as the profits were nothing to her at this point.

Assex Constructions and Dorothy-Alex Constructions just weren't big enough businesses.

'Taking' money from others was much more profitable than doing that business after all.

When she stopped supervising the operations of her company, the Assexs started to stir up trouble from within. Anderson used his title as a member of the Assex family and his position in the company to carve out the company's stamp for private use. He had been using the company's name to buy construction materials for himself.

This would cause the company to sustain a loss. Within just a few months, his methods caused the company to lose nearly 200 million dollars.

It was obvious that he bit off more than he could chew. Besides that, Emma had started another construction company on her own as well. She even brought most contracts that were signed with Dorothy's company to her private company using the excuse of it being one of the offices of Dorothy-Alex Constructions.

However, they couldn't keep this secret forever and were caught red-handed for their actions.

Dorothy didn't mind, but Claire was enraged. Although she was no longer that extreme after being cured, her softened demeanor was only towards Alex. She knew how powerful Alex is now after all, so she knew to get on his good side.

However, her hatred towards the Assexs were engraved into her bones. She immediately suggested sending Anderson and Emma to jail.

This frightened the father and daughter so much that they rushed over, begging for forgiveness on their knees.

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Dorothy didn't want to even waste energy to speak to the two. She walked over to a quieter side when she received Alex's call.

"Darling!"

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"Are you in Hygieia Valley now? How did it go?"

Although she was Aunt Rockefeller, she still behaved like a demure little wife around him despite the fact that she was extremely powerful, which made Alex feel that this was all too surreal.

When he called her, he instinctively viewed her as Aunt Rockefeller and wanted to tell her about the dungeon. He even wanted to have her come along as well, but when she called him "darling," he was taken aback.

Since he had accidentally slept with Luna, their relationship was currently at a very interesting spot. More importantly, Luna's family background was quite petrifying, even for him.

'If Dorothy came and found out about this, what would I do?'

Thinking back, he really wanted to slap himself. 'Isn't that a foolish thing to do?'

Hence, he immediately hid the truth from her. "I got caught up in something, but everything still went pretty well. I found quite a lot of spiritual herbs, so I'd definitely be able to make some pills when I get back. But I still haven't found any Dragon Blood Vines. It might take some time."

"Would you like me to help?"

"Nah, I can handle this."

"Hmph, how could you reply with such confidence? Were you, perhaps, screwing around with Freya's sister, hmm? Did you forget that you have a wife at home?"

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Alex mentioned Luna briefly to Dorothy before he headed out, which was why she knew about her. At that time, he really didn't expect something like this to happen.

Alex started sweating bullets. "Of course not. She's filled with demonic Chi and she's really moody. Why would I... Ever do anything like that with her? Don't overthink, love... Something just came up in Hygieia Valley, which involves their predecessor, Floral Valley. That's why I needed the help from the members of Floral Valley to find Dragon Blood Vines."

"Good, but if you need anything, call me up anytime. I'll bring along the four princesses to help."

"Alright. Oh, by the way, I'm in Core Formation now!"

Dorothy nodded. "That's great! Accompany me somewhere when you get back then."

After some small talk, they ended the call.

Turning around, Alex noticed that Luna was leaning against the ship rail with two glasses of wine in her hand, watching the waves of Witch River.

Alex froze.

'Did she overhear the things I've said about her over the phone?'

He approached her slowly with a smile. "Where did you get the wine from? It smells nice."

He reached out to take a glass, yet Luna avoided him slightly and chugged the whole glass down. She then chugged the second glass as well. Her tone was hostile. "You don't get one."

Alex frowned slightly and walked back into the ship cabin.

However, Luna called out to him again. "Come back here."

"Do you need anything?"

Rustle...

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Luna threw a bag of peanuts out, she seemed temperamental. "Peel all of them and feed them to me!"

This ship was a cruise, hence there were sling chairs on the deck.

Luna laid down on one of them and beckoned Alex with her finger, implying that he should follow her orders.

"Ahem, my queen, is there anything wrong? Do you feel sick?"

"Nope."

"Then why do you look so upset?"

"I'm just moody, you have a problem with that?"

Alex froze, now sure that she overheard him and Dorothy's conversation. She was quite powerful after all, such a small distance was no problem to her. Even if Alex stood any further away, she would still be able to hear him clearly.

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Two hours later, they finally arrived at the entrance of Spiritual Valley Dungeon.

