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Jack's room was on the west side hall. This used to be a storage space for miscellaneous items, but everything had been cleaned out and the space was nicely tidied.

After the runner disciple left, Jack poured a pot of tea for Noel and Brook, who bade him goodbye after spending half a day talking to them.

With that, Jack was the only one left in the west side hall after sending Brook and Noel away. Jack sighed helplessly as he stood alone in the empty side hall. He thought that Elder Godfrey would ask him to come after he had arrived. Unexpectedly, he had been ignored.

After sitting in the side hall for another hour, he became utterly bored and could not reign his thoughts. He then opened the side hall's door and walked out of the west side hall. Jack had just stepped on the green stone path when he saw a man in formal elder clothing sitting in the gazebo. The man had his back facing Jack and seemed to be enjoying his tea.

Jack's tension ebbed away when he saw that person's back figure. He walked steadily toward the gazebo that was situated in the middle. The surrounding plants were incredibly lush, which would obstruct one's view densely. He moved the leaves away as he slowly walked inside.

Elder Godfrey slowly looked up and glanced at Jack who arrived in the gazebo.

Jack's expression seemed a little bitter. Although he had become Elder Godfrey's last disciple, Jack's mood was still slightly terrible. He sat down opposite Elder Godfrey impolitely before he took another jade teacup from the table to pour himself a cup of tea. The delicate fragrance of the tea leaves assailed his nostrils. He had never drunk such tea, but he knew that this was a type of spirited tea that could clear one's mind with its fragrance.

Elder Godfrey's mouth curled upward as a significant smile appeared on his face. He did not waste time on other irrelevant things as he said straightforwardly, "You can ask anything you wish to know, and I'll tell you everything I know without reservation."

Jack scoffed lightly. He initially held respect for this formal elder, but what he did previously had stripped off all the respect Jack had for him.

Jack replied in a slightly low voice, "I feel that the Eleventh Elder should give me an explanation. You didn't give me any hint before suddenly announcing me as your last disciple in front of everyone, causing everyone to target me. I had no idea that the Eleventh Elder was so confident in me and knew that I was capable of settling this dispute without seeing me in action."

Elder Godfrey chuckled when he heard this. He did not get angry because of Jack's angry tone. The elder picked up his cup and took a sip. "I know that you're not a commoner, and this can be considered my test to you. If you pass the challenge, it proves that you're capable of becoming my last disciple. The news I've declared is true as my last disciple has to be excellent in every aspect."

Jack was furious when he heard this. This meant that Elder Godfrey only had a brief understanding about Jack, and he did not consider things on his behalf when he decided to do so. If Jack was capable of suppressing the matter, it meant that Jack was qualified to be his last disciple. If Jack failed, he would follow the First and Second Elders' opinion and choose a last disciple among those three disciples.

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Regardless, the Eleventh Elder was not at a loss and Jack was the only one who would suffer.

Jack glowered at the elder, though not as intensely, but his response was curt as he spoke, “You truly are amazing at calculating such matters, Elder Godfrey. Compared to you, my schemes seem to be nothing important.”

Elder Godfrey naturally understood Jack’s hidden sarcasm. He put down the teacup in his hand and looked up at Jack. “You don’t need to be so angry. We’re fated, and I have to thank you for rescuing me out of Mount Beasts. I owe you for your kindness, and I naturally won’t ignore you when you’re in trouble. It was indeed rash of me to suddenly announce this back then, but I won’t abandon you even if you’re unable to defeat any of those three disciples.”

The elder’s words might have seemed pleasant, but Jack was not a three-year-old child. He chuckled and spoke softly, “You have to understand that I’ll face the danger of failing once I get onto the battle stage. You announced me as your last disciple previously, and they’ll naturally target me. If they attack me fatally, I may lose my hands or legs by then.”

Elder Godfrey said, “I know that you aren’t an ordinary person, and you won’t put yourself in such danger. If you truly feel that your strength is incomparable to them, you won’t join them on the battle platform. I know this clearly.”

Jack snorted and did not respond. He only turned to one side and looked at the dense trees surrounding them.

Elder Godfrey was not displeased because of Jack’s attitude. He ignored Jack and continued speaking, “Right now, you are already my last disciple. To put things simply, we are on the same boat. Don’t let these grievances affect our relationship.”

Jack’s mouth twitched as he itched to say something terrible. However, he also understood that what Elder Godfrey said was true, and the two of them were in the same boat. It was best for them to not speak so harshly and

cause their relationship to be in a deadlock as he would also suffer because of that. He had no choice but to nod. "You're right. However, you've refuted the First and Second Elder by doing this. Aren't you afraid that the two of them will cause you trouble in the future? Even a newly recruited informal disciple who doesn't care about the world also knows that the biggest issue in the pavilion right now is the battle for the position of pavilion master. No matter who will become the pavilion master in the future, it'll be a battle between the First and Second Elder. It's unwise of you to offend the two of them at once."

Jack did not purposely say this to disgust Elder Godfrey. Instead, he felt that Elder Godfrey had completely offended those two elders by doing what he did. Both the elders were not people that could be easily dealt with, especially the Second Elder. He was a gloomy, extremely shrewd person. Once he had his eyes fixated on a person, that person's life would not be easy in the future.

Elder Godfrey chuckled and replied nonchalantly, "We have many days ahead, and even if the pavilion master wishes to abdicate his position, it'll take him two to three years to do so. Who will know how the situation is in two or three years? On top of that, will they let go of me easily even if I didn't offend them? The others might not know this, but you know what I went through before. I was framed by others, and I found out that those two elders made a pact together to lure me into Mount Beasts after I did my investigation."

Jack's expression stiffened when he heard this. He had never imagined that this was the case. He naturally understood that Elder Godfrey was framed by others to appear at Mount Beasts at that time.

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However, Jack did not expect that the people who framed Elder Godfrey were the First and Second Elders. The two of them were incompatible during any other day, and Jack was rather surprised by the fact that they would temporarily join forces to frame Elder Godfrey

Elder Godfrey exhaled deeply. "I've already figured a way out for myself, and I've also thought about the way out for you. Some things are unavoidable even if I wish to avoid them. As the results will be the same, it's better to live happily than living a vexed life."

Jack nodded deeply as he agreed with what Elder Godfrey said. Elder Godfrey chuckled, shook his head, and said solemnly, "Let's not talk about these miscellaneous matters. I have something important to tell you right now."

"The spot to enter the Secret Place for Resources, yes?" Jack blurted out without waiting for Elder Godfrey to continue speaking.

Elder Godfrey raised his brows and glanced at Jack in surprise. "How did you learn about that? I've just learned about this recently, and according to those people's virtue, they would've asked their subordinates to keep it a secret. Surprisingly, news of this has been spread, it seems."

Jack's lips twitched reluctantly before he simply described what he experienced before he entered the Mysterious Green Hall to Elder Godfrey.

Elder Godfrey sneered coldly after he heard what happened. "So it was Griffin Olsen. He's always been like that; acting domineeringly due to the fact that he was a chosen disciple. His characteristics and your temperament would definitely end badly sooner or later. Since he said that he won't let you off the hook, you should do the same."

Jack smiled helplessly when he heard this. Usually, would the support not stand forth and protect those under their care from harm? It looked like Elder Godfrey did not plan to do so.

Elder Godfrey seemed to be oblivious about Jack's struggle as he continued, "I've finally understood the stories behind some of the things that happened, and I've made my guesses as to why the Thousand Leaves

Pavilion would act as if they didn't see the members of the Corpse Pavilion. The Thousand Leaves Pavilion is carrying out a chest game, and every step they take is a gamble with much to lose."

Jack shot up upon hearing Elder Godfrey's meaningful words.

The elder continued, "The reason they allowed the Corpse Pavilion to come to the North is due to their inability to take over the entire resources by themselves. Hence, they needed more people to share the Secret Place for Resources."

Jack was slightly confused by this and could not help but ask, "Since they can't take over the entire area, they can just do it slowly. After all, the Secret Place for Resources is located on our North side. As long as we don't disclose the news and keep our guards up, we can slowly harvest the secret place. That would've solved the problem, wouldn't it?"

Elder Godfrey sighed and said helplessly, "It'd be great if matters were as simple as you've mentioned. The upper management of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion definitely have thought about this as even you were able to come up with this idea. After I dug deep into things, I discovered that the news regarding the Secret Place for Resources had been spread by the Thousand Leaves Pavilion. They personally informed the Corpse Pavilion about it."

Jack's expression turned into a solemn one when he heard this. At this moment, he had gradually understood some things that made no sense in the past. If the Thousand Leaves Pavilion personally informed the Corpse Pavilion about this, they must have done it to gain the Corpse Pavilion's corporation or they wished to achieve some goals by using the Corpse Pavilion. In that case, the upper management of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion would ignore the Corpse Pavilion's petty actions in Mount Beasts.

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“Why would the Thousand Leaves Pavilion do so? What difficulties are they facing that require the cooperation of the Corpse Pavilion? Are they hoping that the Corpse Pavilion will spearhead the matter? Those in the Corpse Pavilion aren’t fools, though, and they’ll also notice issues if they investigate the matter. Once they discover the issues, the Corpse Pavilion won’t cooperate obediently with the Thousand Leaves Pavilion,” spoke Jack rather excitedly

Elder Godfrey nodded. “You’ve gotten to the most important point. In fact, I can’t make out the reasons for these questions right now. I only know that the news was spread by the Thousand Leaves Pavilion themselves, but I’m not sure why they did it.”

Elder Godfrey paused before he continued, “Look, even you have thought of these questions. I believe the old fellows definitely have thought about them, too. Nonetheless, I’m sure they have their own reasons to insist on doing this. The Secret Place for Resources isn’t a place we can enter as we like. Every pavilion has its corresponding quota, and that’s why Griffin would snatch the position from you for his brother.”

Jack thought about it for some time and did not immediately continue the conversation. He finally spoke after some time, “What’s inside the Secret Place for Resources? In the beginning, our pavilion is fighting with the Muddled Origin Clan for the secret place. After that, the Thousand Leaves Pavilion discovered something, so we stopped the battle between us and the Muddled Origin Clan to take over the secret place.”

Elder Godfrey was slightly stunned after he heard Jack’s inquiries. He raised his hand to pour himself another cup of tea. “According to the situation I inquired about, the Secret Place for Resources was passed down by an ancient master. On top of that, it’s highly likely that this ancient master isn’t from our Hestia Continent. I think the Secret Place for Resources has been passed down by a master from a world that is far more developed in terms of their martial art culture compared to our Hestia Continent.”

Elder Godfrey looked up toward Jack after he finished speaking. He originally thought that Jack would be greatly shocked by what he said. After all, even he was shocked and could not control his expression upon learning how the secret place was passed down by an ancient master. However, Elder Godfrey was stunned when he saw Jack's facial expression; he was not even shocked in the slightest. Instead, Jack's face was filled with curiosity.

