

Chapter 2721

“Has Jack lost his mind? He’s insane right now, he has to be, for trying to take on that phoenix! Does he think he can kill a spring solidifying realm beast?”

“He’s done for... Jack won’t survive this at all! He was way too cocky in wanting to face a spring solidifying realm beast, even if he’s a credible alchemist!”

Bradley snorted at this. Jack, to him, was a dead man already, he could never survive going up against a phoenix. Forget surviving the encounter, Jack would just die with the swipe of a talon!

Elder Maurice was near tears at this point, overridden with anxiety. He was close to rushing in to save Jack.

The deacons that were standing guard, meanwhile, were all stunned as well. They were responsible for ensuring the participants’ safety, which meant that they would be liable if anything happened to Jack. However, Jack’s actions exceeded their expectations.

He actively chose to go toward the beast!

Alas, Jack cared not what the others were thinking, he focused solely on the phoenix before him. In just a flash, he was less than a meter from it.

The black sword in his hand swung forward, just in time as the phoenix swung its sharp talons. In the eyes of the phoenix was immense disdain, feeling like Jack was too desperate to meet his maker.

One swipe, and that man was done for, the phoenix knew that much!

A second later, the phoenix’s talon clashed against Jack’s sword, and, in the process, Breaking the Void staggeringly destroyed its claw. The gray energy let out an enormous shockwave, turning into a rotting power that sliced the phoenix’s talon in two. The wound visibly turned black at a rapid pace, bubbling as if it was poison.

The phoenix cried out in immense pain, no longer sounding prideful of itself. The cry it emitted this time was of pure agony due to the pain. The phoenix had been too sure of itself. It had thought that it would be able to kill Jack with just a talon, but in a surprising turn of events, its talon had been the one that was ripped into two in the end.

With that, the part that was cut off fell onto the grass as well.

Jack chuckled darkly. This phoenix was the most foolish beast he had ever met. It was far too arrogant, thinking that everyone else was stupid.

Why and how would Jack dare step up against itself if he was not a capable person? He did not have a death wish, of course!

Jack was already in the same realm as the beast and had already broken into the spring solidifying realm days ago. On top of that, not only did he have an upper ultimate god technique in his arsenal, but Destroying the Void was also already above the second stage. Jack would even dare to face a late stage spring solidifying realm beast, let alone one at an early stage.

The beast finally realized its error at that moment, and it no longer wanted to prolong the battle as it began to back away despite the special chain that restrained the beast. Fortunately, it was long enough that it granted the phoenix much room to back up.

The phoenix, at that very moment, wanted nothing more than to avoid confronting such a powerful person... Yet Jack would not give it a chance to do so.

Chapter 2722

After all, the core of a phoenix would be worth quite a lot.

Jack activated the laws of space as he flickered before the phoenix, much to the phoenix's despair.

Although desperate, the phoenix still had pride in itself. Despite knowing that it could die in Jack's hands, the beast refused to admit defeat or beg for mercy. With that, the phoenix used up every bit of its power to use its natural-born skill, ready to gamble on its own life just to potentially injure Jack.

The phoenix's eyes suddenly glowed in an icy-blue color as cold energy condensed from its stomach. It suddenly opened its mouth as it shot out an immense cold energy at Jack. The cold energy was incredibly unique, so much so that the surrounding temperature plummeted harshly when it shot out the energy. If one were to look closer, however, the cold energy looked like it was blue flames instead.

Jack raised an eyebrow, immediately recognizing the attack as the phoenix's natural-born skill, the Ice Flame. He let out a smile, not surprised by this act at all. He activated Destroying the Voice once more, and the black energy formed into a blade as it clashed against the phoenix's Ice Flame.

Everyone heard a clash, and Ice Flame was split into two by Destroying the Void. Ice Flame exploded in waves, dispersing before it could even graze Jack.

The pitch-black aura was raring to go still, even after destroying Ice Flame. It did not slow down as it headed right for the phoenix's head. The phoenix let out an ear-piercing cry that reverberated across the air.

The pain of a soul was not something a human or beast could withstand. The phoenix itself was already far weaker than Jack in the first place, and its cry of agony did not last that long before it collapsed soundlessly. Its body convulsed and slowly stopped moving. The phoenix's blue eyes had lost their light, and it died.

Jack merely cocked an eyebrow, his expression barely changing. Even as he watched the phoenix breathing its last, he calmly retrieved a dagger from Mustard Seed and slashed at the phoenix's stomach. With a slash, the beast's faint blue blood stained the grass. Jack did not even blink as he reached out into the phoenix's stomach for a moment. With a twist of his hand, the faint blue core was in Jack's hands.

Everyone had seen what happened, and everyone practically lost their minds with widened eyes and gaping mouths. It was as if they had seen a ghost!

Even Master Forrest had nothing to say.

Everyone fell silent. Even the deacons that were in hiding for protection were all dumbfounded, and they were stuck in a flabbergasted state from the moment Jack slashed at the phoenix's talons.

None of them could escape their deep shock.

It took a long time before Bradley broke the silence, blurting, "Am I seeing things? The phoenix lost to Jack?! I'm probably seeing things... This is all an illusion!"

As he said that, Bradley still maintained his earlier expression, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets. He had never lost his composure so much before. It was mainly because what had happened was far too unbelievable. It was something that he would not have even dreamed of because it was too absurd.

Master Forrest's lips twitched. "This has to be an illusion, yes! What alchemist is this formidable? Isn't this guy just at the innate level? How could an innate level warrior torture a spring solidifying realm beast to death?!"

Chapter 2723

"The phoenix was no match for him at all... That brat managed to kill a phoenix so easily that it died in just two moves! This is far too absurd!"

Everyone felt their hearts quivering upon hearing Master Forrest's words.

It truly was far too absurd. If they had not witnessed it firsthand, they would never have believed it happened. They were not able to see Jack's skills up until this very moment. However, from what Jack had shown, he had already broken through the spring solidifying realm.

Was he not an alchemist?

When could alchemists ever walk so far as a martial artist, or have that much talent?

Before Jack entered, everyone knew of Jack's physical age. In a limited time, not only did Jack become so accomplished in alchemy, but even his martial arts did not fall behind. It was far too inconceivable. Jack's results needed immense amounts of talent.

Even Elder Maurice could not believe what he had seen. He genuinely thought Jack would perish in that fight, knowing that the phoenix was in the spring solidifying realm. However, everything that had happened after exceeded his assumptions.

After a long time, Elder Maurice suddenly turned to look at Mr. Zayne, who also shared his shocked expression. It was safe to say that he, too, did not know Jack had that skill.

Elder Maurice grabbed Mr. Zayne's arm. "You were the one who brought Jack into Phoenix Valley back then. Do you not know anything about him at all?"

Mr. Zayne gulped, his face etched with conflict and shock. He smiled bitterly and said, "I had thought that I understood him quite well, but I stand corrected. I had judged Jack by my own metrics. I really never expected him to be so strong of a fighter. With his skills, he'd be a top-tier disciple even among the warriors of the outer valley."

Bradley's eyes glinted with derangement as he snarled, "He's not an alchemist; he can't be! If he's an alchemist, then something is wrong somewhere, believe it. There's definitely something wrong with him!"

