

- Chapter 2948 -

Jack's expression darkened.

It was no wonder that no alchemists were stepping up even though so many alchemists were present. It was actually because of Rudeus' high requirements. Average alchemists would have no right to participate.

Aaron seemed to have lost all hope at that moment. He had been humiliated by Rudeus like that in front of so many alchemists. He did not even have any will to fight back. Even if he was incredibly carefree, he still had the urge to slam his head into a wall.

He felt like he had never been so humiliated in his life. He felt like everything he had done before was just a complete joke. He had a completely hopeless look in his eyes as he quickened his footsteps. He was afraid that he would hear the mockery around him if he slowed down. However, just as he was hastily walking forward, he suddenly felt his arm being grabbed. He turned to look and saw Jack grabbing him with a frown on Jack's face.

Jack let out a sigh and pulled Aaron toward where he had been. After that, Jack pressed at Aaron's arm, having Aaron sit back down. They were already sitting in a very secluded area in the first place, so it was easy to avoid everyone else's gaze.

Rudy looked at Aaron with some worry. Jack sighed as he patted Aaron on the arm.

He whispered, "You did nothing wrong. You didn't know they would do that. You just wanted to step up at the right time and fight for Hestia Continent."

Rudy hurriedly said, "They really are too much! They're just a bunch of dogs who look down on others. If you knew that was how they would act, you would never have wanted to help them!"

Rudy's anger toward Rudeus was already at its peak. He felt like Rudeus had crossed the line too much. Even if Aaron was not good enough to participate, there was no need to make things so ugly. Even though Rudy only knew Aaron for a short time, Rudy already regarded Aaron as a friend. He really liked Aaron's personality.

Aaron's eyes were completely red, and his body was still shuddering. He was like a rabbit that had been frightened and looked incredibly pitiful.

Rudy got even angrier at the sight, "That Rudeus, I was still somewhat sympathetic of him earlier, but I can't believe he's actually like this!"

Aaron sighed with a bitter look on his face and said, "I thought of things too simply. I actually expected that he would mock me like that. An alchemist at Rudeus's level wouldn't regard us as anything worthwhile at all. As long as we do anything wrong, or do anything that he doesn't like, he will start to mock us..."

Jack frowned as he looked at Rudeus.

Rudeus still had a sour look on his face as he looked at all the alchemists around him in disdain. He was still feeling frustrated at the lack of stronger alchemists participating.

Jack sighed as he whispered, "You did nothing wrong. Every alchemist has the right to take part in the tournament. If there had been any restrictions, they would have been written in the rules. However, Prosper City has no such rules. Rudeus is just doing things as he please, not considering anyone else."

Aaron shook his head, somewhat accepting his fate, "I just didn't think things through. All alchemist like me that was raised by wandering warriors has no right to represent Hestia Continent in something like this."

Jack frowned, wanting to console Aaron, but Aaron interrupted him, "Thank you both. I know the two of you are trying to fight for me, but I've already thought things through. I just didn't know my place earlier."

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Rudy sighed. He had a lot more he wanted to say, but he swallowed his words.

In truth, Aaron's thoughts were not completely unreasonable, but Aaron had not done any of that to show off. He had wanted to help Rudeus and had not thought about anything else.

At that moment, Rudeus could be heard again, "Let me warn all of you! If you try to retreat again, I won't be so kind to you when the resources are being distributed. You're not getting anything for free!"

Rudy rolled his eyes, whispering, "What does this guy want? He doesn't want anyone to step up and insists on having those cowards compete. With his temper, anyone who steps up probably won't meet his standards anyway! Rudeus would just berate them without holding anything back. If this continues, even alchemists with enough skill won't want to step up anyway. They would just be cursed at and insulted!"

Jack could understand what everyone was feeling. It was not like everyone enjoyed being shouted at, but Rudeus' temper was just too strange. He was probably already too used to being pampered. He felt like he was above everyone else, and that everything he did was right. If anyone did not meet his standards, they would be berated. It was as if it was completely deserved.

Jack let out a snort as a look of disgust was on his face, he turned to look at Aaron, "Help me with this question. Are the treasures distributed evenly no matter what you get?"

Aaron shook his head before nodding, "I don't know how I should describe it, but it's not an even distribution. Those who get the treasure can choose the best thing first. The rest will be given to everyone else."

Jack nodded and immediately asked again, "Then how many times can one person take part?"

Aaron was a bit taken aback, "One person can only take part once, that's why Rudeus is in such a panic to find people. After all, six groups have already been sent in. Sixty of the alchemists gathered here have already taken part."

Jack nodded as his eyes darted around. Rudy frowned as he looked at it. After knowing Jack for so long, Rudy could guess what Jack was thinking from his expression.

Rudy had a moment of realization when he looked at Jack. He took a deep breath and grabbed Jack's arm, "You are..."

Before he could finish, Jack nodded earnestly, "Stop right there. Why did I come here? Is it to lower my head for others?"

Rudy panicked a little hearing that, "But..."

Jack shook his head, "There are no buts. There are some things you can't just hide away from. The chance is right in front of me, if I don't seize it, it would be my fault for losing out on it."

Aaron was confused listening to the two of them talk.

Jack turned to look at Aaron and asked, "How much do you know about White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent?"

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Aaron blinked, answering seriously, "I don't really know that much... I've only read about them in ancient books."

At that moment, Jack went straight to the key point, "Hearing what you said, are none of the other worlds cut off from the outside world like Hestia Continent is?"

Aaron nodded as he looked at Jack in confusion. He felt like everyone should have known this since it was basic knowledge. Yet, it seemed like Jack did not know about it at all. He was not someone who dwelled on problems like these.

After thinking about it, he answered sincerely, "Hestia Continent used to be open to the outside world as well. It had regular contact with other worlds and even had large transfer arrays that

could send us out to other worlds. However, something huge happened thirty thousand years ago which cut off Hestia Continent's ties with the outside world. Even though news can still travel around, most of the channels were shut off."

In truth, Aaron did not know much about what happened back then either. After all, he was not even older than sixty years old, and merely got the news from ancient books. The difference between third-grade worlds was not too large. They would have Lies with each other, and they could even travel between the worlds. As long as you had the resources, you could take large transfer arrays to other worlds.

Thirty thousand years ago, Hestia Continent always maintained a relationship with the outside world. They exchanged resources as well. Hestia Continent was considered to be at the lower end of third-grade worlds.

Aaron said seriously, "I've seen records about White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent. It's clearly written that those two continents should have been at the same level as us. We should all have been at the lower middle end of third-grade worlds."

After Aaron said that, Jack suddenly said thoughtfully, "So that's what happened. The Whirling World linked us with those two continents probably because the Whirling World thinks that the three worlds are at almost the same level and that it would be a fair fight."

Aaron had a look of realization on his face when he heard that. He straightened his body and said, "You're very right. I think we're competing against White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent because of that too. However, the two continents have already improved by quite a bit. Chaos Continent can already be ranked as a mid-tier third grade world. Even White Marsh Continent is a bit stronger than Hestia Continent. We're forced to stay at the bottom."

Jack nodded. No wonder there was such a huge difference. Thirty thousand years was enough to change a lot of things.

Rudy sighed and said, "If we had not cut off our connection to the outside world, we might be very different right now."

Aaron nodded, "Probably. At the very least, we wouldn't be so bad."

Jack looked up at the carvings on the ceiling. The carvings filled up the whole ceiling and were rich with content. There were massive beasts and warriors in strange clothes. A lot of stories were illustrated there, enough to make one dizzy.

