

## Chapter 1591

“Hurry and get on your feet, Gerald!” shouted Nori as she ran over to help pull him up.

Seeing that she had grabbed the swaddling clothes—that honestly looked more like a rag by now—Gerald then held it in hand before threatening, “Take one more step forward and I’m destroying this thing! Come on, I dare you!”

Upon hearing that, the zombie instantly roared!

To both their surprise, however, the zombie actually lifted both its arms before taking quite a few steps back!

Clearly an indication that it wasn’t going to make any other rash moves, Nori then sighed in relief before saying, “...I really hadn’t expected this thing to actually retain its humanity!”

Just as Gerald was about to breathe his own sigh of relief, a roar of laughter could suddenly be heard booming across the sky...

Following that, a blinding flash could be seen... and seconds later, a figure dropped from the sky in a beam of light!

Landing right before Gerald, the figure fumbled for a bit, possibly due to the aftereffects from Gerald’s earlier attack...

Of course, who else could that have been other than Yusef himself.

“You son of a b\*tch! Did you really think you could get rid of me that easily just because you now have the map of the Underworld Valley? I’ll have you know that as long as I’ve lived throughout these hundred years, nobody’s been able to escape my grasp! Regardless, it seems that you have something interesting in your body! In a scenario where both of us had the same level of training, firing that divine vision would’ve surely caused my brain to suffer much worse injuries! With that in mind, I’ll be sure to claim that interesting thing inside you once you’re dead!” declared Yusuf as he clenched his fists before laughing again, his eyes filled with mockery.

‘I’d like to see how you’ll attempt another round of escape!’

“You absolute b\*stard! You’ll surely die terribly one day, Yusef!” shouted Nori in her despair.

“Even if that day ever came you wouldn’t be able to witness it!” scoffed Yusef as he smiled, ready to capture Gerald.

“I find it funny how you think you can just capture me that easily!” replied Gerald as he patted his chest.

Laughing in response, Yusef’s smile turned slightly bitter as he shook his head before saying, “What other abilities are you hiding? Show them to me now! Since you’re going to die soon anyway, I’ll let you hit me three times again if you fail to display something strong enough!”

“You asked for it! Here’s my secret weapon!” replied Gerald as he instantly tossed what was in his hand!

Upon closer inspection, it was the swaddling clothes from before that Gerald had crumpled into a ball!

However, Yusef grabbed it with extreme ease!

“You b\*stard! An old rag? Seriously? My magnificent strength must have scared you stupid!” shouted Yusef as he laughed aloud.

Following that, Yusef slowly lifted the balled-up swaddling clothes in one hand... and the next thing Gerald and Nori knew, Yusef's hand began burning!

With the swaddling clothes still in hand, it turned to ashes in no time at all...

The second the clothes were nothing but dust, three successive roars filled the air...! It was the zombie from before!

Having witnessed the waddling clothes getting burnt into a crisp, the zombie now glared murderously at Yusef as the purplish-green hair all over its body rapidly began darkening.

It was only when the zombie began releasing a constant stream of black smoke from its mouth that Yusef finally sensed its demonic presence.

"...Fezrumoz?" muttered the slightly bewildered Yusef as he stared at the zombie.

Fezrumoz was quite famous within the Underworld Valley as a vicious and cruel beast. With that in mind, Yusef definitely knew who this zombie was, and he was also aware that it had the same amount of training as a Ninth-rank Chakra King! Aside from its immense strength, the beast was pretty much immortal as well!

In short, only someone who had managed to enter the Sage Realm could have a chance of even killing the zombie for good. Knowing that, a fearful expression was instantly displayed on Yusef's face. It didn't help that the zombie was looking at it with such murderous intent.

"What do you plan on doing, Fezrumoz?" asked Yusef as he took two steps backward.

Fezrumoz, however, gave no reply. Instead, the zombie simply charged toward the man with frightening levels of murderous intent!

Seeing that, Yusef immediately began making his retreat!

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Even so, no matter how far Yusef went, Fezrumoz simply continued pursuing him!

Seeing that running wasn't doing him any good, Yusef then shouted, "You b\*stard! How dare you! Continue chasing me and I'll burn those swaddling clothes of yours! Once I do that, your pitiful child won't even have any bones left behind! You wouldn't want that, would you?!"

According to the rumors that Yusef had heard before, one didn't need to panic or run whenever they bumped into Fezrumoz. The only thing one needed to do to scare the beast off was declare that they would snatch the zombie's swaddling clothes if it came any closer.

While it should have stopped Fezrumoz from attacking any further, the zombie only began attacking even more viciously after hearing Yusef say that! Yusef's words seemed to have only infuriated it even more!

"What the hell? Why aren't you stopping?!" grumbled Yusef with a frown.

In his state of panic, he turned to look at Gerald and Nori... Only to realize that both of them had already made their escape! There was no way he was going to be able to pursue them any further!

At that moment, he turned to look at what he was holding... and it was then when he finally realized what Gerald's 'secret weapon' was.

“You... You mother\*cking b\*stard...! No wonder Fezrumoz is being this murderous! You tossed me the swaddling clothes of the baby that it adored most!” cursed Yusef as he glared in the direction that Gerald had initially been standing in.

Though the now sweaty Yosef wanted to curse even more profanities, Fezrumoz was still chasing him, and the man knew better than to waste his breath.

It was sometime later when Nori asked, “We... should be near the Primocorose, right, Gerald...?”

With both of them now walking around in the darkened valley, Gerald then replied, “If the map’s directions are accurate, then we should be arriving soon. Even so, we’d best take a rest in the valley first. I’m injured now and I don’t wish to place myself in danger yet. We can look for the Primocorose tomorrow.”

Thankfully, both of them found a cave, and after Gerald made sure it was safe inside, both of them then entered to stay the night.

Sometime later, Gerald was sitting cross-legged, slowly allowing his body to heal when he suddenly heard Nori say in a softened voice, “Um... Could you do me a favor, Gerald...?”

“What is it?” asked Gerald as he opened his eyes.

“...Well... there’s a pool over there... and we’ve been traveling for quite some time now so... I was wondering if I could take a shower...” muttered Nori as her face blushed slightly.

“Go on ahead. You don’t have to worry about me peeking!” replied Gerald as he shook his head with a bitter smile.

“...But... That pool’s simply too close to this place! I’m not saying you will, but temptation’s a thing, you know? We’re talking about a woman taking a shower here! There’s no way I can do that with you so close by!” mumbled Nori as her cheeks reddened even more.

Staring back at her, Gerald felt that this woman really was something else... At times she was rather stingy, and during others, she was honestly quite righteous... Then there were the times where she could be rather annoying. This moment was a perfect example of that.

Shaking his head, Gerald then asked, “Fine, what do you want me to do then?”

“I’d... like you to lend me your shirt for a while! I’ll be using it as a curtain between us!” explained Nori.

Sighing as he shook his head again, Gerald then did as she suggested before closing his eyes again to rest.

In the end, however, Gerald still ended up frowning slightly when he heard the soft crinkles of Nori undressing herself. He was still a man, after all, and he was unable to remain calm for much longer.

Upon opening his eyes, he subconsciously turned to look in Nori’s direction... However, what he saw shocked him.

“Nori!” shouted Gerald as he instantly got to his feet.

“Wha- Gerald! You promised you wouldn’t look!” shrieked the now angered woman.

“Look, just hurry over!” instructed Gerald.

Thankfully, Nori had only taken off her coat by that point, and after covering herself, she instantly stomped toward him before angrily grumbling, “You better have a good explanation for this!”

Looking at the furious woman's face, Gerald simply sighed before saying, "Just... turn around and look for yourself! There's some kind of figure hovering above the pool!"

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Upon hearing that, Nori instantly screamed before running over to hide behind Gerald!

Neither of them had earlier noticed the presence of the sword that had probably been hovering above the pool this entire time. The more shocking thing, however, was the fact that a black figure could—in turn—be seen faintly hovering atop the sword!

"W-who are you...?" demanded the frightened Nori.

"I go by Jade Infused Blade!" replied the figure in a rather faint mechanical tone.

"You... How could you be this despicable...? Were you waiting to see my bare body...?" mumbled Nori, too embarrassed to say it out loud.

"Before any further misunderstandings take place, I'll have you know that I'm blind, miss. I only came over since I sensed my master's aura within the vicinity," explained Jade Infused Blade as his body slowly solidified...

Once he stepped closer, Gerald and Nori saw that Jade Infused Blade was actually a long-haired warrior donning black armor.

“Your master...?” asked the surprised Nori.

“Indeed. Regardless, is that really you, master? It’s been thousands of years since we’ve last met! You’re finally back!” replied Jade Infused Blade in a rather hoarse and concerned voice as he looked at Gerald.

Frowning slightly, Gerald put two and two together before asking, “This... Master of yours... Could you be referring to Liemis? The God of Battle?”

“I am! So it really is you, master! Though it’s been so long, I still managed to recognize your voice almost instantaneously! How have you been?” replied Jade Infused Blade as he knelt before Gerald.

“...H-huh...?” mumbled the shocked Nori who was having a bit of trouble registering all this.

“I have a feeling you’re mistaking me for someone else. While it’s true that I have a rather deep relationship with Liemis—he was the one who had taught me all the skills I currently know—I’m not Liemis himself. My name is Gerald Crawford!” explained Gerald.

“But... your voice... And that imposing aura! It’s near-identical to Liemis’s! I trust my intuition on this!” insisted Jade Infused Blade.

