

- Chapter 2808 -

After he found out about the numbers, Jack was quite surprised. Phoenix Valley had practically sent two-thirds of their number into the Whirling World. Furthermore, most of them that were being sent in were the ones that were incredibly talented. The ones that remained were those that were not very gifted.

If Phoenix Valley were willing to send in so many of their own as a major force in Middle Province, then the other forces would definitely do everything they could to enter the Whirling World.

Thousand Leaves City was just one among the many level eight cities. There were still over a hundred level eight cities that were just like it. Those cities were all similar to Thousand Leaves City whether it be in terms of size or the various rules. A further thought was the fact that those of them in front of Thousand Leaves City were just a tiny portion of the people who had yet to enter the city. From that, it was obvious how many had entered the Whirling World.

Thinking about that, Jack sighed as he looked at the discussions in front of him. They were either saddened or excited. Jack was also one of them at that moment. He started to feel uneasy about his future.

How far could he go in the Whirling World? What sort of difficulties would he face?

“That big mouth is quite pitiful...” Rudy mumbled softly.

He looked at the man with sympathy. At that moment, the man had already been tossed aside by the person behind him. Other than Rudy, there was practically no one who was sympathetic toward that man.

They merely felt that the large-mouthed man’s words and actions were funny. It was clearly the man’s fault for not having the skills, but he seemed intent on blaming everything else except for himself. He was at the lowest of the low in the Whirling World and would be relegated eventually.

The man stood there with a despondent look on his face after being tossed aside. He looked like he had been given up on by the world.

He trembled as he continued mumbling to himself, “Will I not be able to get in? So many people have clearly gotten the right to enter. I’m not weak within my clan! Why can’t I even get through the city gates!”

He felt deeply impacted. He looked like he had aged ten years on the spot. Rudy felt incredible pity for him as he could not resist comparing himself to the man. Rudy felt like he was not much better.

Without Jack, he might not even have survived Black Sun City. The more Rudy thought about it, the sadder he got. He even started to wonder if he could even survive the next two years. He wondered what he would be like when it was time to leave the Whirling World.

Jack patted Rudy on the shoulder, stirring Rudy from his thoughts.

Jack said helplessly, "It's not the time for you to let your thoughts wander. If you have time to feel sorry for others, why don't you think about your next course of action? Since you can't really grow in the path of a warrior, then throw everything you have into alchemy. Remember, you are an alchemist first and foremost."

Jack's words caused Rudy to have a moment of realization. Rudy had been worried about all the wrong things. Ever since he entered the Whirling World, he had forgotten about his identity as an alchemist. What was abundant around them were warriors who were looking to increase their strength.

Rudy nodded earnestly.

"I am Joe Candor, an inner disciple of the Compass Pavilion. Might I ask the two of you where you're from?" A cool voice suddenly spoke next to Jack and Rudy.

The two of them looked over at the same time. They saw a handsome black-robed man looking at the two of them with a soft smile.

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Jack frowned, not really liking people who start off their introductions with their origins. However, he refrained from being too rude before the person made his intentions clear.

Rudy's lips twitched as he whispered to Jack, "The Compass Pavilion is an eighth-grade Clan. He should be quite strong if he's an inner disciple there."

Jack furrowed his eyebrows, not expecting that the Compass Pavilion would be an eighth-grade clan. He had bumped into the disciples of quite a few high-grade clans recently. He was starting to grow numb to disciples of eighth-grade clans.

Jack nodded at him and introduced himself. However, he did not reveal where he was from. After all, being an alchemist was already enough of an introduction. He did not want anyone to know that he was from Phoenix Valley.

Phoenix Valley was not in the best of positions at that moment. If he revealed that he was from Phoenix Valley, it was very possible that he would invite unnecessary trouble. Joe did not force Jack to reveal his background when he saw that Jack had no intentions of doing so, and merely nodded at Jack warmly.

His eyes glanced across Jack and Rudy, seemingly thinking about something.

Jack frowned, not enjoying being looked at like that. However, he did not want to say anything at that moment. He merely quietly waited for Joe to reveal his intentions.

After a moment, Joe nodded at the two of them, "I saw that the two of you were hiding here after you arrived. Are you hoping that someone will bring the two of you inside? You shouldn't rely on that riff-raff around here... They don't have the skills nor the confidence. My junior disciple and I are from the Compass Pavilion, an eighth-grade clan. We definitely have the skills to bring the two of you into Thousand Leaves City."

After saying that, Joe extended five fingers to Jack, "Since the two of you are already sixth-grade alchemists at such a young age, you must be very talented in the field.