What was he curious about? Was he wondering about the ancient master's name? Should he not have been shocked when he heard the news?

Elder Godfrey coughed softly and interrupted Jack's rampantly running, causing Jack to snap out of it and looking rather sheepish. "You mean that this Secret Place for Resources was passed on by an ancient master who's much stronger than the masters of our Hestia Continent?"

Elder Godfrey nodded.

Jack's eyes glanced around as what he encountered at Mount Beasts flashed past his thoughts. He was forced to jump down from the Cliff of Sorrows, was trapped in the Ten Absolutes Trap Array, and encountered the skeleton covered in robes after he escaped the Ten Absolutes Trap Array.

At that time, Jack inferred that the skeleton did not belong to the West Cercei State or even the Hestia Continent, especially when the person had the Ancient Eclipse Dragon's blood in his hand and the Shattered Soul Crystals scattered around his right hand. These items did not belong to the Hestia Continent, and they were incredibly precious even in first-grade worlds.

Oh top of that, the Ten Absolutes Trap Array that contained them also did not belong to this world. These questions had long been raised in his heart,

but all this while, he temporarily suppressed these doubts as he did not receive further information.

However, he knew in his heart that something huge must have happened in the West Cercei State a long time ago, causing things that should not have appeared in this place to constantly appear.

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The corners of Elder Godfrey's mouth slightly twitched as he tapped on the table with his fingers." What are you thinking of? What is that weird expression for?"

Jack snapped out of his thoughts when he heard Elder Godfrey sid. He coughed softly and touched his nose to hide his slightly embarrassed expression again. "It's nothing. I'm just wondering why something like this was left behind by ancient masters in the West Cercei State."

Elder Godfrey raised his brows. "You're not the only one troubled by this as everybody who knew about this matter wondered about it. Something huge must've happened at the West Cercei State a long time ago and caused the master to pass down his inheritance here."

Jack nodded and asked with a hint of surprise in his voice, "Since this is an inherited place, why is it addressed as the Secret Place for Resources? Does the upper management of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion plan to confuse others with the name?"

Elder Godfrey glanced at Jack and simply shook his head. "That's not the case. In fact, both the upper management of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion and the elders of our Dual Sovereign Pavilion have no idea why the Secret Place for Resources was left behind. Some people said that this used to be the residence of the ancient master, while others said that the ancient master did this to search for a suitable inheritor to take over his powers. There are all sorts of interpretations, but I think that this is the inheritance left behind by the ancient masters."

Jack nodded and did not press on with his questions regarding this matter, to which Elder Godfrey looked at Jack in surprise.

Others would have continued asking questions until they got to the bottom of things, but Jack seemed like he was not interested in the matter. "Aren't you curious as to why I fought for a spot on your behalf?"

Jack nodded. He was certainly curious, but there were so many questions running in his mind that he did not have time to think about this issue. He was focused on other issues, too. Since Elder Godfrey had brought up the matter, he naturally went with the flow and asked, "I am, actually, and I am waiting for you to continue talking about it."

Elder Godfrey could not help but roll his eyes at Jack, not believing in his response. However, he did not wish to make a fuss over this with Jack. When he was about to continue speaking, Jack suddenly looked up as if he had a sudden realization. "Since this Secret Place for Resources is left behind by ancient masters, there must be lots of precious items inside. No matter how much the upper management cares about the pavilion's disciples, none of them would be able to consider their disciples when facing such precious items."

Jack spoke tactfully, but he actually wanted to ask why they were allowed to enter the Secret Place for Resources. After all, this was something left behind by ancient masters, and they were considered precious items to the masters of the West Cersei State. Should the elders not take over the area by themselves?

Elder Godfrey raised his brows and glanced at Jack praisingly. Jack was a smart young man, indeed. "You are right. If the old men were able to obtain the items by themselves, there wouldn't be anything left for you people. The reason they are in such a hurry to arrange for disciples to enter the Secret Place for Resources was that it isn't a place everybody could enter.

There are many limitations in that place, and we're not allowed to enter the secret place." 17

Jack was even more puzzled when he heard this. Elder Godfrey was not someone who would withheld information. He would naturally explain things to Jack, since they were already at this point of the conversation.

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"There's a limitation of realms for those who wish to enter the Secret Place for Resources. Those with a fighting prowess higher than the final stage of innate level will be blocked outside the secret place. Only martial artists in the final stage of innate level or lower are allowed into the Secret Place for Resources. On top of that, those who wish to enter the secret place need to have the entry token. Nobody can enter the secret place without the entry token, and that's why there's a restriction on the quota. I fought a spot for you, and I hope you won't let it go to waste."

This excited Jack, and a radiant look flashed past his eyes after he heard Elder Godfrey's description. If there was a limitation on their fighting prowess, he would not be in such great danger after he entered the secret place. The only problems he might face might be from the secret place itself.

He could not help but sit up straight when he thought of this. His eyes were fixated on the camphor behind Elder Godfrey, and Elder Godfrey could not help but chuckle when he saw Jack's expression. He pushed the cup of tea toward Jack and wanted him to drink the tea. "Drink some tea and calm down. I know that you're thinking about how you'll be able to have great achievements in the Secret Place for Resources after you hear about this limitation. However, I have to advise you to remain calm no matter where you're heading next."

Jack lifted the teacup and took a huge sip. He exhaled deeply before he suddenly said, "I believe that the Thousand Leaves Pavilion had sent someone, at least, to check the danger inside."

Elder Godfrey's eyes lit up. "You are quite smart. Since they're sending their excellent disciples into the secret place, they'll definitely check the area to ensure the safety of these disciples. In total, the Muddled Origin Clan, Dual Sovereign Pavilion, and the Thousand Leaves Pavilion sent a hundred puppets in the intermediate stage of innate level into the Secret Place for Resources. Out of the hundred puppets, more than seventy of them came back, which means that the depreciation rate is around thirty percent. The disciples we send are naturally excellent disciples of our pavilion. They're much stronger than the puppets in the intermediate stage of innate level. Your depreciation rate will also be about ten to twenty percent lower. This means that most of you will return. I've arranged for you to go in because it's extremely safe."

Jack blinked as he relished what the Elder Godfrey had said. A depreciation rate of 10 to 20 percent was impressively low. So long as he kept himself disciplined and avoid being cannon fodder after he went in, he should be able to leave the place safely. The Secret Place for Resources was truly a great place for Jack.

Elder Godfrey frowned. "Don't think that the Secret Place for Resources is paradise and you can run around because of the low depreciation rate, still. More than seventy of the puppets were able to return because their mission was to investigate what's inside the secret place. After you and the other disciples go in, you may just end up in an extremely dangerous spot because of the precious treasures inside. You mustn't act compulsively and end up dying."

Jack nodded. He knew that Elder Godfrey was saying this for his own good. The elder was afraid that Jack would act impulsively and put himself in danger. However, Jack was not the kind of person who would endanger himself for some small benefits.

Jack frowned and asked, “How many quotas did our pavilion obtain? Who’s going?”

Elder Godfrey replied, “Third-grade pavilions were given twenty spots. The Thousand Leaves Pavilion was given fifty spots, and the Corpse Pavilion also has fifty spots.”

Jack was slightly stunned when he heard this. “The Corpse Pavilion also has fifty spots? You mentioned that the entry tokens are required to enter the Secret Place for Resources. Was the Corpse Pavilion also given entry tokens?”

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“If these entry tokens were given to the Corpse Pavilion by the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, does this mean that both pavilions have already come to some sort of agreement?”

Elder Godfrey nodded, and there was a weird expression on his face. He seemed to be lamenting and, at the same time, tongue-tied. “You thought right. The Thousand Leaves Pavilion was the one who gave the entry token to the Corpse Pavilion. The hilarious part is that not only was the Corpse Pavilion given 50 spots..., but those two third-grade pavilions in the south under the Corpse Pavilion’s control also have 20 spots like us. This means that the pavilions from the north and south have the same number of spots.”

Jack’s expression morphed into one that could not be read upon hearing this. He obviously did not understand what the Thousand Leaves Pavilion had in mind based on their actions. Didn’t they know that doing this was lauding the enemy’s spirit and belittling their own? They distributed the resources so averagely, and nobody was at an advantage.

Elder Godfrey chuckled softly. “Are you unable to understand what’s going on? I was just as puzzled when I first received the news. I couldn’t

understand what the old men from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion were thinking. Didn't they know that they'll lose the restriction once they enter the Secret Place for Resources, that they'll be killing disciples recklessly? Disciples from the south won't hold back when going against our disciples from the north. A large number of our people might just die in that secret place."

Jack nodded. "You're right. Not only will we lose the restrictions once we enter the Secret Place for Resources, but we'll get into bigger battles when fighting for precious items because we belong to different pavilions, too. There aren't any benefits of allowing them into the secret place. However, I don't think there's anything wrong with the upper management of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, and I'm sure they have their reason for doing so."

Elder Godfrey sighed softly, picked up his cup, and took a sip of his tea. Jack glanced at Elder Godfrey and asked, "You still haven't told me who from our pavilion is going."

Elder Godfrey chuckled before replying to Jack's question, "We're sending three chosen disciples, eleven elder disciples, and six formal disciples in the top six positions."

Jack blinked in surprise when he heard this. "We're only sending three chosen disciples into the place?" Jack was surprised by what he heard. After all, the Secret Place for Resources was a place with a low level of danger, and there would definitely be great items inside. It was possible that this place was left behind by the ancient master in search of people to inherit the things he left behind.

In that case, they should have reserved ten spots and sent all the chosen disciples into the secret place. Why did they only send three chosen disciples?

Elder Godfrey glanced at Jack. “The chosen disciples are extremely important to a pavilion, and there might be several future formal or informal elders among those ten chosen disciples. Although this place looks promising, we can’t send so many chosen disciples into the area as nobody knows how the place is. Only you will be the judge of that place after you enter.”

Jack’s expression darkened when he heard this. In fact, the consideration of the pavilion’s upper management was correct. Although they proved how dangerous the place was with puppets, they could not draw conclusions just from this. Although the Secret Place for Resources seemed to be a safe place, chosen disciples were the lifeline of a pavilion, and the upper management naturally could not use them as subjects in the experience.

Losing too many chosen disciples in the secret place would absolutely be irreparable bad news to a pavilion

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Jack raised his brows and suddenly felt like he had been subjected to an experiment like a lab rat. The 20 people chosen were quite strong, and they were not chosen disciples, so they could be chosen as the guinea pigs for this experiment. The remaining seven chosen disciples might enter the Secret Place for Resources sooner or later. However, these people might enter the secret place after they had left the place.

