

- Chapter 2891 -

There was only one thing he knew. It was impossible to break the array just by relying on constantly killing the wind beast.

“Jack, why are the wind beasts not attacking me?” Rudy said to Jack.

Jack had pushed Rudy behind him earlier, but as time passed, Rudy realized in surprise that those wind beasts did not seem to see him at all. All of the attacks fell on the warriors that relied on themselves to enter the fifth level.

He was completely ignored as a dependent. Even without Jack’s protection, the wind beasts ignored him anyway, not attacking him. That actually gave Jack more room to relax, not needing to protect Rudy.

“Everyone, quickly figure something out! We can let this go on, or all of us will be eliminated!”

“I can’t hold on any longer...” A man from the Deer Pavilion let out a cry of misery.

Right after he said that a wind beast bit him on the arm. The wind beast’s bite was incredibly strong. With a pull, it ripped that man’s arm off.

The disciple of the Deer Pavilion let out a cry of agony. At that moment, his entire body weakened from the injury. He was pushed down by the charging wind beasts and had his head ripped off in a flash.

Everyone saw that sight and suddenly felt a chill on their backs. After that disciple died, the space in front of him suddenly distorted as he turned into gray specs of light, entering the distorted space in front of him. That meant that the person had already lost, and was kicked out. Other than Jack, everyone had a dark look on their faces. That was just the beginning.

There were more and more people after that who fell to the wind beasts’ attacks either because they let down their guard or they had used up all their true energy. After they were killed by the wind beasts, they were eliminated in the same way. All of those warriors had managed to get to the fifth level because of their exceptional talents and extraordinary skills. All of them naturally had the arrogance of a strong warrior, so all of them wanted to be the sole victor!

Yet, the more they wanted to be the victor, the more they panicked. After all, they still had not figured out the situation at that moment.

The victor needed to break the array, but none of them knew what the array was! There was no way they could break the array. Just as everyone was feeling lost, a shout was heard in the distance, “I understand now. I remember! So, that’s how it is!”

Jack was the one who said all of that. At that moment, he was waving his sword around and shouting in excitement.

After that disciple of the Deer Pavilion had died, Jack had seen everything that had happened. He remembered something when he saw the disciple turn into gray specs of light and get absorbed by the space. It was thanks to the memories of the ancient heroes. Those warriors had seen uncountable arrays. After the array activated again, Jack immediately figured it out. He had thought that the array was incredibly special, but it had been so simple. He suddenly felt like his judgment had been clouded by the excitement, but his sudden exclamation was met with eye rolls.

They felt like Jack was just shouting for no reason. After all, no one even had any clues, but Jack was shouting that he remembered it.

Everyone felt like Jack was being too sly...

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Earlier, Edgar had been fully focused on arguing with Albert, but he did not forget how disrespectful Jack had been. Even with how humble and friendly he had been acting, Jack still gave him the cold shoulder. It was deeply humiliating to Edgar.

Edgar immediately shouted back at Jack's words, "What are you blindly talking about? Everyone here couldn't figure anything out even after working together, but you claim to know everything! Even if you want to brag, you should do it at the right time. Don't think that we'll look at you just because you said something at this moment!" Edgar's words infuriated Rudy.

Rudy shouted back, "What do you mean by this?! If Jack said that, it means he's sure. You're just trying to be petty!"

Edgar let out a laugh and brushed it aside, "Don't judge others by your own standards. Petty? Do you think Jack is that righteous or noble? I want to see what he's figured out. Don't tell me he's figured out how to break the array, I won't believe it!"

A lot of people around them agreed with Edgar's words, "Edgar's right, we haven't even found a single thing, but this guy suddenly shouted that he's figured it out. What could he figure out?"

"I refuse to believe one person can suddenly figure everything out when the rest of us haven't made any progress!"

"This guy probably just had some flash of inspiration, and is trying to brag that he figured it out..."

Everyone else seemed to agree with that sentiment. They felt like Jack had just merely had an epiphany, but he naturally did not care about how everyone else viewed him.

He sighed as he thought about similar arrays in his mind when he fought the wind beasts. After someone finally died, he felt something familiar and easily found the name of the array in his memories.

He suddenly widened his eyes as he muttered, "The Phantom Array!"

The Phantom Array was an array that could only be set up by warriors of first-grade worlds. Warriors of second-grade worlds did not have the ability. Yet, it appeared in the Whirling World, which proves that the whirling World definitely had a close relationship with first-grade worlds.

Those cities that remained or those ancient formations were all created by warriors from first-grade worlds.

With that thought in mind, Jack's eyes lit up in excitement.

The sounds of mockery could be heard around him. Everyone was looking at Jack as they fend off the wind beasts, wanting to see what Jack would do.

Jack lightly snorted, ignoring everyone as he gripped the gray sword in his hand. Suddenly, the tip of his sword was pointed at his neck, looking like he was about to commit suicide.

Everyone was stunned at the sight. "What is this brat trying to do? Is he trying to kill himself? Is he giving up because he knows he won't be able to pass?"

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"That has to be it. That guy bragged so much earlier, but actually can't back it up. So he's trying to kill himself to avoid embarrassment."

Those harsh words echoed around Jack. Not a single person thought that he could do anything. Jack did not care what everyone else thought. He merely took a deep breath as he moved his hand.

Everyone heard a piercing sound, and blood immediately flowed from Jack's throat. It was the first time he felt his life slowly slipping away.

That was the feeling of being close to death, but Jack was not in a panic at all. Even though everyone had talked up a storm, feeling like his crazy actions were him giving up, no one expected Jack to actually do it.

“This guy actually did kill himself. If he really wanted to give up and leave this place, he could have just stopped fighting and let the wind beasts finish him. Did he need to kill himself? Does he think it would look sad? So what if it did? Would we look at him in a better light?”

Jack's actions caused everyone a lot of surprises. They could not understand why Jack did so. Even Rudy panicked.

When Jack pointed the sword at his own throat, various thoughts flashed in Rudy's mind.

Rudy already knew not to question any of Jack's actions, he felt like Jack was always incredibly logical no matter what he did, but Rudy never expected that Jack would actually kill himself.

Could Jack really have given up as they said?

However, Rudy immediately shook his head and threw that thought to the back of his head when the idea surfaced. Jack was not someone who would do that. If he had a goal in mind, he would not change his mind easily.

With his body weakening, Jack collapsed to the ground, and Rudy immediately helped Jack up. Rudy could feel the blood from Jack's body constantly flowing out of the wound on his throat. If that continued, Jack would lose his life in just a moment. Even though Jack would not actually die, Rudy still started to panic.

Rudy's voice was trembling, “What happened? Why did you kill yourself? Even if it's an illusion, there was no need to kill yourself to leave...”

Rudy could not figure anything out at that moment. He did not know what Jack was doing at all.

Could Jack really have given up as everyone said?

After all, only by dying would they be eliminated and sent out of the illusion.

Jack frowned as he rapidly lost his strength. Even his true energy dissipated. At that moment, Jack did not even have the strength to talk to Rudy. He merely looked at Rudy before shutting his eyes.

Everyone started to laugh as they looked at Jack like a joke. “That kid is something else. He acted like he had seen through everything, but he actually killed himself the next moment...”

“There must be something wrong with his head. Even if he wanted to be eliminated, there was no need to do something so crazy. What was the point other than letting us laugh at him?”

Edgar was laughing uproariously, but he was still fighting the wind beasts. He still had the time to mock Jack, "There really is something wrong with his head. I thought he was strong at the start, but it looks like I was wrong..."

Right after Edgar had said that the creaking sounds of mechanisms moving could be heard. Everyone suddenly looked up, and a howling wind blew past them. All of the wind beasts suddenly stopped moving, as if a button to stop had been pushed.

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The next second, the wind beasts suddenly started to explode one by one, turning into green specs of light, dispersing into the air. Everything had happened too quickly, and the warriors did not even have a chance to react.

"What happened? Why did those wind beasts suddenly explode into a green light?"

"I don't know, could we have accidentally broken the array?"

"Maybe we've all lost?"

At the same time as everyone was celebrating the disappearance of those annoying wind beasts, they started to discuss why the wind beasts disappeared.

As everyone was wondering in confusion, the wizened voice was heard again, "The Phantom Array has been broken. The fifth level's test has ended. The victor will be given one key!"

That answered the doubt in everyone's hearts. When they heard that someone had actually broken the array, they all widened their eyes as they looked around at each other in confusion.

At that moment, they only had one thought in mind. They all wondered which genius had broken the array when everyone else was at a loss. They still had not figured out what the Phantom Array was.

They did not know what grade the Phantom Array was, but it did not stop them from feeling shocked. Edgar frowned as he reluctantly looked around. He was a chosen disciple of an eighth-grade clan. He should have been the most excellent one among all the warriors. Even if the array had been broken, he should have been the one to break it, not anyone else.

He suddenly turned to look at Albert and relaxed a bit when he saw that Albert was also looking around in confusion. It meant that Albert was not the one to break the array. If Albert had been the one, then Albert would definitely not miss out on the chance to show off in front of him.

Who was it if not Albert?

He more or less knew all the chosen disciples from the high grade clans. However, other than Albert most of the faces here were foreign. Not a single one of them was a chosen disciple of a high level clan.

