

## Chapter 2591

Jack's words had stunned Michael. He never expected Jack to manage to guess who had sent him so easily.

However, it was fine even if Jack had managed to guess it. Jack was already dead meat in Michael's eyes. All he needed was one hand to kill Jack. There was no way Jack would be able to survive.

It would be fine even if he revealed the full

truth to Jack.

Michael nodded, "You're not just composed, you're quite smart as well. I heard you're quite talented in alchemy. It's just a pity that you offended someone you shouldn't have.

"Some people really don't treasure their lives, offending everyone around. The two of you deserve this consequence."

Jack let out a cold grunt. He had been right, the two of them had refused to relent. However, they were not that dumb for managing to craft this plan to kill him.

If he was the person they thought he was, the plan would have been a success. After all, Holy Cloud Mountain was an incredibly big place. It was an amazing place to kill someone.

The person who was taking action would not be Harold or Johnson either. The two of them would be far away, which would be shown on their identification badges. They would not be at the same place with Jack at all, so even if Jack died, it would have nothing to do with them.

Thinking about that, Jack suddenly smiled, "The first time we met, I actually thought that Harold's mind was empty. Now it seems like he's not that stupid. The plan is actually quite good..."

Michael could not help but frown at those words. He felt like Jack seemed to have a very strange expression. Jack seems to be too calm as if Michael was not a threat at all.

Michael found that very strange. Could he be looking down on his strength? The person behind Jack was clearly so scared. That his whole body was shaking, completely frozen by him.

Yet, how was Jack so calm? Jack was so calm that Michael frowned at how strange it was.

"Don't think that I'll be afraid of you just because you seem so calm. You might be alchemists that are respected among warriors, but in terms of combat, you're all useless. I can kill you with one hand."

Jack merely smiled as he said nothing. If it was anyone else, those words would be true. Michael's frown deepened. After all, Jack was acting very strange. Could that guy be crazy?

He walked forward and pointed to himself,  
"Can you not see how strong I am?"

Jack nodded as he answered calmly, "Of course, I can. You're at the early stage of the spring solidifying realm. I estimate that you should be at least among the top one hundred among the inner disciples."

Michael felt even weirder at Jack's words. Jack's eyes were really sharp as his judgment had been right. Michael was not just in the first hundred, he was among the top fifty disciples.

Even though he was not among the strongest, he definitely was no weakling. As long as he worked hard, he would be a chosen disciple eventually.

Since Jack could tell what his strength was, Jack should also be able to tell that he was also skilled. How was Jack still able to maintain that expression? Jack let out a sigh as he took out a black sword from his storage space.

He aimed the sword right at Michael's forehead and said, "If you want to kill me, then come."

## Chapter 2592

Jack spoke in a clear and resolved tone. It stunned Michael, who was standing in front of him. Even his eyes threatened to pop out of their sockets. After a long time, he answered, "Are you crazy?"

Jack lightly snorted, "I won't harm those who don't harm me first. You brought this onto yourself today."

Jack's words caused Michael to laugh. He laughed as he took out his weapon, "There are strange things every year. There are especially many this year. Have you really gone crazy? Do you think you can deal with me at your level?"

"Even though I can't tell how strong you are now, do you really think I'd be afraid of an alchemist trying to pretend to be strong in front of me?"

After saying that, Michael's cold smile intensified. Jack's calm demeanor was just smoke and mirrors. He was just an alchemist, how could Jack possibly hope to defeat Michael?

Jack was just trying to fool Michael with all those words. Michael assumed that Jack wanted him to think that Jack was strong so he would hesitate to make a move against Jack. Jack would then try to leave the place...

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With that in mind, Michael looked at Jack in disdain. He had thought that Jack really was brave, but it had just been a petty scheme. He had been distracted by Jack's expression and thought that Jack was actually skilled.

Michael let out a laugh, "Don't think you can fool me by acting like this. I've seen so many people on this journey to becoming a warrior. Which type of people have I not met before?"

"There are plenty who only know how to use petty ploys like you. I'll never let you leave this place alive!"

Michael practically shouted out those words. His face was incredibly resolved as if he was a god that was determining the life and death of others. It greatly amused Jack.

Jack coldly laughed, not wanting to talk to Michael anymore. He lightly raised the sword in his hand as runes started to dance around his fingers. Seventy Soul Swords condensed in front of him in the flash of an eye.

Jack reached out to the Soul Swords like a general summoning his troops, they flew and merged into Jack's blade incredibly quickly, enveloping Jack's sword in a dark black glow.

At that moment, Jack showed no emotion

on his face. His aura felt like he could suppress everything in the world. Looking at Jack, Michael could not help but frown, suddenly having an unsettling feeling in his heart.

He had clearly not felt any large energy fluctuations from Jack, and the martial skill Jack had just displayed was nothing particularly eye-catching, yet Michael could not help but panic.

It was as if the person in front of him was not an early innate realm little ant, but an unrivaled warrior. Michael shook his head vigorously, throwing aside the fear he had felt in his heart.

As a warrior, he could not afford to feel fear. The moment he had that feeling in his heart, he would lose the determination to fight and might even lose the battle because of it.

Even though he did not think that he would lose to an alchemist, the habits of a warrior forced him to calm down. Michael took a few deep breaths as he clenched the sword in his hand tightly. After making the mental preparations, he looked up, "Don't think that I'll be afraid of you just because of your empty actions!"

## Chapter 2593

Michael stepped forward and shot at Jack like a bullet. He seemed like a fire god in the air as his whole body started to be enveloped in flame. The sword in his hand seemed to be covered in lava as an intense heat suddenly filled the air.

Rudy, who was standing behind Jack, was already suffering from so much heat that he could not open his eyes. His skin felt like it was being burnt as he wailed, "It's so hot! I'm dying from the heat!"

Jack sighed helplessly as he grabbed Rudy's arm. He activated his true energy as he pushed Rudy away. Before Rudy could even finish crying out, he was already pushed away by Jack.

In a fight at that level, Rudy was basically cannon fodder. There was no way Rudy would survive the battle.

Jack faced the flames that covered every inch of space with a cold expression and sword in his hand, his whole body was completely covered by a gray glow.

Michael was surrounded by an intense light as he brought his flames forward. Even with how bright he was, there was no way for him to pierce through the darkness around Jack. At that moment, Jack was like a vortex of darkness that did not allow a shred of light in.

After Michael displayed his martial skill, Jack had immediately seen through his rank. It was a middle earth rank technique. The guy should only have mastered the first stage and was still far from mastery.

Jack let out a cold laugh. When the flames surged forward, he launched himself forward as well. He headed right to the flames as Jack held his sword with both hands, slashing right at the light.

The power of Destroying the Void turned into a pitch-black slash. It clashed with the sea of flames. Compared to the overwhelming sea of flames, the black glow seemed minuscule.

Yet, when the two of them clashed together, the black glow suddenly seemed to gain a power it did not have before and cut a hole in the sea of flames.

