

Chapter 2561

Rudy nodded seriously, that was what he was worried about. "What do we do? Are we supposed to just keep on waiting here? I don't want to stay here for a moment longer, I just want to go back to Golden Pills."

Rudy was incredibly afraid. Back when Elder Simon did not allow them to head back, he felt troubled but was helpless about it. At that moment, Rudy did not think Phoenix Valley was such a good place, but it was not incredibly dangerous either.

Yet, Phoenix Valley had turned into a place filled with uncertainty in Rudy's mind. He did not know when he would get sucked into a whirlpool of danger and never be able to leave.

He was afraid that he would die without even knowing what happened to him. Rudy really wanted to leave that place. Even if he would never get resources as good as he would there for the rest of his life, that was fine as well. He just wanted to stay alive instead of feeling terrified and worrisome every day.

"I'm so lucky. If I had been the one sent to the courtyard alone that day, I'd be the one who's missing!"

Saying that made Rudy's tears threaten to fall. The fear in his heart had already completely consumed him. He felt absolutely miserable.

If Jack was not next to him, Rudy would already be sobbing uncontrollably. Jack frowned as he looked at Rudy meaningfully.

He said, "Our living arrangements were not a matter of luck. It was already arranged to be so.

"Grayson was arranged to stay alone in the other courtyard because he would disappear. He did not disappear because he was arranged to stay in the other courtyard."

Jack's words were like a splash of water on Rudy's face. Jack was right, their living arrangements had been dealt with by Mr. Zayne.

The three of them did not pay much attention to it back then, but thinking back, Rudy understood that Mr. Zayne had specifically arranged for it to be so because Grayson would disappear.

For all they knew, Grayson might have gone missing right after bidding them farewell. Rudy shuddered upon that thought as if he had just been blown by a gust of cold wind.

"Jack! What do we do? Will we..."

Jack reached out and stopped Rudy's words

as he interject, "There shouldn't be anything happening for the moment. Since he arranged for Grayson to stay alone, it means that he did not want anyone to notice. Other than the two of us, no one else has ever seen Grayson."

This means that Phoenix Valley intends to completely conceal this incident. We've already shown ourselves to everyone. If we suddenly disappeared, it might attract attention, so we should still be safe."

Rudy nodded, but he was still fearful as he said, "But... I think this won't be settled so easily. It's not like we're safe just because he said we're safe. It's just like you've said, we're only safe for the time being. We have to find a way to leave this place!"

Jack glanced at Rudy and realized how desperate Rudy was. He was nowhere near as brave and secure as Jack was.

After what had happened earlier, Rudy knew that he could not stand out in the midst of so many geniuses. The place was dangerous to boot, so how could he be willing to stay on?

Jack nodded, "The safest option may be to leave this place, but we saw it for ourselves. Phoenix Valley is far away from other territories, and it's surrounded by many mountains.

"There are guards everywhere. Even if we want to escape, we wouldn't be able to. You are so weak as well. If you see a beast outside, wouldn't you just die?"

Chapter 2562

Rudy started to thoroughly panic when he heard that. Jack was right. It was not possible for him to escape or even just leave either.

"Are we supposed to just stay on and be worried and scared every day?" Rudy's tears started to fall from his eyes as he finish his words.

He was truly afraid. He felt like he was right next to the gaping maw of a wild beast. If he was not careful, he would fall right in.

Jack frowned as he reached out and patted Rudy on the shoulder, "I know you're afraid, but it's pointless to be scared right now. In the short term, we should both be fine.

"Even if you want to leave, we have to look for the right moment. Without the right chance, we shouldn't do anything."

Rudy nodded reluctantly. Jack was afraid that Rudy would be too scared and end up acting out rashly, so he immediately added, "If you do anything and those people notice, they might think we're trying to leave this place. That could cause them to make a move on us. You should know what I mean..."

Rudy nodded, "I understand!"

Even though Jack did not spell things out for him directly, Rudy still knew how serious the problem was.

Since Mr. Zayne said everything he did without any reservations, it meant that Zayne was not afraid of anything Rudy could do at all. He probably even felt like Rudy being too afraid and wanting to run away would be in his scope of control.

That was because they would not be able to run at all. The moment anyone noticed that they had any intentions of running away, those intentions would probably be ripped out at their roots.

Rudy smiled bitterly as he said, "If I knew this would happen, I would never have asked to take part in the alliance's test. Then none of this nonsense would have happened to me."

Jack sighed and said, "It's already too late to say that. What we need to do now is to keep to ourselves and do what we should. As for everything else, we would wait for the right opportunity to present itself before we do anything."

The moment he said that a knock was heard on the door. Lou's voice could be heard, "Jack, the stuff is here. Can I come in?"

Jack glanced at Rudy. Rudy nodded before standing up and leaving. The Green Sun Pill was not a big matter to Jack. After two days, Jack handed in the task and got three thousand and nine hundred spirit crystals.

On top of the five thousand he had won, Jack had managed to get eight thousand and nine hundred spirit crystals in just a few short days. It was quite an impressive sum for a sixth-grade alchemist.

However, that amount was nothing compared to Jack's goal. That was why Jack put his full focus on the task hall for the next half a month.

He would walk around the task hall every day to see if there were any suitable tasks. As long as Jack liked the task, he would accept it without hesitation.

He was also frequently seen in the Hall of Wishes. He needed his body to catch up with his memories, so he needed constant training. Time seemed to pass by very quickly for Jack.

Ever since the Elder Hall, Jack had never seen Harold. Jack had initially thought that Harold would not relent after being dealt such a huge impact, and would constantly harass Jack.

Chapter 2563

Unexpectedly, Harold seemed to have completely disappeared. Harold no longer caused him any trouble, which saved Jack a lot of frustration.

In half a month, Jack had managed to earn fifty thousand spirit crystals. He was already able to condense three thousand pill runes. Jack was ready to undergo the test to be a seventh-grade alchemist, but he did not do so.

Even though he really needed spirit crystals, he could not afford to drop his training. After all, he was a warrior first and foremost. He did not only need ninth-grade spirit crystals to enter Wild Gorge Pass, he also needed to possess certain skills.

Thankfully, Phoenix Valley does not only raise alchemists, they raised warriors as well. At noon, Jack called Lou to the pavilion. The two of them sipped on tea as they spoke.

As they talked, Jack tried asking how he could get to where the warriors were. When Lou heard that, he immediately knew what Jack was planning on doing. Lou respectfully answered, "The warriors in Phoenix Pavilion are raised like any other clan. They are separated into outer, inner, and chosen disciples."

"However, there's a barrier between where we are and where they are. Even though we're both parts of Phoenix Valley, it's impossible to get there without a transfer array."

Jack frowned strangely when he heard that. In order to stop the two sides from meeting, a barrier was set up. That aroused suspicion in Jack.

Since they were both in the outer valley and a part of Phoenix Valley, Jack did not think it would cause any trouble for the two of them to interact. After all, they were in different systems.

