

Chapter 2691

Jack was still alone in the end. Elder Maurice felt incredibly suffocated, and Mr. Zayne merely shook his head silently.

Master Forrest pointed at Jameson, who was standing there quietly, "This time, let's go with the one with the worst results."

Jameson's face darkened. Master Forrest had not minced his words at all. It greatly embarrassed Jameson, but Jameson had nothing to say back. After all, there was nothing he could say. He walked out of the crowd and reluctantly stood in front of the door.

Master Forrest pointed out a finger and said, "One hour! Everyone has one hour. If you can't manage it within one hour, or end up being heavily injured by the phoenix, you'll be considered a fail. Understand?"

Everyone nodded earnestly. Master Forrest raised an eyebrow as he said bluntly, "Why aren't you going in yet? There's no point to dallying around."

Of the three participants from Sky Peak Valley, Jameson had performed the worst. Master Forrest naturally did not regard him that highly. Jameson's lips twitched helplessly. He pushed the door open and walked inside.

When the door was opened, the participants all saw the scene inside. There must be an illusory array inside because what they saw was a large plain. On the plain was a phoenix that was the size of three humans crawling around the plain. Next to the phoenix were six Green Phoenix Fruits. After the door was shut, they stopped being able to see through. After they averted their looks, they felt even more apprehensive.

Jack was the calmest person there. He had seen the phoenix earlier, and the phoenix was at the early stage of the spring solidifying stage which was a relief to him.

To some people, the hour was just time to chit chat. However, they could not discuss their strategies, so they were forced into some pointless topic, like words of encouragement.

Since Conrad had been the key to the Sky Peak Pavilion turning things around and winning the last right, Master Forrest's attitude toward him had improved by several times.

"Don't be so nervous later. The more nervous you are, the easier it will be for you to make mistakes. You have to calm yourself down," Master Forrest said gently.

Conrad nodded at that, and patted his chest in reassurance, "Don't worry, I'll definitely do well. I definitely won't drag us down! I've already thought of a plan, I'll definitely get the Green Phoenix Fruit."

The more confident Conrad was, the more worried Phoenix Valley got. Elder Maurice's face was stiff. If Conrad really did manage to get a Green Phoenix Fruit, then they would lose again.

They would have to pay up a lot of resources. It would be the worst result. When they got back, he might not even be an elder anymore.

Elder Maurice looked on as Claude and Benedict still shivered away. They did not possess any form of bravery, let alone confidence. Just looking at them caused Elder Maurice's anger to soar.

Chapter 2692

"What are the two of you doing? At the start, weren't the two of you full of confidence and promises? You felt like you'd definitely be able to win, and insulted Jack for dragging the two of you down. Why are you so different now? Where's your bravado? Summon all of it out right now!" Elder Maurice was far too angry, and his temper was evident from those words.

Mr. Zayne and Jack looked at Elder Maurice helplessly, feeling like Elder Maurice was doing the exact opposite of what he wanted to. No matter how angry he was at the time, he should not have voiced it at that moment. After all, they were about to enter the part of the tournament that would determine their victory. Anything he said at that moment would just be for the sake of venting.

Even if Jack did not want to say anything at that moment, he was forced to step up. He pulled Elder Maurice's arm and said, "Elder, please don't be angry. Anger is pointless right now."

He walked forward and stood in front of Claude and Benedict. Jack was incredibly frustrated by the two of them. After all, the two of them had acted so arrogantly before, opposing him at every turn. Yet, it was not the time to think about that.

If they continued to allow the two of them to spiral downward, it could very well affect the results of the third stage. Jack really did not want to be dragged down!

He let out a slight cough and lightened his tone, "I know the two of you are under a lot of pressure right now, but you need to know how important this is. If the two of you continue letting your mental state go on a downward slope and lose in the end, the two of you know very well what kind of consequences you'll face! It's no longer the time to be so conflicted. Summon all of your courage. Even if the final result ends up not being ideal, you'd at least have tried..."

Bang!

At that moment, a huge noise was heard from the door, causing Jack to stop his motivational speech. Everyone looked toward the door.

In a moment, Jameson was dragged out by two stewards of the Sky Peak Sovereign. Jameson's eyes were half shut, and he constantly groaned. He had many injuries on his body, and his arm was full of blood. If the two deacons had not been carrying him, he would not have even been able to stand.

The moment they saw Jameson's condition, all of the participants let out a shiver. That was a little too absurd, but even after not entering for that long, Jameson was actually injured to that degree.

Master Forrest did not waste any time and immediately summoned up some errand disciples to bring Jameson in for treatment.

When everyone saw Jameson being escorted away, they did not feel that great. They were not sympathetic to Jameson, but rather it was just because they were about to encounter that very same scenario themselves.

Based on the results, the next would be Benedict.

Benedict gulped a few times as his eyes continued to dart all over. Countless thoughts were circulating in his head, and he even had the urge to give up on the contest.

Elder Maurice berated, "Don't have any wild thoughts! It's almost your turn. You have to do your best. If you actually dare to lose this round deliberately, I'll immediately tell the valley master. Don't even think about getting out of this unscathed!"

Benedict's whole body shivered at that, and he almost cried. The mood turned serious again as Master Forrest's gaze swept over everyone, not saying anything unnecessary, "Next! Benedict! Go inside and remember, you only have an hour."

Chapter 2693

Benedict took a deep breath as stomped his feet silently. He gave up any words of protest. He would have to go in eventually anyway, and would just be scolded if he continued to drag things. He walked in front of the door with reddened eyes.

When he pushed the door open, he basically had the resolve to die. When everyone saw the door close, their moods all sank.

Even Conrad, who had been so full of spirit, shut his mouth as he looked at the door with a conflicted expression. He believed that everyone who entered that door would have their own plans. After all, it was impossible to take it by force!

Only by relying on schemes and tricks would they be able to do anything. However, no one had the confidence that their plans would succeed. Time ticked away, and after about half an hour, there was movement behind the door again.

Benedict walked out clutching his arm. Even though he did not need anyone to help him out, he was still injured in multiple places. When he got out, Benedict moaned, "I didn't even dare to get too close. Thankfully, the phoenix is being held back by a chain, or I wouldn't even have had the chance to come out."

When he said that, everyone's moods sank even further. However, Jack raised an eyebrow. Earlier, Jack had been curious. Since it was a spring solidifying realm beast, it would definitely attack viciously if it was angered. Even though Jameson was carted out with his body covered in heavy injuries, he did not die.

Jack felt like they would have at least ended up with a broken limb or two even if they were saved, but Jameson's condition had been better than Jack expected. On top of that, Benedict's injuries led Jack to be even more sure that the phoenix was restricted in some way. Otherwise, the two of them would have only been able to come out with even heavier injuries. If unique chains were restricting the phoenix, then it really should be safe.

In truth, there was no need to ask about the results. Benedict definitely did not manage to get a fruit either. Elder Maurice sighed. Even though he did not expect anything, he was still a little disappointed to see that Benedict really did return empty-handed.

The next to enter was Claude. At that moment, Claude was incredibly tense, seemingly about to snap at any moment. He felt like there was a huge boulder on his shoulders, about to squash him at any moment. However, no matter how bad his mental state was, he still had to go in. If he returned empty-handed as well, Elder Maurice would definitely blow up.

Before he entered, Elder Maurice suddenly grabbed Claude's arm and said, "Listen here, you're not allowed to fail this time!"

Claude widened his eyes suddenly, looking like he was about to cry. At that moment, he had already lost all his confidence after the last two rounds. Elder Maurice had even told him that he was not allowed to fail, causing him to feel like it was difficult to even breathe.

After Claude entered, Jack looked at Conrad again. In truth, Jack did not have much faith in Claude either. After all, that guy was only confident at the start. There was no way he could defeat a phoenix with his meager smarts.

He would probably end up just as heavily injured as Jameson. If Claude lost, then only Jack would remain. If Conrad managed to pull off an unexpected win like during the second stage, then they would be done for. Jack was actually quite worried at that moment. Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne were feeling the same as well. The three of them all looked at the door anxiously.

They really wanted to see what kind of plan Claude had in mind and whether he had any hopes of winning.

Chapter 2694

Master Forrest was in a really good mood at that moment. He had even started to see hope for victory again. They had thought that Jack would ensure that Phoenix Valley would have a very high chance of winning, but no one expected that the two other than Jack would be such heavy burdens. It ended up with them having a chance at victory.

Master Forrest had been quietly waiting at the start, but he got more and more excited as he thought about it. He could not help but look at Elder Maurice and say, "Elder Maurice, you must know a lot about your own alchemists. Do you think Claude will be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit?"

Elder Maurice knew that Master Forrest was incredibly pleased, but he could not just remain silent, since it would make him seem nervous. He lightly snorted and answered, "I do know about my own alchemists, but alchemy isn't what's being tested this time. Are you telling me you're able to see what's going to happen?"

Hearing that, Master Forrest let out a smile, "I really can. Bradley will definitely be able to get a Green Phoenix Fruit! As for Conrad, he should be able to as well!"

Master Forrest was clearly not sure if Conrad would be able to win, but he still said it in determination. Elder Maurice felt a little speechless at that.

Everyone waited for the results. Claude's results were incredibly important. If he successfully managed to get a Green Phoenix Fruit, then Phoenix Valley's victory would be assured.

Phoenix Valley and Sky Peak Pavilion had a win each under their belts, so the third stage was pivotal in determining the winner. Even though everyone tried their best to control their emotions, they were still unable to hide their nervousness.

After winning the second stage, Master Forrest's once extinguished enthusiasm soared again. He looked like he was about to soar into the sky as he constantly uttered some unpleasant words. However, he had already pushed away all those emotions. He merely stared at the door in anticipation, eagerly waiting for the result.

Probably because the atmosphere had been far too tense, or maybe because he felt like he was being ignored, but Jameson suddenly shouted out, "Master Forrest, don't worry. There's no way he'll get a Green Phoenix Fruit. Just look at how he was when he went in. He doesn't really have a plan at all. I'll definitely do better than he did. During the second round, my results were much better than his. The third round will be the same!"

After he said that, Jameson straightened his back as if no one on the Hestia Continent could beat him.