Before this, Bradley's 'meltdowns' were more due to him acting out of bitterness, but it was genuine at this moment, seeing as Jack constantly one-upped him every time in every shape and form.

He could not accept it at all.

Master Forrest frowned. Even he knew that Bradley could no longer stand it. In truth, he was already at rock bottom as well, but he could not allow Bradley's meltdown to regress into a much darker state.

Master Forrest took a deep breath. "Calm down. Haven't you heard that there's always a mountain higher? Even if you go completely crazy, you can't overturn his results."

Those words seemed to be a splash of cold water upon Bradley's frantic heart. He froze as both of his hands shook slightly. He knew that he had lost his composure, but he could not possibly compose himself.

It was not just Bradley, all of the participants were in a similar state as well after seeing Jack's results. They initially had better control over their mental state, but the aftermath of Jack's short-lived battle with the phoenix sent them into a frenzy of discussions as well after Bradley lost control.

Claude raised his voice, saying, "Now I'm wondering if I'm dreaming. Jack is already at the spring solidifying realm. No wonder I could never see how strong he was... He purposely hid his skills from us!"

Chapter 2724

Conrad was about to die from jealousy, deeply envious of all of Jack's accomplishments. Jack was not just better at alchemy than everyone else, but he was even an accomplished fighter.

God truly played favorites, and Jack was the apple of his eye. He seemed like a speck of insignificant dust, while Jack was akin to the brightest sun in the sky.

Conrad was in an incredibly unstable mood at that moment. In his arduously bitter state, he spoke, "Did he hide his strength to surprise everyone? I got to hand it to him, he did it. Our jaws are about to hit the ground. You know, that'd be ridiculous if he did."

Elder Maurice heard that and immediately retorted, "Don't speak nonsense just because you're skill-less. Jack hid his strength, but he didn't know what the contents of the tournament would be! He didn't know he'd be facing a phoenix. The proof is in the pudding, and you can try all you want to smear Jack, but it's pointless!"

Conrad's face reddened at that. He knew that the words he said earlier were twisting the truth, but he still could not stop himself. He had been berated in front of everyone and felt incredibly embarrassed.

Meanwhile, Master Forrest coldly looked at Conrad. If word about what happened here were to spread, everyone would think that Sky Peak Pavilion were sore losers, and they even tried to smear their opponents. It was definitely not a good look.

Conrad immediately shut his mouth upon noticing Master Forrest's sharp gaze on him, not daring to say anything.

At that moment, Jack had obtained five Green Phoenix Fruits and was walking toward everyone with the phoenix core as well. When he left the illusion and went into the buffer, he immediately saw everyone within the buffer looking at him with complicated expressions.

Elder Maurice was in no rush to praise Jack. He merely looked at Jack with a measuring expression as though he was an incomparable treasure.

Jack's lips twitched helplessly, not caring about how everyone was looking at him. He merely opened up his palm in front of Master Forrest. "You agreed to this before. These are all mine."

Jack's words caused Master Forrest's face to sour. Back then, he had thought that Jack was just bragging when he said all that. Alas, it seemed like Jack had said all of that because he knew how confident he was in himself and his skills.

With that in mind, Master Forrest felt a little depressed. Everything he had said came back to haunt him fervently, and he felt like an utter fool. His body stiffened, almost losing his composure. After calming himself down, he finally mustered a smile... One that looked incredibly forced and ugly.

"I have said that, yes, and I'm a man of my word. Everything there is yours. "

Jack nodded. With these words, everything in his hands was his for sure. He had thought that the tournament would have just been a way for him to escape danger, but he had actually won himself a reputation and a small fortune.

After placing everything in Mustard Seed, Jack was noticeably much happier. In contrast, however, everyone else looked much more tormented.

Chapter 2725

Master Forrest should have announced the results of the tournament at this point, but he was far too depressed.

The tournament was a pivotal event, and not only did it involve the reputation of their clan, but other benefits were at stake as well.

Master Forrest had thought that victory was already assured, but he did not expect a dark horse to throw his plans into disarray. He had only managed to win one out of three rounds! He did not know what to tell his higher-ups at all, and he could already see the miserable fate that would follow.

Regardless, he could not get too emotional at that moment. He had fallen silent for far too long, and Jack did not want to remain there for that long anymore.

When the spectators did not say anything, Jack turned around and faced Master Forrest. "Shouldn't you be announcing the results? I believe I didn't use up that much time this round."

Master Forrest bitterly closed his eyes and, after keeping his silence, announced, "The third round has ended with Phoenix Valley's victory. Phoenix Valley won this tournament two out of three."

This announcement caused everyone present to feel a wave of emotional shifts.

Claude and Benedict felt like their experiences the past few days had been far too exciting, filled with ups and downs. The two of them had thought they would be the main pillars of the tournament, that Jack would definitely drag them down, but they never expected the truth would end up being the complete opposite.

In the end, they were both the trash bags of the group. They should have been happy about the final results. After all, they would have been given harsher punishments when they got back. However, Jack's results have been far too good, and compared to him, they were mere garbage. They had not been useful at all throughout the tournament!

Despite the humiliation they both felt, Sky Peak Pavilion's representatives were in even greater pain. They had thought that they would win the tournament, but they had lost terribly. Great punishments were sure to await them, and even Bradley would not be able to avoid punishment.

Master Forrest would take the brunt of the punishment. Even his position probably would not be guaranteed. The result was both expected and unexpected for Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne. The two of them had complicated feelings as well. However, they could not say anything at that moment.

The Elder Hall in Phoenix Valley was a picture of silence. Normally, many low-leveled alchemists entered and exited the Elder Hall. Even though it was called the Elder Hall, its practical use was as an education center for low-leveled alchemists.

That day, the Elder Hall finally lived up to its name. At that moment, there were seven chairs in the hall, and there was an elder on each one.

From their attire, it was clear that the ones in the middle were from the inner valley. Four outer valley elders sat by the two sides. It was clear who held the higher position by where they sat. The seven elders had gathered there for the sake of Sky Peak Pavilion and Phoenix Valley's tournament. The tournament had been held at Sky Peak Pavilion, and this day was the day the tournament officially ended.

Earlier, Elder Maurice had already sent news that they would return to Phoenix Valley in about half an hour. However, Elder Maurice only said that the tournament was over and that they were

on the way back. He did not reveal the results of the tournament. The seven elders drank tea as they discussed the results of the tournament, and all of them believed that their chances of winning were safely high. After all, none of them thought anything of Sky Peak Pavilion.

Sky Peak Pavilion might be an eighth-grade clan, but they never prioritized cultivating alchemists. Even if only alchemists from the outer valley had been sent this time, they were still the best of the outer valley.

Chapter 2726

Apart from Elder Baggins and Elder Eliot, the others looked much at ease.

Elder Eliot sipped at his tea, frowning in concern, which did not go unnoticed by Elder Baggins. Even though Elder Eliot did not say why he was concerned, it was obvious from a glance.

Elder Baggins sighed in helplessness. "Rick had crossed the line this time. It's not the first time he's incorporated his grudges into official matters.

"We can ignore what happened before since it didn't cause any trouble, but I can't believe he actually got worse. He tried to cause trouble in such an important tournament! Is he not worried that something detrimental could happen? Can he bear the consequences?"

Elder Elliot nodded in agreement. "Doesn't he know how important the tournament is?"

