

Read A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 961

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You Shall All Die Here

Jared slashed his sword down mercilessly, and the terrifying aura from the blade enveloped Enoch. At the moment, Enoch was so injured to the point where he could no longer endure Jared's horrifying blow.

Swoosh!

A golden light flashed, and Enoch only felt his body becoming lighter. He turned his gaze toward his arms and realized that both of them had been cleanly cut off.

In the next second, blood began to spurt, followed by a wave of excruciating pain.

"Argh!"

Enoch shrieked, startling the other guardians.

When they saw Enoch was injured, the other guardians became furious and charged toward the clones of Jared that they were facing.

Although they were just shadow clones created by Jared, these clones weren't used to confuse opponents as Ichiro's did. Instead, Jared's shadow clones had the power to fight. Although their strength was not comparable to the main body, they were still on par with Senior Grandmasters.

The guardians dodged the shadow clone's slashes and delivered a ruthless punch to the clones.

The four shadow clones were smashed and disappeared into thin air. Still remaining unscathed, Jared stood in front of Enoch, coldly gazing upon the shrieking man.

"Enoch!"

The other four guardians rushed over to help stop the bleeding.

“Retreat now! This kid’s strength is far more deadly than we imagined. We have to report this to Mr. Deragon!”

Enoch urged the others to retreat. He decided to stay to hold back Jared.

“We’re not leaving you behind, Enoch!”

The other guardians picked Enoch up and quickly rose to the sky. They no longer wanted to fight Jared.

“Didn’t I already say that all of you are going to die here today?”

Jared raised the Dragonslayer Sword. “Nine Shadows, River Cutter!”

The terrifying sword energy expanded past the guardians. After a flash of golden light, the sword sliced through the fifth guardian.

The sword energy cut Quito in half, raining his blood and organs down the sky.

“Quito!” the remaining guardians shouted in anguish.

“Take Enoch and leave! I’ll stop him!”

Altan quickly turned around and sent a punch at Jared.

Jared did not avoid Altan’s punch. Instead, the golden glow from his body began to form shimmering scales, similar to the ones that grew out of his skin when he started his solitary training.

Soon, Jared’s body was covered with scales, effectively giving him a layer of armor.

Boom!

Altan landed his punch on Jared’s body, but the overwhelming recoil sent him flying backward. On the other hand, Jared didn’t even move an inch from his position.

“Insolent fool!” Jared snorted coldly.

Then, he leaped high into the air and stomped on Altan’s chest, sending him back to the ground.

Altan crashed heavily to the ground, and the sounds of his bones cracking rang out. Blood and fragments of his organs spewed from his mouth.

He glared at Jared as if he had something to say. However, he couldn't utter a single word no matter how hard he tried. In the end, he tilted his head and stopped breathing.

"Altan!" Garadin roared and turned around. While Jared was still stepping on Altan, he took the opportunity to smash his fist onto Jared's back.

Boom!

Garadin's fist made contact with Jared's body, but Jared did not even budge. Instead, the recoil caused Garadin to stagger backward.

Jared slowly turned around and looked at Garadin. His frigid eyes scared Garadin witless, and he quickly retreated.

Now that Jared's ascension to a higher stage had improved both his physical body's endurance and his Golem Body, breaking his flesh was no longer a simple feat.

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Self Destruct

"Jared, we're members of the Deragons. I'm sure that you're aware if you kill us all, the Deragons will not let you off!"

Garadin was terrified by Jared's menacing gaze.

"The Deragons? Hah!" Jared sneered, "I'm not just going to kill you. I will also wipe out the Deragons!"

With that, he brandished his sword and slashed at Garadin until he became a mess of gore, blood, and viscera.

Enoch witnessed the entire scene. Although he was anguished, his fear caused him to lose his courage. He desperately tried to flee with the help of Catur.

Suddenly, Jared's body vanished in a flash and appeared in front of Enoch and Catur, blocking their escape route.

"Jared, we're not here to kill you. Mr. Deragon asked us to take you to the Deragon residence alive. So please don't misunderstand!"

Looking at Jared who was covered in Garadin's blood, Enoch hurriedly explained.

"I know you didn't come to kill me," Jared said indifferently. "But I'm still going to kill you. See those corpses? They were all my men!"

"Jared, you—"

Enoch was about to say something when Jared beheaded Catur with his Dragonslayer Sword. The fourth guardian's head flew into the air, spraying blood all over Enoch.