Everyone looked at Jameson when he uttered those words. Jack frowned slightly, that guy was getting too pleased with himself. Ever since he won in the second stage, he had let it get to his head. He was even able to say something as blindly confident as that.

Elder Maurice looked at Conrad with a steely look on his face, resisting the urge to rush over and slap him. Mr. Zayne frowned, really wanting to mock Conrad, but not saying anything in the end.

Master Forrest glanced at Conrad. He felt the same way as everyone else, that Conrad had let it get to his head. However, having confidence was a good thing, and Conrad might actually have a perfect plan to get the Green Phoenix Fruit.

With that in mind, Master Forrest reached out and patted Conrad on the shoulder, "It's good that you're this confident, but you have to be careful. Even if you've already planned everything out, you have to move carefully and not make any mistakes."

Those words sounded fine, but Conrad felt like Master Forrest was saying that because he was not that confident in him. Conrad was brimming with confidence at that moment, so he naturally got angry when he felt Elder Maurice looking down on him.

Chapter 2695

Conrad held his head slightly higher and said, "I'll definitely be careful, you don't have to worry. There won't be any mistakes, I'll definitely get the Green Phoenix Fruit. My plan is perfect. After all, the phoenix is being tied by a chain. All I have to do is..."

Conrad did not manage to finish his words when he was stopped by Master Forrest, "Shut up. You can't break the rules like this. Even if you already have your plans all figured out, you can't reveal it prematurely and affect the results of others!"

Conrad's face stiffened, realizing that he had slipped up a little. Thankfully, Master Forrest stopped him, or he would actually have revealed his plans.

If someone else heard his plan and followed it accordingly, everyone would be able to their hands on the fruit.

Conrad hurriedly nodded, "You're right!"

As he said that, there was a glint in Conrad's eyes. He was full of confidence as if any problems would not be hard at all for him to deal with.

Master Forrest's lips twitched speechlessly. He felt like Conrad was being overconfident at that moment. If he had not stopped Conrad earlier, Conrad would really have blurted everything out. However, Master Forrest was very happy with Conrad's current state, and he was a bit more confident. He had not been that confident in Conrad during the second stage, but Conrad had proven his abilities with his skills.

It had changed Master Forrest's views on Conrad. Even if Conrad rendered him speechless, it did not change his confidence in Conrad.

Compared to Master Forrest's calm attitude, Elder Maurice was in a completely different state. Elder Maurice had his eyebrows furrowed at that moment, his mood was at its lowest point. His eyes would constantly dart toward Conrad.

Various thoughts flashed in his head. The more confident Conrad was, the worse he felt. After all, Conrad had been a key factor in the second stage. If Conrad had not refined a Three Suns Pill, the second stage would have been theirs. After all, Jack had performed too well. However, Conrad managed to turn the tables at the very last moment.

With how confident Conrad was, Elder Maurice started to worry. He was worried that the results would end up like the second stage, and be overturned because of Conrad. No matter how good Jack's results were, it would be useless.

Elder Maurice got more and more worried as he thought about it. It was not just Elder Maurice who felt that way. Even Mr. Zayne was looking at Conrad with worry. At that moment, he felt like Conrad was a ticking time bomb that could blow up at any moment. Then, Phoenix Valley would not be able to gain any advantages.

Mr. Zayne whispered in worry, "Do you think his plan really will be that perfect? Perfect enough to get the Green Phoenix Fruit?"

Elder Maurice sighed as he said helplessly, "Even though this brat looks like he's just bragging, we can't make any conclusions at the moment."

Chapter 2696

Elder Maurice sighed as he continued, "After all, he had won the second stage for Sky Peak Pavilion. I don't know if this kid actually has the skills."

Mr. Zayne shook his head helplessly and replied, "Even though the core of this stage isn't alchemy, I feel like we can't look down on this brat. We'll have to count on Claude to get a good result. Only then will we have hope to win this tournament."

Elder Maurice nodded and let out a wry smile, not saying anything. What followed was a strange silence between everyone. Jack had not spoken the whole time either. He merely stood on the spot calmly, as if nothing would affect him at all.

Once an hour passed, there did not seem to be any movements behind the door. Everyone had lost track of time with how quiet it was.

Elder Maurice suddenly said, "Time's up. Two of you, go bring him out!"

The time limit was set at an hour. If the participant did get the fruit within an hour, they would be cleared out and be considered a failure.

The moment Master Forrest said that the two stewards pushed open the door and entered the realm. When Claude was brought out, he did not have any injuries on him but was in a terrible mood.

His head was down, and he looked like his whole family had died. When he walked out, he did not even dare to look up at Elder Maurice and the others.

Master Forrest could not hide his smile anymore, "An hour's already passed, and you did not get a Green Phoenix Fruit. You've already lost, do you acknowledge this?"

Claude nodded sadly. Master Forrest let out a pleased smirk but still said, "There's no need to be so depressed. You've done your best. I think Elder Maurice won't blame you too much, since you've tried your best."

Those words caused anger to boil in Elder Maurice again, which had been precisely Master Forrest's intention. Even Jack frowned when he heard that. Claude did not even dare to breathe after he heard that. He knew that he had committed a very big sin. In truth, he had clearly known that he would not be able to succeed after half an hour. To avoid getting injured and to avoid Elder Maurice blaming him, he chose to stay inside for the whole hour. He only walked out after Master Forrest had announced that the round was over.

Jack furrowed his eyebrows, somewhat speechless at Claude. Claude was even worse than he had expected.

There was not a single scratch on his clothes, it was obvious how safe he had been inside. No wonder that guy had been cursing how dangerous the test was. It seemed like he really valued his own body. At least Benedict had done his best and was even injured from it Claude had actually done nothing at all.

Thinking about that, Jack shook his head helplessly.

Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne were no idiots. They naturally knew what had been on Claude's mind. On top of that, there were also those words Master Forrest had just said. Elder Maurice was starting to feel like he wanted to kill Claude.

Chapter 2697

It was no longer a matter of just dragging them down. It was a problem with Claude's own attitude as he had crossed the line. Even Mr. Zayne hated Claude at that point.

He shuffled over to where Phoenix Valley was. He knew that there was no way he would be able to avoid any consequences. After taking a few deep breaths, he slowly raised his head. When he saw Elder Maurice's infuriated expression, his whole body shivered as he took a step back.

Elder Maurice coldly said, "You've really disappointed me this time. Do you still remember what I told you when you entered? I guess you completely ignored it. You didn't even try at all, and only thought about not getting yourself hurt..."

Claude hurriedly shook his head at those words and replied, "It's not like that. Elder Maurice, how could I dare to do that? I've already done my best. I've tried every possible plan, but it's useless. I'm only at the early stage of the innate level, how could I dare to stand up against a spring solidifying realm beast. I tried using my smarts. I don't know how the others got injured. They must have made a mistake somewhere."

"I wasn't injured purely because I was incredibly careful. That's how I came out untouched by that spring solidifying realm beast..." As he said that, tears started to form in Claude's eyes. It was as if Claude would start crying if he was questioned more.

Jack pursed his lips helplessly, feeling like Claude thought everyone else was stupid. He felt like he was the only smart one. It would have been better if he had not said anything, but he made Elder Maurice even angrier after he did. Elder Maurice had not planned on saying anything too unpleasant initially.

After all, it was not just Phoenix Valley gathered there, but Sky Peak Pavilion as well. If he said too much he would just be laughed at.

Yet, Claude had added oil to the fire at that point, not reflecting on his mistakes. He was even trying to find excuses, so Elder Maurice was naturally infuriated.

"Why were you in such a rush to defend yourself after you came out? Do you think we're all stupid? You know yourself what you've done. If you really did put in the work, you wouldn't have walked out unscathed!"

Hearing that, Claude felt even more wronged as he replied, "I really did do everything I could, but this isn't a test of my alchemic abilities, but my adaptability. I did my best and couldn't get

the results you wanted. I really was very careful, and that's why I wasn't injured. It's not because I wasn't working hard."

Elder Maurice felt that explanation was not convincing enough. Even though Benedict had failed earlier, Elder Maurice had not been so angry. It was because Claude really had a problematic attitude.

Master Forrest was no idiot, he naturally knew what Claude was thinking. As someone from Sky Peak Pavilion, the more Claude acted like that, the happier he got.

Master Forrest frowned as he said with a concerned look, "I can tell that you've definitely done your best. Otherwise, you would have come out way before. You wouldn't have stayed in there for an hour. It's because you were doing your best that you worked till the very last moment!"

Hearing that, Claude nodded immediately as he thankfully looked at Master Forrest, "Master Forrest is right. If I wasn't doing my best, I wouldn't have stayed in there for so long. It's because I was trying to do as much that I fought till the last moment..."

Chapter 2698

Jack was suddenly speechless when he heard that. Claude was really acting as the pinnacle of stupidity.

Did he really think Master Forrest was trying to help him?

Master Forrest was clearly trapping him, but that brat still decided to jump onto Master Forrest's words. He added oil to the fire once again and did nothing else. Elder Maurice was about to explode from Claude's actions. His fists were constantly trembling as he clenched them, showing how furious he was at that moment.

Jack felt like Elder Maurice should be trying his best to control himself. He was forcing himself not to send a punch right over and lost control entirely.

Conrad suddenly laughed and said, "No matter how hard you worked, you still returned empty-handed. What's the point of saying so much?"

Right after he said that he turned around and walked toward the door. Looking at Conrad's confident demeanor, everyone started to have complicated feelings in their hearts.

After Conrad opened the door, he turned to flash a confident smile at everyone. When he saw the complicated expressions on the face of those from Phoenix Valley, Conrad's mood improved. After that, he closed the door, and the atmosphere cooled down.

Jack took a deep breath and looked at the still unsettled Claude, and was even more speechless.

Claude's eyes constantly moved. It was obvious that he was still trying to clear his name and shed all responsibility.

In order to stop Elder Maurice from blowing up and losing control, Jack could not stop himself from stepping up.

"You said you tried every method. There must have been dangerous plans among those. If you took the risk, you'd naturally encounter danger. There are incredibly strong warriors around you to prevent you from dying anyway. Yet, your clothes are still clean and intact. It means you've done nothing at all. You're just saying all that to shed your responsibility," Jack said all of that with a firm tone, leaving no room for doubt. However, Claude still shook his head violently, not agreeing with what Jack had said.