It involves the interests of the Whirling World! Both the inner and outer valley elders all know how important this tournament is, yet he threw all caution out of the window and just had to recommend Fane to participate!

"Even if Fane is talented, he's just a sixthgrade alchemist. If anything happens, it won't just cause us to lose out on a portion of the Whirling World's resources; it'll humiliate us greatly!

"Everyone knows that Phoenix Valley is the foundation of the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance. We've cultivated so many alchemists and accepted many alchemic geniuses. If we lose to Sky Peak Pavilion just like that, Phoenix Valley's reputation will go down the drain if the truth is spread. We won't be able to recruit more alchemists when that happens, too!

"That chain reaction will impact us."

"Anyone can tell what sort of predicament we'd be in if we lost the tournament, yet it still wasn't enough to change his mind. The only thing he's cared about this whole time is to quench his thirst for vengeance without bothering to look at the bigger picture!"

Elder Eliot had always been a straight-laced person, strictly loyal to Phoenix Valley and always placing the Valley's best interests in mind. Of course, most of the elders were like that as well. Their benefits would only be assured if Phoenix Valley's position remained at its current position.

Alas, some elders did not view Phoenix Valley that importantly, instead prioritizing themselves and their revenge.

Elder Eliot grew angrier at the thought, while Elder Baggins was frustrated at Rick.

Usually, Elder Eliot and Elder Baggins would never refer to Elder Rick without his title, but such respect was disregarded due to the antics he had dished out.

Before, Rick had helped Harold and Johnson for the benefits he would gain for himself, but he never expected Fane would have something up his sleeves. In the end, Rick's plan backfired.

Rick, a man who had always been petty, held a grudge against Fane because of that.

Elder Baggins and Elder Eliot had witnessed what happened. They knew of Rick's grudge against Fane, yet during the final selections, the two of them had not been in

Phoenix Valley as they had matters to attend to. They had no idea that Rick would persistently recommend Fane just because of the anger he felt toward Fane.

If they had known, they would have stopped it for the sake of Phoenix Valley. After all, Rick was just causing trouble at that point.

Elder Eliot looked over, noticing Rick was right in front of him, and felt even more frustrated at that.

At that moment, the one closest to Elder Eliot was Elder Baggins, and Rick sat relatively far from them, so Rick had no idea what they were talking about.

Chapter 2727

Elder Eliot frowned as he muttered under his breath, "Look at how Rick can still drink his tea and chat away. It seems like he doesn't know how bad the consequences of his actions can be.

"If we lose, Phoenix Valley will be hurt gravely, be it in terms of our reputation or our coffers. Things would be much harder than us in the future. We're already in a dangerous position in the first place. Do you think he's just stupid or overly selfish?"

Elder Baggins sipped his tea and grumbled, "It's probably a mix of both. Others don't know, but we as elders know what's at stake here. The main rights to the Whirling World have always been in the hands of us and the Unbreaking Pavilion.

"The only reason Sky Peak Pavilion is competing with us is to gain more benefits in the Whirling World. If we lose, we'd just be giving Sky Peak Pavilion a piece of what's ours for no reason.

"Worse still, our reputation will crumble, too! Anyone with half a brain would understand how important this is, but Rick doesn't seem to care at all. He'd do anything to get rid of Fane, not bothering to think things through, even using this tournament! It's obvious that he's aggressively vain!"

Elder Eliot had a bitter look on his face as he asked, "Does he not know that we'll find the root cause of the loss if he loses in the tournament? The merit logs clearly wrote that he was the one who recommended Fane. Rick wouldn't be able to escape it. Does he think he won't be held responsible?"

Elder Baggins raised an eyebrow and snorted. "He's not that stupid; he knows that he'll have to take responsibility. He's being this relaxed, drinking his tea and chatting his minutes away, probably because he doesn't think we'll lose at all.

"If the final result is a win, he won't be punished. Instead, Fane will look like he dragged down everyone. Fane would be punished, even if they won the tournament. Elder Maurice, who brought them to Sky Peak Pavilion, would start to hate Fane because Fane had failed the team.

"The merit logs will make Fane's bad result seem even worse, and he might even be kicked out of Phoenix Valley because of this.

"Rick would've won."

Hearing that, Elder Eliot's scowl deepened. The others did not know, but Elder Eliot had witnessed first-hand Fane's talent and skill. If Fane was punished because of this, it would be quite a big blow to Fane.

Phoenix Valley might actually lose an incredibly rare genius because of it.

Elder Eliot took a deep breath. "What do you think Elder Maurice will write in the merit logs?"

The merit logs were something Phoenix Valley had specifically to determine rewards and punishments. As long as one participated in a tournament, be it within Phoenix Valley or not, the person hosting the tournament or the one in charge of the team would write everything in the merit log after the tournament.

It would detail the happenings of the tournament as well as each person's contributions, and the higher-ups of Phoenix Valley would then use the information on the merit log to determine whether to reward or punish people.

Of course, those who performed exceptionally would be blessed accordingly; those who failed the valley would be punished.

Elder Eliot had a decent relationship with Elder Baggins and Elder Maurice, and he knew how Elder Maurice was. If Fane truly had failed the team, Elder Maurice would be very critical toward him, which would ultimately lead to Fane's punishment, affecting his growth.

Chapter 2728

Elder Eliot had thought that it would not take long for Fane to get tested for the inner valley.

If Fane passed the test, he would become an inner-valley alchemist. He would no doubt become an elder in the future, given his capabilities and talents. Alas, such ideals might not be certain after this hurdle.

Elder Maurice could not help but feel a sense of pity, sighing in the process.

He was silent for a long time before he said, "I still don't understand something. Since this tournament is so important, why didn't we use the alchemists of the inner valley?"

"Even though the outer valley's alchemists are no weaker than the alchemists outside, I'm just worried that anything unexpected could happen. I'd use inner valley alchemists if it were up to me..

"It might look like overkill, but it's better to be a hundred people, just to be certain. It's nothing to be embarrassed about, really."

Elder Baggins raised an eyebrow as he glanced at Elder Eliot. He sighed lightly as he responded in exasperation, "Do you think we don't want to use the inner valley alchemists? Do you think Sky Peak Pavilion is foolish?"

"What's the point of this tournament if we used alchemists of the inner valley? Sky Peak Pavilion might as well just pay us and be done with it.

"Of course, we want to use our inner valley alchemists. We even talked about it at Sky Peak Pavilion. However, they know about the structure within Phoenix Valley. The outer valley and inner valley are two different worlds.

"Because of this, the higher-ups of Sky Peak Pavilion were adamantly against it.

They said that there was nothing to discuss if we used inner valley alchemists. After much debate and discussion, we were forced to use outer valley alchemists."

Elder Baggins' words surprised Elder Eliot. He put his teacup down as he straightened his back, frowning.

"That makes sense, but why didn't I know about this before? What's the point of keeping this news such a tight secret? I thought we were just trying to show off, which is why I've complained about sending the outer valley alchemists to participate."

Elder Baggins let out a helpless laugh. "You're simplifying things too much. We can't use the inner valley lately, either, or our rivals will catch on. It might cause even more problems.

"I'm a little concerned with Claude and Benedict, but there's nothing much we can do about it.

"There are no other candidates we can choose. Most of the good sprouts have all been chosen by the inner valley, and everyone left is flawed."

