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Chapter 2716

Bradley's lips twisted to a frown before they formed a cold smile. "Jackie doesn't have what it takes. I was only able to think of this method because I encountered beasts on Grand Yorn Mountain, and for quite an extended period at that.

"Just think about yourselves, and you'll be able to guess how Jackie is thinking. He'd only been on Grand Yorn Mountain for two or three days, and he hasn't had the chance to change his views at all. Whatever he's going to do next will only be what you're capable of, more or less," spoke Bradley, sounding so sure and firm in his words that none rebuked him.

They thought Bradley was making sense, anyway.

If Jackie had spent a lot of time in Grand Yorn Mountain like Bradley had and knew how cunning the beasts there were, he would be able to obtain a green Phoenix Fruit like Bradley had.

Conrad smiled and said, "I think he'd be more or less like us, just using a few pills with cold attributes, or maybe a few treasures to attract the phoenix's attention.

"Nonetheless, the phoenix is a beast seasoned with experience, and it won't be baited with just that. Everything he does will be useless. His result will ultimately be like ours, and he'll return empty handed."

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Elder Maurice frowned when he heard that, coldly glancing at Conrad, but he said nothing in the end. The elder even had to admit that Conrad...made sense.

After all, only Bradley had dwelled at Grand Yorn Mountain for a significant period, and only then had Bradley been able to figure out a method. Jackie, on the other hand, did not have Bradley's experience and naturally would not figure out the method.

Even if Jackie had something similar to Bradley in mind, the beast would naturally be more guarded after what Bradley did and would no longer fall prey to Jackie's actions if he imitated Bradley.

Elder Maurice was frustrated that his mind had not worked quickly enough. It had taken him this long to realize something was wrong. If he had thought about it earlier, he would not have allowed Master Forrest to arrange things like this.

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Jackie should have been the first to enter.

The phoenix would not have been as alert as it was already, and Jackie would have the highest chance of success!

Alas, it was all too late,

Jameson raised an eyebrow and said,

"Regardless, Jackie was overconfident. All of us more or less have some self-confidence.

but we would all wait in the buffer for a while for the sake of safety, composing ourselves first before hiding and moving accordingly.

" Jackie, on the other hand, just rushed without a care in the world and, because of that, is locking eyes with the phoenix right now. His thoughts truly boggle me!"

Everyone focused on Jackie, who merely stood still before the phoenix after he finished. He crossed his arms as if he was thinking about something, but he did not move immediately.

His behavior merely confused everyone else even more.

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Conrad burst into cackles. "I think he's starting to regret things! Everyone's naturally more excited when they get in. He just wanted to deal with the phoenix as soon as possible.

"He rushed in without a care in the world and now he's in a panic, not knowing what

to do. Just look at how he's just staring at the beast!"

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The others nodded in agreement and even sympathized with Jackie.

Meanwhile, Bradley's lips curled into a cold smile as he stared at Jackie's figure, able to guess what he was thinking of-conflict and agony.

Jackie seemed plagued with worry as he stared at the phoenix in the illusory array.

He looked at the phoenix, then at the five remaining fruits before he silently calculated what the fruits would be worth.

He did not know if he would be able to take those fruits after he took them, and if Sky Peak Pavilion would keep them for themselves.

Furthermore, the phoenix was a spring solidifying realm beast, its core capable of

fetching a pretty price. Other than the tournament, earning spirit crystals was the only thing in Jackie's mind.

Spirit crystals were his biggest motivation.

Despite that, however, Jackie was worried that Sky Peak Pavilion would stop him from bringing it back. The thought echoed in his mind as he thought about it a few times, and he grew more conflicted every second.

He did not care about how much time had passed. So long as he beat Bradley's record, Phoenix Valley would be able to secure their victory. Not that long had passed at that point, too; he had much time to spare in the limit he set for himself.

After deliberating things, Jackie decided to turn and walk toward the barrier.

Everyone in the barrier suddenly widened their eyes in confusion when they saw Jackie walking over. Was Conrad right after all?

Did Jackie regret his decision and wanted to return?

After entering the buffer, the illusion disappeared, revealing the scenery of the actual world to Jackie. Seeing everyone's expressions, Jackie did not feel like anything was strange at all. After all, they did not understand how he worked.

Master Forrest smiled as he spoke, albeit with contempt, "Why have you returned? Did you not figure out a good plan? Are you back here to think about another plan? Perhaps you were just too impulsive and shouldn't have rushed out."

Jackie raised an eyebrow, not caring for Master Forrest's mockery at all. He did not even look at Elder Maurice before he cleared his throat and said, "If I get all five Green Phoenix Fruits, will they all be mine?"

