

- Chapter 2866 -

“That’s right! Hurry up and let Walter go. If something happens to him, you’ll suffer greatly! Walter isn’t Vincent, and there may still be room for negotiation after you killed Vincent, but if you kill Walter, even God can’t help you. Once you get out of the Whirling World, the Compass Pavilion will hunt you down forever!”

The curses and warnings flew into Jack’s ears. Of course, he had expected as much. The fact that he dared to make his move meant that he was not concerned.

To the wandering warriors, Compass Pavilion was a threat, but to Jack, they were not that important. What could they do to him?

As long as he was strong enough and managed to join a stronger clan, the Compass Pavilion would not be able to do anything.

This thing was Compass Pavilion’s fault from the start, anyway, and Jack never went against the rules at all. Had they not egged him on, Jack would never have bothered with them.

Jack let out a cold smile as he turned to look at the disciples from the Compass Pavilion. He deliberately raised his voice as he declared, “Listen up, Compass Pavilion! Don’t think that you can do whatever you want just because you’re from an eighth-grade clan. You were the ones looking for trouble from the start, targeting me after you lost your match. If you hadn’t bothered me to no end, I wouldn’t have bothered with you at all. You do whatever you want to just because you have a strong clan behind you, and it makes me sick!”

Jack’s words managed to gain the support of the spectators as they clapped and cheered. He had voiced out their grievances, the disciples of higher grade clans truly enjoyed showing off!

It was also incredibly two-faced, too, that only they were allowed to look for weaker opponents. The weak were never allowed to fight back. Even talented warriors would not be shown mercy as long as those warriors did not have the right background!

Everyone was pleased to hear Jack’s words, and they made it verbal.

“Get lost, Compass Pavilion. Do you think you’re the only ones who can show up like that? Are others not allowed to retaliate? We’ve all heard how Walter said he wanted Jack to be begging to die before the battle started. Is Jack not allowed to do the same to him? Does that warrant the Compass Pavilion hunting him down?”

“That’s right! You’re the only ones ever allowed to do anything! For so many years, you treated the weak just like this! Don’t think that you can do whatever you want just because no one fought back!”

“Go to hell, Compass Pavilion!”

The curses were everywhere, and there were even those who started to throw dirty things their way.

The disciples of the Compass Pavilion glowered at this. They could not believe that Jack's words had riled up everyone else like this!

One of them could not resist shouting out in anger, "You trashy wandering warriors only know how to shout out during times like these. Once you're out of the Whirling World, you're nothing in front of us!"

Those words caused a greater reaction from the crowd. Quite a few of them were thoroughly angered, but thankfully, something held them back. They knew that they would be punished by the laws of the Whirling World if they fought, so they restrained themselves.

They cursed the disciples of the Compass Pavilion without stopping. Just like that, the second arena turned clamored like a night market. The constant arguments never stopped. There were too few disciples from the Compass Pavilion, and they were no match for all the spectators.

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The spectators were a mix of all sorts of warriors. Some of them just loved to argue normally, and it finally served useful as they cursed the disciples of the Compass Pavilion to their hearts' content. Some of them even used their true energy on their throats, deliberately enhancing their voices. They were worried that the people next to them could not hear the vulgarities they were spitting out.

This, however, made Jack's ears hurt. He never expected the words he exchanged with the disciples of the Compass Pavilion to rouse the crowd so aggressively.

Jack helplessly sighed, feeling like continuing would bear no fruit. They would not end up fighting anyway and could only fight with their words.

In the end, Jack could no longer tolerate it. He went to the corner of the stage and stood there silently, not planning on killing Walter just yet. He wanted Walter to beg for death. That was the promise Walter had given him before, so he wanted Walter to get a taste of his medicine.

Time slowly ticked away, but the sound of the arguments did not stop. Walter's twitching slowly grew weaker, and the barrier finally fell. The Compass Pavilion's disciples hurried over and helped Walter up.

Vale frowned as he checked Walter's pulse. Even though he could still feel something, it was incredibly weak.

Manse hurriedly retrieved many pills from his spatial ring and stuffed them into Walter's mouth, but none of those pills could cure Walter's current injuries. After all, Jack had already used Destroying the Void to destroy Walter's soul.

Some pills that were meant to just cure internal injuries could do nothing for a destroyed soul. Manse had fed Walter so many pills, but Walter showed no signs of improving, which caused Manse to panic.

Fear crept into his heart. If Walter truly died, they would all be implicated.

Manse turned his gaze toward Jack and shot him a deadly glare. He looked like he wanted to rip Jack apart, but Jack was already used to that expression.

"Are you not afraid of death, Jack?!" shouted Manse. "The Compass Pavilion won't just take things lying down. We'll get our revenge for your actions. I'll make you pay!"

Jack laughed and nonchalantly replied, walking toward Manse, "Walter's current state is me exacting my revenge against you. If you insist, however, I'll welcome it. Of course, that depends if you have the skills to do so. I never trouble those who haven't troubled me, and I'll return any offenses against me several times over. If you refuse to give up, I'll make you all pay the price!"

Manse cowered in fear as Jack got closer. Even though Manse loves to shout and curse, he was still already thoroughly afraid of Jack. He had not been that scared of Jack after Vincent lost, but even Walter had lost so badly. Manse was forced to look at Jack in a different light.

Jack was deathly terrifying. His talents were practically demonic.

"Y-You can't do anything here," stammered Manse. "If you attack, you'll be punished by the laws. You'll be struck by lightning, you know?!"

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Jack let out a cold laugh. "I'm not planning on doing anything to you. I'm just here to remind you, didn't you forget something important?"

Jack's words baffled Manse for a moment. Frowning, he recalled what it was that Jack meant. He had struck a bet with Jack, and bitterness crept into his being as he gritted his teeth.

Manse had betted against Jack before because he was certain that Jack could not win at all. He was so sure that Jack would lose terribly and that he would easily get 190000 spirit crystals from Jack. He never expected that he had actually dug his own hole.

Jack won their bet!

Jack extended his hand. "Hurry and pay up, I don't have all day. I have things I need to do. I just wanted to bet ninety thousand spirit crystals, but you insisted on adding a hundred thousand to the bet. You set the bet to a hundred and ninety spirit crystals yourself, so give it here."

Manse nearly spat blood upon hearing Jack's words. Despite his reluctance, however, it was what had happened. Jack had only said 90000 spirit crystals were to be in the bet, but Manse was sure that Jack would lose and added 100000 to it.

He shot himself in the foot!

Manse wanted to slap himself at that moment. 90000 spirit crystals might still be a sum, but it was not too bad. 190000, however, was a different story.

Alas, he and Jack had signed a contract, and he could not back down even if he wanted to. If he did not pay up, the contract would immediately take effect, and he would not be able to bear the consequences.

What followed was a strangely smooth process. After Walter was brought out of the stage by the disciples of the Compass Pavilion, Jack obtained the third token, and it was slightly more special. The entry token had turned into an exit token. That meant that he could get out of the city right after he arrived at the third level.

Jack let out a sigh as he put the token into Mustard Seed before he brought Rudy to the third level. Compared to how noisy the first and second levels were, the third level was more vacant. Other than the exit and the entrance to the fourth level, there was nothing else on the third level. A few people were resting in the perimeter, though, seemingly wondering if they should head to the fourth level.

Jack pulled out the entry token as he toyed with it in his hand.

If it were anyone else, they might have been worried about how difficult the fourth level could be, and they might be puzzled over whether or not they should ascend. However, he did not have that thought at all. If he did not go to the fourth level, no one there probably could.

Rudy did not even need to ask to know what Jack was thinking. He looked at Jack earnestly and was more than certain to follow him wherever he went.

Rudy looked at the other warriors that were on the third level and whispered with a laugh, "These people must be conflicted if they should head to the fourth level. After all, the second level probably wasn't that difficult for them. Those who enter the fourth level are all quite strong. No one knows what will happen there and whether they'll lose their lives."

Jack turned to look at Rudy and, after thinking, said, "Why don't you stay here as well? I didn't get any information from the exit token. I don't know what sort of challenges are waiting there. You're too frail, and I think you'll be in danger if you tag along."