Elder Eliot nodded. If he knew something like this would happen, he would have left a few good students behind. At the very least, they would have been able to deal with the tournament easily.

Elder Eliot sighed before he suddenly looked up at Elder Baggins.

"Why do I feel like you're not really confident in the two of them?"

Elder Baggins had not wanted to say it, but since the topic was brought up, he decided to be upfront about it.

"I'm quite worried, to be honest," he replied. "I keep feeling like the situation seems to be progressing very well because we haven't found the main issue. Sky Peak Pavilion aren't idiots, even if we don't think they're a threat.

"Sky Peak Pavilion already had their eyes on this for a long time. If they weren't confident, they wouldn't have agreed to the tournament. Don't forget that they'd be owing us a lot of things if they lost."

Chapter 2729

"Are you saying they don't know Phoenix Valley is the foundation of the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance? They obviously know that many excellent alchemists are a part of Phoenix Valley. The fact that they agreed to the tournament means that they're prepared!"

Hearing that, Elder Eliot's expression darkened, agreeing with Elder Baggins' point. Everything had happened far too quickly, and the negotiations went well without a hitch.

With the problems Phoenix Valley had been going through, they did not care about the details.

Thinking of this, he started to feel like everything before them was more than just a smooth-sailing event but a massive trap prepared by someone else instead, just waiting for them to fall into.

With that in mind, Elder Eliot became even more unsettled.

Elder Baggins took a deep breath as he turned to look at Elder Turner, who held the highest position among the seven elders. and was Phoenix Valley's decision-maker.

The elder was sipping tea as he listened to the elders around him, smiling as he spoke. Compared to the surrounding elders, his expression seemed more refined and solemn.

Looking at him closer, they noticed how furrowed his eyebrows were, as though he was thinking of something that plagued him. Seeing his expression, Elder Baggins' heart stopped. He felt like a storm was brewing.

Right at that moment, Elder Eliot shot up from his seat and rushed toward Rick.

Elder Baggins hurriedly stood up when he saw Elder Eliot, reaching out to stop him, but Elder Baggins was a step too late. Elder Eliot stormed right before Rick, who was talking to Elder Kesh about their students. with a pleased expression.

He was baffled to see Elder Eliot going to him, mainly because he could not understand why Elder Eliot seemed so furious.

Rick frowned. "Elder Eliot, did you need something?"

Elder Eliot suddenly sported a small smile as he composed himself, pointing to an area. "I have something I want to talk to you about alone, Elder Rick. Could you come with me to discuss things over there?"

Rick frowned.

He had always been a person with a keen eye. Even though Elder Eliot had composed himself quickly, Rick noticed his initial expression.

Even though he did not know why Elder

Eliot seemed this enraged, it would not be anything good, that was for sure. Also, he would come off pompous if he rejected Elder Eliot's request. Thus, even if he did not want to, he had to stand up from his seat.

Elder Baggins furrowed his eyebrows as he watched Elder Eliot walk to a corner of the hall with Rick, feeling unsettled.

Elder Baggins knew Elder Eliot very well. He was always a straightforward and loyal person.

Elder Eliot was liable to say something inappropriate that would instigate Rick.

Someone as vindictive as Rick would look for revenge in the future if Elder Eliot offended him.

Elder Baggins, growing concerned at the sight, decided to follow them, leaving the remaining four elders rather baffled. Nonetheless, they were intelligent folks and made no comments about this exchange.

Only Elder Kesh was somewhat invested in this situation, with sharp eyes fixed on Rick's form for a good while.

Chapter 2730

At that moment, Elder Rick, Elder Eliot, and Elder Baggins were at a corner of the hall.

None would be able to hear them, so long as they kept their voices down.

Rick's lips twisted to a small frown as he stared at Elder Eliot unpleasantly.

Elder Eliot had never been one to twist his words. Thus, rubbing his chin, he began, "Why are you using an important official matter for revenge? You recommended Fane. Don't you know how important this tournament is? We have to send our people into the Whirling World. If we lose out on a portion of the rights, do you know how much it'll impact Phoenix Valley? If we, Phoenix Valley, lose to Sky Peak Pavilion, it'll hurt our reputation a great deal! You're crossing the line here!"

Elder Eliot wanted to call Rick despicable and shameless, betraying his own clan, but he swallowed these harsh words. After all, he did not want to make a complete enemy out of Rick.

Alas, Elder Rick had been triggered.

Elder Baggins signed helplessly. He knew that Elder Eliot would make grating remarks, being the ever-so-honest person he always was.

Rick smiled coldly. "You're quite hasty, Elder Eliot. Why would you think I'm trying to use official matters for vengeance? Isn't Fane the best choice?"

"With the age restrictions and the fact that we can't use the inner valley's alchemists, we need to choose the best candidate from the outer valley. I felt like he was the most suitable person, so I recommended him. Taking revenge using official matters is just baseless speculation from you."

Elder Eliot saw red at this accusation. "You're still trying to twist things around! There's no one else here. Elder Baggins and

I clearly saw what happened between you and Fane. Who wouldn't know of your petty thoughts? If we lose this time, you won't be able to get out of it unscathed!"

Rick snorted coldly, saying nonchalantly, "Don't worry. We definitely won't lose this time. Furthermore, all this 'revenge against Fane' talk is all in your mind. I bear no hatred toward him, and despite the small conflict we've had, I never took it to heart."

Rick was not speaking a word of truth at all at that moment, and when Elder Eliot heard these words, he disliked Rick even more.

Before this, he knew not much about Elder Rick and felt he was just somewhat of a petty person. At this point, however, Elder Rick looked more than just bitter.

He was even despicable, shameless, and selfish to the max.

Elder Eliot heaved in anger. "Why are you so sure that we'll win this time? Even though Phoenix Valley has many prodigies, do you think it's something Sky Peak Pavilion doesn't know?"

"If they weren't already prepared beforehand, do you really think they would've agreed to the tournament? Don't use your own judgment on everything

Before he could finish, Rick raised his hand to stop him. "Don't speak of all this nonsense. I'm very sure of us winning because I know Claude and Benedict very well.

"Even though they're both not qualified for the inner valley, they're still the most talented in the outer valley. I refuse to believe that Sky Peak Pavilion can recruit prodigies better than these two, so stop worrying so much!"

Rick sounded all too sure of his words as though he had seen the tournament's results, but Elder Eliot and Elder Baggins did not take him seriously. In fact, they thought Elder Rick's words of conviction were a joke, that he was much too confident to the point of arrogance.

He assumed that prodigies would only be in Phoenix Valley, never accepted by other forces, and that attitude itself was already problematic.

Elder Eliot was so enraged that his entire body trembled.

If not for the fact that he could hold himself back, he would have rushed over and slapped Rick for a wake-up call.

Rick obviously did not understand why the two of them were so angry.

He let out a slight laugh as he said, "You called me here to talk about this?"

Chapter 2731

Elder Eliot snorted, ignoring Elder Rick's question.

However, this did not deter Elder Rick as he pursed his lips, looking like he suddenly thought about something. "That brat is the best candidate, but at the end of the day, he's just a sixth-grade alchemist, and he'll no doubt affect the team negatively. If he does, and even if our valley wins by then, he'd receive punishment. It's quite a pity, since Fane is quite talented."