Everything happened in a flash.

Enoch couldn't believe his eyes. He couldn't imagine the amount of strength Jared had achieved.

What he had achieved might not be the strength of a Martial Arts Grandmaster but a Martial Arts Marquis that could level mountains and split oceans. That being said, isn't Jared still a bit too young to be that powerful?

"It's your turn now!"

Jared pointed the tip of the Dragonslayer Sword at Enoch.

"Jared, you've gone too far!"

Enoch had lost both his arms. With no hope of survival in sight, he took a deep breath and began to expand his body like a ball.

His last ditch of retaliation was to self-destruct.

He would die soon anyway. Hence, he wanted to take Jared down with him.

Enoch's body got bigger and bigger. His eyes popped out, and his face turned red.

"Jared, run!" Rayleigh shouted with a face full of panic.

The self-destruct of a Martial Arts Grandmaster would be as powerful as a bomb.

But Jared wasn't worried at all. He dematerialized the Dragonslayer Sword in his hand and slowly lit a cigarette.

Jared, who never liked smoking, was hoping to calm himself down with a cigarette.

After all, the bodies that lay strewn across the ground were men who died for him. Those men would never return to life even if he killed the five guardians.

When he realized that Jared was calm and wasn't running away, Enoch expanded his body even further.

With the cigarette hanging in his mouth, Jared began to emit golden light from his body. His scales quickly grew out of his body, covering him entirely.

"Go to hell, Jared!"

Enoch had reached his limit.

Boom!

The entire Dragon Bay and even the entire Horington felt the explosion.

A mushroom cloud rose into the sky and could be seen clearly from afar.

Many people looked up at the sky and were confused.

"Jared!" Rayleigh shouted and immediately rushed over.

"Mr. Chance!"

Tommy and Phoenix hurried over as well.

When the smoke dissipated, they found Jared standing still with not a scratch on his body. The cigarette in his mouth was still burning.

Then, the golden glow that enveloped Jared faded, and he let the cigarette drop from his lips. Slowly turning to Rayleigh, he said, "I'm fine, Mr. Deragon."

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Make Bricks Without Straw

Rayleigh engulfed Jared in a hug excitedly. "You've done well, Jared! As long as you keep cultivating like this, Ms. Beatrice will get to see the light soon."

"Mr. Deragon, we can't stay here any longer. We'll have to move to another location."

Since the Deragons managed to find the place, Jared knew it was impossible for Rayleigh to continue secluding himself in Horington for retirement. They needed to move to another location as soon as possible.

"Where are we going?" Rayleigh asked.

"To the Medicine God Sect."

At the moment, Jared reckoned that the safest place would be the Medicine God Sect.

After leaving Tommy and Phoenix to take over Horington-related affairs, Jared brought Rayleigh, Josephine, and the rest to the Medicine God Sect.

As Josephine, Lizbeth, and Lyanna were injured, they could recover at the Medicine God Sect with peace of mind.

When Jared and his group arrived at the Medicine God Sect, Axton immediately arranged for treatment for Josephine and the rest.

Meanwhile, Rayleigh retrieved the invitation to the Trial and handed it over to Jared.

"Jared, the Trial this time will be more dangerous than the previous ones. So watch your back."

Rayleigh looked at Jared with concern.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Deragon. I’m stronger now. None of the younger generations can beat me. Besides, I have my official identity. They won’t dare to make a move against me so brazenly.” Jared reached for the invitation as he assured confidently.

Letting out a sigh, Rayleigh replied, “You’re still wet behind the ears. The martial arts world is more complicated than you think. In any case, just be careful.”

He then gave Jared’s shoulder a few pats.

“Got it. Please help me keep an eye on Josephine and the rest.”

With that, Jared left the Medicine God Sect and rushed toward Jadeborough.

There was another day left before the Trial, so Jared had to pick up his pace in order to reach there in time.

Meanwhile, at the Deragon residence.

It was a day before the Trial, and every Sect and family in Jadeborough were making their final preparations. The Trial venue this time was at the thousands of years old Emperor’s Mausoleum. No one knew the danger or the magical items within.

However, it was common knowledge that numerous traps would be embedded within the Emperor’s Mausoleum. Everyone knew the higher the risk, the larger the profit.

“Edgar, your abilities have improved considerably since the last time I saw you.”