"I'll give the two of you a discount. You only have to give me five hundred spirit crystals each, and I'll bring both of you inside. However, there's another condition. If I need any pills refined, you have to help me out."

Jack pursed his lips helplessly. It was the same request again.

Rudy furrowed his eyebrows, feeling like these guys were just trying to get free labor from the two of them, no matter how nicely they spoke.

After all, alchemists were incredibly rare in the Whirling World. They would be incredibly useful at the right moments. That was despite the fact that seventh-grade alchemists were what everyone really needed at that moment. However, thanks to the restrictions in place, most seventh-grade alchemists were already over the age limit. There were very few people who were able to become seventh-grade alchemists in sixty years.

The seventh-grade alchemists that entered the Whirling World were all already part of their respective forces. They would only be used at important moments. Even Joe was not able to have easy access to a seventh-grade alchemist despite being from an eighth-grade clan.

Within Hestia Continent, Joe looked down on sixth-grade alchemists. After all, sixth-grade alchemists were not incredibly useful for him. Yet, the whirling World greatly lacked alchemists, so he could not afford to be picky.

The conditions he mentioned were already quite lenient. There were already other alchemists that went into Thousand Leaves City with the warriors. Quite a few of them had to pay two thousand spirit crystals and even needed to refine a lot of pills. It was something that could not be helped. After all, alchemists did not have the skill to get past the city gates.

Joe noticed that Jack remained quiet. Jack still felt like the price was too high.

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He furrowed his eyebrows before he said, "There have been a few alchemists that have been brought in before you guys. All of them had to give at least a thousand spirit crystals. I'm already being very nice by offering you five hundred spirit crystals."

Jack and Joe's conversation attracted a lot of attention from the bystanders. Quite a few of them looked over. Some busybodies even started to surround them. They wanted to see how much two alchemists would have to pay to be brought into Thousand Leaves City.

Jack's lips twitched helplessly. He coldly looked at everyone that was gathered around and said, "Refining pills for free for you is already an incredibly big payment. You're actually still asking for fees. You're really trying to bully people with your positions."

Those people were trying to take advantage of the fact that alchemists had no other choice, especially those who were alone and did not have large groups to protect them. They were basically tasty sheep in the eyes of those people. They set a price that the alchemists would be forced to pay. They would even need to commit to long-term labor.

Jack let out a laugh.

From Anthony earlier to Joe who was in front of him, all of them tried to make it seem like they were doing the alchemists a favor. It really rendered him speechless.

Rudy lightly snorted, feeling the injustice of it all as well. However, Hestia Continent had always been an unreasonable place. The ones who made the rules were the strong. The weak did not even get the chance to talk back.

Joe raised an eyebrow as he studied Jack. The surrounding crowd could not help but laugh, feeling like Jack's words made no sense at all!

Did Jack think that he was the only alchemist in the world?

Jack was still voicing his opinions despite such a great offer!

Joe had a sneer on his face as he said, "So you're not planning on entering? It's the first time I've seen someone like you, who doesn't even know how to appreciate what's given. Remember! Alchemists are weaklings in the Whirling World! You don't have the ability to enter, so don't try and argue so much!"

Jack laughed as he turned away from Joe, "I refuse!"

Jack's words were incredibly firm. After that, he shut his mouth, not saying another word. Everyone was stunned as they looked at Jack like they were looking at an idiot.

Did this guy know what he was doing?

Joe's earlier terms had actually been incredibly good, but Jack actually refused to accept it and said such harsh words in response.

Did Jack think that he could enter Thousand Leaves City with his own skills?

Everyone merely looked at each other, feeling like his actions were even more absurd than the large-mouthed man earlier.

Everyone was gossiping in their hearts, "Hey, brat! Do you think you'll actually be able to enter Thousand Leaves City with your skills?"

Jack glanced at that person, not even bothering with an explanation. He felt like those people were all just wasting their time.

"Just look at how he's not saying anything. Is that silent acknowledgment?! The world really is full of miracles. I have never seen an alchemist as confident as him," The person emphasized the word alchemist.

After all, everyone knew that there were no alchemists who made it to the late stage of the innate level before they were thirty...

Joe suddenly laughed as he looked at Jack with an incredibly disdainful look. Jack really was an idiot. He wanted to see what sort of tricks Jack could pull.

"You're actually here!" A familiar voice was heard by Jack.

Jack turned around and saw Anthony looking at him with a meaningful expression. Anthony probably had just arrived, but he probably knew what was happening from the discussions around them.

Anthony's lips twitched helplessly, feeling like Jack really did do things his own way.

