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Chapter 2576

Regardless of the annoyance, Jackie closed himself off from what the others behind him were saying. He concentrated solely on his hands and pressed onward.

The soul sword swung forth and, following the sound of a gust, aimed straight for the soul crystal!

An upper ultimate god rank technique was not something an earth rank technique could ever compete with. On top of that, Jackie was already at the second stage of Destroying the Void and was not far away from the third.

A massive Soul Sword composed of 60 Soul Swords rammed into the outer shell of the soul crystal with an unrivaled force. Soon after, the unmistakable sound of something cracking could be heard as everyone witnessed the soul crystal's shell starting to shatter.

The cracks spread across the soul crystal's surface, and not a minute later, the outer shell fell apart, and a golden bright light revealed itself, to everyone's obvious surprise.

Everyone gaped at Jackie as they inhaled sharply, while Alex was rendered utterly speechless.

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His jaw hung low as he stared dumbfoundedly at the soul crystal which already had its shell shattered. With a wave of Jackie's hand, the soul crystal was summoned onto his hand, and a cold sensation greeted his palm.

The soul crystal had a vibrant golden yellow glow after it shed its outer shell. It looked like a gold piece that glinted under the sun, and Jackie could not even fully hold it in one hand. Thus, he reached out his other hand and held it with both.

He tried lifting the crystal that pulsed with energy a little and found it was rather

heavier than he thought it would be.

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The crystal was nothing short of wonder.

Jackie did not know how much his skills would increase after absorbing it. He furrowed his eyebrows as he looked up at the other soul crystals-about 300 of them -still afloat in the air.

"This is too small," lamented Jackie as he sighed.

The dark aura behind him intensified soon after, but Jackie was not tooting his horn whatsoever; he was just truthfully speaking his mind.

He never expected the outer shell of the soul crystal to be so easily shattered after he used his full strength. The shell was something that could withstand a lot of punishment. It meant that he could actually have challenged an even larger soul crystal.

In the end, Jackie had been too careful. He knew that he was stronger than everyone present, but he did not know how greater in strength that meant.

To prevent something like what had happened to Buck Tooth from happening, he had chosen one which he was more sure of. However, he never expected to manage to get the soul crystal so easily, and while it surprised Jackie, he could not help the regret that bothered him.

"Who are you?!" demanded Alex, who stood behind Jackie.

Jackie raised an eyebrow, not even bothering to turn his head around as he responded, "Does it matter who I am? I've told you before to not judge others with your narrow eyes. You can't tell how strong I am because you are not strong enough to!"

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If Alex was at the divine solidifying realm, he would have been able to see through Jackie's strength even if Jackie had deliberately left behind some injuries. In the eyes of the strong, there were no lies.

His words had not been meant to deliberately insult Alex, but Alex's expression changed the moment he heard Jackie's remark.

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"You deliberately toyed with me!" snarled Alex. "You're already at least at the middle stage of the spring solidifying realm, yet you hid your power to toy with me!"

Alex grew more infuriated as he recalled everything. Whatever he had said to Jackie came back to bite him, and there was no way Alex could accept that.

He had never been so humiliated before.

Both his hands trembled slightly as he pointed at Jackie. "You're despicable! You held back for so long just to make a joke out of me!"

Jackie's lips twitched at Alex's words, and he could not help but wonder what went through his head. He did not think that way at all, yet this vermin managed to twist it. around to fit his narrative.

It was as if he had deliberately hid his strength just to make a joke out of that guy!

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Everyone around them started to look over at them.

Even though they did not say anything, it was obvious from their expressions that they agreed with what Alex said. They felt like Jackie had deliberately hid his strength just to make a joke of Alex.

Jackie took a deep breath as his lips curled up into a smirk. "Can you stop making such a big deal out of yourself? The reason I hadn't revealed my strength is that I've sustained a few internal injuries; you just don't have the skills to see through it.

"Do you think I would've even bothered talking to you if you hadn't run your mouth like that? You were the one making assumptions, saying that I was only at the early stage of the innate realm. I've never said that my strength is already at the spring solidifying realm. I never spoke about it before merely because I couldn't be bothered talking to you!"

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Not bothering to spare Alex another glance, Jackie immediately made his way to the mats ahead, planning on absorbing the soul crystal on the spot. Nonetheless, he was not sure if he could finish absorbing it that day.

Alex was rooted on the spot. The expression on his face was quite interesting as it constantly changed. Meanwhile, the whitehaired man and the others who sneered and threw jokes stared curiously at Jackie in a new light.

The white-haired man was a huge gossiper. The others were able to hold back, but he was not able to stop himself for that long.

He coughed lightly before he said in an earnest tone,"Are you really an alchemist?"