At this moment, Jack suddenly remembered Griffin, who came to Jack because of the quota. He wanted Jack to give up entering the Secret Place for Resources and gave the spot to his younger brother.

Jack suddenly asked, “Is Griffin’s brother in seventh place among the formal disciples?”

Elder Godfrey chuckled and nodded, “You’re quite sharp. Griffin’s brother, Howard Olsen, is in seventh place among the formal disciples. Without you, there will be seven quotas for the formal disciples to enter the Secret Place

for Resources. However, since you became my last disciples, I'd fight for a position for you. After all, you're an elder disciple now, and all the other elders fought for a spot for their disciples. Since you obtained a position, the number of formal disciples would be one less."

Jack nodded. He finally understood what was happening.

Elder Godfrey chuckled and added, "Every formal elder will send one of their elder disciples into the Secret Place for Resources. I'm sure you know that the formal elders have more than one elder disciple. However, I only recruited you, so I can only send you."

Jack nodded and did not continue arguing on the matter. Instead, he asked something else, "In that case, will Griffin enter the secret place?"

Elder Godfrey focused his gaze on Jack. "He'll be there, yes. Although I don't know much about the disciples in our pavilion, I have some impressions about Griffin as he's a competitive person who bullies the weak. He'd surely fight for such a great opportunity."

Jack nodded. Griffin was a blunt person, and his character was apparent in just a short conversation. If he did not have the support of his own talents, he would have died a long time ago. Sometimes, there was no need to pay too much attention to people like him. The more troublesome people were the Second Elder and Elder Sayer.

Jack had only met the Second Elder once. The First and Second Elders had lengthy conversations on the round platform the other day. They completely ignored the people present and lauded their interaction in front of all the disciples. Although the First Elder had his prestige as the First Elder, Jack felt that the Second Elder was the most troublesome among them.

The First Elder said such insulting words, but the Second Elder was completely unfazed by what he heard. The Second Elder seemed like a

crafty person as he was able to control his emotions, speak justifiably, and act tactically.

If the First Elder was a fierce tiger in the mountains, the Second Elder was a venomous snake hidden in the darkness. One only needed to be smart and have the correct weapons when facing a fierce tiger, but one would never know when the venomous snake would lunge and bite. Its poison would kill a person at any time.

Jack frowned as he slightly turned pale.

Elder Godfrey looked at Jack in a slightly surprised manner. "Don't tell me that you're actually afraid of Griffin."

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Jack chuckled as he slightly raised his chin. "What's so frightening about a person who only knows how to parade his power and fight without converging his thoughts?"

Elder Godfrey nodded at Jack's comments about Griffin; they were no doubt accurate. "In that case, why do you look rather troubled? Is something occupying you?"

Jack did not hide his thoughts and nodded. "My thoughts went to the Second Elder because of Griffin. What the Second Elder said on the round platform has left a deep impression, and I feel that it'd be difficult to handle him. I didn't say this in hopes of causing you trouble. I just think that it's rather unwise for you to offend both elders at the same time. The First Elder is fine, but the Second Elder is difficult to handle."

Jack spoke with such sincerity that Elder Godfrey nodded. He naturally took what Jack said into his heart. He moved over and looked at Jack before stretching out his hand to slightly pat Jack on his shoulder. "I know you mean well with what you said. In fact, I've already made the necessary considerations and you're right. Compared to the First Elder, it's much more

difficult to handle the Second Elder. However, I'm really unlucky. As the Eleventh Elder, I'm a person who's capable of disturbing the peace. The Second Elder will still do something against me if he isn't completely certain that he can gain my support. If so, then I have nothing to worry about. Since the two of them will do something to me sooner or later, why should I bend to their will?"

Jack nodded softly. His eyes flickered as a hesitant expression appeared on his face.

Elder Godfrey glanced at him and said softly, "I know what you're thinking, but I don't wish to be a lackey. I didn't practice martial arts to listen to others. If I choose a side now and become a lackey to one of those two, that'd be going against my way of practicing martial arts. This is something I can never do."

A slightly imposing look appeared in Jack's eyes. He admired how Elder Godfrey handled things. He would rather become their enemy or hide far away instead of becoming their lackey and do things for them.

Elder Godfrey sighed softly. "I've involved you in this matter by accepting you as my last disciple, but I have no choice but to do this as our relationships might be discovered sooner or later. Instead of waiting for them to take action against you by then, I'd rather take you in earlier. This can be considered as providing you with protection, and I can help you gain lots of benefits."

Elder Godfrey smiled bitterly and continued, "I know that my actions might bring disaster, but I no longer care about that right now. Once I think that I'm unable to stay here, I will leave the Dual Sovereign Pavilion. I investigated you as a person, and I know you're rather like my character."

Jack nodded at that. "I'll follow you if you truly leave the Dual Sovereign Pavilion," he declared, and Elder Godfrey nodded gratifyingly.

The two of them picked up their respective cups and took a sip. Jack laughed bitterly and shook his head as if he had remembered something.

Elder Godfrey glanced at Jack in surprise and asked, "What are you laughing at?"

Jack answered, "I'm thinking of how the Thousand Leaves Pavilion and Corpse Pavilion's upper management will react when they meet each other on the day we enter the Secret Place for Resources. That'd be very memorable, I'll say. The enemies meet one another, but they can't do anything about it. They can only hold all their anger in their hearts..."

Elder Godfrey arched his brow and slightly thought about it. He placed the teacup down and said seriously, "You're wrong; we won't be meeting one another."

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Jack arched his brow in surprise when he heard this. Since they were entering the Secret Place for Resources together, they had to wait together at the location where the secret place was to be activated. By then, elders or pavilion heads would inevitably be visiting the place together with them.

Elder Godfrey knew that Jack had the wrong idea in mind just by looking at his expression. He chuckled and explained, "The method of us entering the Secret Place for Resources is different from what you think it is. We don't need to gather on one spot to activate the Secret Place for Resources. Instead, we can enter at will as long as we own the entry token."

This was out of Jack's understanding, Jack had assumed that the activation of all secret places required a large number of spirited stones or spirited crystals. The space cave required the support of sufficient energy to allow entry for those who wished to enter.

Elder Godfrey started explaining to Jack in a goodtempered manner, "This Secret Place for Resources is quite special as it's located at the northwest

corner of the West Cercei State. This secret place is separated from our space, and one has to go through the space cave if they wish to enter the area. There are a couple hundred space caves within a ten-meter radius of a specific location. You only need to have the entry token to enter the space cave. Of course, those who wish to enter have to fulfill the restriction of fighting prowess. If not, one can never enter the secret place, even if he owned an entry token.”

This gave Jack a general understanding of what was happening. This meant that the Secret Place for Resources was invisible to the human eye unless one entered the area. As the secret place was an individual space, they had to search for space caves at the specific location and enter the space cave with the entry token.

Still, questions rose within Jack. “Those who own the entry token are able to enter the Secret Place for Resources through the space cave. If so, who made these entry tokens? Could it be a powerful master from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion of sorts? If they’re able to create these entry tokens, why don’t they make more, and they wouldn’t need to restrict the number of people entering the area.”

Elder Godfrey spoke helplessly, “You’re considering it too simply. If it’s really just like what you said, there won’t be anything worth worrying about as all the pavilions can create the entry tokens. In that way, we can send as many people into the secret place and spend as much time inside. There won’t be any limitation on time and number of people.”

Jack could not help but frown when he heard this.” Then who created the entry tokens? Is it the Corpse Pavilion?!”

Upon saying that, Jack felt like laughing at himself and immediately shook his head to reject the idea.” It’s not the Corpse Pavilion, for sure, or the Thousand Leaves Pavilion would’ve lost their position a long time ago if that’s the case. Are you trying to say that the masters of the fourth-grade pavilions are incapable of creating the entry tokens?”

Elder Godfrey nodded and did not continue wasting time on nonsense with Jack. He straightforwardly answered, "The entry tokens aren't created by anybody; it's proactively released by the Secret Place for Resources."

Jack was stunned when he heard what the elder said. The Secret Place for Resources was capable of releasing items? The more he listened to it, the more bizarre things seemed to be.

Elder Godfrey knew what Jack was thinking about when he saw the look in Jack's eyes.

Elder Godfrey chuckled and picked up his teacup to sip at his tea. "I was just as surprised when I heard the news, but this is the truth. Our elders personally saw these entry tokens being released from the nearby space caves when we discovered the Secret Place for Resources. It rushed outward so abruptly, as if somebody was throwing them out."

Chapter 2181

Jack's expression darkened when he heard Elder Godfrey's explanation. "Does this mean that this Secret place for Resources welcomes the entry of us outsiders? Is it possible that the place was left behind by some ancient master, and he did this in search of his inheritor?"

Elder Godfrey nodded. "I highly recommend that you go into the place because my deduction is that the Secret Place for Resources is an inheritance left behind by an ancient master."

Jack exhaled deeply. Elder Godfrey raised his hand and patted him on the shoulder. "Don't give yourself too much pressure. If you run into danger, remember that your safety is more important, and you shouldn't act impulsively."

After he said this, Elder Godfrey touched the Tortoise Ring on his left hand with his right hand. Jack only saw a flash of black light before a token the size of his palm appeared in Elder Godfrey's hand. The token was of a weird shape, and it was filled with engravings of all kinds of incomprehensible runes and spells. There was even a faint flash of redcolored light in it.

Elder Godfrey looked at the entry token for some time before placing it in Jack's hands after sighing softly. "You can enter the Secret Place for Resources through the space caves at any time with this token."

Jack nodded and tightened his grasp on the entry token.

Elder Godfrey glanced at Jack and added, "I don't recommend others traveling with you, and you have to turn down anyone searching for you. I think that you should enter the secret place on your own. Even if you entered the space cave with company, you'd be separated by the chaotic space and be sent to different areas in the secret place. Hence, it's useless to travel with others. The companionship will only be helpful if you meet other people in the secret place and form them there."

They would be separated and be sent to other places when traveling into the Secret Place for Resources through the space caves. If that was the case, it really did not make much sense to travel with others. Only the people he met in the secret place could be regarded as his companions.

Elder Godfrey picked up the teapot and poured tea for them both. "The human heart has been unpredictable since ancient times. We can't simply trust anyone, even if they're our sect brothers. When you encounter something valuable, your relationship will become as brittle as window paper, and a mere breeze will tear it apart. He'll instantly turn into your enemy."

Jack nodded and said, "I understand what you mean. Don't worry- I didn't plan to travel with others."

Two days later, Jack finally arrived at his destination after being transported several times by the transporter. It was a plot of desert land in the eastwest direction of the West Cersei State, which was the only desert in the entire state. Unexpectedly, the Secret Place for Resources was hidden in this piece of desert, and the sun high in the sky scorched the land.