“I’m afraid Liemis has already passed on thousands of years ago. If you still want proof of that, I have his corpse with me right now. Regardless, I’ll be returning to Jaellatra sometime in the future in order to inquire about Zyla’s location. Once I find her, I’ll finally be able to bury Liemis’s corpse in his homeland! He’ll finally be able to rest in peace!” replied Gerald who truly hadn’t expected to bump into Liemis’s old subordinates.

Either way, upon hearing Gerald’s explanation, Jade Infused Blade instantly felt an acute pain in his heart.



“Those from the Sun League must be the ones responsible for killing my master... He was ambushed by them in that large battle that year!” growled Jade Infused Blade as he clenched his fists while gritting his teeth.

“The Sun League?” asked Gerald.

This was the first Gerald had heard that name being mentioned ever since he came here. While Gerald already knew that the Sun League was responsible for quite a few incidents on earth, he could’ve never imagined that it was the Sun League who had ambushed Zyla and Liemis back then.

No wonder Zyla kept telling him that it wasn’t the time to learn about the Sun League yet when he first inquired her about it. He now understood why Finnley had reacted the same way as Zyla had as well.

Despite Liemis’s immense strength, he still ended up getting killed by the Sun League! With that in mind, there was no way that Gerald was going to even stand a chance against them!

“...I think I get it now!” said Jade Infused Blade—looking rather enlightened—out of the blue.

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“Figure something out?” asked Gerald.

“Indeed! From what I’ve managed to gather, it appears that you’re the ninth reincarnation of my master! If you don’t mind, could you tell me whether you look identical to my master?” asked Jade Infused Blade rather anxiously.

Though Gerald had actively denied that he was Liemis's reincarnated form this entire time, he felt the need to answer honestly this time.

With that, Gerald then nodded, "That's right! I look exactly like him!"

"Then that settles it! You truly are my master's ninth reincarnation! Still, it really has been too long since I've last met him... Thinking back, Jaellatra was in chaos back when I last met master... At the time, the three major Sun Gods of the Sun League had cooperated to deal with master. While the three of them alone weren't too much of a problem for him, things started turning awry when the Youngvigors stepped in. It was quickly made apparent that the Youngvigors and the Sun Gods had planned on joining forces—long before their fight even began—to ensure that master went down! Sadly, their plan worked and they were eventually successful in defeating him!

"Before he left, I was told by master to remain here till ordered otherwise... To think that I'd actually be able to meet with his reincarnated form after all this time! This must truly be god's will!" declared Jade Infused Blade as he released a long sigh.

Following that, Jade Infused Blade suddenly got on his knees... Kowtowing before Gerald, he then cried out, "Please, master! Allow me to return to your side!"

"...That..." muttered Gerald in slight hesitation.

After a bit of pondering, Gerald then added, "...Truth be told, I'm not too sure if I really am Liemis's reincarnated form... However, I do believe that we share the same goal, that being the fact that we're both hoping to reunite Liemis's corpse with Zyla before burying him for good. With that said, I think it'd be best if we kept each other company on our way there!"

"Yes! Thank you for taking me in, master!" replied Jade Infused Blade before quickly kowtowing again.

“Speaking of which, even though I’ve already been here for over a month now, I still have quite a few doubts about a number of incidents, Jade Infused Blade... First off, though you’re a ghost, I can tell that you’ve already attained the rank of a Ninth-rank Chakra King! With that in mind, I wonder if you could share what level of training Liemis had at his peak. I’d also like to know the true level of strength the three major Sun Gods possess!” said Gerald.

“Well, master had managed to enter the legendary Ziyiryon Realm before his demise. He was quite literally a god by that stage, though the three Sun Gods had managed to enter that frightening realm as well. Due to that, they were evenly matched with him.”

“While we’re on the topic, allow me to explain a bit about a legend in Jaellatra. The legend itself goes by the name of The Gareus God, and it revolves around a Gareus Temple. To speed things up, what I essentially wish to share is the fact that five people managed to enter the Ziyiryon Realm.”

“Though the five ruled over Jaellatra, the Sun League always made sure to hide that fact from others. After all, they were allied with the three major Sun Gods, and they, of all people, knew what kinds of cruelty they had done in order to further train themselves. You see, to further their training, they had refined the masculine aura of those who possessed Triton bodies on earth! That’s the reason why master had always been on bad terms with them while he was still alive!” explained Jade Infused Blade.

“I see...” replied Gerald, finally seeing the bigger picture.

So that’s why there existed legends about the Sun League on earth... As it turned out, for thousands of years, those from the Sun League had gone to earth to capture others, just to refine the Triton qi of those people! With that in mind, it now explained that both Peter and Mila had simply been part of that process.

“...And what about the Youngvigors? What else do you know about them? Also, are you familiar with the Quartermains in Jaellatra?” asked Gerald.

Jessica was still in the grasp of the Quartermains, and Gerald wasn’t even sure whether his sister was still alive by this point. The Quartermains had brought so much suffering not only to her, but also his parents and disciples... Just thinking about it infuriated Gerald greatly...

“Well, the Quartermains are one of the major subservient families to the Sun League. With that said, that family has always been seen as an ‘overlord’ of sorts in Jaellatra... Regardless, they were able to move between the three worlds with barely any hindrance since they had the aid of an exceedingly strong person—with the rank of a Diaterra—on their side... That person had first appeared before them around eight hundred years ago, and just to remind you, the Diaterra Realm is second only to the Ziyiryon Realm...”

“As for the Youngvigors... it pains me to say this, but it was your family in your former life... Back then, even though your title in Jaellatra was Liemis, God of Battle, your real name was Liemis Youngvigor! Regardless, the Youngvigors back then were truly in a detestable state, and it was all because of a single woman by the name of Yadvi Macer... She was master’s love of his life until he eventually fell for Zyla!”

“Yadvi was a vicious woman, and she used all kinds of schemes in order to control both the Divine King Palace as well as the family that my master had founded, the Youngvigors. In fact, she had even cooperated with the Sun League! Had that lying woman not gained master’s trust before poisoning him all those years ago, there was no way he would’ve ended up losing against those three pathetic major Sun Gods! Thankfully, Miss Lockland managed to save him, and for a time, they ran all over the place to seek refuge... Unfortunately, in the end, master still succumbed to that b\*tch’s evil schemes! Not only that, but my master’s direct descendants were all taken out by both the Sun League and Yadvi!” explained Jade Infused Blade, his deep resentment as clear as day.

“...Following that, Yadvi was given the title of the Ydite Gods for managing to gain control over the Youngvigors as well as the Divine King Palace. With that in mind, she remains as one of the few major forces left in Jaellatra!”

“As for myself, I was one of the ten guardians of the Divine King Place when I was still alive. Before passing away, I had managed to enter the Sage Realm, and I think that’s the reason why I could still maintain my spiritual essence past death. Regardless, that b\*tch of a Ydite God had also gone after the remaining guardians! While some of them died, a few of them managed to escape her!” explained Jade Infused Blade.

“Either way, master’s entire life was just filled with apprehension... After all, not only was he harmed and plotted against by his first love, but after he was united with his true love, he couldn’t even be together with her for long! That b\*tch of a Ydite God used to be the closest person to him! To think that she would harm him that badly...!”

“Liemis...! Your death really wasn’t worth it...!” declared Gerald, a deep fury in his heart. For some reason, after hearing all that Jade Infused Blade had said, Gerald was able to remember glimpses of those incidents... It was almost as though he had experienced those incidents for himself.

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“Indeed... Speaking of which, may I know why you came here in the first place, master? Also, you said that Miss Lockland is currently in the human world, correct?” asked Jade Infused Blood, still kowtowing before Gerald.

“She is. However, she only exists as a remnant of her soul in that world. Sadly enough, I wasn’t strong enough at the time when the King of Judgment Portal came after us. Since I couldn’t even protect myself yet, Zyla served as a distraction by luring the King of Judgment Portal away. After that incident, I’ve searched far and wide for her on earth. Unfortunately, I found no clues as to where she could have gone! With that in mind, I had a hunch that she could’ve possibly returned to Jaellatra!”

“As for why I’m here, you could say that returning Liemis to Zyla is one of my reasons. The other reason I came here is because my sister’s been captured by the Quartermains! She’s suffering now, so I have to save her! However, in order to even survive long enough, I need to first locate the Primocorose to help me enter the Sage Realm!”

Following that, Gerald sighed before adding, “...Unfortunately, I’ve stopped progressing ever since I entered the Eighth-rank in the Rune Realm. No matter how hard I try, I simply can’t enter the Ninth-realm! If I can’t even get past that, it’ll be useless even if I manage to locate the Primocorose! The Sage Realm must be hundreds of times harder for me to breach!”

This issue had honestly been plaguing Gerald's mind ever since he stepped foot on this journey.

"It's best not to grow impatient, Master. I hope you remember that taking the path of training is already going against the natural order. With that said, it's easier said than done for one to enter the Ninth-rank, though I'm sure you're already aware of how difficult the hurdle is. To clarify, some people have painstakingly trained for a hundred years, before finally managing to enter that realm! With that said, it's best that you calm yourself so that you'll be able to train with greater concentration!" explained Jade Infused Blade.

Upon hearing that, Gerald simply nodded. He understood where Jade Infused Blade was coming from. However, even if he was able to wait for a hundred years, the same couldn't be said for his sister. Hell, would he even be able to enter the Sage Realm within a century? The thought of it only made Gerald feel more anxious.

"Speaking of which, I just so happen to know where to find the Primocorose, master. I know it's the main ingredient for you to enter the Sage Realm, so allow me to lead you there! Also, there's a ten-thousand-year-old pond in this valley. While its water is freezing cold, it's also a holy place to train oneself! Since we're heading off anyway, why not try training there? The Herculean Primordial Spirit within your body is a great fortune between heaven and earth. If you manage to completely activate it, breaching the Sage Realm will surely come soon after!" added Jade Infused Blade.