Jack had always known how to use the laws of space. When he used Destroying the Void, he applied the laws of space to it as well. The slash that was condensed from Destroying the Void arrived in front of Michael in a flash thanks to the help of the laws of space.

It had arrived in front of Michael in less than a blink of an eye. Everything had happened far too quickly. He had thought that a small slash would definitely not match up to his sea of flames.

Yet, Jack's skill which did not seem to have many energy fluctuations had easily pierced through his flames. It arrived in front of him incredibly quickly!

"How is it so fast?!" Michael cried out.

It was already too late to say anything by then. Michael had yet to recover from using his power, and the sword he held was unable to shield him from everything. With a slash, the black aura pierced into Michael's chest.

Jack had controlled the slash incredibly precisely. It had hit Michael's chest but had not hit his heart. Michael's wails of pain could be heard in the air as he collapsed and struggled on the ground.

He had fallen to the ground with a crash. Thankfully, he had already trained for many years, and his body had already been refined. Even if he fell from a high place, he had not sustained any heavy injuries.

The slash on his chest instead caused him to lose all his strength. "Ah... it's so painful!" Michael wailed hoarsely.

## Chapter 2594

The pain felt from a soul being torn apart could even destroy a man with incredible willpower. Many warriors who thought they were of strong will had all been unable to withstand the test of having their souls damaged.

Michael, who had been so arrogant before, was rolling on the floor like a wet dog. At that moment, Michael could not be bothered with his reputation and honor. The pain from his soul being torn caused him to feel pain even when he panted.

Rudy hurriedly scurried over. Thankfully, Jack had held back when he threw him away, so he was not injured. After crawling back and seeing that scene, he did not know what else to say.

Michael did not look like a warrior at all at that point. He merely looked like a crazed man who had not showered in years. Rudy's lips stiffened as he looked up at Jack.

Jack merely stared coldly at Michael as expressionless as usual. His expression did not seem to change at all, causing Rudy to start to feel confident.

"Is it really that painful?" Rudy mumbled to himself.

Jack grunted, "Why don't you try it out yourself? As long as you try it, you'll realize how painful having your soul torn apart can be."

Rudy frantically shook his head when he heard that. Even though he had asked that question, it was obvious how painful and torturous having one soul torn apart like that was from how much Michael was struggling on the ground.

Michael had seen so prideful when he showed off in front of them earlier, but he was already reduced to that state. Rudy could not help but sighed.

"Save me! I don't dare anymore! You're amazing! I went against the wrong person! I'm begging you, let me go!" Michael started to shout out.

At that moment, he was already mentally drained from the torture and had lost his sense of reasoning. He could no longer hold on.

Jack raised an eyebrow and remained unmoving. His face was emotionless as well. Jack was like a spectator, quietly watching Michael suffer.

Michael's face was full of sweat thanks to the pain. He tried to move toward Jack, and grab Jack's clothes. It was as if that was the only way he would have any hope.

"Let me go! I have no grudges against you. The one who wants to kill you is Harold. He was the one who wanted to use me to kill you. It has nothing to do with me, I'm just a hired hand!"

Those words caused Jack to laugh. Even his shoulders started to move as he laughed. He kept the sword in his hand as he said, "Don't you think it's hilarious? It has nothing to do with you? Are you telling me you came here to befriend me instead of killing me?!"

That was one of the funniest things Jack had heard in his many years alive. In order to clear himself, Michael seemed willing to say anything. He even tried to convince him. Jack that this matter had nothing to do with him. He was merely just helping someone eliminate a person for money.

Michael looked up and said, "I'm just a killer that's being used. I have no grudges against you. You don't have to kill me. It will be useful to you to keep me alive. Once we go back, I'll be your witness and help locate the person who wanted to kill you. He will definitely suffer a heavy punishment then!"

Michael tried to beg Jack, looking at Jack like Jack was his savior.

## Chapter 2595

Jack smirked as he said, "You're quite smart, aren't you? You're throwing away all responsibility and acting like you're the victim. Do you think I'm dumb?"

"You talk as if this has nothing to do with you at all. If my skills were weaker than yours and I was the one on the ground, would you let me off if I begged for mercy like you did?"

That word rendered Michael speechless. The truth was just that simple. If Jack was the one on the ground begging Michael for mercy, Michael would probably have never even blinked an eye before killing Jack.

Jack would have been killed on the spot. Since that was the case, why would Jack let Michael off? Rudy coldly snorted as he said to Michael, "If you hadn't treated us like idiots, or if Jack wasn't strong enough, the two of us would be trapped still trying to speak about justice right now? You're absolutely shameless!"

Michael frantically struggled as he pursed his lips and said, "You still can't kill me! I'm useful to you. If you let me go, I assure you that I'll help you deal with Harold!"

Jack let out a laugh as he looked on at Michael swearing that he would definitely help Jack. The oath had zero trustworthiness in Jack's eyes, which made Jack's disdain more apparent.

Michael continued to frantically try to save himself, "I definitely held back just now! I was worried that Harold would kill me off to shut me up about the murder after I kill you. As long as you let me off, I'll definitely make Harold pay!"

Jack narrowed his eyebrows as he nodded at Michael. Seeing Jack's nod, Michael excitedly struggled a few times. Even though his soul was still in constant pain, Jack still nodded. It meant he still had a

The next second, Michael felt a chill on his neck. Red blood started to flow out, staining his whole face. At that moment, Michael did not even have the chance to react. All he could do was reach out his hand to cover his neck.

He looked at Jack in confusion. When he saw the dagger in Jack's hand, Michael started to panic. The panic did not last that long before he completely stopped breathing. He lay on the floor, motionless.

Jack sheathed his weapon and stood up straight as he said calmly, "If I had let you off, you'd be a dog that could come back to bite me at any moment. How could I let you live?"

Rudy was stunned at how decisive Jack was. He immediately asked, "This guy is still someone valuable, why did you just kill him?"

Jack lightly grunted, "Where do you think his value lies?"

"He can help us be a witness against Harold. Without his words, we won't have any direct evidence to prove that Harold had sent someone to kill us. Without proof, we can't possibly accuse Harold of anything."

Jack nodded slowly, "You might be right, but that guy was not someone we could afford to not be worried about. If we let him go it would be like releasing a ticking time bomb. He could come back and bite us at any moment.

"He swore away to us that he would definitely help us accuse Harold. However, don't forget that accusing Harold of anything would directly mean confirming his own crime. Do you think he would be able to escape that?"

"Being used by someone to kill an alchemist that Phoenix Valley was painstakingly cultivating. If his crime was established, he would definitely be kicked out of Phoenix Valley. Do you think he would be willing to pay such a big price?"

## Chapter 2596

Jack's words stunned Rudy once again. After a long time, Rudy nodded and said, "You're right, if he accuses Harold of anything, he would be implicating himself. He would definitely be punished. If we let him go, we've lost any control over him. He can do whatever he wants, so why would he pay such a large price to accuse "

Harold...