Jack was incredibly overconfident.

Anthony clearly knew Joe as he walked over and greeted Joe. After the two of them exchanged pleasantries, Anthony said meaningfully, "Joe, don't be angry. This guy has a bit of a temper. Earlier, I met the two of them while I was waiting for my senior. I gave them an incredibly good invitation as well, but they tossed me aside without even looking at him."

After that was said, there was a roar of laughter around them. Jack really was something else.

Who did he think he was? Did he really think he would be able to enter the city with just his skills as an alchemist? He clearly did not know his place.

Rudy's face was starting to redden at how he was being treated. He was practically shaking in anger. He was about to argue when Jack pulled him back. There was no need to waste their time with people like that.

There were more and more people gathering at the front of the city, and more and more gazed toward them. Very quickly, the two of them became the focal point of the whole place.

Jack hated being the center of attention, but trouble always came looking for him. It was something he could not avoid.

His lips twitched helplessly as he turned to look at Rudy and whispered, "I will look for somewhere with fewer people to discuss our plans after entering Thousand Leaves City. That's already been messed up by these people, so... There's no reason to wait anymore."

After he said that, he immediately walked toward the group in front of the rock from before. The queue was already incredibly long at that point. Jack casually brought Rudy over, causing everyone to widen their eyes.

"He's really queuing up?"

"My gosh, I was just joking. I can't believe he's actually so overconfident that he thinks he can enter the city!"

"He's clearly gone crazy. Only half the people who tried can enter the city. Who does he think he is? Does he think he's a disciple of a seventh-grade clan? He actually thinks his skills would be able to let him in!"

Jack ignored all the mockery thrown at him. He felt like they were just the words of ignorant people. His gaze was fully focused on the rock in front of him.

There were some people who used everything they had and still could not get the rock to glow red. Some others got in with merely a light punch. In the end, there was only one requirement to get into Thousand Leaves City and that was skill.

Absolute skill!

“I refuse to believe it!” A man with a goatee sent out punch after punch.

He seemed incredibly confident but failed to light up the crystal in the end. He looked at the rock hopelessly. The reality was that cruel! He did not have the right to enter Thousand Leaves City! It was just a level eight city, yet he could not even enter. He had thought that he would be able to show off his skills in the Whirling World, but all it did was showcase how useless he was!

The man shouted, “I refuse to believe it! How could I not be able to do it?!”

Yet, he could not do it no matter how much he shouted.

The ones behind him started to get unhappy as he shouted. Someone frowned and said, “Hurry up and leave! This isn’t a place for you to vent. Don’t you see that there are still so many people behind you?”

The man’s lips stiffened as he composed himself. He sullenly left the place under looks of disdain. No one had much sympathy for the weak. After all, it was survival of the fittest.

Rudy took a deep breath as even his muscles stiffened, “How cruel...”

Jack nodded, not saying anything.

Rudy looked at the people around them and curiously asked, “Why are there more people gathered around than those that are queueing up? Why aren’t they entering? Or were all of them rejected?”

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Jack looked around and said after some thought, “They should be waiting for people. It seems like the situation in Thousand Leaves City is probably complicated as well. They wouldn’t be waiting here otherwise. Some of the people here are the rejects, but most of them should be waiting. Joe hasn’t gone in yet as well? He’s a disciple of an eighth-grade clan.”

Rudy nodded slightly. After a while, he asked curiously, “They’re waiting for their fellow disciples to gather before they enter. Could it be that the challenge in the Thousand Leaves City requires more people to gather together to get better rewards?”

Jack shook his head, "Nothing is certain. Let's not think about it before we enter the city. However, there's something that everyone agrees with. There's strength in numbers. When it comes to fighting over resources, having more fellow disciples will give you more advantage and confidence. They might be gathering because of that."

Rudy sighed with a sullen look on his face. The rejected warriors only made up a part of those gathered there. After all, most of them had probably accepted their fate and left the plaza, returning to level nine cities. However, there were still some warriors who did not accept their fates. They stayed behind and kept on trying. The more Rudy thought about it, the sadder he got. He had already grouped himself with the failures.

He looked at Jack and could not resist saying again, "The world of a warrior is so cruel. Being an alchemist suits me better."

Jack could not help but laugh at that thought. Before, he did not feel like Rudy was that naive, but he finally understood Rudy's attitude after those words.

Rudy might like to put up false pretenses, but there was actually nothing much in his head. If Rudy had not met Jack, he would have just been cannon fodder no matter where he went.

Jack did not shoot back at Rudy and merely nodded, not saying anything else. However, that did not stop others from doing so.