"...Very well! I'll have to trouble you then, Jade Infused Blade!" replied Gerald, who was honestly delighted to hear that. With that, he clapped his hands together to show his gratitude.

It was about a month later—at the mouth of the Underworld Valley—when one of the Mackowski family's subordinates could be heard saying, "He's just a servant, master! We've already surrounded the Underworld Valley's entrance, so once he finally comes out, we'll be sure to hack him into pieces! With that said, you don't have to stay here with us in wait for him! We'll definitely bring his corpse back to you!"

Just as the subordinate had said, Yusef had been lying in wait—with his men at the mouth of the Underground Valley—this entire time. Even though an entire month had passed, Yusef’s resentment had yet to subside in the slightest.

After all, Gerald had tricked him not once, but twice! He was nearly killed by Fezrumoz back then as well! All this was far too humiliating for him! With that, he swore that he would kill Gerald with his very own hands if it was the last thing he did!

“Look, I’m not trying to put you down or anything, but there’s simply no way all of you can defeat him! Just so you know, that young man possesses something very important in his body. After all, despite being so young, he’s already undergone such immense training! With that in mind, I can’t let anything else go amiss! I’ll definitely be killing him personally!” growled the angered Yusef in response.

“...I see... Still, that youth... His endurance really is something else... After all, he hasn’t exited from the valley in an entire month!” muttered the anxious subordinate.

“Humph! From what I can assume, he must have already found the Primocorose! I guess he’s currently just biding his time as he recovers! Even so, he’ll definitely come out sooner or later! After all, most of the Underground Valley is surrounded by a poisonous miasma. With that said, the entrance we’re currently blocking is also the only safe exit for him! As long as we keep waiting here, he’ll surely come out!” sneered Yusef.

The second his sentence ended, Yusef felt his eyelids twitch slightly.

A figure could suddenly be seen walking out of the valley... Squinting his eyes, Yusef ended up bursting in laughter when he finally realized who that person was.

“Hah! And here I thought you died in there or something! So, you’re still alive!” scoffed Yusef as he stared at the slowly approaching Gerald.

“Oh? Do you want me dead that badly?” replied Gerald with a faint smile.

“You... You b\*stard! To think you’d just walk out of there so casually!” growled Yusef before revealing a spine-tingling smile.

A second later, however, Yusef found himself slowly raising an eyebrow.

“...So, it seems that I didn’t misinterpret my initial assumption! You really have made a truly massive leap in improvement in only a single month!” muttered Yusef in slight disbelief.

Shaking his head, Yusef then declared, “It appears that if I don’t kill you today, you’ll surely end up being much stronger than me the next time we meet!”

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Following that, an explosive sound could be heard!

Everyone could only watch wide-eyed as all the surrounding leaves began gathering in front of Yusuf, specifically in front of his chest...

The leaves then began balling up, and once the orb of leaves was large enough, Yusef bounded forward, using his chest to launch the ball of leaves forward!

At that moment, another explosive sound could be heard as the orb of leaves flew so quickly at Gerald that it was hard to even see it properly!

In response, Gerald positioned his fingers into a sword formation before declaring in his mind, ‘Go forth, Storm-Forged Blade!’



Immediately after, Gerald flicked his fingers in the direction of the orb, shooting a blade of light out in retaliation!

Explosion upon explosion ensued as the two attacks flew toward each other... Until finally, the large ball of leaves was sliced clear in two, creating the loudest explosion yet!

Everyone present could only take a few steps back in their shock, utterly stupefied by the sheer amount of power they had just witnessed.

“...What?” muttered the now bewildered Yusef. That boy... how could he have dealt with his strongest attack so calmly?!

“You... You’ve already entered the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm? How is that possible? When did you even make that breakthrough?!” asked Yusef in his disbelief.

“Only yesterday, to be quite honest. It’s been quite a while since my training halted at the Eighth-rank, you know? To think I’d finally make it through!” replied Gerald with a faint smile.

“You... You couldn’t have managed to do so without external help!” retorted Yusef, still unable to believe all this.

True to Yusef’s words, Gerald had only been able to breach the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm with the aid of that cold pond. With the stimulus from the pond in addition to the ample holy spirits here, Gerald was truthfully able to get to the next rank rather smoothly.

If he was to be completely honest, even Gerald hadn’t anticipated such rapid results.

Regardless, Gerald really wasn't too keen on dealing with Yusef at the moment since there were so many people from the Mackowski family present.

With that in mind, Gerald then said, "Apologies, Yusef, but I still have some affairs to deal with. With that said, I'm afraid we won't be able to determine a winner today! Rest assured, I'll definitely come look for you once I'm done with everything! I'll be taking my leave now!"

Following that, Gerald's body seemed to flicker for a moment before disappearing completely!

"After him!" shouted several of the Mackowski family's disciples.

Before they could even make a move, however, Yusef raised his hand before shouting, "Stop! Don't pursue him any further!"

"What? But why, master? Didn't you say we couldn't let him remain alive?" asked a few of his men.

"Humph! If he was alone, I'd surely have dealt with him! However, there seems to be an exceptional person helping that b\*stard! None of you may have noticed him, but could sense his presence. With that said, we would have had to deal with two very powerful men—who've both entered the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm—if we continued chasing him! That's something even I have to admit we won't be able to handle!" grumbled Yusef in a resentful tone as he clenched his fists tightly...

Meanwhile, the snap of whip could be heard within the Quartermain family's mansion located in Jaellatra's Bario City.

"Hurry up already! If you don't finish what you've been ordered to do in time, I won't be merciful!" shouted a mustached middle-aged man.

Appearing to be a housekeeper of sorts, the man had whipped the woman before him since she was taking a bit too slow just to wash a few vegetables.

Regardless, though the woman was furious, she didn't dare to say a word...

Of course, she was none other than Gerald's elder sister, Jessica...

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After getting captured by the Quartermains in Jaellatra, Jessica had suffered terribly every single day. Despite constantly being hurt, however, her will remained strong.

She believed that Gerald would definitely come one day to save her from this place. With that in mind, she knew that she needed to survive long enough for him to do so.

Unbeknownst to her, that day would come sooner than expected.

After all, Gerald was already in Jaellatra, and he had even postponed his fight with Yosef since he prioritized saving his sister.

Either way, now that he had entered the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm, Gerald was pretty much already on his way into entering the Sage Realm. Due to that, he knew he didn't need to be afraid of dealing with the Quartermains anymore. He could now finally save his sister!

It wasn't long before Gerald arrived in Bario City. Now alone and donning a long robe, Gerald slowly made his way across the city's streets.

All along the street, Gerald saw luxuriously dressed people everywhere. As it turned out, those living here appeared to be quite wealthy.

Just as Gerald was passing by two rich young heirs, he heard them say something that instantly caught his attention.

“Say, have you heard? The young master of the Quartermain family is having his birthday party in Featherlight Pavilion!”

“Oh? Then what are we waiting for? Let’s hurry over and have a look for ourselves!”

So, the young master of the Quartermain family was hosting a party, was he? This was excellent!

While Gerald had initially planned on heading straight for the Quartermain’s mansion, now that he had bumped into such a perfect scenario, Gerald was definitely going to allow the young master of the Quartermain family to lead the way for him instead!

Since he was now going with this plan anyway, perhaps Gerald would have a chance to present a little gift to the Quartermains upon meeting them...

Tailing behind the two rich heirs, Gerald then continued thinking about his next step as he followed the duo to the Featherlight Pavilion...

Upon arriving, it was naturally no issue for Gerald to leap past the Pavilion’s high walls and enter through the back door. Carefully passing through the large halls without making a sound, Gerald managed to slip past unnoticed all the way to the packed banquet hall.

From what Gerald could see, the crowd consisted mostly of rich heirs in Bario City while the others were simply other prestigious and powerful people.

As he was analyzing the crowd, he heard someone suddenly shout, "Here comes Young Master Yesirn!"

Following that, the luxuriously dressed young master of the Quartermain family, Yesirn Quartermain, walked out from behind a curtain as he stared at the crowd through his sunglasses.

Standing by his side, were two sturdy-looking and dark-skinned men with frigid expressions on their faces. Looking at them, Gerald could already tell that they were Yesirn's personal bodyguards. After all, the duo had to at least have entered the Fourth-rank of the Rune Realm with how strong they were.

Truth be told, Gerald had already noticed that things were different here in Jaellatra. After all, exceptionally strong people seemed to be the norm here, and it wasn't even all that uncommon to see those who had managed to enter the Rune Realm.

This was why Jaellatra was such a mysterious and powerful place.

Regardless, Young Master Quartermain himself was simply a Ninth-rank master. In other words, he hadn't entered the Rune Realm yet. Not that that mattered to Gerald. To him, these people were going to be nothing but corpses sooner or later anyway.

Whatever the case was, Yesirn's appearance made the entire banquet hall fall silent. Nobody there dared to offend the Quartermains, so they simply stared silently at the imposing young master.

Looking at the crowd before him, Yesirn then shouted, "Ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to my birthday party! It's my treat today, so make sure to enjoy yourselves to the fullest!"

## Chapter 1598

Upon hearing that, everyone instantly burst into cheer!

Gerald, on the other hand, silently remained low-profile in a dark corner of the banquet hall. To him, today wasn't a day for celebrating Yesirn's birthday. Instead, Gerald saw today as the day of Yesirn's memorial ceremony.

Watching as everyone continued being immersed in the delight of sensual pleasures and drinking, Yesirn didn't even realize that a great danger was about to befall him...