Jack nodded as he looked at Rudy as if Rudy had finally learned something, "It's good that you understand that. That's why it was pointless to listen to those dumb claims from the guy. He had to die today. I won't relax unless a rabid dog like that dies by my own hands."

Rudy nodded with a frown, "I'm still not happy about it. Are we just going to ignore what happened today? Are we just going to let go of the fact that Harold hired an assassin to kill us?"

Rudy said all of that through clenched teeth. If Jack had not been strong enough, the two of them would not be able to walk out of Holy Cloud Mountain alive. Rudy was furious just thinking about it, unwilling to let go of such an incident.

Jack raised an eyebrow, "Don't worry. Since he dared to do something like that, he'll naturally have to bear the consequences. It's not like you didn't hear what that person said earlier.



"He'd done something to stop himself from being killed off and silenced after the fact. We don't know what he did, but something will happen later on."

Rudy frowned, shaking his head and not really agreeing to it, "Who knows what he did? What if he was lying? After all, he didn't really say anything. You should probably have killed him later so we can ask what exactly it was that he did. We'd at least be prepared for it."

Jack let out a light smile as he looked over at the dense forest. In front of them was a winding road, and other than the leaves and grass, they could not see anything else.

Everything around him was green. Jack paused for a long time before he said, "There are some things that we don't have to do anything about for the results to end up the way we want them to. Don't panic."

Before the third evening, Harold was frowning intensely. It was only four hours away from when they needed to go back to the transfer array. He was plucking some White Phoenix fruits while he thought about something.

Johnson had been with him the whole time. The moment he saw Harold's expression, he knew what Harold was worried about. Johnson hurriedly walked up to Harold and grabbed the White Phoenix Fruit away.

"Stop squeezing it, it will be useless if you squeeze it any longer. Didn't you tell me not to let my thoughts wander? So why are you being so worried now?"

Harold sighed as he looked into the distance and said, "Michael agreed to meet me hereafter everything was done. We'd then give him the final sum.

"We've already waited for three days, but he's still not here yet. If nothing happened, then he probably changed his mind."

Johnson sighed helplessly. He did not want to vent at that moment, because if he did, their mood would absolutely plummet. They might even start panicking and end up unable to react to anything.

They had been taking a huge risk the whole time anyway. If anyone knew what they did, they would definitely be dragged to the Elder Hall and be investigated by all the higher-ups.

The crime of trying to kill another alchemist was something the two of them could not bear. Even if they had someone to back them up, there was no way they could be protected. After all, that act was far too evil.

Johnson reached out and patted Harold on the arm before saying, "There's no reason to doubt Michael's skills, so he must have changed his mind. I just wonder why he suddenly changed his mind. Could he think that killing Jack would be incredibly troublesome?"

Harold shook his head, looked at Johnson seriously, and replied, "It's not the first time Michael has done a deal like this. I looked for him precisely because he's experienced with these things.

"The person who recommended him has used him before. Michael is very trustworthy, and he's intelligent as well. He does things cleanly and has never leaked out any information."

Johnson raised an eyebrow, "If that's the case, we don't have to be too worried. At the very least, Michael is someone who knows what to do. Even though he isn't here for some reason, he was probably held up by something. He probably found some incredibly valuable material..."

Harold shook his head and replied, "I'd be even more worried if that was the case. Michael is quite poor. The fact that he does all of this means he lacks resources and spirit crystals.

"That's more reason for him to be here on time. The fact that he is not here just means that something must have happened. I wonder if that guy is dead or not!"

As he said that, Harold clenched his fists tightly. He was most worried about whether Jack was still alive. He would be even more frustrated if that was the case.

Just thinking about Jack's face made him want to send a few slaps at Jack. He still vividly remembered how he was humiliated in the Elder Hall. In the task hall, Jack had not given way to him and had even embarrassed him in front of everyone.

In the Elder Hall, Jack had deliberately humiliated him again. He had never been so embarrassed in his life. Jack was basically his arch-nemesis. He would absolutely not allow Jack to remain alive.

Johnson frowned. It was obvious how much Harold hated Jack from his expression. If Jack did not die, Harold might end up spitting blood in frustration.

He took a deep breath, thinking about it for a while before saying, "He must be dead. If Michael is really that trustworthy, then he must have had his eyes on Jack the

moment we stepped into this place. I feel like he must have encountered something else that would delay him from coming here after killing Jack. It's not that he did not kill Jack."

Harold nodded after a long while, "You're right. Michael is an incredibly trustworthy assassin. Could he have encountered some other danger or have been spotted by someone?"

Johnson shook his head, not daring to say his thoughts. Even if he said them, they would have no way to solve the problems anyway. He opened up Harold's hand and placed the White Phoenix Fruit back in Harold's palm.

"We're quite lucky this time. Not only did we get eighth-grade White Phoenix Fruits, but we also picked up Eighth-Grade Turtle Blood Grasses. If we redeem them at the task hall, they'd be worth quite a few spirit crystals. We profited quite a lot this time, so we should relax a bit.

## Chapter 2598

Hearing that, Harold's tense face eased up. The two of them did profit quite a bit this time. Eighth-grade materials might not be incredibly large fortunes to them, but it was still an unexpected windfall.

Eighth-grade materials were all incredibly expensive. They had even managed to pick two up. They were definitely much luckier than they had been in the past.

Johnson let out a cold laugh as he raised an eyebrow, "That group of guys must be incredibly happy. The two of us haven't looked for them because we have something on our minds. If it was before, everything good they got would be hours."

Harold nodded proudly, "They won't be so lucky next time."

As he said that, the identification badge suddenly glowed in red light. The red light was like a thin line, leading the way to a specific location. The two of them exchanged a look and nodded to each other at the sight.

When the red light started to glow, it meant the three days were already up. They needed to head back to the transfer array. Elder Eliot was incredibly strict. If they were late, they might very well be punished.

They did not dare to delay as they headed straight for the transfer array following the red light. After approximately four hours, they started to see the large transfer array.

There were around seventy to eighty people there when they arrived. Everyone had happy looks on their faces as they discussed their earnings.

When the two of them arrived near the transfer array, those more familiar with them greeted them while the unfamiliar ones looked at them warily, making some space for them.

Harold and Johnson calmly stood at the empty spot. Since they were more talented than others, the two of them regularly received special treatment, so they did not think anything was odd.

Elder Eliot leaned against a large tree. In his mouth was a small wooden stick that had appeared out of nowhere. He had an impatient look on his face.

Harold swept his gaze across everyone present. When he saw that Jack was not there, he let out a breath of relief as he relaxed slightly.

Even though it was still early, most of the alchemists were already gathered there. The fact that Jack was still not around meant that Jack must already be dead. The thought played around in his head, but Johnson looked at him with a concerned expression, "Harold... something's wrong."

Those words shook Harold's heart as he looked up abruptly and replied, "What's wrong? Can you please speak clearly? Are you trying to scare me by finishing your sentence?"