It was situated within the depths of the forests in Witch Mountain range. Alex and Luna were shocked to see the entrance to the dungeon. It was on top of an ancient, large tree.

In the middle of two large groups was a spinning, pitch-black entrance. It looked as if it was a beast's mouth, a pitiless abyss that could swallow one's soul.

"President, these people are..."

There were two groups of people guarding the entrance, one from Hygieia Valley while the other was from Floral Valley. The two groups have been guarding this place for years, hence they managed to make this place into a villa in the mountains.

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When members of Floral Valley arrived, their guards came to welcome them immediately. However, they were obviously confused when they noticed Alex and Luna, who were strangers.

On the other hand, the guards from Hygieia Valley were panicking.

They haven't been able to get a hold of anyone from their clan. They tried calling most of them, but their calls were left unanswered, some couldn't even get through. Hence, they had no idea what was happening at that time. They had ordered someone to rush back to inform the others, yet they still have yet to receive any news.

"Master Bela, have you seen Master Brahms?" One of the members of Hygieia Valley asked.

"Capture them!" Alcina said as she gestured to the members of Hygieia Valley.

The martial artists from Floral Valley who were put on standby immediately lunged towards the other group and captured each and every member.

"What is the meaning of this, Master Bela? Are you trying to breach the contract between us two clans?" One of the members fumed.

Smack!

A woman in her thirties slapped the man harshly across his face. She was from Floral Valley, and her sister just died in Hygieia Valley. She wished she could kill off all the members from that clan. "Your clan has been destroyed, what contract is there left?"

"What did you say? Our clan was destroyed? There's no way!"

Smack smack smack!

The woman lifted her hand and slapped him three times again.

Alex and Luna knew that Hygieia Valley lacked a leader as soon as both their president and highest disciple died. Alcina was quite bold to just take over Hygieia Valley as well.

With this, Floral Valley remained while Hygieia Valley no longer existed.

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However, Alex was not interested in this one bit. He was more interested in the entrance on the tree.

That entrance was oddly similar to the teleportation circle he saw in the tomb. It was connected to another space, completely dismissing the distance between them.

With a small leap, Alex jumped up to the tree.

“Hey! How dare you? Who gave you permission to get up there? Get down now!” One of the younger members of Floral Valley yelled at him. She had no idea who Alex was, hence she didn’t know how powerful he was.

“Madeline Charming, don’t be rude!” Alcina scolded. “This is Mr. Rockefeller and Ms. Flores, we Floral Valley are indebted to them, so they will be entering the dungeon with us.”

The young girl named Madeline froze and didn’t dare to say a word again.

“How do we get in?” Alex asked.

Alcina said, “As long as you have the Spiritual Valley Token, you can just walk right in. But if you don’t, you would end up in another space instead, that is extremely dangerous. Us two clans have used everything in our power and paid the price back then to get 109 tokens. But all we have left is 20 now.”

“So what you mean is...”

The dungeon opens for a month, every cycle. When it’s time, anyone with the token would be automatically sent back out. However, if someone were to die there, the token stays inside along with their corpse.”

“So that means we can still find more tokens when we get in?”

“Yes, and if we’re lucky, we might even be able to take it.”

Alex pondered and took out the rest of the tokens and threw it towards Alcina. “I don’t have any use for the extras, so you can have it!”

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He walked right into the pitch-black entrance with one token on him, vanishing from everyone's sight.

Luna mumbled angrily. "What an idiot? Why is he in such a rush?"

Despite this, she was still worried about her butler, hence she hopped in after dragging Jasmine with her.

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Ring...

Alex felt an extremely pressuring force on his body as soon as he entered. It felt similar to when they were passing the water-like door in Caesar's tomb, but it also seemed more complicated than that. He felt as if his body had fallen into a blender, where his entire body was being squeezed tightly by some hard substance. It was just way too suffocating.

As soon as he hopped in, Alex tried releasing his spiritual conscience to feel the power of space within this transportation circle. However, his little spiritual conscience was crushed brutally the second after he released it.

'Looks like my powers are still not strong enough!'

Within one breath, Alex's body felt light as he passed through the teleportation circle, landing on the ground safely.

What met his eyes was an insanely large head.

It was a head carved out of stone, which was as large as a building, laying on its side. Standing before this statue made him feel like he was a tiny mouse in front of a large elephant. Even the eyes were ten times bigger than his size.