There were no conflicts of interest, so why would a barrier be needed? The two sides were completely separated and even needed a transfer array.

Jack's expression had been obvious, so Lou immediately saw through what Jack was thinking. He let out a small laugh before he said, "Jack, you don't know this, but it's actually a big problem if you look at it closer even though it seems like alchemists and warriors do not have a conflict of interest. Warriors need the support of pills.

"If we don't separate the two, the warriors would constantly interact with the alchemists. Then, if they start to buy pills in private, Phoenix Valley would be in chaos.

"Those problems are why a barrier was erected to separate the two.

"If an alchemist wants to train in combat, they need to use the transfer array to head to where the warriors are. They need to report it as well to prevent any unnecessary deals."

With Lou's explanation, Jack immediately understood the purpose of the barrier. Warriors need a large number of pills to help with their training. The reason alchemists were regarded so highly was because of how much warriors needed them.

If the two sides interacted too much, their relationships would be unclear, and there would be conflicts.

"Do you know if there's a place to train soul-focused martial arts here?" Jack asked intently.

After all, Jack's skills were something incredibly rare.

Lou widened his eyes as he looked at Jack in admiration. Jack's question meant that Jack had to be a spirit technique user.

They were incredibly rare in the world, and all of them were incredibly talented.

Chapter 2564

He never expected that Jack would be as talented in martial art as he was in alchemy which made Lou feel envious.

He took a deep breath as he nodded before saying, "Yes, that place is called the Soul Grotto."

The Soul Grotto was at the eastern end of where the warriors were. After Jack used the transfer array to arrive at the warriors' area, he asked a few questions before arriving at the Soul Grotto.

Jack had thought that the place would still be a grand hall despite being named the Soul Grotto, but he was proven wrong the moment he arrived. It really was a grotto.

To put it in another way, it was more like a broken-down cave. There were guards in front of the Soul Grotto as well. Jack had already asked about all the rules for entering the day before, so he did not panic when he arrived.

After he showed his identification badge to the guards, the guard waved him in. Only, the guard had a curious look on his face when he saw that Jack was an alchemist. It was probably the first time he had ever seen an alchemist entering Soul Grotto.

The interior of the grotto was quite clean. There was enough space for eighty to ninety people. Moving forward was a cliff that hung in the cave. The place looked like a cliff wrapped within the cave.

The cliff dropped into an incredibly dark hole. There were countless orbs of yellowish light floating in the air. They were like stars in the night sky. The lights were basically soul crystals.

The soul crystals emitted a yellow glow as they constantly moved around in the air. They danced around like comets in the sky.

Everyone who came into the Soul Grotto came for the soul crystals. The soul crystals were very useful to soul attribute warriors.

Absorbing those crystals could raise the power of their souls and even improve their understanding of various techniques. Jack had gone there precisely for those crystals.

Those crystals were constantly dancing around in the empty darkness. Their shapes were uneven and so were their speeds. Getting them would require one to stand at the end of the cliff and utilize various soul techniques to break the outer shell.

Only by breaking the outer shell would the spirit crystals be obtained. That was a test for everyone. Furthermore, the Soul Grotto was not somewhere anyone could enter.

Each person was only allowed in once a month. If they missed the chance, they could only wait until the next opportunity arises. That was why everyone who entered the Soul Grotto would do their best to shatter the outer shells.

After obtaining the soul crystal, they would absorb it in the empty space in front. Breaking the shells was not something easy. Everyone would expend a lot of power just to break the shell of one soul crystal.

Jack entered and saw that there were two queueing up in front of him. There were about twenty odd mats on the ground. Five people sat on them, and those five had inner disciple uniforms on.

They were all seated while absorbing the soul crystals. Some of them looked like they had expended all their power to break the soul crystals. Of the five there, there was one who stood out because he had a head full of white hair,

Even though the man had a head full of white hair, he did not look old.

It seemed like the white hair was just a special characteristic of his.

The white-haired man frowned and said, "Francis Lloyd, haven't you had enough? It's been an hour, and you haven't even broken a single outer shell. The ones waiting behind you are about to go crazy."

Chapter 2565

Francis turned around angrily as he stared at the white-haired man, "Can you shut up? Do you think I want to take so long? The outer shell is way too hard! What can I do?!"

The white-haired man snorted as he raised an eyebrow and replied, "Don't even try that with me. If you'd just picked a smaller one, wouldn't it be much easier? You're just greedy. You insisted on picking a big one. Obviously, it would be harder!"

Francis grunted coldly and ignored the white-haired man. Jack raised an eyebrow, remembering the rules that Lou had said.

The size of the soul crystals was not even. The larger the soul crystal, the larger the outer shell. Just a slight increase in the size of the soul crystal would result in a much harder outer shell.

Jack could see that Francis was working hard, trying to attack the Soul Crystal. In truth, the soul crystal was not even that big considering all the others. It could only be considered medium-sized. However, it seemed like a shell of that size was already incredibly difficult for Francis.

He had spent so long without even breaking the outer shell. However, it was not like his efforts had been a complete waste. The outer shell of that soul crystal was already beginning to crack.

As long as Francis worked a bit more at it, he would be able to destroy the shell in a short time and obtain the soul crystal.

The white-haired man shrugged, "Greed isn't enough to get you what you want. Just look at Buck Tooth behind you. He's so angry he's about to bite you. He's already been waiting for you for over an hour, can't you hurry up?!"

The man called Buck Tooth really did have

two incredibly large buck teeth. The man looked quite burly and was glaring impatiently at Francis with his arms crossed.

Jack felt like Buck Tooth was about to lose his patience.

"Don't make him shout at you! He's right, you're just too greedy! Can't you find a smaller one? You insist on hitting a big one. Are you so confident that you can get that soul crystal?" Buck Tooth said coldly.

Francis froze. He could ignore the whitehaired man's words, but Buck Tooth had waited for a whole hour behind him, so those words had been reasonable.

However, he could not stop his attacks. If he took back his soul energy, that soul crystal would start to move again. Then it would be incredibly hard to look for it again.

All he could do was answer as he attacked, "I'm so sorry, I have no other choice. It should not take much longer. Just look, there's already a crack there. It should be mine soon!"

Buck Tooth replied unhappily, "You just keep mumbling about. If you hadn't made any progress, I would have already tossed you aside.

"If we weren't both inner disciples, I wouldn't have bothered to argue with you. I'd have just attacked. Stop talking and hurry up!"

Francis knew he was in the wrong, so he did not say anything. Jack walked over and stood behind Buck Tooth. The sudden newcomer caused everyone to look over.

Jack was wearing his alchemist attire. He stood out in the group of inner disciples like a sore thumb.

The white-haired man looked at Jack curiously and asked, "You're an alchemist?"

Chapter 2566

Jack calmly nodded.

Buck Tooth turned to look at Jack as well. A glint of ridicule flashed across his eyes for a brief moment before he quickly composed himself, not wanting to have any form of conflict with Jack.