Jackie frowned. "Isn't that obvious? Do you think I stole these alchemist robes?"

Those words stumped the white-haired man for a good moment. The white-haired man's face froze as his lips twitched helplessly, rather irked by Jackie's straightforwardness, but he no longer dared to test Jackie's patience.

After all, Jackie was someone who seemed to have talent in martial arts and was proficient at alchemy. He could not offend someone like that.

Jackie was a true prodigy. The white-haired man had also been a prodigy where he came from, but Phoenix Valley was a place where masters gathered. He was no longer that special after he arrived here, and he had learned to reign his pompous self.

"I've just never seen an alchemist who is talented in martial arts as well. After all, we all know that people who were good at martial arts would typically never choose to be an alchemist.

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"Having the skills to fight is the most important thing. Alchemists are respected, but it's not an easy path to walk. They need to spend a lot of time on alchemy and might not even be rewarded for their efforts."

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Chapter 2578

The white-haired man's words reflected how inquisitive and solemn he was. He truly wondered why Jackie would choose to be an alchemist if he was talented enough to break through to the spring solidifying realm at his age. After all, the white-haired man felt like it was not an easy path to take.

Alchemists were no doubt respected, but the path was fraught with various difficulties. It was much more difficult to tread than the path of martial arts.

Some alchemists were never able to even become seventh-grade alchemists for their entire lives, thus practicing martial arts were worth it all as compared to alchemy. That was one of the reasons why high-level alchemists were so rare.

Jackie stared at the white-haired man. There had been some things he had not been planning to say, but the white-haired man did not seem willing to relent at all, so he felt like he had to explain.

"I never gave up on either side. Otherwise, I would never have come to Soul Grotto."

The white-haired man's lips froze before he asked again, "I still don't understand. The path of being an alchemist seems really hard to me.

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"If you want to become a high-level alchemist, expect to be spending loads of time and resources. You won't just need to be incredibly familiar with knowledge of the various materials; you'll also need to constantly refine pills."

The white-haired man knew quite a few alchemists, which was why he knew how much effort and resources were needed to become a successful alchemist. After all, refining a pill was not something easy.

One needed to go through hundreds of failures before being able to succeed, and increasing one's proficiency as an alchemist was even harder. He had many friends that were stuck at the sixth-grade level, even after over ten years of practice. Becoming a seventh-grade alchemist seemed like an impossible goal to them.

Even in Phoenix Valley, seventh-grade alchemists were incredibly well-respected. After all, seventh-grade alchemists were not easy to find.

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Jackie's lips twitched in exasperation. Thinking deeper into this, he knew why the white-haired man was so shocked.

After all, the fact that he had arrived at this stage was not because of any amazing talents; it was because he had fused with memories from past warriors. Things that many people needed tremendous amounts of time to understand came easy to Jackie.

He never needed to spend hours working on this.

Jackie turned toward the white-haired man and, with formalcy, replied, "With enough talent, you'll never need to give up one for the sake of the other."

Even though there was a hint of self-praise there, it was the only way to explain what Jackie was going through. When the whitehaired man heard this, however, his face soured.

The white-haired man felt like he was trash compared to Jackie. Not only was Jackie already accomplished as an alchemist, but he was no worse as a warrior as well. Compared to that, he was not even that spectacular when it came to being a warrior.

It was incredibly infuriating comparing himself to others.

Francis looked at Jackie in envy. "Geniuses exist just to infuriate us commoners. I have nothing to say about the fact that you can be both altogether."

Everyone nodded at Francis' words. They had never heard of someone who could get everything like Jackie.

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"Who are you?! Answer my question!" Alex's shout was heard once again.

Jackie furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at Alex unpleasantly. He had not wanted to get into a conflict with that guy. True, they had an argument, but it was nothing major.

As long as Alex could shut his mouth, he could not be bothered about the guy. It was just his luck that Alex would hound after him in such a bitter manner.

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Chapter 2579

Jackie raised an eyebrow at Alex. "Are you deaf? Did you not hear what I said to you?" What does who I am have to do with you?"

Alex's eyes reddened as Jackie's words assailed his ears. With that, he marched toward Jackie and walked right up to him.

That stance made the white-haired man step back in fright. He was afraid that Alex would not be able to hold back from attacking Jackie right then and there, and he did not want to be involved whatsoever.

Thankfully, Alex's last shred of reason managed to stop him from doing that. He merely looked at Jackie with a look that showed just how unhinged he was, like he nearly broke mentally. He looked like he wanted nothing more than to see past Jackie's skin and into his inner thoughts.

Jackie, on the other hand, stood perfectly still with a frown on his face. He watched as Alex stormed right before him and quietly anticipated his next move.