His snide remarks sounded harsh to the ear. Elder Rick had just so firmly said that he did not have a grudge against Fane, yet he so openly said such things! No doubt was he a bitter person, through and through.

Elder Eliot felt a surge of rage in his heart. Just as he was about to shout and curse, however, he suddenly heard footsteps coming from the distance. All of the elders looked toward the source of the noise at the same time.

They saw Elder Maurice walking in with Mr. Zayne, both seemingly calm as they headed into the hall. Far behind them were Fane and the others. At that moment, their expressions were incredibly serious, but Elder Maurice walked in with a stern look.

At that, Elder Turner and the others started to feel worried. Before Elder Maurice even arrived at the middle of the hall, Elder Turner had rushed up to greet them.

Elder Rick, Elder Eliot, and Elder Baggins walked away from their little debate at the corner.

Elder Maurice saluted Elder Turner before passing him the golden scroll in his hand. Everyone who saw it knew that it was the merit log Elder Maurice had prepared.

Everything that happened in the tournament was recorded in the scroll, as well as the evaluations on the three participants.

Elder Rick shot Fane a venomous look the moment he arrived at the center of the hall. At the same time, Fane looked his way, too.

Elder Rick snorted as he looked at Fane confidently, his expression seemingly conveying that this was the day Fane's life would end.

Elder Eliot looked at Fane pitifully. Even if Fane was talented, the main forces of the tournament were still seventh-grade alchemists. No matter how good he was, Fane was still a sixth-grade alchemist.

Fane was fated to fail the valley, no matter how hard he tried.

"Let's not talk about anything else for now," said Elder Turner anxiously. "Did you win?"

Even though Elder Turner seemed calm, he was, in fact, just as anxious as Elder Eliot and Elder Baggins were. He knew very well that Sky Peak Pavilion was not a part to scoff at; they must have had a trump card.

He did not know if Elder Maurice and the others would be able to deal with it. If they lost the tournament, it would be a massive blow to Phoenix Valley. It was even possible that it would cause them to lose the battle against the Unbreaking Pavilion.

Elder Maurice sighed before he looked up and said, "We won!"

Those words felt like waves that splashed everyone, and the atmosphere inside the hall suddenly got livelier at Elder Maurice's words.

Elder Turner breathed out a sigh of relief as he happily patted Elder Maurice on his shoulder. "Very good! Very well done!"

Elder Rick smiled. It went exactly as he thought it would.

There was no way Phoenix Valley could lose in the tournament. No matter what sort of trump card Sky Peak Pavilion had, Phoenix Valley would never take it lying down!

With that in mind, he turned and looked at Elder Baggins and Elder Eliot in disdain as he whispered, "I told you you were worrying too much, but you didn't listen to me."

After that, Elder Rick turned to look at Fane once more, all too excited in wanting to see Fane receive a hefty sentence. He wanted to see Fane groveling on his knees, begging for mercy, yet would still face the repercussions of failing the team.

Even though he had used official matters for his revenge this time, so what? He accomplished his goals!

Chapter 2732

After all, the winner of the tournament was Phoenix Valley. Even though Elder Rick was the one who recommended Fane, Phoenix Valley suffered no losses.

Even if Elder Turner decided to pursue the matter, Elder Rick could push the responsibility aside by saying he just wanted to recommend the best candidate. Nothing could hinder him by then, but the same thing could not be said for Fane.

Fane had offended Elder Maurice, and with Fane soiling the group's results with his performance in the tournament, he would be punished. Elder Rick just needed to fan the flames by the side, and Fane would suffer consequences he surely could not handle. He could even imagine Fane being chased out of Phoenix Valley.

If Fane was chased out of Phoenix Valley, Rick would have him assassinated. No matter how much potential Fane has, he was nothing more than a vermin he disliked. He was, after all, a person that would rather kill his opponents than forgive them.

Fane would not live another day, and he would make sure of that.

Elder Rick grinned maliciously at the thoughts and ideas that came swirling in his mind.

Elder Turner carefully read through the merit log and started to frown. It seemed like something had greatly angered him, much to Elder Rick's glee.

It had to be about Fane's horrible performance. Elder Turner would not give Fane any leeway when assigning the punishments, no doubt!

Thinking about that, Elder Rick looked at Fane again.

However, he had his head down the whole time, not revealing his expression. It seemed like nothing around Fane had anything to do with him at all. He could not help but feel his head thump at Fane's calm expression.

At that moment, Elder Turner finally spoke, "Not bad! Still, it went much worse than I thought it would. Claude, do you have anything to say?"

Despite Elder Turner's words sounding polite, Claude's entire body shuddered.

Unlike Fane, he had been in Phoenix Valley for a long time, and thus knew of the power Elder Turner held.

He also knew that Elder Turner was not someone who forgave any wrongdoings. Anyone who got to his seat would definitely not be simple characters.

Claude's whole body shuddered as he hurriedly knelt on the floor. "Elder Turner, I've done my best. I just never expected them to have a trump card to ruin our results!"

Claude's words caused confusion among the elders around them.

Since they won the tournament, should it not be Claude and Benedict being praised? Without the two of them leading the progress, how could they have won?

Moreover, why was Elder Turner talking to Claude in such an accusing tone?

Met with everyone's bewilderment, Elder Turner said, "I don't care about how hard you tried. I want you to tell me why you decided to go against Fane during the tournament against Sky Peak Pavilion.

"You constantly caused trouble for Fane, and you even helped outsiders ridicule him!"

Claude felt like a bucket of cold water had been thrown on his head, and he could not help but tremble. The consequences would come eventually, but Claude never expected that Elder Turner would ask him something so direct in front of so many people.

If the question was purely about the results and him dragging the team down, Claude would have something to say, but Elder Turner had highlighted how he, Claude, had purposely made things difficult for Fane.

To this, Claude suddenly had no idea what to say.

Only Elder Maurice and the others knew what Elder Turner was talking about. The other elders had their eyes widened in confusion. It was completely different from what they expected.

Chapter 2733

What? Claude helped outsiders and joined them belittling Fane? He was just there to fill up the numbers! Should they not be talking about how Fane had soiled the valley's good name with his poor performance? Why was Elder Turner defending Fane against Claude?

The elders were baffled by the sudden turn of events.

Meanwhile, Elder Rick's eyes widened as he stared at Elder Turner. He wanted to say something at that moment, and he even wanted to snatch the merit log from Elder Turner to see what had actually happened during the tournament.

Nonetheless, he knew that he would be overstepping his boundaries if he did that. With Elder Turner's temper, things would not go well for him. With that, Elder Rick swallowed his words.

Claude shivered as cold sweat started to form on his head, his eyes reddening in the process. He wanted to explain himself at that moment, but he did not have the words to do so, believing it would not be appropriate. He was worried that he would just make matters worse.

With that, the hall fell into silence.

Elder Turner let out a sneer as he coldly remarked, as though he was making a final judgment of Claude. "Do you have nothing to say for yourself? Well, I wouldn't know what to say, either. After all, nothing you did was right."

Claude could hear the anger in Elder Turner's words and quickly prostrated himself. He quickly crawled toward Elder Turner, crying as he did.

"I was triggered, but only at that moment! You can't blame me for this... Fane was the start of it all, not watching his words carefully, and that was why I fell out with him!