Johnson took a deep breath as he tried his best to calm himself down, "If Jack died, would Elder Eliot be so calm? Don't forget that the identification badge will alert him if anyone dies.

"Elder Eliot is leaning against the tree so casually, it's obvious that nothing happened. If something really bad happened, he would absolutely be on high alert!"

Those words shocked Harold as his eyes widened. Only then did he recall the key use of the identification badge. Johnson frowned, wanting to continue, but a familiar figure caught his eye.

He swallowed his words before he could speak as he turned around suddenly. He saw that Jack was slowly walking toward them, and behind Jack was his little follower.

## Chapter 2599

The two of them walked over slowly and seemed incredibly carefree. Jack's follower had somehow found himself a fan. The weather was not even that hot, but he still fanned himself as he walked, looking incredibly pleased.

It was not just Johnson who was speechless, even Harold looked like he had swallowed a few flies. He had an incredibly sour look on his face. Rudy almost let out a laugh when he saw their widened eyes.

He whispered to Jack, "It's just as we expected. Just look at their expressions, it's like their own fathers just died. This is hilarious."

Jack grunted lightly and nodded before whispering, "Control your emotions. We have to act like we don't know anything, and nothing had happened."

Rudy nodded seriously. The two of them had discussed things for a long time. The fact that Harold and Johnson dared to do that means that the two of them still had things up their sleeves.

Harold's face turned purple as he looked like he had seen a ghost. He looked on at Jack who was walking toward them and found himself struggling to even breathe.

Jack was not dead?! How could he not be dead? What was Michael doing? Did Michael really end up regretting things as they thought? Was that why he did not attack Jack?

However, Michael had never done something like that before. Michael had even killed people who were more talented than Jack before, so why did he not kill Jack? What happened?

Those thoughts floated around Harold's mind like huge waves. No matter how well Harold could control his emotions, he could no longer calm himself down. He really wanted to pull Michael over and properly ask him what had happened!

He had spent a lot of money to hire Michael. He had even bribed a steward so the steward would send Michael here ahead of time. Just setting up the proper connections had used up more than half a month of Harold's time.

Yet, Jack still stood there as if nothing had happened. It meant that all the hard work and money he had spent were all wasted. Looking at Jack's calm expression that seemed like nothing had happened, Harold was infuriated.

It was like a massive rock pressing down on his body. He could spit out a mouthful of blood and die at any moment! Johnson immediately knew that Harold was about to lose control of his expression.

He hurriedly grabbed Harold's arm and whispered, "Calm down. This is actually good news for us."

Harold turned around angrily when he heard that. His eyes widened as he replied, "Good news? How is it good news? Don't you see Jack standing right there, perfectly fine? He's standing there alive, but you say it's good news? Is something wrong with your head? Have you gone crazy?!"

Harold felt like he was about to be angered to death. His entire body was filled with anger. If he did not have a shred of reason left, he would have rushed right at Jack.

Johnson said helplessly, "It means that Michael did not attack him at all. Even though we don't know why he broke off the agreement, at least we're safe for the moment.

"Michael has a deal with us. If we sell him out, he won't be in a good position either. So even though he didn't complete the task, at least the information wasn't leaked out. We've definitely wasted our effort and resources, but at least we're safe."

## Chapter 2600

Harold knew that Johnson was right, but he could not control his composure at that moment. When he saw Jack standing there upright, Harold felt like his anger was about to boil over. He was struggling to even hold on.

He had no way to vent, so he was forced to target Johnson, "It's been so many years, but you haven't grown at all. All you know is to scheme and play it safe, but you've never learned that you need to move forward to accomplish great things. All you know is to be careful, but that means you won't have much of a future!"

Johnson's face stiffened when he heard that. He knew that Harold was just using him to vent and that he should swallow it, but those words really did especially frustrate Johnson.

Elder Eliot yawned a few times before he left the tree he was leaning against. He glanced at everyone present.

"You're all more or less here. There should still be three or four people lagging behind. I told you before that I don't have a good temper. The ones who are late won't just be scolded by me..."

The moment he said that a sharp cry could be heard from the forest. Everyone was shocked by the cry and looked toward where it came from.

Elder Eliot frowned as he took out his weapon from his spatial storage. Everyone was already incredibly anxious thanks to the cry, and Elder Eliot shouted out angrily, "Everyone gathers at the transfer array. Prepare to leave!"

After he shouted that, a green figure ran out of the forest. Elder Eliot looked at the person and immediately shouted, "White, what happened? Were you the one shouting earlier?!"

White nodded as he answered, running toward them, "There's a dead body! Half of the corpse was torn apart! It looks horrifying! The body is just right there, hurry up and take a look!"

"A dead body?" Elder Eliot frowned as he shouted out with a strange expression. The words had immediately triggered Elder Eliot to move.

He immediately pulled out a scroll and observed every name on it. The identification badges are connected directly to that scroll. As long as someone died, there would be an indication on the scroll.

The scroll was calm at that moment, there were no notifications. That meant that no one was dead, so White was just blindly shouting for no reason.

Elder Eliot looked up angrily and replied, "What are you shouting about? Who died? No one died!"

White pointed at where he had come from with an upset look and said, "There really is a corpse. You'll know if you just go and take a look!"

Elder Eliot frowned anxiously. It did not seem like White was lying. He sighed. Since White had said it that way, there was no reason not to bring everyone over.

Elder Eliot waved, and all of the alchemists present followed behind him and headed toward where White was pointing. It was about four hundred meters away from the transfer array, a mutilated corpse was lying among the grass.

There was a dense smell of blood around the area, and fresh blood stained the grass. It looks incredibly bloody and ghastly. White no longer needed to say anything, the scene had proven it.

Elder Eliot was stunned as the frown froze on his face. He reached out and pointed at that body with a trembling hand.

## Chapter 2601

"How could there be one more person?! Who is that? Does anyone know him? I don't think I've ever seen him before, so he shouldn't be part of Phoenix Valley. How did he appear here?!"

Elder Eliot could not help but ask a string of questions. No one present answered him. Other than the four present, who had strange expressions on their face, all of them looked at the corpse with shocking expressions.

Harold felt like he was about to go crazy. The rest of them did not recognize the corpse, but he could tell that it was Michael's corpse. Michael was dead while Jack was not. He was actually dead! What happened? How did things end up like that?!

Everything seemed to be getting derailed. right in front of him. At that moment, Harold did not even dare to wonder if anything else had happened. Johnson looked toward Harold, while Harold exchanged eye contact with Johnson as well.

The two of them had incredibly complicated emotions at that moment. Harold gulped and said, "Something really did happen to him, and the incident cost him his life. Who killed him? Who has the skills to kill Michael? Could there have been another expert who sneaked into Holy Cloud Mountain? Isn't Holy Cloud Mountain supposed to be sealed?!"