At the end of the day, alchemists were revered among warriors, and every warrior had a certain degree of respect for alchemists. They needed alchemists to refine pills, after all.

The white-haired man let out a laugh as he remarked with a teasing lilt in his voice, "You truly do see everything at every given moment. There are soul attribute fighters even among alchemists. I've never seen you before, so it must be your first time here. Do you know the rules of Soul Grotto?"

Jack looked at the white-haired man before he nodded calmly. To this, the white-haired man's lips curled into a meaningful smile.

"You must continue to work hard. Don't be like this guy; he's been doing it for so long but still hasn't gotten a single soul crystal."

The white-haired man had a very natural expression when he said that, but Jack could tell that the white-haired man was trying to test himself. At times, Jack felt really helpless. He did not want to interact with such people, but they could somehow worm their way into his life.

Jack sighed as he said in exasperation, "Since I'm here, I naturally have the confidence to break the soul crystal. Thank you for your reminder."

Those words were clear enough. The whitehaired man could not help but raise an eyebrow. He had not expected that Jack would be smart enough to immediately understand what he was trying to ask.

However, Jack's words failed to repress the white-haired man's curiosity, and he then gave Jack a once-over.

"In so many years, it's the first time I've seen an alchemist here. Those who train in soul attribute techniques are usually all warriors who usually have a bright future being warriors. Seeing as you're so confident, you must have some talent in combat as well."

Despite his words, the white-haired man's words conveyed his curiosity, one that showed how he was searching for something. He clearly did not believe that Jack had that talent.

Anyone talented at combat would pursue the path of becoming a warrior instead of wasting their time in alchemy. Even though alchemists received respect from warriors, one could only truly be confident if they had genuine power to support them.

Jack frowned as he glanced at the white haired man helplessly. To him, this whitehaired man was far too curious.

He could see from the earlier conversation with Francis that the man had a strong taste for gossiping.

Jack took a deep breath as he refrained from sneering at the white-haired man. "There are some things I really don't want to repeat. Let me ask you something: why are you here?"

The white-haired man was taken aback by Jack's question. After all, he never expected such a sudden one. "That's obvious," he answered. "I just want to absorb soul crystals to increase my power."

Jack nodded seriously before he spoke again, albeit bluntly, "Why aren't you absorbing your soul crystal, then? What's the point of standing here? Will understanding my affairs increase your own power?"

The white-haired man's face flushed at that.

All of a sudden, giggles could be heard around them, and the white-haired man let out an awkward cough. He tried to say something to defend himself but could not find the words.

Chapter 2567

The white-haired man's lips stiffened as he shot Jack a stiff glare, but in the end, he no longer pestered Jack with questions. After all, Jack was still a sixth-grade alchemist.

Even though he did not know how talented Jack was at alchemy, it was quite likely that Jack would become a seventh-grade alchemist if he was already in the sixth grade at this age. The white-haired man did not want to offend someone who might be a high-ranked alchemist in the future.

With that, the white-haired man suppressed the fire in his heart as he turned and returned to sit on his mat.

On the other hand, Buck Tooth turned and looked at Jack earnestly as if trying to read Jack's mind from his face.

Jack furrowed his eyebrows. He hated being looked at so inquisitively, but ever since he arrived at Hestia Continent, he

never ceased to stop attracting such curious gazes.

At this point, Jack was content with himself. They could look at whatever they wanted to.

"Alright! Just a little more! Break!" Everyone could suddenly hear Francis' voice, and it broke the awkward atmosphere from earlier.

Everyone looked up and glanced at Francis, whose face was already beaded with sweat. His hands constantly moved as he formed seal after seal, sending a torrent of attacks at the soul crystal.

With multiple pangs, a large crack was finally seen on the outer shell of the soul crystal. Soon after, the crack quickly shattered the whole outer shell.

With a crack, the whole thing shattered, and the yellow glow radiated even more vibrantly.

After the last of the outer shell fell off, the soul crystal's radiant glow flew right toward Francis' palm. The moment Francis grabbed the soul crystal, a teardrop fell from his eye.

Jack was speechless at how emotional Francis seemed. True, the soul crystal was something good, but it was just one crystal. Did he need to get so excited?

The others, coincidentally, shared the same thought Jack had. They could not help but tease Francis for being so emotional.

One of the inner disciples said, "You truly are something else, Francis. And here I am, thinking you must've gone through a lot in your life before. Yes, that soul crystal is quite nicely sized, but do you have to be so emotional?"

Hearing this, Francis turned to look at the person and snapped, waving the soul crystal in his hand, "Stop trying to rain on my parade. If you were the one with this soul crystal, you'd be just as emotional. Just look at the size of this thing!"

To Francis' credit, it was relatively large; about the size of a fist. Francis could not completely cover it with his hand.

The white-haired man snorted. "The soul crystal is quite big, but if I got it, I wouldn't be so emotional that I'd end up crying.

"After all, I have great ambitions. In one year, I'll get an even bigger soul crystal than the one in your hand!"

The white-haired man sounded incredibly sure of himself as though certain his goal was within reach.

Francis let out a grunt as he rolled his eyes. "I knew that you guys wouldn't be capable of saying a single good thing."

Chapter 2568

Buck Tooth had long lost his patience before this exchange. When he noticed that Francis was not giving way, he shouted, "Get lost right now, Francis! You already have the soul crystal, but you're still taking up the spot. Can't you see that there are still two people waiting behind you?"

To this, Francis bashfully turned and saluted Buck Tooth before he ran over to a vacant spot nearby and found a clean mat. He sat and started to toy with the soul crystal in his hand happily.

Seeing the soul crystal in Francis' hand up close made everyone envious, and it showed in the expressions they had. Despite their ridicule and haughty words, it was impossible for them to not be enticed by such a large soul crystal in front of them.

They even struggled to keep their behavior

in check. After all, none of the five individuals had the ability to get that soul crystal.

Feeling their gazes, Francis' lips curled into a smirk as a prideful expression was etched onto his face. "What's wrong? Do you want it? Too bad, because I'm not giving this to any of you!"

Everyone wanted nothing more than to run up to Francis and give him a smack.

Buck Tooth paid no attention to their quarreling. Francis' victory might have even excited him as he furrowed his eyebrows and started to look at the innumerable dancing soul crystals in the cave.

The soul crystals might be moving and dancing around quickly, but they were like headless flies. As long as one could find a target, they could use their power to lock onto them.

Any person could break the outer shell and obtain the soul crystal, provided they have the capability of doing so.

Buck Tooth let out a sharp cry as his hands moved. Soon after, runes appeared in front of him as they turned into a black ax, one that gave everyone the goosebumps.

Very quickly, Buck Tooth headed right at the soul crystal he had locked into.

"Shatter!" Buck Tooth cried out in anger. The ax fell down immediately upon the soul crystal.