Ryker looked at Edgar with pride.

“It was all thanks to my mentor’s teachings, Dad. He had planned to have me focused on cultivation so that I could reach the Top Level Martial Arts Grandmaster after the new year celebration. But my return might have caused some delay to that plan,” Edgar explained.

“My silly son, the Trial this time will be held at the Emperor’s Mausoleum that’s thousands of years old. There’ll be an abundance of magical items and

resources within. Once our family has obtained all these, I'll use all these resources to elevate your level to Top Level Martial Arts Grandmaster as quickly as possible. Who knows, you might even reach the level of Martial Arts Marquis. Imagine, a Martial Arts Marquis at your age, you'll be the first in history," Ryker promised Edgar.

"Don't worry, Dad. As long as I participate in the Trial, all the magical items and resources will fall into the Deragons' hands," Edgar replied with confidence and arrogance.

He did have the right to be arrogant. After all, he was already a Seventh Level Martial Arts Grandmaster at a young age. Not many cultivators could reach his level despite decades of cultivation. Moreover, his capabilities were on par with some of the heads of Sects or families.

"Since you said so, I'll leave everything in your capable hands then." Ryker laughed.

Godrick, who stood at the side, lowered his head slightly. His current abilities were still far beneath Edgar's. Even though he had the talent, he lacked the necessary resources. It was like making bricks without straw.

Besides, Edgar was given the resources of the entire Deragon family. That was the reason why he could break through each level so swiftly.

"Godrick, are we still unable to reach Enoch and the other guardians?" Ryker turned to Godrick and asked.

"Not yet, Mr. Deragon," Godrick answered softly.

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Talents Hidden In Plain Sight

"D*mmmit! Why do these pieces of sh*ts need so long to capture Jared? I bet they're chilling in bars and hitting on girls. Once they get back, I'll have to discipline them," Ryker cussed with his brows knitted.

He had no doubts that five Martial Arts Grandmasters could definitely catch Jared. In fact, sending the five guardians was his way of taking precautions and definitely overkill.

At the Department of Justice in Jadeborough, Jared and Theodore could be seen sitting in the courtyard.

“Mr. Chance, have you achieved a breakthrough?”

Theodore turned to Jared with puzzlement.

“Why? Did you sense it? But I’m already hiding my aura, though,” Jared asked with surprise.

I’m already hiding my aura. If even Theodore could sense it, my concealment must be terrible.

“Well, no. I didn’t sense your aura. I merely felt it from your presence, not your aura. Your body is now exuding a stronger presence than before,” Theodore explained.

Resignation filled Jared at his explanation. I have no control over my presence. My body will only become tougher as I reach higher levels. There is no way for me to hide the presence exuded from higher levels and improvement of the body.

“I broke through two days ago,” Jared answered with a faint smile.

“Congratulations then, Mr. Chance. Now that you’ve reached the Martial Arts Grandmaster level, you’ll have nothing to fear even if your opponent’s a Fifth Level Martial Arts Grandmaster.”

Theodore was happy about Jared’s breakthrough.

Little did he know that Jared had actually broken through several levels instead of just one.

Having reached the Martial Arts Grandmaster level, Jared reckoned he could defeat a Fifth Level Martial Arts Grandmaster with one strike and could even win the battle against a Seventh Level Martial Arts Grandmaster. However, he wasn’t confident in winning if his opponent was a Top Level Martial Arts

Grandmaster. After all, even the slightest increase in level would leave a large gap in terms of abilities.

“Jadeborough is a place with many talents hidden in plain sight. My abilities are nothing in comparison,” Jared replied resignedly.

After all, Jared had a late start. He was already considered a genius for achieving his current level in a few short years. Regardless, he owed it to the Focus Technique he used.

Thinking about the Focus Technique, a man popped up in Jared’s mind. Even though he couldn’t see the man’s face clearly, the man would always show up in his mind at random times.

Jared knew the man was the father whom he had never met before. He often wondered about his father’s identity.

What kind of abilities does he have to possess an incredible technique like the Focus Technique and establish an organization like the Dragon Sect?

“Mr. Chance? Mr. Chance?”

Noticing Jared was spacing out, Theodore tried to pull his attention back.

With a slight shudder, Jared snapped out of his train of thoughts. “Yes, General Jackson? What’s wrong?”