At the most, they were inner disciples. Just as he was busy puzzling things over, a faint golden light descended from above. The light slowly dissipated as it descended, revealing a golden key in front of everyone.

That was the key to getting to the sixth level. The rules had been incredibly clear. Only the person who broke the array could get the key, and the key would only allow one person to get to the sixth level.

Everyone had looks of envy on their faces. No one knew what would happen on the sixth level or what tests would it be, but everyone knew there would be amazing rewards. They would definitely benefit greatly if they had gotten the rewards for themselves.

With that thought in mind, some of them had the urge to steal the key.

With a boom, someone had lost his patience as a green-robed man shot forward like a cannonball, heading straight for the golden key to steal it. Even though he was afraid of the restrictions, he felt like it would have been too great of a benefit if he managed to get the key.

He was only one key away from getting to the sixth level. The greed got the better of him as he reached out for the key. In a flash, he was only three feet away from the golden key.

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As he got closer to the key, the man's smile deepened, "The key is mine!"

He let out an excited roar as he reached out to the key with all his might. Yet, purple lightning suddenly descended from the skies at that moment. Everyone merely heard a crack as the lightning fell right on the man.

The man let out a cry of agony as his whole body started to twitch. His skin started to blacken visibly as he was set on fire. He had already stopped breathing by the time his body hit the ground. He had been killed by the lightning that struck him.

Everyone shuddered when they saw the sight.

When the golden key had descended, everyone had greedy thoughts in their minds. However, the green-robed man had been the only person to try to steal the key. After all, everyone still had a line they would not cross. They knew that they could very well be punished by the laws if they made any moves.

When they saw what happened to the man, all of them were incredibly thankful that they did not attempt to steal the key.

At that moment, Jack suddenly opened his eyes. The wound on his throat started to heal visibly, and the true energy and life force he had lost all recovered to the state they were in before they entered the Phantom Array.

Rudy widened his eyes abruptly as he looked at Jack in disbelief, not knowing what to say at that moment.

Jack was not in the mood to entertain Rudy at that moment. After he had enough energy, he jumped up on the spot and reached out for the golden key.

Everything that had happened attracted the attention of the other warriors. They did not realize that Jack had recovered. When everyone saw that someone was reaching out for the golden key, everyone merely felt like the person was an idiot.

Did the person not see what had happened to the green-robed man?

However, they were shocked to see that lightning did not appear after the person grabbed the key. Everything was normal!

“Why didn’t the lightning strike him? This guy is trying to steal the key!” Someone shouted with widened eyes.

However, someone else immediately answered him, “Are you dumb? The key is meant for the victor. Since he was not struck by the laws when he grabbed the key, then it should be obvious who he is.”

The moment the person said that exclamations of shock were heard again. That was because Jack had already turned around, and his familiar face was seen by everyone. They all widened their eyes as they looked at Jack like they had seen a ghost.

They really were seeing a ghost.

Did Jack not slash his own throat? Why was Jack standing there as if nothing had happened, holding the golden key?

Could Jack have been the one to break the array?!

Everything he had done earlier, really was to break the Phantom Array. Yet, that was a little absurd.

Could slashing one’s own throat be the key to breaking the Phantom Array?

Various thoughts were formed and they felt like they were right.

'That brat might really have been breaking the array earlier,' Albert felt a twang of jealousy, but he did not see Jack as his enemy in the end.

Jack had the golden key and would ascend to the sixth level. Even if he did not like it, he still had to deal with Edgar first.

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He laughed as he said to Edgar, "You really were right. He really was breaking the array earlier. Jack's really something else. He's better than you both in talent and intelligence!"

Edgar looked like he had been slapped by those words. He looked at Albert with a look of intense hatred.

Albert laughed it off, and as the two of them were about to quarrel again, the space around them suddenly distorted, surrounding everyone.

Jack took a deep breath, not fighting back at the distorted space surrounding him. After a few moments, the space around him returned to normal. He opened his eyes again, and then he noticed that he had left that dark and yellow world, and arrived at a pitch black one. Thankfully, Rudy was by his side.

Rudy widened his eyes as he looked around in shock. The sudden distortion earlier had thoroughly scared him. Rudy reached out to grab Jack's arm, afraid that something was happening.

Jack turned to look at Rudy, "Don't worry, the space suddenly distorted earlier to separate all of us."

Rudy nodded, widening his eyes as he still looked around in fear. At that moment, they were surrounded by darkness, but strangely enough, they could see each other clearly without any light.

After a while, Rudy said, "Are we in an illusion or the real world right now?"

The question startled Jack as he frowned, activating his true energy. Nothing had changed, and even Jack could not tell where they were.

Jack shook his head, "I don't know either"

Rudy asked again, "Is this the sixth level?"

Jack shook his head again at that. Even though they might have been on the sixth level, he could not make that determination without more information.

Time slowly ticked away, and darkness shrouded both of them. As they started to feel lost, a figure suddenly appeared in front of them. It was a wizened old man. The man had white robes on him and looked like a deity. His sudden appearance gave Jack and Rudy a shock as they took a step backward.

The man slowly turned around, looking at both of them with an incredibly cold gaze. Jack took a deep breath as he was suddenly on alert.

The man looked at Jack for a while before saying with a cold tone, "Don't enter the sixth level. Hold on to the key. Once you have the skills to challenge the sixth level, you may come again."

Jack was stunned by those words, and he was no longer on alert. From the voice, he could tell that the man was the one who was reciting the rules. If Jack was not wrong, that old man should not be human, but a shred of will left behind from ancient times. It might even be a spirit vessel.

No matter what, it was still something left behind from ancient times to help activate the arrays. Jack took a deep breath and said, "You think that I don't have what it takes to enter the sixth level right now? I'll definitely lose the test there?"

Jack's voice had a tone of arrogance to it as he asked. This whole time, he had never failed. Even though he did not know what the test for the sixth level was, he should be able to easily get through it with his current skills.

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He did not think that the old man was definitely right. Even if the old man was something left behind from ancient times, it would not change Jack's thoughts.

The old man had a look of disdain on his face when he heard Jack's response, "Don't think I don't know what you're thinking. You're definitely a lot stronger than those ants outside, but you're nothing in my eyes. I know you have an upper ultimate god rank technique, but so what? Your skills are nothing special if you compare yourself to ancient warriors."

Jack was stunned at those words. He had thought that the old man said that because the old man did not know anything about him, but the old man had actually seen through what level Jack's technique was in an instant.

Jack was taken aback by that.

Thinking about it, it did make sense. The old man was something left behind from ancient times. No matter what the old man was, he could control Thousand Leaves Tower. Anything that happened within the tower would naturally not escape his gaze. As long as the old man observed Jack's skills, the old man would be able to make a judgment.

Jack frowned and replied, "My skills are nothing compared to ancient warriors?"

Jack was not willing to accept that fact at all. He had already perfected an upper ultimate god rank technique. Even in first grade worlds, he would amount to something, let alone third grade worlds. However, the old man's tone made Jack feel like he was nothing.

The old man seemed to not want to bother dwelling on the problem with Jack.

The old man slowly turned away from Jack, "During ancient times, there were countless amazing geniuses, but a calamity happened, and most of those geniuses were lost. I said so not because I wanted to insult you, but it's just that you really are quite ordinary compared to ancient warriors..."

Jack took a deep breath, not countering with anything else. After all, he did not know what ancient times were like, nor did he know about how strong the warriors back then were.

Jack calmed himself down, but Rudy looked like he had swallowed an egg whole. His mouth was gaping wide, and his eyes looked like they were going to pop out of their sockets. He could not believe what he had heard.

The old man actually said that Jack was using an upper ultimate god rank technique and Jack had silently agreed to it. It caused Rudy to doubt everything he knew.

Rudy had known that Jack was strong, but he did not know that Jack was strong enough to use an upper ultimate god rank technique. If Rudy told anyone that, they would probably think he was crazy. No one would believe what Rudy was saying.

It was an upper ultimate god rank technique, and Jack actually managed to use it at the initial stage of the spring solidifying realm. It was too absurd... Even more absurd was the fact that the old man did not think that Jack amounted to much despite that. He made the judgment that Jack would not be able to pass the test of the sixth level. Little did Jack know that Rudy's jaw was about to fall off from the surprise.

Only one thought was in Jack's mind which was to know what kind of test awaited him. He wanted to know why the old man felt like him would not be able to pass. No matter what, Jack had a lot of confidence in himself.

He took a step forward and said, "Could I trouble you to tell me what the test on the sixth level is? Even though I'm nothing to you, I still have some confidence in myself. If I can try it out, I would still want to..."

The old man raised a hand to stop Jack before he could finish, looking at Jack earnestly, "You definitely won't be able to pass. Once the golden key in your hands changes color, then you'll have the right to enter the sixth level, but that's just the right..."

It was a completely barren land. Jack and Rudy had already spent a day and a night walking in that barren land. It was the second day since they left Thousand Leaves City.

When Jack understood that he would not be able to pass the sixth level for the moment, he did not continue dwelling on it. Just like Jack had thought before, the two of them were sent out of Thousand Leaves City immediately.

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Jack looked down at the entry token in his hand. The entry token could not help Jack get into a seventh level city but was actually only a guide toward the next city. Without the entry token, there was no way he could find the seventh level city even with all the skills in the world.