There was a saying that Gerald had previously heard of that suited what he was about to do to a tee. Essentially, 'The end of the party is always the best time for one to get their business done'.

As he thought about that, Gerald made sure that his hood was down before leaping into the air!

It was a second later when everyone present watched as a strong-looking person dropped from the banquet hall's ceiling... before landing onto one of the dining tables!

Shocked by all the noise and the fact that the dining table had been split clean in half, the surrounding guests seated there quickly ran off in fear!

Due to the sudden disorder, the initially joyful atmosphere quickly vanished and was instantly replaced with feelings of tenseness and dread. In a way, everyone could sense that a battle was imminent.

"Who are you? And how dare you crash my birthday party! Are you deliberately trying to court death?!" shouted the new furious Yesirn as he glared at Gerald with murderous intent.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly laughed in a rather contemptuous manner before slowly lifting his hood off and revealing how he looked...

“How flamboyant you are, Young Master Quartermain! I can see how much you enjoy being so over the top!” scoffed Gerald.

“Again, who are you?” growled Yesirn as he continued glaring at Gerald.

“My name is Gerald Crawford!” declared Gerald without the slightest hesitation in his tone.

Upon hearing that, Yesirn found himself instantly shocked and surprised. However, his expression quickly turned into one of contempt. To think that the person before him now was Gerald, the wild man who had kidnapped his younger sister, Mila!

“Humph! And here I was thinking who it was! You’re that wild man who kidnapped my younger sister, aren’t you? To think that you actually dared to come to Jaellatra alone! You must truly have a death wish!” sneered Yesirn.

Laughing in response, Gerald simply retorted, “Thank you for pointing out the obvious, Young Master Quartermain! Regardless, the fact that I’m here alone should paint a pretty clear picture that I can easily deal with you without even needing help from others! Now then, listen closely. I’m giving you a chance to order your men to release my elder sister and bring her to me. If you do so, I’ll still make you handicapped, but your life will be spared. If you decide not to comply, however, I’ll be teaching you and the rest of your family a very bloody lesson!”

Despite the fact that Gerald had laughed at Yesirn’s words—rather than choosing to be angered—, everyone could feel how murderous each of his words were. From how frigid Gerald’s expression was, they knew that his proposal wasn’t an empty threat either.

Not only had the Quartermains ruined his brother’s eyes and tongue, but they had also broken his parents’ legs! As if that wasn’t already enough, they even captured his elder sister! All this gave birth to the kind of resentment that couldn’t easily be eliminated. In Gerald’s eyes, the Quartermains had to be exterminated no matter what. It was that drive to have his revenge that brought him to Jaellatra in the first place!

“You arrogant b\*stard! So, you aren’t afraid of the Quartermains at all, are you? Just so you know, killing you would be as easy as murdering a chicken!” roared the infuriated Yesirn.

Frowning in slight disdain, Gerald then sneered, “A chicken you say? Very well, then! Let’s see who ends up on the chopping board!”

The second his sentence ended, Gerald instantly released his immense murderous intent and all the essential qi that he had been holding back this entire time.

And just like that, Yesirn’s anger turned into deep fear. Looking at Gerald now was so pressuring that Yesirn found it hard to even breathe! However, the worst had yet to come.

Due to the intensity of Gerald’s essential qi, many of the people around him were instantly afflicted with disruptions in their blood circulatory systems! As a result, those who were too close to him instantly died on the spot!

This, of course, was natural. After all, no ordinary person would be able to resist the essential qi owned by a Ninth-rank Chakra King!

Swallowing down his discomfort, Yesirn then turned to look at his two bodyguards before ordering, “What the hell are you two still standing there in a daze for?! Go get him!”

Hearing that, both of the guards instantly began dashing toward Gerald with immense speed!



Seeing that, Gerald simply pushed his palms forward, instantly sending the two guards flying backward from a blast of powerful essential qi!

When the two bodies landed, Yesirn realized that both of them had died there and then. A single blow! That was all it took from Gerald to kill both his strongest guards...!

Now fully aware that he was truly powerless against Gerald, the horrified Yesirn found himself quivering as he slowly took a few steps back while threatening, "S-stay back...! If you dare lay even a finger on me, my family won't even think about sparing you...!"

Though Yesirn knew that his death was imminent, he was still trying to use the Quartermains to threaten Gerald. After all, Gerald had come alone to deal with his family. With him being so reckless, Gerald was sure to be an insensible person that would possibly fall for his threats, right...?

Yesirn's hopes for such a scenario proved that he really was as dumb as a post.

To Yesirn's horror, Gerald then began walking over to him, looking very much like a looming God of Death...

Just as Gerald was about to reach Yesirn, however, he instantly felt an immense murderous aura from behind him as an infuriated voice roared, "Young Master!"

Turning around, Gerald was greeted by the sight of a middle-aged man—donning black martial arts clothing—launching an attack straight for him!

However, Gerald barely even flinched. Instead, he simply tilted his body slightly, successfully dodging that man's attack with ease!

"Oh! Is that Thunderclap Punch?" asked Gerald rather casually after observing that middle-aged man's attack.

Thunderclap Punch was a constantly changing attack that was also the most powerful tactic in the Church of the Holy Star. With that said, Gerald honestly hadn't anticipated that the person now before him could actually perform such a strong attack.

"Humph! So even a b\*stard like you recognizes the Thunderclap Punch! Regardless, how dare you disrespect Young Master Quartermain like that! Due to your actions, don't blame me for vanquishing you!" snorted the middle-aged man as he narrowed his cold, murderous eyes.

Feeling like his hero had arrived, Yesirn then ordered, "M-Mr. Cygan! Kill him! He's Gerald!"

The middle-aged man went by Miguel Cygan, and he was the guardian of the Quartermain family. With the strength of a Sixth-rank Chakra King, he had come from the Church of the Holy Star, which explained why he was able to perform the Thunderclap Punch in the first place. Regardless, he was considered to be one of the very best within the Quartermain family.

Either way, upon hearing Yesirn's words, Miguel found himself instantly shocked as he shouted, "What?! So, you're Gerald? How daring of you to come over to Jaellatra on your own! You must really be itching to join your ancestors!"

Miguel truly hadn't expected the Quartermain's enemy to just show up before them like this!

Snorting in response as he looked at the middle-aged man—who was glaring icily at him—Gerald then replied, "What's there for me to be afraid of? Just so you know, one of my goals of coming here is to exterminate the Quartermain!"

With how determined Gerald's voice was, it was evident that he wasn't afraid of Miguel at all. After all, Miguel was nothing but a Sixth-rank Chakra King. He was nothing to Gerald!

"Exterminate the Quartermain family you say? You'll have to get through me first!" roared Miguel as he clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on his arms instantly bulged.

Following that, Miguel darted forward so quickly that it almost seemed like his shadow had been left behind!

Lifting his hand, Miguel then spread his fingers apart—reminiscent of a clawing motion—as he yelled, “Rising Dragon!”

Staring at the incoming middle-aged man—whose attack made him look like a dragon bursting out from the sea—Gerald simply yelled back in a frigid tone, “Thrusting Dragon!”

#### Chapter 1600

Following that, Gerald’s hands turned as sharp as claws as well!

Before Miguel could even land his attack, Gerald easily grabbed the middle-aged man by the neck before lifting and tossing him to the side!

His neck now bloodied, the heavily injured Miguel slowly got to his knees—with much difficulty—before muttering, “...You... To... think that you... knew how... to use the Thunderclap...!”

With Miguel’s blood quite literally gushing out of his mouth now, the dying man wasn’t even able to complete his sentence.

However, he did know for a fact that Gerald had used that attack together with the Thrusting Dragon... With that said, Miguel truly hadn’t expected Gerald to actually use the skill that he had been so proud of mastering to end his life...

Knowing that he would never be able to redeem himself of this humiliation, Miguel finally gave up, flopping right into his own pool of blood, dead...

After witnessing all that, Yesirn was now so terrified that he almost appeared to be in some sort of trance! Slowly squatting to keep his wildly trembling body balanced, Yesirn found himself thinking, '...Not even Miguel, a Sixth-rank Chakra King and a guardian of the Quartermain family was able to deal with Gerald...! With that in mind, who else is there to come save me...?!'

Now that Miguel had been dealt with, Gerald turned to stare at Yesirn before mocking, "Now then... Who else is there to save you, Young Master Quartermain?"

"P-please, Mr. Crawford...! Please, forgive me...! I admit that I was wrong and that I shouldn't have offended you...! With that said, please be the bigger man and spare me...! I'll definitely be returning home now to return your elder sister to you...!" begged Yesirn, knowing that there was no other way out for him.

Though Yesirn then crawled over to Gerald's feet while begging piteously, he was truthfully already thinking about his escape plan. In the end, Yesirn believed that as long as he could reunite with his family, he would surely be able to get some people to deal with Gerald!

Of course, Gerald was able to read through Yesirn's thoughts like an open book.

'You're a joke, you know that? Don't you realize you're already in my grasps?' Gerald thought to himself.

There was no way in hell that Gerald was going to allow Yesirn to leave... After all, he was going to use him to force the Quartermains to return Jessica to him!

With that in mind, Gerald simply slapped Yesirn tight on his face, not even bothering about anything the young master had just said!

Momentarily flung to the side, Yesirn slowly fumbled to his knees again, his mouth now bloodied and several of his teeth missing. Rather than a young master, Yesirn was now nothing more than a target of scorn.

Regardless, all of the remaining participants of the birthday party—who were still alive—had already fled the Featherlight Pavilion by this point, and many of the pavilion’s management team were too frightened to even make a move.