Just as he was still in shock, Luna and Jasmine emerged as well.

Luna let out a sigh of relief. Jasmine, on the other hand, was experienced in this.

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When she noticed Alex's expression, she explained. "This is the goddess' statue, the head is over here while her body is over there. It's very huge and no one knows who carved it. It's an ancient statue after all."

Luna took a few steps back and looked at the statue again. "It's a woman?"

Jasmine nodded. "Yep, we Floral Valley have researched this statue before, we assume that this is the statue of the goddess to the natives who live here in Spiritual Valley Dungeon. It's called the Guardian Goddess, so it's probably the goddess that they used to worship. The natives here probably worshipped nature a lot."

Alex asked. "Where are the natives now? Are there any other people here?"

Jasmine shook her head. "We haven't seen anyone else, so I guess they migrated. Just look at the statue, it looks ancient. My master said that it had existed for at least thousands of years. So it's probably a relic from the Stone Age."

Alex decided to make a sarcastic remark. "If we can somehow bring this out of here, it would surely be sold for a great price."

Luna rolled her eyes. "Is money all you think about, huh?"

Alex smiled and scanned his surroundings, only then did he realise that this was a city in the mountains.

They were surrounded by ranges and ranges of mountains, and the city was surprisingly large, where there were tall buildings everywhere they went. However, all these buildings have crumbled to the ground, so now it just looked like ruins. Everything

looked gloomy and messy, and there were large patches of tall grass all over the place. The houses, buildings and walls were covered in unknown foliage.

As Alex continued to observe all of this with shock, he was able to imagine just how beautiful this place used to be.

Luna praised. "Now I'd really like to see just how beautiful it was when this place was at its peak."

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Just as they were speaking to each other, Alcina came by with a group of her disciples as well.

Since Alex had given her another seven tokens right before heading in, she had to reconsider which disciples she was bringing in, so that took up some time.

Although this place was dangerous with all the demons and beasts around, it had rich natural resources and an abundance of spiritual Chi. Taking a breath here was almost equivalent to taking a hundred breaths outside.

“Mr. Rockefeller, there are some strong wild animals within the dungeon, there’s even monsters too, so some places can be very dangerous. The elders of Floral Valley and Hygieia Valley have paved a few ways for us. I have a map here that you can refer to.”

Alcina handed Alex a hand-drawn map. Not only were there signs and directions, it notified any dangers along the path as well.

A while ago, Alcina didn’t mention any of this, she probably only wanted to repay Alex for giving her another seven tokens.

‘This old lady sure is calculative!’ Although he was thinking of that, Alex obviously didn’t say it out loud. Instead he thanked her lightly and asked Jasmine, “Where do we go if I’d like to find Dragon Blood Vines?”

Jasmine pointed towards the west.

Alex nodded then turned to Alcina. “Master Bela, which path will you guys be taking?”

Alcina replied. “We have to take the one Hygieia Valley uses normally to find those. I vaguely remember that Dominique moved the vines to a canyon somewhere, I think it’s around this area.”

She then pointed to an area on Alex’s map.

“But we’re going to take the road we Floral Valley usually use, there are resting stands that we set up along the way. But I’m not sure if there’s any along the Hygieia Valley one.”

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After saying this, Alcina proceeded to warn Jasmine to be careful.

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The Pinnacle of Life

Hence, after leaving Jasmine to Alex, Alcina brought her disciples towards the southeast region.

Jasmine said, "It's evening, so it's getting late soon. It'll be dangerous at night, so why don't we find some place to rest for the day and head out the next morning?"

Luna seemed intrigued. "I want to walk around this abandoned city."

Alex had the same idea as well, he even took his phone out and started taking pictures and videos of his surroundings.

"Hey, Alex! Take a few pictures of me!" Luna skipped towards the nose of the large head and waved towards Alex.

The woman had already changed her clothes long ago. She was currently wearing a uniform of Flora Valley disciples. It was a light green dress, which had the simplicity of modern apparel, yet looked vintage.

As a beauty, her demeanor suited the dress well, making her look as if she was a time traveler.

Alex lifted his head and took some pictures of her with a wide grin. "No, no, I could only capture your feet and nostrils in this angle. Heck, I can even see your nose hair!"

Luna was startled, almost falling from up there.

Grabbing a handful of moss, she threw it towards Alex harshly. "Nostrils? You're the one with visible nose hair!"