Not catching anything unusual in Jared’s expression, Theodore said, “Mr. Chance, Mr. Sanders sent word two days ago that the Watanabe family from Jetroina had already sent out an elite to infiltrate our country with the intention to assassinate you. But Mr. Sanders wanted to assure you that he would make them disappear if they dared to step foot in this country.”

“Okay, got it.” Jared nodded.

Jared didn’t doubt Mr. Sanders’ words because he had seen that organization’s and Captain Xenos’ capabilities, and they weren’t any weaker than Jared himself. The fact that Captain Xenos was merely a lowly subordinate showed Mr. Sanders and the higher-ups within the organization had terrifying abilities.

“That being said, Mr. Sanders did advise you to refrain from exiting the country. Otherwise, he has no guarantee on your personal safety,” Theodore added.

Jared nodded with understanding. Every second of his time was precious. He would’ve focused all his time on cultivation if he could, so naturally, he wouldn’t have left the country.

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Official Start

Meanwhile, Zion, Warren, and the rest of the higher-ups within the Warriors Alliance had gathered. The next day would be the start of the Trial. They needed to consider every minor detail as the organizers of the martial arts association. If there were any mistakes, they would be held responsible.

“President Zeigler, the Trial venue this time is at the thousands of years old underground Emperor’s Mausoleum. There might be a mother lode of magical items in there. Should the Warriors Alliance send a few men in there to secretly sneak some out?” Warren asked Zion cautiously.

Zion shook his head. “Mr. Sanders will be monitoring the venue personally, so we might get caught if we sneak some men in.”

“Then, are we just going to watch the magical items get taken away by other Sects and families?”

Warren was unhappy and thought that it was such a waste.

“Don’t worry. I’ve already discussed it with Ryker. You’ll be the one to lead the group for this Trial, but you’ll need to give extra care to the Deragons. When the time comes, they will split their haul of magical items and resources with us fifty-fifty.”

Zion already had a plan in mind.

“I understand.” Warren nodded his head.

The next day, the Trial officially began.

Jared and Theodore rushed over to the Trial venue. When they arrived, there was already a sea of people there. Many of the Sects and families had already arrived.

As for the tiny mound Jared discovered, it had already been flattened and surrounded by towering fences, leaving only an entrance. Two Seventh Level Martial Arts Grandmasters were standing there, guarding the entrance to prevent anyone from sneaking in.

“Please show your invitation. You won’t be allowed entry without an invitation.”

When Jared and Theodore reached the entrance, the two guards stretched their arms out to block the opening.

Jared flashed his invitation and went through the opening with Theodore.

He spotted a deep chasm immediately upon entering. Within the chasm, a massive stone gate was blocking further entry. A push of the stone gate and they would enter the interior of the Emperor’s Mausoleum.

Looking at the size of the Emperor’s Mausoleum, Jared was certain there would be uncountable magical items and traps within it.

“Jared!”

Jared’s observation of the Emperor’s Mausoleum was cut short when he heard someone calling him.

Looking in the direction of the caller, he spotted Colin and two other Martial Arts Grandmasters trailing behind him.

“Colin? What are you doing here?” Jared asked with confusion.

Colin would become a laughingstock if he participated in the Trial with his current ability.

“I’m here to participate in the Trial, of course!” Colin exclaimed excitedly.

Jared was rendered speechless at his answer. He didn’t expect Colin to be a participant as well.

“Aren’t you digging your own grave by participating in the Trial with your ability? Don’t you know how dangerous it is inside the sealed Emperor’s Mausoleum that’s thousands of years old?”

Jared didn’t understand why Leviathan would allow Colin to participate in the Trial.

“I’m not scared. My dad told me you would be participating in the Trial too, and asked me to follow you. Besides, I brought two elites with me.”

Colin pointed at the two men behind him with his thumb.

“Mr. Chance,” the two men greeted Jared respectfully at the cue.

Jared greeted them with a slight nod. Two Third Level Martial Arts Grandmasters. They aren’t weak, but they aren’t strong either, compared to the fighters the other Sects and families had sent.

“Follow me, and don’t stray from my side. There are many unknown dangers within the Emperor’s Mausoleum. Even I’m not sure if I can handle them,” Jared told Colin.

“Don’t worry, Jared. I’ll listen to your every word. My dad has told us to protect you with our lives should you get into any trouble,” Colin said with a wide smile.

Jared gave a few pats on Colin’s shoulders and said, “We’ll be fine if we’re careful.”