Jack slowly started to understand that the Whirling World itself was a massive array. No matter how strong one was, they were insignificant in the whole of Whirling World. They would never be able to shake the laws of the Whirling World. Even if they had a map, they still needed to move according to the rules of the Whirling World, slowly advancing deeper inside.

The more time passed, the more curious Jack got about the Whirling World. He wanted to see what lies at the end of the Whirling World.

What secrets were hidden there? What were the Unbreaking Pavilion and Phoenix Valley planning?

Those thoughts kept on circling Jack's mind. From what he had gathered, the two forces definitely had an immense secret hidden.

Their plan might even involve the whole Hestia Continent. It was possible that every warrior who entered the Whirling World was just a chess piece for those forces. Jack definitely did not want to be a chess piece. Even if he did not have the skills to be a chess player at that moment, he still did not want to be played around with by someone else. He wanted to slowly reveal the truth and walk his own path.

Rudy looked at the entry token in Jack's hand and Jack's resolved expression before asking, "What are you thinking about? Tell me where we're going. I asked you, but you refused to tell me. I'm getting frustrated now. Why aren't you telling me? I'll know eventually anyway."

Jack looked at Rudy with a smile, "I'm not hiding anything from you. I just don't know anything yet myself. When the entry token fell into my hand, a lot of information fell into my mind like before. I found out the locations of all the seventh level cities in the Whirling World. I'm just trying to figure out what city I want to go to next."

Rudy frowned, saying, "What's there to figure out? Aren't all the cities there seventh level cities? Can't you just pick any random one? The difficulty should more or less be the same, so what's there to be conflicted over?"

Jack let out a sigh as the token in his hand shook. He looked up into the distance, still seeing a vast expanse of nothingness. It was as if the barren lands had reached the end of the world.

He said in a calm tone, "It's different, but there's nothing else to think about now. We'll be heading to Prosper City next. You'll be able to show off your skills there. You won't be dependent on me."

Rudy widened his eyes at Jack's words as he looked at Jack with a confused expression, "What do you mean? I can show off my skills but I'd just be beaten up like trash. There's nothing I can do..."

It was not that Rudy was putting himself down, it was just that Rudy's mental state had suffered too much recently. Ever since they entered the Whirling World, he met so many geniuses. Even regular wandering warriors were able to beat him up easily.

Rudy had been living in self-doubt the whole time. Back then, he still had his arrogance and pride even if he lost to others, but that arrogance was slowly disappearing.

Jack turned and looked at Rudy seriously, "Don't look down on yourself like that. Everyone you've faced has been a warrior, but your true status is an alchemist. Prosper City is a city built for alchemists."

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Rudy stiffened at those words, suddenly getting excited and exclaimed, "A city for alchemists? Prosper City is a city for alchemists?!"

Jack nodded as Jack slowly raised his head, looking at the gray skies.

"The Whirling World is an incredibly special place. The other seventh level cities are more or less the same, but only Prosper City has an indication next to it. It's written clearly that Prosper City was a city meant to test alchemists. All alchemists could head there."

With Jack's confirmation, Rudy excitedly bounced around and cheered. He had an excited look on his face.

Jack felt a little happy seeing how excited Rudy was. He had been wondering if he should head to Prosper City or somewhere else. In truth, Jack had a lot of choices on hand. After all, he was not weak in any way. After thinking about it for a while, he decided on Prosper City.

Rudy was one of the reasons, but even more so was that he wanted to obtain the rewards from Prosper City. He might have done very well in Thousand Leaves City, but he had not gotten any rewards. Hence he wanted to get even more valuables from a seventh level city.

After thinking about it, he made Prosper City his mark. Prosper City had been built to test alchemists, so the contents would naturally target alchemists. The prizes awarded would definitely benefit alchemists as well. It might be some valuable and high grade materials. If it was useless to himself, he could sell them for spirit crystals. He could also use those materials to refine pills and sell the pills for even more spirit crystals.

For Jack, the two most important things were to raise his skills and earn spirit crystals.

After Rudy danced around in excitement, he slowly started to calm down. However, he was still incredibly happy as he said, "Let's hurry up and go! I can't wait any longer. Do you know how stifled I've felt? Even though I've seen a lot moving forward with you, I wasn't relying on myself in the end. It'll be different in Prosper City. I can rely on myself for once!"

Jack nodded as he patted Rudy on the shoulder, pointing forward and saying, "Prosper City is a distance away in this direction."

Rudy nodded emotionally, and the two of them rapidly headed toward Prosper City.

"They really are a bit dumb. They should think about their orders before issuing them. How could Jack possibly come to Prosper City? He's so strong, that he would naturally choose other seventh level cities. Even though he has an alchemist's robes on, no one knows if he deliberately wears them to trick others. He might've just bought that badge from somewhere."

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"When have you ever seen an alchemist that's so strong? All alchemists throw themselves into the art, how could they have time to practice combat?!"

Gent Morales was an alchemist that was raised by the Unbreaking Pavilion. He had quite a lot of pride. The Unbreaking Pavilion was somewhere that cultivated warriors, so alchemists only took up a small percentage. When they were in the clan, they were respected because of their status as an alchemist. However, the chosen disciples of the Unbreaking Pavilion would never

bother showing respect to alchemists of their level. The chosen disciples felt like alchemists were just there to provide a service, and that alchemists were nothing that special.

That was why Gent did not really like warriors that much.

Mark Wright was the leader of all the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion for the trip to the Whirling World, and could naturally not let the emotions get the better of him like this.

Mark stared at Gent and said, "Since it's an order from above, we have to obey. You don't have to care if Jack is coming here or anywhere else. We just have to listen to the orders from the higher ups. As long as we see Jack, we have to report his whereabouts. We can't let him have an easy time!"

Gent raised an eyebrow, "Who exactly did Jack offend? Why are we even doing this? They're just issuing orders without explaining anything."

Mark frowned, feeling like Gent was crossing the line a bit. However, Gent really did have some skill, so Mark could not offend Gent too much.

Mark was forced to patiently say, "Only a few people know of the secret behind this."

Gent snorted as he looked at Mark, "I don't know if anyone else knows about it, but I know that you definitely do. I do know why even if you don't tell me. Many of our people died in Black Sun City, everyone's already saying that someone called Jack did it. It has to be because of that, right? In my opinion, so what if all of them died? They just didn't have the skills, and were killed. We had so many people, but Jack still escaped. Who's to blame but themselves from being trash?"

Mark angrily berated, "Shut up right now. This is not something you can talk about. No matter what, we just need to follow orders..."

After Mark said that, Gent's lips twitched unhappily, but he did not want to fight against Mark in front of so many people. That would be too mean. Even though Gent had always do whatever he wanted to, Gent still did not want to cross the line too much.

Mark glanced at Gent in disdain. If Gent had not been so skilled, Mark would not have chosen Gent to be a part of the team back then.

He did not want to bother sparing Gent another look as he turned and continued walking forward. There were twenty alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion who arrived at Prosper City. Those twenty alchemists were all excellent alchemists that the Unbreaking Pavilion had spent a lot of resources bringing up.

If not for that order, the twenty of them would have probably already entered the city. However, the order instructed them to stay out of the city for six days. It was already the third day, so some of them were a little frustrated.

Mark had already walked elsewhere because of how unhappy he was with Gent.

Some of the alchemists followed Mark as well. The alchemists of the Unbreaking Pavilion suddenly split into two factions. Those who remained were the ones who were unhappy about the order.

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"I think there's something else behind this," whispered an alchemist from the Unbreaking Pavilion who seemed to be of no great rank

Gent raised an eyebrow before turning around. "Something else behind what?"

That person hurriedly replied, "The order to capture Jack alive. I don't think it's because of what happened in Black Sun City."

Right after he said that, Gent was taken aback for a moment. The others, too, started to discuss the matter.

"What could it be, then? You're just speculating at this point. Don't just say whatever you want to! Everyone knows about what happened in Black Sun City, but other than that, nothing else has been said."

The average-looking man meaningfully persisted, "Of course, I'm not just saying it blindly. Just think about it, who was the one who issued this order?!"

Everyone fell silent at this. They exchanged looks among themselves, suddenly understanding.

A thought occurred to Gent at that moment. "It was Grayson..."

The man nodded, "It was Grayson. He usually would never bother with things like that, and he's never issued any orders as well. He was never supposed to be in charge of Black Sun City anyway. With Grayson's usual temper, he would never have bothered with anything like that. The people who died in Black Sun City would have been nothing of note to Grayson."

The man's words were echoed by the other alchemists who nodded vigorously.

Gent frowned, thinking about it for a while before nodding as well.

With how Grayson was, those things would never have prompted Grayson to act. He was never one to bother with things that were not related to him. Yet, this was an order from Grayson. It was clearly problematic just thinking about it.

Gent raised an eyebrow. "Is there something more to this incident? Could Jack have done something? I'm beginning to get excited at the thought of meeting Jack."

The other alchemists nodded; they, too, wanted to see Jack.

At that moment, the average-looking man suddenly let out a low shout as he pointed in a direction. "Look over there! Isn't that Jack?!"