Jack walked across the desert with Nash by his side. After all, they were outside the Dual Sovereign Pavilion, and there were not that many scruples.

Nash knew that after what happened these couple of days, the remaining journey was still worrisome. He sighed helplessly. "Forgive my nags, but I think that this journey to the Secret Place for Resources might be challenging, and you need to be incredibly careful."

Jack chuckled and said, "I'm sure that a lot will happen, and I'm not taking this trip like a walk in the park. I'm going on a treasure hunt, and since we're on a treasure hunt, we'll definitely be fighting with others over precious treasures."

Chapter 2182

"A terrible battle might happen by then, and the people from the Corpse Pavilion will also be involved. The environment will be extremely terrible when we go in."

Nash grew increasingly worried when he heard this. He stopped walking and stretched out his hand to tug at Jack's arm. "If that's the case, why do you want to go in? You might run into all sorts of danger after you go in. Aren't you afraid? You're not the strongest..."

"I'm definitely afraid, but I can't stop here just because of my fear. Martial arts is a journey of going against nature to change our lives. If we don't go against nature and move forward, we'll only be mediocre."

Nash could only sigh helplessly when he heard this. He said nothing and continued following behind Jack as they headed toward the Secret Place for Resources. Jack took the map out for reference for every 50 meters they traveled. Elder Godfrey personally drew this map for Jack, and it was to provide guidance to Jack on the position of the Secret Place for Resources.

Jack looked at the map in detail, and after some time, he remarked, "We're correct; this should be the place...but why does it seem so lacking? All there is here is sand."

Nash also moved closer and looked on the map, even though he did not understand the map. At this moment, an obvious mocking sneer could be heard from behind them.

Jack was startled at this and turned to look back...to see a familiar face.

"Griffin?"

Jack had never imagined that he would bump into Griffin in this place. After all, nobody apart from Elder Godfrey knew that he had come out from the Dual Sovereign Pavilion, and he should not have run into Griffin. There was another man beside Griffin, and they had similar facial features.

The name 'Howard Olsen' subconsciously appeared in Jack's thoughts after he saw this person. Was this Howard? However, Elder Godfrey had informed him previously that there are only 20 tokens, and after he took up one of the spots, only the top six formal disciples would be chosen. It had nothing to do with Howard.

Griffin scoffed indignantly and walked two steps forward. He sized Jack up with a mocking look in his eyes. "Who would've expected for us to have such a great fate? I never expected to meet you here."

Jack frowned as shock overwhelmed him. Truth be told, the surprise did not come just because he bumped into Griffin and his brother here; it was because he failed to notice anybody around him and did not even pick up the sound of footsteps. It seemed like the Olsen brothers suddenly appeared behind his back, which creeped out Jack.

However, Griffin failed to realize what Jack was thinking of.

He glanced at Nash, who stood behind Jack. "Who's this? He's only in the final stage of the acquired level. Is he your errand man? If that's the case, this will be even more hilarious. Are you unable to take care of yourself? Why do you need to bring an errand man with you to such a place?"

Jack's anger exploded when he heard this. Jack could still hold himself back if they were just jabbing at himself, but what Griffin said was aimed at Nash.

Jack narrowed his eyes and pulled Nash behind him. "You better watch what you're saying; stop saying everything that comes to mind like that. What does what I do have to do with you? Keep your nose out of my business. If you have that much time in your hands, help someone walk their dog, and don't come barking by my ears."

Although Jack's words were nowhere vulgar, they were bluntly rebuking Griffin.

Griffin's face blushed a crimson color as he had never experienced such treatment. He stretched out his right hand, and his sword was unleashed from its sheath audibly. The silver sword shone brightly under the sun. Griffin held the sword with his right hand and pointed it at Jack's face.

Chapter 2183

Jack, however, merely smirked, nowhere scared or intimidated

“B*stard!” roared Griffin. “How dare you disrespect me! I’m going to kill you!”

With that, Griffin activated his true energy and was about to attack Jack when Howard, who stood behind Griffin, grabbed his brother’s shoulder when he noticed Griffin was about to attack. “Brother, this isn’t the time to fight! No matter what, we’re disciples from the same pavilion, and we’re surrounded by space caves. If the space around us is disrupted, a person might suddenly appear out of nowhere. By then, news of what happened to this guy might spread. I’m sure you know the rules of our pavilion: you’ll be punished if he dies or is badly wounded by your hand.”

The Dual Sovereign Pavilion forbade their disciples from killing one another at places outside of their pavilion

Griffin’s face was slightly pale as he stared at Jack. The muscles on his face slightly trembled. “Don’t get too cocky, b*stard. I may not be able to kill you now, but this doesn’t mean that your luck will stay up after leaving the secret place! On top of that, I’m not the only one who wants to kill you. You’ve offended s o many people, and you may just perish before I can do anything to you!”

The sword in Griffin’s hands once again returned to the sheath with a wave of his sleeve. He sneered and looked around before moving his hands, activating his true energy and punching the space before him.

Ripples appeared in the space in front of him. A flash of happiness flashed past Griffin’s eyes as he walked toward the area where the ripples were most apparent. Griffin took out his entry token and pushed it forward.

The entry token looked like it had been dropped into water as it was swallowed by the space in front of him.

The next moment, a bright light shone over Griffin and he disappeared in front of them. Howard seemed unsurprised by what happened.

He turned to look at Jack. “Are you wondering why I’m here, even though there aren’t any spots left for me?”

Jack pursed his lips speechlessly. He was definitely curious, but the thought had just flashed past his mind and he did not wish to get to the bottom of it. However, Howard spoke as if Jack was extremely eager to find out what was going on.

Jack scoffed and did not even spare a glance at Howard, yet Howard could tell Jack was all too curious of the reason. He thus smirked and turned to face Jack. “Our family has certain power in the Dual Sovereign Pavilion, and it isn’t difficult for me to obtain a spot as long as I want it. My brother tried to preserve your prestige by asking you to give up the spot, yet you turned us down... You truly can’t differentiate good from bad.”

With that, Howard took his entry token before Jack managed to say anything. He let the entry token combine with the space caves before the light also covered his entire body. He, just like Griffin, disappeared into the space cave and entered the Secret Place for Resources.

The corners of Jack’s mouth twitched speechlessly. Both the brothers of the Olsen family had the same temperament. They were eccentric and unreasonable.

Chapter 2184

What Howard had said implied that they had shown him some respect by asking him to give up the spot, yet Jack failed to recognize their kindness by refusing

Jack could not help but sneer. Some of these people were painfully peculiar, and they were always capable of coming up with some presumptuous reasons. Jack only felt that they were ridiculous.

Nash's expression darkened. "Why are these two people so despicable? What on earth are they talking about? Why should you give the spot to him? And you're being unreasonable for not doing so? Who does he think he is?"

"He thinks that he's a god and can step on anybody, but his plans are useless to me," remarked Jack with a cold expression on his face. Nash sighed helplessly and felt that nothing in this place was going smoothly. Things were so much simpler when they were in Cathysia.

However, Jack was so focused on pursuing the pinnacle of martial arts, and he definitely could not say anything discouraging.

Nash turned and looked at Jack with a serious expression on his face. "You have to be careful after you enter the secret place. Be on your best guard as those two brothers will surely trouble you there."

Jack nodded and looked around him. He sighed helplessly, unable to form his thoughts with what Elder Godfrey did. The elder reminded him of so many things but had forgotten about the most important part...

Jack had no idea on how to enter the space caves, more so had Griffin not display how to do so just moments ago.

It turned out that the space around him was filled with space caves. However, one had to stimulate the surrounding space with his true energy to find the middle point of the space caves.

Just moments ago, the Olsen brothers appeared so soundlessly because Jack was surrounded by space caves that could block a person's sight and sound. This was a place with mountains of uneven height. The land was covered with weed, and he raised his head to see a huge tree. However, the mountains blocked a large area, and he could see no further.

Jack looked up and was unable to see the sun, but his surroundings were bright like it was noon. Jack turned around in place and got familiar with his surroundings, exhaling deeply upon not sensing any form of danger.

This was the legendary Secret Place for Resources. With the Mustard Seed as his tool, Jack was able to bring everybody in the Mustard Seed into the area, even though he only had one entry token.

Nash continued to stand by Jack's side. He looked at the uneven mountains surrounding them and said, "We're lucky that we weren't transported to some extremely dangerous area. We'd be terribly unlucky if so."

Jack knelt and simply picked a small piece of weed up before placing it under his nose to give it a sniff. He then rubbed the weed in his hands.

Nash chuckled and said helplessly, "Why are you acting like a child when you're already at this age?"

Jack chuckled and replied, "I just wanted to check if this world is real."

Nash could not help but frown when he heard this. "What do you think?"

Jack flicked the weed away before taking out a piece of tissue to wipe the dirt and green leaves on his hand. "It should be real. However, I question the authenticity of the area. The feeling is too realistic."

Nash felt that he was at a loss when he heard what Jack said. The corners of his mouth twitched helplessly. He was about to say something when Jack suddenly grabbed his arm.

Chapter 2185

Nash looked at Jack with widened eyes.

Jack frowned as he lowered his voice. "Hurry back into the Mustard Seed. I can feel something approaching."

Nash paled when he heard this. He dared not delay and immediately entered the Mustard Seed, leaving Jack the only one left standing there.

Jack frowned as he widened his eyes while scanning his surroundings. It was still the same uneven mountains and vast skies. After three breaths, the soft footsteps became clear ahead of him.

Jack looked up and subconsciously inhaled. There was a slightly taller mountain 40 to 50 meters away from him, and a three-headed wolf stood on the mountain

This three-headed wolf was one-foot-tall and stood on the highest peak of the mountain, casting a shadow. The three wolf heads appeared to share the same body, and its six eyes stared straight at Jack. The corners of Jack's mouth twitched as he subconsciously assessed the three-headed wolf's fighting prowess...only to fail to determine its fighting prowess in the end.

Jack was even more at a loss when he realized this.

He had gone through all the ancient scrolls to understand the Hestia Continent, but none of them described the three-headed wolf. This resulted in Jack's bewilderment, and doubt of actually defeating this beast rose within him.

Jack inhaled deeply and took ten black daggers out from the Mustard Seed. The black daggers floated in mid-air as Jack raised his hands. The black fog covered the ten black daggers, and they were like venomous fangs of a viper. 1

The three-headed wolf understood that Jack was about to attack itself and glanced at Jack from high above with its six eyes. A hint of disdain flashed

through the wolf's eyes, and the corners of Jack's mouth twitched helplessly. Had the three-headed wolf possibly broken through into the spring solidifying realm?

