

The Mans Decree Chapter 2461 -

Chapter 2461 Pursue

Caught in a double bind, Kai had sword marionettes attacking him from above and below, leaving him with no way to escape.

In the next second, he pressed his palms together, and two radiant beams of light suddenly emerged, creating a shield above his head. He planned to block the onslaught of a dozen or so sword marionettes descending upon him head-on.

The moment the sword marionettes made contact with his shield, they went berserk, desperately crashing into the barrier in an attempt to shatter it.

However, Kai's shield was incredibly sturdy and impregnable. Despite the relentless assault, they were unable to break through it.

Although he managed to temporarily halt their advance from above, this was not a sustainable solution. If this continued, his shield would eventually be overwhelmed and broken through.

Kai trained his gaze on the Dragonslayer Sword beneath his feet, his eyes gleaming with determination. Gritting his teeth, he propelled himself downward like a shooting star. He needed to retrieve his sword as quickly as possible, for he knew that his chances of getting away would be slim once those sword marionettes broke through his shield.

As he plunged into the midst of the sword marionettes, dozens of them were immediately alerted. Exuding a frenzied aura, they brandished their weapons and charged toward him.

With a swift motion, Kai grabbed the Dragonslayer Sword and turned to flee.

As he ran, he whipped out the Divine Bow and pulled the bowstring, releasing a barrage of arrows that shot toward the oncoming sword marionettes.

Since he couldn't escape upward, he had no choice but to flee to the side. Once he had moved away from that area, he planned to return to the lake above.

The dozens of sword marionettes erupted with furious roars, disregarding the rain of arrows unleashed by Kai. They charged recklessly toward him, showing no regard for their own lives.

“This bunch of mindless b*stards really have no fear of dying, huh?” he muttered to himself.

As Kai gazed at the sword marionettes, who were all Manifestors, a chill ran down his spine. He realized that if he were caught by them, he would likely meet his demise in an instant.

Rumble...

Just then, the dozen or so sword marionettes finally broke through his shield and joined forces with the main group before charging toward Kai. They pursued him relentlessly, seemingly determined to prevent him from taking the Dragonslayer Sword.

Seeing that, Kai summoned all his might to draw the bowstring taut and, with a fierce yell, released a barrage of arrows imbued with Ultimate Force at the sword marionettes.

In the blink of an eye, the arrows found their mark on several sword marionettes, yet their strikes proved futile in bringing them down. His assaults failed to halt the relentless advance of the sword marionettes.

Despite releasing dozens of arrows in rapid succession, the power of each projectile was significantly weakened, leading to non-lethal strikes against the sword marionettes.

Just as Kai was fleeing and fending off the sword marionettes, a formidable aura suddenly surged from behind him.

Startled, he whipped his head around, and upon seeing what was behind him, he broke out in a cold sweat.

To his dismay, he saw countless sword marionettes approaching him from behind, closing in on him.

The number of sword marionettes in this group alone exceeded a hundred, and now both squads of sword marionettes were converging toward him. It was a daunting sight that terrified him to the core.

“Where the *fck did these bstards* come from?”

Kai couldn't help but curse out loud. He knew all too well that the sheer number of sword marionettes gathered together held an unimaginable level of power. Even if they didn't attack, the intimidating aura emanating from them alone was enough to crush him.

He had no choice but to change direction and flee. At that moment, a peculiar scene was unfolding within the sword-cleansing lake. Kai was running frantically ahead while a horde of sword marionettes was pursuing him relentlessly from behind, their sinister figures looming ominously.

With no time to spare for counterattacks, he could only rely on his agility and nimble footwork to evade their relentless pursuit. Thankfully, their lack of sentience and sluggish movements granted him a temporary respite from imminent danger.

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Chapter 2462 Revealing An Arcane Array

On the surface of the sword-cleansing lake, Flaxseed's face was filled with anxiety as he stared at the still water. It had been quite some time since Kai descended into the pool, and logically he should have retrieved the Dragonslayer Sword by now. However, there was no sign of any activity in the water, leaving Flaxseed deeply concerned.

In a cold, unwavering voice, Sworder addressed Flaxseed and Hammerhead, “You should leave now and stop waiting. That kid won't survive down there. After all, there are hundreds of sword marionettes lurking beneath the surface of this lake, and anyone who goes down there will be torn to shreds.”

“That's impossible. Kai won't meet his end so easily. He is the Golden Dragon's True Form, and he's accustomed to facing all kinds of dangers and turning them to his advantage. A simple lake like this cannot possibly claim his life!” Flaxseed exclaimed, refusing to believe otherwise.

Sworder burst into laughter. “Hahaha, as the saying goes, a wounded tiger is the prey of the hyenas. Even if he truly is the Golden Dragon's True Form, he is utterly useless beneath the waters of this sword-cleansing lake.”

Flaxseed glared at Sworder with anger. "It would be wise for you not to rejoice so early, as you will soon be proven wrong."

"I'll be proven wrong, huh?" Sworder's lips curled into a smirk. "Well then, let me show you the predicament this kid is in, and you can see if it doesn't prove me right."