"It wasn't what I wanted. I thought he'd 11

Elder Turner snapped, his lips fixed into a frown, "Shut up right now! These are all excuses. You're just trying to push responsibility away from yourself.

"Elder Maurice had tried to stop you, but you never ceased with your words, and now you don't want to accept the consequences. Do you think you can just do whatever you want?!"

The situation had exceeded the elders' expectations. Elder Rick had been able to listen in quietly, but Elder Turner's words that followed flabbergasted him entirely.

Why was Elder Turner defending Fane? Even though they did not know what happened, they were no fools. If Fane truly had besmirched Phoenix Valley's name with his individual result, Elder Turner would not have berated Claude in front of everyone no matter what Claude did.

Elder Turner's attitude was clearly not trying to brush things off, but instead to seek justice for Fane.

Elder Rick could no longer sit still and watch.

He pretended to clear his throat. "Even though I don't know what happened, I can't just listen on silently. Claude doesn't strike me as a person who'd act rashly. Didn't he say that before? Fane was the one who started everything, which is why Claude acted the way he did."

Elder Rick's words were not to help Claude, but to target Fane instead. Nonetheless, Claude felt like he found a savior with the way Elder Rick had spoken.

He raised his voice and said, "Elder Rick is right; I didn't intentionally say all of that! I just unwittingly revealed when Fane entered Phoenix Valley. I was just then and acted impulsively.

"If Fane had just been friendly with me from the start, nothing like that would've happened! After all, we're both on the same side, so how could I betray him?"

Chapter 2734

Elder Turner turned to glare at Rick, and this was the first time Elder Rick saw Elder Turner use such a merciless expression against him.

That look held a trace of warning as if Elder Rick would be punished on the spot if he continued to intervene.

Elder Turner's attitude shook Elder Rick of all his confidence.

Elder Turner shifted his gaze and raised his hand to call the deacons behind him.

"I don't want to listen to any more of your nonsense. You've already crossed the line with your antics. Bring him to the reflection. hall. As for the punishment, I'll talk about it with the elders first."

A few deacons immediately pinned Claude down on the floor. Claude struggled as he continued to cry out, but the deacons stuffed a piece of cloth in his mouth, silencing him from the 'explanation' he tried to conjure, save only his muffled cries.

In a few moments, Claude was dragged away. Everyone else merely watched, not knowing what to say. Still, the other elders wanted to ask what Claude had done.

Why was the one punished not Fane?

However, everyone could tell that Elder Turner was furious at that moment and thus kept their silence.

Benedict, who had been standing behind Claude, was scared, pale, and trembling entirely. Even though he did not reveal Fane's origins in front of everyone in Sky Peak Pavilion, he could not deny that he had also joined in ridiculing Fane.

After Claude was dealt with, he should be next.

Benedict felt like his breathing was starting to get erratic. He could faint at any moment.

Nonetheless, the one dealt with the worst mental blow was not Benedict.

It was Elder Rick.

At that moment, Fane, who had been silent the whole time, suddenly raised his head and looked at Rick. "Elder Rick, aren't you disappointed? Why isn't Elder Turner punishing me for dragging the team down but dragging Claude away instead, you may ask?"

Elder Rick frowned and denied this comment, saying, "What are you saying? Why would I be disappointed?"

Fane sported a small smirk as he answered, "You don't have to hide anything. Your grudge against me is quite public, so there's no need to act like it doesn't exist. I wasn't the one who wanted to participate in the tournament, but Elder Rick recommended me, insisting unceasingly."

The elder in question held his head high. "That's right-I was the one who recommended you. After all, the tournament has a lot of requirements. There's an age limit, as well as a restriction on outer valley alchemists. You fit all the requirements.

"Of course I recommended you. Even though you're a sixth-grade alchemist, I believed that you wouldn't drag the team down as long as you're willing to."

Fane laughed as he looked at Elder Rick as if he was looking at a dead man. "You recommended me in hopes that Elder Turner would be punished. Don't talk as if you're thinking for the sake of Phoenix Valley. Back then, I didn't know how important the tournament was at all.

"The moment I understood how important it is, I realized that benefits were so important for you. You don't care about Phoenix Valley at all!"

Fane raised his voice as he said that, revealing Elder Rick's inner thoughts.

The elder's face darkened as he immediately denied it.

"Don't think you can say whatever you want! Just because you're not punished, it doesn't mean you can insult me so brazenly!"

Chapter 2735

However, the moment Elder Rick spoke, Elder Turner interjected, rebuking, "Fane is right. You did all of that just to settle your grudges. After Elder Maurice investigated the matter, it's been proven that you did everything for that reason. Rick! How dare you!"

Elder Turner's tone sounded demanding, imposing; it was obvious just how angry he was. Elder Rick panicked at that moment, never expecting Elder Turner to point the gun at him so quickly.

The other elders were completely baffled by this, not knowing what was happening at all, especially with Elder Turner. Everything Elder Turner had done seemed to be for the sake of protecting Fane, much to their confusion.

Why did he want to protect a sixth-grade alchemist? Was there something to Fane that they did not know about?

Before anyone could voice their questions, Elder Turner said, "You know better than anyone what you've done. Don't even think about denying it.

"You never knew whether Fane had the ability of a seventh-grade alchemist at all. Even though you didn't know it, you still recommended Fane for the sake of humiliating him. As an Elder, don't you know how important the tournament is? For the sake of your revenge, you didn't care about anything else!"

Elder Rick trembled at Elder Turner's words. Judging by his behavior and words, Elder Turner was planning on punishing him!

At that moment, Elder Rick no longer cared about his dignity and immediately went down on his knees.

He raised his voice as he explained, "I didn't! I just felt like Fane was suitable. Didn't we win this time? Phoenix Valley wasn't affected by this, which means that nothing is wrong with the recommendation!"

Elder Turner sneered. "No, there wasn't. It's good that you recommended Fane; it's because of him that our valley has turned the tides in the tournament!"

After he said that, Elder Turner showed the merit log to all the other elders, letting the elders look at how the tournament went.

When everyone saw Sky Peak Pavilion's hidden trump card, they took a deep breath. After that, they saw Fane turning the tables during the first round, pulling up the results of the other two with the highest scores present, winning the stage.

Even though they lost the second stage, Fane was not the cause of it. Instead, Fane's results were incredible.

When the third stage came, nothing unexpected and unsavory happened, and Fane dominated the round.

After looking at everything, all the elders understood why Elder Turner had that attitude.

Heck, they would have done the same thing.

Fane's talent was already able to compare with the top geniuses of the inner valley. He was even an excellent fighter.

He was practically a demon!

Elder Rick's eyes widened as he looked at the log, shaking his head vehemently. "Impossible! This can't be! He's a sixthgrade alchemist, so why was he able to complete a thousand and two hundred pill runes?!"

"How could he remember and condense sixty ancient runes in such a short time? This doesn't make sense at all! He must've cheated he had to!"

Elder Rick had cracked due to the pressure.

He did not want to admit to Fane's talent and face further consequences as well.

Meanwhile, Elder Baggins and Elder Eliot looked on quietly.

Chapter 2736

The two of them were witnesses to the incident. With how arrogant Rick was acting earlier, the two of them were incredibly happy about Rick's current state!