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After staring at the ceiling for a long time, Jack took a deep breath and said, "What happened thirty thousand years ago? Have you ever heard about the Divine Void World?"

“The Divine Void World?” spoke Aaron and Rudy simultaneously.

It was obvious that both of them had never heard that name before.

Aaron shook his head. “I’ve never heard about it... Where is that place?”

Jack frowned, falling silent for a moment. Even though Aaron had never heard of it, it did not mean that what happened 30,000 years ago had nothing to do with the Divine Void World. Jack even started to think that the Whirling World was closely related to the Divine Void World.

There were far too many secrets in the Hestia Continent, and those secrets usually involved the Divine Void World. For instance, what he experienced in West Cercie State was closely related to the Divine Void World.

He remembered those questions he had that had been impossible to answer. He was finally slowly getting some clues.

If the Hestia Continent had nothing to do with the Divine Void World, he would probably not have arrived at the Hestia Continent back then. After all, Mustard Seed had been on autopilot back then. He had chosen a third- grade world but never specified which one. In other words, Mustard Seed had chosen Hestia for Jack.

After Jack thought about it for a moment, he turned to look at Aaron. “Continue... What happened back then? Why did you suddenly stop?”

Aaron let out a cough before saying awkwardly, “I just say that you were deep in thought, and I was worried that I’d interrupt you...”

Rudy was very curious as well. He might be from Middle Province, but he rarely looked at ancient books. He did not even know some of the clans that were in Middle Province. Back then, he had always been in his own little circle, so he excitedly asked, “Hurry up and tell us! I want to hear it.”

Aaron nodded and continued.

30,000 years ago, a powerful sound echoed in the skies of the Hestia Continent as though proud, valiant warriors were battling in the heavens. The skies rumbled with thunder, and the whole continent was submerged in the pressure that those supreme beings exuded.

At that moment, every warrior was stricken with fear. No one knew what happened, and no one knew what could happen next. It seemed like the end of the world as thunder and lightning reigned supreme. Numerous areas were rendered to ashes in the aftermath.

It continued for a whole three days when all of a sudden, the lightning stopped on the fourth day. Some of the stronger warriors flew into the skies at that moment, wanting to see what happened, but they suddenly found themselves unable to fly any higher. They were shocked to find that the entire Hestia seemed to have been surrounded by a massive barrier. Even the strongest warriors of the continent were stopped by an invisible barrier after flying to a certain height, unable to continue flying.

All of the warriors were shocked as they hurriedly contacted other worlds. They wanted to invite the best of other worlds to see what happened.

They were plunged into hopelessness when they realized that even the transfer arrays were useless. They would be stopped by an invisible force midway, unable to continue their journey. Even using high-level sound arrays, they could not transfer any information.

Aaron helplessly explained, "The warriors back then, be it the strong or the weak, were mystified, not knowing what had taken place. The only thing they were sure about was the fact that contact with the outside world had been cut off by a barrier they couldn't see. No one could get out..."

After hearing that, Jack and Rudy were dazed. They felt like what happened back then was really strange.

Jack frowned and said, "Didn't you say we could still transfer information?"

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Aaron nodded. "We're already able to transmit information now, but it was impossible back then. Back then, all communication with the outside world was cut off. The fact that we can even transmit a little bit of information now is due to thirty thousand years of constant hard work, allowing some array masters to communicate with the outside world through some special sound arrays. Only then did we find out that White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent, who were at the bottom like us back then, are already completely different..."

Aaron's expression turned sullen at this. He felt like the Hestia Continent would probably be different if not for that special barrier cutting off the outside world.

After all, it was not just communication that happened with the outside world back then; people could move around and resources could be traded. They could even get things from other worlds. However, Hestia became an isolated place after all forms of communication were cut off. The people knew nothing of the outside world and were forced to remain behind closed doors."

Rudy raised an eyebrow and said, "I want to know what happened back then. Who could be so powerful as to seal the whole Hestia Continent? Why did they erect that barrier? There's the Whirling World as well. Hestia is supposed to be sealed in, so why are we able to communicate with the other worlds after coming here? Also... Why were those two other worlds able to

improve so much in thirty thousand years? What happened to them? What happened to the other worlds?"

Rudy felt like he had a lot of questions at that moment. After knowing what happened back then, he started to lose a bit of his calm. He felt like there were definitely a lot of secrets hidden behind everything.

Those secrets might even involve some things that were taking place at this moment. He could not help but suspect that the Unbreaking Pavilion and Phoenix Valley might know the truth behind everything. They had probably arranged this trip into the Whirling World because of what they knew.

Something was off about the Whirling World. With all those questions on his mind, Rudy voiced his thoughts.

Jack turned to look at Rudy and said, amused, "Are you trying to look for answers from the two of us? Do you think we'd be able to answer them?"

Rudy's lips twitched, laughing it off after realizing that he had been foolish for asking in the first place. After all, none among them would have been able to answer his questions.

Jack sighed as he looked at Rudeus again. He already understood what he could, and he could not possibly answer the questions he had that could not be answered.

With that, Jack stood up and walked forward, baffling Rudy and Aaron as they looked at him with widened eyes.

Jack turned around and nodded at Rudy.

"Don't you want to think it over first?" fretted Rudy.

Jack, however, merely smiled and shook his head. After that, he turned and walked to the center of the Heaven Array again. He was firm in his footsteps as he ignored the looks sent his way.

Jack blocked out his surroundings as he looked at the Heaven Array. Whatever was said from the people around him or the looks they gave him could not get to him whatsoever.

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Jack had carefully thought things through before he stood up.

Everyone else doubtfully watched as he stood in front of the Heaven Array. He reached out to grab one of the small arrays in front of him. After grabbing that plate, he wasted no time putting

it into his storage space before he turned and started to walk back. The way he behaved and walked was so languid that everyone was baffled.

Just as Jack made his third step, Rudeus said, “Stop right there! Who are you? You’re trying to just walk away after taking an array?”

Jack raised an eyebrow, turning around after he stopped.

He calmly looked at Rudeus. He already expected that Rudeus would react like that before he came, and he already knew what he wanted to say.

Jack raised an eyebrow before he calmly replied, “Why can’t I go? Are these arrays yours? Everyone here is qualified to take part in the competition. As long as there are arrays and spots left, any alchemist here has the right to take part. It’s unreasonable for you to be the one to decide if someone can take part or not.”

Despite how his words actually held reason, everyone was stunned to hear Jack uttering them. No one expected that someone with the badge of a sixth-grade alchemist would talk back to Rudeus like that in front of everyone.

Rudeus narrowed his eyes, suddenly laughing. Only, his laugh did not reach his eyes, and there was a sharpness to his laugh.

“There really is a first time for everything. I’ve seen a lot of stupid things, you know. Who do you think you are to question me?! Yes, I am going to judge if you’re worthy or not just by myself! If I say you’re not qualified, then you’re not. If I want you to put down the array, you’d do well to listen!”

At that moment, every alchemist looked at Jack. Expressions on their faces varied as they started to talk.

“Is this kid crazy? He’s talking to Rudeus so bluntly!”

“Does he not know who Rudeus is? Insulting Rudeus is equal to insulting the Scarlet Pavilion. Does he not know that the Scarlet Pavilion is a ninth-grade clan, the strongest force in Hestia?!”