However, there were some sensible people who instantly rushed to the Quartermains to report the incident to them. After all, Young Master Quartermain getting beaten up was a major issue that would surely cause a great uproar within the entirety of Bario City.

Naturally, Gerald had fully anticipated that. With that, he simply stepped on Yesirn’s face, applying a bit more pressure as he warned, “Now then... I’ll be waiting for your family to come. You’d best hope that my sister is with them once they arrive. Otherwise, your family’s going to be greeted by the sight of your fresh corpse!”

Upon hearing that, Yesirn instantly began praying that his family would bring Jessica along. If they didn’t, he knew for a fact that Gerald would kill him without a second thought!

It was around ten minutes later when a commotion could be heard outside the Featherlight Pavilion. It was quite obvious to Gerald who was making all that ruckus.

Seconds later, the master of the Quartermain family himself—Henrick Quartermain—came rushing past the pavilion’s doors, with many other Quartermains following behind him.

Since Henrick had already entered the Sage Realm, he was a terrifyingly strong person. The fact that his son had been beaten up so terribly only served to further increase his anger and intimidating aura.

While he was initially shocked to find out that Gerald had come to Jaellatra looking for trouble with his family, after hearing what the youth had done to his son, that surprise quickly turned into the urge to hack Gerald into pieces.

Regardless, when Henrick finally saw his son, he instantly roared, "Yesirn...!"

"D-Dad...! Please, save me...!" cried out Yesirn who was still being stepped on.

Seeing how his son was being treated, Henrick's blood instantly boiled as his veins became strikingly visible and his essential qi began flaring wildly. If it wasn't for the fact that his son's head was being stepped on, Henrick really wanted to just go on the attack and kill Gerald on the spot!

Knowing better than to do that, Henrick then pointed at Gerald before threatening, "You'd best release my son, else I'm slicing you into a million pieces, Gerald!"

"Oh? Are you really in a position to threaten me?" scoffed Gerald in a frigid tone as he turned to look at Henrick.

## Chapter 1601

The second Gerald's sentence ended, a crisp 'crack' could be heard. Following that, Yesirn's screams of pain filled the air!

Gerald had just crushed one of Yesirn's arms, and the excruciating pain that the young master was feeling was evident in his expression.

Seeing that, Henrick's fury knew no bounds as he glared at Gerald while shouting, "You...!"

“Look, you old b\*stard! Your son’s in my hands, and if you want him alive by the end of all this, you’d better hand over my sister! I’m sure you know what’ll happen to him if you don’t comply!” retorted Gerald straightforwardly, not wanting to waste any more time than he needed to with Henrick.

It was clearly a proposal that Henrick couldn’t reject unless he didn’t care about his son, and everyone there knew that.

In response, however, Henrick simply continued pointing at Gerald as he yelled, “Listen here, if my son dies neither you nor your sister will be able to leave Jaellatra alive as well!”

‘You’re really asking for it, aren’t you?’ Gerald thought to himself. Rather than feeling afraid, the more Henrick threatened him, the more annoyed he got.

With that, more cracking sounds could be heard, followed by another ear-piercing scream from Yesirn!

“P-please... dad...! Pro- promise him that you’ll return her...! I... I don’t want to die...!” pleaded the agonized young master.

Seeing his son being tortured so much, Henrick gave it some thought, gritting his teeth the entire time before eventually growling, “...Fine! You have my word that I’ll return Jessica to you!”

Understanding that the priority was to keep his son alive, Henrick then turned to face one of his servants before ordering, “Go bring Jessica over!”

Hearing that, the servant instantly rushed back to the Quartermain family manor to retrieve Gerald’s sister.

Before Henrick could say another thing, however, he heard Gerald shout, “You’d better not be playing any tricks on me, you old b\*stard! If even the slightest harm comes to my sister, I guarantee that your family will have a bloody price to pay!”

Though Henrick remained silent, he was now more enraged than ever.

To think that he, the mighty and magnificent master of the Quartermain family, would actually be threatened by this inexperienced young man! If word about this got out, he'd surely drown in humiliation!

However, he wasn't too worried about that scenario happening. After all, the second his son was out of danger, he could just kill both Gerald and his sister on the spot! Even if he failed to do so immediately, he was definitely not letting them leave Bario city unscathed.

It was around ten minutes later when Jessica was led into the pavilion under the guide of two servants...

Upon realizing Gerald's presence, her eyes instantly teared up as she cried out, "Gerald...!"

She knew her younger brother would definitely come save her...!

"Don't worry, sister! Both of us will surely leave this place safely!" consoled Gerald.

Looking at all the scars and injuries Jessica had suffered, her pitiful state only served to fuel Gerald with an even greater wrath. He really wanted to chop all the Quartermains into pieces right now!

Even so, he refrained, knowing very well that the priority was to rescue his sister first. He wasn't going to allow her to sustain any further injuries.

Regardless, upon hearing Gerald's words, Jessica simply nodded slightly. She believed in Gerald, and she knew that they were going to make it out of all this.



Unwilling to further watch the heart-warming scene between the two siblings, Henrick then demanded, "Look, I've brought your sister here, Gerald! Now release my son!"

"Humph! Impatient, aren't we? Release my sister first if you want him back!" sneered Gerald as he glared at Henrick.

## Chapter 1602

"You...! Listen here, your sister's still in my grasp! Don't you even dare consider playing any tricks, you hear?!" retorted Henrick as he angrily grabbed Jessica by her neck.

"You old b\*stard! One wrong move on my sister and your son will be dead! If you think I'm just joking around, then try me!" roared Gerald as he instantly lifted Yesirn by his neck as well.

When Henrick saw that his son's eyes were already rolling back on his reddened face, the master of the Quartermain family knew that his threats meant nothing to Gerald.

Rather reluctantly, Henrick then released Jessica's neck before replying, "...Fine! Let's exchange our hostages at the same time then!"

Hearing that, Gerald knew that he had to play along. Releasing Yesirn's neck as well, both Gerald and Henrick began slowly walking toward each other, making sure to have a firm grasp on their hostages' backs.

Once they were close enough, the two men released their grasps at the same time, allowing Yesirn and Jessica to begin walking toward the other party...

However, the second the two passed each other, Henrick made a dash toward Jessica! Since his palm was already charged with essential qi, it was obvious that Henrick had planned to do this from the very beginning!

However, Gerald had naturally read Henrick's mind long before this exchange. With that in mind, Gerald was able to instantaneously respond by dragging Jessica over and launching his own palm attack!

What followed was an explosive sound that shook the entire Featherlight Pavilion!

With dust and debris flying all over the place, Gerald used that chance to successfully flee the pavilion together with his sister!

By the time the dust had settled, Henrick realized that he had been outwitted!

His anger was cut short when he heard his servants shouting, "Y-young master...!"

Turning around, Henrick watched as his servants quickly ran over to his son's side... However, Yesirn... He was lying motionless atop a pool of his own blood!

Momentarily frozen in place, Henrick finally snapped out of it when one of his servants turned to look at him before crying out, "M-master...! Young master, he's... He's dead!"

Upon hearing that, Henrick felt as though he had just been fatally struck by lightning.

"Yesirn...!" shouted Henrick as he ran toward his son's corpse.

Though blood was still flowing endlessly out of Yesirn's gaping neck, it was evident that the boy was no longer among the living.

As to how that gash had got there, during the earlier moments of chaos, Gerald had ordered Jade Infused Blade—who had been within Gerald's body this entire time—to momentarily reveal himself and slice Yesirn's neck! Since nobody there knew about Jade Infused Blade, the deed managed to be done rather stealthily.

Regardless, the now deeply pained Henrick then howled in rage, "I'm tearing off all your skin once I get my hands on you, Gerald...! I'm breaking every single tendon of yours too, and once I'm done, I'll drink every last drop of your blood...!"

Meanwhile, Gerald was already rushing out of the city with immense speed.

"They... Won't pursue us, right...?" asked a worried Jessica as she continued clinging onto Gerald's back.

"Even if they do, I'll protect you, sister! There's no need to worry!" reassured Gerald who had already thought about his next move.

Soon enough, both of them arrived at the mouth of the Underworld Valley...

Even from afar, Jessica had already noticed a graceful but nervous-looking woman sitting under a large tree near the mouth of the valley. The person in question was Nori!

After Jade Infused Blade got the Primocorse for Gerald, both of them had decided to momentarily part ways with Nori. Before heading off to Bario city, however, Gerald had told her to wait here for him since he still needed her help with something.

Regardless, upon seeing that Gerald had made a safe return, Nori instantly got to her feet before shouting, "Gerald...!"

Gerald himself wasted no time in handing his sister over to Nori.

“Nori, I still have to deal with those people so I’ll be leaving my sister in your care for the moment. Make sure to leave immediately! Also, take this sound talisman. Once I’m done dealing with them, I’ll contact you before meeting up again!” instructed Gerald as he took a talisman out from his pocket before handing it to Nori.

Chapter 1603

“Please be careful, alright, Gerald...?” muttered Jessica before her brother parted ways.

She knew how much trouble Gerald had gotten himself into just to save her. With that in mind, she was rather reluctant to see him put himself in danger again now that they had made it out in one piece. If anything terrible happened to him because of her, Jessica was well aware that she would remain guilty about that for the rest of her life...

In response, Gerald simply revealed an understanding smile before saying, “You don’t have to worry about me, sister!”

With that, the youth turned around and instantly left...

Not too far away, Henrick was leading several of his men in pursuit of Gerald. Since Henrick had already entered the Sage Realm, his speed was near unimaginable.

Regardless, when Henrick finally saw Gerald—who appeared to be silently standing in place, waiting for his arrival—the master of the Quartermain family found himself roaring, “You’re dying today if it’s the last thing I do, Gerald...!”