After saying his piece, he gently waved his hand, causing ripples to instantly spread across the surface of the lake.

Soon, a scene was reflected in the pristine waters of the lake, depicting Kai being chased by hundreds of sword marionettes.

Flaxseed's heart skipped a beat when he saw that.

With a smug expression, Sworder turned to Flaxseed and asked, "Do you think anyone can survive under the onslaught of hundreds of Manifestor sword marionettes?"

The latter didn't reply to him and simply clenched his fists tightly as sweat dripped from his palms. He was deeply concerned for Kai's well-being.

Meanwhile, Kai was busy fleeing with his life to the point where he didn't even have time to observe his surroundings.

He furrowed his brows. "Looks like I'll need to come up with a plan. This relentless pursuit will wear me out sooner or later."

Although the sword marionettes weren't fast enough to catch up with Kai for the time being, he couldn't keep fleeing indefinitely. The spiritual energy within him would eventually be depleted.

Without realizing it, he had been circling the bottom of the lake for quite some time, and the growing sense of disorientation was beginning to affect him.

Just then, Kai stumbled as if tripped by something, nearly losing his balance and falling to the ground.

When he looked down, he noticed a protruding piece of iolite. It was precisely this iolite that had caused him to stumble.

As Kai gently brushed away the accumulated dirt and sand on top, a subtle radiance emerged from the iolite, casting a faint glow. Simultaneously, the

surrounding areas of the iolite began to emit rays of light, piercing through the layers of sand and sediment.

Seeing this, he hurriedly cleared the entire area, revealing a massive arcane array beneath the lake.

The pieces of iolite that were seemingly scattered haphazardly were actually arranged in a specific pattern. Each iolite emitted radiant beams of light, illuminating the surroundings.

“No wonder this sword-cleansing lake has the power to temper precious swords! It turns out it’s because of this arcane array, not the water itself...” Kai mumbled.

As he stared at the arcane array before him, a sudden realization dawned upon him. Without this underlying arcane array, the sword-cleansing lake would be nothing more than an ordinary body of water!

As the iolites emitted their radiant glow, the beams of light intertwined to form a large intricate symbol, which was then reflected on the bottom of the lake.

Upon sensing the aura emanating from the arcane array, the sword marionettes that were chasing Kai abruptly halted their pursuit. Not a single one of them dared to approach any further.

Relieved to witness this scene, Kai let out a deep sigh. With the sword marionettes no longer chasing him, he now had the time to thoroughly study the intricate arcane array before him.

I wonder who could have set up such a massive arcane array at the bottom of the lake?

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Chapter 2463 Activating The Arcane Array

As Kai stood at the center of the intricate arcane array, a sense of realization washed over him.

He could discern that the arcane array was in a weakened state, possibly due to being activated for an extended period, depleting its energy reserves.

Another possibility was that the relentless assault from the sword marionettes had damaged the array.

Despite its weakened state, the arcane array still possessed the power to repel the approaching sword marionettes, serving as a formidable defense.

As Kai contemplated the situation, a glimmer of hope flickered in his eyes. If he could fully activate the arcane array, there was a chance to restore Dragonslayer Sword to its former glory. He wouldn't even need Sworder's help to achieve that.

Glancing at the huge arcane array, he pressed his palm softly on an iolite.

As Kai channeled his spiritual energy into the iolite, the arcane array responded, causing ripples to form and a faint glow to emanate from within.

Excitement filled Kai as he witnessed the appearance of a talisman within the array. Driven by determination, he continued to channel his spiritual energy into the remaining iolites.

The talismans within the arcane array responded eagerly, their collective radiance illuminating the surroundings. The depths of the nearby lake shimmered with a pure aura, and the sword energy that permeated the waters began to gather, drawn by the power of the fully activated arcane array.

The sword marionettes seemed to feel threatened, for they quickly retreated from the arcane array in fear.

Meanwhile, Flaxseed and the rest seemed to realize the change in the sword-cleansing lake from above.

The initially clear lake filled with sword energy began to turn murky, and the sharp sword energies within the lake had disappeared.

"W-What is going on?"

Sworder frowned as he noticed the change in the sword-cleansing lake.

He quickly made a series of hand seals to find out what was going on.

Alas, even after a few tries, he failed to see Kai underneath the lake. Thus, he couldn't figure out what had happened down there.

Sensing the change in the lake, Flaxseed quickly approached it and dipped his hands into the water. This time, besides the chilling sensation from the lake water, nothing else happened.

It meant that the lake was now a normal lake without any sword energy present and wouldn't bring harm to human beings.

As though he had sensed something, Swarder disappeared instantly, making his way to the bottom of the lake.

Flaxseed wanted to jump into the lake after him, but Hammerhead pulled him back. "Don't join in the fun. With your abilities, entering the lake is risky for you."

Meanwhile, a remarkable transformation unfolded beneath the surface of the once-serene lake. The waters grew restless, surging with newfound energy. Spirals of sword energy burst forth, drawn inexorably toward the pulsating power of the fully activated array.

Dragonslayer Sword detached itself from Kai's grip, seemingly summoned by the immense energy of the arcane array. With unwavering precision, it plunged into the heart of the array.