“He can’t possibly not know. Anyone with half a brain knows that Scarlet Pavilion shouldn’t be offended. Rudeus will definitely remember this guy for speaking without reserve toward him. I think this guy must be crazy!”

“I think so, too. Just listen to what he said earlier! Even if it sounded reasonable, it just sounds like him being petulant, if you think about it. He’s just a sixth-grade alchemist, so what gives him the right to say all of that just because he wants to compete?”



Many questions began to surface, and everyone felt like Jack had crossed the line with his behavior and words.

Jack merely snorted at these remarks, however, as he was unfazed. It was a waste of his time to argue with those people, so he decided to ignore them.

At that moment, Rudeus walked toward Jack, narrowing his eyes as he looked at Jack coldly.

“Didn’t you hear what I said earlier? I told you to put down your array. You have no right to represent Hestia in competing against the alchemists from other worlds!”

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Jack watched as Rudeus walked toward him with a passive expression.

He looked up slightly as he spoke as though proud and faultless, “You don’t have the right to determine who takes part in the competition. Don’t think that you can do whatever you please just because you’re from a ninth-grade clan!”

At this point, Jack’s behavior enraged Rudeus to the point of no recourse, feeling like everything Jack said was unbearable. He even felt like stabbing Jack with a thousand blades.

Mark was sitting in the fourth row, watching as everything happened with a stunned expression. As an alchemist from the Unbreaking Pavilion, he needed to sit there. Moreover, he represented Hestia as well. He had been part of the third group, which meant that he represented Hestia in the tournament. His results had been one of the worst, being completely trounced by alchemists from the other two continents.

Regardless, he could not leave immediately. After all, the competition included the whole continent, and he had to stay for the entire time. At that moment, he did not just represent alchemists but even the Unbreaking Pavilion behind him. He had to stay, he was the leader of the Unbreaking Pavilion’s alchemists and represented his clan.

When he saw Jack, he was completely stunned.

Jack had floored him before this. Everyone else did not know of Jack’s abilities, but Mark knew them all too well.

Jack was more than qualified to take part in the competition, and his results would not be bad. They would be better than Mark’s, at least. As for whether Jack could get a treasure, that much was uncertain.

Mark stared at Jack, gaping the whole time. He gulped as he looked at his fellow students around him, noticing that they were gaping at him too as various feelings flashed in their eyes.

Those who knew Jack knew how strong he was. It was the right decision to let him take part. After all, he had gotten a golden token. The only thing they did not know was how Jack compared to Rudeus and Mitchell. However, there was one thing that they were certain of. Jack taking part in the competition would not shame Hestia whatsoever. Instead, it would bring honor to the continent.

On the other hand, Rudeus' behavior was wrong in their eyes. However, even if they knew the truth, they would not help Jack say anything. After all, they were enemies. It would be best for them if Jack's journey was made difficult.

At that moment, whether it was Mark's or even Samuel's group, all of them remained completely silent, not saying a thing.

Rudeus and Jack were both at a standstill. Rudeus did not want Jack to join the competition, already thinking that Jack was incapable of anything. He believed that Jack would only humiliate Hestia if Jack joined. Alchemists from other continents would belittle Hestia if Jack joined, and he would drag everyone else down with him!

That was why Rudeus was adamant against allowing Jack to participate.

To Jack, however, Rudeus was just making a fool out of himself. He had no reason nor the right to reject any alchemist. Rudeus might have gotten impressive results and a bronze treasure, but did it matter any more than that?

Even though he obtained a bronze treasure, it did not mean he was the leader of all of the alchemists in Hestia. Upon noticing that Jack was firm in his actions, Rudeus felt his anger spilling from his chest.

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Rudeus squinted angrily at Jack and cleared his throat, sneering, "If you insist on being stubborn, don't think that I can't do anything to you just because you refuse to give up, you brat. I decide if you get to participate!"

Jack smirked upon hearing this, sneering to himself at how stodgy Rudeus was. Just because Rudeus had gotten a bronze treasure and was from a ninth-grade clan, he felt entitled enough to think that everyone had to obey whatever he said.

Anyone who went against Rudeus' word was basically slapping him on the face, and Rudeus would use other means to handle them. Jack, however, was not someone who would bend to another person's will.

Jack let out a laugh as he raised his voice and retorted, "Please stop thinking that you get to boss around everyone just because you're a little skilled. I said that I'd take part in this competition, so I will. You have no right to determine who can participate or who can't. Stop trying to act like your threats will affect me. If you have the skills, go ahead and come at me!"

Even if Rudeus attacked, Jack would barely blink.

Jack might be an alchemist, but he was far from a traditional one, his skills were far stronger than anyone present. Even warriors from a ninth-grade clan barely amounted to Jack, let alone an alchemist.

Rudeus' face reddened in anger as his eyes reddened. He never expected that an alchemist he had never seen before would boldly challenge him. Jack did not seem willing to budge at all. Even with his status on full display, he refused to cooperate!

The atmosphere became even tenser at this point, and the discussions around them grew louder.

"This guy is insane! Is he not afraid that Rudeus will come for him someday? Even if Prosper City has laws in place that stops Rudeus from attacking him, nothing good will be waiting for this guy once he steps out of Prosper City."

"Doesn't he know what a ninth-grade clan represents? Rudeus has a good standing in Scarlet Pavilion as well, and quite a few of their chosen disciples are close to Rudeus."

"Those people will come for anyone who offends Rudeus if they find out that someone had crossed him!"

"Something's wrong with this boy's head. It's like he's so sure he'll be safe and that no one will get back at him. If he leaves Prosper City, he'll suffer greatly!"

Some of the people shouted at Jack.

"Just put it down if he wants you to. Do you know what you're doing? Even if we can't fight inside the city, the laws don't exist outside of Prosper City. Are you that sure you'll be safe afterward? Aren't you afraid that they'll seek revenge?"

Jack merely raised an eyebrow at those words, not bothering with them at all. Even if they want to take revenge on him, they would have to look at themselves in the mirror and deliberate their choices. Ever since Jack entered the Whirling World, he lost track of how many people he had offended there. He knew that there would be those looking for revenge, but he could not care less.

His principle had always been to never harm those who never harmed him, while those who hurt him will receive damage tenfold. As long as anyone dared to cause him trouble, he would get even.

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After all, no one knew who would suffer the heaviest losses.

At this point, Rudeus was already trembling with anger. Jack had humiliated him in front of so many people and spoke so crassly toward him. With that, Rudeus wanted nothing more than to end Jack. He even started thinking about how he would capture and torture Pane after they left Prosper City.

Meanwhile, Jack no longer wanted to entertain Rudeus' antics, so he lowered his head and looked at the alchemists who sat on the mats. Even though the center was more of a tight fit compared to the outskirts, there was some space left.

Rudeus would no doubt continue pestering him, so rather than letting Rudeus follow him, Jack decided to just sit at the vacant spot.

The seventh group was about to start anyway. He would have needed to come over again. It would save them from noticing Rudy as well.

Looking at how nonchalant Jack was acting, Rudeus' anger soared to new heights. His entire body burned with the urge to rush up to Jack and smack his face. Alas, he could not.

Rudeus took a deep breath as he slowly composed himself. He knew that he would only embarrass himself if he went after Jack at this moment, knowing that he would not cooperate. Jack would definitely take part in the competition.

Rudeus took a deep breath and was forced to turn and head to his original position.

At that moment, Mitchell, who had been silent the whole time, suddenly spoke, "Why do you insist on participating? Are you trying to make a name for yourself, or do you really think you'll be able to get the treasure?"

