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Chapter 2036

The two streams of True Energy had completely fused. They became a new power and exuded a frightening force.

Outside the arena, many people's eyes widened.

"Cosmic Destruction, go."

James waved his hand casually and the fused True Energy in his palm burst forth, charging toward the Son of Heaven at a great speed.

It was a True Energy ball. It was not very big, about the size of a basketball. However, it was blinding, with a strange glow emanating from it.

The space where the True Energy ball passed through was distorted and made a crackling noise.

The Son of Heaven was on high alert. At this very moment, he concentrated all of his True Energy in his palm and thrust his palms out forcefully.

Two bursts of energy collided in the arena.

Boom!

There was an instantaneous explosion in the sky.

The explosion created terrifying energy waves that moved through the area like water ripples. The Son of Heaven was immediately hit by the energy waves. His body was struck repeatedly like a small boat in the middle of the ocean.

He was eventually knocked against the rings of light surrounding the arena and fell to the floor.

The lingering energy waves from the fight were too powerful. They spread throughout the entire arena.

Despite moving out of the way in advance and appearing at the edge of the arena, James was also struck by the energy waves. Cracks appeared on his body as soon as he was hit, like broken glass. There were even signs of fragmentation.

However, just as his body was about to fall apart, a powerful burst of Demonic Energy

manifested from within his body. The Demonic Energy swept over his entire body, instantly repairing his severely damaged body.

Nonetheless, his body was smashed into the mysterious rings of light that were all around. Finally, he collapsed to the ground, spewing a mouthful of blood.

Even though the Demonic Energy within him kept his body from disintegrating, James was severely injured. His internal organs were all burned, his meridians were all severed, and his body was covered in wounds.

He collapsed to the ground and did not even have the strength to get up.

The last energy wave from the impact rippled through the arena before dissipating into nothingness.

The arena was quiet once more.

James and the Son of Heaven had both collapsed to the ground.

Despite using all of his might, the Son of Heaven was unable to repel James' attack. He was currently suffering from injuries he had never had before. His hair was disheveled and he was covered in blood, lying on the ground. He continued to gasp for breath and could not even stand up.

It was dead silent outside the arena. Nobody expected the fight to end like this, with both of them injured.

Nobody anticipated James, relying on his cultivation base that had just ascended to the Supernatural rank, could cause significant harm to the Son of Heaven from the Herculean rank.

Everyone looked at the shadow.

Right now, they were both injured. In this case, who won?

At this moment, James slowly got up from the ground. He was wounded. Moreover, his injuries were severe.

However, his body was amazing. No matter how severe his injuries were, as long as he was not dead and had Demonic Energy in his body, he could recover in a very short period of time.

James slowly got up from the ground.

When he got up, the injuries in his body had healed about ten to twenty percent. Even though he had not fully recovered, his movement was unaffected.

He walked toward the Son of Heaven and arrived in front of him. The Primordial Dragon Blade on his back came out of its scabbard. He took the Primordial Dragon Blade and placed it on the neck of the Son of Heaven, who was lying on the ground.

The Son of Heaven had lost his ability to fight. He was on the ground and could not get up.

Right now, if James used a little more force, the Son of Heaven's head would fall to the ground. This fight would be over then.

He would advance directly to the ninth checkpoint, becoming the first person to do so.

"Son of Heaven, do you still have the strength to fight?"

James looked down from above at the Son of Heaven on the ground.

Anger was apparent on the Son of Heaven's face. His eyes were bloodshot. His heart swelled with an intense rage. He wanted to get up, but every movement caused excruciating pain. His face was twisted in agony.

He suffered injuries he had never experienced before and had already lost his ability to fight. Right now, even someone with no cultivation base could kill him.

His heart was filled with resentment and anger. He wished he could hack James into pieces. However, he no longer had the strength.

The shadow was well aware of the Son of Heaven's condition. He had already lost the ability to fight.

The shadow appeared in the fighting ring and announced, "This fight has been won by James.

He's qualified to proceed directly to the ninth checkpoint."

As the shadow's voice rang out, the clamor outside the arena began.

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When James heard those words, he breathed a sigh of relief.

At long last, he got through this checkpoint. Finally, he was qualified to go straight to the ninth checkpoint.

He was the first to reach the ninth checkpoint, so he had the best chance of obtaining the Celestial Abode.

James put away the Primordial Dragon Blade.