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Rudy shook his head vehemently at Jack's offer, not wanting to follow through. "I don't want to stay here. If you go to the fourth level, you'll go to the fifth as well. There are seven levels in this tower. Who knows if you'll just be sent out or transferred to somewhere once you conquer the seventh level? What will I do if I'm left alone here?"

Jack nodded silently at Rudy's words. Rudy's concerns were not unwarranted, no doubt. If he headed to the seventh level in one go, the tower might see him as a perfect challenger. It might reward him immediately and instantly transfer him somewhere else. If he left Rudy there, he might not meet him again.

Jack's expression seemed uncertain even after a few seconds, and Rudy, fearing his expression, reached out to grab Jack's arm.

"I entered Thousand Leaves Pavilion as your dependent. Since I'm your dependent, I won't be facing any challenges at all. As long as you continue climbing, I won't leave no matter what dangers we face," said Rudy earnestly. "Even if I am unlucky enough to die there, it'd be my own doing."

Ever since he knew Jack, Rudy felt like he had constantly been in danger, but it was not in his hands to change.

While he knew nothing else, he was certain of one thing, Jack was incredibly reliable, and he would only be able to survive if he followed Jack. He wanted to get through these two years and leave the Whirling World to the Golden Pills as soon as he could.

Jack nodded at Rudy's words. The two of them arrived at the entrance to the fourth level where a few people gathered, yet all of them looked wary. After all, they did not know what the future had in store for them.

Jack was about to enter the fourth level when Rudy grabbed his arm. He looked at Rudy with a frown.

Rudy took a few deep breaths before saying, "I know you're very confident in yourself, but you still have to be prepared. Even though we're still in the Whirling World, those from the Compass Pavilion won't just sit there idly. They probably won't stand a chance against you alone, but if they come in groups, we'll have a hard time for sure."

Jack nodded. He had already thought about that. If he was truly afraid of the Compass Pavilion, he would not have faced them so strongly from the start.

"I'm the same as always," answered Jack. "I won't do anything to those who've done nothing to me. If someone wrongs me, I'll pay it back several times. If Vincent didn't cause me trouble, we wouldn't have been caught in a conflict. They were the cause of everything. I know they'll cause me more trouble, and I'll fight back. Don't worry, I won't put myself in danger."

Jack's words were incredibly calm as if he was just talking about his meal. Hearing these words, Rudy felt more at ease.

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Rudy exhaled before he spoke, "When you were facing Walter just now, I noticed that Grayson kept looking at your battle. I was paying attention to him, and he noticed me later on. I couldn't see his expression because I was too far, though. His stare toward me felt so unnerving, as though I was about to be bitten by a snake. You were right, Grayson probably sees us as enemies."

Jack nodded. Ever since Grayson appeared, a lot more questions surfaced in his head. Jack did not believe a single thing those elders said anymore. There had to be an even bigger secret behind everything!

Jack was about to say something when Rudy interjected, saying, "I know what you want to say, and I understand everything Without you saying it. I know my recklessness caused you trouble. I'll remember this in the future, and I won't cause you any more trouble."

Jack felt a little more at ease to hear Rudy's promise. After all, Rudy was a naive fool who would let his emotions get the better of him in many situations. Rudy eventually realized the errors of his ways.

After saying all that, Rudy seemed to have been relieved of a heavy burden as the two of them entered the fourth level.

They were greeted with an incredibly bright grassland, where a few people lingered around. Most of them sat on the grass, holding a crystal ball in their hands. Most of them had their eyes closed, and a few were whispering amongst themselves.

The atmosphere was somber and heavy. Even if there were any discussions, everyone's voices were muted. That was the fourth level of the tower, and it looked like they had entered a different world.

Rudy blinked as he looked at the purple crystal ball in Jack's hands. After that, he, confused, looked at everyone who was sitting.

Before he could ask anything, Jack pulled Rudy to a secluded corner to sit. After they settled down, Rudy impatiently said to Jack, "What's all this? What's that ball in your hands? Why does the ball in their hands have a color to it that's different from yours? What's the fourth level?"

Rudy was filled with questions at that moment, and Jack explained everything in detail. The moment Jack entered the fourth level, a wave of information was transferred to his head, including the fourth level's rules, in detail.

The fourth level was not a battle between challengers. If they wanted to enter the fifth level from the fourth, they needed to kill a certain number of wind beasts.

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After killing two wind beasts, the crystal ball would turn from blue to green. Then, warriors would face a wind beast that was a few times stronger. Only after killing that wind beast would they get to enter the fifth level.

Rudy frowned and repeated the information Jack gave, "So, you're saying that the fourth level has three stages, and as long as you pass, the crystal ball will change colors. There are three colors in total. Getting to the fifth level requires you to get through three stages!"

Jack nodded at Rudy's solid summary. He needed to do precisely that to get into the fifth level. Only after four wind beasts died would he be able to get to the fifth level.

Rudy nodded and smiled. "The fourth floor is probably not that hard for you. No matter how strong the wind beasts are, they're just at the late stage of the innate level!"

At this moment, the people around Rudy and Jack finally snapped. Even though they had picked out a more secluded spot, there were still too many people around. It was only comparatively secluded, too, and since they did not entirely lower their voices, a few people around them had heard the conversation.

A squinty-eyed man let out a laugh after he heard Rudy. "You're just a dependent, no doubt. Where did you get the guts to say something like that? It's as if the guy next to you can just pass on a whim!"

A white-robed man next to the squinty-eyed man nodded. "That person is so absurd. He doesn't know how hard a wind beast is to deal with at all. Just look at what they're wearing; they're not from a major clan. If they're not from an inner or chosen disciple from a major clan, they shouldn't be so arrogant to assume that they can easily defeat a wind beast. Just look at those people who have their eyes shut. All of them have done everything they could, but those who can kill the wind beasts aren't many at all! Where did you get the courage to say all of that?!"

More cries of anger arose from around them. After all, Rudy's words did seem arrogant.

Rudy, in truth, was not an arrogant person, but Jack had just given him too much confidence. He did not feel like he had said anything wrong, however, and the ignorant crowd was just bitter.

Rudy let out a light snort, raised his eyebrows, and said, "What do you know?"

However, he shut his mouth before saying anything. After all, his mouth had caused Jack so much trouble before. It had left a deep impression on him, even if he was full of discontent.

He did not dare to say anything else, but his words had already evoked reactions from the people. They looked at Rudy with disdain and thought of him as just a fool who had never experienced the world before. Untrained people would always say ignorant things, after all.

- Chapter 2872 -

"There truly are all sorts of people in the world. They don't even know their place to have said such things!"

"Do you see the person in the white clothes over there? That person is from the Deer Pavilion and is even a chosen disciple. It took him an hour before the crystal turned blue!"

"Since you've been so arrogant, entertain me, how long do you think the brat next to you will take to turn his crystal ball blue?"

"That's right! Enlighten us. You praised that man so much, so how long will it take for him to turn the purple crystal ball blue?!"

Everyone sneered at Rudy and persistently challenged him to tell them how long he thought Jack would take to pass the first stage.

These people were not from notable backgrounds. Most of them were from sixth-grade clans or wandering warriors, and it would take them at least eight hours to even pass the first stage. They could not compare to talented prodigies at all.

Initially, Rudy did not want to bother with the crowd and remained silent. However, the people were like flies that buzzed at him mockingly.

Rudy looked at Jack with a pleading expression.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he said in a low voice, "You were the one who caused this. Handle it yourself."



It was not the first time Rudy's mouth had gotten him into trouble, and Jack could not save Rudy every time.

Rudy sighed helplessly as he raised his voice to answer, "Since they took an hour, Jack will only need half of that!"

At this point, Rudy was irked by these people. Instead of taking him seriously, however, they burst into cackles. They stared at Jack and Rudy demeaningly as though they were both clowns.