Why else would the wolf act in such a high and mighty manner? The three-headed wolf slowly prowled toward Jack with steady steps. Jack inhaled deeply as he wanted to test the three-headed wolf's fighting prowess. If he was unable to defeat the wolf, he could turn around and escape without turning back!

Just when he was about to activate Destroying the Void, the sound of something traveling through the sky suddenly came from far away. A long arrow came shooting from far away with extreme speed. The arrow was surrounded by a circle of ghostly pale blue flames.

The three-headed wolf looked fierce and disdainful, even as the arrow came flying. All three wolf-heads opened their mouths at the same time and looked like they were about to perform their strongest attack. However, the long arrow was too fast, and before the three-headed wolf was capable of releasing its attack, the arrow covered in blue flames plunged into the middle-head audibly.

The three-headed wolf instantly let out a piercing scream and fell to the ground as it lost its balance. The wolf kept rolling around on the floor as if it wanted to try pulling the long arrow stuck in his head out.

"Are you alright, young brother?!" a comforting voice came from far away.

Jack turned around to take a look and saw a man in the costume of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion's formal disciples rushing toward him from afar. Jack raised his eyebrows and did not put his weapon away.

Although this person was from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, Jack could not guarantee if this individual had ulterior motives. As he came closer, Jack discovered that he was not alone; there were three more people

following behind him. However, not all three of these men were disciples of the Thousand Leaves Pavilion. Two of them had on the costume of the Muddled Origin Clan's formal disciples.

Jack raised his brows in surprise and nodded to the person standing in front.

Chapter 2186

Heath Vay chuckled. "You don't need to be afraid. This three-headed wolf is only at the initial stage of innate level and he's extremely dumb. The wolf thinks that it's invincible on this hill."

Jack relaxed when he heard what this person said. In the beginning, he suspected that the three-headed wolf was in the spring solidifying realm. After all, he was unable to assess the other party's fighting prowess if they had a higher fighting prowess compared to him. However, it did not make sense for him to fail in identifying this three-headed wolf's fighting prowess if the wolf was only in the initial stage of innate level.

Heath knew what Jack was thinking from the expression on his face. A smile appeared as he explained, "The rules of this world's heaven and earth are different from that of the outside world. You can't use the old way to learn about the monster beast's fighting prowess, but instead, you need to judge it by the aura they release."

Jack nodded as he was unable to completely understand what the man was talking about. In fact, both the Thousand Leaves Pavilion's disciples treated him affectionately but the disciples from the Muddled Origin Clan looked at him in a slightly different manner. There was a hint of mockery in their eyes as they examined him. Jack was not surprised when the disciples from the Muddled Origin Clan looked at him in such a way. After all, the Dual Sovereign Pavilion and the Muddled Origin Clan had a long history. It was natural for them to not have a good attitude toward him when they spotted the Dual Sovereign Pavilion's costume on him.

After a brief introduction, everybody got to know each other. Among the two disciples from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, the one who spoke to him was Heath Vay while the one standing behind was Byron Reid. As for the disciples from the Muddled Origin Clan, one of them was Frank Wack and Edric Law. Those two had an indifferent attitude toward Jack. Jack did not respond to their attitude and was indifferent toward them as well.

Heath chuckled and said while saluting with his hands, "Destiny gathered us here. We are still wandering among these hills after walking around for more than half a day. However, I received news from the elders that these mountains aren't the only thing in the Secret Place for Resources. There are also continuous mountains and an endless piece of wasteland. If there aren't any companions when traveling in this big piece of land, the dangers we face in the secret place might be life-threatening. Hence, I propose that we travel together. We shall treat each other sincerely and we will help one another when danger arises, am I right?"

When they took action to kill the three-headed wolf, Jack had already guessed that they were here to form an alliance with him. Jack frowned but did not immediately reply to Heath. He was used to traveling alone and he would be restricted if he traveled with others due to the number of secrets he was keeping.

However, this was an unfamiliar and dangerous place for Jack. If he continued traveling alone, he might run into a dangerous situation that he was unable to resolve. If the five of them traveled together, their chances of survival would be higher. Jack nodded earnestly when he thought of this.

However, the Muddled Origin Clan's disciple, Frank, had already humphed coldly and started speaking before Jack was able to speak. "Young man, what are you hesitating about? We are at the final stage of innate level and we're at a disadvantage for bringing you, one who's at the intermediate stage of innate level. How dare you hesitate? Do you think that we will cause you trouble?"

In fact, Jack had only paused for around three breaths and he did not expect Frank to proactively find fault with him. Jack glanced at Frank and he could see the frown on Frank's face as he stared at Jack in disdain. The expression on his face was accusing how ungrateful Jack was.

Jack sneered. "Everybody has their own concerns and there is nothing between us that can bring us down."

Chapter 2187

Frank's face was slightly darkened when he heard how straightforward Jack was. "You're such a shameless boast. Who did you say will be bringing the other down? How dare you! Why don't you open your eyes and take a good look! Look at your fighting prowess and our fighting prowess. Just now, we only took action because we thought that we would have another member who's in the final stage of the innate level. However, we realized that you're just a young man in the intermediate stage after we came closer."

Jack arched his brow when Frank turned aggressive; he kept making a scene out of Jack's fighting prowess to suppress him. Jack did not wish to have a dispute with them if these two people had not provoked him. However, he was unable to withstand it any longer as Frank kept causing him trouble." What's the issue about the intermediate stage and final stage of the innate level? Do you think that you can walk around and do anything you want because you're in the final stage of the innate level? To be honest, your fighting prowess means nothing to me. If you are unconvinced, just have a duel with me right now."

Frank, who stood in front of Jack was at the same level as Oliver and Jack really did not pay much attention to him. However, Frank was furious after he heard what Jack said. He suddenly rushed forward and pointed at Jack's face. "What an arrogant young man! How dare you challenge me?! Alright! I shall show you the meaning of suppression from a higher realm!"

He touched his storage ring with his right hand and a three-foot-long sword appeared in his hand. The sword was red in color and looked like it was burning with endless flames.

Heath immediately rushed forward with a frown on his face and grabbed Frank's right hand. "Let's discuss this nicely and not fight among ourselves. Do you know what time it is right now?! If we really get into a fight, not only will it hurt our relationship, we would be suffering losses. Why don't you guys think about it? This isn't our respective pavilions and this place is filled with all sorts of danger. We have no idea when the enemies or strong monster beasts will appear. Hence, we definitely can't start a fight among ourselves!"

Frank was so angry that the muscles on his face were slightly trembling. Heath held his right arm so tightly that he was unable to release his arm. He could only give up his plans of fighting with the young man in front of him. However, the look in his eyes grew increasingly fierce as he looked at Jack. He looked like he was going to chop Jack into pieces if Heath did not stop him.

Jack sighed helplessly. He had no idea that he would be provoked by others when he had done nothing wrong. In fact, there was nothing wrong with how Jack reacted. Frank took this opportunity to find fault with him because he had a lower fighting prowess and he was a disciple of the Dual Sovereign Pavilion.

Jack sneered when he thought of this. "Senior Brother Heath is correct. This place is extremely dangerous and we won't gain anything if we fight here. However, I'm not frightened if you wish to fight with me forcefully."

Frank laughed coldly and a mocking look appeared in his eyes. He put away the sword he had in his hand and pulled his right hand out from Heath's grip. He waved his sleeves and raised his chin arrogantly as he said to Jack, "You have to thank Senior Brother Heath for coming forward to speak on your behalf. If not, what happened today will not end here."

Jack did not wish to argue with somebody like him. If he wanted to take action, Jack would naturally show him what it meant to carry out challenges from a lower level.

Chapter 2188

Heath turned to Jack. He laughed dryly to ease the tension. "Don't mind him, Brother Jack. He's a quick talker, but he means no harm."

Frank looked unhappy after hearing that, and wanted to say a few more words, but was stopped by Edric who was standing beside him. Edric frowned and shook his head discreetly at Frank, indicating to him to not start a dispute at this time. Frank breathed out deeply, trying to restrain his anger. He averted his eyes away from Jack.

Jack nodded noncommittally.

Heath took two steps forward and said again, "You're one of us now that you've agreed to join us."

His words were both hypocritical and highfalutin. Jack would not take these words into his heart.

Heath then pointed at the dead three-headed wolf on the ground and said, "Since we're all team members now, you'll need to know some ground rules. Everyone is here to get their hands on some good items. Although we came here not long ago, we have already discovered some spirited grass and spirited herb and killed some monster beasts.

"All of these are good stuff. It was hard to equally divide the goods when there were four of us, so I made a small rule. When it comes to spirited grass and spirited herb, whoever saw it first has the claim to it. When it comes to monster beasts, the most valuable item will go to the one who made the most attack or gave the fatal blow. As for other things, we'll cross the bridge when we come to it."

Jack just nodded and said nothing. However, in his heart, he started to analyze Heath. All the things he had mentioned sounded fair, but all those spirited grass, spirited herb, and the things on the monster beasts were only common items in the Secret Place for Resources. Naturally, they were there to find uncommon genius treasure.

According to legend, that place was an inheritance left by the ancient masters. Maybe they would find the inheritance of the ancient masters. When it came to that, how would it be distributed? Jack was sure Heath would not be a pushover when it came to the more uncommon items.

Jack was no fool; he would not be worthy of being called a human if he did not catch the hidden meaning behind Heath's words. The fact that he said that they would all cross the bridge when it came to the other things meant that he was leaving a way out for himself.

Heath remained smiling amicably, like a fresh breath of air. "This three-headed wolf was slain by Brother Byron. We didn't do anything so the spirited core and all the other valuable items on the wolf belong to him."

After he said that, Byron did not even bother to see what the others were feeling before walking over to the three-headed wolf corpse. He took out a short blade from the storage ring, cut open the wolf's abdomen very skillfully, and pulled out a light gray spirited core.

He took a piece of white rag, wiped off the blood on it, and stored the three-headed wolf's spirited core into his storage ring in front of everyone. Nobody said a word throughout the whole process. The amicable smile never left Heath's face as he swept his eyes across everyone.

Jack arched his brow and looked at the three-headed wolf's corpse silently. 'This wolf would have died under my hand if these people didn't show up just now.' At this thought, he laughed bitterly to himself. "They knew that this wolf is an initial stage of innate level, which is something I can easily slay, and yet they still decided to snatch it from right under my nose. What

ground rules? Those are just something they pulled out to make it so they could claim the wolf for themselves!”

Chapter 2189

The way Heath made it sound was as if there was nothing suspicious about what he said, but it did not take a rocket scientist to figure out something was off with the whole arrangement. It was obvious that Heath only cared about his sect brothers and not the s o-called ‘brother’ like Jack.