Jack raised his eyebrow and shook his head in exasperation. The ax should be Buck Tooth's strongest attack, but he overestimated himself. Even though the attack was strong, the soul crystal he chose was not small.

It was just a little bit smaller than the soul crystal Francis had gotten earlier. The difficulty of shattering it would probably be not much different from the soul crystal Francis got earlier.

Jack sighed helplessly at the thought.

Buck Tooth was not as strong as Francis. To get that soul crystal, Francis even used up a lot of his strength and only barely secured it.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he observed Buck Tooth's expression. After the attack, Buck Tooth seemed a bit disappointed, yet the fire in his eyes remained as he showed no signs of slowing down. It was obvious that Buck Tooth had the same plan as Francis.

Both of them planned on stubbornly using all their might to attack the outer shell of the soul crystal. It looked like he would need to waste quite a lot of time again.

"Shatter! Shatter quickly!" Buck Tooth shouted out as he attacked, his muscles bulging as he did.

Buck Tooth seemed tempted to just rush over and bite the soul crystal out with his teeth, much to Jack's chagrin. He could not help but take a step back as he wondered how long it would take for Buck Tooth to give up.

He did not feel like Buck Tooth would be able to get the soul crystal like Francis did. After all, they were not on the same level. Buck Tooth was not as strong as Francis, and the soul crystal should not be weaker than the one earlier, too.

Chapter 2569

Francis had only managed to shatter the outer shell of the soul crystal right when he was about to run out of strength. If he had expended all his true energy without being able to shatter the outer shell, Francis would have no other option but to give up.

That would mean that Francis would get nothing out of visiting the Soul Grotto.

After all, they were only allowed to enter the grotto once a month, and they were not allowed to stay for more than a day each time. Under all those restrictions, failure would mean giving up until the next chance.

Obviously, Buck Tooth knew he would gain nothing if he failed, and that was why he would use everything he could. He made the preparations for a long battle.

"You're all terribly stubborn, really," sighed the white-haired man. "Can't you just choose a smaller soul crystal? Even though the effects of absorbing a large soul crystal are much better than a small one, don't forget to work within what you're capable of. If you try to take on too much, you might end up with nothing!"

Even though Jack did not like that whitehaired man that much, he had to admit that the man still had a point. Even if they wanted to fight for it, they needed to have the skills.

Retreating and choosing something they were capable of would be the right choice. However, Buck Tooth was too riled up by Francis' achievement and was brimming with confidence, which led him to choose a soul crystal much like the one Francis had chosen.

After the white-haired man spoke, there was a clamor of discussion among
"I think he's an elder disciple. Does anyone remember his name?"

"I don't, but he looks familiar. He must've been brought under the wing of an elder, but even if he's an elder's own disciple, he doesn't look like he has that much talent. He doesn't seem that smart either, so I doubt he'll amount to much in the future."

After hearing that, Jack had a strange look on his face. Normally, an elder disciple was ranked higher than an inner disciple. After all, being accepted by an elder to be a personal disciple was proof of a certain amount of skill.

However, listening to the people around him, it seemed like being an elder disciple was nothing noteworthy. They seemed to look down on that elder disciple.

As his thoughts wandered, Jack heard a set of urgent footsteps from nearby.

Turning around, he saw someone rushing in from outside. He looked over and heard someone softly calling out, "Alex."

Alex Sharp nodded as he wiped away the sweat on his forehead. It seemed like he had run over.

Alex's eyes fell on Buck Tooth. When he saw Buck Tooth battling away, he frowned somewhat unhappily.

After that, he looked at Jack. When he saw the badge on Jack's chest as well as his alchemist attire, he immediately knew Jack's status.

He could not help but say, "Why is an alchemist here?"

The mild displeasure was evident in Alex's words. It was as if Jack, despite just standing nearby, was wrong.

Jack's lips twitched in exasperation, not saying anything.

Alex did not hold back as he continued, "Mr. Alchemist, this isn't somewhere for the likes of you. Other than wasting time, it's pointless for you to stand there. I have an urgent matter I need to attend to. Give me your spot."

Chapter 2570

Jack was irked to hear Alex's words. He had thought that his clothes and the badge on his chest would have brought him a lot of conveniences. At the very least, he would not invite that much trouble.

After all, alchemists were held with high regard by warriors. He could give the fighters various benefits, after all, so regular warriors would not offend alchemists.

Jack had queued up according to the rules and never intended on troubling anyone else at all. He should have been able to peacefully obtain his soul stone, but he never expected another troublesome matter to pop up so quickly.

He did not know Alex, but judging Alex's temperament as well as the slightly respectful tone others seemed to refer to Alex with, Alex must not be a small figure.

However, Jack did not care who Alex was at all. He was already impatient from all the waiting. How could he just give up his spot?

11 His expression was somewhat frosty. "No," he replied, and even calmly at that. There was no explanation to his words, and he merely conveyed his intentions.

When Alex heard Jack's clear rejection, his face suddenly froze. He did not seem to believe that someone would dare say that to him and deny him so easily.

Alex stood a few meters away from Jack. "Do you think you're that great just because you're an alchemist? Do you know who I am? You dare deny me like that?"

No one expected that Alex would be infuriated by Jack so quickly after entering.

Jack seemed to have quite the temper. No matter who it was, Jack did not seem to hold back on his words when he was unhappy.

The white-haired man had thought that Jack dared talk that way earlier because the white-haired man was not talented enough, but it seemed like Jack did not care who he was talking to or how strong they were.

As long as he was offended, he would stand his ground and retaliate!

After Jack heard Alex's words, he smirked and said bluntly, "I don't care who you are."

Even if it was the emperor, anyone who caused Jack trouble would be met with the same treatment. Alex became so enraged that he glared at Jack venomously.

Jack was used to that expression, however. Everyone who wanted to get rid of him or cause him trouble would always look at him like that.

Jack had long since gotten immune to those stares. Even if they fought right at that moment, Jack would not be scared at all.

"Don't think that you can show off in front of us just because you're an alchemist. Alchemists are valuable, but Phoenix Valley has alchemists everywhere. One or two dead alchemists won't make a difference!"

Alex's tone was incredibly threatening, but it did not even make Jack raise an eyebrow. It seemed like Alex must have been a bully for a long time. Otherwise, he would not have been able to say something like that.

Jack merely sported a small smile as he fearlessly responded, "Don't talk as if something heinous has been done. You're the shameless one who wanted to take my spot. You're unhappy that you were rejected, but you make yourself seem so noble."

"You...!" Alex was so furious both his hands started to shake. It seemed like he wanted to rush forward and choke Jack at that moment.

Jack pursed his lips nonchalantly; he had no plans of entertaining Alex.

However, Alex did not relent as he demanded, "I'll give you one last chance. Give me your spot, or I'll put you through hell!"

It was the same words and the same threatening tone as usual. Jack seemed to hear something like that once every month. Jack raised an eyebrow as he nodded very solemnly.

Chapter 2571

"If you have the skills, then by all means show me your hell."