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Alex dodged that immediately. "Isn't it normal to have nose hair? It'd be strange if you don't! Alright, alright, stop throwing that at me. I'll take the photos from another angle."

Turning around, he noticed that there was a large, ancient tree behind him. With just a few leaps, he reached one of the thicker branches and took photos for Luna. He then realized that he was able to see the statue's face clearly from such a long distance.

The statue's facial features looked absolutely ethereal and gorgeous. More importantly, the craftsmanship seemed very skilled. From afar, the statue didn't look like just a mere statue, it looked as if it was an actual head that had been enlarged.

'This isn't an actual head, right? Do humans during the Stone Age even have such skilled craftsmanship?'

With this thought in mind, he continued to take a few more pictures for Luna. Alex then rushed down to look at where the neck was broken and realized that it actually was a statue.

In just a few moments, the few of them found the body of the goddess statue in a giant plaza within the ruins. It was still standing up straight in the middle of the plaza.

After walking around for a while, the night befell on them. They found a fairly well-built building and simply cleaned their surroundings, just so they could temporarily stay here for the night

Even after making a campfire and laying out some sleeping bags, Luna was still unsatisfied. She complained to Alex. "Al, you should've brought some blankets with you."

Alex was speechless and turned to her. "Can you not call me Al? What difference is there other than calling me an owl?"

"Well, your queen likes calling you Al. Do you have a problem with that? Come here and lie down, you're my pillow tonight."

"..."

Jasmine laid in her sleeping bag quietly as she watched them, deep in thought.

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It slowly grew later into the night.

Luna was sleeping on Alex's stomach at the time.

Alex was asleep as well, as it had been a long day. Maiko, on the other hand, was responsible for keeping watch.

After quite some time, Alex was woken up by a sudden flow of Yin energy, but it was just Maiko calling out to him.

"What's wrong?"

Maiko replied. "Master, something is staring at us."

Alex was shocked and sat up immediately.

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"What is it?"

"Were you not able to tell?"

Concentrating his spiritual energy to his eyes, Alex could see in the dark. However, he noticed that their surroundings were eerily quiet, Jasmine's breathing just sounded slightly heavier than usual.

Luna had woken up too.

"Is something up?" Luna whispered and released her spiritual conscience, but it was to no avail.

Maiko replied. "I did in fact notice something staring at us, it had green eyes. But I couldn't tell what it was, it just disappeared in an instant."

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"A demon?" Alex and Luna gasped. They gasped so loudly that they woke Jasmine up as well.

Since it was already uncomfortable to sleep in such a place, she started panicking as soon as she knew that some demon was watching them right now.

"Wait here, I'll go look outside." Alex stood up with the Seven Blades of Death in his hand.

Luna said, "I'll follow you, else you wouldn't have backup if it's a strong opponent."

Jasmine didn't dare to stay here alone as well, her face was pale from fear. "I... I'd like to follow you too."

In the end, the three of them surveyed the area for quite a while, along with the half ghost king at their side. Yet they couldn't find any demons or beasts with green eyes.

Despite this, they were no longer in the mood to sleep.

"I don't know why, but I keep feeling like something is preying on me in the dark." Alex frowned. This was definitely not a pleasant feeling. It even managed to give him goosebumps since he couldn't find the cause of this.

"Could it be... A ghost?" Jasmine asked.

"That's impossible, else I would've sensed it long ago." Maiko said in her chilly voice, sending a chill down Jasmine's spine.

She just couldn't understand why Alex had to have a ghost on him at all times.

"No matter what it is, be careful! We won't be fazed by losing a few days of sleep, so let's just not sleep tonight." Luna said as she shone her bright flashlight back and forth on the stone wall.

Such a bright flashlight was provided by members of Flora Valley.

When Luna arrived, she basically came empty handed. She didn't even bring any spare clothes with her, and no one knew what she was thinking for being so unprepared.

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However, Luna suddenly spoke up. "Did you guys realize that the statue in the plaza is super big, yet the houses feel so cramped? I don't think people would normally like their houses to be so small, I could touch the ceiling if I just raised my arm. Not just that, almost all the houses here are this short. Could everyone living here be shorter than most?"

Jasmine added. "I remember seeing a mural somewhere around here. The carvings of the people here did look kind of odd, they looked quite short. But that doesn't mean anything, right? It probably was just the carver's mistake. Oh and, the natives here seem to worship hammers, their totems are all hammers."

"Hammers? Short? Could they be..." Alex seemed deep in thought.