Anthony was queueing up behind Jack, and actually walked right over when he heard Rudy's earlier words.

Anthony smiled coldly, "Being an alchemist is obviously suited to you. Those who can't amount to much in the path of a warrior all end up trying to be an alchemist."

Jack frowned.

Anthony was not much different from all those people he had met before. They were all flies that Jack could not get rid of. It was exactly because of that reason that he rejected Anthony's suggestion.

Anthony felt like Jack had insulted him, and was just trying to cause Jack trouble. He deliberately raised his voice as he said that, intending for everyone around him to hear it. Mocking laughter immediately followed.

"It's incredibly laughable for an alchemist to try and get the right to enter the city. Does he think that queuing up proves something? If he can't do it, then he can't. So many people have been rejected. How is he so confident?"

"I still don't know about Jack, but that one called Rudy is clearly incredibly weak. If Rudy manages to get into the city, I'll call him my father!"

"They're all just incredibly pampered alchemists. They don't know about the outside world at all. They think that they are better than us warriors just because they're a little skilled!"

"That's right! A disciple of an eighth-grade clan is actually offering such tempting conditions and these two actually ignored it. Who gave them that courage?!"

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"He gave himself that courage! It's obvious that he's just an alchemist from an insignificant place. Otherwise, he wouldn't be acting so arrogantly, thinking that he'll be able to enter the city himself!"

Jack raised an eyebrow at all the discussion, pretending that he did not hear anything. He did not want to bother arguing with those people. But, Rudy's determination was not as strong. Facing all those words, Rudy's anger spiked.

"You're the ones who are ignorant! You don't know how strong Jack is. Riff-raffs like you all aren't even qualified to fight against Jack!" Rudy was incensed.

He had completely forgotten everything Jack had told him. He was practically arguing for the sake of arguing at that point. Jack could not help but frown as he pursed his lips.

Rudy always acted however he wanted without consideration for the time and place. When the people around them heard those words, all of them laughed uproariously as they looked at Jack and Rudy in disdain.

Practically no one agreed with those words at all. It only attracted more disdain and mockery. Joe walked over and stared at Rudy with narrowed eyes.

Joe had not planned on doing anything initially. Joe had just wanted to quietly wait until the results were out to prove how ignorant those two alchemists were. Yet, no one expected that Rudy would utter something as absurd as that. Rudy was practically framing Jack as some amazing disciple from a ninth-grade clan.

Joe sneered as he said, "You really are inexperienced. Just listen to what you're saying. Even a chosen disciple of the Compass Pavilion would not have dared to claim that he was unbeatable, that no one here was capable of facing him. After all, there's always someone better out there. For an alchemist like you to dare make such wild claims. You really don't know your place!"

Everyone nodded at those words. Those two alchemists really did not know basic common sense. They had probably never even gone through actual battle before. They merely thought that they had a bit of skill that would allow them to do what everyone else could not.

Jack sighed helplessly, turning around and glaring at Rudy.

He frowned and said, "I tried so hard to stop you, but I still failed to stop your mouth. You insist on saying everything I did not want you to say. What's the point of saying all that? Will everyone else believe you? Is there any point in venting your frustrations? You'll just invite even more negative opinions! From now on, you'd better shut your mouth. Swallow every single word you want to say!"

Rudy pursed his lips with some difficulty. He had to admit that Jack was right. That group of people looked down on them, to begin with. No matter what he said, everyone would merely treat his words as jokes.

Rudy decided to just shut his mouth, not even raising his head. He looked like a child that had done something wrong.

Jack turned to look at those people who were still mocking them. He smiled coldly and said, "People often say whatever they want to. Before the results are out, I think it's better if you don't be so obstinate!"

Jack's words incited even more laughter.

Someone pointed at Jack and said, "What?"

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"Whatever, what's the point of arguing with someone so ignorant? We'll know how much of a joke his words were in just a moment. That large-mouthed guy from earlier failed to get in even after three tries. I'm willing to bet that they wouldn't be able to get in even if they stayed here and constantly tried for two years!"

Jack let out a laugh as he turned to look at Joe. The disciple of the Compass Pavilion had a noble air to him, it was obvious that Joe came from a notable family.

Jack let out a laugh, "Are you so sure that I'll definitely fail to get in?"

Joe raised an eyebrow, not expecting Jack's sudden question. Joe nodded without any hesitation. It was something that Joe did not even need to think of.

If two alchemists could get the right to go into the city, then those rejected warriors were far too pathetic.

Jack laughed, "Why don't we make a bet? If the both of us manage to enter Thousand Leaves Pavilion together, you'll give us ten thousand spirit crystals!"