Lou had explained the rules of Soul Grotto in great detail. The whole place was meant solely for soul attribute warriors to train, not a place for people to duke it out.

Guards stood on patrol outside at every moment, and the moment anything happened that involved two parties, they would immediately be punished and get dragged to the elders to be dealt with. By then, nothing would clear their name no matter what they said.

Alex, of course, knew this, hence why he refrained himself, and Jack could tell. Alex stared at him so spitefully yet wordlessly. He turned to look at Buck Tooth, wondering when Buck Tooth would give up.

Alas, Alex had already snapped at that point. In just a moment, Alex's voice could be heard again, remarking determinedly, "You're an alchemist. How talented can you possibly be in martial arts? You probably can't even get the smallest soul crystal!"

It was as if he knew everything there was to know about Jack.

Jack sighed helplessly, not even bothering to turn his head around as he said, "And how would you know about my skills? You don't even know what realm I'm in, but you so casually cast your judgment upon me. Aren't you being too presumptuous?"

Jack intentionally left a scar untreated to hide his power. Those who tried to evaluate his strength would not be able to find anything out, and no one present could tell what level he was at. Only he knew that he had already broken through to the spring solidifying realm.

There was no one present who was at the innate stage; they were all already at the

spring solidifying realm. Some of them were at the initial stage while some were at the middle stage.

What puzzled Jack was the fact that the man behind him was only at the middlestage of the spring solidifying realm. Based on his strength, he should not be so respected by everyone around him.

Pushing that thought aside, Jack was sure that Alex must have immense talent despite not having astounding power. Alex was likely a warrior that could challenge those at a higher realm. This was why everyone seemed to hold Alex with high regard when talking to him.

"I can't tell what level you're at, but it doesn't stop me from seeing what realm you're at. If you're even above the innate level, I'll take up your family name!" snapped Alex, the vicious determination in his voice not wavering.

It was as if he would push for it even if Jack did not want it.

Jack pursed his lips helplessly as he looked at Alex in disdain. After thinking about it, he felt like Alex's obstinate stance was not entirely unreasonable.

After all, alchemy required a lot of time, and they were normally talentless in martial arts. On top of that, they focused on alchemy and would not have time to spare on martial arts. Their strength, naturally, would not be that high. O

All of them were geniuses sent in from their respective clans, and being able to become an inner disciple was proof of their power.

"This buck-toothed man will fail in no time at all, and by then, you'll find out how strong you are then. You'd do well to reevaluate the trash you've been spouting."

Alex was incredibly confident in his own skills and talents. He felt that Jack was no different from a degenerate.

The Soul Grotto was different from anywhere else. Benefitting from the place first required immense skill, and that was something everyone present knew.

Buck Tooth's eyes narrowed at those words. There he was, exerting all he could to obtain a soul crystal, yet someone had cursed him to fail. Buck Tooth gritted his teeth as he said, "Alex, what do you mean by that? You might be incredibly talented, but does that give you the right to curse people?"

Alex snorted as he casually replied, "Am I not allowed to speak the truth? If you have the skills, prove it to me. From the moment I've entered, you haven't even made a crack, so how could you even have the gall to say that?"

Buck Tooth's face reddened at this, his neck straining as his chest started to heave. If he had not managed to maintain his composure, he would have wasted all his past efforts by trying to attack Alex. He wanted nothing more than to face Alex and make him eat his words.

Sure, he might not be able to defeat Alex, but it would release him from his anger, at least.

Alex might not have said such harsh words had it not been for Jack's words. Even though he was talented and strong, he could not afford to offend everyone. Jack's words voided Alex from any other emotion apart from anger.

With that, Alex narrowed his eyes as he pointed at Buck Tooth.

"This guy is already at the spring solidifying realm, and his technique is a lower stage Earth technique. Even then, he can't shatter the outer shell of the soul crystal. Do you think you're stronger than him?"

Jack raised an eyebrow, not answering immediately. Buck Tooth was in the same realm as him, but the techniques they trained in were worlds apart. Jack had an upper ultimate god level technique, while Buck Tooth was far lower in the spectrum.

An ultimate god level technique was more than just a little better than an earth rank one. Some people were unable to use ultimate god rank techniques even at the divine solidifying realm, let alone an upper rank one.

After all, training in high level techniques required one to be compatible with the techniques in the first place. Even with the relevant strength, they would need to encounter problems before they can understand it.

However, that did not apply to Jack.

After all, he had absorbed the memories of the ancient warrior, and that warrior had already understood all there was to understand. There were no bottlenecks to speak of, so all Jack needed to do was to advance, and he would complete his training.

Alex's tone was even more arrogant when Jack said nothing. "Do you have nothing else to say? Stop being so stubborn, why don't you. You're only at the innate level. You can't do anything in this grotto.

"I don't even think that you're even at the late stage of the innate level. You're probably only at the early stage. After all, you're still young, and alchemists roughly in your level are all only at the innate stage of the innate level," rambled Alex, not holding back his assumptions on Jack. He truly believed in his guesses, too.

Even though he could not see through Jack's strength for some reason, his past experience told him that this rascal could not be over the late stage of the innate realm. He was probably only at the early stage.

A person at the early stage innate level was merely an ant in Alex's eyes. Even a beast on Yorn Mountain was far stronger.

Even though the guy knew some soul attribute technique or skill, it could still not change Alex's impression.

Furthermore, he was incredibly furious at Jack. Jack blatantly disregarded him and his words, and it made him hate Jack with a burning passion.

How could he possibly think that Jack was stronger than he thought?

Jack shrugged as he looked at Alex helplessly. "Don't cast judgment upon others with your meager knowledge. Are alchemists not allowed to be at the spring solidifying realm?"

"Of course they can, but the alchemists at the spring solidifying realm all managed to get there thanks to pills and medicines," retorted Alex arrogantly. "They wouldn't be able to stand up against any actual attacks!"

Chapter 2573

Alex did not stop as he continued, his anger breaching its threshold, "They need decades before they can reach the spring solidifying realm. I can't see through your strength, but I can tell how old you are. At your age, it's already impressive if you're at the early stage of the innate level!"

Everything Jack had said felt like a direct slap to the face, thus fueling his rage.

Alex was so talented that he had always been showered with praise, and even those who did not praise him for his talent would still treat him respectfully. They would never speak to him like Jack did.

Alex took a deep breath. "You rascal! This is the first time I've ever seen someone who dared talk to me like this. You genuinely don't know your place! Don't think you can stand up to me just because you're an alchemist?"

"Alchemists are just a group of useful people. Since you insist on being obstinate, I'll show you hell!"

Jack raised an eyebrow, his expression as passive as ever. "I've never felt like being an alchemist was a particularly noble profession.

"You were the one who started the challenge, and I countered it. If you feel like I bullied you because of that, then I don't know how you even comprehend things!"

The highly regarded or talented people Jack had met always had one thing in common: arrogance. They always believed everything should be handed to them on a silver platter.