"Did you think of something?" Luna asked.

"I heard that there's a race called the dwarves back in the Stone Ages. Their average height is just around four feet tall. However, they seem to be born to become craftsmen, they could even make spiritual tools. I don't know if that's true or not, but just look at the structure of this city and the craftsmanship of that goddess statue. I don't think anyone could just pop out a masterpiece like that." Alex replied.

"Dwarves? Is there actually such a race in this world?" The two women were shocked.

"Could that entire race be suffering from Dwarf Disease?"

Since it still felt like they were being followed, Alex still felt uncomfortable staying in that house. Hence, he decided to leave this place and head to a cruder place within the city. With this, the feeling of being watched had finally vanished.

The next day, when dawn arrived, the three of them left the city and passed by the plaza with the statue, leaving through the large city gates.

Starting at the humongous entrance, Alex couldn't help but exclaim. "These gates are just way too big!"

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The city gates were around fifty meters tall and twenty meters wide. Such a large gate was simply rare, they've never seen this in their entire lives.

Luna said, "Hey Al, so you think that goddess statue is actually based on a real powerful goddess? This city is just simply unbelievable. How could anyone be able to build such a large city? And to be building it on steep ranges of mountains? It just feels like it's the work of a god to be honest."

Alex nodded and turned to look behind him. He was able to see the beheaded goddess statue in the plaza from here.

Even without a head, the statue still looked very godly and powerful, her beautiful figure was immaculate as well. It was as if the goddess was looming over the entire city.

"Let's go!"

"We have to find the Dragon Blood Vines first, your sister is still waiting for us to save her life!"

Alex then turned back to the gates and exited the city. However, just as he did, he had a weird gut feeling that they had entered an extremely dangerous realm after passing these gates, the peaceful energy within this abandoned city had vanished into thin air.

He didn't even feel that uneasy when he knew that they were being watched last night. Alex scanned his surroundings without saying a word, but he still decided to be more alert.

The spiritual energy within the dungeon was at least hundreds of times more concentrated than the outside world. Hence, this was exactly why it was filled with spiritual herbs everywhere. However, since members of Hygieia Valley would come here every three years to collect such valuable herbs, the easier paths were basically emptied out.

On the other hand, the steeper areas were still filled with such herbs.

Alex was glad that he managed to survive the Golden Light of Lightning Tribulation and achieve Imperial Sword Flight with it.

After enlarging the Dragon's Bane of Thirty-Six, it could be used as a large aircraft.

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Since Luna's family was filled with powerful martial artists, she was used to seeing this.

Jasmine, on the other hand, couldn't help but feel envious of Alex.

Humans had always dreamed of soaring in the sky like a bird. Even though they've been able to travel or reach the moon after inventing aeroplanes and rocketships as technology advanced, it was still different from being able to fly with a sword. That was just using a large aircraft to fly after all.

At first, Alex didn't dare to fly too high, he was worried that he might fall to his death if he weren't careful. Even though his body, along with the Mystic Armor, would ensure that he wouldn't die from a hundred meters fall, he still figured that it was better safe than sorry.

Within two hours, he was starting to get the hang of it, flying up to the middle of the cliff to get herbs.

With this, his harvest was great, as he managed to harvest lots of ripe and old medicinal herbs. Thousand year old ginsengs and spiritual reishis, a three thousand year old chinese foxglove and even a five thousand year old tuber fleeceflower.

Although these herbs were ordinary, yet they have strong medicinal effects due to how long they've aged. Hence, these were definitely amazing materials to make pills and replenish.

Alex even had to throw out some of the lower value herbs he collected from Hygieia Valley, else the twenty cube meter storage purse wouldn't be able to store all of them.

"Come, come, this thousand year old ginseng is pretty good, it's even bigger than the white radishes back in California. Since we don't have much food here, let's just eat this as breakfast!"

Alex smiled as he cut the ginseng in three portions so everyone got their ration.

If any medicinal herb store owners saw what he was doing to such a valuable herb, they would definitely be heartbroken.

The three even bumped into quite a few beasts along their way, but all of them had only become food for the day. Their demon cores were harvested as well.

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On the third day, they finally found Dragon Blood Vines in a basin within the valleys.

Luna was overjoyed as she rushed over to collect some. Suddenly, a hand rose up from the dirt of where Luna was standing and grabbed her by the ankle.

“Ah!”

“Watch out!”

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