"Do you know how long an hour is?" one of them sneered. "Do you know how long half of that is? Don't think that you'll be able to kill the wind beast just because you're a little skilled. The wind beasts might be restricted to the late stage of the innate level just like all of us, but their skills aren't just there for show! Have you ever heard of the wind beast's killing technique?"

Rudy took a deep breath as he honestly shook his head. Of course he had never heard of it; he did not even know what a wind beast looked like.

Everyone was even more amused when they saw Rudy shaking his head and wanted nothing more than to bash his head in.

"The wind beast's killing technique is a middle earth rank technique. It's just like human techniques and is split into three stages. The first wind beast the warriors will meet has a skill equivalent to a second stage mastery of an earth rank technique, and it's already quite close to perfecting it! Surely you understand now!"

Middle stage earth rank techniques were more or less impossible for most wandering warriors or disciples of low-grade clans. Many of them could learn them but could not get to the second stage.

Some of them were merely just starting out in the first stage. Hence, many of them could not stand up to the wind beasts at all! Most of them would spend a lot of time dealing with the wind beast.

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The wind beast's greatest weakness was its lack of intelligence, incapable of planning or scheming. As long as the warriors were smart enough, they would be able to kill the wind beasts eventually.

The squinty-eyed man snorted. "Surely you know the Deer Pavilion. You looked like you couldn't be bothered with the Deer Pavilion at all when I mentioned it. You know of the strongest clans in Middle Province, no? Are you even from Middle Province?"

With those accusations, the man seemed more and more certain that Rudy was an ignorant country bumpkin. Otherwise, Rudy would not have said such unintelligent words.

Rudy's lips twitched as he finally understood why Jack always kept to himself; it was a complete waste of time arguing with such people. He had never planned on talking to them, but they seemed insistent on forcing him to talk.

Rudy frowned and said, "Of course I know that the Deer Pavilion is a seventh-grade clan in Middle Province. They even stand at the top of seventh-grade clans."

The squinty-eyed man quickly said, "Since you know that, why did you look so disdainful when I mentioned it?"

Rudy frowned, at this point, he wanted to bite back at the man, wanting to ask why he was so intent on looking at his expression. Already at his wits' end, he wanted to argue with everyone when Jack stopped him.

"Why are you arguing with them?" said Jack, not bothering to lower his voice. "It's a waste of your time. They don't understand what you're saying at all."

Silence fell upon them at that instant.

Jack had not spoken at all from the start, and everyone had thought that Jack just did not like bragging, yet Jack had shattered their expectations. Rudy was already arrogant enough, but Jack seemed even more so.

"How rude! Do you know what you're saying, you brat? I see ignorant folk like you all the time, but I've never seen someone ignorant be as arrogant as you are. You must have some skill, but since you're skilled, you should understand that there are always people stronger than you! There are countless geniuses out there! Don't you know how ignorant you are?"

Jack's lips curled into a slight smile as he stared at the squinty-eyed man. "There's still no telling who the ignorant one is. You don't know anything, so why are you in such a hurry to judge me? Don't use your skills to judge others. If you're trash, it only proves that you're the trash. You can't just assume that everyone else is trash, too."

Those words thoroughly angered the man, causing him to shoot up from his seat as he squinted at Jack.

Jack snorted as he ignored the guy. So what if the guy stood up?

The fourth level prohibited personal fights. If the man attacked Jack, he would be struck by lightning immediately. Sure enough, the man did not attack, though he struggled to stamp down his anger. It took a while before he finally sat back down.

The white-robed man behind the squinty-eyed man felt indignant when he saw how angry his friend was. The white-robed man looked at Jack in disdain. "Didn't you say that this Jack will be able to finish the first stage in half an hour, changing the crystal ball from purple to blue? Since the two of you are so stubborn, prove it to us with your skills. Let's see if you're truly gifted or just all talk!"

"Why do you care if I'm skilled or not?" quipped Jack. "Even if I proved my skills, you're not worth me proving them at all!"

Jack had experienced one too many scenarios like this, and it solidified him to not cave in to people such as these so easily.

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The squinty-eyed man's expression stiffened, and everyone else reeled back in shock at Jack's attitude. After all, they did not know how skilled Jack actually was or where Jack was from.

Anyone who entered the fourth level was not to be underestimated. They were worried that they had stumbled upon an actual threat and that they would be dealt with after leaving the tower. However, the squinty-eyed man was unwilling to admit defeat.

"Why are you so arrogant?" he snorted. "If you're that skilled, suit yourself. Just don't end up slapping yourself in the face after you've bragged that much! That'd be really funny."

Even though the man had whispered this, Rudy heard it all. He suddenly straightened his body and snapped, "What do you mean by that?"

Rudy was about to argue when Jack frowned and pulled Rudy back. Rudy was forced to restrain himself.

Jack let out a sigh, not wanting to waste time on those people. Just like what he had said, even if he got past the stage, he would have done it for himself and not to prove anything to those people. He thus took a deep breath as he transferred his soul energy to the crystal ball.

The next second, he felt like the whole world spun before he found himself in a foreign space, filled with purple true energy. At that moment, he heard powerful roars up ahead.

Jack looked up to see a beast that was the size of two people baring its teeth at him fiercely. It looked like it would lunge at Jack at any moment.

This was the wind beast.

The wind beast had a huge lion's head and a tiger's body. It was covered with green scales and had four powerful-looking claws. A majestic aura enveloped the beast that even though it was just at the late stage of the innate level, it was obvious from its aura that it was no ordinary beast at that level.

The wind beast narrowed its eyes as it measured Jack. It seemed to be trying to determine if this prey was dangerous.

Jack pulled out his gray sword from Mustard Seed with familiarity. His hands suddenly flew through many seals, and 80 soul swords materialized in the air. With a casual wave, it fused into a massive soul sword that fused into the sword in his hand.

Jack was already incredibly familiar with Destroying the Void. He looked up at the wind beast in front of him. At that moment, instead of feeling daunted, Jack felt carefree.

As he looked at the wind beast's movements, he calculated his potential moves. He had already mastered Destroying the Void at that point and would be choosing a different technique next. Naturally, he needed to pick an even stronger technique; he just did not know what skill he wanted to employ.

Destroying the Void was just an ordinary technique in the Divine Void World. It was not even a third-rate skill. After all, it was just an upper ultimate god rank technique. It was nothing against someone that was truly strong. Since he needed to choose a new technique, he needed something even better.

As Jack mulled over everything, the wind beast lost its patience. Its hind legs kicked out as it rushed toward Jack like a cannonball. Its green eyes stared daggers at Jack as it let loose a loud roar, causing even the air around them to tremble.

A green wind blade shot right at Jack's neck.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he slashed with the gray sword with both hands. The slashes clashed incredibly quickly.

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Jack heard a loud explosion.

At that moment, he was not actually within the crystal ball. Instead, the crystal ball used Jack's soul to recreate a replica of him to battle against the wind beast. The real Jack was still on the fourth level with his eyes closed, still seated, his soul within the crystal ball.

Ever since Jack closed his eyes and entered the crystal ball, Rudy had been staring at Jack, expectation written all over his face.

The squinty-eyed man no longer wanted to say anything before the results were out, thanks to what Jack said. However, when he saw Rudy's look of anticipation, he could not stop himself from mocking him.

"The more hope you have, the more disappointed you'll be. Surely you know that? Don't think that he'll be able to get good results here just because he's the strongest in your world. Even a chosen disciple of one of the strongest seventh-grade clans used up an hour before they got past the first stage. It'd be good enough if Jack manages to do it in twelve hours. Of course, that's if he's smart enough to not let the wind beast get him!"

The white-robed man behind verbally agreed, saying, "That's right! But with how the guy was earlier, he's probably not that smart. If he's not intelligent enough, he'll only think of facing the wind beast head-on. The wind beast's skill is an absolute killing technique. To be honest, it's even stronger than ordinary middle earth rank techniques. You should know what a technique of that level represents."

"This kid is obviously inexperienced. He's probably never seen the power of a middle earth rank technique before. If this kid insists on facing the wind beast head-on, he might be ripped apart by the wind beast's claws. If that happens, his soul will be damaged, and he'll wake up in a pathetic state."