Just thinking about the nine ninth-grade spirit crystals he needed to gather gave Jack an immense amount of pressure. Jack was not willing to give up any chance he had to make more spirit crystals. That guy had mocked him quite a bit earlier, and was now right up in his nose, looking at him with a mocking expression. Jack had to teach him a lesson.

Joe widened his eyes as he laughed uncontrollably. He felt like the alchemist in front of him was such a joke.

Did Jack not know what he was saying?

Did Jack know how ridiculous he sounded to everyone there?

Jack asked again after noticing Joe's lack of a response, "Are you willing to take the bet?"

Jack repeating his words caused even more clamor in the crowd. They felt like Jack as an alchemist was far too amusing. Ignorant was no longer enough to describe him. His self-confidence was through the roof.

Joe laughed for a long time before he nodded, "Sure! Since you insist on this bet, I'll give you what you want. If you win, the two of you get to enter Thousand Leaves City and I'll give you ten thousand spirit crystals on the spot, but if you lose..."

Jack raised an eyebrow as he answered, "If I lose, I'll give you ten thousand spirit crystals too!"

Those words successfully silenced the crowd. Everyone looked toward Jack, and quite a few of them had their lips pursed. They felt like Jack was crossing the line at that point.

Was Jack really that much of an idiot?

Jack did not bother with what everyone around him was saying and merely waited for Joe to nod. Joe furrowed his eyebrows, no longer knowing what to say. Ten thousand spirit crystals were no small number to Joe. Since Jack wanted to offer him that sum for free, he would naturally accept the offer.

Joe smiled and said, "Alright! Let's make it so! Everyone here can be a witness."

Jack raised an eyebrow and replied, "I don't trust human witnesses who could suddenly defend the person who lost. Why don't the two of us sign a contract? We should write down everything

in the contract. After the results are out, anyone who goes against the contract after it ends will be punished by the heavens!”

Jack spoke all of those words as if he was dispensing justice. There was once again a lot of clamor within the crowd. They could not stop themselves from starting to curse again.

- Chapter 2815 -

“This guy is just too confident in himself. He even wants to sign a contract because he feels like everyone bearing witness is not reliable enough! If he loses, he needs to pay ten thousand spirit crystals. There’s no chance for him to even get out of it!”

“Before, I thought that the guy might have some other goals for acting that way, but now it seems like he’s just being way too overconfident. He feels like he can actually get into the city. There really are all sorts of people. It’s a miracle someone like him exists!”

“There’s no way around it. People who come from backwater places like him always feel like where they came from can represent the whole Hestia Continent. Even disciples of eighth-grade clans aren’t a match for him!”

Joe looked at Jack speechlessly, suddenly feeling like everything he had done was incredibly petty. However, since everything had already progressed to this degree, he would not look good if he did not agree.

Joe nodded, taking out a contract from his spatial ring. Since the guy wanted to offer up his spirit crystals on a silver platter, there was no reason for Joe to refuse!

It was not that difficult getting the contract signed. All they needed to do was clearly write down the conditions on the paper before signing with their blood. It did not take that long for their contract to take effect.

With everyone else as witnesses, the two of them completed the contract without any delay. When the blood stained the paper, everyone’s moods were a little complicated. They watched Jack with conflicted expressions. They felt like Jack was being too overconfident. However, even if they could make out Jack’s worth, everyone clearly saw Rudy next to Jack.

Rudy’s strength back in the outside world was definitely no stronger than being in the early stage of the innate level. In the eyes of everyone there, it was considered trash. Even if Jack had the ability to enter the city, Rudy definitely did not.

If it was just Jack, people might have doubts, but the contract clearly states that the two of them will manage to enter the city. The results were clear, there was no other possibility!

“There’s something wrong with this guy’s head, or he wouldn’t do something so crazy. He’s just giving Joe his spirit crystals for free!”

“Who knows where this guy got all his confidence from...”

After signing the contract, Jack averted his gaze, not wanting to waste any more effort on everyone there. He had wanted to bet twenty thousand spirit crystals, but he was worried that Joe would not be able to pay up such a huge sum. He hated getting tied down by the details, so he decided to just cut it in half. It was possible Joe did not have twenty thousand spirit crystals, but Joe definitely had at least ten thousand.

Probably because Jack was being too calm, the discussions around them started to quiet down. Everyone quietly waited for Jack’s turn, eagerly looking forward to Jack’s results.