"I really was not injured because I was very careful. I know you're very strong. In terms of alchemy, you leave us in the dust. However, the third round isn't about testing alchemy at all. It focuses on your adaptability and knowledge. It's something Master Forrest said. Don't think you'll be able to win in the third round just because you're a good alchemist!" Claude's eyes got redder and redder as he said that. He was incredibly emotional.

At that moment, Claude was doing everything he could to avoid responsibility. He did not want to get injured but did not want to be blamed either. He definitely did not want to be punished for dragging the team down.

Jack's words had been incredibly accurate earlier. If he admitted to it, it would definitely be bad for him later.

Jack's lips twitched helplessly, feeling like Claude was not acting like an alchemist of Phoenix Valley at all. Instead, he was acting like an alchemist from Sky Peak Valley, trying to cause Phoenix Valley trouble. Jack was incredibly angry at those words, let alone Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne.

Claude's words were just trying to discredit Jack. To Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne, Jack was not just their stabilizing factor, but the biggest chance for them to turn the tables.

Chapter 2699

He was the one who gave the two of them hope. Claude's words were basically denying that hope from the two of them.

How could Mr. Zayne and Elder Maurice stomach it?

Even Mr. Zayne could not help but narrow his eyes and say in a low voice, "You'd better watch your mouth! Just because your results are bad and you didn't do your best, you're trying to discredit Jack too! If Jack wasn't here, we'd have already lost patient, thanks to your bad results. How dare you question him?"

Claude was already getting desperate at that moment. Jack's earlier threats were no longer working. He only had one thought in his mind at that moment which was to rid himself of all the blame.

He took a deep breath and raised his voice a little, "You're right. If not for Jack, we'd have already lost! But we can't just say he'll do well in the third round just because he did well in the earlier two. I've said it before, he's an incredibly good alchemist, but this isn't a test of alchemic skill. So what if he's a talented alchemist? I don't know much, but I know something very well. He's not been in Phoenix Valley for a long time and has never gone to Grand Yorn mountain with the guards. He definitely doesn't have the necessary basic knowledge! Since he knows nothing and has never been in the world, how could he possibly get his hands on the Green Phoenix Fruit?!"

"Shut your mouth!" Elder Maurice's veins were already starting to pop. He had practically shouted at Claude with all his might.

Claude was completely exposing Jack at that moment. He even mentioned when Jack entered Phoenix Valley.

Sky Peak Pavilion's group could not help but be curious and suspicious at that. They were curious about when did Jack enter Phoenix Valley and suspicious about the fact that he was so good despite not having been there for that long. After all, no matter how talented one was, one would not be that strong without going through systematic growth. However, Jack's skills were already far above the five alchemists.

Even though the other five alchemists were not that amazing other than Bradley, they could still already be considered top alchemists. Otherwise, they would not have been chosen to participate in such an important tournament. All of them were geniuses, but they were unable to even put up a fight in front of Jack.

Claude's words sparked a sense of curiosity in everyone. Elder Maurice was so furious that he was about to walk over and slap Claude a few times.

Even Benedict, who had been grabbing his arm quietly by the side, could not help but look at Claude speechlessly. Benedict felt like Claude must have gone crazy. Otherwise, he would not have said all that.

He was practically digging a ditch for himself. He would definitely be punished even more when he goes back. He was really helping the outsiders.

Yet, Claude did not seem to realize how horrible the things he had said were. He continued to shout, "Was I wrong? He might be strong, but the third round isn't what he's good at. He's never been to where beasts are found to collect materials. He wouldn't know the basic knowledge and habits! If he doesn't know, how could he get the Green Phoenix Fruit from the phoenix! It's not like you don't know what is being tested!"

Chapter 2700

Elder Maurice was about to go mad. He shouted again, "Let me say this one more time, you'd better shut up right now! If you say another word, I'll kill you!"

Elder Maurice was not joking at that point. If Claude continued talking like that, he would really do something to Claude, no matter where they were.

Even if Elder Maurice killed Claude, the others would not say anything at all. After all, Claude was an alchemist of Phoenix Valley. Claude was suddenly woken up by those words. Chills went down his spine, and he immediately shut his mouth. However, just because he said nothing, it did not mean the matter had passed. After some silence, Bradley suddenly said, "You'll lose for sure!"

He had said that in a very matter-of-fact manner as if he was speaking the truth! Jack could not help but look up at Bradley and noticed that Bradley's gaze was on him as well. The two of them met each other's gazes.

Jack said in exasperation, "The results are still not out yet. I don't know where you got the courage to say you'll win."

Bradley laughed as he ignored Jack's accusation and replied, "Those four pieces of trash won't be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruits. In the end, it's between the two of us!"

Bradley had said that in a very firm tone. Jack was a little speechless, but he more or less agrees with what Bradley had said. Yet, Jack knew that Bradley had said that because he did not want to compare himself to the others but only Jack.

Master Forrest frowned as he looked at Bradley unhappily. Conrad, who he had his hopes on, was currently in the realm. Bradley's words had clearly lumped Conrad in as a piece of trash as well.

Bradley completely disregarded everyone else.

Claude and Benedict had on startled expressions. It was the first time they had ever been called trash. Even though the two could not be compared to that group, they were still nowhere near

'trash'. However, no matter how unhappy the two of them were, they did not dare to say anything at that moment. After all, Bradley's results were far above theirs.

Master Forrest let out a slight cough and said, "Those words definitely crossed the line a little. I don't disagree with your evaluation of others, but Conrad should do alright."

Bradley replied rudely at that, "No matter how well a piece of trash performs, how good could they get? He just happened to show off some talent during the second stage. Have you forgotten how badly he did in the first stage? Trash is trash. Even if they do well sometimes, they're still trash!"

Master Forrest's face soured at those words. It was the first time he had been shot down like that. Bradley rarely voiced his opinions, and usually had a face of nonchalance.

No one expected that he would say all of that. Bradley let out a grunt before he looked up and focused on Jack, "The third match has always been a battle between the two of us. Even though you did well in the earlier two rounds, you definitely won't beat me this time. You'll lose terribly!"

As he said that, Bradley's voice had a chilling tone to it.

Jack frowned helplessly, feeling like Bradley had gone a bit mad.

Chapter 2701

Especially when Bradley was facing Jack. It was as if the only thing Bradley wanted was to defeat Jack.

Jack frowned and said, "Don't you think what you're doing is really funny? Do you still remember what you said in the earlier two rounds? You gave the same evaluation and said the same words. Do you think you'll be able to beat me just because you repeated it again this time?"

Bradley clenched his teeth and said, "This time, we're not competing in terms of alchemy, but common knowledge and intelligence. How could you get the Green Phoenix Fruit with your meager skills? If you want to defeat the phoenix, you'd have to know its weak points. Don't think I don't know what you're thinking about. Earlier, when Master Forrest was announcing the rules, you immediately looked doubtful when the phoenix was mentioned."

"It proves that you don't know about the phoenix at all. If you've never even heard of it, then how would you be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit from it?!"

Jack pursed his lips in speechlessness. However, thinking about it, the results might actually go the way Bradley had predicted if he had purely been an alchemist. Jack would not have been able to achieve good results from the third stage.

At Jack's silence, Bradley continued, "If you came from the inner valley, I wouldn't have dared to judge if you'd be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit or not. After all, the inner valley cultivates their alchemists on a whole different level. In order to raise complete alchemists, they would even bring those alchemists to Grand Yorn Mountain to collect materials and allow the alchemists to find hidden materials through practical experience."

"An excellent alchemist doesn't just need to be much better at refining pills than others. They also need to have very in-depth knowledge of materials and be able to get those materials for themselves. That's the reason behind the third round of the tournament! You're not from the inner valley, and you haven't been in Phoenix Valley for that long. You've never had the chance to receive proper training in this department."

"You naturally won't be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit!" As he said all that, Bradley was brimming with confidence.

He had pride in him that could not be ignored. Jack raised an eyebrow at that, remaining silent.

Jack did not really care about Bradley's words, but Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne were definitely affected by them. That was because both of them felt like Bradley's words were quite reasonable.

The two of them knew nothing about Jack's background. Pane had not gone through any systematic education. It was already a miracle that Jack was as skilled as he was. They did not think Jack was all capable. The results of the third round were really uncertain. The two of them could not help but start to feel afraid...

Afraid that Bradley had really predicted the results. Even if Conrad could not get the Green Phoenix Fruit, Jack would still end up losing to Bradley in the last stage. Then, all their hopes and dreams from earlier would be dashed.

The more Elder Maurice thought about it, the more worried he got. He could not help but look at Jack. Jack turned to look at Elder Maurice at that.

"Don't listen to his words. He's not me. Just care about the final results. The person you should really be worried about right now is Conrad," Right after Jack said that, a loud bang was heard from behind the door.

The few of them looked over at the same time and saw a figure slowly falling against the door.

Chapter 2702

That figure looked a lot like Conrad, who had entered the realm earlier. After a few moments, the door opened, and Conrad was dragged out by two stewards.

At that moment, Conrad was no longer brimming with confidence like he had been before. Instead, he looked like a wild dog that had just been violently beaten up. He could not even stand on his own. He sustained quite a number of wounds on his body. Some of them were so deep that the bone beneath was exposed.

He looked like he was in an even worse state than Jameson had been. Conrad was constantly crying out in pain as he was being helped out. Cold sweat riddled his forehead.

At that moment, everyone suddenly heard a cold voice that said, "Just like what I've thought, a piece of trash."

That voice had naturally been from Bradley. He merely glanced at Conrad before averting his gaze, as if looking at Conrad would taint his eyes.

It was obvious from how Conrad looked that he had failed. Master Forrest's mood suddenly plummeted. He had thought that Conrad's would fare well and that he would be able to get a Green Phoenix Fruit.

He never expected that Conrad's words were all just empty hot air. He never had that skill. However, he could not berate Conrad at that moment, or he would just end up being laughed at by everyone.