Rudy shot these people a cold stare. He had just said a few words, yet it actually wounded their dignity!

This was why they held no reservations in mocking Jack. It was the first time Rudy experienced how annoying people who overvalued their dignity could be.

"You ignorant fools only know how to insult others," sneered Rudy. "You haven't seen the results yet, so how do you know that the wind beast's claws will rip Jack? If you don't have the skills, don't use your perspective on others. Don't you know that..."

"What did you say, you brat?!" The squinty-eyed man almost jumped up.

Rudy's words hurt even more than what Jack had said. If it were not for the restriction of the laws, the squinty-eyed man would have attacked Rudy.

Rudy smirked when he saw how furious the man was. The white-clothed man and the other spectators started to speak among themselves. Everyone felt like Rudy was far too obnoxious and that he needed a beating.

The white-robed man raised his voice and snarled, "You should be glad that there are laws protecting you on the fourth level. Otherwise, you won't be able to leave this place alive. You'd die a horrible death!"

Rudy had heard so many similar speeches that he felt impervious to them. It was like everyone who was against him would say something like that.

Jack had heard more than he did, too.

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Rudy sneered as he ignored the words aimed their way.

“You lot are just clowns to me!”

The squinty-eyed man’s face reddened in anger. “You delinquents truly are a piece of work! If you truly think this guy can kill a wind beast in half an hour...”

Before the squinty-eyed man could finish, he heard sharp inhales from those around him. He thus stopped as he looked around at everyone.

He frowned and said, “Why do all of you seem so surprised?”

The white-robed man paled as he pointed at Jack. “Look at him!”

The squinty-eyed man hurriedly turned to look in the direction the white-robed man was pointing. He saw Jack staring at him with a cold gaze. In Jack’s hand, the purple crystal ball had already turned from purple to blue.

He passed, and it did not even take him that long!

Everyone had only exchanged a few words, it had not even been 10 minutes. It was five minutes at most, but the brat had already passed!

The squinty-eyed man was filled with disbelief as his gaze toward Jack lost all ounce of disdain, replaced with horror instead. Only someone immensely talented would have been able to do that.

He had passed earlier, yet it had taken him a great deal of effort to turn the purple orb to blue, passing the first stage. He remembered that the wind beast would not attack instantly after going into the crystal ball. Only after the two of them stared at each other for a while did the wind beast start attacking.

Warriors would usually not attack immediately after entering the crystal world unless there were special circumstances. They were one to observe their opponents, thus they waited for the wind beast to attack before they did anything. After all, they needed some time to acclimate

themselves. If Jack did what the warriors did upon entering the crystal ball and did not attack immediately, it meant that his battle would have ended earlier.

The squinty-eyed man shuddered at the possibility. He even started to wonder if he was dreaming. Otherwise, something so absurd would not have happened.

The white-robed man trembled as he said, "Could you be the chosen disciple of a ninth-grade clan?!"

That was the only thing he could deduce from this. To him, only chosen disciples of a ninth-grade clan could pass in such a short duration.

Jack raised an eyebrow, not really caring about their surprise, while Rudy was pleased. After all, all of these people had tried so hard to put them down and deny Jack's skill, much to his chagrin.

Rudy turned to look at everyone. "Didn't I already tell you to not judge Jack with your standards? You're the ignorant ones here!" he spoke, enunciating his last sentence as he did.

To this, no one dared to retort and refute. Rudy was not too harsh with his words either, they truly were ignorant.

They never expected Jack to really be so skilled. Normally, regular warriors like them would never be able to interact with talented warriors. They never expected to encounter such a demon.

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'Demon' was the only way they could describe Jack as his skills completely exceeded all of their expectations. After all, they had all gone through the first stage.

Jack did not bother with any of their surprise at all as he closed his eyes again as his soul went through the crystal ball.

To Jack, this was an insignificant place. His final goal was the sixth or the seventh level. Only by constantly moving up could he gain even more resources. Back when he was in Black Sun City, he had obtained the Purple Soul Fruit, Purple Soul Crystal, and other valuable treasures. An eighth-level city was a level higher than a ninth-level city where better treasures could be obtained.

Thankfully, he had picked a more secluded spot, so the commotion did not attract too much attention. Those people who saw Jack's skills did not dare spread the word around out of fear.

After five minutes, the blue crystal turned green, signifying that Jack had passed the second stage and arrived at the third stage. Killing those two wind beasts was a breeze for him. After all, no matter how impressive those wind beasts looked, their techniques were only at the middle stage of the earth rank. There might have been one more beast compared to the first stage, but the level of the wind beast did not increase.

The third stage was different. The wind beast from the third stage had an upper earth rank technique. Regardless, Jack broke no sweat for it, having mastered Destroying the Void.

At that moment, Jack did not feel any pressure at all, just like during the first stage. He held his sword tightly, letting out another slash when the wind beast launched its upgraded technique at Jack.

The gray slash clashed with the blade of wind. With a screech, the wind blade shattered, powerless against the slash. The slash suddenly appeared before the wind beast. With a cry of agony, the wind beast retreated backward while Jack's hands moved as he activated the laws of space.

The sword slash disappeared on the spot. When it appeared again, it was already at the wind beast's forehead. With a squelch, the wind beast let out a cry of agony as it collapsed onto the ground. After turning around, it finally stopped breathing.

Jack let out a smile as the world before him started to spin. When he opened his eyes again, he was already out of the crystal ball. At that moment, the ball in his hand was already vermillion.

The vermillion glow was reflected on Jack's clothes, looking very lively. Jack raised an eyebrow, saying, "It was no challenge."

Everyone's expression twisted when they heard Jack's first words, not even daring to compare themselves to him. Jack had gone through every stage in the same duration. Each time, it was so easy that everyone wondered if the orb in Jack's hands was different from theirs.

All Jack's words did was make them bitter. The stages they could not pass, despite trying their best, were no challenge at all to Jack. Compared to him, they were not even worth trash!

The squinty-eyed man's expression was sour. His lips twitched as he struggled to even find words to say. He wanted to disappear from the place.

Jack raised an eyebrow as the ball in his hand glowed brighter and brighter, and it attracted a lot of attention. At that moment, some of them finally noticed Jack.

"Someone else passed! How long has this person been here?"



"I don't know. He's sitting in such a secluded space. I didn't notice him, but regardless, he still passed. This stage is too hard, though. I feel like this level will eliminate half of us. I'm jealous every time I see someone pass."

- Chapter 2878 -

There were a lot of discussions around them. The ones around Jack could hear everything. When the question about how long Jack had been in the crystal ball's dimension was asked, all of them exhibited poor emotions.

They were hesitant to say anything and were embarrassed beyond relief. They wanted to tell everyone that the person sitting here was a demon, but they were afraid that Jack might just punish them for it. They were certain that Jack came from a large clan, or he would not have been that strong!

The vermillion glow slowly faded with time, and once the glow vanished, the ball turned into a token. The token had a vermillion glow to it with the words "Entry Token" written on it.

Rudy looked at Jack happily. "The entry token for the fifth level!"

Jack nodded, not showing any emotion on his face. To him, he was bound to enter the fifth level. Only those around them would feel like Jack had expended great effort to obtain the token.

Jack did not delay as he stood up from the spot and shot Rudy a look. The two of them headed to the entrance of the fifth level.

The entrance of the fifth level was concealed, it was impossible to spot it if one did not know what they were looking for. Thankfully, the information was registered into Jack's mind before they entered, clearly showing the position of the entrance.

After they entered the fifth level, Rudy looked around and asked curiously, "This is the fifth level? Why isn't anything here? I don't even see anyone else."

The fifth level was far too different from his expectations. It was not as loud as the first or second levels, and there were no grasslands like the third either. Instead, it was desolate. Whether it be the ground or the skies, it was completely white. It was so white that it was unsettling. Even if it was harder to get into the fifth level, there were a lot of them who passed and entered the fifth level.

Strangely, they had not seen another person other than one another after they entered.

It scared Rudy a little. He felt like he had entered a completely unknown world, and the mystery filled him with fear.