The moment the man said that, all of the alchemists of the Unbreaking Pavilion looked toward where he was pointing at. True enough, they saw a familiar figure, followed by another one, and they slowly walked toward Prosper City's plaza.

Gent's lower jaw hung so low that an egg could fit his mouth. "It's Jack!" he exclaimed.

Jack did not know at that moment that he had garnered massive attention. Rudy, meanwhile, had been quite happy the whole journey, and the two of them finally arrived at Prosper City's Plaza after walking for three days and three nights.

Just like the cities before, they would need to pass the entry test if they wanted to enter Prosper City.

"I won't drag you down this time," assured Rudy. "If I can't pass the entry test, then I'd be worthless for sure."

Jack turned to look at Rudy as he pursed his lips. "You haven't been a sixth-grade alchemist for that long, so don't be overconfident. You still need time and experience."

- Chapter 2902 -

Rudy deflated as he looked at Jack. "I just feel like the entry test isn't hard at all. We just need to complete thirty runes in the condensing plate to obtain the right to enter the city. Plus, we can bring a person along! What an easy test..."

Jack felt exasperated when he heard this. "You haven't even seen what sort of pill runes you'll need to complete. How do you know it'll be easy?"

"It's just an entry test!" refuted Rudy weakly. "How could they give out difficult problems? We just need to complete thirty pill runes, which I'm all up for. Don't look down on me!"

Jack did not know what to say at that moment. He had never underestimated Rudy and was just speaking the truth. If Rudy continued to stand his ground on the matter, Jack had nothing else to say.

The two of them were talking to each other when Rudy looked up and saw the stone plate in front of them. They walked toward the stone plate and read the words on the plate.

[The price is set. Ten thousand spirit crystals per person.]

Stunned to have read this, Rudy turned and, with a frown on his face, said to Jack, “What’s this? An entry fee? Didn’t you say that we needed to pass the test to enter the city? Can we even pay to enter with spirit crystals?”

Jack walked over and looked at the stone plate before letting out a slight laugh. “Can you please use your head before you say anything next time? If ten thousand spirit crystals are enough to get in, then what’s the point of the test? Didn’t I tell you the rules before? There will be ninety pill runes on the condensing plate. You just need to complete thirty pill runes to be able to enter the city, and you can even bring one person in with you.”

“If you complete another thirty and finish up with sixty, you can bring two other people inside. Completing an additional thirty pill runes for a total of sixty will allow you to bring two people inside. If you complete ninety pill runes, you can bring three people in. Prosper City isn’t somewhere only alchemists want to go, a lot of warriors want to get in, too. A place where a lot of alchemists go means there will be a lot of pills to be made. A lot of warriors who want refined pills will enter this place.”

Jack then pointed at the plaza where two plain groups were gathered. The first group wore alchemist robes and donned alchemist badges on their chests. The other group was dressed in various attires. They were all from different clans or even wandering warriors. They sat on the left side of the plaza, seemingly waiting to be chosen.

Just like Jack had said, it was not just alchemists that wanted to enter Prosper City. A lot of warriors wanted to enter the seventh level city built for alchemists as well. In the end, alchemists were meant to help warriors. Many of the warriors sat in front of the city, looking like merchants who were waiting for a deal. They wanted to enter Prosper City to buy a lot of pills, and they would sell the pills for a lot of profit once they exited. There were even some warriors that had been sent there by their clans.

Those disciples were probably all prepared to purchase a lot of pills, perhaps even ready for sweetened deals. It was the exact opposite of what had happened in Thousand Leaves City. The test in Prosper City was meant for alchemists, so regular warriors would not be able to enter, which meant that they could only rely on high-grade alchemists to bring them in. Thus, the stone plate stating there was an entry fee was placed upfront for these warriors.

Rudy thought for a long time before understanding the fact.

- Chapter 2903 -

Rudy snorted as he turned to tell Jack. "These warriors are clever, I'll give them that. Why did not one put up a plate like that in Thousand Leaves City? The moment it concerns their benefits, they put up the stone plate."

Jack nodded. "In the end, the Hestia Continent is a place where strength matters the most. If the alchemists decide to retaliate, the warriors will probably attack them together. The alchemists aren't that strong anyway. Since they have no way of fighting back, they were forced to lower their heads."

Rudy frowned and said unhappily, "We alchemists are at such a disadvantage, but most alchemists come from larger forces. Are those forces not going to do anything about it?"

Jack did not even bother looking at Rudy. "Why don't you put some thought into this? This is the Whirling World. Those who are truly strong can't enter. The only ones who can help these alchemists are warriors that are currently being trained. However, most of those warriors have gone to other cities and won't have the time to come to this place at all. That's why the rules were established. Ten thousand spirit crystals are quite a large sum anyway, so they decided to accept it."

Rudy refused to accept this. He felt that the alchemists were oppressed during what happened in Thousand Leaves City, and with the situation suddenly reversed, the warriors were still the ones to set the rules, much to his chagrin. However, he knew he had no say in this whatsoever.

Jack looked at the condensing plates where 30 condensing plates were present. Every plate had an alchemist going through the test in front of them. The condensing plates were different from the entry stone. The entry stone's test only took a little while. It was just a punch in the end. However, it took a lot more time to go through the test for Prosper City.

Thankfully, the test was set to be less than 15 minutes, and anyone who took longer than that would be considered a failure. There were quite a few alchemists who entered the Whirling World. Even though a good amount of them had entered Prosper City already, even more of them were still outside.

The plaza was full of people. Coupled with the warriors who wanted to enter with the alchemists, it was bustling. When Rudy saw the situation, he lamented, "There are so many people here. I'd never seen so many people in one place before I entered the Whirling World, but I noticed it when we walked in. How many warriors entered the Whirling World?"

Jack let out a laugh, not answering Rudy. He walked toward the plaza in front of the city, not wanting to waste any time. It was just a seventh-level city, after all. After entering Prosper City, he would dedicate a certain amount of time to refining pills to make even more spirit crystals.

Rudy followed closely behind him, and the two of them entered the plaza together. However, just as Jack was about to enter, someone stopped him.

Mark stared right at Jack.

Jack frowned, able to tell at a glance that Mark did not have good intentions. However, even after thinking about it, he could not recognize him.

Mark let out a smile. "Jack, right? I'm an alchemist from the Unbreaking Pavilion, Mark Wright."

- Chapter 2904 -

A group of about 19 people came up behind Mark after he introduced himself, and they shot Jack a seemingly unfriendly gaze.

Jack frowned, immediately knowing that there would be trouble the moment he heard they were from the Unbreaking Pavilion.

Jack raised an eyebrow as he sneered, "Are you trying to cause me trouble? Feel free to try, but with just your group, you'll just die on the spot if you try anything."

Mark's expression soured at those words. He had wanted to be cordial with Jack, yet Jack's straightforwardness ruined that. Mark failed to even maintain his smile.

Mark snorted. "This is the entry plaza, and the laws of Prosper City protect it. If you try anything here, you'll be struck by lightning before you can even do anything!"

Jack raised an eyebrow, knowing that was indeed the case. "We'll fight outside, then," said Jack. "All twenty of you can fight me at the same time."

Jack was not worried despite their numbers. They might be from the Unbreaking Pavilion, but they were true and blue alchemists, and to him, they were mere ants.

They were just warriors that were at the early stage of the innate level, forcibly raised to the late stage by the laws of the world. Even if 20 of them worked together, Jack could easily overwhelm them all.

Mark grew angrier at Jack's tone, so much so that he started to pant as he almost lost his composure.

“Stop trying to act like a hero,” scoffed Mark, his eyes narrowed. “Everyone knows how strong the disciples of the Unbreaking Pavilion are. You won’t be able to beat twenty of us no matter how skilled you are!”

All Jack wanted was to hurry up and get rid of the problem, his words were not intended to solely humiliate anyone.

Hearing Mark’s words, Jack raised an eyebrow. “I’ll do it eventually. Don’t think that no one can stand up to you just because you’re a disciple of the Unbreaking Pavilion. Since you can’t stop me, move. If you want to continue spouting nonsense, just hurry back. Your words won’t affect me at all.”

Hearing Jack’s words caught Mark off-guard. His hands trembled as he slowly turned pale. Jack had not bothered to hold back at all!

Mark narrowed his eyes. “Jack, this isn’t a place where you can do whatever you want to. I know you’re not weak, but this is Prosper City. I don’t know where you got those robes you’re wearing...”

Jack raised a hand to stop Mark before he could finish.

“Can you please shut up? These robes are mine. I got the sixth-grade alchemist badge myself. Are you the only one who can be an alchemist? You’re not strong enough and chose the path of an alchemist. Does that mean that others aren’t allowed to be good at both?”

Silence immediately blanketed the atmosphere as Mark’s eyes widened, finding himself unable to reply. Mark’s hands were clenched as they trembled. The other 19 alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion widened their eyes as well. They looked at Jack with gritted teeth but were unable to say anything.

Rudy, meanwhile, could not stop himself from giggling.

- Chapter 2905 -

Mark had to admit that Jack was talented with his words, able to choke anyone with his opinion.

They were already short on time, yet these men from the Unbreaking Pavilion had all the time to impede Jack’s progress! He could not be bothered to even talk to them, so Jack held nothing back.

Gent blinked as his lips twitched. He had always been a prideful person and had always felt like he was very talented both in alchemy and his words. However, he could not help but admire Jack.