The moment he said that, everyone was stunned. They looked at Jackie with widened eyes, speechless.

"What is he saying?" blurted Claude.

Seeing everyone's reaction, Jackie frowned before he repeated his words.

Master Forrest's lips twitched. "What did you say? You want all five Green Phoenix Fruits, and you'll want to take them all? Am I hearing things correctly?"

Jackie nodded. "Yes, I came back to ask you this. If I got all five Green Phoenix Fruits, will they all be mine? After all, I'm the last participant, and no one else will be taking part."

Master Forrest's lips twitched, finding himself at a bit of a loss. He had thought that Jackie returned because Jackie did not know what to do, but he never expected this to be why Jackie returned!

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What fueled Jackie to even think he could get a Green Phoenix Fruit and even claim the remaining ones for himself? Jackie's way of thinking was too much for a regular person to comprehend!

Bradley snorted, mockingly saying, "Do you even realize what you're saying?"

Jackie shrugged. "Of course I know what I'm saying, but it's more important if you lot understand what I said. I don't need to repeat my question; you just need to answer it."

He did not want to waste time nor did he want to bother with everyone.

It was only then did Master Forrest conclude Jackie was socially inept, or something of the sort. Otherwise, Jackie would never have asked such a question.

If Master Forrest thought that Jackie was that capable, he would never have agreed to letting Jackie have all five Green Phoenix Fruits.

Nonetheless, Master Forrest nodded generously. "Alright, I agree. As long as you can get those five Green Phoenix Fruits, they'll all be yours!"

Jackie sighed in relief upon hearing that, but he only took a breather for a moment. He had not returned to the buffer for that alone.

Jackie continued, "If I end up using too much force and the phoenix dies, I shouldn't have to take responsibility, right? After all, the goal of this round is to collect the Green

Phoenix Fruits by any means necessary. As long as I get the fruits, I'll have succeeded. Killing the phoenix should be considered a method, yes?"

Just like before, confusion swept the people present at Jackie's question. Even Elder

Maurice could not stop himself from frowning. He looked at Jackie speechlessly, not knowing what game Jackie was trying to play or why Jackie had returned.

Master Forrest's lips twitched as he looked at Jackie incredulously. "Didn't I mention this before? As long as you can obtain the Green Phoenix Fruit, it doesn't matter what method you use. As long as you can get it, you will pass.

"I've also said that it doesn't matter what method you use. Naturally, it means you're allowed to go ham and kill the phoenix.

"Hearing this question, are you planning on fighting the phoenix? Let me remind you: the phoenix isn't a beast with a warm temperament. If you provoke it, it'll try and kill you, even putting its life on the line. Don't end up losing yourself for your results!"

Jackie nodded before holding his head up high. "Don't worry, that won't happen."

With that, Jackie turned and walked back into the illusory realm, leaving everyone speechless behind him.

Benedict could not help but say, "What is he trying to do? Jackie looks so desperate to me right now. Is he going to just try to poison the phoenix?

"The phoenix's intellect level doesn't matter. It won't just hide if it sees someone trying to poison it. I think that Jackie's just panicking at this point, trying every single method he can."

Conrad nodded thoughtfully. " Jackie has already given up, I think. I genuinely don't know what he's up to."

Meanwhile, Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne looked at Jackie in worry, wondering what Jackie wanted to do. They were also trying to guess what method Jackie would use to get the Green Phoenix Fruits.

They worried he would be injured if he used too intense of a method. To the two of them, Jackie was already someone who meant something much more to Phoenix Valley. If Jackie ended up with an injury that he could not recover from, Phoenix Valley might consider them both as criminals.

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After all, Jackie was far too talented. Even if he was in the inner valley, he would be able to scale up the ranks easily. Losing the tournament would already be a big crime, and if they failed to protect Jackie, their punishments would no doubt multiply.

Elder Maurice could not help but shudder at the thought as he turned to look at Mr. Zayne, who was already staring at him. They could see the helplessness in each other's eyes.

At that moment, Claude raised his voice, to which everyone heard him say, "Wait, what? What's he doing? He pulled out his weapon!"

All eyes turned sharply in Jackie's direction soon after. At that moment, he had already retrieved his gray sword from Mustard Seed and held it tightly by the hilt.

Those plans that they were all talking about could really have worked, but Jackie did not need them. The phoenix was just an early stage spring solidifying realm beast; it was not worth much of his attention and effort.

He held his sword in his right hand as his left hand constantly moved, forming seal after seal. A streak of light in gray formed in the air as Soul Swords were formed, one at a time.

In the blink of an eye, everyone watched as 75 Soul Swords were formed in the air. Everyone knew what Jackie was planning.

He was actually planning on facing a spring solidifying realm beast head-on. Was he crazy?!