He could not stop himself from retreating behind Jack as he then whispered, "Why is it so creepy here? It's all white around us, but there are only two of us here. Where are the others who passed? Could the fifth level be a solo level? Would I drag you down by being here?"

Just as he asked that question, a flat voice was suddenly heard from the space around them. The voice was clear and cold, like an impartial judge.

"Ninety-seven. Once a hundred are gathered, the array will restart."

The atmosphere fell into silence once more, which scared Rudy even more.

He raised his head to look at Jack. "What? Ninety-seven? Why do they need a hundred to restart the array?"

Jack looked at the entry token before saying after some thought, "If I'm not mistaken, the array will activate each time a hundred are gathered here. The array must've been reactivated a few times already. I'm the ninety-seventh person upon entrance."

Jack's explanation was not that detailed, but Rudy understood. It meant that the array needed a hundred people to activate.

- Chapter 2879 -

He frowned. "A hundred people? You'd have to wait a little longer then, no? I was looking around us when you were taking the test in the fourth level, but even until we left, only you passed. Based on that pace, waiting for a hundred people may take a long time. Wouldn't you be wasting a great deal of time? Before entering the Whirling World, I felt like two years was too long. Only after arriving here did I realize that two years is actually quite short. We're only in an eighth-grade city, and there are even more cities after this that we'll need even more time to challenge."

Jack raised an eyebrow as he looked up to the skies.

They were on the fifth level of the tower, and no matter where he looked, all he saw was white. It was as if they entered a massive white box, and it was disconcerting. He sighed and said, "There are a lot of eighth-grade cities. Gathering a hundred people might not take that long..."

Jack's words stunned Rudy, who frowningly looked at him in confusion. He had been about to ask a question when he suddenly heard a crackling sound.

The cold voice was heard again, "Array, activate!"

The moment the words were heard, the white disappeared as noises suddenly flooded the atmosphere.

Rudy jumped back in fright, and it took a while for him to look out around in fear.

They were in a barren land. The temperature had gone up a few degrees as well. Looking up, a faint yellow crescent moon hung in the sky. Rudy could only feel a barren sense from the environment.

The noise they heard was actually from other people. The two of them were not the only people there, there were 100 people, too. All of them stood not far away from the two of them, and everyone had looks of alarm on their faces. It was obvious that no one expected that to happen.

Compared to everyone else, Jack was noticeably calm. Some people there looked foreign. It was obvious that everyone was meeting at the same time.

Rudy did not forget what Jack had just said earlier. Not fully grasping what he meant, he asked in a whisper, "What did you mean earlier?"

Jack sighed as he looked at the warriors around them. "It looks like I'm right... The warriors gathered here aren't just from Thousand Leaves City."

Rudy finally understood what Jack had meant earlier. Jack felt like the people gathered there were chosen from all the eighth-grade cities.

Rudy frowned, thinking about it for a while before he quickly nodded. Jack was right, he believed. That was the only way that a hundred people would be gathered there.

Thinking about it, he felt like it was a bit unbelievable. "Before we entered Thousand Leaves City, we looked around us and didn't notice any other cities. Even if it's through a large-scale transfer array, it'd take a very long time..."

Before he could finish, Jack raised a hand to stop him as he turned to look at Rudy. "I know what you want to say, but the Whirling World was left behind from ancient times. We can't just judge it like that. They definitely used some special array to link up all the eighth-grade cities. All the eighth-grade cities will be transferred here on the fifth level."

- Chapter 2880 -

After saying that, Rudy gaped slightly in surprise. It really was a stroke of mastery. Even if Rudy had looked into arrays and formations before, he could not help but lament the fact that the ancient civilizations had such an amazing mastery of them.

He knew that any array in the current world could never do that, so Rudy lamented, "The ancient civilizations really were amazing. The things they do aren't things that warriors like us can even imagine."

Hearing his words, Jack merely let out a slight laugh.

After absorbing the memories of the Divine Void World's ancient warriors, those amazing feats were nothing to him. In his memories, there were even greater feats.

"I thought that I won't be meeting any disciples from Phoenix Valley for a while," said a man with the uniform of the Unbreaking Pavilion. His gaze was directed at a man in crimson robes.

Hearing Phoenix Valley being mentioned, Jack and Rudy perked up in alert as they looked toward the man in the crimson robes. Thankfully, they had never seen the man before.

True enough, that man was wearing the clothes of a disciple of Phoenix Valley. With how he carried himself, he was someone at the peak of inner disciples, if not a chosen disciple.

The man let out a slight laugh. "I knew you wouldn't have anything good to say after meeting me. You lost to me in the last round, Edgar Loupe. Are you that bitter that you can't accept that?"

It seemed that the disciple of the Unbreaking Pavilion was called Edgar.

Edgar narrowed his eyes like an angered tiger as he turned around and shouted at the crimson-robed man, "Cease your snippy remarks, Albert Hunt! Even if I lost to you by a hair strand, it was just because I was unlucky. It doesn't mean I'm weaker than you. If the two of us face each other again, I'll definitely win it convincingly. Don't be so pleased with your past results!"

Albert snorted as he looked at Edgar condescendingly. "Are you such a sore loser? You talk like you're stronger than me, but you lost to me! You say you lost by just a hair strand, but I think you lost by miles. You lost so completely, but you're trying to be so arrogant here. Do you think that you can say whatever you want just because no one here saw our battle?"

Those words thoroughly angered Edgar. He rushed right forward and was only a meter away from Albert. He stared right at Albert, looking like he wanted to push Albert down with the pressure alone.

"You think I'm lying? You know yourself who's the one saying whatever they want! How many times have you bragged in front of me just because of that one result between the two of us? I've told you before: as long as there's a chance for both of us to compete again, I'll squash you!"

The tense atmosphere between the two of them attracted a lot of curious gazes. They had not lowered their voices, so everyone around them got the gist of things from their conversation.

One of them was from Phoenix Valley, while the other was from the Unbreaking Pavilion. The two clans were quite even in strength. Even though Phoenix Valley was not ranked among the clans, everyone in Middle Province with a bit of understanding knew that Phoenix Valley was no weaker than any eighth-grade clans. Even among eighth-grade clans, they would be at the peak, about equal to the Unbreaking Pavilion. The two forces had suddenly gone to war, so the warriors within those two forces would understandably have a lot of animosity among them.

- Chapter 2881 -

What the other warriors there never expected was the fact that the animosity between these parties would be so direct, they were right on each other's faces!

If not for the restrictions in place, they might have fought each other on the spot.

A few people started to whisper amongst themselves, and the two standing in front of Jack, in particular, chatted interestedly.

"Even if we don't get anything from the fifth level, just this show alone would be worth it..."

"That's true. Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion are that hostile. I heard that they won't even bother talking and just jump straight into beating each other up unless rules prevent them. I wonder how many people have died recently."

"Did a lot of people die? Are they crazy? Don't they know that they'll just get taken advantage of by a third party? The two forces are fighting so intensely. If a lot of people die, other forces will definitely be paying attention. If the number of their elites waned down, they'll get attacked for sure. They'll disappear from the Hestia Continent completely!"

"I doubt the higher-ups of the two forces wouldn't know something so blatant that even you'd know. There must be something at work if the two forces are going to war. What is happening now, really?"

"Don't they both have the keys to the Valley of Enlightenment?"

"What do you know? If it's just for those keys, they wouldn't fight to such an extreme! Something must be happening behind the scenes."

Everyone else started to throw guesses while Edgar and Albert were bickering. Everyone was wondering what the reason for the war starting was. They would not believe the reason that those two forces had given up, it was too easy for such a guess. Anyone with the slightest common sense knew that those two forces would be taken advantage of.

Oddly, the Unbreaking Pavilion and Phoenix Valley did not care about using up important resources as they headed into war. There had to be a reason that the war was necessary. The reason had not been announced, of course, so it had to be a secret kept under tight scrutiny.

Some speculated further.

“I think that Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion must be fighting for a treasure that can make them a ninth-grade clan. Otherwise, there’s no way they are fighting over it so intensely.”