If others did not give in to them, they would think that others were bullying them because they looked down on them. Those warriors who were average in talent would always try to avoid any trouble and not fight against them.

However, Jack was not someone like that. As long as someone caused him trouble, he would retaliate with a force much stronger. After all, he knew that the other party would keep pushing his buttons if he remained passive.

Jack's words completely stumped Alex.

Despite everything that happened, Jack was right. It was Alex who insisted on cutting the queue after entering the grotto. Jack just did not want to give it to him.

That was how simple everything was.

The white-haired man merely sat on the mat and looked on at the scene. Earlier, Jack had said some harsh words that had angered him, but that anger had dissipated at this point when Jack lambasted Alex and said the things he had been holding to himself for many years. Alex had always stood above them because of his talent, and he would always ignore others with everything he did.

He had experienced this before, much like how Alex aggressively approached Jack. Even after obtaining something noteworthy, Alex mercilessly snatched it, and this had frustrated him for a long time.

With how Alex was suffering at that moment, he could no longer hold back his smile.

The men next to the white-haired man all opened their eyes as well. They stopped trying to absorb the soul crystals as they looked on at the commotion caused by the two of them.

"Break! Break for me!" Buck Tooth's sudden shout attracted everyone's attention.

At that moment, Buck Tooth was already at the brink of exhaustion. He constantly formed seal after seal as the black ax in the air constantly slashed at the soul crystal.

Chapter 2574

Nonetheless, the soul crystal's outer shell was tough beyond comparison, so much so that it showed no signs of breaking even after Buck Tooth assailed it with his ax. Even

Francis had put in so much work to obtain his soul crystal, but at least he showed progress.

Buck Tooth's skills were no match for Francis, alas. Even after toiling for so long, nothing happened at all!

After frantically doing all he could, Buck Tooth's true energy was completely exhausted.

He had no way of continuing. All he could do was stop before he collapsed on the ground and panted heavily. His head was completely wet in sweat.

Buck Tooth's eyes were bloodshot; he seemed to have suffered a tremendous impact. He could not say anything for a long time, but everyone around him did not seem to pay much attention. All of them merely shook their heads silently and lamented Buck Tooth's stubbornness.

He had made an empty trip this time and everyone had advised him to not aim too greatly in case he ended up with nothing, yet Buck Tooth had thought that he would be able to compete with Francis and chose a crystal about the size of Francis'.

Other than Alex, everyone sympathized with Buck Tooth. No one tried to mock him or agitate him, seeing how devastated he was. It was as if he had completely failed at everything in life.

Alex, however, was not so kind.

Alex had no way to vent his anger at that moment and merely grunted when he saw Buck Tooth. After that, he amusedly remarked, "I told you that you wouldn't be able to shatter the soul crystal, but you refused to believe me. Now, it slaps you right in the face. If you don't have the skill, then you don't have the skill. Aren't you too fragile if you can't even accept that?"

Buck Tooth's face soured at those words. Jack even felt like Buck Tooth could even die at that moment.

Jack frowned as he glanced at Alex, who seemed incredibly pleased with himself.

Jack felt like Alex's mockery of Buck Tooth would not be limited to just that. Alex would definitely thoroughly embarrass Buck Tooth before he could feel good about himself.

The moment Alex tried to continue, Jack suddenly turned to tell Buck Tooth, "It's alright, just take this as a lesson. Head back in to rest for now. You might be able to get this soul crystal next time."

Buck Tooth looked up at Jack strangely. He never expected Jack's consolation would even cure him of the awkwardness.

Buck Tooth nodded before he struggled to get up. He sat on a mat behind as he started to rest.

Alex's face darkened. "You're really not going to give in?"

Jack could not be bothered to continue with Alex. "If you want to use force to solve the matter, then let's fight right now. Otherwise, just shut your mouth. Why would I give you my spot?"

Not wasting any more time, Jack walked toward the edge of the cliff.

Alex wanted to say something to defend himself at that moment. Even though he did have an urgent matter to attend to, it was not something as pressing as he made it.

He had held onto his earlier position and still wanted Jack to give his spot; it was merely to save some face. However, Jack did not seem to care about him at all as Jack remained unmoved, not giving way.

He raised his head and looked at the soul crystals that danced in the air, earnestly looking for his gold. The other two before him had already given him a great indication.

He estimated that he could handle most of the soul crystals.

Chapter 2575

Alex crossed his arms as he coldly stared at Jack's back. "Since you're so stubborn, let's see if you can get even the smallest of all the soul crystals there.

"I've never seen an early innate level trash get a soul crystal my whole time here!"

Alex's words were incredibly harsh to the ear, but Jack no longer cared about him. He focused all his attention on those soul crystals that floated in the air.

Jack's actions from before attracted the attention of everyone present. Even Francis had temporarily stopped absorbing the soul crystal in his hand to look at Jack in earnest.

They were curious to see if Jack's gallantness was backed with actual strength. Even though no one there thought that Jack was already at the spring solidifying realm, they still wanted to see what level Jack was at.

Jack took a deep breath as gray seals started to condense between his constantly moving hands. Soul Swords the size of a palm started to form before him as they slowly moved into a formation that not many present could understand.

In a flash, 60 Soul Swords were condensed. Everyone stared in bewilderment as Jack merged the 60 swords into one large one.

The moment the Soul Sword formed, Jack widened his eyes abruptly. He immediately found his target as he pointed forward to a large soul crystal he had seized mid-air, and the soul crystal was even bigger than the one Francis had earlier.

After Jack determined his target and stabilized the position of that soul crystal, everyone was stunned.

That soul crystal was even bigger than the one Francis had before. Jack had determined his target. After he locked onto that soul crystal, everyone was stunned. They did not understand what Jack was thinking. Was the guy just crazy, or was there something wrong with his head? That soul crystal he aimed for was notably large! How could an alchemist like Jack break it so easily?

Francis froze as he looked at the soul crystal he had in hand. Compared to the one Jack had locked on to, he was sure that Jack's was larger than the one he had!

It was about 20 percent larger!

"Are you that confident in yourself? Are you just showing off? Do you think that we'd think you're at the spring solidifying realm just by picking such a large soul crystal and launching a few fake attacks?" scoffed Alex, who still stood behind Jack.

At that moment, Alex no longer took Jack seriously. Earlier, he had thought that Jack was just overly proud and unwilling to fight too much with him, but it seemed like he had overestimated Jack.

Picking out such a large soul crystal must be for the purpose of putting on a mere show!

The more Alex thought about it, the more amused he became. Even the white-haired man and the others all looked at Jack with helpless and strange expressions.

"Are you trying to compete against me?" blurted Francis. "Why did you pick one bigger than mine?"

Francis had a point, the white-haired man thought to himself. Jack must have chosen such a large one for the sake of crystal all for the sake of wanting to leave an impression.