“Hey, why are you looking at the three-headed wolf like that? Are the ground rules not to your liking? Don’t tell me you think everything rightfully belongs to you!” said Frank provocatively when he saw Jack being all silent.

Jack frowned, and he turned his darkened face toward Frank, who was arching his brow and looking at him contemptuously. Jack scoffed, thinking that they must have thought he was a pushover. He was about to say something when Heath cut in, “Nonsense. Why would you say that when Brother Jack didn’t even say anything? Besides, from the very first impression, I can tell that he’s the type that considers the overall situation. I’m sure he doesn’t have any ill-will toward us. Am I right, Brother Jack?”

‘Considers the overall situation? Does that mean that I’ll be deemed unrighteous if my opinion differs from theirs? Wow, this Heath is quite the manipulator,’ thought Jack. Then, he chuckled, and said, “I’m not really one to take the overall situation into consideration. The overall situation is quite reasonable so I don’t mind going along with it. However, I do wonder why you thought that I was unhappy with the ground rules when I didn’t say anything or showed any unhappiness on my face.”

The last sentence was, of course, directed at Frank. He narrowed his eyes and stuck out his neck like a cock ready for a fight. “Did you think that I didn’t see the look on your face just now? What do you take me for? A fool? You should be grateful that we’re willing to llet an intermediate stage

of innate level kid like you join our team! I can't believe after all that, you dare to look at the wolf like that."

"Like what?" The lines on Jack's forehead got deeper and deeper. He had decided then and there that he would teach Frank a lesson if he did not give up.

"It was obvious from the look in your eyes that you want to claim the three-headed wolf for yourself. I'm really curious to know what the elders in the Dual Sovereign Pavilion are thinking. Why would they let an intermediate stage of innate level kid like you enter when the quota is limited to twenty people? Could it be that the Dual Sovereign Pavilion has fallen so far that they lack a strong final stage of innate level disciples, so they had to use a kid like you to make up the numbers?"

Frank roared with laughter with unconcealed disdain after saying all that. This was the straw that broke the camel's back. Jack stepped forward and took out the black daggers from the Mustard Seed Spirit Ship.

Heath frowned and looked at Frank unhappily. He quickly walked up to him and pulled his shoulder. "Are you done? Brother Jack didn't say anything at all, so just shut up, okay? And you shouldn't judge others by their cultivation level. You should know that geniuses could challenge those above their level."

Chapter 2190 Frank arched his brow, and said nonchalantly, "Each one of us here in the Secret Place for Resources is a genius."

Heath furrowed his brow, and was about to say something else but was stopped by Edric. He turned around and said, "Brother Frank, please just stop there. Don't forget we're all a team and should have each other's backs. I strongly suggest that you watch what you say from now on or else...I won't help you with the thing that you want."

Edric's last sentence was filled with hidden implications. Frank pursed his lips, and unwillingly dropped down his head, and said, "Okay, Brother Edric."

Edric heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Frank's acquiescence. "I know you hold a very deep grudge against the Dual Sovereign Pavilion but you shouldn't take it out on every Dual Sovereign Pavilion's disciples that you meet."

'Ah, the grudge between him and the Dual Sovereign Pavilion explains why he was acting so offensively toward me. But he should take it out on the pavilion, not me or the other disciples.' Thought Jack. He made a mental note to himself to make Frank pay for all the things he said some other days.

They soon set eastward after Heath said a few more perfunctory things. It was their first time in the Secret Place for Resources so they were not familiar with the environment. The only thing they could do was to choose a direction and continue on that path with perseverance.

The hill was bigger than they imagined. After walking for two or three hours, they still could not see the edge. The rolling hills blocked most of their sight. Just to be on the safe side, they decided to go by foot instead of air and became exhausted after walking for so long

Jack thought that it was nothing, but Frank started to complain. "Going on foot takes too long, and it doesn't look like we're going to reach the edge anytime soon. We should just go by air!"

Heath glanced sideways at Frank, and said, "No. Have you forgotten what happened when we tried to go by air? Yes, I admit it's tiring to go by foot, but it's also safer this way."

Frank curled his lips in disapproval, and said in a low voice, “We were caught off guard before. We’ll just need to be more vigilant this time. Besides, it’s not like there will be so many dangers for us to run into.”

Heath frowned unhappily when he heard that. He was already a little annoyed by his non-stop talking, but still managed to squash down his frustration after reminding himself they were all in this together, and that they would need to work together in the face of danger.

Edric glanced at Frank and patted him on the shoulder. “You promised me you’ll keep your mouth shut... Huh? What is that over there?”

The surprise in his voice caught everyone’s attention. He took two quick steps forward, climbed to a nearby plateau, and pointed to a distance. “What is that? It... it...it looks like a giant monster beast!”

Everyone climbed to the highest point of the hill, Looking in the direction of Edric’s finger, they saw a huge monster beast lying curled up on the ground at a distance of about 400 yards from them. However, they were too far away to identify what kind of monster beast it was. “Let’s go check it out!” said Byron excitedly.

Chapter 2191

Heath kept staring at the huge monster beast. “Yes, we should, but looking at the size of it, it’s definitely not an ordinary monster. It may be dangerous if we approach it rashly so let’s all be extra careful.”

Everyone nodded. In order to ensure their own safety, they came up with a plan. Well, not really a plan but simply an agreement for those with the strongest cultivation to take the lead, and for the weakest to follow behind. They would slowly approach the monster beast so that they could make their escape at the first sign of danger. They would run as far as possible while making sure they stuck together in a group.

Out of the five people, four of them were in the final stage of innate level. Heath was the strongest, and not to mention he was from the Thousand Leaves Pavilion, so he would take the lead. Then, it would be Byron and Edric in the second row, and then Frank and Jack in the third row. Actually, with this formation, it did not matter who was in the front, as long as they were stuck close to each other if anything should happen, they would all suffer the same fate.

Furrowing his brow and the two swords in his hands, Heath gradually moved closer to the giant monster beast in a stance that would allow him to attack at a drop of the hat. His eyes never left the monster beast once. The closer they got to the monster beast, the more clearly they could see the shape of it. It looked something like a snake but not a snake. It had scales on its body and only one eye on its head, which was tightly shut. What surprised them, even more, was that this monster had nine claws, which were laid flat on the ground, making the monster beast seem as if it was asleep.

“I remember it now! I’ve read about this monster beast in one of the ancient books before,” said Edric suddenly

They all turned to look at him in unison.

He did not keep them hanging as he continued to say, “This monster is a nine-clawed python! Judging from its size, it should have grown to adulthood, meaning to say that it should be at the final stage of spring solidifying!”

Hearing this, they all stopped in their tracks at almost the same time. They looked at each other with hesitation written all over their faces. The nine-clawed python was not something they could handle even with their combined power. Their faces immediately darkened at the thought of them being wiped out by the nine-clawed python.

This nine-clawed python was around 200 yards long and was as tall as a small hill. The five of them would surely die instantaneously with one hit from its claw should it go berserk. At that thought, they started to make plans for retreat.

Heath coughed lightly, and said, "Not so fast. Don't you all think that there's something off about this nine-clawed python?"

"What do you mean? You can't leave us hanging like that? If you have something to say, just say it," said Frank with a frown.

"Brother Heath, are you referring to the fact that we can't sense any oppressive aura from the nineclawed python even though we're only forty yards away from it? And the fact that it hasn't moved at all ever since we laid eyes on it? As if it's dead...?" asked Jack.

Heath nodded heavily, with a trace of admiration in his eyes. "It's just as Brother Jack said. All the powerful monster beasts would exude a powerful aura. Even at rest or slumber, the aura should be noticeable. The only time the aura is not noticeable is when it deliberately hides it in order to stay hidden. However, this is not the case as it chose to be out in the open for everyone to see."

The powerful aura could also be called an imposing force. A strong cultivator would have an imposing force around him, and a weak cultivator would invariably lose his presence if he was standing next to the strong cultivator.

Chapter 2192

They were very close to the nine-clawed python, around a hundred yards or so, but they still did not feel any powerful aura emanating from the nineclawed python. That actually made them even more nervous. Coupled with the fact that the nine-clawed python was motionless-it did not even seem like it was breathing, so everyone agreed with Jack's guess.

Heath thought Jack's knowledge was extraordinary, even though his cultivation was not high. As soon as he opened his mouth, Jack knew what he wanted to say. "You're very smart, Brother Jack. That's exactly what I mean. This nine-clawed python has not moved at all. Don't you all find this very strange? It's as if...it's not alive but...dead."

Jack nodded and looked at the nine-clawed python in front of him. The nine-clawed python did not move from its position at all. He could not feel any aura, not even its breathing. Jack frowned and said with certainty, "I think this nine-clawed python is dead."

Bryan nodded too and said, "Brother Jack is right, I also think so, but how did this nine-clawed python die here?"

Frank instantly felt uncomfortable when he heard both Heath and Byron's generous praise on Jack, and the way they were looking at him with eyes filled with unconcealed admiration. After all, he did not make the same conclusion as Jack, and so was robbed of his limelight.

He scoffed and said, "Aren't you all jumping to conclusions a little too fast? I don't think this nineclawed python is dead. How could such a big monster beast die here? Why aren't the other monster beasts eating it if it's really dead? How can the body still be intact?"

Jack ignored Frank's words; he did not even look at him. Instead, he looked at Heath and said, "Let's speed up our pace. No matter what, there is definitely something wrong with this nine-clawed python."

Heath nodded, also ignoring Frank's words. He accelerated his pace and rushed to the front, quickly approaching the nine-clawed python. Frank's face flushed with anger, and he stomped his feet hard, not knowing what to say when he saw all of them ignoring him.

After speeding up, it took them only five minutes to reach the nine-clawed python. Its scales were shining under the sunlight, and Jack could even see

mud mixed in with the scales. The five of them were so close that nothing about the nine-clawed python could escape their eyes.

Heath circled the giant nine-clawed python and came to a definite conclusion. "It's not breathing so it should be dead. If it's alive, it is impossible for it to not react to our presence here at all. Besides, there's a rotting smell coming out from it."

The others frowned in unison as soon as Heath said that, Byron approached the largest claw, and stared at it for a long time. Then he sighed and said, "I wonder how this big guy died, and why didn't the other monster beasts eat its corpse? Isn't powerful monster beasts considered a kind of supplement for the other monster beasts?"

Heath nodded. "You're right. The rotting smell proves that this nine-clawed python has been dead for a while, and it is really strange that it is still intact here."

Chapter 2193

Edric chuckled and said, "Actually, it's not really that strange. After all, we are not outside. The world in this Secret Place for Resources is very different from the outside world. Maybe the monster beasts here don't like to eat the corpses of other monster beasts."

Heath and the others nodded, this explanation was barely passable. Jack did not listen to their discussion, but instead, he stood on tiptoe and looked at the nine-clawed python from top to bottom.