Time slowly passed away, and it was finally Jack’s turn. The rock was more or less the same height as Jack. The black rock was filled with blood-red patterns. On top of it was a colorless crystal. The person before Jack had managed to get the crystal to light up red, earning the right to enter the city.

After the rock let out an intense light, a token shot out. On the token was the words ‘Tower Entry Token’. The person excitedly danced on the spot after getting the token.

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He did not enter Thousand Leaves City immediately with the token like everyone else. Instead, he stood by the side and looked at Jack with intrigue. It was obvious that he wanted to stay and watch the show. Jack ignored everyone else, focusing solely on the rock. In truth, he was not entirely sure how much he needed to show for the colorless crystal to light up purple. After all, he did not just want to enter alone, Rudy had to come with him.

Thinking about it, he decided against holding back. His hands started to form seal after seal, and the power of Destroying the Void condensed into his fist.

At that moment, grayish-black energy emerged from Jack’s right fist. There were no energy fluctuations from this energy, and it did not look to be anything extraordinary about that energy. Everyone peeled their eyes open as they looked at Jack in anticipation, waiting for him to unleash a full-powered strike, only to find that the crystal did not react at all.

They wanted to see Jack crying in despair after his failure. They wanted him to regret his ignorance.

Jack frowned as he slammed his fist on the rock violently.

Everyone heard a boom, and the rock slightly quaked. Everyone's eyes widened as the crystal on the rock suddenly glowed a vibrant purple color so bright that it hurt the eyes of everyone staring at it. All of them either covered their eyes or averted their gazes.

There had been quite a few people who made the rock glow purple before, but the light had never been so intense. It was as if the rock had its fill of power!

"Goodness! Is something wrong with the rock? Why is it glowing so intensely?!"

"Who knows? I can't look anymore; I'm going blind!"

The vibrant light lasted for a moment before it dissipated. The moment it vanished, two rays of light shot out and landed on Jack's hands. He noticed a purple tower entry token, as well as a purple band, had appeared.

When Jack touched the entry token, a wave of information flowed into his mind. Jack sighed lightly, lamenting the fact that the Whirling World truly was a mystical place with its complete set of rules.

The information had been incredibly rich, describing Thousand Leaves City's various rules in detail.

If he had only managed to get the rock to glow red, he would only be able to get a tower entry token. If he had made it purple, he would get a band alongside that. There was only one use for that band, which was to choose out a helper. It would allow the person to enter Thousand Leaves City with the owner of the token, even allowing the entrance of this assistant.

Jack raised an eyebrow before he pushed the band into Rudy's hand, motioning for Rudy to hurry up and put it on. Rudy excitedly slipped the band on his wrist, wiping away his dejected expression. Regardless of what had happened, he managed to gain entry into Thousand Leaves City, which was a better fate than those rejected entirely. He might even get some benefits from it.

The mere thought gladdened Rudy, and he could barely fight off the grin on his face.

Being happy was not enough, however. After reveling in delight for a few seconds, he turned to look at all those who doubted them so vehemently. At that moment, everyone had their mouths shut, and the whole place was silent. Even their breathing had slowed.

Remembering everyone's faces, Rudy slowly turned to look at Joe.

The confident look on Joe's face was wiped off at that moment, replaced by a look of utter disbelief as he stared at the crystal.

Though the crystal returned to its original state, no one could forget how intense the purple light was when Jack activated it. Joe's breaths grew labored at this point.

Rudy sneered, "Now that the victor has been decided, shouldn't you hand over ten thousand spirit crystals?"

Those words were like a hammer on Joe's head that snapped him out of his trance.

What had he done?

Jack had set a huge trap for him, and he jumped into it so willingly and confidently!

Joe was so angry that his entire body stiffened. Even though 10000 spirit crystals were something Joe could afford, it was no small amount. It was even to pay off a bet.

He pointed at Rudy and said, "You 're both in cahoots to trick me. You're scamming me off of my spirit crystals!"

At the moment, Joe only had one thought in mind, both Jack and Rudy had laid out a trap that he, without knowing any better, jumped in. He felt humiliated and enraged altogether. He felt worse than being slapped on the face a few times, and he wanted to kill Jack for it.

Jack's lips twitched speechlessly. Joe actually said he was scamming Joe, but where did that come from?

Jack frowned and said coldly, "Just admit that you're a sore loser. Why are you talking about anything else? You said that we're scamming you, but did I force you to take the bet? Didn't you think I was weak and couldn't get to enter the city? You were the shortsighted one here. You said I was ignorant earlier, so why are you calling me a scammer now?"

Joe's face reddened at those words. He was right, but it did not change the fact that Joe felt like he had been lied to.