Following that, several powerful-looking people leaped out from behind Henrick! From the looks of it, all of them appeared to be either Eighth or Ninth-rank Chakra Kings...

While Gerald wouldn’t have been able to deal with them in the past, things were much different now. After all, he was currently already nearing the end stages of the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm. With that in mind, Gerald wasn’t afraid of facing those people at all.

What more, he had the exceptional Jade Infused Blade—who was also a Ninth-rank Chakra King—inside his body. Due to that, Gerald was technically not fighting alone this time.

Just as he was thinking about that, a spectral figure flew out of Gerald’s body! With a single swipe of his aurablade, Jade Infused Blade easily decapitated all of Henrick’s men before swiftly returning into Gerald’s body! Nobody else was even able to sense Jade Infused Blade’s presence!

Regardless, upon watching his men’s heads hit the ground—before slowly rolling to the side like bowling balls—, Henrick couldn’t help but shiver slightly in fright. They were all Eighth and Ninth-rank Chakra Kings...! Despite that, Gerald had barely even needed a few seconds to take all of them out!

“...Humph! So, you’ve already entered the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm! It appears that I’ve truly looked down on you! However, know that that rank is useless before me! After all, I’ve already entered the Sage Realm a long time ago! You, of all people, should know how vastly different that places both you and me! With that said, I can easily just crush your skull!” snorted Henrick rather confidently as he glared at Gerald.

Henrick honestly found it rather unfortunate to have to kill Gerald. After all, the fact that Gerald had managed to enter the Rune Realm at such a young age definitely signified how talented the youth was. In the end, however, Gerald was his enemy and there was nothing he could do to change that.

“Oh? Is that so? You’re free to try and do so then, you old b\*stard!” retorted Gerald without the slightest hint of fear in his voice.

While Gerald was fully aware that he hadn’t entered the Sage realm yet, he believed that Henrick wasn’t capable enough to kill him. Due to that, he wasn’t afraid of the Quartermain master.

“You... How arrogant!” shouted Henrick as he dashed forward with inhuman speed! This was how strong someone who had breached the Sage Realm was!

In the blink of an eye, he was already directly in front of Gerald! Aiming for Gerald’s chest, Henrick then struck out his palm!

Of course, Gerald wasn’t about to allow Henrick to do as he pleased. With that, Gerald struck out his own palm in retaliation!

Upon collision, an explosive sound was heard, followed by the ground beneath them forming a rather deep sinkhole from the immense pressure!

As dust and dirt flew in all directions, Henrick couldn’t help but feel surprised. He never thought that Gerald would actually be able to fight against him!

While Gerald would’ve definitely not been a match against Henrick in a one-on-one battle, he actually had Jade Infused Blade on his side. With that in mind, these two individuals—who had both entered the Ninth-rank of the Rune Realm—were just enough to take on Henrick.

Naturally, Henrick was clueless about all this...

## Chapter 1604

“So you managed to take my first blow! Very well, then! Let’s see if you can take another!” snorted Henrick as he took two steps back.

Following that, Henrick waved his hands slightly before shouting, “Holy Flaring Fist!”

Immediately after, his right fist was set ablaze! Wasting no time, the master of the Quartermains then began charging toward Gerald!

Seeing that, Gerald quickly yelled, “Herculean Armor!”

Sneering at the shield that Gerald had just put up, Henrick then mocked, “Just give it up! There’s no way you’ll be able to stop this attack!”

A split second later, a thunderous sound ensued as a blazing fire collided against Gerald’s shield!

Since the flames were able to bypass Gerald’s Herculean Armor, Gerald instantly felt the pain of his skin being burnt! He hadn’t expected Henrick’s attack to be this powerful! Had Gerald’s body not possessed such ample amounts of essential qi, Gerald knew for a fact that the attack could’ve very easily turned him into nothing but ash!

Regardless, after ten excruciating seconds, the flames finally subsided. By this point, Gerald’s clothes were nothing more than thin strips of burnt cloth!

“...How... How is this even possible...?!” shouted the now wide-eyed Henrick in utter disbelief. How was Gerald still alive?!

Smiling contemptuously in response, Gerald then glared daggers at Henrick before retorting, "Is that the best you can do, you old b\*stard? What else do you have? Come on, show me!"

Unable to take any more of Gerald's mockery, Henrick decided that it was high time he took Gerald out with an extremely strong attack!

With his mind made up, Henrick then stomped both his feet onto the ground, causing yet another sinkhole to form around him! His body now engulfed within a raging fire, Henrick then snorted before arrogantly declaring, "You'll be nothing but ashes once this blow lands, Gerald!"

Pushing his arms forward, Henrick then sent five flaming dragons flying in Gerald's direction!

"Master, this is bad! That attack is called the Five Blazing Dragons! You won't be able to withstand it!" warned Jade Infused Blade the second he realized what was happening.

The Five Blazing Dragons was one of the fiery arts in Jaellatra. Once the technique was performed, each following fire dragon would be more powerful than the previous one. With that said, those who bore the same rank as the attacker would most definitely fail to withstand the attack.

Despite the warning, Gerald didn't buy Jade Infused Blade's words. After all, the Herculean Primordial Spirit was inside his body!

With that, the five dragons then rapidly flew toward Gerald!

Due to Gerald's immense speed, he was able to easily dodge the first dragon. Watching as that particular serpent collided against a large tree that was behind him, Gerald found himself frowning slightly when the entire tree turned into nothing but ashes within seconds!

Leaping to avoid the second dragon, Gerald watched as it crashed into a stone wall, resulting in the stones catching fire as the entire wall came crumbling down!



After easily dodging the third and fourth dragon as well, however, Gerald was unable to avoid getting hit by the final one!

Since the fifth fiery dragon was stronger than all the previous ones, Gerald instantly found himself unable to move a muscle the second it collided into him!

Now in immense pain, Gerald—who had been flung high into the air from the impact—slowly began falling into the Underworld Valley’s abyss...

Knowing very well that Gerald definitely wouldn’t be able to survive such a fall, Henrick found himself breathing a sigh of relief. He had finally avenged his son...

Just to make sure, however, Henrick took a few glances at the bottom of the abyss... Sensing nothing, the Quartermain master then turned to leave, never looking back...

...It was quite some time later when Gerald’s fingers began to twitch. Despite falling all the way to the bottom of the Underground Valley’s abyss—into what seemed like a meadow of sorts—, Gerald had survived! Even so, the terribly injured youth was still unconscious at the moment...

## Chapter 1605

“...Master... Master, please, wake up...!” called out Jade Infused Blade.

He had earlier exited Gerald’s body, and after sitting quietly beside the youth for a while, Jade Infused Blade decided to at least try to wake Gerald up.

Watching as the heavily injured youth—whose body was now filled with scars—continued breathing shallowly, Jade Infused Blade could only sigh.

With even Gerald's barrier of essential qi now ruined, it was honestly a miracle that Gerald was still alive. Had it not been for the Herculean Primordial Spirit in his body, Gerald would've perished ages ago...

At that moment, Jade Infused Blade's ears twitched slightly. Following that, he quickly re-entered Gerald's body. Someone was here!

Seconds later, several tree branches began stretching out toward Gerald... Once he was all wrapped up, the branches gently dragged him into a tree hole...

It was about a day later when Gerald's eyes finally opened again... Upon attempting to get up, Gerald instantly began coughing rather violently!

"Hey now, don't go moving around seconds after you've just woken up! Your injuries aren't healed yet! With that said, just lie down and recuperate for the moment!" shouted a deep and almost godly-sounding voice from somewhere...

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly turned vigilant out of habit. Even after looking around, however, he couldn't seem to detect where that voice had come from.

"...Who's there...?" asked Gerald with a slight frown.

After chuckling heartily, the voice then replied, "I'm a tree spirit that resides in the Underworld Valley! I'm the one who saved you, you know? Regardless, the tree hole you're currently in... It's actually my body! With that said, in a way, you're now inside me!"

Hearing that, Gerald then instantly said, "I see...! Thank you for saving me, senior...!"

Before he could further express his gratitude, however, Gerald found himself coughing vigorously again.

The moment Gerald realized that there was even blood in his mouth, the tree spirit simply advised, "Look, you're terribly injured at the moment. Go lie down and stop moving about! Understand that your body's barrier of essential qi is slowly recovering! It needs time to fully heal!"

Understanding that the tree spirit's advice was sound, Gerald could only obey his words. After lying down again, Gerald began thinking about how powerful the Five Blazing Dragons attack was. From what he could now tell, the only way he was going to be able to beat Henrick was by breaching the Sage Realm...

"Alright, now that you've settled down a bit and I'm pretty sure that you have nowhere else to go, tell me, how did you suffer such serious injuries?" asked the tree spirit, clearly trying to ease the tension.

"...Well, I had a battle against Henrick, the master of the Quartermain family! After being hit by his Five Blazing Dragons attack, I ended up getting hit by the final dragon! As a result, I fell into the bottom of the abyss..." replied Gerald in a rather shameful tone.

In the end, Gerald was a mighty person who was at the level of a Ninth-rank Chakra King. Despite that, he still ended up getting terribly beaten up and he even fell right into the Underworld Valley's abyss! With that in mind, Gerald truly felt humiliated by this defeat...

Much to Gerald's displeasure, however, the second his sentence ended, the tree spirit instantly broke into a roar of laughter!

"The Five Blazing Dragons? You can't be serious!" scoffed the spirit as it continued laughing for quite a while.

Not expecting the senior to laugh at him like that, the now frowning Gerald then muttered, "Is my loss that funny to you, senior...?"