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A Thief

Just as Jared finished, someone caused a commotion in the crowd.

A youth in a white martial-arts outfit and spotting a crew cut strode in with his black leather shoes.

He was being accompanied by Godrick and two Fifth Level Martial Arts Grandmasters.

“I’m surprised to see that Edgar Deragon has come. I thought that he was going to give the Trial a miss this year.”

“Why wouldn’t he? Since it’s being held at the Emperor’s Mausoleum, this place contains the most treasures of all the other Trial locations.”

“Given how young Edgar is, it’s amazing that he is already a Seventh Level Martial Arts Grandmaster.”

In the midst of their gossip, the crowd gradually took turns greeting Edgar.

“Jared, this man, Edgar, is the eldest son of the Deragons. He has always been cultivating with other masters overseas and would only return to participate in the annual Trial. I didn’t expect him to have made such significant improvement, as he was only a Third Level Martial Arts Grandmaster last year. And now, he has leapfrogged to the Seventh Level.”

Colin looked at Edgar with eyes filled with envy. “Wouldn’t it be great if I could improve my cultivation as fast as he could?”

Jared ignored Colin as his eyes remain fixated on Edgar. Suddenly, an audacious thought flashed across his mind.

Given his current strength, it was impossible for him to rescue his mother from the Deragon residence. Furthermore, he didn’t know how long it would take for him to accumulate the required power.

Therefore, the idea that popped into Jared’s mind was to take Edgar hostage, so that he could exchange the latter for his mother.

At that moment, Edgar sensed something and turned to look in Jared’s direction. The moment their eyes met, a strange sensation crept into the former.

He didn’t know who Jared was and naturally wasn’t aware of the latest developments.

“Mr. Edgar, that man is Jared Chance. He was the one who killed Ichiro Watanabe previously,” Godrick explained to Edgar.

“Oh, I know about him. Isn’t he the one who discovered the Emperor’s Mausoleum as well?” Edgar remarked in surprise.

“It was probably Blake Henckle who first found it, but was broken into by Jared. Subsequently, he told Mr. Sanders about it.”

Godrick refused to believe that Jared was capable enough to discover such a huge mausoleum.

Therefore, he felt it was more likely that Blake had found the ancient tomb, as the Henckle family were graverobbers for generations.

“If that’s the case, he’s nothing but a thief.”

After letting out a snort, Edgar averted his gaze with a contemptuous look on his face.

Just as Edgar left, Jared noticed two familiar figures. One was Kenneth of the Thunderstorm Sect and the other was Kristoff of the Shalvis family. Both of them were followed by two Martial Arts Grandmasters.

The moment he saw Jared, Kristoff’s expression darkened, as he couldn’t rest until he sought revenge. “Jared, you’d better watch yourself during the Trial. Don’t let me have the chance to—”

“Kristoff, you should keep your mouth shut. Are you threatening Jared? If you are, I’m going rip your mouth off.”

Colin confronted Kristoff when he saw the latter’s hostile behavior.

Briefly stunned, Kristoff sneered, “Colin, since when did you become his lapdog? There was a time when you used to grovel at my feet, but now, you’re barking at me instead?”

“You b*stard!”

Colin was so incensed at Kristoff calling him a lapdog that he threw a punch at the latter.

However, before Colin’s punch could land, Kristoff unleashed a powerful aura with a wave of his hand that forced Colin to stagger a few steps back.

In the end, it was Jared who reached out to grab Colin. Otherwise, he would have embarrassed himself by landing on his bum.

Evidently, Colin's was out of Kristoff's league in terms of power.

"Colin, of all the people the Shadow Estate could ingratiate themselves with, you had to choose Jared. Aren't you worried that you'll become the butt of everyone's jokes?"

Kenneth looked at Colin mockingly.

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The Rules

"Kristoff, Kenneth, mark my words, I'll definitely have my revenge after both of you took advantage of my family's crisis to hurt my dad and killed so many members of the Shadow Estate," Colin declared as he shot both men a vicious glare.

"Hahaha, Colin, are you able to back up such big words? Look at how weak you are. There's no way you're capable of seeking revenge even if you train your entire life."

Kenneth's face was filled with disdain. "Your dad was lucky to have survived. Nevertheless, given the Shadow Estate's current condition, his survival won't change the fact that you're no longer able to compete with our families."

