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Chapter 2671

They were not common in third-grade worlds at all, so they would naturally be seen as pill runes from ancient times. To Jackie, however, those runes were just like any other runes-there was nothing special about them.

His hands moved as faint golden pill runes were formed through his fingers. When he was carving the fortieth pill, Jackie made a mistake after his body could not keep up with his memories, and the pill rune suddenly collapsed.

All of the pill runes in the air suddenly turned back into pill aura. Nonetheless, he remained expressionless as he raised his hand to continue drawing, after the pill auras merged back into his surroundings.

He did not need to remember the pill runes and only needed to focus on having his body keep up with his memories.

Compared to how calm Jackie was, however, Bradley was no longer as composed as he was before.

In truth, Bradley was somewhat similar to Jackie in some ways. The two of them never reacted too emotionally to any major events, always incredibly composed. At that moment, Bradley was not capable of keeping his cool.

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After all, Jackie's talents had overshadowed his, and everyone could see that. It was impossible for him to deny it. Jackie singlehandedly trampled the pride nurtured after being put on a pedestal for so long.

However, Bradley had never been someone who wasted too much time on words. He wanted to use his skills to prove that Jackie, while talented, would not always be better than him.

Even though it was his first time refining a

Three Suns Pill, he had already used ancient runes before. He was much more familiar with ancient runes than any ordinary person, so he believed that he would take the least amount of time to refine the Three Suns Pill.

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He had chosen the same method as Jackie and did not start refining the pill at the very start. Instead, he decided to deal with the ancient runes first. He threw his senses into the plaque before he started to memorize those runes.

Even though there were only 60 ancient runes, time was nonetheless limited. He needed to assign the time for other matters as well and, at the same time, was worried that Jackie would be faster than him.

At that moment, Bradley was incredibly anxious, and every participant was fully focused on the refinement process.

Meanwhile, the higher-ups in the hall were all trying to look into the spaces.

After a while, they finally composed themselves; only Master Forrest's face remained sour. The first loss had really dealt a blow to him.

Even though the second segment was advantageous to Sky Peak Pavilion, he could still not relax. So what if they won the second segment? They would still be at a tie with Phoenix Valley.

He did not want that. He wanted to squash them.

Elder Maurice, on the other hand, did not reveal too much emotion on his face. It was impossible to tell what he was thinking.

After a long time, Mr. Zayne whispered, "We have to make some plans, regardless if we win or lose."

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Chapter 2672

Elder Maurice felt rather incredulous at Mr. Zayne's words and turned to look at him. "What do you mean? What plans?"

Mr. Zayne took a deep breath as Jackie's face surfaced in his mind. "Elder Rick really went too far this time. It'd be great if we win, yes, but we may just lose, too. These two are possible entirely.

"We need to consider the consequences of those two results and prepare ourselves for them. From the start, the two of us were allowed the thought of defeat to destroy our rationality. We've never really thought about the problem.

"Now that all of them are fully focused on refining the Three Suns Pill, we have the perfect opportunity to think about what we should do after we get back."

Elder Maurice furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at Mr. Zayne. He never really had

much of an impression of Mr. Zayne before this since the man had always been a private person.

After their interaction extended, Elder Maurice immediately felt like Mr. Zayne was not a simple-minded person. Even though the guy was just a deacon at that moment, he would be an elder eventually if his intelligence was anything to go by.

He was smart and level-headed when facing problems. He was always very logical when he spoke as well.

Elder Maurice sighed. "Elder Rick will no doubt be bitter. After we head back, we have to make sure to embellish the matter.

"You're right: we have to be prepared for the results, win or lose. Let's put winning aside for now. How will we deal with the higher-ups' anger if we lose?"

Mr. Zayne nodded before he said decisively, "If we're talking about responsibility, then Elder Rick has to take up eighty percent of the responsibility if we lose. The five of us will only need to take up twenty percent."

Elder Maurice raised an eyebrow at that, looking at Mr. Zayne approvingly. "You're very right about that, but there's a detrimental issue here. Elder Rick recommended Jackie, who's the most talented person of the three. He was the one who helped us win the first part of the tournament.

"What do we say if we push eighty percent of the responsibility onto Elder Rick? In truth, him pushing Jackie to participate was a good thing!"

Elder Maurice was right. Elder Rick might not have had good intentions initially, but the results were still good in the end. Jackie did not disappoint them and had even helped them obtain victory.

However, if they ended up losing in the end, citing Jackie as the problem would not be very convincing. Elder Rick might actually use it to turn things around.

Mr. Zayne raised an eyebrow as he said. confidently, "This problem is actually quite simple. We just need Jackie to go along with it."