What shocked Jackie was the fact that Alex actually turned and headed out of the cave after a while. Jackie stared as Alex's figure faded from view.

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Alex seemed like he had gone crazy. Alex looked like he had made up his mind right before he turned and walked away.

"That terrified me," spoke the whitehaired man, sounding evidently nervous. "I thought Alex would just come up and beat you without regard to the punishment!"

Jackie frowned. His mind paused at the image of how resolved Alex had looked right before he stopped. That guy had clearly made up his mind about something, and Jackie just did not know what it was.

He let out a sigh before he said, "Things would be much easier if he had just attacked me. It would've proven that he's just a mindless idiot. The fact that he managed to hold back means he's still somewhat intelligent."

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The ones on the mats exchanged looks with each other. They had witnessed everything that happened, and from their expressions, everyone had also realized that Alex turning around like that was not because Alex had no answer to everything and left in defeat.

Alex must have had a plan.

Jackie raised an eyebrow before he wiped away all these irrelevant thoughts. All he wanted to do was to absorb the soul crystal and increase his strength, and only by becoming stronger would things be easier for him.

He would not have to worry about being stopped by others.

Jackie shut his eyes before he placed his

hand on the soul crystal. A suction power came from his hand as the power of the soul crystal started to surge into Jackie's body.

A surge of pure soul energy spread across Jackie's entire being after he absorbed it. His hands constantly moved as they formed seal after seal. The powers of Destroying the Void revolved around Jackie for a few times before he started to condense Soul Swords once.

He did not know how many Soul Swords he could form in a day or how long he needed to completely absorb the soul crystal. Nonetheless, Jackie did not bother thinking about any of that at that moment.

The dense aura constantly moved within Jackie's body. It was as if Jackie had seen a bottomless barrel as he constantly absorbed the soul crystal.

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After ten hours, 70 Soul Swords were neatly placed in front of Jackie. A crack was heard before the radiant golden light of the soul crystal started to disappear.

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Chapter 2580

After all its powers had been absorbed, the soul crystal lost all its support and fell apart like a rock by the road, crumbling into dust in Jackie's palm.

Jackie let out a deep sigh before he opened his eyes and looked down at the powdered soul crystal. An elated expression overtook his expression as he noted the 70 Soul Swords he had successfully condensed.

So long as he toiled, condensing 100 Soul Swords was only a matter of time. As long as he managed that, he would have officially mastered Destroying the Void.

Only then would Destroying the Void show its true power, and he truly wanted to see what an upper ultimate god rank technique could actually do!

"Congratulations, you've improved," came the white-haired man's voice.

Jackie raised an eyebrow. He had thought. that the man would have left as he was absorbing the soul crystal. He was shocked to notice that, when he looked up, not a single person had left other than Alex.

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Everyone had been observing him and wide-eyed at that, as though they were staring at a rare creature.

Jackie's lips twitched helplessly. Did they have to stare at him so oddly like that?

The white-haired man took a deep breath before he summoned his courage. "What level is that technique of yours? Why can't I see through it at all? I feel like the energy fluctuations aren't that big.

"You used this technique to shatter the outer shell of the soul crystal earlier. It was incredibly strong, but why are the energy fluctuations so mellowed? I really don't understand."

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Ultimate god level techniques all shared that unique trait. The calmer their energy

fluctuation, the more powerful they were. Of course, Jackie was not about to explain all of that; no one would believe it if he did.

Ultimate god level techniques were not something just anyone could learn. Unless Jackie was already at the divine solidifying realm, no one would believe him at all. Since that was the case, he could not be bothered explaining.

He sighed. "The technique I have is unique in this way. You can stop speculating about it."

Jackie then stood up from the mat and looked over at the soul crystals that were still dancing around in the Grotto. He promised himself that he would get the biggest one in a month's time.

When the white-haired man noticed that Jackie was about to leave, he immediately stood up. He could have left Soul Grotto long ago, but he intentionally waited longer due to the questions that plagued him greatly. He wanted to wait for Jackie to finish his training before asking about everything.

He never expected that Jackie would not be bothered to explain at all.

The white-haired man chased after Jackie. "Surely your technique isn't an upper earth rank technique?"

Jackie sported a small smile when he heard that but did not answer the white-haired man, merely continuing to walk forward. The moment he walked out of the transfer array to where the alchemists were, he immediately noticed Rudy right beside the array.

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Jackie frowned. Whenever he saw Rudy, he would think of Grayson, and those chaotic thoughts would immediately surface in his mind. He did not know what Grayson's situation was at that moment nor did he know why they took Grayson.

When Rudy saw the transfer array lighting

up, he widened his eyes. He excitedly looked at the transfer array, and when Jackie's figure appeared, he rushed right over.