He furrowed his eyebrows as he ordered the stewards nearby to bring Conrad out, and treat his injuries. In truth, Jack had really wanted to mock Conrad at that moment. After all, Conrad had bragged so much earlier as if he wanted to tell the world that he was the very best. Conrad had even mocked Phoenix Valley. However, Jack managed to hold back from speaking. After all, it would feel like he was just rubbing salt on their wounds if he did.

Looking at the state Conrad was in, Elder Maurice would have been incredibly happy. Conrad had failed to get the Green Phoenix Fruit. The final results would be between Jack and Bradley.

Yet, ever since Bradley's earlier words, Elder Maurice had started to worry about Jack. He was scared that Jack would lose his bearing in the end.

Looking at Conrad being carried out, Elder Maurice could no longer stand it as he whispered to Jack, "Do you think you can do it?"

Jack nodded, not saying anything else. However, the more Jack acted that way, the more anxious Elder Maurice got various thoughts started to surface in his mind.

Jack knew that Elder Maurice was very nervous, but he did not say anything much. Sometimes, people could not be calmed down with just a word or two. He could not be bothered to waste his time talking too much.

At that moment, Bradley spoke again, "It's finally my turn now. Just like I said. These pieces of trash did not even have to enter. It was always just a waste of time!"

After he said that, he walked right through the door.

At that moment, Bradley was just as confident as Conrad had been when Conrad walked in. However, Bradley had more of a reason to be confident than Conrad did.

Conrad's confidence had come from ignorance, but Bradley actually had the skill to back up his confidence. When the door closed behind Bradley, everyone took a deep breath.

Not a single person wondered if Bradley would be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit. In everyone's eyes, it was something that would happen for sure. Even Elder Maurice was sure that Bradley would be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit and complete the task of the third stage.

After Bradley entered, everyone suddenly fell silent. Not a single person spoke as they all looked at the door quietly.

After a while, Master Forrest suddenly said, "He'll definitely be able to get a Green Phoenix Fruit. After all, he was in Grand Yorn Mountain looking for materials for a long time."

Chapter 2703

"He's seen many strong beasts before. Even though there were people protecting him, he has learned and gained a lot of experience!"

Master Forrest caused Elder Maurice to be even more worried. Elder Maurice did not have the confidence that Master Forrest had because he was clueless about Jack's skills.

Before he met Jack, he did not even know Jack existed. If it were not for Mr. Zayne telling him about Jack, he would not have even known what Jack had experienced. In truth, Elder Maurice really wanted to thoroughly investigate and ask if Jack could actually get the Green Phoenix Fruit at that moment. Yet, due to the rules, Jack's plans could not be revealed to him. All he could do was patiently wait for Jack to complete the third stage.

At that moment, Elder Maurice felt like there was a large stone on his chest, causing him to not be able to breathe properly. Mr. Zayne was not much better either. The two of them were constantly looking at Jack.

When the door finally opened, Bradley had his head held high as he walked out with a Green Phoenix Fruit in hand.

Everyone had their eyes on Bradley at that moment.

The Green Phoenix Fruit was only the size of a thumb. It had a cold aura about it. At that moment, Bradley's right hand had a glove that was made of special material. That glove was capable of withstanding the bone-chilling cold, which is why he dared hold the Green Phoenix Fruit on his palm.

If he had just held the Green Phoenix Fruit with his bare hands, he would have suffered from frostbite. After all, he was only at the early stage of the innate level.

Jack did some calculations in his head. It had only been a little over half an hour since Bradley entered the door. It was already considered quite fast.

He heard a series of footsteps coming in. Jack looked up and noticed Conrad and Jameson limping over after their treatments. The two of them had already been given recovery pills and were already in a much better condition. They still needed rest but insisted to stay for the sake of being able to see the final result.

At that moment, the six participants were all gathered there. Everyone had their eyes fixed on Bradley's palm.

Claude's mouth was wide open, it looked like he could swallow an egg whole.

"He really did it... He's really amazing!" Claude lamented.

At that moment, the others were far too shocked. They no longer cared about anything else as they started to discuss among themselves.

"How did he do it?! I tried before, but that phoenix was way too fierce. As long as I got even remotely close to the Green Phoenix Fruit, it would lunge over with its talons. My thighs were practically ripped apart! If it didn't have that chain on, I'd have been eaten on the spot!"

"I hate that we still can't discuss this. The moment Jack completes his round, I want to investigate this to the end! It's too unbelievable. I thought that none of us would be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit!"

At that moment, Bradley did not care what everyone was saying about him at all. Whether it be praises or envy, none of it reached Bradley. At that moment, Bradley merely had his gaze fixed on Jack.

He reached out his right hand with a cold smile as he waved the Green Phoenix Fruit in his hand and said, "So? Was I right?"

Jack raised his eyebrow, speechless.

That brat had to brag every single moment.

Jack sighed, "Even if you got a Green Phoenix Fruit, it still took you a while to get it. Do you think you can beat me?"

After Jack said that, Bradley suddenly laughed. The laughter was thick with mockery and incredibly exaggerated. Even Master Forrest who was in front of him could not help but frown.

It was the first time he had ever seen Bradley laughing like that. Before this, Master Maurice would have already found it strange if Bradley spoke more than be absolutely needed to, let alone laugh. Ever since he got to know Jack, and since Jack's results kept on heating Bradley's, Bradley seemed to have become a completely different person.

Bradley laughed for a long time before he stopped and said, "Jack! Has anyone ever told you that overconfidence is not a good thing?!"

As he said that, Bradley had an incredibly proud look on his face. At that moment, all he wanted to do was trample all over Jack. He would only be able to gain the dignity he had lost if he stomped on Jack with his feet. Bradley actually viewed his pride and dignity as something more important than anything else. Jack had beaten him over and over again, causing Bradley's pride to be dealt a blow it never had before.

Bradley took a deep breath before he held his head up high and continued saying, "Don't think you can do whatever you want just because you have some talent in alchemy. Don't think you're unbeatable. What do you think I managed to win the third round with?"

As he said that, Bradley waved the Green Phoenix Fruit in his hand again. Everyone looked at the fruit as it shook around. Including Jack, everyone wanted to know what method Bradley had used to get the Green Phoenix Fruit.

With him being only at the early stage of the innate level, there was no way he could have gone against a spring solidifying realm beast head-on. The only thing he could do was to use his smarts. However, without seeing it for themselves, there was no way they could determine what sort of method Bradley had used.

Jack frowned, speechless at how crazily Bradley seemed to be targeting him. He had never even regarded Bradley as anyone significant. To him, Bradley was just a pebble by the road that could be kicked aside at any time. Yet, that pebble was acting like an annoying fly, constantly circling around him. Even if Jack did not want to bother him, he was still annoying enough.

Jack frowned and said, "The third round isn't testing alchemic ability, but it's still related to alchemists. I know you didn't use your alchemist abilities to get the Green Phoenix Fruit, but you can't assume I won't get it because of that."

Jack had not bothered to say anything, but Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne standing behind him were already incredibly tense after Bradley's words. He did not want Elder Maurice to continue being fixated on this. Jack might not have bothered if it was anyone else, but Elder Maurice was still his superior. He could not just ignore Elder Maurice like that.

Jack had only one thought in mind at that moment, which was to destroy Bradley's arrogance and shut him up.

Bradley coldly laughed as he started to look even more crazed as he replied, "You know very well that I didn't rely on alchemy to win this time. Talent in alchemy will only help you with the first and second rounds."

Chapter 2705

"The third round doesn't rely on that, so it's impossible for you to get the Green Phoenix Fruit. Stop trying to act so pleased in front of me. I know you're just pretending right now. You can trick others, but you can't trick me!"

Jack's lips twitched speechlessly. He was not planning on lying to anyone at all. Bradley put himself up on too high of a pedestal.

He coldly snorted as he said, "I don't know where you got the bravery to assume all of my thoughts from. Why do you think everything I'm doing right now is to trick others? Why do you assume I won't be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit?! I'm the only one left right now anyway. You'll see for yourselves if I can get it or not!"

Jack no longer had the patience to talk to that group of people. He felt like saying another word was a waste of his time. After he finished his sentence, Jack was about to walk through the door when Bradley blocked his way.

Jack frowned as he complained, "What are you trying to do? I'm trying to take part in the contest. Are you trying to stop me?"

Bradley shook his head as he said seriously, "I hate looking at pretenders the most. Don't think I don't know what you're planning to do. You plan on going in and getting injured before you faint and get dragged out. You'll be able to spare yourself from awkwardness then. Even if we have a lot to say, there's nothing we can say to someone who's already fainted."

Jack speechlessly looked at Bradley. He felt like Bradley's mind was like an inexplorable maze. Bradley even managed to think of things that had never crossed his mind before. He was even speaking with such certainty.

Bradley was sure that he would definitely let himself get injured after entering the door, using the chance to be carried out to save himself some awkwardness. He would not get any response even if he wanted to mock Jack. Bradley only had one thing in mind at that moment, which was to regain all his lost dignity.

The source of that would be from Jack.

Jack let out a slight smile, "Is there something wrong with you? Why are you so sure I can't get the Green Phoenix Fruit and complete the third stage?"

After Jack said that, Bradley looked like a cat who just had its tail stepped on, his hairs were all standing up.

He raised his voice, "Of course, you won't complete it! How could you complete it?! You're just someone with some talent in alchemy. You can't do anything else!"

Bradley was practically screeching out his words. He looked a little crazed at that point. After everyone looked at Bradley, they did not know what to say. Even Master Forrest was frowning as he looked at Bradley with a conflicted expression.

He held his head high and shouted, "You asked me how I got the bravery to assume that you can't succeed earlier?! Let me tell you where my courage came from right now!"

After saying that, he suddenly turned around and looked at everyone.

Jack pursed his lips helplessly, not saying anything as he just crossed his arms. He quietly waited as he listened to what Bradley had to say.

Chapter 2706

Bradley said loudly, "I was able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit because I spent a whole year training in Grand Yorn Mountain. I saw countless beasts during that time and collected a lot of materials. Even though I had people to protect me, I've encountered danger and almost lost my life a few times! These experiences might have been dangerous, but they're a valuable treasure to me. If not for those experiences, I would never have been able to achieve such a result in the third stage!"