Elder Maurice's eyes brightened as various schemes popped up in his head, but he did not voice out his thoughts immediately.

Meanwhile...

Master Forrest looked on as Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne whispered to each other. His heart boiled in anger, feeling like the two of them were deliberately putting on a show for him.

After all, he had mocked them quite a bit at the start, but since they had gotten a pass, they would naturally get back at him several times over. Master Forrest was no longer in the same position as before, which caused him to suffer a lot.

He loathed Jackie, and his hatred ran deep. Had Jackie not participated, no issues would have risen in the tournament. He had a trump card in Bradley and would not have needed to worry about the second possible result.

"Elder Maurice, are you not very confident right now? Didn't you say that you'd definitely win before? Didn't you say that Jackie would beat Bradley?" said Master Forrest coldly.

Chapter 2673

Master Forrest was filled with too much hatred at that moment and, even when knowing his words were futile, spoke so spitefully. All of his hatred came from Jackie at that moment, so he naturally hated Elder Maurice as well.

Elder Maurice chuckled coldly as he turned to look at Master Forrest with disdain. To him, Master Forrest was like a clown. He looked at Master Forrest and immediately noticed hatred clouding the man's eyes.

Elder Maurice let out a laugh. "And why wouldn't we be? After all, the results were clear for all to see. Weren't you praising Bradley to the heavens earlier? All that, yet Jackie still bulldozed him in the end!"

Master Forrest grew furious at those words. He started to shudder as he glared at Elder Maurice and gritted his teeth. How he wanted so badly to go over and give him a good punch!

Elder Maurice looked at Master Forrest with contempt. The two of them did not continue speaking, since they were still higher-ups of their respective sides. If they continued bickering, it would look far too embarrassing, so they had to cease.

Time ticked away, and after four hours passed, a sound came from the first room. All of them looked over to see a hand slowly pushing the door open.

A familiar figure walked out from within with a box in hand. When they saw Jackie, their eyes widened at the same time.

Elder Maurice looked over with some worry as he said, "Did something happen? You came out so quickly..."

Elder Maurice was more afraid than anyone else that something might have happened to Jackie. Even if Jackie would not be the key to the final result, Jackie was still Elder Maurice's trump card.

Jackie would be able to cancel out Bradley in the second segment, but if anything happened to Jackie, then no one would be able to stop Bradley. Similarly, Mr. Zayne looked at Jackie worriedly as well.

On the other hand, Master Forrest looked rather pleased as he gazed at Jackie, truly hoping that something had happened to Jackie.

When Jackie walked out, he looked at everyone calmly. He let out a snort as he walked over to Master Forrest-who was the tournament's organizer, after all-and passed him the box in his hand.

Master Forrest frowned as he looked at Jackie with a puzzled expression. Everyone else looked over curiously as well.

Jackie smiled as he opened the box in front of everyone.

A dense medicinal smell immediately

revealed itself. When they clearly saw what was inside, almost everyone was stunned. At that moment, not one of them cared about how they should act, their lower jaw hanging open as they looked like they had seen a ghost.

Master Forrest even forgot to breathe. His eyes were wide open, and Jackie even wondered if his eyes would pop out with some force.

After a long while, Master Forrest pointed at the thing in the box and said, "What's this?"

Jackie's lips twitched helplessly, feeling like Master Forrest had been dealt too big of a blow.

He smiled and answered, "Don't you recognize the Three Suns Pill?"

Of course Master Forrest knew the Three Suns Pill. Even if he closed his eyes, he would have been able to tell that it was the Three Suns Pill from the smell alone.

How? It did not even take that long! Had Jackie really managed to refine the pill in just four hours?

Chapter 2674

At that pace, even Master Forrest had to be shocked. It was not like he had never met masters before, but it was the first time he had ever met someone like Jackie.

The match was incredibly difficult this time. If Elder Maurice had not signed a secrecy contract before, he would have suspected that Elder Maurice had revealed the contents of the test to Jackie beforehand.

Master Forrest took a deep breath as both his hands trembled slightly. "Four hours..."

Jackie raised an eyebrow as he nodded. "That's right, four hours."

Master Forrest gulped, his breathing a little erratic. "You're far more capable than I thought. Are you from the inner valley?"

Jackie shook his head, not bothering to explain himself. He did not care if Master Forrest believed him or not.

Jackie looked at Master Forrest coldly and said, "What should you be doing as the organizer of this tournament right now?"

Those words caused Master Forrest's face to stiffen. He looked at Jackie hatefully, but said nothing else. He took the box from Jackie's hands, and put the successfully refined Three Suns Pill in his hand.