As the sword connected with the array, the radiant glow surrounding the arcane symbols fused with the blade, establishing a connection. Simultaneously, the surging currents of sword energy converged upon Dragonslayer Sword.

Kai's eyes widened in astonishment as he beheld the remarkable scene unfolding before him. With the insertion of Dragonslayer Sword into the arcane array, a profound transformation occurred, causing the array's power to surge to unprecedented levels.

The escaping sword marionettes were swiftly converted into torrents of sword energy, their essence absorbed and harnessed by the awakened power of the array.

Rumble, rumble...

As an abundance of sword energy coalesced, the barrier separating the lake's water from the bottom shattered, unleashing a torrent of water hurtling toward Kai.

Aware of the impending deluge, Kai remained steadfast, permitting the water to engulf him while the razor-sharp bursts of sword energy assailed him.

With fiery determination in his eyes, Kai recognized this as the ideal moment to refine his physique using the untainted sword energy and the forceful surge of lake water.

Moreover, the bursts of sword energy sucked in by the arcane array presented an exceptional opportunity for cultivation.

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Chapter 2464 Smithing Fragment

“I can’t miss this great opportunity.”

With that, Kai crossed his legs and sat in the middle of the arcane array.

He merged with Dragonslayer Sword and absorbed the sword energy that gathered around him.

All the torrents of sword energy were sucked into the arcane array before entering Kai’s body.

Astonishment washed over Sworder as he finally reached the depths of the lake. Before him loomed a colossal arcane array radiating a resplendent glow, voraciously drawing in the torrents of sword energy present within the lake.

As a manifestation of sword energy himself, Sworder involuntarily trembled, caught in the gravitational pull of the arcane array.

Flustered, he exerted all his effort to resist the suctioning force exerted by the arcane array. If he succumbed and was drawn into its grasp, he would cease to exist, transmuted into innumerable streams of sword energy that would be absorbed into Kai’s being.

With utmost exertion, Sworder managed to break free from the relentless pull of the arcane array. A profound sense of despair engulfed him as he witnessed the inexorable fate befalling the countless torrents of sword energy being drawn away. After all, his very existence relied upon the flows of sword energy. If they vanished, and the lake, renowned for its ability to purify

swords, lost its potency, Sworder would gradually fade away, for he was merely a spirit born of the sword energy itself.

Kai's eyes were shut, and he had no idea what was going on in Sworder's head. He was focused on absorbing the enormous amounts of sword energy within the sword-cleansing lake.

At that very moment, Dragonslayer Sword began emitting a resounding hum as it vibrated within the heart of the arcane array.

Suddenly, a radiant burst of light materialized within the array, emanating a golden brilliance akin to the sun.

The luminous glow soared high into the heavens before hurtling back to the earth with incredible velocity.

Boom!

Consequently, the water from the sword-cleansing lake surged upward, propelled into the air. Simultaneously, within the depths of the arcane array nestled at the lake's bottom, a radiant shard gradually ascended, departing from the sword-cleansing lake and soaring skyward.

Kai's eyes snapped open as he glanced at the fragment floating away. He knew it was left behind by the person who set up the arcane array. Thus, he leaped into the air and went after the fragment.

Seeing the fragment, both Sworder and Hammerhead burst out in surprise, "The smithing fragment!"

Kai had no idea what a smithing fragment was, but he reached out and grabbed it.

In an instant, it became apparent to him that he held an ancient scroll adorned with intricate smithing techniques, its contents incomplete due to a missing fragment.

As the tumultuous waters of the sword-cleansing lake calmed, Dragonslayer Sword departed from the arcane array, returning to Kai's grasp.

Kai's discerning gaze fell upon Dragonslayer Sword, noting that its once prominent cracks were now absent. Not only that, but the sword emanated a purer and more radiant glow than ever before, indicating a significant enhancement in its overall quality.

As Kai firmly grasped the hilt of Dragonslayer Sword, he could distinctly perceive powerful surges of sword energy coursing through its very core.

Right then, Hammerhead approached Kai. His gaze was burning as he asked, "Kai, may I have the smithing fragment in your hands?"

Sworder also drew near to Kai, his eyes filled with excitement as he fixated on the smithing fragment. "I'm astounded that the smithing fragment was hidden within the depths of the sword-cleansing lake. Despite my years of guardianship, I never uncovered its presence. With this smithing fragment, Divine Smithing Sect can reclaim its former magnificence!"

Kai's expression transformed into one of surprise as he glanced at both Hammerhead and Sworder. "What exactly is a smithing fragment? This scroll merely contains partial smithing techniques. Is it truly of such great significance?"

"Kai, this smithing fragment is an invaluable treasure of Divine Smithing Sect. The whole reason our sect leader was abducted by our enemies was because they coveted this very fragment!" Hammerhead proceeded to reveal the historical background and immense significance of the smithing fragment to Kai.

Hearing that, Kai tossed the smithing fragment to Hammerhead. "Since this is an invaluable treasure of Divine Smithing Sect, you can have it back. It has no use to me, anyway."