Elder Eliot was incredibly angry the moment he thought about how Rick was acting earlier, so he sneered as he said, "Elder Rick, don't be so emotional. Didn't you say earlier that you'd be the one laughing till the end as long as we won this tournament? Why are you in such a panic now?"

Rick was not in the mood to exchange words with Elder Elliot at that moment. His only thought in mind was to push away the responsibility, but Elder Turner had never liked to dwell on things like this.

He coldly glanced at Rick, not even giving Rick the chance to speak before getting the deacons next to him to drag Rick away with a wave of his hand.

Everything had happened far too quickly, and some of them could not really process things. Elder Rick, who had always acted so proudly, was actually being dragged to the punishment hall. They could not help but feel like everything was happening too strangely.

Elder Turner turned to look at Fane before reaching out to pat Fane on the shoulder, "You did very well. Even though he was the one who made a mess of things, Phoenix Valley would be in a terrible situation if it weren't for you.

"Don't worry, you'll be well rewarded. You can head back now, I'll have someone send the reward to your courtyard."

Fane nodded. He never wanted to stay at the Elder Hall for too long anyway. He did not like being in crowds. With Elder Turner's words, he hurriedly turned around to leave.

When he passed Elder Maurice, he nodded at Elder Maurice. The elder whispered to him, "If anything happens, I'll have someone relay everything to you. Don't worry."

The courtyard looked the same as before. Loud stood right in front of the entrance. As a runner, he did not really have much to do.

He suddenly widened his eyes when he saw Fane. He smiled in greeting, and Fane nodded before asking, "Did anything happen the past few days? Where's Rudy?"

Even though Fane did not care about Rudy, Grayson's incident still happened. If Rudy disappeared as well, then it just means that the matter got more complicated.

Lou immediately replied, "Rudy is in the room. He just got a task from the task hall and finished it two hours ago. He's resting in the room after handing in the task and asked me not to disturb him.

Fane nodded. Since Rudy was safe, there was nothing to worry about. However, the door to Rudy's room opened the moment Fane entered the courtyard.

Fane turned to look and saw Rudy walking out with a look as if he had just woken up. He took two steps out before seeing that Fane was back, and his eyes widened. He shouted, "You're back!"

Fane nodded helplessly. He really wanted to take a good rest on his bed at that moment, instead of wasting time with Rudy. However, Rudy looked like he was incredibly excited to see Fane as he rushed toward Fane.

Rudy grabbed Fane's arm and said, "Come here, I have something to tell you."

The courtyard might not be that big, but it still had everything. There was a little gazebo in the middle that Fane and Rudy were both sitting in.

Lou prepared a pot of tea for them. Fane frowned and said, "Don't be so secretive, just tell me what you want."

Chapter 2737

Rudy pursed his lips, cursing that Fane was still the same as always. He said after a slight cough, "Let's forget about me for now. I want to talk about you first. You didn't tell me you were back. Who won the tournament? Did that Rick guy cause you trouble?"

Fane raised an eyebrow before quickly telling Rudy a summary of the story. When Rudy heard that Rick was already locked up in the punishment hall, he danced happily.

After they drank their tea, he finally composed himself. Fane sighed in exasperation as he said with a serious tone, "Don't be too excited. You said you had something to tell me. Tell me what it is before you celebrate."

Rudy knew that Fane did not like having things hanging, so he said, "Do you know about the Whirling World?"

Fane raised an eyebrow, looking at Rudy curiously. It was obviously the first time he had heard of such a thing. Rudy was quite pleased as he continued.

"I knew you wouldn't have heard of it. After all, you've been busy with the tournament the past few days. Right after you left, the Whirling World spread around the whole Phoenix Valley.

"It's said that news of the Whirling World has spread around the outside world as well. Everyone seems very excited about it. I think you'll definitely go there as well!"

Fane was a little stunned hearing everything. "The Whirling World? What sort of place is that? Why do you think I'll definitely go? Stop with the nonsense, hurry up and explain everything from the start!"

Rudy nodded, holding back the excitement in his heart as he told everything he knew to Fane. After Fane had left, news of the Whirling World started to spread in Phoenix Valley.

The so-called Whirling World was a world that existed outside of the Hestia Continent. It was not really a complete world and was said to be a part of the Valley of Enlightenment.

The Valley of Enlightenment was the reason for the war between Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion. The two forces both wanted the Valley of Enlightenment for themselves, which was why they were at war!

The Whirling World was a part of the Valley of Enlightenment, and it was already opened. Anyone who met the conditions could enter. Hearing that, Fane was even more confused.

Fane frowned and asked, "If the Whirling World is a part of the Valley of Enlightenment, then why can't the valley be entered yet if the Whirling World is already opened? Hasn't the valley remained closed because Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion haven't discussed things yet?"

Rudy nodded, earnestly explaining, "The Whirling World is a part of the Valley of Enlightenment, but there is a natural barrier between it and the valley. No one actually knows how the Whirling World was opened.

"However, even if it was opened, the valley is still closed. Entering the Whirling World isn't equal to entering the Valley of Enlightenment. Opening the Valley of Enlightenment still needs the keys from both sides."

Fane could not understand what was happening as he listened. Doubt started to form inside him, but he knew that Rudy would not be able to answer any of his questions if he pressed on. After all, Rudy's knowledge was limited.

Fane nodded and said, "Then why are you so sure what the conditions to enter the Whirling World are? Do you need some form of entrance plaque?"

Fane thought about when they entered the Hidden Place for Resources. They needed an entrance plaque to go through the wormhole.

Chapter 2738

Rudy shook his head and answered, "There's no need for any such thing. Anyone who meets the conditions can enter. The conditions are very simple. You can't be over sixty."

Hearing that, Fane straightened his body, "You can enter as long as you're not over sixty years old?"

Rudy nodded earnestly at that. He had already looked into it and was very versed in the requirements.

Fane took a deep breath as he said after some thought, "The Whirling World probably has a lot of valuable things inside. Otherwise, you wouldn't be telling me so much."

Rudy nodded earnestly as his smile deepened, "Someone's already entered. However, it's said that you can only return after two years. An illusion was transferred out, though. There are a lot of amazing things inside.

"There are various famous materials. From the scenes inside, the Whirling World must have already been closed for many, many years.

"Those materials are all incredibly old. There's also an ancient city within. There are a lot of places where the treasure can be found!"

Fane narrowed his eyes. No wonder Rudy was so excited. The Whirling World did seem like a great place. He took a deep breath, starting to feel excited as well at Rudy's words.

However, Fane had always been a calm person. The more exciting it was, the more he needed himself to be calm. He took a few deep breaths, tossing aside the excitement before he said, "Continue your introductions. Tell me all the important things."

Rudy nodded, "I think there's one most important point. Everyone's strength will be restricted when they enter. Those in the spring solidifying realm will be suppressed to the late stage of the innate realm. Everyone who isn't at the late stage of the innate realm will be raised to that level as well!"

Fane had calmly listened to everything before that, but those words actually caused Fane to suddenly straighten his body as he widened his eyes.

The restriction part really was too surprising. Everyone's strength would be restricted to the late stage of the innate realm. That meant that what would be used inside were the skills and techniques they had.

Rudy continued, "After the news, everyone started to get excited. Everyone younger than sixty years old has been racking their brains for a way in, even despite needing to stay there for two years.