Mitchell came from Phoenix Valley, but his alchemy skills were, in truth, not as good as Rudeus'. He was from the inner valley and was an alchemist that Phoenix Valley took great pains to guide and improve. He had been silent the whole time in large part because his skills were no match for Rudeus. Even though he did not want to admit it, the results have been clear for all to see.

Rudeus had gotten a bronze treasure, while he only got a black treasure. Even though he was not on the best of terms with Rudeus, he did not want to see Jack acting like he owned the place.

Who did Jack think he was, carrying himself so pridefully?

Jack raised an eyebrow, looking at Mitchell meaningfully. At that moment, there were a lot of alchemists that had similar-looking robes behind him. All of them had reddish-orange patterns on their robes. He had seen those patterns in Phoenix Valley before, so Jack knew who they were, more or less.

If it had been before, Jack would not have been too harsh on them since they were from Phoenix Valley. No matter what kind of conflict they had, Jack would have tried his best to forgive any transgression against him. At this point, however, he had abandoned those sentiments. After all, Phoenix Valley had betrayed him first. Phoenix Valley had hidden a massive secret and never provided anything for him.

They never treated Jack like one of their own. Seeing their unfair treatment, Jack decided to respond in kind.

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Jack snorted and replied, "I'm aiming for the treasure, of course. Just spare your breath, there's no point in you saying anything to me. No matter what you say, I'll still participate."

Mitchell's lips twitched as he hissed, "Don't you know that you'll embarrass Hestia by doing this? You have a sixth-grade alchemist badge! They'll not only mock you for participating with a sixth-grade alchemist badge, but also the whole Hestia Continent! I don't want you dragging us down with you!"

Exasperated, Jack inhaled deeply as his lips twitched. He touched the sixth-grade alchemist badge that was on his chest and realized that the badge had never once benefited him. Nonetheless, he had no intention of ripping it away.

He looked at Mitchell and curtly replied, "I won't embarrass Hestia. As for the rest, you're the one who thinks you'll be embarrassed. Stop wasting your time, I won't listen anyway."

After saying that, Jack closed his eyes and pursed his lips, looking as though he was shutting out the entire world from his senses.

Looking at this, Mitchell was rendered speechless.

The alchemists from Phoenix Valley behind him whispered to Mitchell, "Mitchell, just ignore him. This guy looks like he's lost his marbles. Rudeus said so much earlier, but this guy didn't listen at all, and he's barely unfazed by the threats as well. Since that's the case, there's no point wasting your breath."

Mitchell's lips twitched, but he had to admit that those words were true. There was no getting through to this guy.

Just as Mitchell was about to shut his eyes and rest as well, the Heaven Array's mechanisms suddenly moved. A green light glowed on the Heaven Array, attracting everyone's attention.

Jack looked over as well and saw that there was a figure on the Heaven Array. He could immediately tell that it was not an actual person standing on the array, but an image that someone had sent over.

That person had white robes on and looked quite different. However, his face seemed visibly taut, and it was obvious that he came with no good intent.

Mitchell and Rudeus' gazes soured when they saw the image.

"Ethan Loewe, do you have nothing better to do?" hissed Rudeus through gritted teeth.

Ethan let out a laugh and shrugged. "Aren't I doing official business right now? I just want to see if you'll be able to gather enough to participate in the seventh round. If you can't, well, that's a shame. After all, I still want to get to know more alchemists from Hestia. We should exchange pointers and elevate our skills."

Although Ethan's words seemed innocent enough, the way he spoke sounded incredibly sinister, coupled with the obvious smirk on his face.

Jack frowned, immediately understanding why Rudeus and Mitchell's expressions soured so much. This probably was not the first time Ethan downplayed alchemists from Hestia with his words.

Rudeus took a deep breath, doing his best to suppress the rage in his heart. "The people who will be representing us, and whether we'll get enough people, have nothing to do with you. If you have the time to care about us, care about the White Marsh Continent first. Even though our results aren't much, you alchemists from White Marsh Continent are just a little stronger than us. You can't compare to Chaos Continent at all!"

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Ethan's expression stiffened upon hearing Rudeus' words, and a sharp glint flashed in his eyes. Not only was the Heaven Array a large transfer array, but it could also transmit a person's image. Without the person being sent over, they could talk to those around the Heaven Array.

This was the power of an ancient array.

Ethan seemed to have been angered by Rudeus' words.

Snorting, he retorted, "You speak as if we're that bad. Even though we're not as good as Chaos Continent, we still managed to get golden treasures, and not just one at that. Meanwhile, you're far different. You claimed that you're only a bit worse than us. Is that true, though? None of you obtained a single golden treasure yet! Do you really have the right to say such words?"

Those words were definitely a slam on the pride of every alchemist in the inner city. It completely humiliated them, causing Rudeus to shudder in anger. He had been insulted by Ethan before as well, but Ethan had not been so venomous with his words before.

Rudeus came from a ninth-grade clan and received showers of praise from a young age.

Naturally, he was never humiliated before. Worse still, he had no other words to throw at Ethan, who seemed visibly prideful the moment he brought up golden treasures.

He looked at all of the alchemists from Hestia in disdain. "I'll be part of the seventh group. I don't know who'll be competing against me, but let me warn you, none of you will be getting the top-three spots. I think you should just wake up and give up on this competition. After all, this has always been a competition between White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent. Hestia is just here to make up the numbers with you trash bags."

Ethan cackled maniacally before his image flashed and he disappeared. At that moment, no one could hold back.

Everyone cursed Ethan for being despicable and shameless. They jeered at how arrogant he was, saying that all he knew was to brag. Even the most composed of the alchemists present could not hold back their anger after all that humiliation.

"This guy has crossed the line! It's like he thinks no one can beat him. He's clearly never taken part in the competition at all, but he constantly taunts people. He thinks he's unrivaled!"

"How could someone actually skilled be like him? All he knows is bragging. I think he won't even be able to get the first three places. He doesn't have the skills, so he's just trying to bolster his pride by gloating in front of us!"

"He's just an arrogant and despicable lowlife. If I can meet him face-to-face, I'd rush over and give him a good few sobering slaps!"

Even though all of them knew that Hestia could not compare to White Marsh Continent, they were not willing to swallow Ethan's words. They felt like Ethan's constant taunts were fueled by his vanity. They believed that Ethan was not talented enough to make it into the top three spots and merely wanted to mock them to bolster his self-confidence.

Rudeus was seething at this point, his eyes completely red as he felt like he had never been so humiliated before.

On the other hand, Jack lightly sighed. He knew very well that Ethan was not completely wrong. If the situation continued, Hestia might not even be able to muster enough people. After all, Rudeus was standing in front of them, insisting that only skilled and willing alchemists be allowed to participate.

- Chapter 2959 -

For others, taking part in the competition meant that Rudeus might very well humiliate them, and no one wanted to bear that humiliation. Of those present, only two of them had gotten treasures while the rest returned empty-handed.

Every one of them knew how difficult the competition was, so everyone became cowards. No one was willing to stand up at such a time.

Jack looked at Rudeus before turning to look at Aaron.

At that moment, Aaron was conversing with Rudy. The two of them were hidden in the darkness, trying not to interact with anyone else. There must have been a few alchemists present that were like Aaron, but thanks to Rudeus' poorly chosen words, no one was willing to step up.

Rudeus trembled with anger and looked like he was about to collapse at any moment.