The shadow glanced at the Son of Heaven, who was lying on the ground and on the verge of death, then casually waved its hand. A pill appeared in its palm. It gave the pill to the Son of Heaven and said, "You can't fight in your current state. For the sake of fairness, take this pill first."

The Son of Heaven slowly accepted the pill and swallowed it.

It was an amazing pill and very effective. Soon after the Son of Heaven took it, he was able to stand up.

The shadow removed the Magic Circle surrounding the arena.

James walked away from the arena.

Marcello quickly approached him, his face filled with admiration. He said, "You're amazing! I had no idea you have such an ultimate move at your disposal, and that you would deal serious damage to the Son of Heaven, claim the victory, and gain the qualification to advance directly to the ninth checkpoint."

James grinned with pride. He managed to defeat the Son of Heaven. It was something to be proud of.

After all, the Son of Heaven's level of ability was far too high. He had entered the Herculean rank, which was what he aspired to be.

The shadow looked at the people around it and said, "You have nothing to worry about. The ninth checkpoint is truly challenging. It will not be easy to get through. Furthermore, for those of you who do not qualify to advance directly to the ninth level, if you prevail in one-on- one combat, you can still advance to the next checkpoint."

The shadow's words were reassuring. Everyone felt a great sense of relief.

If James beat them to it, their previous efforts would have been in vain.

The shadow looked at James and said, "First and foremost, congratulations on advancing directly to the ninth checkpoint. However, with your current abilities, you won't be able to pass the final checkpoint just yet. Being the first to reach the ninth checkpoint might not be enough to get you the Celestial Abode."

As it said that, it waved his hand casually.

A powerful surge of energy formed in its palm. This surge of energy enveloped James' body. He jumped, lifted off the ground, and floated up into the sky.

After that, he slowly drifted toward the city.

While floating in the sky, James could see the entire city.

The city was huge. The structures were all thousands of meters tall and radiated a vibrant divine light. It was spectacular. The streets beneath him were wide, but there was no one around.

Soon, James appeared at the city center.

He descended from the sky and stood firmly on the ground.

At this location, there was an open space. Tall and majestic structures surrounded the area.

James looked at his surroundings. Then, he looked straight ahead.

An altar stood ahead of the city center. On the altar, a crystal the size of a fist was floating. The crystal was shaped like a rhombus and emitted a white glow. It was dazzling.

"This... Is this the Celestial Spirit? One can be the owner of this Celestial Abode and rule this city after obtaining the Celestial Spirit, right?"

When James noticed the white crystal, he looked excited and thrilled. With the intent of taking the crystal, he walked over.

However, he had just gotten close to the altar when...

Whoosh.

A white ray of light radiated from within the crystal.

When the light hit the ground, it merged to form a woman. The woman looked to be in her twenties. She was in a white dress, pristine and divine. Her features were delicate, and she was graceful. Her white dress flitted in the breeze as if she were a fairy, transcendent beyond words.

Her pretty eyes turned to James, who had appeared in front of the altar.

James was slightly taken aback as he stared at the stunning beauty that had suddenly appeared.

"Draw your sword."

The woman was beautiful, but she had a distant expression on her face.

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Her tone was icy. It lacked emotion, like a robot.

After being briefly stunned, James asked, "Draw my sword? Why?"

With an emotionless face, the woman said indifferently, "If you've made it this far, you must be extremely competent, talented, and excellent in all areas. If you defeat me now, you'll receive the Celestial Spirit. Once you've refined the Celestial Spirit, you'll be able to control this Celestial Abode."

A white light emitted from the woman's eyes while she spoke. This ray of light fell on James. "Your rank is not high, yet your physical body is quite strong. This is a bit of a tough call." The woman furrowed her brow. She was the defender of the last checkpoint.

She was neither a human nor a living being but was created by humans, much like the Spirit Tool's shadow.

Simply put, she was an artificial intelligence. In a more basic sense, she was a robot.

Her master programmed her strength to match the rank of the person trying to pass through the checkpoint. If they defeated her, they would get the Celestial Spirit.

However, while James' current rank was not high, his physical strength was very powerful.

After giving it some thought, she said, "Right now, your physical strength is comparable to the peak Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate. How about this? I'll adjust my strength to the peak Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate. If you defeat me, you'll be the owner of this Celestial Abode."

After hearing that, James let out a sigh of relief. He did not mind the Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate because he could fight powerful individuals of that rank even before his physical strength improved.