After he said that, Bradley abruptly turned around with widened eyes as he asked in an accusatory tone, "That's why I have the courage to judge you! Have you ever entered Grand Yorn Mountain?"

Jack even nodded. He had indeed entered Grand Yorn Mountain before. He had even stayed there for two or three days.

Seeing Jack nod, Elder Maurice suddenly breathed a sigh of relief, feeling like his prayers had been answered. Mr. Zayne was in more or less the same mood as Elder Maurice was.

When the two of them heard Bradley's accusations toward Jack, there was a knot in their hearts. When they saw Jack's nod, they suddenly relaxed.

Since he has entered Grand Yorn Mountain before, he had naturally gone through various trials that involved various beasts. On top of that, Jack's expression was incredibly calm which showed that he was confident. Their confidence in Jack was suddenly back.

Master Forrest and Bradley suddenly took a deep breath when Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne breathed that sigh of relief.

Jack had entered Grand Yorn Mountain before? Would he not have some understanding of beasts?

Could he really be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit in the third stage?

Just thinking about that possibility caused their expressions to sour immediately. Their earlier calmness had already disappeared as well. However, Bradley was not willing to admit defeat. He quickly followed with a question, "How long were you in Grand Yorn Mountain?"

Jack frowned, counting it in his mind before saying, "About two or three days!"

Those words caused everyone's moods to turn around again. Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne, who had already breathed a sigh of relief, started to tense up again. Meanwhile, Master Forrest and Bradley relaxed.

Two or three days was not enough to do anything in Grand Yorn Mountain at all. The two of them felt like Jack had probably just passed by Grand Yorn Mountain. They probably did not have any practical or valuable experience.

Bradley laughed and said, "What's the point of being there for just two or three days? You probably never even met any of the common beasts, let alone accumulate any experience. The third stage is testing your common knowledge and intelligence. No matter how many plans you have, they're all useless without basic knowledge."

Jack's lips twitched helplessly. In truth, he did not really want to hide anything, but there were some things that would not be believable even if he mentioned them. He had experienced a

similar situation before. Even if he said the truth, everyone else would just laugh at it. They would say mean things and laugh by themselves.

Ever since he experienced all that, Jack learned his lesson. No matter how loud the accusations got, he would not reveal the whole truth.

Bradley continued to shout, "What could you possibly do in two or three days?!"

Chapter 2707

Jack smiled lightly, not denying anything.

What had he experienced in the two or three days in Grand Yorn Mountain?

First of all, he encountered trouble in the skies of Grand Yorn Mountain, and the spirit vessel fell from the air. The three of them arrived at the outer area as the spirit vessel fell, thanks to their luck. They were only around the outer area and the edge, and most of the beasts there were only at the early stage of the spring solidifying realm.

At the time, his relationship with Rudy and Grayson was incredibly bad. If the situation had not been so dangerous, the three of them might have actually fought each other on the spot.

After experiencing the attacks from the one-eyed snow wolf, and meeting Hansel, as well as a lot more things, the three of them finally arrived at the territory of the Seven Absolutes Pavilion's Middle Province Alchemist Alliance branch.

In truth, all those things they had experienced were actually quite interesting. It was not as useless as Bradley claimed. However, he would not bring those up in front of all of them.

Bradley suddenly took things further at Jack's silence by saying, "Did you finally realize how ill-prepared you are and how impossible it is for you to get the Green Phoenix Fruit?"

"If you know you can't do it, then stop pretending that you can do anything. You'll definitely lose in this tournament. You'll definitely be carried out in the end!"

Bradley's words were as if he was incredibly sure of himself as he spoke. Jack's eyes glinted when he heard all of that, finally understanding Bradley's plan. Bradley was trying his best to attack Jack's self-confidence. He wanted Jack's self-confidence to plummet, affecting the final results. In terms of composure, Bradley is already incredibly crazed. It was exactly because of that Jack did not realize Bradley's plans underneath that crazed exterior.

Jack thought about it and finally let out a helpless smile.

In the end, Bradley was still not that confident in himself. If Bradley really was that confident, he would definitely not have said that at the time. He would not have tried so hard to insult Jack. He wanted Jack to admit that Jack was not that capable. He just wanted to use that last chance to ruin Jack's confidence and mess up Jack's plans, influencing the final results.

Jack's lips twitched helplessly, feeling like Bradley's actions were really indescribable.

Did Bradley really feel like it would affect him?

Probably because Bradley's actions were far too obvious, but even Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne had realized Bradley's goal.

Elder Maurice furrowed his eyebrows as he walked to Jack's side, putting a hand on Jack's shoulder and voiced out, "Don't think that everyone will listen to you just because of what you said. Don't think that everyone will feel like what you said was right. Didn't you swear that your results would completely trounce Jacks before? Yet, your results in the end never stood up against Jack. It's not like Jack doesn't know the rules, and it's not like Jack doesn't know what he'll be facing. Yet, he's still confident. It shows that he had his own plans. Isn't it too absurd that you're using that little bit of information you have to determine if he will win or lose?"

With that in mind, Elder Maurice had his gaze fixed on Bradley's body, deliberately letting out his aura to push Bradley back.

Master Forrest hurriedly rushed in front of Bradley when he saw the situation, putting himself between them. He unleashed his aura to match Elder Maurice's. In a flash, the two of them were at odds.

Jack merely twitched his lips speechlessly.

Chapter 2708

In truth, the solutions seemed very simple in Jack's mind. All he needed to do was to hurry up and participate in the third stage. After the results are out, they would naturally shut up. Yet, Bradley had made an adamant judgment that Jack would fail the third stage. Then he would also try to leave hastily after he was out to prevent himself from being laughed at

If that happened, Bradley would not have had the chance to regain his dignity or laugh at Jack. So, before Jack entered, he wanted to laugh and insult Jack in front of everyone, as well as attack Jack's confidence.

Jack could see all of that through Bradley's actions.

Elder Forrest did not want the atmosphere to get too awkward. After all, Sky Peak Pavilion was still working together with Phoenix Valley. If the two sides ended up fighting, it would be bad for future developments. Master Forrest took a deep breath as he glanced at Jack. He knew Bradley's plan.

He really wanted to continue with Bradley's plan as well and accomplish Bradley's role, so he let out a laugh, "You're definitely incredibly talented!"

He had said that right at Jack. As he said that, Master Forrest's expressions were strangely warm as if he was an elder who was consoling Jack. However, to Jack, he looked like a wolf that was staring at a sheep and definitely had no good intentions.

Master Forrest had always been a schemer. Jack never listened to any of his praises. As usual, Jack remained silent as he quietly looked at Master Forrest.

At that moment, Master Forrest did not really care about Jack as he continued, "Before the first round started, I'd thought that you had been forcibly brought over to make up for the numbers. Yet, the truth proved me wrong. I actually failed to see how exceptional you are. In terms of alchemy, even Bradley isn't a match for you. You're way too excellent. So excellent that even I have started to envy you. Why aren't you an alchemist from the Sky Peak Pavilion!"

As he said that, he was actually somewhat truthful, even if he did not have any good intentions. After all, Jack had done far too well. If the two others had not dragged him down, Jack would have been enough to bring Phoenix Valley to victory. That fact had no room for doubt.

Elder Maurice frowned as he said unhappily, "Stop saying all these ill-intentioned words. Do you think I don't know what you're doing? You're the host of the tournament. You should be ushering Jack in right now instead of wasting your time like this!"

Master Forrest laughed as he nodded earnestly, "You're right. I'm really wasting everyone's time right now, but I have my reasons for doing so. Please do listen..."

After his explanation, Master Forrest did not stop at all as he continued, "Even if you got good results in the first two stages, you won't be able to show off that much skill in the third stage. However, I still trust in you. Since you're so confident in yourself, you must have a perfect plan. However, you should keep in mind, that the proof of the pudding is in the eating..."

"I can understand why you're so confident since you're extraordinarily talented! However, we don't think your talent in alchemy will allow you to get the Green Phoenix Fruit. You're such a proud person. Why don't you use that pride to show us what you're capable of!"

Everyone widened their eyes at those words, suddenly understanding why Master Forrest had said so much.

Chapter 2709

Jack could not help but laugh at those words.

So Master Forrest had said all that so he could have everyone enter the door to see the process of him getting the Green Phoenix Fruit. It would give him pressure and would let Bradley vent a little as well. As long as Jack did not do well, Bradley would be able to mock him on the sidelines. Only Master Forrest would think of a plan like that.

Bradley looked at Master Forrest gratefully. If the situation had allowed it, he would have shot Master Forrest a thumbs up. That suggestion had been too perfect.

As long as Jack agreed, they would be able to pressure Jack and Bradley would be able to witness Jack's failure personally. This would enable Bradley to gain all the confidence he had lost previously.

It would definitely be better for his future. Even Bradley had been able to see through it, so Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne naturally could as well. Their faces were steely as they stared at the Sky Peak Pavilion.

The two of them felt that the people from Sky Peak Pavilion really do feel like everyone else were idiots. To think that such a low-leveled tactic would work out, was a complete joke!

Elder Maurice stood in front of Jack as he said, "Aren't you violating the rules at this point? Why did everyone else manage to enter the realm so easily? You singled Jack out to prove things to you. Don't think we don't know what you're trying to do. You're just trying to attack Jack's confidence and bolster the confidence of that brat of yours!"

Master Forrest did not get angry at those words but laughed instead. He opened up his hands and said plainly, "I don't have any of those intentions at all, but aren't you very confident in Jack? Since you're so confident, let's witness his victory together. What's wrong with that?"

"Didn't you hear what I said earlier? I said all that just to satisfy Jack's self-confidence. I don't mean anything else by it!"

At that moment, Master Forrest was basically saying everything he could to accomplish his goal.

Elder Maurice started to pant in anger after hearing that.

Mr. Zayne merely frowned and said, "Impossible! This is absolutely impossible! If this whole group enters, it'll absolutely affect Jack's results. You're just doing all this to affect Jack's final results!"

Hearing that, Master Forrest continued to shake his head earnestly as he said, "The barrier behind the door was erected by both of us. After entering, there's a three-foot-wide buffer. As long as you stand inside the area, you'll both be safe and be able to see everything that's happening within the realm. However, the people or beasts within the buffer would not be able to see the people within the area. So, Jack won't be able to see us but we can see him. That way, it won't affect his results!"