“Hey, you might be onto something here! Even if it’s not something that can make them a ninth-grade clan like you said, it must be something incredibly valuable.”

“Both parties refuse to spill anything, though. Many forces are trying so hard to find out what’s happening but have all failed to get even a single bit of news. It’s rather vexing.”

The discussions did not stop, and Rudy and Jack merely listened in quietly from behind. After a while, the two of them discussed the matter as well.

The point Rudy was the most fixated on was that they had not figured out the reason for everything. All they knew was that the Unbreaking Pavilion and Phoenix Valley were just fighting outwardly when all this while, they had some sort of cooperation going on in secret.

As for what they were working on, no one knew that. Fights between two people were usually because of grudges, but clans would not let something like that control their emotions.

- Chapter 2882 -

Rudy frowned and said, “Everyone here is talking with such interest, but none of them grasped the main point. None of them know that Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion are just fighting on the surface, putting on a show for the other forces in Middle Province.”

Jack nodded. “Meanwhile, the other forces are probably all busy trying to figure out what’s so amazing that the two of them would start fighting. None of them have intervened, probably because they want to see if they can take advantage of the situation. They don’t know at all that they’ve been tricked. They’ve all been played like fools.”

Rudy let out a laugh as he nodded. “It’s nice looking at others’ fights. No wonder everyone loves to join in on everything. The arguments on the fourth level were because I couldn’t keep my mouth shut, so I’ll keep quiet this time. Even if I have anything to say, I’ll lower my voice and make sure no one hears me. That way, no one will trouble us, right?”

Despite his words, there was a sliver of uncertainty in his voice. He was already afraid of causing any trouble. Wherever he went, some lunatic would be hostile toward them, and as such, they never had a moment of peace.

Jack knew what Rudy was thinking of when he looked at Rudy's expression, so he let out a small smile as he nodded, patting Rudy on the shoulder.

"Don't worry this time, no one here knows who I am," assured Jack. "As long as we're careful, they won't cause us any trouble. There's only one goal for us, which is to get through the test on the fifth level and get to the sixth."

Rudy nodded, patting his chest. "You're right. Everyone here is from different cities. They've never met us and definitely don't know us. They won't cause us any trouble for no reason..."

Meanwhile, Edgar let out another shout, "Stop spouting nonsense at me! Do you think I don't know that you put in so much effort just to meet me in the same city? Aren't you here because you want to embarrass me? Let me tell you, you no longer have any grounds to humiliate me. You're no match for me at all. I'll just squash you!"

Hearing that, Albert could not stop himself from laughing as he looked at Edgar as though he was a fool.

"What are you talking about? Why would I bother trying to meet you? Who do you think you are?"

The two of them no longer cared about their station as they started to say whatever came to their minds.

Edgar's face darkened as he sneered, "I heard that you never planned on entering Cloud City, but why are you here now?"

That was his strongest proof, but Albert seemed to disagree with a bewildered frown.

"Cloud City? I entered Crescent Moon City! It's eighteen miles away from Cloud City!"

The two of them immediately calmed down after they said that. Everyone around them started to widen their eyes. The more quick-witted people, meanwhile, began questioning each other about their origins. Everyone was shocked upon hearing each other's responses.

They were all from different cities and had passed the tests for the fourth level and arrived in the fifth, hence how everyone was gathered here. After figuring things out, everyone had looks of shock on their faces, other than Jack and Rudy.

Rudy whispered into Jack's ear, "These idiots finally figured it out. I thought that talented warriors would at least be close to you in intelligence. I thought that they'd figure out something was wrong when they got to the fifth level and figure out things about this place. I thought too highly of them, it seems."

Jack smiled, not saying anything.

- Chapter 2883 -

Rudy seemed to have gained slight interest in the situation and wanted to properly talk about it with Jack. "It's so relaxing not being targeted by anyone," he mused, "And we don't have to argue with idiots! No wonder you always give me that look like I'm a fool... I finally understand now. These ignorant people don't know what level you've reached. Things we talk about might sound normal to us, but they'll just think we're bragging. They would just try to push us down..."

"You're Jack?" interjected a new voice, inquisitive, before Rudy could finish.

Jack frowned as a flash of disgust crossed his face. At this point, he felt like he could rage if anyone, except for Rudy, called out to him.

Alas, he had to look up in acknowledgment.

The moment he looked up, he saw Edgar smiling right at him, much to Jack's surprise. After all, Edgar had just been intensely quarreling with Albert and looked like he wanted nothing more than to beat up Albert.

Jack had just been exchanging a few words with Rudy when the guy ran right in front of him. At a glance, he looked like bad news already.

Jack frowned, not wanting to have much to do with Edgar.

If it had been any other warrior, they might have tried to curry favor with Edgar thanks to his background. However, Jack could not be bothered with the guy and merely nodded coldly without saying anything.

Edgar did not have too big of a reaction toward Jack's attitude. It was a far cry from the explosive temper he showed earlier. He let out a smile as he walked two steps forward, standing next to Jack.

At this moment, Jack grew even more irked as he eyed the man coldly, asking, "How do you know me? I don't think I've met you before. Do you need something?"

Edgar let out a laugh as he shook his head. "Why are you being so cautious? I've just heard that you're very talented but don't have much of a background. I wanted to invite you to join the Unbreaking Pavilion. You should at least be an inner disciple if you join the Unbreaking Pavilion! Of course, if you're already part of anywhere else, then I won't be saying this..."

Jack frowned.



Edgar was trying to pull Jack into the Unbreaking Pavilion?

No matter how Jack thought about it, he felt unsettled. The goal was definitely not that.

Jack took a deep breath. "I don't come from anywhere, I'm already used to working alone. The Unbreaking Pavilion is large as it is, and I'd just be a small fish there. It's better for me to swim around among the normal warriors."

Jack was already being very polite, but Edgar decided to brush it aside as he said with amusement, "Oh, no need to joke around! We're not idiots here. I heard that your skills and talents are all among the best. Even chosen disciples of high-ranked clans might not be able to beat you."

The moment he said that, everyone turned around to look at Jack with curiosity. Edgar's evaluation had been incredibly high earlier.

If anyone else had said this, they might have doubted it was true. However, it was Edgar, a man from the Unbreaking Pavilion, who said this, so everyone believed it. After all, anyone who knew that Edgar was someone incredibly arrogant. He never admitted defeat to anyone, so Jack must have been skilled enough to earn his praise.

Jack let out a sneer when he heard Edgar's flattery.

Edgar would not praise him for no reason. After all, he had interacted with disciples of the Unbreaking Pavilion a few times, and not once did he have a good impression. He knew that everyone from that clan was insufferably arrogant. Edgar had a different goal in mind for sure.

Just as Jack expected, Edgar continued, "You're very strong and so talented! You have a lot of resources to support you and elders to teach you. I've already said all this to you, so are you going to insist on hiding things?"

- Chapter 2884 -

Despite the smile on Edgar's face, his eyes seemed to be scowling at Jack. Even Rudy, standing next to Jack, could see through his intentions.

Rudy frowned as various thoughts flashed in his head. First of all, he did not know who Edgar was. Furthermore, Edgar had not gotten through to the fifth level from Thousand Leaves City, but from another city instead.

Rudy would not be so confused if Edgar had been from Thousand Leaves City. After all, so many things had happened since they entered the Thousand Leaves Tower, and a few people had witnessed Jack's strength. Even though they had some conflicts with the Unbreaking

Pavilion in Black Sun City, the disciples that saw Jack had all died. Even if those wandering warriors had told the Unbreaking Pavilion about Jack, Rudy noticed just how eerily swift Edgar recognized Jack.

That could not have happened, even if those wandering warriors had described how Jack looked. After all, there was no way to perfectly describe how someone looked. Those thoughts constantly flashed in Rudy's mind, and he was filled with doubt

Edgar's words and actions were too confusing.

How did Edgar know who Jack was? Could Edgar have known Jack before entering the Whirling World?

Jack raised an eyebrow and looked at Edgar, barely reacting to Edgar's words.