Jack had managed to completely stump that group just with his words. Gent then glanced at Mark, musing to himself how he might die out of anger toward Jack.

Right at that moment, someone walked over and said, "You're a bearer of misfortune. It's one thing that you've offended the Compass Pavilion, but you've even offended the Unbreaking Pavilion. You got surrounded the moment you entered. You've got some guts!"

Samuel Mckenzie laughed as he walked toward the gathering.

Mark took a few deep breaths before he composed himself. He barely managed to purse his lips at Samuel as he shook Samuel's hand. Even though the Compass Pavilion could not compare to the Unbreaking Pavilion, they were still an eighth-grade clan. Any clans that were better than sixth grade would start to cultivate their own alchemists. The Compass Pavilion naturally had a lot of alchemists, too.

Samuel was the leader of the alchemists from the Compass Pavilion. When Jack had a conflict with the Compass Pavilion before, it was already passed around through sound arrays. Jack's appearance had been recorded as well.

Jack's conflict with the Compass Pavilion was already at the point where they were mortal enemies. Thus, when Samuel spotted Jack, he brought his men with him. They merely stood at the sidelines when Jack and Mark first had their exchange when eventually, they found out that Jack had a conflict with the Unbreaking Pavilion as well. The moment they saw that Mark was at a disadvantage, they immediately walked over to target Jack. Even though the Compass Pavilion's relationship with the Unbreaking Pavilion was not the best, even to the point where they had a few conflicts, they were both major forces and could not make enemies of each other.

The enemy of their enemy was their friend, and neither of them wanted Jack to smoothly go about his business.

Mark coldly looked at Jack. "You seemed proud of yourself when you were at the Thousand Leaves Tower. You thought that you could lord yourself over the Compass Pavilion just because you're a little skilled. You'll have to pay for that eventually. Your earlier arrogance will just bring you misfortune! If the city plaza didn't prohibit fights, I'll bring a group of people with me to beat you up right now. I'll make you regret living!"

Jack sighed, suddenly regretting the fact that he did not disguise himself before coming in. Troublemaking idiots would not have surrounded him at this moment had he did that. He was not afraid of being challenged, but just afraid of wasting time.

He lightly snorted as he turned to look at Samuel. "Stop talking like you're right. You were the ones who couldn't beat me in a fair duel and were trash for blaming others for beating you just because they're more skilled. Quit your nonsense!"

Samuel's lips twitched as his face scrunched in anger. He pointed at Jack's face. "You b*stard! I'll rip your mouth one day!"

Jack could not help but look at Samuel in disdain. "Can you just get lost? Stop trying to cause trouble for me. All you know how to do is to gang up on others. If you have the skills, come face me head-on. Are petty methods all you're capable of?"

- Chapter 2906 -

Jack's words struck a sensitive nerve in Samuel. It was true that he did not have the skills to stand up to Jack. He was an alchemist and had naturally spent most of his time in alchemy, thus he could not stand a chance against warriors.

Jack was someone who had defeated Walter, who was a chosen disciple of the Compass Pavilion. Even a chosen disciple of the Compass Pavilion had not been able to beat Jack, let alone an alchemist like him. Even if all of the present disciples attacked Jack, they might still fail to defeat Jack.

Jack had said that he wanted to use numbers to his advantage, which was not wrong but Samuel refused to just accept defeat. Jack had pissed him off to a point of no return.

"B*stard! You'll be hit by lightning one day! You'll bow to the Compass Pavilion eventually. Once you exit Prosper City, you'll die!"

Jack took a deep breath as he shot everyone a disdainful glare. He deliberately raised his voice as he replied, "I just said you're using numbers against me. Do you admit that much? If you have the skills, then come fight me now. Otherwise, shut up and leave immediately. Stop wasting my time!"

Samuel went red in anger as he stared at Jack and shouted, "Just open your eyes and look around you! This is Prosper City, not any other seventh-level city. What's being tested here is alchemy! Do you really think you're even better than us at that?"

Samuel's words resonated with all of the other alchemists, and he was right, they were not in any other seventh-level city but the city specifically meant to test alchemists.

No matter how strong Jack was, he was just strong as a warrior. If he wanted to challenge them in alchemy, none of them would back down.

Mark sneered and continued, "Samuel is right. If you dare to, fight us in alchemy. Stop trying to use what you're good at against us all the time. If it's just skill, we're naturally not at your level, but in alchemy? Heh. You have no right to be pompous toward us in this regard. Most of us here

can complete sixty pill runes and perfectly pass the test, bringing three people into Prosper City. Can you do that?"

Mark then looked at Jack's chest in disdain.

Jack had a sixth-grade alchemist badge on his chest while those gathered from the Compass Pavilion and the Unbreaking Pavilion were all mostly seventh-grade alchemists. Only a few of the lower-ranked ones were sixth-grade alchemists.

To Mark and Samuel, sixth-grade alchemists meant nothing. Even though Jack was an incredible warrior, he could not possibly contend against them in alchemy, and they strongly believed in this.

Jack let out a faint chuckle as he looked at them calmly. All of them had incredibly confident looks on their faces as though all too sure that they could beat him when it came to alchemy.

That confidence was a joke to Jack. With everything being said, Jack felt like he just could not escape some things, even if he wanted to. Initially, all he wanted was to scare away these pests with harsh words, but at this point, he knew that they would never relent. He would only be able to silence them with his skills.

Jack sighed as he monotonously replied, "Listen here, you guys are no match for me, whether it be alchemy or combat. The entry test is nothing to me."

- Chapter 2907 -

Mark and Samuel immediately cackled upon hearing Jack's words. It was as though they were talking to a clown, one that had boastful words that meant nothing but overestimations.

Samuel laughed as he said, "Do you know what you're even saying? Look at the badge on your chest before you speak. You're just a sixth-grade alchemist, and you're already so arrogant! You should at least pick the right place to brag. It's so easy for you to be exposed now. We're just going to stand here and watch as you go to the condensing plates to go through the test. I want to see what kind of result you'll get!"

Mark had a cold look on his face. "Didn't you say that you would beat all of us? I can perfectly complete the test, can you? I can bring three people in easily! Can you?"

Jack merely raised an eyebrow at this and calmly nodded. This alone was enough of a response to Mark's questions, relaying how the test was nothing worth worrying over.

He had gone through one entry test, and Jack had not been troubled at all. If he faced any difficulties doing the entry test, then he felt like he should not even enter the city. After all, there would be nothing to gain from entering.

“What a braggart! You’re so arrogant!”

“That’s right. Who does he think he is to say that he can bring three others in? Does he think that the entry test would be that easy?!”

“Many sixth-grade alchemists got stuck here and barely managed to get themselves in. Anyone who manages to flawlessly pass the test would at least need to be a seventh- grade alchemist!”

“He’s way too arrogant. He doesn’t know what he’s saying at all! He doesn’t realize how funny his bragging is to us. Does he think we won’t expose him?”

The other alchemists lost their cool upon noticing Jack nodding, hurling jeers and insults. None of them believed him at all, instead thinking of him as a clown as they ridiculed him.

Through it all, Jack showed no reaction at all. In truth, he was more or less used to hearing things like this ever since he entered the Whirling World. Many did not acknowledge his skills, yet it did not bother him at all.

They were starting to cross the line with their words, but Jack merely replied calmly, “Remember the words you’re saying now, don’t regret them later. You’ll know who the clowns are in just a bit.”

After saying that, Jack did not bother sparing them another glance as he turned to look at Rudy, who was trembling in rage as he glared at all the alchemists. He firmly remembered Jack’s warnings and knew that he could not be reckless. At that moment, most of the things spoken were nonsense, and they had more people on their side. No one would believe anything Rudy said, anyway.

Since that was the case, they would just think he was speaking nonsense if he insisted. Hence, he decided against wasting his efforts.

When Jack looked over, he hurriedly turned away.

- Chapter 2908 -

Jack reached out and patted Rudy on the shoulder, pointing at the condensing card. “Have a go at it. If you pass, we’ll be able to bring four people inside and get forty thousand spirit crystals. Even if you fail, you don’t have to feel bad. We’d have two less people to bring in.”

Rudy frowned as he looked around with concern. In truth, he had a lot he wanted to say. He was not too confident, but with them being surrounded, it was not the time for him to say anything. He was forced to swallow those words.

He nodded vigorously and sighed, walking right to the nearest condensing plate. That condensing plate had two people queuing up for it, so it would be Rudy's turn in just half an hour.

Jack looked at Rudy and felt rather proud. The older version of Rudy would have fought back after hearing what the alchemists had to say, which, to Jack, was irrational behavior. Rudy being able to control his emotions meant that he was maturing.

Rudy and Jack's actions seemed to amuse the group of alchemists a lot.

Jack's resolute words that he would pass the test flawlessly caused the alchemists to wonder if something was wrong with Jack's head as they laughed at him and mocked him.

Samuel let out a laugh as he sneered, "You're the most confident warrior I've ever seen. Are you so sure you can pass the test perfectly? We didn't say all of that just to scare you earlier. Without being at the level of a seventh-grade alchemist, you can't possibly wing it! There are ninety pill runes, and you should already be thanking your ancestors if you managed to fill up thirty!"