Joe took a deep breath and spitefully snapped, "You're both scammers. You can't be alchemists! Your clothes are for the sake of lying to people! You wear them to entice people into taking up your bets!"

Rudy got incredibly furious after hearing that.

Why was this man so unreasonable?

“Stop with all your lies!” lambasted Rudy. “We’re both alchemists. We even managed to get sixth-grade alchemist badges from the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance! Don’t you see the badges on our chest? Jack’s just that strong. He’s much better than anyone else both in alchemy and in combat. I’ve told you so, but you refused to believe me, even saying that I’m crazy!”

Rudy then pointed at everyone around him. “I heard everything earlier. Did you all not say that?!”

Various remarks and comments were thrown around earlier, but the contents were more or less the same. Rudy was right, they had thought that Rudy was crazy earlier. They claimed that there was something wrong with Rudy’s head.

They just never expected Jack to be so skilled!

Everyone felt awkward upon hearing Rudy’s words... And to think, they had been so happily discounting Jack!

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Rudy smiled in glee, feeling like he had regained his lost honor. He then pointed at a muscular man who had criticized Jack the most earlier.

This man was the same man who had criticized others in front of Jack, and Rudy remembered the nasty things the man had said.

Rudy pointed at the guy and said, “You said that something’s wrong with Jack’s brain, didn’t you? That he’s not skilled and that he’s ignorant. Well, do you still think that now? Who’s the ignorant one now, huh?”

The man’s face reddened as his lips twitched. Everything he had said and done came back at him and made him a fool.

Everyone was dead silent at that moment. Those who had so happily criticized Jack earlier turned mute, not even daring to utter a single word.

Rudy snorted coldly, not bothering with them as he turned to look at Jack.

Naturally, Jack did not bother with these people. Jack looked at Joe and reached out. “The two of us signed a contract. If you want to go against it, you’ll get a backlash from the laws of the world. I don’t have time to waste on you. Just hurry up and pay me.”

Jack's words deeply humiliated Joe. He was so angry that he was trembling, but there was nothing he could do. He struck a wager with Jack and lost terribly. He even signed a contract, so it was too late for regrets.

Joe angrily took out 10000 spirit crystals from his storage and handed them to Jack.

Jack raised an eyebrow at this and actually started to count the spirit crystals in front of everyone there. Only after he made sure the number was correct did he put the crystals in Mustard Seed.

Joe felt like he had just been slapped a few times. His chest heaved in anger as he glared at Jack with gritted teeth. It was as if Jack was his mortal enemy. Nonetheless, he did not say anything even as he quaked in anger. Skill trumped debate, after all, and Jack had silenced everyone with his results. At that moment, there was no point for Joe to say anything. He would just he laughed at.

Jack raised an eyebrow before he turned and began to walk toward the city gates.

Anthony hid at the back, not daring to say a single word. He was worried that Jack would humiliate him by bringing up what he had said earlier.

After all, he had treated Jack as a pure alchemist back then and felt like Jack's actions were a complete joke.

Anthony had a bitter feeling in his heart as he watched Jack walking away. He had thought that there was something wrong with Jack's head, but Jack, surprisingly, had the skills.

Compared to Jack, he was useless. It made sense why Jack did not even bother with him. With absolute skill, he even brought Rudy with him into the city, and he did not truly need the help, either.

Both Jack and Rudy were at a massive round plaza. After entering Thousand Leaves City, 99 ivory steps greeted them. The two of them slowly walked up. After they got up to the plaza, they finally saw how large it was. Everywhere they looked, there were people. They could not tell how many people were there.

The plaza was even bigger than the whole of Black Sun City!

Rudy gaped at the sight. "This is the biggest plaza I've seen in my life!"

The plaza was crammed with people. A few were resting while others were gathered in groups, chatting away.

“There are so many people here. There are at least ten thousand people!” exclaimed Rudy with widened eyes. “Just Thousand Leaves City alone has so many people. If you add up the people from all the level-eight cities, there would be at least a few hundred thousand!”

Saying that, Rudy started to get excited.

Jack turned to look at Rudy. “There should be at least twenty thousand people here. After all, these are just the people who remained at the plaza. Don’t forget those who’ve gone inside.”

Jack looked toward the most important part of the plaza. The round plaza was definitely enormous, but compared to the Thousand Leaves Tower that was in the middle, it paled in comparison. The Thousand Leaves Tower was at the heart of the plaza. The tower was so tall that it touched the clouds, and it was probably able to fit tens of thousands of people!

Compared to those who were resting outside, there were probably even more people in the Thousand Leaves Tower.