Harold had whispered those words that he uttered earlier. Jack's voice was suddenly heard from the crowd, "He must have snuck inside from somewhere else. Only, I don't know who he offended to end up looking like this and to be thrown here."

Jack's words served as a reminder to everyone. Since he had not been transferred here with everyone, then he must have gotten in from elsewhere. However, Elder Eliot suddenly straightened his body and said, "He absolutely could not have snuck in from elsewhere. Holy Cloud Mountain is a key part of Phoenix Valley. There are formations and arrays all over the place.

"Unless someone is incredibly strong, it's impossible for anyone to get inside through the barriers. Even if they did force their way inside, there would be alerts. There's no way I wouldn't know anything!"

The moment he said that there were curious feelings in everyone's hearts. However, Harold's heart felt like it was about to jump up to his throat. If they continued investigating the matter, Harold and Johnson would probably be discovered.

It was not just Harold who thought of that, Johnson next to him was suddenly incredibly anxious as well. The two of them froze as their hearts beat incredibly quickly. They were terrified.

Harold had found Michael through various connections and a ton of spirit crystals. Only then did Harold manage to sneak inside. If they decided to look into the matter without any concern for the consequences, they would definitely find out about everything. If everything ended up being revealed, then Harold and Johnson would have nowhere to run.

With Elder Eliot's personality, he would investigate everything thoroughly after he returned to Phoenix Valley. After all, Holy Cloud Mountain was incredibly important to Phoenix Valley.

If anything happened to Holy Cloud Mountain, it would directly impact Phoenix Valley at a time when things had not been peaceful either.

The Middle Province Alchemist Alliance was being targeted, and even got into conflict with someone. At a key time like this, no one would be able to stomach if there was a leak in Holy Cloud Mountain!

"I remember now!" White suddenly shouted out with widened eyes.



Everyone immediately got quiet at his words. White pointed at Michael's corpse and said, "He's Michael, an inner disciple. I've seen him on the other side before."

The 'other side' that Michael was referring to was where the martial artists gathered. When Elder Eliot heard that he immediately said, "He's an inner disciple of Phoenix Valley?"

## Chapter 2602

White nodded, "Back when I helped an elder to send something to the martial artist's section, I met him. I knew his name was Michael because he had been helping the stewards manage the martial arts manuals that day. I handed it to him and remembered his name then."

Elder Eliot frowned before he asked, "Are you sure that person is Michael?"

White nodded as he answered seriously, "I'm sure he's Michael! The first time I saw the corpse, I didn't take a good look because the face looked too horrendous. That's why I couldn't tell at first, but now that I've had the chance to take a good look, I'm sure it's him!"

After that, White swore on his name, and Elder Eliot hurriedly waved at him, "Since you're sure who he is, then it'll be much easier to investigate in the future."

The sudden incident really surprised everyone. No one expected that an inner disciple would suddenly pop out in Holy Cloud Mountain. After all, inner disciples did not have the right to enter Holy Cloud Mountain.

Elder Eliot's face was incredibly dark at that moment. He stared at the corpse on the floor, not uttering a word for a long time. It was hard to tell what was on his mind. The ones standing behind him were quiet initially, but slowly lost control of themselves.

"Why is there an inner disciple in Holy Cloud Mountain? Holy Cloud Mountain belongs solely to us alchemists, so why is he here? Could he be here to steal materials? It's absolutely impossible for him to get through the barrier, just look at his strength..."

After saying that, everyone paused. Even though Michael was already dead, his internal structures were still intact.

Everyone could still see that Michael was in the spring solidifying realm.

In truth, the moment they found out that Michael was an inner disciple, they were more or less certain that he would be at around the spring solidifying realm.

"Even though he's at the spring solidifying realm and considered quite good among the inner disciples, there's no way he is skillful enough to break through the formations. How did he enter the Holy Cloud Mountain?"

"That's right! How did he enter the Holy Cloud Mountain?"

"I think there's no need to speculate about this. He must have used the transfer array just like we did, but the transfer array is being guarded all the time. Unless one of the guards did something and helped him get transferred here, there's no way he could get here on his own.

"Even stranger is the fact that Michael is already dead. That person who could kill Michael must not be weak. He might be hidden around us at this very moment..." Those words served as a reminder for everyone.

No matter how Michael entered Holy Cloud Mountain, he was only a corpse at that moment. For someone to be able to kill Michael was definitely stronger than Michael was. That person was definitely at least at the middle or late stage of the spring solidifying realm.

They might even be a warrior that was already in the divine solidifying realm. To those alchemists, that was an existence that could not be touched at all. If that person had anything against them, no one present would be able to stand up to the person.

Even Elder Eliot was only at the middle stage of the spring solidifying realm and since he put all his focus on alchemy, his combat abilities were only barely at the initial stage of the spring solidifying realm.

"What do we do?! Should we bring the corpse with us and leave right now? I keep feeling like someone is staring at us..."

Everyone started to feel like there was possibly another incredibly strong martial artist nearby. They started to get unsettled, and some of them were even already starting to try and squeeze into the center.

## Chapter 2603

No one knew what the person who killed Michael had in mind. Could the person just be a crazed killer? Could the person decide to make a move against the alchemists?

Elder Eliot might be stronger than the rest of them, but he was not all that strong. Elder Eliot would probably only be able to fight on an even footing against Michael. Even Michael died in such a pitiful manner. Elder Eliot would definitely not be able to gain much of an advantage against the person who killed Michael.

That meant that the rest of them were definitely in incredible danger. With that in mind, someone immediately rushed forward and saluted Elder Eliot.

"Elder Eliot, let's not remain here any longer. The three-day period is already at its end, and we were supposed to be transferred back anyway. Let's ensure our own safety before we look into this matter further."

Elder Eliot took a deep breath. He had realized the severity of the matter as well. Even though he managed to compose himself and not show too much emotion on his face, his inner heart was in great turmoil.

They could not afford to waste any more time. He furrowed his eyebrows and turned around to face everyone, "You're all right. Everyone is still in danger at the moment. Bring the corpse, we'll all leave this place immediately."

Everyone let out a sigh of relief at those words except for a select few. The select few were Jack, Harold, and the others.

Jack and Rudy stood behind everyone with very curious expressions. They were more familiar with the details of the incident than anyone else. The so-called hidden expert was Jack himself.

The two of them were naturally not afraid of some hidden killer that might pop out and kill everyone. At that moment, Jack was looking right at Harold.

Harold's mental state was already on the brink of collapse at that moment. His whole body shuddered as cold sweat broke out on his forehead. Jack could easily guess what he was feeling at that moment.

Rudy stopped himself from laughing as he stood quietly behind Jack, not saying anything. Harold turned around to look at Johnson next to him.

Johnson had a look of hopelessness at that moment as he had already realized how severe the issue was at that moment. Harold reached out to grab Johnson's arm.

"Before the matter reaches its end, we can't afford to lose hope. There are so many questions surrounding this issue. As long as we can remain calm and bide our time, we might be able to clear ourselves of any suspicions and rid ourselves of this matter."