Kenneth's arrogance infuriated Colin further, causing him to seethe. As for the two Martial Arts Grandmasters behind him, they clenched their fists tightly while releasing their aura.

Slap!

Unexpectedly, Kenneth saw a sudden blur in front of him before he was slapped on the face so forcefully that half of it became swollen.

“W-Who the f*ck hit me?” Kenneth roared while holding his face and stumbling backward.

“I will exact revenge on behalf of the Shadow Estate. If you dare say another word, I will have your life.”

With a grim expression, Jared shot Kenneth a piercing gaze as he spoke with a murderous tone.

At the end of the day, the Shadow Estate was one of the Dragon Sect’s regiments. Now that they had been attacked, Jared had to do something about it.

“Jared, how dare you f*cking hit me? Don’t think just because you have a patron you can do as you please. I’m going to crush you today!”

Kenneth fumed instantly as the two Martial Arts Grandmasters behind him charged forward and enveloped Jared with their aura.

“How insolent of you, Kenneth! Don’t forget that Jared is a member of the Department of Justice. How can you not show us any respect?” Theodore barked when he saw Kenneth’s impudent behavior.

“Theodore, the Department of Justice is responsible for maintaining the security of Jadeborough. So you should just stick to arresting thieves. If you don’t get out of my way, I will cripple all of you together.”

Kenneth didn’t see Theodore as a meaningful threat, as prominent families like theirs didn’t fear the Department of Justice at all.

“You!”

Despite his face turning pale in anger, Theodore was cognizant that he was no match for Kenneth, let alone the Martial Arts Grandmasters beside him.

At that moment, tension filled the air. Even though a crowd of onlookers had gathered, no one seemed to have any intention of stopping the altercation.

To them, the drama was no more than entertainment. In fact, if a fight really broke out, they would have one less competitor to contend with.

“Don’t you know the rules of the Trial? How dare you start a fight here?”

An imposing aura descended upon the scene, followed by Warren’s appearance.

Cowed by the sight of Warren, Kenneth broke into a sycophantic smile. “Mr. Gordon, look at my face. It was Jared who struck me first.”

Kenneth turned his face around to show Warren.

Instead of taking a look, Warren reprimanded sternly, “I don’t care about the beef you have with each other. Let me remind you that the Trial is organized by the Warriors Alliance. If you dare cause any trouble, you will be picking a fight with us. Since I am in charge of the Trial this time, you had better be on your best behavior.”

“Of course, of course.” Kenneth nodded repeatedly.

Warren turned his attention to Jared. “You should watch yourself too. Don’t assume that Mr. Sanders will protect you for the rest of your life.”

When he was done, Warren walked forward with his hands behind his back, while Edgar came up to him and greeted, “Mr. Gordon.”

“Mr. Deragon, I can see that your strength has grown significantly.”

Warren cracked a vibrant smile at the sight of Edgar.

“I’m nothing compared to you still,” Edgar responded humbly.

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Fake Humility

“Hahaha, Mr. Deragon, you’re being too modest!” After bursting into laughter, Warren walked to a side with Edgar before engaging in an inaudible conversation.

“Jared, just you wait. Once we enter the ancient tomb, your fate will no longer be in your hands.”

After shooting Jared a glare, Kenneth walked off with Kristoff.

Even though the two men actually hated each other's guts, they were still willing to set aside their enmity for the sake of mutual interests.

“Sheesh, those b*stards. I'll show them what I'm capable of sooner or later!” Colin cursed.

“Going forward, you should train hard and stop being a playboy. Only by possessing true strength can you defend yourself against others,” Jared advised him.

Coline blushed at Jared's admonishment. All this while, he assumed that his family was so powerful that he could live without worry even though he didn't know anything.

Consequently, he experienced a paradigm shift after the attack at Shadow Estate that resulted in significant casualties.

“Howard Dunn is here!” someone shouted all of a sudden.

The next moment, a young man dressed in an expensive suit and sunglasses entered the area.

Behind him were two Seventh Level Martial Arts Grandmasters who made for an impressive entrance.

At the sight of Howard, Edgar, who was chatting with Warren a while ago, hurried over with a faint smile on his face. “Mr. Dunn, it's been a long time since we last met.”

Removing his sunglasses suavely, Howard raised his gaze at Edgar. “It's been a while indeed, Mr. Deragon. I see that you have grown a lot more powerful than before.”