He pushed the tip of his toes against the ground, activated his true energy, and took a flight to the air. From above, he looked down at the nine-clawed python. He was around a dozen yards in the air when he saw a faint light flashing under the head of the nine-clawed python.

The light was so weak that it could be easily overlooked. He would have definitely missed it if it were not for the fact that he was looking down from

above. The corners of Jack's mouth curled up into a smile, and he rushed toward where the light was emitting

The huge nine-clawed python was coiled up like a mosquito coil, and the bottom of the python's head was where the light was emanating. He still clearly remembered that Heath once said the spirited grass and spirited flower would go to whoever first discovered it. Therefore, there was no need to alert them to it since he was the first who discovered the light.

Thinking of this, the corners of his mouth inched even higher as he rushed toward the light. However, as soon as he was five or six yards away from the python's head, he was knocked backward with a bang as if he had hit a sheet of transparent glass.

His eyes widened in surprise. There was clearly nothing there, but it seemed like there was a layer of tempered glass that could not be broken. He could not go past it at all! The commotion caused by him attracted the attention of the other four.

They all stared at Jack with surprise. Heath frowned and asked, "Brother Jack, what just happened? Was that an array you just ran into?"

Jack's eyes flickered slightly, and he sighed helplessly in his heart. He did not know what he had run into but he knew for sure that his plan had been foiled. He coughed lightly and pointed in the direction of the python's head. "There is light emitting from under the python's head. I was on my way to checking it out when I ran into something transparent."

As soon as Jack said that, the other four took flight into the air, and looked down on the nine-clawed python. Under the guidance of Jack, they found the target. There was fluorescent light emitting from the position of the python head, but because of the distance and the obstruction of the python head, they could not see what was giving off the light.

However, being smart, they knew that it must definitely be something good even if it was not spirited grass or spirited herb. In fact, it could be a genius treasure since it emitted white light and was being guarded by the nine-clawed python.

Everyone's eyes instantly lit up, and a surge went through their hearts. They had traveled across the hills for so long, slew a few monster beasts, and collected a few spirited grass and spirited flowers, but all these were nothing to crow about. At one glance, they knew the fluorescent light-emitting item must be extraordinary,

Heath chuckled, turned his head, and looked at the other four with kind eyes. "I'm guessing the item to be spirited grass. The grade of this spirited grass must be absolutely extraordinary if it's guarded by such a powerful monster beast. We can surely fetch a high price for it once we get our hands on it."

Chapter 2194

Jack saw a flash of greed in Heath's eyes. He was the one who kept saying that the spirited herb and spirited grass would belong to whoever first discovered it, but from the way he did not mention it at all, it was clear he had forgotten about this ground rule.

Jack was no fool. He was not about to let others take advantage of him. It was just that it would be difficult for him to investigate the item with the transparent barrier in the way.

Frank laughed mockingly and looked at Jack with contempt. "I was wondering why you were rushing here suddenly and now the cat's out of the bag! You plan to take everything for yourself!"

Jack turned to face him abruptly. 'Oh my god, he's s o annoying! Why does he keep on picking on me?'

“Did you knock yourself in the head? Have you forgotten the ground rules? That the spirited grass and spirited flower belongs to whoever finds it? It’s only fair for me to harvest it since I was the one who found it!” said Jack unceremoniously.

Frank’s face darkened at his words. He did not expect Jack to talk back to him. He was about to make a comeback at him when they all heard the sound of footsteps coming from their surroundings. The five of them were stunned for a moment, and they quickly descended from the air. After all, being in the air was too conspicuous.

After landing, Byron frowned. “It seems like someone discovered the nine-clawed python too. Did you just see where the people are coming from?” he asked in a hasty tone.

They all shook their heads. They were all in a hurry to get out from the air space, and only took a glance before doing that, but they found nothing. After landing, they formed a nervous group and did not see anything at all.

“We should have taken out the spirited core immediately after confirming the nine-clawed python was no threat!” said Heath nervously. His words were filled with regret. He blamed himself for not thinking of that sooner. The nine-clawed python was a spring-solidifying level monster beast; its spirited core could definitely fetch a high price!

“Senior brother! It’s really dead!” said a sharp voice suddenly from a distance.

They all looked in the direction in unison, only to see that seven people had arrived, and they were less than fifty yards away from them. They appeared so abruptly that Heath and the others were all stunned.

“Why are they so close to us all of a sudden? I didn’t see them coming just now!” said Frank with trembling lips.

The five of them were standing in front of the nineclawed python before. They heard the footsteps but saw no one, so they thought that the people were coming from the side or the back of the nine-clawed python. They never expected them to appear right in front of them.

However, when the five of them formed a circle, they did not find anyone coming from that direction at all. If that sharp-voiced person had not suddenly spoken, they would not have realized anyone was in that direction at all.

Jack's pupils trembled slightly. Their sudden appearances gave him a déjà vu feeling, just like the way the two Olsen brothers appeared in front of them before they entered the Secret Place for Resources-one second there was no one there, but the next they suddenly appeared in front of him.

There were seven people in total, all dressed in black robes with skulls embroidered on their chests. From this alone, they could tell the newcomers were from the Corpse Pavilion. Jack knew more about the Corpse Pavilion than the people around him because he had faced several groups of Corpse Pavilion disciples in Mount Beasts.

Chapter 2915

"Master was right. There are really good things in this place. The man standing at the front said coldly.

As soon as this statement came out, the others were surprised but did not reveal it on their faces. Jack, however, quickly lowered down his head and hid behind Heath, as if he had been stabbed by a needle. He did it all so discreetly that, all apart from Frank, did not notice him doing so. The only reason Frank saw him was that he was standing behind Jack all this while.

Frank sneered and gave Jack a contemptuous look." Well, well, it seems like someone had lost all of his pluck. Why are you hiding behind Brother Heath? Don't tell me you're afraid of the Corpse Pavilion disciples."

The corners of Jack's lips twitched. He could not be bothered with Frank then; his priority was to make sure his face stayed hidden because the person who was referred to as 'Senior Brother' was the masked man he saw at Mount Beasts.

The masked man was still wearing a mask on his face, which was exactly the same as the one he saw that day; even his voice was the same, so it must be the same person. What really surprised Jack was how could the masked man enter the Secret Place of Resources when he was clearly at the spring solidifying level. It was against the rule for those beyond the final stage of innate level to enter.

He exhaled softly, threw away these distracting thoughts to the back of his mind for the time being, and quickly took out a common-looking mask from the Mustard Seed Spirit Ship. Then, he hurriedly put it over his face. Frank, who had been observing Jack all this while, frowned thoughtfully.

Heath and the others did not care about the quarrel between the two of them. The three of them stood at the forefront and were solemnly observing the seven Corpse Pavilion disciples who were directly opposite of them. It would be five against seven if a fight was unavoidable, and all seven of their opponents were at the final stage of innate level. As for the five of them, one of them was only an intermediate stage of innate level, so they definitely would not be a match for them.

The Corpse Pavilion disciples could speak without a care in the world because they knew they had the advantage of number and strength on their side, so there was no need to fear Heath and the others at all. The corner of Heath's lips twitched; he had a bad feeling about this.

The masked-man stepped forward and eyed Heath coldly. He did not notice Jack at all. "Get lost or die!" spat the masked man, the words slamming down on Heath and the others, who all gasped at the same time. The expressions on their faces were as if their fathers had died. This masked

man was too arrogant. He did not give them any face at all. It was either get lost or die!

Although Heath might seem gentle and talkative on the surface, he was also quite arrogant. He would never take this kind of humiliation lying down. He clenched his right hand tightly and said, "I don't have any conflict with you and yet you disregard all the etiquettes. At any rate, the Corpse Pavilion is a fourth-grade Clan association..."

The masked man cut in before Heath finished his sentence, "Stop spouting your bullshit nonsense to me!"

Chapter 2196

"You hypocrites only talk about etiquette and shame. Don't tell me you're just trying to save your face by not getting lost. You obviously want to fight with us to get a piece of the pie!"

As soon as the masked man finished speaking, the bearded-man standing beside him burst out laughing. "Every one of you, cowards is a hypocrite. It's obvious you don't want to give up the treasure and just want to find some 'righteous' reason to justify yourselves! We are not hypocrites like you, and you dare to fight us for treasure? Maybe you should take a good look at yourself in the mirror before that!"

Heath's face darkened. In all of his years of being alive, no one had ever humiliated him like this. He angrily pointed at the bearded man and shouted, "We are not hypocrites. You're the one who was obviously in the wrong here and yet you accuse us of being hypocrites?"

Jack curled the corners of his mouth helplessly. He could already tell from Heath's tone that he was in actual fact scared and was forcing himself to talk back to save his own face.

The bearded man roared with laughter and swung his sky-opening ax to point at Heath's face. "You hypocrites like to play tricks, and we, the Corpse

Pavilion, have always hated you, hypocrites, the most. Hurry up and get lost if you know what's good for you! Immediately disappear from my eyes. If not, we will tear you into pieces and feed them to the dogs!"

These words were not polite at all. It was no different from scolding and pointing at a dog. Heath's hands trembled slightly, and a myriad of colors flashed through his face like fireworks. The others' expressions were similar to his while Jack's expression was very calm from beginning to end. His eyes were fixed on the masked man and he discovered that the cultivation of the masked man was in the final stage of innate level. In other words, he had dropped a level compared to before.

Then, he clearly saw that this masked-man was at the spring-solidifying level, and it was because of that they had no choice but to escape, and even jumped off the broken heart cliff in desperation. However, at this current moment, the masked man was at the final stage of innate level. Jack rolled his eyes and thought to himself, Could it be that the masked man knocked down his cultivation in order to enter the Secret Place of Resources? But if this is the case, the sacrifice is a bit too big. Or maybe there's some kind of pill that can temporarily suppress the cultivation base?

No matter what, this masked man must have gone through extra pains to enter the Secret Place of Resources. It's better to avoid an all-out conflict with them. Although this masked man has fallen a level, he was once at the spring-solidifying level. Surely the martial art skills and techniques he practiced were not what the four others could handle.

Jack frowned, thinking how he should tell them what he knows and bring them to safety. It would be too sudden if he left by himself. Worst, they might think that he wanted a spot in the limelight.

Byron's face turned black with anger. "You've overstepped the line!"

The masked man sneered and took a step or two forward. “Overstepped the line? Don’t you know that this is a world where the strong eat the weak? Weaklings like you all deserve all the bullying you

Get!”

This humiliated them even more. Heath’s face was about to explode in fury. He clenched his fists tightly. If it were not for what little reason he had left, he would have brought out his weapon and engaged in an all-out war with the seven Corpse Pavilion disciples.