When he heard the woman's words, he felt as if the Celestial Abode was within his grasp.

With an eager expression, he said, "In that case, don't mind if I do."

He gathered his strength, clenched his fist, and struck hard. Since his opponent was a woman, he did not use all of his strength because he was afraid of injuring her.

The woman remained motionless in the same spot. When James' attack appeared right in front of her, she raised her hand, extended her delicate fingers, and gently pointed at James.

From her fingertip, a mystical force appeared.

James' attack was instantly neutralized. His attack power vanished into thin air, and he was sent flying by a surge of incredibly powerful force.

Boom!

His body landed hard on the ground.

Even though the impact was powerful, this was the Celestial Abode. The ground was very hard. Even after he fell to the ground, the stone slabs on the ground were unharmed.

James' body hit the ground, and the impact left his entire body in excruciating pain.

He got up with difficulty. Looking at the pristine woman in the spotless white dress in front of him, he could not help but clenched his teeth. "How powerful."

He admitted that he had underestimated this woman.

"Be careful, lady. I'm going to use my full force now." James gave a kind reminder.

"Heh." The woman chuckled.

It would not be so easy to get past her checkpoint.

She put one of her hands behind her back and motioned James to proceed with one hand.

James immediately started to gather all of his strength. True Energy coursed through his body as a powerful force filled his entire body. His aura was constantly rising. After gathering all of his strength, he attacked once again. 1

The woman's body mysteriously vanished from where she stood. James immediately lost track of her.

When he finally reacted, his back had already been struck. He was thrown to the ground again, and he could not get up for a while because the bones in his back were broken.

Demonic Evergy flowed through his body, and the broken bones on his back miraculously healed.

James got up from the ground. With astonishment on his face, he looked at the woman in the flowing white gown and asked, "You... Are you sure your strength is at the Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate?"

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James was a little skeptical.

Was the peak Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate's cultivation base this powerful?

He had fought a powerful figure who was at the Supernatural Ninth Inner Gate. Although he was barely a match for them, his powerful body allowed him to defeat or even kill them.

"It is indeed," the woman said indifferently. "It is because I said so."

"Fine. Take another attack from me, then." James was still skeptical.

Could the peak Supernatural Eighth Inner Gate be so powerful? It was able to render him powerless to even fight back.

He put up both of his hands. In his palms, True Energies of different attributes appeared. The two bursts of True Energy slowly fused together.

He was going to use Cosmic Destruction. If he could not even defeat this woman with that, he had no chance of obtaining the Celestial Abode.

The woman watched him silently.

Then, an energy ball charged toward her with terrifying force. There was a solemnity to her expressionless face. Her brow was slightly furrowed.

At this precise moment, she raised her hand.

True Energy formed in her palms and quickly gathered. With a forceful strike, a burst of True Energy swept through the area and met with James' energy.

Boom!

Two bursts of True Energy collided and instantly exploded.

The explosion created extremely powerful energy waves. James was immediately sent flying.

The woman took a few steps backward as well.

This was the city within the Celestial Abode, and there were extremely powerful Magic Circles. Where the energy wave had passed through, no buildings were harmed. The energy waves then dissipated into nothingness.

James' body collapsed to the ground. He lay on the ground for quite some time before finally struggling to get up.

When he saw that the woman was unharmed, he was dumbfounded. This attack severely injured the Son of Heaven, but it had no effect on this woman.

He walked over. "Y-You're cheating."

The woman gave a faint smile and said, "You're quite capable. At the very least, you jolted me a few steps back. Regardless, you still have a long way to go before you can match me. Go back and cultivate for a few years before coming back."

She seemed at ease.

James, on the other hand, furrowed his brow.

Go back and cultivate for a few years?

When he returned after a few years, this Celestial Abode would already belong to someone else.

He sat on the ground without regard for his appearance. He looked at the woman in white who was as beautiful as a fairy in front of him. He was trying to figure out how to defeat this woman.

However, even after thinking for a while, he could not come up with a plan, since even Cosmic Destruction could not harm her.

Cosmic Destruction was the most powerful martial art skill James had mastered.

James wanted to leave now. However, he did not leave because there were still some people behind him. He wanted to see if anyone arriving after him could defeat this woman and take the Celestial Spirit.

He began to wait here.

After waiting for about over an hour, Marcello showed up at the city center.

"James."