“Certainly not as much as you!” Edgar smiled.

“Enough, I'm annoyed by this false humility of yours. Are you just trying to insult me when you're clearly the superior one?” Howard retorted with his expression suddenly turning grim.

The sudden change in Howard's mood caught Edgar off guard, causing the latter to furrow his brows.

At the sight of Edgar's expression, Howard burst into abrupt laughter before walking past the former.

"Mr. Dunn."

Even though many in the crowd greeted him, Howard ignored them all.

At that moment, Kenneth and Kristoff hurried up to him and greeted him respectfully, "Mr. Dunn, we didn't expect you to be participating in the Trial this year."

After throwing them a glimpse from the corner of his eye, Howard disregarded them just the same as he walked straight up to Jared.

At the sight of Howard approaching, Jared was filled with curiosity.

Since he didn't know Howard, he had no clue what the man wanted.

"Are you Jared Chance?" Howard asked as he scrutinized Jared.

After giving him a look, Jared nodded without a word.

All of a sudden, Howard raised his hand and slapped it in Jared's direction.

Shocked by what happened, Colin wanted to stretch out his hand to intercept the attack even though he knew he was no match for Howard. Nevertheless, he couldn't stand idly by and watch as someone attacked Jared.

However, just when he was about to spring into action, Jared grabbed his arm to stop him.

The instant Howard's hand landed on Jared's shoulder, it turned out to be a gentle pat instead of an attack.

"Hahaha, as expected of someone who killed Ichiro, you're truly strong and unlike many others who fear the power of his family. If I wasn't being held back by those above me, I would have killed that b*stard myself!"

As he gave the generous compliment, Howard's eyes swept across the crowd.

Even though his words insulted many in one fell swoop, none of the others from prominent families dared to refute him. The scene was a testament to how powerful the Dunn family was.

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A Leak

“Mr. Dunn, if I remember correctly, the list of participants for the Trial doesn’t contain any names from the Dunn family, does it?” Warren asked Howard as he approached.

Howard took out an invitation card from his jacket and handed it to Warren. “My dad has spoken to President Zeigler to allow me to join you. Nonetheless, the Dunn family will not be taking anything from the site. My goal is just to have some fun out of curiosity. As for the treasures inside, I have no interest in them at all.”

After reading the invitation, Warren didn’t comment any further.

Subsequently, Howard led his men to a side and waited for the Trial to begin.

“Who is that guy?”

Jared was curious. Although Howard was similar in strength to Edgar, he had never seen the former before. Not only did he not see him at the victory celebration, but he also hadn’t heard of the Dunn family before.

“Mr. Chance, that man is a son of the Dunn family. He had achieved the level of Martial Arts Grandmaster when he was in his teens. However, for some strange reason, his progress slowed significantly in recent years,” Theodore explained.

“The Dunn family? Why didn’t we see them at the celebration?” Jared asked curiously.

“Well, there are many martial art families in Chanaea. Even in Jadeborough alone, there are plenty of such families who are not part of the Warriors

Alliance. Hence, they fall out of the alliance's purview. As the Dunn family is one of them, their name is consequently not on the Trial's participant list," Theodore related.

Jared understood right away.

It seems that not all the prominent families of the Jadeborough martial arts world participate in the Trial. Instead, only those from the Warriors Alliance are selected for it. If one isn't a member of the alliance, one wouldn't qualify to do so. From the looks of it, it's hard to fathom the depths of the martial arts world. Just the prominent families within the Warriors Alliance alone contain many titans. Thus, I can't imagine how many more are there outside of it.

In that instant, Jared felt as if he was an insignificant speck of dust and still had a long road of training ahead of him.

"Skylar Norton is here!"

Just then, a suave looking youth walked in.

Following behind him was a hunched-back old man who appeared to be in his seventies. Coughing intermittently, he looked as if he would collapse just from the wind.

In spite of that, the elderly man emitted an impressive aura of a Top Level Martial Arts Grandmaster.

In other words, he was just as powerful as Warren.

"Mr. Norton, fancy seeing you here."

Howard, who had ignored everyone throughout, unexpectedly took the initiative to approach Skylar and greet him.

Skylar answered, "I was bored, so I came here to kill some time."

When others gradually greeted him, Skylar responded to their greeting with a congenial smile, unlike the distant Howard.

Edgar walked up to him and greeted, "Mr. Norton."