Initially, they had erected the buffer just in case of any emergencies. If the phoenix managed to escape the chain, they would still be able to run to the buffer and assure their safety. After all, behind the buffer was a natural barrier!

Chapter 2710

"As long as you're standing within the barrier, they would not be affected in any way," Master Forrest emphasized his words.

They would also be able to see what was happening within the array. It had to be said that the buffer was incredibly well-made. It gave them the perfect opportunity to witness Jack's competition!

Elder Maurice's face darkened, "Stop trying to twist the truth. Haven't you wasted so many words just to witness Jack competing? So what if Jack has confidence? Does he need to let you look at him just because he is confident? Why does everyone else get to complete the round alone, but Jack doesn't get the same chance?!"

"You clearly have ill intentions for doing so. Stop trying to make yourself seem so nice!"

Master Forrest let out a cough as he had a wronged look on his face as if he had been framed for something massive. He looked up at Elder Maurice, "Please don't accuse me like this. I've never said anything bad about Jack from the start. I just raised the suggestion because he seemed so confident. In truth, we can all just stand at the buffer. It won't affect Jack at all. We'll just be able to quietly spectate him.

"Even if we said anything, it would not affect Jack. You're so fervently trying to stop this just because you aren't confident in Jack. Why are you insisting on pinning the blame on me instead?"

When Elder Maurice heard that, he almost spat out blood in anger. Jack frowned as he reached out and pulled at Elder Maurice's hand. He looked up with a consoling expression at Elder Maurice. The matter would only cause constant arguments if it continued. He really did not want to bother with them at all at that moment

Jack looked up at Master Forrest and said sternly, "Since you want to watch me so much, just head inside and watch. I'll give you the chance to witness it together so you won't end up trying to argue the results."

After he said that, everyone's eyes widened.

Master Forrest's eyes had a strange look to them. Even though he had tried his best to push things forward, he had not had a hundred percent confidence. After all, no one there was an idiot. He clearly had ill intentions, everyone could see that. However, as long as it was still remotely possible, Master Forrest would do his best to make it happen. However, he never expected that Jack would agree before he even exhausted all his avenues.

Jack had agreed to it too easily, causing Master Forrest to stumble a little.

Elder Maurice turned back emotionally at that and said, "Are you crazy? They clearly don't have good intentions. They're trying to disrupt your performance!"

Mr. Zayne walked over with a worried look as he said, "Even though you can't see them, you'll still be able to hear any loud discussions. This group wants you to fail. They'll purposely waste their voices to affect you! What are you going to do then? You're not responsible if you agree just like that!"

Jack sighed, understanding Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne's worry and fear. However, he had never been worried about it.

He smiled bitterly and replied, "Don't think about it too much. The fact that I agreed means I have my reasons for doing so. Since they are so eager to see how I perform then just let them look. You have to understand, I've never been someone who lets the words of others sway me. There's only one reason I'd agree to that. I don't care if they'll affect me at all. Even if you start fighting in the buffer, it won't affect my results at all."

Jack was incredibly resolute as he said that, leaving no room for doubt.

Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne could not help but frown. They still had a lot to say, but since Jack had already said so much, it would not look good if they were not willing to let it go.

Chapter 2711

They were forced to swallow all their words as they looked at Fane. Master Forrest was ecstatic. His smile was so wide that it threatened to split his face.

If it had been the right place to do so, he would have started to clap in celebration. He had been so obvious with what he was doing, but the brat had still fallen for it! He would do everything he could to affect the brat's performance the moment the round started.

It was obvious without even thinking about it that the brat would definitely try to use the knowledge he had to get a Green Phoenix Fruit. Only, they did not know if Fane's method would be effective or not.

No matter what method he had in mind, Master Forrest decided that he would definitely do everything he could to disturb Fane. Fane immediately saw through Master Forrest's thoughts, and a smile of disdain formed on his face.

At that moment, Bradley had a pleased expression on his face as he gave way to Fane. Fane looked coldly at Bradley. Bradley had reverted back into that emotionless genius.

Sure enough, a good amount of his earlier temperament had been faked. It was all done in order to provoke Fane. Fane could not help but shake his head at the thought, tossing all those thoughts to the back of his head.

He started to walk forward and pushed the door open. Everyone else followed closely behind him. The buffer was about three feet away from the door. Any forward would be an isolated barrier.

It was an isolated space. Everyone could see the scene within the space. In the illusory realm, a large phoenix was patrolling within. At that moment, the phoenix's eyes were half open and it had a lazy look on its face, but no one dared to underestimate it.

After all, the phoenix was already in the spring solidifying realm. If it had not been restrained by a chain, it could have rush over and ripped half of the people there apart. Fane looked at the phoenix and sighed.

The phoenix might have already matured, but it was still not that old. It was still only at the early stage of the innate level. As Fane walked forward and entered the illusory realm, he suddenly heard a wave of discussions.

He immediately knew that Claude was talking. "He's far too confident. A phoenix isn't that easy to deal with. If he insists on forcing it, it won't end well for him."

Those words might sound like it was advice for Fane to not be impulsive, but it was filled with a sense of mockery. Fane smiled coldly as he turned around abruptly. Claude seemed like he would never stop.

Fane had already warned Claude before, but Claude seemed like he had already forgotten it. Fane was not someone who forgives so easily. He had only temporarily let Claude off because of the special circumstances.

However, he was already at the last round, and the brat no longer had any use.

Fane suddenly smiled coldly as he said in a low voice, "Remember everything you said just now. Don't regret it later."

After saying that, Fane turned around and walked into the illusory realm. The illusory realm was so realistic that Fane was actually fooled.

After entering the formation, he was fully submerged in the illusion. After that, even the ground behind him turned into a green plain. Sensing that someone had entered, the phoenix's eyes slowly widened.

The phoenix was blue but had no wings. Instead, it had two talons both front and back. Its sharp claws had a vague chill to them, even if one was not near them.

The sharpness of the talons could be felt from the coldness. Fane turned to look and found that he could not see the people within the buffer, but he could still feel their gazes on him.

Chapter 2712

The moment Fane entered the formation, the people in the buffer had all lost their reservations. After all, only Fane had yet to finish the third stage.

Everyone stared at Fane with widened eyes, especially Bradley. Other than excitement, there were no other emotions in his eyes.

At that moment, his mood turned incredibly complicated. He had already used every trick in the book that he could. He was certain that Fane would never be able to get the Green Phoenix Fruit simply because Fane just did not have the ability to!

Jameson said, agitated, "What do you think Fane will do to get the Green Phoenix Fruit? My mind is a mess at the moment..."

"I'd already tried everything I could. I even went in and put my life on the line. In the end, I got injured, and couldn't even get my hands on the Green Phoenix Fruit. The phoenix is just way too smart!"

After Jameson said that, everyone nodded except for Bradley. During the round, they had thought of various plans before, but everything went down the drain after they entered the illusory realm and faced the phoenix.

Not a single one of them managed to get through. Jameson, Conrad, and Benedict all got injured while deciding to put their lives on the line. At that moment, the few of them had complicated feelings in their hearts.

Conrad stared at Bradley, and after a long time, he finally summoned up the courage to ask, "Bradley... Now that Fane's entered, there's no need for the rules anymore. Could you help answer our questions? How did you get the Green Phoenix Fruit?"

Conrad was incredibly curious about it. He knew what Bradley was like. Even though they were all alchemists from Sky Peak Pavilion, Bradley looked down on them.

Conrad might not be willing to accept it, but he did not dare to say anything in front of Bradley's immense talent. Just asking the question had taken him a lot of courage. After all, Bradley had always only cared about himself.

If Bradley did not want to say it, one would only be faced with cold words even if one asked. Bradley's mood was quite complicated and a little worried at that moment. After hearing Conrad's question, he looked up into Conrad's eyes and swept over the other participants.

Everyone looked at him with excitement. It seemed like everyone really wanted to know how he got the Green Phoenix Fruit. Bradley raised an eyebrow and let out a cold laugh, "Since you all want to know so much, I'll tell you."

After saying that, Bradley looked toward the illusory array. At that moment, Fane was not moving at all, just like before. No one knew what he was thinking. The phoenix had already opened its eyes and was locking gazes with Fane.

If the phoenix had not been chained, it would definitely have rushed over and torn Fane apart. After looking at him for a few moments, Bradley finally answered, "The method is actually very simple. I spent so long in Grand Yorn Mountain, and I've met phoenixes like this before. They like eating cold energy, so any materials with cold energy are incredibly alluring to the phoenixes. I used a freezing pill."

The moment he said that all the participants widened their eyes. At that moment, they were not filled with curiosity, but confusion, Claude was the first to speak, "All of us are aware of that special point of phoenixes. I might be an alchemist focused on refining pills, but I've at least memorized the introductions to

Chapter 2713

"I've already seen the introductions on phoenixes in ancient archives before. Phoenixes' liking of cold energy is the first trait listed. I tried to use that point. After entering the door, I took out ground frost pills that are dense in cold energy.

"The effects of ground frost pills shouldn't be worse than freezing pills. In the buffer zone, I mixed poison with the pills and tossed them out. However, the phoenix did not fall for it at all. All the phoenix did was a glance at the pills and shut its eyes, ignoring them!"

After Claude finished talking, everyone nodded in agreement. It was obvious that everyone more or less knew of that special characteristic. They had tried to use it to their advantage but did not succeed.

Conrad said, "I threw quite a few pills with cold characteristics. It wasn't just pills, but weapons as well. Yet, they never managed to attract the phoenix.

"The phoenix would just look at it before turning around. It didn't look like it wanted to eat them as well! We knew about freezing pills as well. Furthermore, freezing pills aren't actually that dense in cold energy. Why did yours end up working, while ours didn't despite our various tries?"

Conrad's last words were precisely what all the participants were thinking. All of them widened their eyes as they looked at Bradley curiously. Even Elder Maurice, Mr. Zayne, and the others were looking curiously.

Bradley coldly laughed, "What do you think phoenixes are? Even though they're beasts, don't assume that beasts lack intelligence.