Edgar started to get angry when he saw that Jack did not seem willing to play along, even after he had made things so clear. Even if Edgar had other intentions, he was someone of high status. He could not bear to be ignored like that.

Jack was overstepping his boundaries.

Albert let out a sneer. "Edgar, he doesn't want to talk with you at all. Can't you tell? Do you think the Unbreaking Pavilion is the best clan in all of Hestia? Do you think anyone would join just because you asked them to? He has his own background if he's strong, so why are you rambling here?"

Edgar frowned as he shot Albert an angry look. The two of them were practically mortal enemies at that point, and Albert was, of course, happy to see Edgar suffering.

Albert smiled and walked over, giving Jack a once-over. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary about Jack, and he had seen how Edgar behaved. He knew Edgar had other intentions. Naturally, he would not let him get what he wanted.

He let out a laugh as he said, facing Jack, "Haven't you heard that those with ill intentions never give off good vibes?"

After he said that, everyone knew that there were some intentions behind those words.

Edgar shouted angrily, "What do you mean? I'm just chatting with Jack, not you! Ill intentions? You're the one with ill intentions. I just wanted to have a chat with him. Everyone respects the strong. I've heard about Jack before, and I'm just that curious about him. That's why I wanted to talk to him a little."

Albert raised an eyebrow and said in disdain, "Only an idiot would believe that. You said all that earlier to try and figure out where Jack is from!"

- Chapter 2885 -

Albert's words exposed Edgar's motives, leaving the man completely furious.

At this point, asking Jack more questions would be too obvious, and anyone would be on alert after that. Thus, Edgar could not proceed as he planned.

The desire to rip Albert to shreds thickened as he panted furiously, pointing at Albert. "Only petty men think everyone's a thief. I never thought about that at all! I just wanted to have a chat with Jack. Where did you hear that I'm trying to look into things?"

Albert raised an eyebrow, answering earnestly, "You were constantly asking where Jack's from. Didn't you just say that he should just tell you where he's from since things were already at that point? Isn't that just you revealing your intentions? You don't know him at all, yet you tried to be so nice to him. With your temperament, there's no way you'd act like that without a goal!"

Those words deflated Edgar. He looked at Albert hatefully as he gritted his teeth angrily. However, there was nothing he could do.

Everyone around them could see for themselves what had happened, it was obvious what Edgar had been doing at that point.

Edgar truly did try to pry into Jack's background, but why the need to do so?

Jack quietly stood by the side as he looked at the two of them arguing. He had already figured out what Albert's intentions were from Albert's second question. Various questions and speculations started to surface in his mind.

How did Edgar recognize him? How was Edgar sure that Jack was strong?

After all, Edgar was not from Thousand Leaves City, so he could not have gotten that information.

Why did Edgar want to know where he was from? What was the reason?

Various things played around in Jack's mind, and an ominous feeling rose in his mind. Edgar's actions made Jack raise his guard. True, he had encountered a lot of things, and his skills had improved greatly. However, there should have been no way for Edgar to know who he was. After all, he had killed off all the disciples from the Unbreaking Pavilion in Black Sun City.

The wandering warriors might have seen him, but they did not have any special ways to record what he looked like. Even those wandering cultivators could only convey how he looked by describing him or drawing him, but that was not enough for Edgar to recognize him at a glance.

Thinking about that, Jack shook his head, denying that possibility. Edgar could not possibly recognize him through the wandering warriors, so who was the one who recognized him?

They could have gotten Jack's name, of course, as his rough appearance through the wandering warriors, but that was not enough to recognize him at a glance. Since it was not the wandering warriors, it had to be someone he met in Thousand Leaves City.

Before entering Thousand Leaves City, he had some conflicts, but none of them involved the Unbreaking Pavilion. After entering Thousand Leaves Tower, he had not had any fights with disciples of the Unbreaking Pavilion, but he did have an issue or two with the Compass Pavilion instead.

- Chapter 2886 -

The more Jack thought about it, the more confused he got.

Edgar and Albert who were next to him were already coming to verbal blows. The two of them could not stand the sight of each other, and Albert had even interfered with this.

How could Edgar take that?

Edgar shouted loudly at Albert, "Just you wait! I definitely won't let you off. Even if we can't fight here, I'll find you when we get out! Don't think you can continue bragging in front of me!"

Albert laughed, saying nonchalantly, "You talk like you're strong enough to have me on my knees if we meet again. You're clearly the weaker one because talking is all you do!"

Jack frowned as he looked at the both of them arguing. He felt like his ears were buzzing. He turned around and walked in another direction as he did not want to bother with them anymore.

Edgar's plans had already been exposed. It would only cause suspicion if he continued, and he would have nothing to gain, so Edgar did not stop Jack from leaving.

Rudy followed behind Jack, and the two of them found a spacious place.

Jack had been frowning the whole time as various emotions flashed in Jack's eyes.

Rudy whispered the thoughts in his head, "What's up with that Edgar person? How did he recognize you? How did you know you were strong? He even tried to figure out where you're

from. What's he doing all this for? Albert was right, Edgar definitely had other intentions trying to approach you. It's definitely nothing good!"

Jack sighed as he turned to look at Rudy earnestly. In truth, he should be quietly thinking about things at that moment, but Rudy was right beside him and knew everything as well.

He felt like discussing things with Rudy might yield something as he said, "He should have not recognized me through those wandering warriors..."

After saying that, Jack told Rudy about his earlier thoughts. After Rudy heard Jack's explanation, he nodded earnestly, "You're right. We had a good look at all the wandering warriors then, if they had used any recording arrays, we'd have immediately noticed. Yet, everyone had been fixated on going into Black Sun City."

Jack nodded as he continued, "The wandering warriors did not record my appearance, but someone else must have. Someone had definitely recorded my image and somehow sent the information over. That's how Albert recognized me all the way in Cloud City."

Rudy nodded, "Then the most important question is here. Who used an array to record your appearance?"

There was a special array that could allow a person's appearance to be recorded perfectly in it. It could even send that information out through special methods. However, the arrays were incredibly expensive, so regular people could not possibly own any.

The fact that Edgar recognized Jack at a glance was definitely thanks to that special array. Someone had recorded Jack's image and sent it to the other eighth level cities.

- Chapter 2887 -

All of the disciples of the Unbreaking Pavilion probably already knew what Jack looked like.

Jack let out a sigh. He then said, "They know how I look and that I'm called Jack. They know I'm skilled as well, but they don't know where I'm from. It means that they only knew of me from the Whirling World!"

Rudy nodded, looking at Jack respectfully. He had been so confused about everything, but Jack had started to analyze things earnestly. Everything Jack said seemed logical.

Jack continued, "If they did not know me from what I did in Black Sun City, then it had to be someone from Thousand Leaves City who recorded me and sent it over. Before we entered Thousand Leaves City, we met quite a few people, but there were no disciples from the Unbreaking Pavilion among them. Even if I did well, there could not have been any disciples

sending my image over... So I'm sure that the person who recorded my image must be a warrior we met after entering the Thousand Leaves Tower."

Hearing that, Jack suddenly remembered Cody Stone.

After entering the Thousand Leaves Tower, Cody had been the disciples that had left the biggest impression on him. However, he had not had any conflicts with Cody. Cody probably did not even know who he was. Cody had already gotten into the second level when he defeated Vale.

Thinking about that, Jack said helplessly, "Could it really be because I've been doing too well? That's why a disciple of the Unbreaking Pavilion took down my image and broadcast it. Do they really want me to join the Unbreaking Pavilion?"

Rudy nodded, feeling like that was the most plausible explanation. After all, they had not had any fights with the Unbreaking Pavilion after Black Sun City.

Jack sighed again, "Even if it's very possible, I don't think it's reliable. When has the Unbreaking Pavilion ever lacked disciples? Even if they did, they would not try to invite me to join like this. Furthermore, Edgar clearly had other intentions when he was talking to me. He definitely did not mean well. How could he be talking to me in that manner if he wants to be my fellow disciple..?"

After saying that, someone's image flashed in Jack's mind. He stiffened suddenly as an answer that was closer to the truth appeared in his heart.