Jack did not want to care about anything, but thinking about it, he would need to meet the alchemists from White Marsh Continent and Chaos Continent when the competition started. If they truly could not get enough people, they would be the laughingstock for everyone else.

To avoid that, and also because Jack did not want Rudeus to just do as he pleased, Jack said to the people around him, "Rudeus might be exceptional, but he's not the boss of everyone here. We can't just let him pick and choose who can take part just because he wants to. Even if the competition is hard, it's a good opportunity to challenge yourself. As alchemists, we shouldn't let go of any chance to improve ourselves!"

What greeted him was silence and gazes of various emotions. Some were exasperated, while some were disgusted, but they were all directed at Bane.

Jack was not fazed, having anticipated these reactions before he even spoke.

Rudeus, enraged and unable to tolerate Jack's sudden burst of words, stood up. He was like an angered lion, clenching his fists tightly as his true energy circulated his body, ready to attack at any moment.



Nash Skye, who was also from the Scarlet Pavilion, reached out and grabbed Rudeus by his arm. He was afraid that Rudeus would not be able to control his temper and attack Jack.

After all, Prosper City had its laws, and the moment Rudeus broke those laws, he would be punished. It was a punishment no alchemists could withstand, and he would be turned to ashes.

“Don’t fall for it, Rudeus!” warned Nash anxiously. “This guy is trying to anger you and make you attack. You’ll be punished by Prosper City if you do!”

Those words were like a bucket of cold water on Rudeus’ face. He suddenly calmed down from his anger, realizing that he had been acting too recklessly. If Nash had not been there to hold him back, he might have attacked Jack. After all, Jack’s words had been even worse than adding oil to the fire for Rudeus.

Rudeus took a few deep breaths before he quelled the anger in his heart. At that moment, however, Rudeus’ hatred toward Jack became concentrated.

Nash looked over and scoffed. “Don’t think that you can challenge us as you please, you brat!”

- Chapter 2960 -

“Rudeus’ behavior in arranging things this way is because he doesn’t want Hestia to be humiliated. If everyone participates so brazenly like you are, won’t it show the other two continents that our alchemists are all so bad?!”

Hearing that, Jack raised an eyebrow as he said loudly, “Stop looking for excuses, I won’t be convinced just like that. You keep on saying you don’t want Hestia to be humiliated, but what you’re doing will only embarrass us even more. There are so many alchemists here. Is it that hard to pick out a few seventh-grade alchemists? The fact that the seventh-grade alchemists are all unwilling to step up is purely because they’d be humiliated by Rudeus if they didn’t satisfy him.”

“Who’d want to step up just to be berated? You’re stopping others from taking part and humiliating our continent even more! In your eyes, sixth-grade alchemists are nothing, but what about seventh-grade alchemists?! Surely it won’t be hard to pick out a few seventh-grade alchemists when there are over ten thousand of them here! Why can’t we even pick out ten? Simply put, no one wants to be scolded!”

“The standards you uphold are hilarious. As long as they have a seventh-grade alchemist badge, they won’t be mocked when they enter. After all, the badge doesn’t explicitly say how skilled a person is. Even if the alchemists from the other continents are skilled, there’s no way there will be a lot of eighth-grade alchemists. After all, there’s an age restriction!”

Jack's words were quite logical, and the other alchemists slowly became convinced. Everyone slowly felt like Rudeus' earlier arrangements were too tyrannical and too reliant on him alone.

Many alchemists were present, including seventh-grade alchemists. It should not be difficult to pick out 10 of them to compete. The reason why no one stepped up was simply because of Rudeus' horrible temper. If they were not to his standards, they would be shouted at.

There should have been a lot more people willing to participate. After all, no one wanted Hestia to be humiliated.

Rudeus was shaking in anger as he looked at Jack with even more hatred in his eyes. If it were not for Jack, he would not be questioned like that!

Jack did not care how angry Rudeus was at all. Instead, he turned and raised his voice to speak to all the other alchemists, "You can compete if you want to. It's a rare chance to train yourselves. After all, you're not competing with the alchemists of Hestia but those from other worlds instead. Even if you'll be mocked, it's fine! Just imagine that they're dogs that only know how to bark!"

"Hey, that guy has a point, this is a rare chance! We can't just listen to Rudeus' arrangements. Even though I'm not an eighth-grade alchemist, I'm still a seventh-grade alchemist."

"My skills are decent. There's no way I'll get a treasure, but at least I can train myself. I'll only be able to improve if I do that!"

"Even though this guy is insufferable, he's being logical here. We can't just follow what Rudeus wants, we should think for ourselves!"

Slowly, the alchemists' stance shifted as they gravitated to accept Jack's view and that Rudeus should not have a final say in everything. After all, Rudeus was only concerned with himself.

After a short while, a tall man stood up from his mat. He walked over to the Heaven Array and grabbed a small array before putting it in his storage space.

The man told everyone, "I won't let this chance go. I've decided to take part in the seventh group!"

After saying that, he turned and walked back to his spot. Slowly, everyone started to move, and the remaining arrays were quickly taken.

The ten spots were finally fixed, and Jack decided to shut up after that. He looked up and glanced at Rudeus who was staring back at him with an angry and venomous gaze. If looks could kill, Jack would have already died a thousand times.

He let out a laugh, not caring about Rudeus. After all, Rudeus was just an alchemist who posed no threat to him.

Jack then turned to look at Rudy who was waving to him. The moment he saw Rudy, he knew that Rudy had something to say. The round was about to start, and Jack did not have much time left. After frowning and thinking for a moment, he stood up and walked over to Rudy. It was a very secluded place. Anyone not taking specific notice would not have seen that corner. When Jack walked over, he had naturally attracted some attention, but that did not bother him.

When he arrived in front of Rudy, he sat down on the mat before saying, "You have something to say?"

Rudy took a deep breath before nodding seriously and said, "I feel like you shouldn't be so reckless. Don't offend those people too much. I know how you are, but I feel like you're still a bit too reckless. Rudeus already sees you as an enemy, and definitely won't let you off. If he joins hand with those people from the Unbreaking Pavilion, it will start to get a lot harder for us. They might even work together to set a trap for you. If we aren't careful and get caught by them, it would be disastrous!"

Rudy's words were sincere from the heart, and not exaggerated at all.

Aaron nodded in agreement as well. After chatting with Rudy, he somewhat understood Jack's situation and knew of his grudges against the Unbreaking Pavilion. On top of that, there was also Rudeus from the Scarlet Pavilion.

Jack had seemingly insulted all the biggest forces.

Jack sighed as he let out a laugh of exasperation. Thinking about it, it really was so. However, he was never the instigator of anything. They were the ones who wanted to cause Jack trouble, and he was merely retaliating. If he could not even do that, then he would be too suffocated.

Rudy said with some worry, "I feel like they'll start working together to cause you trouble. What should we do about it?"

Rudy knew very well that, even if Jack begged for mercy in front of Rudeus, Rudeus would definitely not let Jack off. Furthermore, Jack was not the sort to do that anyway. The bridge was already burned between the two of them.

The conflicts between them would only deepen. Jack was already mortal enemies with the Unbreaking Pavilion, and the Compass Pavilion as well. If they added the Scarlet Pavilion to that, then the future days would be much harder.

Rudy's lips twitched, imagining a scenario where their enemies had the upper hand.

What would the two of them end up like?

It would definitely be excruciating. They would definitely be tortured in various ways.