On the other hand, Buck Tooth looked at Jack sympathetically. He wanted to tell Jack to not exert so much effort to show off. It was more important to reap genuine benefits.

Chapter 2576

Regardless of the annoyance, Jack closed himself off from what the others behind him were saying. He concentrated solely on his hands and pressed onward.

The soul sword swung forth and, following the sound of a gust, aimed straight for the soul crystal!

An upper ultimate god rank technique was not something an earth rank technique could ever compete with. On top of that, Jack was already at the second stage of Destroying the Void and was not far away from the third.

A massive Soul Sword composed of 60 Soul Swords rammed into the outer shell of the soul crystal with an unrivaled force. Soon after, the unmistakable sound of something cracking could be heard as everyone witnessed the soul crystal's shell starting to shatter.

The cracks spread across the soul crystal's surface, and not a minute later, the outer shell fell apart, and a golden bright light revealed itself, to everyone's obvious surprise.

Everyone gaped at Jack as they inhaled sharply, while Alex was rendered utterly speechless.

His jaw hung low as he stared dumbfoundedly at the soul crystal which already had its shell shattered. With a wave of Jack's hand, the soul crystal was summoned onto his hand, and a cold sensation greeted his palm.

The soul crystal had a vibrant golden yellow glow after it shed its outer shell. It looked like a gold piece that glinted under the sun, and Jack could not even fully hold it in one hand. Thus, he reached out his other hand and held it with both.

He tried lifting the crystal that pulsed with energy a little and found it was rather heavier than he thought it would be.

The crystal was nothing short of wonder.

Jack did not know how much his skills would increase after absorbing it. He furrowed his eyebrows as he looked up at the other soul crystals-about 300 of them -still afloat in the air.

"This is too small," lamented Jack as he sighed.

The dark aura behind him intensified soon after, but Jack was not tooting his horn whatsoever; he was just truthfully speaking his mind.

He never expected the outer shell of the soul crystal to be so easily shattered after he used his full strength. The shell was something that could withstand a lot of punishment. It meant that he could actually have challenged an even larger soul crystal.

In the end, Jack had been too careful. He knew that he was stronger than everyone present, but he did not know how greater in strength that meant.

To prevent something like what had happened to Buck Tooth from happening, he had chosen one which he was more sure of. However, he never expected to manage to get the soul crystal so easily, and while it surprised Jack, he could not help the regret that bothered him.

"Who are you?!" demanded Alex, who stood behind Jack.

Jack raised an eyebrow, not even bothering to turn his head around as he responded, "Does it matter who I am? I've told you before to not judge others with your narrow eyes. You can't tell how strong I am because you are not strong enough to!"

If Alex was at the divine solidifying realm, he would have been able to see through Jack's strength even if Jack had deliberately left behind some injuries. In the eyes of the strong, there were no lies.

His words had not been meant to deliberately insult Alex, but Alex's expression changed the moment he heard Jack's remark.

Chapter 2577

"You deliberately toyed with me!" snarled Alex. "You're already at least at the middlestage of the spring solidifying realm, yet you hid your power to toy with me!"

Alex grew more infuriated as he recalled everything. Whatever he had said to Jack came back to bite him, and there was no way Alex could accept that.

He had never been so humiliated before.

Both his hands trembled slightly as he pointed at Jack. "You're despicable! You held back for so long just to make a joke out of me!"

Jack's lips twitched at Alex's words, and he could not help but wonder what went through his head. He did not think that way at all, yet this vermin managed to twist it around to fit his narrative.

It was as if he had deliberately hid his strength just to make a joke out of that guy!

Everyone around them started to look over at them.

Even though they did not say anything, it was obvious from their expressions that they agreed with what Alex said. They felt like Jack had deliberately hid his strength just to make a joke of Alex.

Jack took a deep breath as his lips curled up into a smirk. "Can you stop making such a big deal out of yourself? The reason I hadn't revealed my strength is that I've sustained a few internal injuries; you just don't have the skills to see through it.

"Do you think I would've even bothered talking to you if you hadn't run your mouth like that? You were the one making assumptions, saying that I was only at the early stage of the innate realm. I've never said that my strength is already at the spring solidifying realm. I never spoke about it before merely because I couldn't be bothered talking to you!"

Not bothering to spare Alex another glance, Jack immediately made his way to the mats ahead, planning on absorbing the soul crystal on the spot. Nonetheless, he was not sure if he could finish absorbing it that day.

Alex was rooted on the spot. The expression on his face was quite interesting as it constantly changed. Meanwhile, the whitehaired man and the others who sneered and threw jokes stared curiously at Jack in a new light.

The white-haired man was a huge gossip. The others were able to hold back, but he was not able to stop himself for that long.

He coughed lightly before he said in an earnest tone, "Are you really an alchemist?"

Jack frowned. "Isn't that obvious? Do you think I stole these alchemist robes?"

Those words stumped the white-haired man for a good moment. The white-haired man's face froze as his lips twitched helplessly, rather irked by Jack's straightforwardness, but he no longer dared to test Jack's patience.

After all, Jack was someone who seemed to have talent in martial arts and was proficient at alchemy. He could not offend someone like that.

Jack was a true prodigy. The white-haired man had also been a prodigy where he came from, but Phoenix Valley was a place where geniuses gathered. He was no longer that special after he arrived here, and he had learned to reign his pompous self.

"I've just never seen an alchemist who is talented in martial arts as well. After all, we all know that people who were good at

martial arts would typically never choose to be an alchemist.

"Having the skills to fight is the most important thing. Alchemists are respected, but it's not an easy path to walk. They need to spend a lot of time on alchemy and might not even be rewarded for their efforts."

Chapter 2578

The white-haired man's words reflected how inquisitive and solemn he was. He truly wondered why Jack would choose to be an alchemist if he was talented enough to break through to the spring solidifying realm at his age. After all, the white-haired man felt like it was not an easy path to take.

Alchemists were no doubt respected, but the path was fraught with various difficulties. It was much more difficult to tread than the path of martial arts.

Some alchemists were never able to even become seventh-grade alchemists for their entire lives, thus practicing martial arts were worth it all as compared to alchemy. That was one of the reasons why high-level alchemists were so rare.

Jack stared at the white-haired man. There had been some things he had not been planning to say, but the white-haired man did not seem willing to relent at all, so he felt like he had to explain.

"I never gave up on either side. Otherwise, I would never have come to Soul Grotto."

The white-haired man's lips froze before he asked again, "I still don't understand. The path of being an alchemist seems really hard to me."

"If you want to become a high-level alchemist, expect to be spending loads of time and resources. You won't just need to be incredibly familiar with knowledge of the various materials; you'll also need to constantly refine pills."

The white-haired man knew quite a few alchemists, which was why he knew how much effort and resources were needed to become a successful alchemist. After all, refining a pill was not something easy.

One needed to go through hundreds of failures before being able to succeed, and increasing one's proficiency as an alchemist was even harder. He had many friends that were stuck at the sixth-grade level, even after over ten years of practice. Becoming a seventh-grade alchemist seemed like an impossible goal to them.