Marcello descended from the sky. He looked at James, who was staring blankly while sitting on the ground, and unconsciously called out to him.

James stood up when he heard his voice.

"How is it? Why are you sitting here and staring into space?" asked Marcello.

James looked at Marcello. He did not expect Marcello to actually have the ability to fight everyone in a duel.

"What's the last checkpoint like?" asked Marcello again.

James cast a glance at the altar up ahead and said, "Go over there and take a look for vourself."

After hearing that, Marcello walked over. When he got close to the altar, a white light shone, and the woman in white reappeared.

Marcello was slightly stunned.

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James said with a smile, "The last checkpoint is very simple. Defeat her, and you'll get the Celestial Abode."

When he heard that, Marcello let out a sigh of relief.

The woman was looking at Marcello. Her eyes released a white ray of light that landed on Marcello.

"Oh. You're quite impressive. You've already reached the fourth layer of the Herculean rank at such a young age."

On the woman's face, there was a hint of surprise.

She was created, and her abilities were exceptional. She could find out Marcello's age and his cultivation base.

With such strength at such a young age, he was undoubtedly talented.

"Since you're at the Herculean rank's fourth layer, I'll limit my rank to the Herculean rank's fourth layer. Make your move. Defeat me, and you'll receive the Celestial Spirit."

The woman's voice rang out.

"Sure." Marcello was eager to start as well.

He acted quickly. In a flash, he appeared in front of the woman. His long, slender fingers clenched into a fist and delivered a blow with terrifying force.

The woman smiled faintly and raised her hand. From her fingertips, a mystical power manifested.

Then, Marcello felt an invisible pressure charging toward him. His attack was instantly neutralized, and this formless force descended upon him, sending him flying.

After seeing Marcello sent flying by an attack, James was delighted.

He thought he would be the only one to be sent flying with a single attack, but Marcello showed up and did the same.

Marcello dragged himself up from the ground, a shocked expression on his pale, clear face. "You... Is your strength really at the Herculean rank's fourth layer?"

"Yes," said the woman, "I limit my strength to whatever rank my opponent is at."

"That's impossible. How can you knock me back with a single attack if we are of the same rank?" Marcello looked doubtful.

The woman explained, "Just because you haven't seen it before doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

"Again." Marcello was unconvinced. He began to attack once again.

He was very fast. He was moving so fast that James could not see him clearly.

When he had a clear view of him, Marcello had already appeared in front of the woman.

However, as soon as he appeared, he was knocked into the air.

Even someone as strong as Marcello was unable to fight back against the woman. He could not even get close to her.

After watching up until this point, James was relieved.

At least he could knock back the woman a few steps when he used Cosmic Destruction.

Marcello was persistent. He kept trying.

After several attacks, the results were all the same. He could not even get close to the woman.

Finally, he gave up.

The woman put her hands behind her back, looked at James and Marcello, and said, "You both have decent strength. Both of you have a lot of potential. However, if you want to defeat me, you won't be able to do that just yet."

"How do we defeat you, then?" James asked, puzzled.

The woman glanced at James and said, "Your current rank is very low, but your physical strength is extremely powerful. If you want to defeat me, you'll need to keep cultivating and raise your rank to the Supernatural's Eight Inner Gates. Then, building on this foundation, compress your True Energy and rank.

"When you feel that you can no longer suppress them, you can come back and try again. Maybe you'll have a chance to beat me then."

After saying that, the woman turned to Marcello and said, "You as well. Although you have a good cultivation base, your rank is not entirely stable. It is a bit of a vanity symbol, even. What you need to do is continue to stabilize your rank and lay a solid foundation."

As soon as the woman said that, Marcello understood.

"Thank you for the information. If I leave now, will I be able to return to the Celestial Abode in the future and challenge again?"

"Mhm."

The woman nodded softly and said, "As long as the Celestial Abode doesn't have an owner, you are welcome to challenge me at any time."

After hearing that, Marcello dragged James along with him and walked. "Let's first get out of here, James. Even if we stay, we won't get the Celestial Abode."

"Ah. We're leaving now?"

James was a little reluctant. He said, "Many people are behind us. Isn't it a shame if we leave now and the Celestial Abode is taken by someone else?"

Marcello said, "That won't happen. Even I can't defeat her, so the people behind us won't be able to either. Instead of waiting here, we should first leave this place, go outside, and cultivate. When we're stronger, we'll come back to challenge her again."

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