To Master Forrest, it was very easy to see if the Three Suns Pill was a success or otherwise. He kept on praying in his heart that Jackie's Three Suns Pill had a defect, and that it was not at a 50-percent refinement.

Alas, after studying it, he was disappointed to find that Jackie's Three Suns Pill was an incredible success and had even reached 60-percent refinement. Master Forrest had a sour look on his face and, after a long while, declared rather reluctantly, "There are no problems. This is a successful Three Suns Pill."

Despite his chagrin, there was nothing he could do at that moment. The results were clear for all to see, and he could not possibly do anything at that moment.

At the same time, Elder Maurice was rather emotional to even speak at that moment. He felt like he had found a piece of treasure. Even Mr. Zayne looked at Jackie emotionally.

Even though they knew that Jackie was not the key to the match, they still felt relief and a storm of emotions. After all, Jackie was far too talented. Even if they lost this time, they should still win the last round if Jackie performed as he always did.

Elder Maurice walked over to Jackie and patted him by the shoulder. "Well done! Even I can't compare to your talents. When we go back, I'll immediately recommend you to enter the inner valley!"

Jackie raised an eyebrow and nodded, not saying anything else.

Mr. Zayne, meanwhile, looked even further into the future. He was already trying to figure out how he would gain Jackie's favor.

He already saw how bright Jackie's future was, and as long as Jackie could maintain his talent, Jackie would be a key figure in Phoenix Valley, or even the master of the valley.

"Don't be too happy now. Even though Jackie successfully refined the Three Suns Pill, don't forget that he might not be the one to shift the tides this round.

"The remaining four are the ones who will decide the round. If Claude and Benedict aren't successful, what use is there with Jackie being this capable?"

Chapter 2675

All Master Forrest thought of at that moment was to rain on Phoenix Valley's parade; he did not want to see them being too pleased with themselves.

Elder Maurice coldly looked at Master Forrest after that.

As an elder, he could not just look at Master Forrest insulting Phoenix Valley and not do anything about it.

Elder Maurice chuckled. "How do you know if Conrad and Jameson will be able to refine it? During the first segment, the two of them were weaker than Claude and Benedict.

"They only managed a thousand and fifty pill runes between them, while our side had a hundred more. Can't you see the relative strengths?"

Master Forrest almost lost his rationality in

his anger. He no longer cared if continuing the argument would be good for him or not. All he wanted to do was vent his frustrations and suppress Phoenix Valley.

He narrowed his eyes and remarked, "Elder Maurice, surely you know that completing pill runes might be a proof of talent, but it has not much to do with being able to refine a Three Suns Pill."

Elder Maurice frowned. He was about to rebuke Master Forrest's words but was not given a chance as Master Forrest continued, "Elder Maurice, just think about it. What's the second portion? Sixty ancient pill runes. They've never seen those pill runes before at all. They're fighting to see who can memorize and carve out those runes the fastest.

"They also need to be able to adapt to the refinement process very quickly. After all, they only have a day! Even though Claude and Benedict both exceeded our representatives by a hundred pill runes, it still doesn't mean that you'll be better than us in the second segment!

"You might only have gotten a hundred more than us just because Claude and Benedict have studied more than Conrad and Jameson. They might have just put all their efforts into condensing pill runes normally!" Elder Maurice felt like Master Forrest was just pushing it at that point. No matter the reason, Master Forrest just wanted to prove that Sky Peak Pavilion was better.

"Let's not entertain that notion," sneered Elder Maurice. "Jackie's already refined a pill, while your side hasn't even completed one. Just like that, we're stronger than you!"

The two of them were arguing intensely, with neither of them giving in at all.

Jackie frowned, feeling rather irked. If this continued, they would end up arguing for

hours, and Jackie would get incredibly annoyed.

He hated people arguing around him, so he interrupted their fight as he interjected, "There's actually no point to the two of you saying all of this. Why don't we just wait for the final result?"

Thankfully, Jackie's words silenced both Elder Maurice and Master Forrest. Regardless, even if they had stopped arguing, it was easy to tell from their expressions that neither of them were willing to give in.

After a few more hours, in the second room...

Bradley's eyes were bloodshot as veins surfaced on his eyeballs. Excitement racked his being, all because he was so close to success.

At that moment, the sides of his furnace were covered with dust, a reminder of his failures. Even though Bradley was talented, he had never refined at Three Suns Pill before.

There would always be unexpected problems when an alchemist started refining a new pill. It would lead to failures, but he was not disappointed by it at all. He continued to look for the problems and focused on the refinement.

At that moment, he was already at the last step to successfully completing the Three Suns Pill. He had already condensed three thousand 280 pill runes and was only 20 runes away from successfully refining the pill.