Even in Phoenix Valley, seventh-grade alchemists were incredibly well-respected. After all, seventh-grade alchemists were not easy to find.

Jack's lips twitched in exasperation. Thinking deeper into this, he knew why the white-haired man was so shocked.

After all, the fact that he had arrived at this stage was not because of any amazing talents; it was because he had fused with memories from past warriors. Things that many people needed tremendous amounts of time to understand came easy to Jack.

He never needed to spend hours working on this.

Jack turned toward the white-haired man and, with formalcy, replied, "With enough talent, you'll never need to give up one for the sake of the other."

Even though there was a hint of self-praise there, it was the only way to explain what Jack was going through. When the whitehaired man heard this, however, his face soured.

The white-haired man felt like he was trash compared to Jack. Not only was Jack already accomplished as an alchemist, but he was no worse as a warrior as well. Compared to that, he was not even that spectacular when it came to being a warrior.

It was incredibly infuriating comparing himself to others.

Francis looked at Jack in envy. "Geniuses exist just to infuriate us commoners. I have nothing to say about the fact that you can be both altogether."

Everyone nodded at Francis' words. They had never heard of someone who could get everything like Jack.

"Who are you?! Answer my question!" Alex's shout was heard once again.

Jack furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at Alex unpleasantly. He had not wanted to get into a conflict with that guy. True, they had an argument, but it was nothing major.

As long as Alex could shut his mouth, he could not be bothered about the guy. It was just his luck that Alex would hound after him in such a bitter manner.

Chapter 2579

Jack raised an eyebrow at Alex. "Are you deaf? Did you not hear what I said to you? What does who I am have to do with you?"

Alex's eyes reddened as Jack's words assailed his ears. With that, he marched toward Jack and walked right up to him.

That stance made the white-haired man step back in fright. He was afraid that Alex would not be able to hold back from attacking Jack right then and there, and he did not want to be involved whatsoever.

Thankfully, Alex's last shred of reason managed to stop him from doing that. He merely looked at Jack with a look that showed just how unhinged he was, like he nearly broke mentally. He looked like he wanted nothing more than to see past Jack's skin and into his inner thoughts.

Jack, on the other hand, stood perfectly still with a frown on his face. He watched as Alex stormed right before him and quietly anticipated his next move.

What shocked Jack was the fact that Alex actually turned and headed out of the cave after a while. Jack stared as Alex's figure faded from view.

Alex seemed like he had gone crazy. Alex looked like he had made up his mind right before he turned and walked away.

"That terrified me," spoke the whitehaired man, sounding evidently nervous. "I thought Alex would just come up and beat you without regard to the punishment!"

Jack frowned. His mind paused at the image of how resolved Alex had looked right before he stopped. That guy had clearly made up his mind about something, and Jack just did not know what it was.

He let out a sigh before he said, "Things would be much easier if he had just attacked me. It would've proven that he's just a mindless idiot. The fact that he managed to hold back means he's still somewhat intelligent."

The ones on the mats exchanged looks with each other. They had witnessed everything that happened, and from their expressions, everyone had also realized that Alex turning around like that was not because Alex had no answer to everything and left in defeat.

Alex must have had a plan.

Jack raised an eyebrow before he wiped away all these irrelevant thoughts. All he wanted to do was to absorb the soul crystal and increase his strength, and only by becoming stronger would things be easier for him.

He would not have to worry about being stopped by others.

Jack shut his eyes before he placed his hand on the soul crystal. A suction power came from his hand as the power of the soul crystal started to surge into Jack's body.

A surge of pure soul energy spread across Jack's entire being after he absorbed it. His hands constantly moved as they formed seal after seal. The powers of Destroying the Void revolved around Jack for a few times before he started to condense Soul Swords once.

He did not know how many Soul Swords he could form in a day or how long he needed to completely absorb the soul crystal. Nonetheless, Jack did not bother thinking about any of that at that moment.

The dense spiritual energy constantly moved within Jack's body. It was as if Jack had seen a bottomless barrel as he constantly absorbed the soul crystal.

After ten hours, 70 Soul Swords were neatly placed in front of Jack. A crack was heard before the radiant golden light of the soul crystal started to disappear.

Chapter 2580

After all its powers had been absorbed, the soul crystal lost all its support and fell apart like a rock by the road, crumbling into dust in Jack's palm.

Jack let out a deep sigh before he opened his eyes and looked down at the powdered soul crystal. An elated expression overtook his expression as he noted the 70 Soul Swords he had successfully condensed.

So long as he toiled, condensing 100 Soul Swords was only a matter of time. As long as he managed that, he would have officially mastered Destroying the Void.

Only then would Destroying the Void show its true power, and he truly wanted to see what an upper ultimate god rank technique could actually do!

"Congratulations, you've improved," came the white-haired man's voice.

Jack raised an eyebrow. He had thought that the man would have left as he was absorbing the soul crystal. He was shocked to notice that, when he looked up, not a single person had left other than Alex.

Everyone had been observing him and wide-eyed at that, as though they were staring at a rare creature.

Jack's lips twitched helplessly. Did they have to stare at him so oddly like that?

The white-haired man took a deep breath before he summoned his courage. "What level is that technique of yours? Why can't I see through it at all? I feel like the energy fluctuations aren't that big.

"You used this technique to shatter the outer shell of the soul crystal earlier. It was incredibly strong, but why are the energy fluctuations so mellowed? I really don't understand."

Ultimate god level techniques all shared that unique trait. The calmer their energy fluctuation, the more powerful they were. Of course, Jack was not about to explain all of that; no one would believe it if he did.

Ultimate god level techniques were not something just anyone could learn. Unless Jack was already at the divine solidifying realm, no one would believe him at all. Since that was the case, he could not be bothered explaining.

He sighed. "The technique I have is unique in this way. You can stop speculating about it."

Jack then stood up from the mat and looked over at the soul crystals that were still dancing around in the Grotto. He promised himself that he would get the biggest one in a month's time.

When the white-haired man noticed that Jack was about to leave, he immediately stood up. He could have left Soul Grotto long ago, but he intentionally waited longer due to the questions that plagued him greatly. He wanted to wait for Jack to finish his training before asking about everything.

He never expected that Jack would not be bothered to explain at all.

The white-haired man chased after Jack. "Surely your technique isn't an upper earth rank technique?"

Jack sported a small smile when he heard that but did not answer the white-haired man, merely continuing to walk forward. The moment he walked out of the transfer array to where the alchemists were, he immediately noticed Rudy right beside the array.

Jack frowned. Whenever he saw Rudy, he would think of Grayson, and those chaotic thoughts would immediately surface in his mind. He did not know what Grayson's situation was at that moment nor did he know why they took Grayson.

When Rudy saw the transfer array lighting up, he widened his eyes. He excitedly looked at the transfer array, and when Jack's figure appeared, he rushed right over.