With that in mind, Jack started to get excited as well.

Everyone that was gathered there had gone through selections. No one here was subpar except for those brought in by someone else. They would need to go through even more selections before they could enter a level seven city.

The selection process did not seem that strict to Jack, but it had reduced quite a few people.

Jack could not imagine how many would remain when it came to the level two or even level one cities. It did not matter which cities they started from, but anyone who could arrive at a level two or level-one city would be the elite among elites. They would at least be chosen disciples in various big clans. He wondered when he would face challenges like that, but those challenges were all chances in Jack’s eyes.

Rudy sighed as he straightened his back. “Are we going inside right now? I’m starting to get impatient. I am curious, though; why are these people lounging around? Shouldn’t everyone enter?”

Rudy was riddled with questions.

Rules of Thousand Leaves City had all been transmitted into Jack’s mind the moment he got the entry token. Thus, he turned and looked around before saying to Rudy, “It’s not that they don’t

want to enter, but that they want to make sure they're at their best before they enter. After all, you can't leave after entering the tower. There are only three results after you go in."

Saying that, Jack paused as his eyes gleamed with intent for battle. Rudy shuddered as he looked at Jack.

Letting out a slight cough, Rudy carefully asked, "What are the three results?"

Jack took a deep breath as he said slowly, "Either you die inside, or you reach the third level and leave Thousand Leaves City for the next city. The last possibility is to get to the seventh level and obtain various treasures before leaving for the next city."

Rudy felt as though a bucket of cold water was poured onto his head. He instantly stiffened at the implication and could not help but shudder. Even though Jack was relaxed as he spoke, Rudy could tell that the first result was what the majority would go through. Rudy had felt how cruel the Whirling World was in Black Sun City. However, he did not expect that Thousand Leaves City would be much crueler. He believed that each level in Thousand Leaves City would just see more and more people die.

Most of them would probably die here!

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Rudy grew fearful as he thought about it.

Jack raised an eyebrow, immediately understanding what Rudy was thinking. He smiled as he patted Rudy on the shoulder. "Even though people will die, it's not as many as you think."

After saying that, Jack did not bother explaining as he pulled Rudy to a more secluded area and rested.

Rudy sat next to Jack and looked at Jack in surprise. He did not want to bother Jack with his question, but in the end, he succumbed to his curiosity. "I thought you'd go in immediately. Aren't you well-prepared?"

Jack shook his head. "I'm not in a bad condition at the moment, but I want to find somewhere safe to increase my strength."

Jack thus took out the Purple Soul Gem from Mustard Seed and placed it in his palm.

Rudy nodded before asking, "You said that not that many will die, but I feel like a lot of warriors won't make it to the third floor. Since they can't get there, they'll die..."

Jack did not go into detail in his response, and Rudy could not figure things out, feeling as though their situation was a strange one.

Jack looked at Rudy and could immediately tell that he would ask until everything clicked for him.

Jack was forced to patiently explain everything. The rules of the Thousand Leaves Tower were rather simple, in fact. One just needed a victory to climb up a level, and a person needed to fight on every level. Only after winning would one be able to advance.

Hearing Jack's explanation, Rudy was even more confused. He widened his eyes as he asked, "Do you mean you won't be kicked out if you lose? You can still wait in the Thousand Leaves tower for the next battle, and you can leave after winning two?"

Jack nodded. After entering Thousand Leaves Tower, an opponent would be automatically chosen. Win or lose, they would be assigned another opponent after the battle ended. Some people might have lost because they were facing opponents far stronger than they were, so constant battles like that meant they still had a chance to win. That was why Jack said there would be three results and that not many would perish.

However, Rudy shook his head firmly at that moment. "I still think that many will die. The opponents won't know each other anyway, and they won't bother holding back. Killing your opponent seems to only be a natural outcome."

Young warriors were all bloodthirsty, they could easily kill their opponents if they were not careful. Furthermore, they were all in the Whirling World without the protection of the clans, so they could fight without inhibition.

Jack smiled and said, "You're right, but the Whirling World won't let people get slaughtered even if the rules here are cruel. As long as you voice out your surrender, the Thousand Leaves Tower will determine that the match has ended. The rules want a result, not corpses."

Hearing that, Rudy breathed a sigh of relief. There would not be a river of blood if that were the case. He sighed and said helplessly, "If you weren't here, I'd never have been able to witness all this!"

Even though many forms of danger were in the Whirling World, Rudy gained a lot of experience. He might have lived in Middle Province before, but thanks to his background, he had not gotten much experience. He never knew there were so many prodigies in the world.