They were no match against Jack in terms of combat, but they were confident in themselves when it came to alchemy-certain that they would put that brat, Jack in his place.

They would not have talked to Jack so confidently if they were in any other city. However, they were in Prosper City, the turf of alchemists. They would never think that they would lose to someone else!

Mark looked at the badge on Jack's chest and said, "It's impressive enough if you can get to the level of a sixth-grade alchemist. Don't think that you're just as skilled in alchemy just because you have a lot of talent as a warrior! Alchemy and combat are two very different paths. Alchemy tests one's talents even further. Don't think that your talents in combat will transfer to alchemy. I'll be the first to tell you that you don't have that talent or ability!"

Mark's grudge toward Jack ran deep due to the words that provoked him. This was his chance to get back at Jack. Naturally, he held nothing back.

Jack glanced at Mark

Mark looked very well-kept and was obviously the leader of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion. To him, however, he was nothing special.

If Mark was in Phoenix Valley's outer valley, he would only rank among the top five at most. However, Phoenix Valley's true strength was in the inner valley, and this guy would not even have the right to enter the inner valley. Jack would have not bothered with alchemists of the inner valley, let alone Mark.

Mark noticed how Jack blatantly ignored him after a mere cold glance, and he felt downright humiliated.

- Chapter 2909 -

"You b*stard!" snarled Mark. "You still think that you can do as you please, but you'll quickly realize otherwise!"

Jack merely sported a small smile, not caring about what Mark was saying at all.

Gent, on the other hand, merely pursed his lips helplessly as he looked at Mark, who was next to him. He wanted to tell Mark at that moment that there was no point saying anything then, it was better to wait for the results before silencing Jack with it.

Jack could not be bothered continuing to talk to them, so he closed his eyes and let them say what they wanted to.

Time slowly ticked away, and after half an hour, it was finally Rudy's turn to go through the test on the condensing plate. At that moment, Jack slowly opened his eyes. Rudy straightened his back as he silently tried to motivate himself.

The more he acted like that, the less confident he seemed. He had encountered too many geniuses recently, so Rudy's confidence was already shattered. Right before he got to the test, Rudy turned to look at Jack.

Jack merely nodded at Rudy silently. With that, Rudy took a deep breath before he entered the area of the test.

To preserve the fairness of the test, the candidate and the condensing plate would be shrouded by a gray barrier the moment the test started. Outsiders would not be able to see the contents of the test and would not be able to affect the results of the tested participant as well. They would only be able to see the final results after the barrier vanished.

The two who came before Rudy had both failed. One of them managed to get 28 pill runes, but the last two did not reach a 50-percent refinement rate, so they had lost the right to enter.

Another participant had completed 35 pill runes, but 10 of them were not at a 50-percent refinement rate. In the end, he only scored 25 and failed to enter.

The two participants thus left the condensing plate dejectedly, evidently in despair for their future. Only then did they realize how bad they were, not even able to get the right to enter the city.

Rudy felt the pressure heightening when he saw the two participants before him leaving empty-handed. With so many people focused on Rudy behind him as well, he felt like two boulders were crushing his shoulders. However, he could no longer back down. He could hear the wind in his ears as the gray barrier sealed him and the condensing plate within. Only he and the condensing plate in front of him were left in the world.

With a flash of golden light, 90 incomplete pill runes appeared on the condensing card. As long as he completed 30 of them, he would be able to enter the city without needing to rely on Jack. He silently motivated himself as his hands started to move constantly. Waves of dense pill aura were condensed into pill runes.

Jack frowned as he stared in the direction where Rudy was isolated by the barrier, feeling rather worried. Even if he could bring Rudy in if he failed, failure would be too heavy of a blow for him, and Jack did not want to see him in that depressed state. After all, the two of them had established a firm friendship along the way.

- Chapter 2910 -

When Gent saw the concerned look on Jack's eyes, he let out a laugh and sneered, "Let me guess, your friend is a pure alchemist? His aura is quite erratic, and it's obvious he was forcibly pulled up to the late stage of the innate level by the laws. He's not like you at all."

Jack raised an eyebrow as he glanced at Gent.

Gent was right, Rudy had been forcibly leveled up.

Gent let out a snort as he said, "He'll fail very badly, and so will you. Even though I haven't gone through the entry test, I've talked to a lot of alchemists that have. Most of the ninety pill runes that needed to be filled up are those that only seventh-grade alchemists can fill up. That's Why you shouldn't dream so loftily. Before you brag, you should look at the badge on your chest."

Gent was astounded at how ignorant Jack seemed. That man was confident to the point of arrogance, saying things that all of them felt were a joke with such a calm expression.

Anyone who did not know who Jack was might have thought that he could achieve what he had claimed!

Jack raised an eyebrow, not even turning around. "Don't judge others by your standards. I've already said that numerous times, and each time I'm proven right."

Right after he said this, the gray barrier suddenly dispersed. A familiar figure appeared in front of everyone, and the condensing plate revealed the results in large golden words.

Rudy had completed a total of 36 pill runes, but nine of them were not at a 50-percent refinement. It meant that Rudy had only completed 27 pill runes in the end. He was only three pill runes away from passing. He looked like all the energy had been sucked out of him as he looked visibly miserable.

Jack frowned, half-expecting this outcome yet half-expecting it was not the case. In truth, he himself did not know if Rudy would be able to enter the city on his own. To him, Rudy was quite decent. However, the results were shown to everyone, and Rudy was just a little away from getting the right to enter the city.

Jack helplessly sighed as he felt sympathy in his heart. He could feel how hopeless Rudy felt at that moment. They had encountered too many things lately, and Rudy's confidence had received heavy blows. It had been Rudy's chance to prove himself, but he did not expect the result to be like that

Jack ignored the mockery from the side as he walked over to Rudy.

He reached out and pulled Rudy over from the condensing plate, patting him on the shoulder as he earnestly spoke, "You've just become a sixth-grade alchemist not too long ago, you know? You've been constantly improving. As long as you have some time, you'll be able to enter by yourself, no doubt."

Rudy could not even look up as he wallowed in misery.

"You don't have to console me, Jack," rasped Rudy. "I know I'm just trash. I couldn't see it when I was in Golden Pills, but ever since I left Golden Pills, I realize how large the world is. I'm not even at the level of the worst alchemists. Why should I even bother living?"

Jack frowned, not expecting Rudy to be so depressed that he was starting to question his reason to live.

- Chapter 2911 -

He hurriedly said, "No one you've faced so far is trash. The real trash is all still in its own small little places, not here. You're already different from them. You're on another level. All you need now is time. Trust me..."

Before he could finish speaking, more mockery could be heard. The person who spoke was Samuel. After Rudy's results were out, he could not stop himself from laughing out loud.

The results deepened the negative perception of Rudy and Jack.

Rudy's results had been far too bad. It was not even comparable to the weakest among them. He had been completely unable to gain entry into the city himself. They had Rudy pinned as an

alchemist that was from an insignificant place. They did not know how Jack was so confident. His follower was already so bad, but he actually said that he would pass perfectly.

Samuel maintained his smile and said, "Tell me, Jack. Who gave you all your confidence? How can you possibly think that you'll pass perfectly? I think it would already be quite decent if you could get the same results as your follower. I'm even beginning to suspect that you're not an alchemist at all. You might not even be able to complete ten pill runes."

Gent did not even bother hiding anything, "You should be from an insignificant place. You should be proud if you can complete twenty seven pill runes."

Initially, all of them thought that Jack came from somewhere amazing thanks to Jack's amazing strength. However, they could not find any chosen disciples called Jack after investigating the matter. In the end, the conclusion they arrived at was that Jack was not from anywhere notable. That was why they were not afraid to make a move on Jack and capture Jack alive to look into what secrets he held.

After they saw that Rudy only managed to complete twenty-seven pill runes, it reinforced their guess. The two of them must have been from some corner of the middle kingdom and did not really know much.

Jack was probably so strong just because he had been incredibly lucky, and managed to gain the inheritance of some hero.

There were certain amazing heroes that failed to find anyone to inherit their skills, so they would find a secluded place before they died and leave behind their most valuable treasures and techniques. They would hope that someone would find it and inherit their techniques. Jack must have found some hero's inheritance. That was why he was so strong. That was also the reason the higher-ups wanted to capture Jack alive. After capturing Jack, they would torture and interrogate Jack to see if they could gain anything from him.

Jack grabbed Rudy's shoulders and raised his voice, "Don't be sad. There's nothing to be sad about. As long as you have enough time, you'll trample over all those who laughed at you."

After that, Jack turned around, ignoring everyone as he walked to the end of the line, queuing up to take the test. There were some things that were pointless to be said.

Seeing Jack says nothing and going to queue up, the alchemists looked at him with an even more amused gaze. Coincidentally, there were also two people in front of Jack.

The two of them had already seen that the large group had a grudge against Jack. Even if the two of them did not know the details, they knew that the ones against Jack were the Compass Pavilion and the Unbreaking Pavilion.

They were two eighth-grade clans. When the two of them saw that Jack was going over to queue up, they started to whisper amongst themselves, discussing where Jack was from and if he could pass the test perfectly.

- Chapter 2912 -

The whole thing had been heard by Jack. He merely thought that it was annoying, and decided to close his eyes and rest, not wanting to bother with what anyone else had to say.