"I think he's run out of options," blurted Claude. "He's trying to fight a spring solidifying realm beast? He's crazy! An innate stage fighter is trying to fight a spring solidifying realm beast? Does he think he's a master martial artist?"

Since Jackie had deliberately left behind his internal injuries, none of them managed to see how strong he was. However, in their eyes, it was not important at all.

After all, Jackie appeared to everyone as an alchemist, and any warrior who decided to embark on the path of an alchemist would never be establishing their roots in martial prowess. Furthermore, his age was a limit, so he would only be at the middle stage of the innate level at most.

For a warrior who was at the middle stage of the innate realm at most to face a spring solidifying realm beast head-on was an insurmountable hurdle since the warrior would not be able to have any strong skills and abilities.

This summed up to one thing: Jackie practically signed his death wish.

Master Forrest took a deep breath as he incredulously remarked, "Does he not want

to live anymore? Or, is he that confident that he can beat a spring solidifying realm beast?"

Even Master Forrest and Bradley were confused by Jackie's action. Something had to be wrong with Jackie's mind, they thought -bad enough that he would think of fighting a spring solidifying realm beast!

It was like Jackie wanted to die that badly!

Sky Peak Pavilion was not the only party dumbfounded at the turn of events.

Even Elder Maurice gaped at the sight, his entire body trembling at the sight. That was the moment he felt the most conflicted in his entire life.

He had the urge to pull Jackie out at that moment, yet he was scared that Jackie had his own plans. It might all just be a ruse to attract the phoenix's attention for Jackie's other plans.

If he just rushed in, he might disrupt Jackie's plans and lead to Phoenix Valley's failure.

However, if Jackie truly planned on fighting the phoenix and he lost control of the situation, he could be killed by any stray talons. If that happened, they would not be able to walk away unscathed!

Even Mr. Zayne was beginning to lose his composure.

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Mr. Zayne turned to look at Elder Maurice with a concerned look on his face, "What do we do? What is Jackie trying to do? What kind of plan does he have?! I'm not so sure about this anymore. He's facing a spring solidifying realm beast here!

"In the eyes of a spring solidifying realm beast, Jackie is just an oversized ant at the innate level, and he won't be able to take a single blow if he just rushes up to the best! S-Should we go and pull him out of there?"

Mr. Zayne knew that they would automatically lose if he did that, but a loss was a loss. If Jackie died in this event, the punishment that awaited them would be unimaginably harsh when they returned. They might even end up suffering corporal punishment apart from being demoted!

The moment he thought of the punishment he could get, Mr. Zayne automatically shuddered, mentally prepared to blame Jackie for everything.

Elder Maurice thought for a long time before he shook his head. "I trust in Jackie; he's a very prepared person after all. Don't you remember? All of us doubted him during the first stage, but he'd never been that emotional.

"Someone like him does everything incredibly seriously. If we just rush in like that, we'd just ruin his plans. We have to be confident in him, come what may!"

Mr. Zayne nodded, feeling like he was practically forced to think in such a way. He silently prayed for Jackie, hoping that he would not just dive in for a fight. That would just kill him!

Jackie waved, condensing the 75 Soul Swords into a massive Soul Sword that floated in front of him.

The massive Soul Sword glowed a dark

color, but it suddenly turned into dots of light in a flash. It merged into the gray sword in Jackie's right hand. At that moment, Jackie was already almost at the perfect stage of Destroying the Void.

As long as Jackie managed to condense the final 25 Soul Swords, he would be able to reach 100 Soul Swords, the strongest state of Destroying the Void. An ultimate god level technique was something no one could easily contend against.

Only the best disciples of eighth or ninth – grade clans would be able to train in techniques of that level at this age.

At that moment, the phoenix was aroused from its lethargic state, rising from the ground. As it stood, it measured up to about 9 meters tall, and compared to the beast, Jackie was like a rat facing a cat.

The phoenix roared as its disdain-filled eyes stared right at Jackie. While it might not be as sharp as a human, it was still perceptive in its own right.

Even though it could not see how strong Jackie was, it had seen the other participants who had entered, as well as their level of capabilities. With that, the phoenix had lumped Jackie into the same level as them and saw him merely as an ant at the innate level.

The phoenix felt incredibly amused that the ant dared to raise a weapon against itself. The cry it let out right after might have been due to how amused it felt as it stared at Jackie.

It raised its head arrogantly and lengthened its claws, but Jackie did not even blink at the phoenix's reaction. His lips curled upward as he aimed his sword right at the phoenix's head.

Under everyone's widened eyes, he shot forward like a cannonball at the phoenix.

Everyone saw the scene, and their hearts started to beat rapidly.