"The resources inside are far too bountiful compared to the outside. Everyone wants to enter and fight for the resources. Moreover, no one has heard of any danger. There's nothing else alive in there. If we enter, the only danger would be other people!"

Fane took a deep breath. The Whirling World was far too surprising. It was basically a natural battlefield. There was nothing else inside but human fighters.

Everyone was being forced to the late stage of the innate level. It meant that everyone was basically fighting with their talent!

There were so many resources to attract large numbers of fighters as well.

Rudy said excitedly, "Should we go in? I actually really want to go, even if I know that I might be killed if I enter with my meager skills.

"I just really don't want to stay here anymore. After all, I'm an alchemist. All the fighters will have a use for me. They wouldn't move against me easily. I'll just refine pills when I enter, getting some spirit crystals where I can... It would still be better than staying here."

Fane frowned as he looked at Rudy curiously, "Did something else happen? Were you threatened by someone?"

Rudy shook his head, saying after a deep sigh, "I haven't been threatened. I just feel like Phoenix Valley was never a good place for me."

Chapter 2739

"Even now, we don't know why Grayson was taken away. Nor do we know if we'll end up like Grayson. Furthermore, my little levels of talent won't be properly cultivated in Phoenix Valley. It would be better if I go somewhere else. Once I get out of the Whirling World, I'll be completely free!"

Fane frowned, looking at Rudy earnestly, "Your thoughts are reasonable. Since you want to leave so much, why don't you just go back..."

Before Fane could finish, he was interrupted by Rudy. Rudy anxiously said, "I would have gone back early on if it were that easy. With your talents, you can firmly make a place for yourself in Phoenix Valley.

"Even if you did anything suspicious, people wouldn't do anything too bad to you thanks to your talents. I'm different, I'm expendable.

"The moment I mention wanting to leave Phoenix Valley, I'll definitely be captured. The Whirling World is just an excuse for me to leave Phoenix Valley. There's no way for them to know what I've encountered in Phoenix Valley anyway.

"No matter if I survive it or not, in two years, I'll immediately leave Phoenix Valley and head back to Golden Pills!"

Fane could understand Rudy's sense of helplessness. Since he already made his decision, Fane had nothing else to say. He took a light sip of his tea as he raised his head and contemplated his own troubles.

Rudy had been waiting for Fane to say something else, but Fane seemed to be earnestly tasting the tea, so he was a bit exasperated, "Fane, could you tell me if you're going or not?"

Fane frowned, thinking about it for a while before he shook his head earnestly, "I won't be going. I still have other things to do here. Two years is far too long. Even if the Whirling World's resources are so plentiful that they will attract most young people.

"However, the Whirling World isn't really a certain thing. I still have so many questions that are unclear. I just don't really plan on going in there right now."

Hearing that, Rudy suddenly panicked. He had thought that Fane would definitely follow him into the Whirling World after he explained everything about it.

He might be useless, but Fane was an incredibly rare genius in every way. Fane's skills would definitely be able to protect him. He might be able to get something from following Fane.

He would be able to guarantee his safety as well. That was already more than enough for Fane. After receiving blow after blow, Rudy was no longer the same as he was before. He just needed to live his life peacefully. He did not have any other thoughts in mind.

He never expected Fane to reject it. Looking at Fane's expression, Fane seemed certain that he would not be entering, which Rudy could not really accept, "You're not going in? There's everything inside. There are many things inside that geniuses would go crazy for. Many materials are waiting inside for you.

"There are also resources left behind from experts countless years ago. Don't you want to go inside and fight for them? Even if you're not going to do much, you'll be able to find a lot!" Fane raised an eyebrow as he looked at Rudy meaningfully. From his words, Fane saw through Rudy's plans.

He sighed helplessly, "I have my own considerations. I know that the Whirling World is a good place, but it's too uncertain for me. Just think about it. Everything that's happened recently is still a mess.

"No one knows what will happen after we go in. Many people might die inside. I don't want to be a lab rat. That's why I don't plan on going inside."

Rudy's face stiffened, suddenly not knowing what to say. Fane's words were actually reasonable. There were still many things that were unclear.

The Whirling World was a part of the Valley of Enlightenment. Phoenix Valley and the Unbreaking Pavilion were fighting tooth and nail for the Valley of Enlightenment.

On top of that, Phoenix Valley's plans caused much doubt and alarm. The Whirling World, which was related to the Valley of Enlightenment, might not be as good as it sounded!

Chapter 2740

The Whirling World was an irreplaceable choice for Rudy. After knowing the world's rules, Rudy was even more determined to enter the Whirling World.

As for those problems that were there, he had been too excited to think about them. Fane's words were like a bucket of cold water on his head. His whole body stiffened.

He wanted to retort, but he did not know what to say, because all of his replies were too far-fetched. Fane's words had been straight to the point, and all of them were problems that could not be ignored. Rudy suddenly started to hesitate.

Fane looked at Rudy and shook his head slightly. He could understand Rudy's helplessness, but could not enter the Whirling World with Rudy just because of those doubts.

That place was incredibly dangerous to Fane. After a moment, Rudy said in a low voice, "I understand everything you're saying, but I really don't want to continue staying in Phoenix Valley. I feel like Phoenix Valley is a beast that will swallow me whole at any moment.

"I'm full of fear every day as long as I am in Phoenix Valley. My goal was to come here and to be cultivated well, yet I only noticed after coming here that there are far too many geniuses in Phoenix Valley.

To be raised better and get more resources means I will have to work my hardest. Yet, an alchemist like me doesn't have any hope to get anything good anyway!"

After saying that, Rudy smiled bitterly as he looked out the gazebo and said in a shaky tone, "You're right! Yet, Phoenix Valley isn't really a great place..."

He lacked confidence in his words. He knew he was forcing things, but he really wanted to enter the Whirling World. Yet, he was afraid that he would not be able to stay there alone for that long. So, he really wanted Fane to go in with him.

After a period of time interacting with Fane, he knew that Fane did not really have a good temper, but Fane was not someone despicable or shameless. As long as he obediently followed behind Fane, he would be protected.

Fane let out a light smile, not saying anything. Fane looked out of the gazebo. When Rudy saw that he was not getting a response, he coughed awkwardly.

"If you're not entering the Whirling World, what do you plan on doing?"

Fane raised an eyebrow as he said in a firm tone, "I already thought about it during the tournament. I'm waiting for the inner valley test. I want to see what type of place it is."

Rudy felt a chill in his heart at those words.

To Fane, the inner valley was better than the Whirling World. After all, the inner valley was still part of Phoenix Valley.

As long as Fane did not do anything too bad, the higher-ups would definitely take good care of Fane and raise him well. After all, the inner valley is the true core of Phoenix Valley.

Fane turned to glance at Rudy, having not planned on revealing the matter. In the end, Rudy was the person who was the friendliest to him in Phoenix Valley. After thinking about it, he still revealed his innermost thoughts.

"There are many reasons I don't want to enter the Whirling World. After all, the safety of the place isn't guaranteed for us. Even if many scouts have gone in, there's a two-year restriction for going into the Whirling World.

"No one knows if any massive changes will happen within the two years, or if there will be any hidden plots. I feel like the Unbreaking Pavilion and Phoenix Valley have a massive secret hidden.