Johnson abruptly turned around to look at Harold. At that moment, he no longer knew what to say. He finally spoke after a long time, "How would we do that? As long as they investigate things, they'll definitely find out about the two of us!"

Harold took a deep breath as he looked at Johnson with a resolved expression. He might be incredibly emotional at that moment, but he still managed to keep his voice down and hide his words from everyone else.

"We're still not sure who killed Michael yet. The only thing we know is that Jack wasn't the one who killed Michael, and it definitely wasn't us.

"There has to be someone else hiding here. We can use that to craft a story. We'll then be able to paint ourselves as the victims as well. Then, we'd be able to shed any responsibilities on this matter."

#### Chapter 2604

Harold's plan really did feel very feasible. In Harold's eyes, the person who killed Michael was no simple man. There was no way to find out why the person had killed Michael as well.

The two of them could use that point to craft a story that would frame themselves as victims. Even if they would not be able to escape punishment, it would at least allow them to shred the harshest punishments.

After all, if the higher-ups knew what they had done, being sentenced to death on the spot was a possibility.

Johnson nodded his head vigorously and replied, "You're right, we have to act accordingly in such a time. The person who killed Michael must be our lifeline to escape punishment. We have to hold on to him. tightly."

As the two mumbled to each other, Elder Eliot had already brought everyone back. The two of them acted like nothing had happened as they followed behind Elder Eliot, heading into the transfer array with the group.

Their expressions might be calm on the surface, but their emotions were completely twisted inside. They were on the verge of breaking down at any moment.

Elder Eliot seemed to be worried that something else would happen. When everyone was being transferred back from Holy Cloud Mountain, his expression was strangely nervous. When the last person was moved out of Holy Cloud Mountain, Elder Eliot was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Jack and Rudy were the final batches to be sent back to Phoenix Valley coincidentally in the same batch as Harold and Johnson. When everyone was sent back to Phoenix Valley, they had concerned looks on their faces.

Many of them immediately wanted to find out what exactly had happened, but Elder Eliot had thoughtfully said to everyone before they transferred away, "Alright, hurry up and go back. All of you must be tired after these three days. Those who want to get spirit crystals, head to the task hall. Those who want to rest head back to their own places.

"Before the matter is thoroughly investigated, watch your mouths. I don't want this news to spread everywhere, understood?"

Everyone respectfully answered that they understood, and earned a slight nod from Elder Eliot in return. After leaving, he headed deeper into Phoenix Valley. Everyone knew that Elder Eliot was going to report the piece of news.

Everyone had the urge to gossip, but they also knew that standing around would not get anything accomplished, so all of them ended up dispersing.

In just a short moment, the only ones left at the transfer array were Jack, Rudy, Harold, and Johnson. With Jack's temperament, he would normally leave immediately and head back to his own courtyard after such a large-scale event.

However, he was in no hurry to leave at that moment. Instead, he stood behind Harold and quietly looked at Harold, forcing himself to maintain a calm expression.

After everyone had left, Harold abruptly turned over as he looked at Jack with widened eyes and an accusing expression. Jack had a cold smirk on his face.

He merely stood on the spot, not revealing anything as he matched Harold's gaze. Jack's actions caused Harold's temper to flare even more, but Harold could do nothing at that moment. He could not fight Jack there, nor did he want any other conflicts.

"Do you have something you want to say to me?" Harold said in a cold tone.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he shook his head lightly, "I stayed behind for my own reasons, but I don't really have anything I want to say to you."

## Chapter 2605

Those words caused Johnson and Harold's bodies to freeze. Harold could not hold back as he raised his voice, "You know everything!"

Harold was incredibly sure when he said that. If Jack did not know anything, he would not suddenly decide to stay back, nor would he say those things. It was clear that Jack knew about everything which explained why Jack was looking at them with such a cold expression.

Jack did not hide anything as he nodded, "I do know everything."

Those words caused Harold and Johnson to freeze on the spot again. The two of them had incredibly sour looks on their faces. They looked like someone had just thrown a bucket of cold water at them before throwing them into a freezer.

Jack knew how Michael died? How could Jack know? Jack let out a smile, not saying anything else. After that, he nodded at Rudy behind him before the two of them left the place together.

After all, he had already seen what he wanted to. Jack had clearly seen how the two of them froze up, but before Jack could take a few steps away, Johnson's voice was suddenly heard behind him.

At that moment, Johnson was already on the verge of breaking down. He rushed in front of Jack as he said, "Don't be so pleased with yourself! Michael's death must have something to do with you. Did you bring someone inside as well?"

"Did you already figure out our plan much earlier? If that's the case, you shouldn't be so pleased. You might end up in worse consequences than us!"

Jack raised an eyebrow as he turned around, looking at Johnson who was acting crazily. At that moment, Johnson's eyes were filled with veins, he had the look of an

absolute madman.

If he did not lack confidence in his own skills, he would have started a fight with Jack on the spot. Jack did not seem to react to Johnson's words at all. The less Jack reacted, the more Johnson lost control of himself.

He started to shout, "You brought someone in as well. You had that person kill Michael. There's no way things will end up well for you. We might have used our connections to get Michael in, but Michael was the one who died. Our punishment will definitely be lighter than yours!"

Jack could not stop himself from laughing. Johnson looked like he had definitely been impacted quite a bit by this. Otherwise, he would not have said all of that so dumbly. Johnson's face paled in anger when he saw Jack laughing at him.

He pointed right at Jack's face with a finger that was visibly trembling. Jack let out a light grunt, not wanting to bother over petty details with the two of them. He did not waste time saying anything else as he brought Rudy away.

The two of them did not speak much after what Jack did. When they arrived at the courtyard, Jack pulled Rudy over and gave Rudy a small task.

Rudy nodded earnestly at Jack's instructions and said, "Don't worry, if I can't even handle something as small as this, then I'd be completely useless!"

Jack nodded with a small smile. After Rudy left, Jack returned to his room and made himself some tea as he quietly waited for Rudy's return.

After about four hours, Rudy finally pushed open the door. When he saw Jack waiting for him, he immediately pulled out a chair and sat down.

"I've already found out everything I should. After all, this matter isn't some big secret anymore."

Jack nodded before motioning for Rudy to speak. Jack had asked Rudy to find out what had happened in the outside world recently.

## Chapter 2606

After the two of them entered Phoenix Valley, they had been cut off from any information about the outside world. They were new and different from those other alchemists who already had connections to get information about the outside world.

That was why Jack had arranged for Rudy to look into the information. Rudy shook his head before he said, "I wouldn't have known if I hadn't looked into things, but I really got a shock after I did. Everything in the outside world is already so chaotic. I always thought that the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance was the pillar of Middle Province. I'd thought that any force here would try to curry up favor with the alliance and that there would not be any large conflicts."

Hearing that, Jack nodded in agreement. Before this, Jack had also thought that the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance was the largest group of alchemists in Middle Province, which meant that martial artists desperately needed them.