Jack raised an eyebrow, reaching out and placing it on Rudy's shoulder, "Don't let your thoughts wander. Do you think I haven't thought about the fact that they might set a trap for me? They will definitely do that, but it's not like we have no counter to that. I've already thought things through, so you can relax..."

Jack did not go into detail about the plans that he had.

When Rudy heard what Jack said, Rudy got even more worried. That was because Rudy could not figure out what sort of plans could possibly save them from such dangerous situations. He felt like the future was uncertain, and that there was no way to handle it.

After thinking about it for a while, Rudy said seriously, "I know that you've always had your own thoughts. I just wanted to tell you that I think we should just avoid warriors or alchemists from these major forces if we can in the future. We shouldn't make enemies of them."

- Chapter 2962 -

Rudy had once been someone who did as he pleased as well, but he slowly understood that he could not keep on doing that. It was not good to make enemies out of those large forces. If they really focused on dealing with Jack, their future days would prove to be very difficult.

Before, he had never bothered to think too deeply about those things, but he slowly realized that things would just get worse if he acted without any regard for the future. He was forced to try and advise Jack to not be too reckless. After all, Scarlet Pavilion was the only ninth-grade clan in Hestia Continent, making them the strongest. Even in the Whirling World where everyone was restricted to the late stage of the innate level, Jack still needed to be careful to not make too much of a scene despite his skills.

What would happen after they leave the Whirling World?

Were they just not going to be in Middle Province anymore?

Jack's skills definitely meant that he would reach greater heights in his life. Middle Province was where most of the geniuses in Hestia Continent gathered. If he offended all the major forces, then Jack would not be able to remain in Middle Province in the future.

Rudy was just someone insignificant, so he did not really need to think about that. Even if he did not continue remaining in Middle Province, he could just make a living elsewhere. However, Jack could not do that.

After Jack heard Rudy's words, he raised an eyebrow and patted Rudy on the arm, "I know what you're worried about, but you don't have to be so concerned. I haven't offended all of the major forces, and there are some things that you have to think deeper about. Those major forces will protect their own people simply because it benefits them more to do that. As long as my value is greater than those benefits, those major forces won't protect their own people to that extent."

Rudy could not understand what Jack was saying.

He frowned as he looked at Jack in confusion, "What do you mean? Are you planning on joining someone?"

Jack shook his head before letting out a slight laugh. He looked up at the various carvings on the ceiling, only answering after a while, "I definitely won't join them even if they want me to. As long as you're willing to think about it, there are ways to settle everything. Even the major forces have to cooperate when it comes to certain things!"

Rudy was even more confused at that, but he knew that Jack would never say empty words, nor did Jack ever brag. Since Jack said so, Jack naturally had something in mind. He slowly tossed aside all his worries.

He looked up at the Heaven Array in the middle. With his skills, there was no way he could participate. However, he was still very curious as to what they would be competing at after being sent into that space.

Could it just be an alchemic test?

Various thoughts played in his head. Just as he was about to talk about it to Jack, he heard footsteps as a familiar figure appeared in front of them.

Jack looked up and frowned, sighing internally. It had taken a while for things to quiet down for him, but there were still some people who insisted on causing him trouble.

The person had black clothes on, and had a long face as well as a goatee. He was obviously not some ordinary person. That person was Samuel, the alchemist from the Compass Pavilion.

Samuel let out a slight smile as various emotions played in his eyes. He did not say anything, but instead took out a mat from his storage space and placed it right in front of Jack. After that, he sat down, seemingly prepared for a long conversation with Jack.

Jack frowned, starting to plan on changing his spot. He hated talking to these people.

- Chapter 2963 -

Samuel took a deep breath as his eyes darted all over Jack's body. That searching gaze was obvious to everyone.

Jack frowned, not saying anything as he waited for Samuel.

After a long while, Samuel said, "I really want to know where you're from. I want to know what gives you that fearlessness. I know you're talented, both in alchemy and in martial skills. Anyone who knows you will definitely admire you and even be jealous of you..."

Jack chuckled, not expecting that Samuel's tone would be like that.

Samuel did not seem to wait for a response as he continued, "Back then, I said you must not have been from Hestia Continent. I didn't just say that casually, but it was a judgment I made after thinking about it deeply. I still think that there's no way you are as strong as you are without a major force behind you. After your words with Rudeus earlier, I got even more curious..."

Samuel's gaze was incredibly meaningful at that moment.

Jack could understand what he was trying to say. Samuel felt like Jack was definitely from the Scarlet Pavilion if Jack had not been from a different world. Yet, Jack had just clashed with Rudeus from the Scarlet Pavilion. It was enough to prove that Jack had nothing to do with them.

Jack let out a slight laugh, "Is that all you wanted to tell me? You want to know where I'm from?"

Samuel took a deep breath as he calmed down, "I actually have a lot of questions. I feel like you're really very strange. You aren't afraid of anything, but you don't seem to have anyone to rely on. You are exceptionally talented, but your origins are mysterious. I really want to know who you are. Why are you making an enemy out of all the major forces in Hestia Continent?"

After hearing that, Jack could not help but let out a laugh. He took a deep breath as exasperation was written on his face, "Is there something wrong with your head? Could you think about things before you speak? Since when did I try to make an enemy out of any of the major forces? Was it not all of you who tried to cause me trouble first? I merely fought back against you, and all of you say that I'm trying to make an enemy out of you!"

Jack could not stand those words.

In the eyes of those major forces, only they were allowed to harm others, and not the other way around. They could treat others as they pleased, but as long as anyone bit back, those people would be punished. Jack could not stand and could not accept that kind of logic.

Samuel frowned as his eyes glinted in helplessness. After sighing, he said, "We're all intelligent people here, so why do you need to say that? Do you not understand what I mean? These are all unwritten rules that everyone understands. It's always been like this, and you're the only want who wants things your own way! You insist on going against the major forces. You're no idiot, there has to be a reason you're doing this..."

- Chapter 2964 -

Hearing that, Jack suddenly laughed in frustration. This was the first time that he failed to stop himself from laughing. So in the eyes of those disciples from the major forces, everything was an unwritten rule that everyone had to follow. Anyone who did not follow meant that they were going against the grain and making an enemy out of the major forces.

Jack took a deep breath as he looked away, not wanting to bother arguing anymore.

He merely said coldly, "You'll pay for those thoughts..."

After saying that, Jack shut his mouth, not wanting to go any further. He knew very well that they would not think that they did anything wrong, and would just think that the one in the wrong was him. Even if the other party would have to take a loss, it was still reasonable. The major forces were not allowed to suffer any losses at all.

Rudy got angrier as he listened. His arms started to tremble as the fire started to show in his eyes. If he had failed to maintain his sense of reasoning, he would have just rushed out and grabbed Samuel by the collar, slapping that man a few times to think about what he said!

Samuel laughed, "We won't pay any prices, but you definitely will. You'll pay a painful price. Don't think that you'll be safe forever just because you're safe now. Your life will end once you're out of Prosper City. The major forces will definitely work together to hunt you. Even if you're very intelligent, there's no way you can avoid everything. Just you wait. Time will tell you how crazy you've been acting..."

After saying that, Samuel stood up and kept his mat, distancing himself from Jack.

Looking at his retreating back, there was a glint of mockery in Jack's eyes.

Aaron had silently heard what they said, and slowly understood Jack's grudges against those major forces. He felt like Jack was crazy.