The masked man suddenly flew into the air. Looking down from the air, he quickly found the thing that they had discovered before that was suspected of being a precious spirited herb.

Chapter 2197

The masked man’s imposing aura was a little more restrained after he landed on the ground again. “Do I need to say it again? Either get lost or die. None of you five will survive if you stay any longer!”

As soon as he finished speaking, he took another ten steps forward, and the imposing aura erupted from his body. They could still feel the aura clearly even though they were dozens of yards away from him. Heath involuntarily took a half-step back, but then he forced himself to gain back that half-step as if he did not want to give the masked man the upper hand.

Edric’s brows creased tightly, and he swept his eyes across the Corpse Pavilion disciples. Then, he looked at the members of his group and finally said, “Brother Heath, don’t be impulsive. You very well know that none of the people in the Corpse Pavilion are easy to deal with. They don’t care about etiquette and morality. By the looks of it, they’re hellbent on getting their hands on the spirited grass and nineclawed python spirited core. Let’s not fight with them and just leave...”

Heath’s face became even more frightening to look at when he heard that. Frank turned his head and shouted like a cat whose tail had just been

stepped on, “I say, Edric, why are you being such a coward? We might not have the advantage of numbers but that doesn’t mean we have no chance of winning at all! In any case, our ranks in the Clan association are quite high as well! Although the Corpse Pavilion is also a fourth-grade Clan association, there is still a gap in power between the disciples. Who knows, these guys might be the weakest among the fourth-grade Clan association!”

After being questioned, Edric’s expression became so scrunched up that water might drip from it. Jack arched his brow; he could imagine how badly Edric must have wanted to curse. It was obvious the masked man and others heard Frank since he did not bother to lower his volume at all.

The masked man sneered and said nothing, but the two disciples flanking him were not as calm as him. Judging by their stance, they should be the masked man’s two most loyal and powerful junior brothers. One of them was the bearded man who just spoke, and the other had not spoken from the beginning to the end.

Jack recognized him even though he did not say anything. His facial features, for the most part, were average-looking. His eyes were as small as a mung bean. If going by the eyes alone, one would be forgiven to think they belonged to a wild rat on the roadside.

The small-eyed man who had been silent before suddenly opened his mouth after hearing what Frank said. “I have met a lot of people who like to brag in my years of being alive but you, my friend, take the cake. Judging by what you are wearing, you should be a disciple of the Muddled Origin Clan of the thirdgrade Clan Association. I do wonder where did a third-grade Clan Association get so much courage to speak such big words in front of a fourth-grade Clan Association?”

True to his personality, Frank did not back down but instead said, “It’s none of your business where I get my courage from! What’s the use of coming from the fourth-grade Clan Association when the people from there act so

cowardly! I bet you've committed all the sins under heaven! If we are hypocrites, then you're worse than us!"

Chapter 2198

The seven Corpse Pavilion disciples' faces were as black as coal. Jack stared speechlessly at Frank and wondered if there was a screw loose in his head. It seemed as if he was willing to offend anyone as long as she could show off his bravado.

Edric immediately put his hand on Frank's shoulder and whispered, "Have you gone insane? There are seven of them and look at what they're wearing! All of them are from the Corpse Pavilion! While on our site, all five of us are from different Clan associations, and not to mention Jack is only an intermediate stage of innate level! Don't think we're getting out of this alive if they're hell-bent on killing us!"

"Can you not be such a coward? How can you ever earn anyone's respect like this? Didn't you hear how they humiliated us just now? Are you just going to let them get away with it? You're afraid of them, but I am not, for I know I'm strong! Although the disciples of the fourth-grade Clan associations are powerful, us Muddled Clan Origins disciples are not bad as well," said Frank nonchalantly.

Everyone except Frank turned green after hearing that while Jack nearly burst out laughing. Wow, he sure is confident. I wonder where he got it from...? Thought Jack.

The masked man stared at Frank sinisterly. "It seems like you really want to die!"

The temperature in that area suddenly dropped to a freezing point, and no one said anything else for a while. Heath's face was as black as charcoal, and his hands were still trembling slightly. The nine-clawed python was likely to have broken through to the divine-solidifying level and a spirited core of a monster beast at that level could definitely be exchanged for a lot

of wealth. He could then exchange all that wealth for the pills and martial art skills. In addition, he suspected there was precious spirited grass under the nine-clawed python's head. He was unwilling to let go of all this, but if he did not, the five of them would surely fall at the hand of the masked man.

In fact, he also knew in his heart that although the five of them temporarily formed an alliance, it did not mean that they would abide by the fall for one, and one for all' slogan. There was no way they could win against the united Corpse Pavilion disciples, not to mention the tyrannical masked man. After thinking of all that, he exhaled slowly.

Then, he looked sideways at Frank, who was still seething with anger, as if he had just experienced the worst humiliation in his life. Heath felt that if they dawdled further, they would run the risk of Frank saying something even more offensive. By then, it would be too late for them to escape.

Heath made up his mind. He turned around and said to the people behind him, "Let's go, we are no match for them."

As soon as these words came out, Frank's indignant face suddenly froze. He widened his eyes and stared at Heath with disbelief as if he was questioning why they had to flee. "Brother Heath, are you really afraid of them?! Even if we are no match for them, we can't let them insult you like that. Listen to what they said before. What will others say about us if we escape with our tails between our legs?!"

The more Frank said, the more agitated he became. He felt that his ego had been trampled to the ground, and was red in the face. Seeing this made Jack roll his eyes.

Chapter 2199

Heath's face turned beet red. "So what if it spreads out, can it be compared to our safety? We are not escaping with our tails between our legs, but

knowing when to pull the plug. The five of us are no match for the seven of them, so why should we risk our lives like that!”

Frank felt that Heath had misinterpreted his intention, and jumped around in frustration. “I never thought that you would be such a coward! Of course, I know that we’re no match for them but it’s not like we wouldn’t be able to knock out a few of them! Why should we let them humiliate us like this? I’m all for leaving but we should leave in a way that we can be proud of!”

Heath’s expression became frightening to look at after being lectured by Frank. He never expected those words to come out of Frank’s mouth. ‘What the hell does he mean by leaving in a way that we can be proud of? Is he saying we should strut away after scolding them?’

Jack chuckled. It was his intention to not say anything, but he had greatly underestimated Frank’s idiocy and had no choice but to break his silence. « Brother Frank, what does it mean to leave in a way we can be proud of? Do you mean that we should let the other party murder us after you’ve angered them?”

Frank had never liked Jack. At his words, his face turned red with anger while his eyes became bloodshot. He whipped around and stared at Jack vehemently. “Are you deaf? Didn’t you hear what I said just now? Even if they want to fight us, they have to weigh their losses! Yes, there might be seven of them and only five of us but it’s not like we can’t knock out a few of their teeth! Do you think everyone is the same as you? That they would not weigh the pros and cons? It’s because of that they still hadn’t made a move against us! And that’s why I’m confident we’ll be fine!”

Upon hearing that, everyone pursed their lips speechlessly.

“It seems that your brain is really muddled. Who do you think are those people standing across from us? Do you think the Corpse Pavilion disciples are benevolent people who would not do anything just because of some stupid pros and cons?” said Jack icily.

At this, Frank became so angry that he pointed at Jack, and shouted, "You're just doing this to rile me up, aren't you?"

"Do you think we have time to listen to your quarrel here? I'll say it for the last time, either get lost or die!" said the masked man sinisterly before Jack could answer Frank. The masked man eyed the five of them icily while the bearded man was bent over laughing

"The masked boy behind you is absolutely right! You're really muddled in the brain. Do you really think we won't take action toward you just because we're afraid of getting our teeth knocked out?! Who do you think you are? You might be someone in a third-grade Clan association, but in our eyes, you're not even a piece of shit!" said the bearded man.

Those words were like a torpedo blasting away Frank's self-esteem. His hands trembled slightly, and he turned his head sharply to look at the masked man and the others. Heath frowned, knowing very well in his heart that Frank was about to say something that would push them to the edge of no return.

Chapter 2200

The atmosphere was so tense that an all-out battle was on the verge of breaking out. Heath wanted more than to get out of this in one piece; it would be a heavy loss on their side if the battle really broke out. At this thought, he quickly reached out his hand and grabbed Frank's arm, in a bid to stop him from saying anything, so that they could hurriedly leave the place.

However, Frank seemed to not notice him at all as he shouted at the Corpse Pavilion Disciples, "Don't you dare look down on a third-grade Clan association! Even a disciple from a third-grade Clan association can play a bigger role than you can imagine! Just you wait! After I leave, I will make sure to spread the news of a treasure here so that all the powerhouses would come scrambling for it!"

Heath and the others could not help but tremble in their hearts as soon as the words were out of Frank's mouth, while the masked man's eyes darkened in a second. What Frank said reminded him that there was the chance that they would spread the news about the treasure after they leave, and someone else might just be brave enough to fight over the genius treasures with them. In other words, letting them go was as good as courting danger.

Heath's face was no different than a blackened pot. He pointed one shaky finger at him and said, "Are...are you crazy! Do you really want to die that much?!"

What Frank did undoubtedly sentenced the five of them to death. If Heath were the masked man, he would never let the five of them leave! Both Edric and Byron's expressions were as if their own mother had died. Byron wanted more than nothing to slap Frank there and then. He had come across stupid people, but never someone as stupid as Frank.

"You bastard! Just stick out your own neck if you want to die that much! Why do you have to drag us down with you?" shouted Byron at Frank.

Frank felt aggrieved by all their scoldings because he still did not think that he did anything wrong. Edric rolled his eyes angrily as if he was unwilling to believe that he and Frank came from the same Clan association.

Jack was a little jittery too. He originally thought that Heath was a sensible person even though he was a little greedy. Even so, he must have realized that they had no chance of winning, so it would be meaningless to stay. In this case, it would be best if they all leave.

What they had all underestimated was how brainless Frank could be. Frank scoffed and said nonchalantly, "I have a backbone, unlike you guys! Who wants to be as spineless as all of you!"

Jack took a deep breath and asked him a question he had been keeping in his heart, "I'm really curious to know how you are alive today? You should have been beaten to death with that stupid brain of yours!"

Frank's face darkened, he was about to shoot down Jack's verbal attack, but at that moment, the masked man suddenly brought down his hand in the direction of them. The six Corpse Pavilion disciples standing behind him rushed out, positioned themselves in a semi-circle, and approached the five of them at an extremely fast speed.

Originally, the distance between the two groups was only a hundred yards, but in a blink of an eye, the Corpse Pavilion disciples already had the five of them surrounded, blocking all of their escape paths.

Heath took a deep breath, in no mood to quarrel with Frank. The five of them quickly adjusted their positions to be back-to-back against each other as they faced the six Corpse Pavilion disciples.