Furthermore, the alliance gathered alchemists, which meant that their goals were different from normal clans. There should not have been any major fights, but Rudy's expression showed that it was not the case.

Rudy took a deep breath before he continued, "The alliance has already started a public war with the Unbreaking Pavilion. It happened around half a month ago. Basically, the alliance has been at war with the Unbreaking Pavilion in the inner region not too long after we entered Phoenix Valley."

"The battle is incredibly intense. The reason why there have been so many tasks in the task hall recently is precisely because of that. In truth, there aren't many truly strong warriors under the alliance.

"However, there are many strong fighters who owe the alliance favors over the years. The alliance has been picking up on those favors, so they're not lacking in fighters. The two forces are in a deadlock at the moment, with neither side giving way."

Jack frowned as he asked an important question, "Why did this conflict start? I've never heard of the Unbreaking Pavilion before. To dare to fight against the alliance means they're not a small clan. Since they aren't a small clan, they would never fight against the alliance over a small matter."

Rudy nodded and replied, "The Unbreaking Pavilion is an eighth-grade clan in the inner region. There are only a handful of eighth-grade clans in the whole Hestia Continent, so it's one of the strongest clans on the continent.

"They naturally have the ability to start a fight against the alliance. As for the reason for the conflict, I managed to find out why, but I still have my doubts."

Jack looked up and said earnestly, "Whether you're doubtful or not, tell me the reason first."

Rudy nodded before he slowly started to explain the reason for the conflict, "In the end, it's a fight over resources. There's a place called the Valley of Enlightenment in the inner region. It's said to be a hidden realm left behind from ancient times.

"There are quite a few valuable things inside, but the Valley of Enlightenment isn't somewhere that can be entered so easily. It seems to have been locked somehow, and there are two keys. One of the keys is in the hands of the alliance, while the other is in the hands of the Unbreaking Pavilion.

"Only by merging the two keys would the Valley of Enlightenment be opened. The two massive forces are essentially fighting over the resources in the Valley of Enlightenment."

At that moment, Rudy paused and frowned as he voiced his doubts, "I feel like there's something hidden behind all this. Even though there are two keys, if they'd just sat down and negotiated, there would be no need to mobilize so many forces over this matter. After all, this can be solved with some peaceful negotiation."

Jack nodded. Even though the two forces had many experts, it did not mean they were not afraid of wasting resources. If a war started, many lives would be lost.



They would need to use up many experts and resources, and might even harm the foundations of their respective organizations and allow other clans the opportunity to take advantage of things. Unless it was absolutely necessary, two forces that were so close in strength would not go to war.

## Chapter 2607

For a war to break out meant that the two forces already had irreconcilable differences, and are already at a stage where they no longer cared for the consequences.

Jack took a sip of his tea as he frowned, "This should have been a situation where both sides would mutually benefit from it. Even if the Valley of Enlightenment really had so many valuable things that they had to fight for it, there are definitely ways to solve the problem.

"For instance, it could be a fight between the juniors to see which side had more talented disciples. They would be able to get everything from just that. What they're doing is quite puzzling. Have the other forces not reacted at all?"

Rudy drank some tea before thinking for a moment and replied, "There have been no movements. Everyone seems to be adopting a wait-and-see approach. They're merely looking on as the two forces lock horns.

"In the past, whenever two forces end up in conflict with one another, there would always be a clan that steps forward to be a mediator. Yet for some reason, no one is willing to assume the role this time.

"Everyone just quietly looks on as the situation develops. I don't know what sort of attitude they have toward the matter. Maybe it's because this isn't something that can easily be interfered with?"

At that moment, Rudy's head was filled with questions. When Jack heard that, he felt like it was an incredibly strange circumstance as well. Even though some things would break out into fights when a certain point was reached, it usually only applied to personal things.

A conflict between a clan and an alliance involved two major forces. There were many things to consider if they ended up going to war. After all, the war would use up a lot of resources. After all those resources were used, they might not even be able to gain any advantages.

The other clans would be eager to jump at the chance to take advantage of the situation unless one clan was powerful and incredibly sure that they would win. Yet, based on what Jack could tell, the two sides were on an even level.

Even though the alliance does not seem to have so many experts, they definitely have many experts that they cultivated in secret. On top of that, the alliance had the advantage of its unique connections in the Middle Province.

They had sold countless pills in Middle Province, and gotten themselves many friends. In a pivotal moment like this, there would naturally be those who would step up to help them.

Rudy raised an eyebrow and said, "The Middle Province has been in chaos. It hasn't been peaceful at all. I come from the inner region and know a lot about the inner region. In truth, compared to the outer region, the inner region is a complete mess. It's incredibly chaotic.

"All of the stronger clans are in the inner region simply because the inner region is rich in resources. They're hence able to better raise their resources and grow their clans."

The two of them were silent for a long time trying to think about the intricacies within. Just when Jack felt like Rudy would not speak, he suddenly said something, "Do you think this has something to do with Grayson? I keep thinking back to what happened with Grayson that night.

"I can't think of anything that would separate him from us. We reacted incredibly normal. The only strange point was you, but you were not taken away!"

Rudy had a sour look on his face. Every time he thought about Grayson, he would get goosebumps. They had no way of being sure if Grayson was dead or alive.

However, from Mr. Zayne's attitude, it was quite unlikely that Grayson was still alive. The two of them were really eager to figure out why Grayson had been captured.

Jack took a deep breath and said, "He must have been taken away because he knew something. If that's the reason, then he should still be alive. If that's not the reason, then he's probably already dead."

## Chapter 2608

Rudy had a dark look on his face as he said, "No matter what, I feel like this matter is filled with suspicion everywhere. Even the conflict between the Unbreaking Pavilion and the alliance is bizarre."

Jack nodded as he gulped down the rest of the tea in his hand. After organizing his thoughts, he said, "The Unbreaking Pavilion's conflict with the alliance is absolutely not as simple as it looks. The two forces fighting each other definitely involves a lot more things.

"If it's already at the stage of the war, then it was definitely not sparked by a small matter that can be solved just with discussions. If it's just a matter of benefits, then it definitely involves something precious."

After saying that, Jack let out a smile as he shook his head, "Whatever, before he gets

even more information, this is all just speculation from us. We'd better use the time more wisely on other matters."

Rudy pursed his lips helplessly as he looked at Jack with a face of worry, "I'm just worried that we'll eventually be dragged into this. After all, Grayson has already disappeared. No one knows if we'll eventually disappear like he did."

Jack took a deep breath in exasperation. Rudy was like a scared rabbit at that moment. Even the slightest breeze would startle him.

Jack frowned and said, "Didn't I already tell you this before? Why do you always fail to remember it? Phoenix Valley is somewhere we'll leave eventually, and it doesn't seem like they'll pull anything against us in the near future.

"We'll be safe for now. With our capabilities at the moment, there's no way we can't find out what exactly is happening inside. So,

let's just discard all these thoughts for the moment and live our lives properly. We should focus on raising our own strength for now."