As time passed, half an hour was up. It was finally Jack's turn to take the test. Of the two in front, one had succeeded and one had failed. From the percentage, it seemed like half of the participants would fail.

The alchemists who are able to enter Prosper City were all at least sixth-grade alchemists and above. Only those who were in the upper echelon of sixth-grade alchemists could enter Prosper City.

When Jack stepped in front of the condensing plate, the gray barrier immediately wrapped Jack within. On the condensing plate, sixty incomplete runes appeared. Jack looked at the runes. There was a small portion that even middle-tier sixth-grade alchemists could complete, but most of them needed someone who was a seventh-grade alchemist or higher to complete. He even saw an ancient pill rune among them.

Pill runes that came from ancient times were both rare and hard to condense. To alchemists, it was quite a big test. Only alchemists with strong foundations would be able to complete ninety of those pill runes. Otherwise, even if they were seventh-grade alchemists, they would not be able to do anything when faced with an ancient pill rune.

Jack took a few deep breaths as he pushed all those unnecessary thoughts out of his head. His hands started to move constantly as he seriously started to complete pill runes. It started to get incredibly hot within the barrier, while it was strangely quiet outside.

Rudy was completely depressed at that moment and did not want to say a single word. Even if there were people mocking him, he did not want to say anything back at all.

They lost interest in continuing when they saw that Rudy had no retorts at all. The place started to fall into a strange silence and everyone looked at the gray barrier, waiting for Jack to come out.

After some time, Gent lowered his voice and whispered to Mark, "What do we do now? The only order we got was that we couldn't let Jack go. However, we're no match for Jack at all. Prosper City prohibits us from fighting in the first place. We had a conflict with Jack earlier, but what do we do now..."

In truth, Gent was already a little lost at that moment. The orders from above were very clear. They were not allowed to let Jack go. They had also caused trouble with Jack, so what could they do after?

They were just a group of alchemists, so they were no match for Jack at all. Other than keeping an eye on Jack and causing Jack more trouble, there was nothing else they could do.

Mark frowned and thought about it for a long time before saying seriously, "We'll just quietly wait for any changes. Let's report the matter first and wait for orders. What we need to do now is make sure that we follow Jack tightly. No matter where he goes, we have to follow him. Especially if he enters the city. We definitely can't let him slip away. There are so many people in the city, we might really lose track of him if he wants to slip away. If we can't find him, we'll definitely be blamed."

Gent nodded as his lips twitched helplessly, "Jack really is hard to deal with. If he really wants to slip away from us, we might really not be able to do anything about it..."

Mark let out a deep sigh, not saying anything. He did not actually have any better plans as well.

Gent looked at the gray barrier before letting out a cold laugh.

- Chapter 2913 -

"However, I think that he shouldn't have such an easy time getting into the city. He might not even pass the test..."

Mark nodded, feeling like Gent could be right. However, right at that moment, the barrier suddenly disappeared. All the alchemists around them looked up at the condensing plate in front of Jack simultaneously.

The condensing plate displayed Jack's results, "Perfectly completed ninety pill runes, obtaining four entry tokens."

The golden words blinked five or six times before disappearing. Right after that, four rays of light shot out of the condensing card, falling into Jack's palm. When the lights dispersed, four entry tokens appeared in front of everyone. Jack raised an eyebrow as he kept his entry token into a mustard seed. He already had some clue about who he wanted to bring inside.

None of the alchemists were able to say anything when they saw that scene. They started to suspect if they were imagining things. Otherwise, how could they see something so absurd?

Gent suddenly slapped his chest. He was suddenly slapped in the face after saying that Jack would not even be able to enter Prosper City.

Not only had Jack managed to enter Prosper City, but he had also even managed to win three extra entry tokens to bring three other people in!

“Mark, pinch me now. I want to see if I’m dreaming! That guy actually managed to pass the test perfectly...” Gent was even starting to tremble as he spoke.

He actually did not want to believe that what was happening in front of him was real. It was too absurd. The guy clearly had the badge of a sixth-grade alchemist and was clearly on the path of a warrior.

How could he have such excellent results as an alchemist if he spent so much time on training?

Samuel took a deep breath and said, “Anyone who can pass the test perfectly is at least a seventh-grade alchemist. Could this guy already be at the level of a seventh-grade alchemist? Why would he have the badge of a sixth-grade alchemist if he was a seventh-grade alchemist? Is it because he wants to trick others?”

“Who knows what that cunning brat thinks? However, why is God so unfair? This guy is clearly a warrior and probably spent a lot of time on that. Yet, he managed to become a seventh-grade alchemist before he hit sixty years of age. Isn’t that just absurd?”

Mark felt like he was about to go crazy. When he saw what Jack had done, his breath almost stopped. It was not just absurd, it had dealt him a heavy blow as well. His lips twitched slightly as his eyes widened.

Jack turned around to look at the dumbfounded alchemist again. He smiled and said, “I’ve already told you. Don’t be so quick to say who the clown is...”

No one dared to say anything back at those words anymore. They merely shut their mouths wisely. Results could prove everything, and it was impossible for alchemists to cheat. Even if they wanted to think up any excuses, they could not. They were forced to shut their eyes and say nothing.

Rudy finally found a bit of confidence back from that. Even though the confidence came from

Jack, he was at least in a better mood.

- Chapter 2914 -

He turned his head and looked down at the group, “I told you not to look down on others. Jack said to you that he could beat you in every way, and he definitely can. All of you only know how to use your mouth to insult others, saying we’re from somewhere insignificant. If we were, then what do you amount to? You can’t even compare to us...”

Rudy's words were incredibly sharp. It angered the alchemists so much that they started to pant.

Mark was in a bad mental state at that moment, but he immediately retorted, "What do you mean we can't compare? The brat might have some skill, but we aren't weak either. I can complete the test perfectly as well. At least a third of my fellow students behind me can pass the test perfectly as well!"

As he said that, Mark found some confidence back.

This time, it was Jack's turn to look at the group with a mocking smile, "A third? Aren't you too overconfident in your fellow students? There are twenty in total including you. You should be counting your lucky stars if even two manage to pass perfectly!"

That was basically Jack shooting back at them for all their earlier insults.

There were a total of twenty alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion and a total of fifteen from the Compass Pavilion. Jack's words had been targeted at the alchemists of the Unbreaking Pavilion, and Mark's face reddened in anger again.

He looked at Jack furiously, feeling like he and his fellow students were all being underestimated by Jack. The test did not seem hard to him at all. As the leader of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion, he could not accept being doubted like that.

Mark narrowed his eyes as his tone went cold, "I know you're a decent alchemist, but don't think that others are not at your level just because you're good!"

Jack raised an eyebrow, not wanting to bother responding.

Mark felt like his honor had been challenged. Jack said that only two would be able to pass the test perfectly out of twenty of them. That in itself was an insult. However, it was just a simple entry test. All of them were alchemists that had been carefully raised by their clans. They had used up a lot of resources. He could not guarantee that twenty of them would be able to pass the test perfectly, but there had to be at least ten.

Mark said, "Don't think that you can brag anyway you want and look down on others just because you have some skill. If you have what it takes, then wait right here and look at all of us taking the test. We'll use our skills to prove that you are completely wrong!"

Jack's lips curled up as he let out a smile of disdain. Mark's words were probably not just to gain back some of his honor, but probably included other intentions as well. However, Jack could not be bothered exploring it. Since Mark wanted to prove himself so much, then Jack would play along till the end.

Jack smiled and said, "Alright, I'll wait here and look at all of you take the test then. If more than two of you pass the test perfectly, then I will have underestimated you."

All of the alchemists there were stunned at those words. They could not believe that Jack was actually so serious. The earlier conversation was definitely filled with emotion. Yet, they did not expect that Jack would actually have agreed. If more than two of the Unbreaking Pavilion's alchemists passed perfectly, then Jack would have to admit that it was his problem.

- Chapter 2915 -

He deliberately brought up a topic, "This group won't let us escape their sights easily. If we leave their sights, they'll definitely go crazy..."

After Rudy heard that, he was immediately pulled out of his pain. After all, that problem was even more pressing. He sighed as he said with concern, "What does that group want?! They've been trying to cause us trouble from the start. Could they really be planning on attacking us? However, Prosper City's laws state that we can't fight privately. If they really pull any moves, they'd just die!"

Jack nodded. Various thoughts flashed in both of their eyes. In truth, he was still not sure at all, thanks to the lack of information. He had no way of telling what that group wanted as well.

If they really planned on anything, they should not hide before they had full confidence in their plan. The group was quite kind to alert Jack the moment he arrived in the city. The more Jack thought about it, the more he felt like something was off. It felt like they really were just there to cause trouble.

Rudy shook his head in frustration, feeling like his head was being surrounded by disgusting flies, "Why don't we just go in right now. After all, they're all queuing up. I can't stand the thought of them constantly following us. I'll definitely be feeling constant goosebumps!"

Jack nodded. It definitely felt bad being constantly observed, especially with Jack's personality. He definitely did not want to go through something like that, but the circumstances were special.

- Chapter 2916 -

After thinking about it for a long time, he frowned and said earnestly, "We have to just tolerate it for now. Since they want to follow us, let's just let them. I really want to know what their true goal is, and if it has to do with Grayson or not!"