He widened his eyes as he said slowly, "We didn't just meet Cody! There's also Grayson, who was wearing the clothes of the Unbreaking Pavilion!"

The moment Jack said that Rudy stiffened as well. He finally realized that there was Grayson.

On the second level, Rudy had been unable to control himself when he saw Grayson again and started to interrogate him.

Grayson had acted too strangely then. He was even wearing the uniform of the Unbreaking Pavilion. Rudy had not gotten any answers and had been lectured by Jack as well. He had thought that it would all be in the past, but he never expected what happened today to be tied with that.

Rudy took a deep breath, "So you think that Grayson was the one who did it? He was the one who broadcasted how you looked using a special array?!"

Jack nodded, saying quickly, "Do you remember how Grayson looked at you when you were questioning him? He looked at you as if it was the first time he has seen you. He did not seem to know the two of you, and looked at us like enemies when you questioned him!"

Rudy had a dark look on his face and replied, "That's true! That's what happened! So he recorded your image with a special array and broadcasted it. He really doesn't know us, and wanted to figure out where you're from..."

Jack nodded. That should have been what happened.

That was the only reason he could think of after considering everything that had happened. However, a bigger question remained, what did Grayson go through?

Could Grayson have done all that just to try and figure Jack out?

Jack sighed...

"There are too many questions regarding Grayson. The information we can get is not enough to determine what happened to him. Why doesn't he know us? Why was he looking into us? What does he want..."

After saying that, Jack no longer knew what to say. He felt like more and more mysteries were popping up. It was like a dark cloud that would never go away, trapping him inside.

Rudy looked at Jack, actually having a lot to say. However, he swallowed back his words after some thought, taking a long time before saying, "Should we just stop thinking about this? Edgar was only trying to look into where you're from, and not anything else. Even if they want to do anything bad to us, it should take some time..."

Rudy saw a conflicted and exasperated look on Jack's face. It did not feel great. This time, Rudy clearly understood why dwelling on impossible problems was useless.

He turned to look around him. It still looked the same as when they first came in. It was already almost an hour, but nothing had changed. That wizened voice had not spoken.

After arriving at the fifth level, it was like the hundred of them had been forgotten. The ones who argued were arguing, and others talked among themselves.

Rudy frowned and questioned, "Strange, we've been in here for so long, so why hasn't anything changed at all? Could there be no test on the fifth level?"

Jack finally realized that they had already been there for a while. Usually, the test should have already begun. They had entered with so many questions, and warriors from other cities were

all gathered there. It was like they had been forgotten. There were not even any changes in the environment.

People slowly started to react as well, as they started to discuss loudly, "Why hasn't it started yet? Wasn't the test supposed to begin when a hundred have gathered?"

"Why aren't there any changes? Who knows what the fifth level's test is? What was the array that was activated?"

"I don't know. I only heard a voice before we came that a hundred were needed to restart the array. Yet, nothing seemed to have happened after reaching this place, other than everyone else suddenly appearing. I wonder if something happened..."

As everyone started to discuss the matter, they suddenly heard the creaking of mechanisms moving. Everyone suddenly froze as the noise of conversation disappeared.

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All of them widened their eyes as they looked around. They were all on full alert, ready for anything to suddenly happen. After a few moments, that familiar voice was heard again. It was as deep and monotonous as usual...

"All members gathered, and the fifth level's test will begin. All of you entered an illusory world, you're not in the real world..."

Everyone froze at that. Even Jack looked up in disbelief. They were not in the actual world, but an illusion.

Jack never felt like he was in one from start to finish, because everything had felt so real. After absorbing so many memories of past heroes, he was very confident in his intuition. After all, he had all that experience to fall back on. Jack would usually notice any hint of irregularity. Yet, he had felt like everything was normal after entering the place. Everyone he saw and everything he heard seemed perfect. There had been no way for him to know that he had been trapped in an illusion at all. The ones around him were incredibly surprised as well. "So I'm in an illusion? Then you're all fake people? Only I'm real?"

"Dream on! You're the fake one. This is probably not a complete illusion, but a partial one. We can talk to each other, but what's in front of us might not be real..."

"What are you going on about..." Some felt like they had entered a solitary world, while some thought that they had entered the same illusion as everyone else.

The arguments were getting louder, but none of that affected Jack. He was already sure that the illusion included everyone.



The deep voice was heard again, "You will be facing countless wind beasts later. Your current bodies are not your actual bodies at all. They were replicated with a special method. Your skills and techniques were not weakened at all. If you lose to a wind beast and end up being killed, you won't experience actual death. You will just be kicked out! There is only one winner in this match... The first person to break past the array will earn the key to the sixth level."

Jack frowned, feeling like the words were a bit confusing. Only one person could be the victor. The person who broke the array would win, but no one mentioned any arrays.

After all the discussions, the noise slowly died again. A howl of wind could suddenly be heard, and everyone started to jump in alarm as they slowly formed a circle.

Jack had been at a corner earlier, so he was the furthest away. He looked at Rudy helplessly. Rudy had really turned into a complete burden then.

The moment they started fighting, it would be hard for Jack to protect Rudy. Rudy had felt that, and pursed his lips as he said earnestly to Jack, "You don't have to care about me after the test starts. I wouldn't be able to hold on for that long even with you protecting me anyway. It's just an illusion, and I won't actually die. I'll just be kicked out."

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Even if he was not eliminated, it was useless for Jack to keep guard of him anyway. After all, Rudy could not get the prize. Jack nodded, if he really decided to ignore Rudy, then Rudy would definitely be eliminated.

A few familiar roars were heard in the distance. Green figures started to rapidly charge at them. A few hundred wind beasts were basically rushing at them with all their might. Those wind beasts were flaring their teeth with eyes full of bloodlust, looking like they wanted to rip everyone apart.

"What do we do?! Break the array? Is this an array? Do they want us to break out of the illusion or the array? I have no idea what's happening, and the test has already started..."

"I haven't figured anything out either. There was so much free time at the start, and nothing was said. Why is the test so rushed? We didn't get any time to think about what array we were supposed to break at all. Could those wind beasts have all been formed by arrays?"

The warriors were all in confusion. The earlier announcement had been far too sudden. They were already in a state of panic before they could even make things clear.

Jack stared at the wind beasts that were charging over, gripping his gray sword tightly. At that moment, he only had one thought in mind, which was figuring out how to destroy the array.

Were the wind beasts part of an array, or everything around them?

Unfortunately, the time was too short. The wind beasts had already arrived right in front of them.

Jack frowned as he pushed Rudy behind him. The sword in his hand constantly danced, practically killing a wind beast each time he slashed. Thankfully, all of those wind beasts had been restricted to the late stage of the innate level, and their killing techniques were restricted to the middle earth rank. No one who got to the fifth level was weak.

Those wind beasts were no match for the warriors alone, but they were charging up in waves. Even if the warriors could face the wind beasts, it was still quite a lot of pressure.

The roars of anger from the wind beasts and the crazed shouts of the warriors could both be heard. With the sound of weapons clashing against claws, the originally quiet surroundings became incredibly rowdy.

Practically everyone who arrived at the fifth level was a disciple from a high-grade clan. They were all elite warriors, and many wind beasts died within a short time.

There were still no deaths on the human side, but as time passed, some people started to lose control.

“It’s unending! After one dies, the second and the third charge forward. Just look! There’s still an unending flow of wind beasts charging right at us! What is happening? What array do we need to break?!”

“I’ve already stopped thinking about that. There are too many wind beasts. It’s impossible to kill them all!”

In order to stop themselves from getting injured by a sneak attack from a wind beast, everyone was wound up very tightly. No one had the time to even think about the array. It was a vicious cycle. They constantly fought and did not have the time to think of ways to break the array. Since they could not break the array, they would face an unending wave of wind beasts.

There were way too many wind beasts, and their true energy was limited. Their true energy would be expended eventually. When that happened, they would not be able to fight back even if they wanted to.

Jack realized that as well, but he did not know what he needed to do at that moment. There should be an array, but he could not figure out what kind of array it was, or how he could break it.