Aaron was caught even more off guard at the fact that Jack's eyes were actually looking back in mockery after hearing those threats. It was as if he did not care about them at all, and that this matter was insignificant. He was confused, but felt like Jack was being too arrogant as well.

He whispered, "Aren't you afraid?"

Jack raised an eyebrow and said calmly, "Why should I be afraid? I know very well that these people want to kill me, but they'll definitely pay the price for that. We still don't know who'll suffer in the end..."

Jack shut his mouth after saying that, starting to close his eyes to rest.

Aaron's lips twitched as he looked at Jack in shock. Jack's thoughts were completely incomprehensible. He sighed internally, feeling like Jack really was a madman.

Time slowly ticked away, and it came time for the Heaven Array to be activated. At the moment, there was a faint golden glow on the array. Everyone who was participating needed to stand on the array.

Jack stretched as he slowly stood up. He shot a look at Rudy as he whispered, "Once I enter, you're not allowed to respond to any challenges. Just shut your eyes and rest."

Rudy nodded, merely looking at Jack with worry.

Jack did not hesitate as he walked right over to the Heaven Array. At that moment, the other participants all walked up as well.

- Chapter 2965 -

This was different from the other groups. After all, so much had happened. Rudeus remained to stare at Jack with venomous looks in his eyes. He looked like he wanted to rip Jack apart.

Jack ignored it.

Another person to step on the array was Nash, who was from the Scarlet Pavilion as well. Nash was quite close with Rudeus. He was also the leader of the seventh group. After all, his status and skills were the strongest. After he got on the Heaven Array, Nash looked right at Jack.

He narrowed his eyes as he glared at Jack coldly. He looked like a venomous snake that was poised to strike at any moment. Nash had deliberately stood beside Jack, and constantly shot cold looks at Jack.

Jack could not be bothered interacting too much with someone like that and remained quiet the whole time.



After a moment, the golden light shone brighter, and everyone was enveloped in it. After that, the ground beneath them started to feel empty. Jack was very familiar with that feeling. It was the sign of a long-distance transfer.

After half an hour, the feeling slowly disappeared, and their feet touched the ground again.

When he opened his eyes again, he found that he was in a completely foreign space. He looked around and found that they still seemed to be in a massive palace, but there were no carvings around them. He turned to look behind him and found that the palace was absolutely massive. He could actually not see the end of it with his own eyes.

Other than Jack, the other alchemists had already heard about the competition venue. They were not too curious about it as they chatted and walked down the array.

Jack followed suit, noticing that there were two identical arrays not far away that were shining in vibrant golden light.

In just a few moments, people appeared on the first array. The ten of them were dressed the same way. All of them had white robes with mythical beasts stitched on. The other array had ten people as well. Those ten were all in deep-colored robes. They did not have much of an expression on their faces, looking incredibly cold. It was obvious that the first ten were from White Marsh Continent while the latter ten were from Chaos Continent.

The thirty participants had all already arrived, but the atmosphere was a little heavy. They were all alchemists from different worlds, but they exchanged no pleasantries. They seemed incredibly cold. Even the alchemists from the same world did not really talk to each other.

Any conversations were all whispered. Thirty of them walked forward in silence. After about five minutes, Jack noticed that they were in front of thirty identical furnaces. That was definitely something prepared for the tournament.

The moment they arrived, a wizened voice was heard, "The competition will begin in two hours!"

After that, the voice went silent. Everyone exchanged looks as alchemists from different worlds immediately pulled away from each other.

The Hestia Continent took up the western end. White Marsh Continent was in the middle while Chaos Continent was in the eastern end.

Jack was incredibly curious as he looked at the alchemists from the two other worlds. He noticed that, compared to the stronger Chaos Continent, the alchemists from the White Marsh Continent seemed a lot prouder of themselves.

They looked at the alchemists from Hestia Continent with looks that were full of disdain, especially the alchemist that stood in front of all of them. Jack knew that person. It was Ethan, who had mocked them through the image earlier. He was the leader of the alchemists from White Marsh Continent.

To not stir any unnecessary trouble, Jack remained standing at the end of Hestia Continent's group.

Right after the voice announced that the tournament would only start after two hours, Ethan had a look of impatience on his face. After a while, he actually shouted, "There's no need to prepare at all. Why do we need to wait for so long? Just start right now. After getting the golden treasure, I still have a lot more things I need to do."

He sounded quite arrogant and sure that he would definitely get the golden treasure. His words had even offended the alchemists from the Chaos Continent.

The one standing in front of the alchemists from Chaos Continent turned to coldly look at Ethan, "You're not that skilled, but you sure have a lot to say. You claimed that you would definitely get the golden treasure as if you're the best in the world."

Ethan's face darkened. He absolutely hated anyone who spoke back to him. No matter how unreasonable he was being, he did not want anyone talking back

He turned to look at who seemed like the leader of the Chaos Continent's alchemists, and coldly said, "I might not be considered the best, but I can obviously get the golden treasure if I'm competing against trash like you. You were just here to make up the numbers! Emilio Lawrence, we've known each other for so many years. I know very well how strong you are. Don't think that I'll look at you better just because you said that, and think that you can snatch the golden treasure away from me!"

At that moment, the atmosphere was incredibly heated. He was practically slapping Emilio in the face. Emilio might not be someone who liked unnecessary trouble, but he would not let someone just bully him like that either.

Emilio narrowed his eyes, "We definitely have known each other for many years, and I know that you have a few tricks up your sleeves as well. That's why I don't have to hear you brag! I heard that you're so pleased with yourself that you even transferred your image to Hestia Continent. All you're good for is bragging in front of them. In Chaos Continent, you would just be a slightly talented alchemist. You would have nothing to brag about at all!"

Ethan's face reddened when he heard that, and turned around to point at Emilio, "All I'm doing is speaking the truth, you just don't want to admit it. That's why you're lying and saying that I'm bragging. All of you were just here to make up the numbers. Do you think you're worthy of taking the golden treasure away from me?"

If not for the laws that were in place, the two of them could have very well started fighting. The atmosphere between the two continents started to get more and more heated. Comparatively, Hestia Continent's side was a lot quieter.

Emilio's words had not only mocked Ethan, but had insulted Hestia Continent as well. It was possible that, in those people's eyes, Hestia Continent was trash, and Hestia Continent were the ones who were really just there to make up the numbers.

- Chapter

2967 -

Nash took a deep breath as his face reddened a little.

He was suffering from the humiliation, but there was nothing he could say. After all, the difference in skill was on full display for everyone to see. There was nothing he could say that could change that. However, even if he knew that he could not compare to the two other worlds, he still suffered hearing what was said.

Someone frowned and said, "This is crossing the line. Even if we can't compete for the golden or bronze treasures, we should still be able to at least fight for the black treasure. I feel that Nash is capable enough!"

After that person finished, the others nodded immediately. They knew very well that Hestia Continent would not be able to fight for the top two places, but they were still hopeful for the last prize. After all, it was not like they had never gotten the black treasure before. Nash was also an alchemist from the Scarlet Pavilion, so he must be talented and skilled. Otherwise, there was no way he could have been an alchemist at a ninth-grade clan!

Nash frowned, not saying anything. He was strangely quiet. The argument on the other side got more and more intense. No one wanted to give way. Even though White Marsh Continent could not compete with the Chaos Continent, Ethan felt like he was quite good.

He felt like he could defeat all of the other alchemists in this round, so he was acting very prideful. No matter what Emilio said, Nash would retort with even more, so they started to argue.