"Do you think they'll obediently fall for it just because you threw in some pills with cold energy? Do you think they'd end up consuming poison so obediently?!"

"The phoenix is already matured and is already at the spring solidifying realm. There's no way it could be that dumb. At the very least, it wouldn't fall for such a shallow trick. If you don't understand, think about it in another way.

"If you were the phoenix, and some alluring pills suddenly got tossed in from the outside, would you just dumbly run over and eat everything?!"

Those words caused their faces to redden. Bradley had hit their weaknesses on the spot. Be it before or after they entered the illusory realm, they had never considered the phoenix's intelligence.

They only thought about using the special characteristic of the phoenix to lure it to eat the poison. They would then have the best chance to get close to the Green Phoenix Fruit.

They forgot something important. Even though phoenixes were beasts, they were still not beasts of low intelligence. Before it was caught by Sky Peak Pavilion. It had been staying in the incredibly dangerous Grand Yorn Mountain.

Grand Yorn Mountain was a gathering spot for beasts. An unknown number of beasts dwelled within, and an unknown number of beasts died every day. If it were not smart enough, it could not have possibly survived on Grand Yorn Mountain for that long.

Shallow tricks like that would not be able to even fool beasts. After Bradley said that, everyone's minds were finally enlightened. Claude said miserably, "Since it's so intelligent and its skills are far above ours, how could we have gotten the Green Phoenix Fruit with only an hour's time!"

Claude started to complain again. Even though the others did not continue with his words, most of them agreed with his views. There were way too many problems that were in front of them.

Chapter 2714

For them to get the Green Phoenix Fruit was already a task that was considered arduous. Master Forrest let out a cold laugh when he heard Claude's words and said, "Don't just complain if you can't do it. Each round had been arranged to be incredibly strict and difficult. You should never have participated if you don't think you have the skill.

"Just because you can't do it doesn't mean others can't. Didn't Bradley successfully acquire a Green Phoenix Fruit?"

Those words felt incredibly insulting. Claude could not help but shudder at them. Elder Maurice frowned as he berated, "Just shut your mouth. Every time you open your mouth, you're either trying to accuse someone or

complain. Had I known of your character, I would never have allowed you to attend this tournament!"

Claude was incredibly reluctant to just let Elder Maurice berate him like that, but he did not dare to say anything. After all, he was still the cause of all this.

After they returned to Phoenix Valley, Elder Maurice might embellish the report about him if Elder Maurice did not like him. Then, he would end up being punished more than he should. For the sake of his future, he was forced to swallow his anger.

Conrad did not really care about what the people from Phoenix Valley were arguing about. The only thing he wanted to know was how Bradley ended up getting the Green Phoenix Fruit.

He limped forward next to Bradley and said, "If you just used the freezing pills, the results would have been the same as ours. Since you managed to successfully get the Green Phoenix Pill, then you must have used a different method, right?"

Bradley glanced at Conrad before calmly, "It's true that the freezing pills were only part of the ruse, but they were incredibly important. Have you forgotten what the freezing pills are used for?"

Conrad frowned, thinking for a moment before answering, "Freezing pills can be consumed and used externally. Consuming them can help restrict any fire-based poisons.

"Used externally, it will automatically release dense cold energy into its surroundings! However, is that capable of going against the phoenix?"

Bradley nodded. He had never planned on keeping this a secret anyway. After all, the method Bradley had used was not a special method at all. It was just that all the others were too stupid, and used dumb methods instead.

He calmly said, "The phoenix is not stupid. It naturally won't entertain any pills that are just casually thrown out. However, I didn't throw the freezing pills for the phoenix to eat.

"I didn't put any poison into the pills either. I threw the pills in purely for them to release cold energy.

The other participants were all confused by the explanation. Not a single one of them understood what that would do. Yet, Master Forrest and Elder Maurice immediately did.

When they designed the tournament, they had acted through how finishing the third stage could be done. Bradley's method was the one they had thought of, and it was simple and reliable.

Even Elder Maurice could not help but nod at it. Bradley was definitely much better than anyone who was average in terms of both talent and skill. He had relied on his own skills to get the Green Phoenix Fruit. Thinking about that, Elder Maurice started to get worried about Fane.

Chapter 2715

He did not know if Fane had the skill. Bradley did not care what everyone else was thinking as he continued explaining, "The freezing pills can't just release cold energy, they also numb the sense of smell. With those two effects, of course, I could deal with the phoenix!"

Hearing that, the others still did not really understand. Bradley frowned as he cursed in his heart. All of them were idiots. After that, he patiently continued explaining.

"Even though the phoenix won't consume the pill, phoenixes have always liked places with dense cold energy. After the freezing pill lets out the cold energy, the phoenix would still slowly get nearer to the pill, even if it won't eat it.

"That's the effect I wanted. After tossing the freezing pills in, I scattered in some bewildering powder. In order to not attract the phoenix's attention, I scattered them on the wild grass.

"The bewildering powder had always been colorless and possessed a mild smell. With the attraction of the freezing pills, on top of the scent numbing effect, the phoenix would not be able to smell even if it was close.

"Naturally, it would not be as alert as before. The phoenix is still a spring solidifying realm beast. A small amount of bewildering powder won't have much of an effect, so I quietly waited in the buffer.

"I only dared to walk in after over half an hour. When I entered the illusory realm, the phoenix immediately rushed at me when it noticed me. Yet, it had already inhaled a lot of bewildering powder, so it did not have the strength to attack at all.

"I took advantage of its weakness to rush to the Green Phoenix Fruit and got myself one," As he said that, he shook the Green Phoenix Fruit in his hand. He had explained so much that anyone who still could not understand was probably mentally challenged.

In truth, the method was not that difficult, but the rest of them had not thought about it at all. They even neglected a very important problem. After all, they had not been in Grand Yorn Mountain that much compared to Bradley.

Bradley understood the habits of beasts very well. Even though they knew that beasts could be intelligent, they habitually ignored the fact. They thought of the phoenix as some wild animal that only knew how to kill. That was the reason for their failure!

Claude grumbled, "Why didn't I think of that!"

Bradley could not help but laugh coldly when he heard that, "I managed to think of that method so quickly purely because of my experiences in Grand Yorn Mountain.

"Even if I had people protecting me, I still encountered various dangers. These beasts are all cunning. I had the protection of the buffer and the phoenix was chained.

"I just needed some small tricks to get it. It's just that the rest of you are too dumb. That's the only reason you felt that this stage is too hard!"

After Bradley said that, the other participants all turned red in their ears. Even if they did not like it, they still could not find any retort to Bradley. That was because they really were too dumb if anyone looked at it from Bradley's shoes.

After a moment, Benedict suddenly said, "What method do you think Fane will use? Could he end up using the same method as Bradley? Utilizing the fact that phoenixes like cold, and putting poison in it to get the Green Phoenix Fruit!"

Chapter 2716

Bradley's lips twisted to a frown before they formed a cold smile. "Fane doesn't have what it takes. I was only able to think of this method because I encountered beasts on Grand Yorn Mountain, and for quite an extended period at that.

"Just think about yourselves, and you'll be able to guess how Fane is thinking. He'd only been on Grand Yorn Mountain for two or three days, and he hasn't had the chance to change his views at all. Whatever he's going to do next will only be what you're capable of, more or less," spoke Bradley, sounding so sure and firm in his words that none rebuked him.

They thought Bradley was making sense, anyway.

If Fane had spent a lot of time in Grand Yorn Mountain like Bradley had and knew how cunning the beasts there were, he would be able to obtain a green Phoenix Fruit like Bradley had.

Conrad smiled and said, "I think he'd be more or less like us, just using a few pills with cold attributes, or maybe a few treasures to attract the phoenix's attention.

"Nonetheless, the phoenix is a beast seasoned with experience, and it won't be baited with just that. Everything he does will be useless. His result will ultimately be like ours, and he'll return emptyhanded."

Elder Maurice frowned when he heard that, coldly glancing at Conrad, but he said nothing in the end. The elder even had to admit that Conrad...made sense.

After all, only Bradley had dwelled at Grand Yorn Mountain for a significant period, and only then had Bradley been able to figure out a method. Fane, on the other hand, did not have Bradley's experience and naturally would not figure out the method.

Even if Fane had something similar to Bradley in mind, the beast would naturally be more guarded after what Bradley did and would no longer fall prey to Fane's actions if he imitated Bradley.

Elder Maurice was frustrated that his mind had not worked quickly enough. It had taken him this long to realize something was wrong. If he had thought about it earlier, he would not have allowed Master Forrest to arrange things like this.

Fane should have been the first to enter.

The phoenix would not have been as alert as it was already, and Fane would have the highest chance of success!

Alas, it was all too late,

Jameson raised an eyebrow and said,

"Regardless, Fane was overconfident. All of us more or less have some self-confidence, but we would all wait in the buffer for a while for the sake of safety, composing ourselves first before hiding and moving accordingly.

"Fane, on the other hand, just rushed without a care in the world and, because of that, is locking eyes with the phoenix right now. His thoughts truly boggle me!"

Everyone focused on Fane, who merely stood still before the phoenix after he finished. He crossed his arms as if he was thinking about something, but he did not move immediately.

His behavior merely confused everyone else even more.

Conrad burst into cackles. "I think he's starting to regret things! Everyone's naturally more excited when they get in. He just wanted to deal with the phoenix as soon as possible.

"He rushed in without a care in the world and now he's in a panic, not knowing what to do. Just look at how he's just staring at the beast!"

Chapter 2717

The others nodded in agreement and even sympathized with Fane.

Meanwhile, Bradley's lips curled into a cold smile as he stared at Fane's figure, able to guess what he was thinking of—conflict and agony.

Fane seemed plagued with worry as he stared at the phoenix in the illusory array.

He looked at the phoenix, then at the five remaining fruits before he silently calculated what the fruits would be worth.

He did not know if he would be able to take those fruits after he took them, and if Sky Peak Pavilion would keep them for themselves.

Furthermore, the phoenix was a spring solidifying realm beast, its core capable of fetching a pretty price. Other than the tournament, earning spirit crystals was the only thing in Fane's mind.

Spirit crystals were his biggest motivation.