“Hmm? Oh no, I’m not laughing about you! I’m laughing about Henrick!” replied the tree spirit as he quickly explained himself to avoid any misunderstandings.

## Chapter 1606

“Oh? Why is that?” asked Gerald rather curiously

“Well, you see, Henrick hasn’t completed his training on the Five Blazing Dragons attack! He’s still one level short! With that in mind, the only reason you ended up getting this seriously hurt is because he’s already entered the Sage Realm! Though I can see that you’re already nearing the end of the Rune Realm, I don’t think I have to remind you that a Ninth-rank Chakra King and a Sage’s power is still vastly different!” explained the tree spirit.

“...So... that attack wasn’t what hurt me? I only got all these injuries due to our strength difference?” asked Gerald rather quickly.

“That’s right! If you need further proof, being hurt by a fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons attack would’ve definitely reduced you to nothing but dust! The fact that you’re still in one piece says a lot about that!” replied the tree spirit.

“...I see. Still, you appear to know quite a bit about the attack and even Henrick... Who exactly are you, if you don’t mind me asking...?” asked Gerald, sensing that something was amiss.

After all, it was a wonder why a tree spirit would know so much about outside affairs...

“Hmm? Well of course I’d know him well! Henrick’s my junior!” replied the tree spirit with a chuckle.

Upon hearing that, Gerald was instantly stunned.

“What? He’s your junior? But aren’t you...?”

“Ah, just to clarify, I wasn’t always a tree spirit! Back then, I had fought a great battle with Henrick in the Underworld Valley as well! However, due to my carelessness, Henrick found a chance to launch a completely avoidable sneak attack on me! As a result, I lost the battle... After being tossed into the valley’s abyss, my soul somehow got integrated with a tree spirit within this deep valley. With that said, I’ll be staying here for a while! However, know that my resentment toward Henrick hasn’t diminished in the slightest!” detailed the tree spirit who clearly despised Henrick with a passion.

Quickly putting two and two together, Gerald then asked, “From what you’ve told me, both you and Henrick share a master, correct? Why did you end up fighting each other? What exactly did Henrick have his eyes on...? Could it be that...”

“I have to say that you’re really smart, mister! As you may already have guessed, Henrick was after my Five Blazing Dragons attack! I say ‘my’ since at the time, I was the only one capable of using it after master imparted it to me. The fact that he wasn’t chosen naturally fuelled his jealousy, and since then, he would constantly attempt to obtain the secret scroll of the Five Blazing Dragons—that I kept within me—in order to train for it.”

“While he did succeed in the end, I had one last trick up my sleeve! I made sure to hide the last part of the scroll in the deepest parts of my body, which was why Henrick only managed to get his hands on an incomplete scroll!” sneered the tree spirit as he thought about it.

After hearing all that, it explained why the tree spirit knew so much about Henrick and the Five Blazing Dragons. As it turned out, Henrick was the original heir to the attack!

“Again, since he hasn’t been able to complete his training for the Five Blazing Dragons attack, I assure you that you were only hurt due to his strength!” added the tree spirit.

“...Understood! Speaking of which, could I have your name...?” asked Gerald, curious about the tree spirit’s real name after hearing all that.

“Of course! It’s Roman Freeman!”

“It’s a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Freeman! I’m Gerald!” introduced Gerald.

“Hahaha! I have a feeling that fate had a role in our meeting, mister! With that said, I’m willing to impart the complete Five Blazing Dragons attack to you on one condition! What do you say?” replied Roman with a subtle smile.

“Go on, Mr. Freeman! I’ll definitely try my best to fulfill it!” replied Gerald, overjoyed that Roman was willing to teach the technique to him in the first place.

Aside from the fact that he was going to master an attack that would surely be able to take Henrick out with ease, Gerald’s enthusiastic reply also stemmed from the fact that he wanted to repay Roman’s kindness for saving him. With that in mind, he was fully ready to agree to any of Roman’s conditions.

Chapter 1607

With Roman’s help, it only took half a day for Gerald’s injuries to be completely healed.

Following that, not only did Roman begin imparting the Five Blazing Dragons skill into Gerald, but the tree spirit also taught Gerald many other martial arts that he had learned throughout his lifetime.

With that in mind, it was obvious that Gerald had agreed with Roman's terms. As for what the condition itself was, what Roman wanted was quite straightforward, and it was honestly something that Gerald had already been planning to do anyway. In short, Roman wanted Gerald to end Henrick's life.

Regardless, it wasn't long before Gerald was able to completely master the Five Blazing Dragons attack. Since the knowledge was imparted into Gerald, Gerald didn't even need to undergo any training to master the skill. What more, he could now use all the skills that Roman had previously learned!

Now that he had imparted all his skills, Roman's voice boomed one final time in the tree hole as he said, "I've imparted everything that I know into you, Gerald! Now that I've successfully done my part, I can finally retire! I'll be leaving everything to you now!"

And just like that, Roman was gone. Just as his surname implied, Roman Freeman was now finally able to rest in peace, free from everything that had previously held him back...

With that in mind, Gerald knew that his next step was to get rid of Henrick. After all, the sooner he fulfilled Roman's final wish, the better.

Stepping outside the tree hole, Gerald then turned around to look at the towering tree before him... With determination in his eyes, Gerald had a serious expression on his face as he declared, "I definitely won't disappoint you, Mr. Freeman...!"

After giving the tree a deep bow, he then turned to leave...

Not long after, Jade Infused Blade—who had been inside Gerald's body this entire time—said, "Congratulations, master! You've finally entered the Sage Realm!"

As a result of attaining Roman's skills, the Herculean Primordial Spirit within Gerald's body underwent a rapid improvement, allowing the youth to finally breach the Sage Realm.

For a person who had achieved this level of strength, leaping onto roofs and vaulting over walls was nothing. With that in mind, Gerald easily scaled a stone wall before using the top of the wall to propel himself into the air!

Though Gerald wanted to immediately deal with Henrick, he knew that he had to at least meet up with Nori and Jessica first.

If everything had gone to plan, Nori should have brought Jessica to a small town—not too far from the Underworld Valley—to recuperate for a while, while waiting for Gerald. Hoping that that was the case, Gerald arrived at the small town just a few minutes later.

Seeing that Gerald had returned safe and sound, both Nori and Jessica were instantly relieved. After all, they had been waiting for him for almost an entire day by this point, and both girls had been worried sick throughout that period.

“I’m so glad that you’ve returned safely, Gerald...!” cried out Jessica as she hugged him tightly.

Patting her back, Gerald then consoled, “You, of all people, should know how capable my martial arts skills are, sister... With that in mind, I’d surely return fine no matter what!”

“As much as I’d love to believe that, accidents can happen, you know? If something happens to you, how am I to even answer to our parents...” mumbled Jessica while pouting like a child.

If something bad ever happened to Gerald, Jessica didn’t even know whether she’d still have the will to live or not...

As she thought about that, Gerald turned to face Nori, a gratuitous smile on his face as he said, “Also, thank you for taking care of my sister, Nori!”



“No problem! Though... How do you plan to repay my kindness?” teased Nori in return, a rather interesting smile on her face.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly felt slightly awkward. That awkwardness, however, didn't stem from her beauty. After all, he was a married man and he already had an exceptionally beautiful woman as his wife.

Regardless, Gerald knew that he still owed her one, so he simply suggested, “...Well, let's just say that I'm indebted to you! How would you like me to repay your kindness? Give it some thought and once you've made up your mind, I'll agree to one of your requests!”

“Deal! Remember, you were the one who suggested that, so you'd better not go back on your words!”

## Chapter 1608

The way Nori had said it, it was almost as though she was afraid that Gerald would end up going back on his word.

Sensing that, Gerald looked at her with determined eyes before saying, “Don't worry, I always keep my word! After all, a person who lies is nothing but a coward!”

Following that, Gerald alternated his gaze between his sister and Nori before adding, “Alright, there's still something I need to settle. With that said, I'm going to have to need both of you to continue waiting for me here for a little while. Don't worry, once I return, we'll leave this place together! Also, remember not to go out all willy-nilly and if needed, you can contact me with the sound talisman. The second it's activated I'll rush back immediately!”

“...What? You’re heading off again, Gerald? But where to?” asked Jessica in a worried tone. After all, to think that they had to part ways again so quickly after reuniting!

“Don’t worry, sister! I’ll definitely make a safe return! Just know that there are still some issues I need to resolve!” replied Gerald as he looked straight into Jessica’s eyes.

Upon hearing that, his sister simply nodded slowly... She, for one, knew that there was no use trying to persuade her brother against it. With that in mind, she could only pray that he would return unscathed.

With that, Gerald then made a massive leap before flying back to Bario City at immense speeds...

There was going to be bloodshed tonight, and Gerald was going to make sure that none of the Quartermains would remain...

Meanwhile, the Quartermain family manor was brightly lit, with sheets of white cloth hung everywhere. Adding that to the many death wreaths placed all over the place, it was clear that the Quartermains were holding a funeral for Yesirn.

Henrick himself was standing before Yesirn’s memorial tablet. After wrapping white strips of cloth over his son’s corpse, the teary-eyed Henrick then said, “I’ve taken revenge for you, son... Gerald’s dead now, so you can rest in peace...!”

Upon hearing that, the rest of the Quartermains present began weeping as well. After all, watching one’s child die before their very eyes was most definitely one of the saddest things to witness...

Unbeknownst to them, however, the Quartermains were going to reunite with Yesirn very, very, soon.

At that moment, a booming and rather familiar voice suddenly shouted, “Hey now, you old b\*stard! Instead of grieving for him, why don’t I just send you to hell so that both of you can get reunited!”