Before, Jack had said that they knew far too little about Grayson. Even though Jack had gone through a lot with Grayson and Rudy before, Grayson seemed like a completely different person other than his looks.

On top of that, Grayson had disappeared the moment they entered Phoenix Valley. Those higher ups also seemed incredibly strange every time they brought up Grayson. No matter how they thought about it, they felt like there had to be a massive secret hidden behind everything.

If the matter did not involve him, Jack might not have been so anxious to figure everything out. However, as time passed, he slowly found that there was no longer any way he could avoid the matter.

Grayson already noticed him and had instigated the warriors and alchemists of the Unbreaking Pavilion to cause him trouble. If things were already at that stage, he would naturally have to figure things out.

Rudy looked at Jack seriously, not wanting to add to Jack's troubles. However, looking at Jack's expression, it was obvious that Jack had no way of solving those frustrations at that moment.

Rudy thought about it before saying, "Even if you seal my lips, I would also write it out. There are far too many questions in my head, such as why Grayson is in the Unbreaking Pavilion, and why he doesn't recognize us. Why would he suddenly try to do something to us? Could it be because of what I did back then?"

Jack sighed as he looked towards the others for a while before he whispered, "I'm thinking about these questions as well. However, there's something we can be sure of even if we can't investigate anything at the moment. There's only one reason Grayson would suddenly attack us. That's because you suddenly pulled his arm and asked those questions. We basically alerted him from that moment on..."

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After Jack finished saying that, Rudy's lips twitched. He knew that what happened that day was complete because he could not keep his mouth shut back then. He felt incredibly bad about that. Back when Jack lectured him, Rudy was not exactly pleased about it. Yet, now it looked like he definitely deserved that scolding. If he had not pulled Grayson so impulsively, all of this would not have happened.

Jack knew that Rudy was guilty about what happened, so Jack shook his head and said earnestly, "It's already too late to regret things. You just need to remember to think before you do anything in the future. Don't act on your emotions alone. All we can do now is respond to things as they come. It's like you said before, Prosper City prohibits fighting. They won't be able to attack us there, nor would they have the guts to. I want to wait and see if they slip up and reveal what they're planning to us..."

Various questions were on Jack's mind at that moment. He suddenly felt like he did not know what he needed to do next, and could only follow his intuition. Since they wanted to follow him so closely, he would let them.

Earlier, Mark's words sounded like he really wanted to prove things to Jack, but there was actually another reason behind them.

He wanted to provoke Jack and have Jack stay behind. After all, they had not gone through their tests yet.

Jack could enter Prosper City at any time, but they still needed to take their tests and waste a great deal of time. If Jack disappeared the moment he entered the city, then they might be left in an unfortunate spot. Time slowly ticked away, and Jack felt like he was about to go to sleep waiting for them.

Rudy was incredibly tired as well, but Jack had not given up on looking at the results of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion. He remembered every result. After Mark participated in the test himself, Mark's mood sank incredibly low.

The results of the test were just like Jack had said. Only Gent and Mark had managed to get a perfect ninety. The others got eighty-seven at best. Most of them managed to get over eighty pill runes, while the others were just somewhat lacking.

Jack smiled coldly, "The results were just as I explained. It looks like you know too little of yourself and those other alchemists behind you. I already told you, it's not that I'm looking down on all of you. It's just that you're really not good enough!"

As Jack said that, the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion were so infuriated that they wanted to rush up and choke Jack. However, they could only dream of that. They were forced to seethe in anger quietly, not able to say anything back. That was because Jack was absolutely right. He had even been able to guess the exact number.

Jack laughed as he said coldly, "In the future, you shouldn't set your sights too high no matter what you do. That's because you'll just end up falling tragically."

Jack's words might not have sounded that harsh, but they felt like violent slaps on the faces of the alchemists from the Unbreaking Pavilion.

Mark's whole body was already trembling from the anger.

- Chapter 2918 -

He had obviously been infuriated.

Jack merely let out a light snort and retrieved his entry token from Mustard Seed and turned to look at Rudy, "The show's already over. There's no reason for us to stay in the plaza. Go pick

out two people and get twenty thousand spirit crystals from them. Let's hurry up and enter the outer city."

Rudy nodded and immediately ran over to pick out two warriors who wanted to enter Prosper City. There were many to choose from. The warriors that were resting outside the city numbered at least over ten thousand. From there, it was incredibly easy to pick out two that were suitable.

After fifteen minutes, Jack held the twenty thousand spirit crystals he had earned and entered the outer city of Prosper City with Rudy and two other warriors. Prosper City was split into the outer city and the inner city. When he got the entry token for the outer city, all of Prosper City's rules went into his mind. Rather than the inner and outer cities, it was more like a massive marketplace.

The moment they entered the city, they saw many stalls of various sizes set up right in front of them. There were many people walking along those stalls.

Everyone was browsing and looking for something they liked. There were various things on sale. It was not just pills or materials, there were even technique manuals or some broken down ancient weapons.

The moment Rudy entered the city, he could not help but exclaim, "Oh my, this place is massive."

The place was at least ten times larger than the plaza outside of the city. There were a lot of alchemists and warriors gathered there. Of course, the warriors were naturally all there for business. The inner city was where the alchemists would go through their actual tests. Regular warriors would not enter the place easily. Rudy stood on his tip toes as he looked around.

All he saw was people. Many warriors and stall owners were shouting out their prices intensely. Most of the warriors there were not that strong. They only went there to try out their luck and earn some spirit crystals. After all, the Whirling World lacked a lot of resources compared to the outside world. High-grade alchemists were incredibly rare in the Whirling World, and pills were necessities for warriors. If they bought a lot of pills from this place, they would definitely be able to earn a lot of money by selling them in other seventh-level cities.

Jack had perfectly passed the entrance test, and obtained entry tokens for three other people. Since Rudy had not passed, they wasted one of the entry tokens.

There were only two warriors who entered with Jack. After they entered with Jack and Rudy, they exchanged a few pleasantries before going their own ways, not saying anything else.

After all, it was just a one time deal. Only Rudy and Jack were left. After entering the outer city, the two of them were in no hurry to look around for things they wanted to buy at the stalls. Instead, they looked for somewhere secluded and stopped for a rest. It was mainly because

Rudy had a lot he wanted to say. Enemies had surrounded them at the plaza in front of the city, so he could not have said anything without fear of being overheard.

It was only the two of them at that moment, so Rudy no longer had those reservations. He sighed and said seriously, "They followed so tightly behind when we entered. Those flies won't let us go just like that."

Jack nodded, "Since I agreed to look at all of them take their tests, I naturally have no intentions of giving them the slip. They think that I'm an idiot to argue with them, and probably think that I'm too prideful..."

- Chapter 2919 -

Rudy let out a laugh when he heard that, "They don't know anything about you at all. There's no way you would waste your time for something so petty."

As the two of them talked, they saw Mark, Gent and the others entering the city. The group's eyes were wide as they entered, hurriedly looking for Jack among the crowd. They had thought that Jack would jump into the crowd the moment Jack entered the city, so they were all looking forward. Yet, Jack and Rudy had not walked further inside at all, and had instead headed to the more secluded city walls.

Rudy looked on as the group struggled to find them.

All of them started to panic, and he laughed as he pointed at them, "They're all in such a panic. What do you think they'll do if they still can't find us after a while?"

Jack raised an eyebrow, "Who cares what they'll do? We won't deliberately hide ourselves. If we want to find out what's happening behind all this, we'll have to make them slip up. The more they do, the more obvious their goals will be, but it's quite funny seeing them panic like that as well. Let's just wait here for a moment. We'll make our appearance after they fumble about for a bit more."

Rudy was very amused as he looked on next to the city walls with Jack. They watched as the Unbreaking Pavilion and Compass Pavilion's alchemists were frantically trying to find them. Taking the opportunity, Jack gave Rudy an introduction to the rules of the outer city.

Rudy started to get annoyed hearing the numerous rules there were, "Isn't this just a large marketplace? Why are there so many rules?"

Jack raised an eyebrow and looked into the distance. The outer city was far too large. Jack was unable to even estimate how many warriors were gathered there.

“Even though the outer city is a massive marketplace when compared to the inner city, Prosper City is still a city built for alchemists. Anyone who enters Prosper City would need to go through tests that are targeted at alchemists. Just look at the various stalls set up around the place. Those stalls are only obtainable after going through certain tests. Otherwise, you wouldn’t even have the chance to peddle your wares.”

Rudy’s lips twitched when he heard that even setting up a stall needed tests. Rudy sighed, feeling like he did not belong anywhere.

He said helplessly, “Even setting up a stall needs a test It’s so hard to relax around here.”

After saying that, Rudy could not help but look around at the various stalls. After some observations, he could see the difference between the stalls. The stalls were all of various sizes. Some stalls were only five square feet large, and various things were placed all around, looking incredibly packed. Some stalls were a bit bigger, possibly at around ten square feet. They could even see a few stalls that had tables and chairs around, but not many people could enter those stalls.

Jack pointed at the stalls and introduced to Rudy, “There are three levels to the stalls, high, middle and low. The low-tier stalls are the smallest, and are only around five square feet in area.”