Rudy sighed, the worry not being wiped from his face at all, "I know what you're saying is right, but I can't do it. Grayson's face appears in my thoughts every night.

"I'm really scared that I'll end up like Grayson. You have the skills and the talent. You're better than me at everything. Even if a storm comes your way, you have the capabilities to stand up to it. I'm different. In front of you, I'm like an ant that can be killed at any time, let alone in front of anyone major..."

Jack did not want to dwell on the matter anymore, so he changed the topic, "Is there any news about Harold? Elder Eliot will definitely investigate the matter thoroughly. If Michael's death wasn't exposed, no one would know what Harold did.

"Michael's corpse is already with Elder Eliot. Elder Eliot will definitely thoroughly investigate the matter. Harold's plots and schemes will all be revealed in front of the elders."

Rudy frowned and shook his head, "There's no news about Harold at the moment. Everyone's looking on in curiosity, but there hasn't been a single shred of information. I didn't dare to ask any of Harold's friends, so I haven't been able to get any information on Harold."

Jack nodded. Elder Eliot and the others should have already found out about what Harold did, it's just that he did not know how Elder Eliot would handle it. Jack did not actually know much about Harold and if Harold had anyone powerful backing him.

If Harold did, that person would definitely help Harold avoid the worst possible punishment. have a good time after this. Even so, Harold would not

After all, he bought over a deacon and sent Michael into the Holy Cloud Mountain. After that, he had arranged for Michael to kill Jack. Even if the elders did not know that Michael was sent into the mountain to kill someone, Harold would still be punished for bribing a deacon!

The Holy Cloud Mountain was the holy land for all the alchemists in the outer valley. That place was not somewhere any outer, inner, or even chosen disciple could enter. It was a forbidden area, so Harold would definitely be punished for doing what he did regardless of the reason!

## Chapter 2609

Just as Jack's thoughts were all over the palace, he suddenly heard a knock on the door. The two of them stopped their conversation at the same time as they turned over to look.

Lou's voice was heard immediately, "I just received news earlier that the two of you are to go to the Elder Hall for something. 11

"Understood, we'll head there right now," Jack immediately answered.

Rudy was so scared that his face paled. His entire body started to shake as he reached out and grabbed Jack's arm, "Could they be planning on doing something to us? Could it turn out exactly like what I have guessed? They don't want to wait anymore. They're summoning us to the Elder Hall and arranging for someone to capture the two of us?"

Jack sighed helplessly as he looked at

Rudy's reddened eyes. He reached out and patted Ruddy on the arm, "If they really want to do anything to us or make us disappear, they would not have sent someone to pass the message. They control the whole Phoenix Valley, it's not that hard for them to get rid of anyone they want to."

Jack's words served to console Rudy, but he was still worried as he replied, "Then why do they want us there? They even asked the two of us to go together. Could something else have

happened? Or maybe they want to interrogate us? What if they kill us if they don't get the right answer?"

Rudy could no longer control his own composure at that point. He kept on thinking that the higher-ups were trying to kill the two of them, which filled him with anxiety.

Jack pursed his lips. Rudy's thoughts were actually not entirely impossible, but they were still incredibly unlikely. Jack decided to just stand up while saying, "There's no reason for us to just sit around at any rate. We don't know anything, so making a decision here is stupid. Since they want us to go, then we should just go."

Rudy followed Jack to the Elder Hall incredibly apprehensive. They passed the familiar plaza into the familiar steps. The two of them had different thoughts as they walked into the Elder Hall.

None of the usual clerks were around the Elder Hall at that moment. The moment the two of them entered the hall, someone closed the two large doors behind them. With the sounds of the doors closing, Rudy's emotions plummeted.

If it had been the right place for that, he would have just pulled Jack and ran away. Jack did not really care about the shut door as he looked up in front of him.

There were three chairs in the middle of the hall. The chairs were already occupied at that moment. Looking at their attire, it was obvious that they were elders.

There were three people kneeling in front of the elders. Two of them were familiar, while the third was someone unknown. When he saw Harold and Johnson's faces, Jack relaxed.

## Chapter 2610

In truth, on their way there, Jack had been trying to figure out why they were being called over to the Elder Hall. Various thoughts surfaced in his head, but Jack could not be sure about the exact reason they were being summoned.

However, he no longer needed to think about it then, because the answer was right in front of him. When Harold heard the footsteps, he immediately turned his head around with Johnson to look at Jack and Rudy.

When Harold saw Jack's face, his miserable look suddenly became incredibly cold and sinister. He stared at Jack with a venomous look in his eyes.

He wanted nothing more than to rush over and beat Jack up. Jack was already immune to how Harold was looking at him. No matter how the guy looked at him, he ignored it.

Jack and Rudy arrived in front of the three elders. After they bowed, Elder Eliot introduced Jack to those he did not know. The one who sat in the middle was Elder Baggin, who held the highest position. The one on the left was Elder Rick while the one on the right was Elder Eliot.

The unknown person kneeling below was Langston Abbot, an inner disciple of Phoenix Valley. He was a close friend of Michael. After the introductions, Jack started to have even more doubts in his heart.

Elder Rick coughed slightly as he slowly stood up from his seat. He looked at Jack with a warm expression before saying, "There's something I need to ask you."

Jack nodded as he quietly stood on the spot, not saying anything else. Elder Rick raised an eyebrow, unable to stop himself from regarding Jack better at Jack's calm and composed demeanor. However, the more Jack acted that way, the harder it would be for them to handle the matter.

He took a deep breath as he said, "Harold was being threatened. He did something like that because he had no other choice. I will have him apologize to you in a moment."

"Thankfully, you're fine, and you suffered no losses. Even though Michael is dead, he did not go in peace. That clan actually did something so despicable to him!"

Elder Rick was filled with righteous indignation as he uttered his words. It was as if he was on Jack's side. However, Jack was no idiot. Even Rudy could tell that something was wrong as the two of them abruptly looked up at Elder Rick.

Elder Rick looked at them with kind eyes. Rudy was infuriated at those words. What did he mean by having no other choice? Was he being threatened? Elder Rick even said that they were fine?

The assassin was already dead, so everything was to be glossed over and Harold was a victim instead?

If Jack had not been so strong, they would not have lived to see another day. If something so big were just brushed over by Elder Rick so easily, even painting the instigator as the victim, then Rudy would not know how to swallow that anger!

Rudy was trembling in rage as he stepped forward to say something. However, he felt someone grab his arm as he turned to look. Jack looked at him with a calm expression as he grabbed his arm.

It was obvious from Jack's expression that Jack did not want Rudy to do anything. Jack had his own plan, so Rudy helplessly swallowed his words.

Jack turned to look as he looked at Harold who was kneeling on the ground.

He suddenly said with a smirk, "I have a few questions I want to ask you, Elder Rick."

Elder Rick nodded as he said plainly, "Go ahead."