Despite that, however, Fane was worried that Sky Peak Pavilion would stop him from bringing it back. The thought echoed in his mind as he thought about it a few times, and he grew more conflicted every second.

He did not care about how much time had passed. So long as he beat Bradley's record, Phoenix Valley would be able to secure their victory. Not that long had passed at that point, too; he had much time to spare in the limit he set for himself.

After deliberating things, Fane decided to turn and walk toward the barrier.

Everyone in the barrier suddenly widened their eyes in confusion when they saw Fane walking over. Was Conrad right after all?

Did Fane regret his decision and wanted to return?

After entering the buffer, the illusion disappeared, revealing the scenery of the actual world to Fane. Seeing everyone's expressions, Fane did not feel like anything was strange at all. After all, they did not understand how he worked.

Master Forrest smiled as he spoke, albeit with contempt, "Why have you returned? Did you not figure out a good plan? Are you back here to think about another plan? Perhaps you were just too impulsive and shouldn't have rushed out."

Fane raised an eyebrow, not caring for Master Forrest's mockery at all. He did not even look at Elder Maurice before he cleared his throat and said, "If I get all five Green Phoenix Fruits, will they all be mine?"

The moment he said that, everyone was stunned. They looked at Fane with widened eyes, speechless.

"What is he saying?" blurted Claude.

Seeing everyone's reaction, Fane frowned before he repeated his words.

Master Forrest's lips twitched. "What did you say? You want all five Green Phoenix Fruits, and you'll want to take them all? Am I hearing things correctly?"

Fane nodded. "Yes, I came back to ask you this. If I got all five Green Phoenix Fruits, will they all be mine? After all, I'm the last participant, and no one else will be taking part."

Master Forrest's lips twitched, finding himself at a bit of a loss. He had thought that Fane returned because Fane did not know what to do, but he never expected this to be why Fane returned!

Chapter 2718

What fueled Fane to even think he could get a Green Phoenix Fruit and even claim the remaining ones for himself? Fane's way of thinking was too much for a regular person to comprehend!

Bradley snorted, mockingly saying, "Do you even realize what you're saying?"

Fane shrugged. "Of course I know what I'm saying, but it's more important if you lot understand what I said. I don't need to repeat my question; you just need to answer it."

He did not want to waste time nor did he want to bother with everyone.

It was only then did Master Forrest conclude Fane was socially inept, or something of the sort. Otherwise, Fane would never have asked such a question.

If Master Forrest thought that Fane was that capable, he would never have agreed to letting Fane have all five Green Phoenix Fruits.

Nonetheless, Master Forrest nodded generously. "Alright, I agree. As long as you can get those five Green Phoenix Fruits, they'll all be yours!"

Fane sighed in relief upon hearing that, but he only took a breather for a moment. He had not returned to the buffer for that alone.

Fane continued, "If I end up using too much force and the phoenix dies, I shouldn't have to take responsibility, right? After all, the goal of this round is to collect the Green

Phoenix Fruits by any means necessary. As long as I get the fruits, I'll have succeeded. Killing the phoenix should be considered a method, yes?"

Just like before, confusion swept the people present at Fane's question. Even Elder Maurice could not stop himself from frowning. He looked at Fane speechlessly, not knowing what game Fane was trying to play or why Fane had returned.

Master Forrest's lips twitched as he looked at Fane incredulously. "Didn't I mention this before? As long as you can obtain the Green Phoenix Fruit, it doesn't matter what method you use. As long as you can get it, you will pass.

"I've also said that it doesn't matter what method you use. Naturally, it means you're allowed to go ham and kill the phoenix.

"Hearing this question, are you planning on fighting the phoenix? Let me remind you: the phoenix isn't a beast with a warm temperament. If you provoke it, it'll try and kill you, even putting its life on the line. Don't end up losing yourself for your results!"

Fane nodded before holding his head up high. "Don't worry, that won't happen."

With that, Fane turned and walked back into the illusory realm, leaving everyone speechless behind him.

Benedict could not help but say, "What is he trying to do? Fane looks so desperate to me right now. Is he going to just try to poison the phoenix?"

"The phoenix's intellect level doesn't matter. It won't just hide if it sees someone trying to poison it. I think that Fane's just panicking at this point, trying every single method he can."

Conrad nodded thoughtfully. "Fane has already given up, I think. I genuinely don't know what he's up to."

Meanwhile, Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne looked at Fane in worry, wondering what Fane wanted to do. They were also trying to guess what method Fane would use to get the Green Phoenix Fruits.

They worried he would be injured if he used too intense of a method. To the two of them, Fane was already someone who meant something much more to Phoenix Valley. If Fane ended up with an injury that he could not recover from, Phoenix Valley might consider them both as criminals.

After all, Fane was far too talented. Even if he was in the inner valley, he would be able to scale up the ranks easily. Losing the tournament would already be a big crime, and if they failed to protect Fane, their punishments would no doubt multiply.

Elder Maurice could not help but shudder at the thought as he turned to look at Mr. Zayne, who was already staring at him. They could see the helplessness in each other's eyes.

At that moment, Claude raised his voice, to which everyone heard him say, "Wait, what? What's he doing? He pulled out his weapon!"

All eyes turned sharply in Fane's direction soon after. At that moment, he had already retrieved his gray sword from Mustard Seed and held it tightly by the hilt.

Those plans that they were all talking about could really have worked, but Fane did not need them. The phoenix was just an early stage spring solidifying realm beast; it was not worth much of his attention and effort.

He held his sword in his right hand as his left hand constantly moved, forming seal after seal. A streak of light in gray formed in the air as Soul Swords were formed, one at a time.

In the blink of an eye, everyone watched as 75 Soul Swords were formed in the air. Everyone knew what Fane was planning.

He was actually planning on facing a spring solidifying realm beast head-on. Was he crazy?!

"I think he's run out of options," blurted Claude. "He's trying to fight a spring solidifying realm beast? He's crazy! An innate stage fighter is trying to fight a spring solidifying realm beast? Does he think he's a genius martial artist?"

Since Fane had deliberately left behind his internal injuries, none of them managed to see how strong he was. However, in their eyes, it was not important at all.

After all, Fane appeared to everyone as an alchemist, and any warrior who decided to embark on the path of an alchemist would never be establishing their roots in martial prowess. Furthermore, his age was a limit, so he would only be at the middle stage of the innate level at most.

For a warrior who was at the middle stage of the innate realm at most to face a spring solidifying realm beast head-on was an insurmountable hurdle since the warrior would not be able to have any strong skills and abilities.

This summed up to one thing: Fane practically signed his death wish.

Master Forrest took a deep breath as he incredulously remarked, "Does he not want

to live anymore? Or, is he that confident that he can beat a spring solidifying realm beast?"

Even Master Forrest and Bradley were confused by Fane's action. Something had to be wrong with Fane's mind, they thought -bad enough that he would think of fighting a spring solidifying realm beast!

It was like Fane wanted to die that badly!

Sky Peak Pavilion was not the only party dumbfounded at the turn of events.

Even Elder Maurice gaped at the sight, his entire body trembling at the sight. That was the moment he felt the most conflicted in his entire life.

He had the urge to pull Fane out at that moment, yet he was scared that Fane had his own plans. It might all just be a ruse to attract the phoenix's attention for Fane's other plans.

If he just rushed in, he might disrupt Fane's plans and lead to Phoenix Valley's failure.

However, if Fane truly planned on fighting the phoenix and he lost control of the situation, he could be killed by any stray talons. If that happened, they would not be able to walk away unscathed!

Even Mr. Zayne was beginning to lose his composure.

Mr. Zayne turned to look at Elder Maurice with a concerned look on his face, "What do we do? What is Fane trying to do? What kind of plan does he have?! I'm not so sure about this anymore. He's facing a spring solidifying realm beast here!

"In the eyes of a spring solidifying realm beast, Fane is just an oversized ant at the innate level, and he won't be able to take a single blow if he just rushes up to the best! S-Should we go and pull him out of there?"

Mr. Zayne knew that they would automatically lose if he did that, but a loss was a loss. If Fane died in this event, the punishment that awaited them would be unimaginably harsh when they returned. They might even end up suffering corporal punishment apart from being demoted!

The moment he thought of the punishment he could get, Mr. Zayne automatically shuddered, mentally prepared to blame Fane for everything.

Elder Maurice thought for a long time before he shook his head. "I trust in Fane; he's a very prepared person after all. Don't you remember? All of us doubted him during the first stage, but he'd never been that emotional.

"Someone like him does everything incredibly seriously. If we just rush in like that, we'd just ruin his plans. We have to be confident in him, come what may!"

Mr. Zayne nodded, feeling like he was practically forced to think in such a way. He silently prayed for Fane, hoping that he would not just dive in for a fight. That would just kill him!

Fane waved, condensing the 75 Soul Swords into a massive Soul Sword that floated in front of him.

The massive Soul Sword glowed a dark color, but it suddenly turned into dots of light in a flash. It merged into the gray sword in Fane's right hand. At that moment, Fane was already almost at the perfect stage of Destroying the Void.

As long as Fane managed to condense the final 25 Soul Swords, he would be able to reach 100 Soul Swords, the strongest state of Destroying the Void. An ultimate godlevel technique was something none could easily contend against.

Only the best disciples of eighth or ninth - grade clans would be able to train in techniques of that level at this age.

At that moment, the phoenix was aroused from its lethargic state, rising from the ground. As it stood, it measured up to about 9 meters tall, and compared to the beast, Fane was like a rat facing a cat.

The phoenix roared as its disdain-filled eyes stared right at Fane. While it might not be as sharp as a human, it was still perceptive in its own right.

Even though it could not see how strong Fane was, it had seen the other participants who had entered, as well as their level of capabilities. With that, the phoenix had lumped Fane into the same level as them and saw him merely as an ant at the innate level.

The phoenix felt incredibly amused that the ant dared to raise a weapon against itself. The cry it let out right after might have been due to how amused it felt as it stared at Fane.

It raised its head arrogantly and lengthened its claws, but Fane did not even blink at the phoenix's reaction. His lips curled upward as he aimed his sword right at the phoenix's head.

Under everyone's widened eyes, he shot forward like a cannonball at the phoenix.

Everyone saw the scene, and their hearts started to beat rapidly.