"Mr. Deragon, I didn't expect to see you here!" Momentarily stunned, Skylar asked, "I heard that you were not going to participate in the Trial this year."

That's why I was surprised to see you. Wouldn't it be getting in the way of your cultivation if you don't get anything out of the event? After all, you're on track to becoming the youngest Martial Arts Marquis after breaking through the rank of Top Level Martial Arts Grandmaster!"

"That's not true. Don't listen to silly rumors." Edgar waved his hand with an awkward expression.

"You're really modest, Mr. Deragon. I was just thinking of getting some pointers from you," Skylar remarked with a smile.

Skylar's words put Edgar in a spot. In the end, he simply left without further comment.

At that moment, Edgar was shocked after having his progress revealed by Skylar. As few knew of the matters related to his cultivation, he was surprised that news of it had spread. He made up his mind to find out after the Trial who was responsible for the leak.

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A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 970

Cripple Him

Meanwhile, Skylar merely shot a glance at Jared and said nothing else. However, that was all it took for the latter to have an odd feeling about him. Skylar might look friendly and approachable, but Jared had instantly picked up on the dangerous aura the man was oozing.

He's the very definition of a wolf in sheep's clothing!

Before Warren could say anything, Skylar promptly handed an invitation card over to him. "Mr. Gordon, here's my invitation."

Warren remained silent as he looked at the invitation, his expression darkening with every second.

The sudden influx of participants to the Trial was stressful for Warren, but what worried him the most was the elderly man with Skylar.

I can tell that his powers are comparable to mine. If we were to find treasures in the ancient tomb and he becomes greedy, not even I might be able to stop him.

However, since the other party had shown their invitation, Warren couldn't bar them from entering either. All he could do now was to take things one step at a time.

"Mr. Deragon, Mr. Deragon! You can't go in without an invitation!" the two guards at the door suddenly shouted as Ryker frantically barged in.

Upon seeing that, Warren waved the guards off and hurried forward to welcome Ryker. "Mr. Deragon."

"Dad, what are you doing here?" Edgar asked, looking utterly perplexed.

Alas, Ryker ignored them and glared at Jared, leaving everyone else scratching their heads in confusion.

"Mr. Chance, why is Ryker staring at you like that?" Theodore whispered.

"How should I know?" Jared replied with a smile. "Maybe he finds me handsome!"

Theodore didn't believe a word of that, but he knew to stop probing when he sensed Jared's reluctance in talking about it.

After staring at Jared for the longest time, Ryker finally averted his gaze and turned to Edgar. "Edgar, get over here!"

Pulling his son to one side, Ryker said grimly, "When the Trial starts, I want you to find an opportunity to cripple Jared."

"What? Dad, why do you want me to do that? Has Jared done something to offend our family?" Edgar blurted out.

How odd. Why does Dad suddenly want to act against Jared Chance? Not only does the guy not look strong, but he also doesn't have anything special about him.

"Stop asking questions and just do as I say," Ryker snapped. "I don't want you to kill him, though. Do you understand?"

Edgar gave his father a firm nod. "Yes. I got it."

Even though he could feel the anger and hatred emanating from Ryker, he still couldn't fathom what Jared could have possibly done to provoke the latter that much.

Having given his orders, Ryker went up to Warren and whispered, "Mr. Gordon, if anything happens to Jared during the Trial, I hope you'd leave it alone."

"What do you mean by that, Mr. Deragon?" Warren asked with a worried frown. "Mr. Sanders has only just given his orders. If you were to kill Jared now, you'd be putting us in a tight spot."

"Don't worry, Mr. Gordon. I won't kill him. All I want is to rid him of his powers," Ryker said as he took out an emerald ring and secretly dropped it into Warren's pocket.

Warren, who had already noticed the ring, nodded his approval. "As long as you don't kill him, I can turn a blind eye to it."

With that, Ryker shot another glare at Jared and left.

Of course, Jared was the only one who knew the reason for Ryker's animosity. Ha! It looks like Ryker has found out that I killed the five guardians of Deragon.

By then, Edgar had also begun to fix Jared with a hostile stare.

After checking the time, Warren tidied his clothes and announced, "All right, it's time to start the Trial. Once we've entered the area, please tread with caution. There are dangers everywhere, and I don't want you guys wandering off or touching anything. If you accidentally trigger the traps, no one will be able to save you. Whether you live or die will have to be left up to fate."