Ethan crossed his arms and said, "I wasn't doing that at all, I was just trying to tell Hestia Continent to not waste their Lime. Was I wrong? It's not like you don't know how bad Hestia Continent is. I'm just giving them advice out of the goodness of my heart. It's their fault for not wanting to accept my kindness!"

Emilio snorted as he said in disdain, “Just say that you’re showing off, no need to pretend to be kind. If you really were trying to be kind, how could they not accept it? Why don’t you turn around to ask those alchemists from Hestia Continent how they feel about your words?!”

Ethan said, “I don’t care what they feel. I just have to know that I really was trying to be kind. They’re the ones who don’t know their place and insist on participating! They won’t admit that they’re trash. After all, trash usually tends to not be self-aware!”

The two of them were actually starting to insult Hestia Continent more and more as they argued. Ethan started to hold back less and less, and Hestia Continent’s alchemists really wanted to slap the two of them.

The alchemists from Hestia Continent were about to lose control. Ethan really was crossing the line. When they were in the inner city, the communications he had sent over were just pure mockery, how could it be out of kindness?

He was deliberately trying to twist things around, even presenting himself as a good person. Even Jack was feeling the anger. That person was way too disgusting.

Nash took a deep breath and finally took a step forward. After all, he was the leader of the alchemists from Hestia Continent. If he was forced to just swallow everything, even the alchemists from Hestia Continent would start to look down on him.

Nash looked up and said, “The rules are clear for all to see, so why can’t we participate? We’ve even gotten treasures before. If all of the alchemists from Hestia Continent are trash, then there’s no way we could have gotten two treasures. One of them is even a bronze treasure!”

Nash said that to defend Hestia Continent’s honor. In truth, his words were completely reasonable, it was not like all of the alchemists from Hestia Continent were trash.

- Chapter 2968 -

If they really were all trash, then how could they have gotten any treasures?

Yet, the moment he said that Ethan started to laugh in a very exaggerated manner. He turned to coldly look at Nash, “You only got two treasures, how did you even have the face to say that? Have you ever gotten any golden treasures? You haven’t gotten a single one! White Marsh Continent has gotten two golden treasures, one bronze treasure, and three black treasures! Hestia Continent only has two treasures in total and not a single golden one. You’re actually saying you’re not trash?”

“Who else would be trash if not you? Based on what I know, those two treasures are already the limit of what Hestia Continent will be able to get. In the following few groups, you’ll definitely

return empty-handed. It's precise because of that, that I asked that you did not waste your time. You're such an eyesore!"

After Ethan said that, the other alchemists from White Marsh Continent behind him started to laugh as well. They looked at Hestia Continent with mocking gazes.

Jack could not help but frown when he heard all of that. Ethan's words did not seem to just be mockery, Jack had heard something else from it as well. It was as if Ethan knew about Hestia Continent's situation very clearly, like someone was giving him reports.

After Ethan said all of that, he still did not want to let Hestia Continent off. He felt like Nash trying to uphold Hestia Continent's honor was a challenge to him, so how could Ethan let him off easily?

Ethan snorted lightly as he walked over.

All of Hestia Continent's alchemists frowned at the same time as they looked at him in alarm, despite the fact that everyone knew that there was no way Ethan could attack them thanks to the restrictions. However, Ethan obviously looked like he did not harbor any good intentions.

Sure enough, after he walked over, he pushed Nash aside and looked right at Jack.

He pointed right at Jack's alchemist badge and said, "I told you! You were all trash! You really are here to make up the numbers. You refused to admit it but just look at this person. Look at what's on his chest!"

As he said that, Ethan deliberately raised his voice, letting everyone hear him clearly. After that, he purposely moved aside, pointing at Jack's alchemist badge.

At that moment the alchemists from the two other worlds all saw the sixth-grade alchemist badge on Jack's chest.

"He's actually a sixth-grade alchemist. It looks like Hestia Continent has really run out of people. It's only the seventh group, but do they not have enough people anymore? They don't even have any more seventh-grade alchemists left?"

Even the alchemists from the Chaos Continent joined in to mock them this time. Everyone looked at the alchemists from Hestia Continent with looks full of disdain.

Jack's sixth-grade alchemist badge really did make it seem like he was just here to make up the numbers.

Jack's lips twitched as he was rendered speechless, suddenly regretting not getting a change of clothes. He had never cared about it but did not want to waste his time on those people and

cause himself any trouble either. He had thought that no one would notice him if he was at the end of the group, but Ethan had actually rushed over and pushed everyone aside to point him out. It was as if Ethan already knew everything that happened in the inner city.

Jack frowned as he started to look at Ethan inquisitively.

If Ethan did not know anything, there was no way Ethan would have pointed him out. After all, he had been standing at the back, not attracting any attention.

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It seemed like someone really was giving Ethan information about what happened in the inner city. They had even told Ethan what he looked like, which was how Ethan managed to point Jack out in the crowd.

Jack took a deep breath as he frowned in exasperation. Trouble really did have a way of finding him wherever he went. He had thought that nothing troublesome would happen as long as he maintained a low enough profile.

The sounds of mockery were constantly heard, and Hestia Continent's alchemists were thoroughly embarrassed. All of them were incredibly angry as a few of them turned to glare at Jack hatefully.

It was like they were trying to tell Jack that he was wrong with their eyes.

When Jack felt those gazes, he could not help but let out a laugh as he said, "What are you looking at me for? Am I the one mocking you? You don't dare to face them, so you're trying to face me instead?"

Those people really were strange. It was clearly Ethan who ran over and started to mock them. It was clearly Ethan who had looked for trouble first. Yet, they knew that they could not beat Ethan, so they turned to look at Jack. It was as if Jack had been the one who did everything.

Nash clenched his teeth and looked at Jack hatefully, "I've never seen someone as shameless as you. Weren't you the cause of this? If you didn't insist on participating, would we have been insulted like this?!"

Nash was furious, his chest rising up and down rapidly. He was practically about to erupt. He cast all his anger on Jack, as if Jack had been the reason for everyone.

Jack had insisted on participating even after they tried to stop him. So what if Jack was here?

There was no way Jack could get any results. It was completely useless.

They would just get humiliated even more. He was dragging down all the alchemists from Hestia Continent with him!

Jack raised an eyebrow, looking at Nash like he was looking at a stray dog by the streets. Ethan definitely knew something. He turned to look at Jack curiously. There was not much mockery in his eyes, but instead curiosity.

Ethan was curious as to where Jack got the courage to say all of that. He laughed and said, "Brat, you can really talk. You seem to not be willing to submit to anyone. Do you think you're the best in the world?"

After saying that, Ethan could not help but to laugh. In his heart, he felt like Jack's actions were like those of a clown. He was merely trying to tease that clown.

Jack looked up and glanced at Ethan, "Are you trying to make sure everyone knows that you exist? You're just like an ant, scurrying everywhere you can. It's like you have to tell everyone that you're amazing. If you really have the skills, you wouldn't need to show off like this at all! You just look like a joke to me."

Those words immediately shocked everyone present, causing them to widen their eyes. They never expected that a sixth-grade alchemist from Hestia Continent would actually say something like that. He was practically cursing at Ethan, tossing Ethan's dignity to the side.

Jack had completely stunned Ethan.

Ethan's lips twitched in anger, unable to even form any coherent thoughts.

After Emilio heard that, he looked at Jack in surprise.

After that, he suddenly clapped in front of everyone, agreeing, "You really are quite brave. I have to say, your words are quite reasonable!"