Shocked, everyone turned to look at the source of the voice... And there Gerald was, casually standing with his arms crossed atop the Quartermain manor's roof!

The second Henrick saw the youth, he was instantly hit by immense wrath and shock. Gerald had been hit by the Five Blazing Dragons attack, had he not? How was he still alive?! In fact, how did he even remain so perfectly fine?!

"You... You're alive...?!" growled Henrick as he glared at Gerald.

Snorting contemptuously, Gerald then sneered, "Aren't you a bit too confident with yourself, Henrick? You weren't even able to completely master that attack! With that said, there's no way I would've died to that!"

Furrowing his brows, Henrick then gloomily replied, "...How do you even know about that?"

To think that Gerald was aware that he hadn't perfected the Five Blazing Dragons attack... But how? Nobody else—who was alive—should even know about that!

"There's no need to know about that. After all, you're going to be dead soon anyway. As I've promised myself, I'm exterminating the Quartermains if it's the last thing I do!" retorted Gerald in a frigid tone.

Hearing that, Henrick simply snorted disdainfully as he yelled, "You sound rather sure of yourself! If I could defeat you back then what makes you think you'll win this time?! Now stop talking trash and just die already!"

Following that, the Quartermain master leaped toward Gerald, intent on attacking the youth!

Unfortunately for him, Henrick looking down on Gerald was a truly fatal mistake...

## Chapter 1609

Despite seeing that Henrick was launching an attack at him, Gerald hardly even looked anxious.

In response, he simply shouted, “Weakening Strike, the first move of Judge Swift Sword Technique!”

The second his sentence ended, Jade Infused blade exited Gerald’s body before transforming into a sword! Upon unsheathing the blade from its scabbard, a blindingly white light then flashed, followed by loud ripping sounds that filled the air!

Now feeling increasingly intimidated, Henrick quickly used his essential qi to block the attack!

As an explosive sound followed, Henrick quickly realized that though he had managed to stop the main attack, the force of it alone still sent Henrick flying toward the ground! Upon collision, the Quartermain head instantly vomited a mouthful of blood...

Coughing as he stared at Gerald in sheer disbelief, Henrick then yelled, “You...! How... How are you even able to perform the Judge Swift Sword Technique?!”

As far as Henrick knew, there was only one person who had successfully mastered that technique... And that person was none other than his old senior, Roman!

Created by Roman himself, the Judge Swift Sword Technique was the other skill that his senior had prided himself in, aside from the Five Blazing Dragons technique.

The sword technique itself consisted of three separate moves, with the first being Weakening Strike, the second called Glistening Star Strike, and the final one named the Judge Swift Strike!

Regardless, by right, the Judge Swift Sword Technique should have disappeared together with Roman... After all, Henrick had made sure to finish off his senior before tossing him into the Underworld Valley's abyss.

With that in mind, the fact that the technique still existed was a great shock to Henrick.

"How, you ask? Well, let's just say that I'm fully aware that you're vicious enough to not even spare your senior! With that said, I'm going to be executing the principles of your sect on behalf of Roman today!" sneered Gerald contemptuously as he casually pointed the sword at Henrick.

At that moment, Henrick swore that he could almost see his senior standing where Gerald was...

"...To think that you had been alive this entire time, senior...! You even imparted all your skills into this person! Still, I hope you realize that I'm much stronger than I was back then!" grumbled Henrick as he quickly got to his feet.

Following that, Henrick spread both his hands out... and seconds later, his entire body was set ablaze! With a fiery dragon now wrapped around his body, it was clear that Henrick was about to use the Five Blazing Dragons technique!

Gerald, however, simply replied, "Just saying, but you haven't really mastered that technique yet. You know, in case you've forgotten."

"So what of it? Allow me to remind you that the secret scroll of the Five Blazing Dragons is still with me! With that said, this incomplete attack is still sufficient in ridding you for good!" scoffed Henrick confidently, clearly unaware that Gerald had not only mastered that very attack, but had also entered the Sage Realm!

“I see... Well, since you’re holding onto that incomplete attack so obstinately, I’ll show you how it’s really done before you die!” replied Gerald who couldn’t be bothered with any more of Henrick’s nonsense.

With that, Gerald then did the same gestures as Henrick had... Just like his opponent, Gerald’s entire body was then engulfed within flames! However, unlike Henrick, Gerald’s flames were golden! Following that, two dragons appeared, one made of fire and the other made of golden light! Coiling around each other, both individual dragons were more dazzling than what Henrick’s dragons could ever achieve.

“What?!” yelled the deeply astonished Henrick as his eyes widened. This... This was the fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons technique...!

“Take a good, long look at what the fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons technique looks like, Henrick!”

## Chapter 1610

After Gerald declared that, a furious roar could be heard as the youth summoned five fiery dragons, each shining in blindingly golden light! However, Gerald wasn’t done.

Following that, all five dragons merged to form a blast of fire and light that then shot out toward Henrick!

Unable to avoid the attack, Henrick was instantly turned to ashes the second the flames engulfed him!

Though the rest of the Quartermains were instantly terror-stricken, they barely had any time to react as the attack began aiming for them as well! Soon enough, the entire manor was set ablaze, and all that remained of the Quartermains were their ashes...

This was the true power of the finalized Five Blazing Dragons... Everything within thirty feet of it would simply crumble!

Regardless, now that the Quartermains had been completely eliminated, Gerald began making his way out of Bario City.

While he was glad to have helped Roman fulfill his dying wish, Gerald was well aware that news of the Quartermain's extermination would surely spread like wildfire throughout Jaellatra.

With the public in chaos, it definitely wouldn't take long for the forces who had initially been backing the Quartermains up to have their revenge.

Though Gerald had already entered the Sage Realm, Gerald understood that there were many other exceptional people within Jaellatra. With that in mind, staying there for any longer would surely spell trouble. Due to that, Gerald knew that he had to leave with Jessica as soon as possible.

With the plan all set, Gerald then left Jaellatra with Jessica early the next morning.

While Nori chose to return to Earth Capital on her own, she made sure to remind Gerald that he owed her one before he left. She also added that when a suitable time came, she would surely call for his help.

Regardless, true to what Gerald had predicted, chaos ensued all across Jaellatra not long after he and Jessica made their escape.

After all, the Quartermains were a greatly famous and reputable family in Jaellatra. They were also known to be extremely strong. With that in mind, the fact that they had been taken out in a single night was definitely stupefying...

It was sometime later when a person wearing a phoenix robe and a golden crown could be seen sitting atop a throne within the God Temple of Jaellatra... Holding a scepter with dragon carvings all over it, the person went by the name of Apollo, and he was the king of the God Temple. Apollo was also the ruler of all of Jaellatra, and he had attained the Seventh-soul-rank within the Sage Realm...

At that moment, a man donning a black cape ran in before respectfully saying, "God Lord, the Quartermains have been completely eliminated! Due to that, I believe that a few of Jaellatra's forces will begin causing trouble in their attempt to snatch the previous turfs that the Quartermains owned!"

The person speaking—who had attained the Second-soul-rank in the Sage Realm—went by the name of Hisham, and he was one of God Lord's followers.

"I see... Do we have the culprit?" asked Apollo in a slow but deep voice. His commanding tone alone was enough to send shivers down one's spine...

"We do! The one responsible for all this is a youth by the name of Gerald! According to what I've gathered, he appears to be from Earth!" replied Hisham.

"From Earth, you say... Very well. From this moment onward, you're tasked with heading there and testing that person's strength out! Once you've done sufficient tests, come back and report the results to me!" ordered Apollo before closing both his eyes.

"Yes, God Lord!" replied Hisham as he cupped his hands in obeisance before leaving immediately.

Not even bothering to open his eyes again, it appeared that Apollo had little interest in Gerald...



Regardless, it didn't take long for all the Quartermain family's turfs to be snatched and divided among the other families in Jaellatra, leaving the Quartermains nothing but a distant memory...

By that point, Gerald and his sister had already made their safe return to Earth...

Upon reuniting her with their family, Gerald's parents—and Yoel—were instantly overjoyed to find out that both of them had returned in one piece. Their family was finally together again!

While the occasion was certainly joyous, Gerald knew that things were far from over. After all, though the Quartermains in Jaellatra were no more, the Quartermains in Sunniva City—the Quantocks—were still alive, and Gerald was well aware that both families were connected by the same sect and bloodline...

Truth be told, this entire incident began from the actions of the Quantocks, and they were also responsible for sending his sister to the Quartermains. With that in mind, Gerald definitely had to take out the Quantocks next...

## Chapter 1611

It was late that night—within a secret manor in Yanam—when Gerald and his family could be seen cheerfully eating while talking with each other.

Even Yoel—whom Gerald's mother was currently supporting—found himself smiling due to how joyous the reunion was. It truly had been ages since they had last gotten together like this...

Even so, Gerald couldn't seem to feel truly happy about all this. After all, in the end, poor Yoel still had his eyes gouged out and his tongue snipped! His parents no longer had functioning legs either, and as for his sister... He couldn't even imagine all the suffering she had gone through while waiting for him...

To Gerald, all this had only happened due to him not doing his best to keep his family protected. With that in mind, he blamed himself for all their suffering, and all that guilt prevented him from enjoying himself at the moment...

If only he had made a few more precautions, Yoel would've surely been able to live both normally and happily like any regular person... However, Yoel had actively tried to defend his family, and as a result, he ended up in such a pitiful state... It truly made Gerald feel like he had failed his brother...

With all these thoughts plaguing his mind, Gerald knew that he would only be able to rest easy once he took down the Quantocks. That was the only way Gerald was going to be able to fully avenge his family...

Gerald's train of thought was cut short when his smiling mother turned to look at him before saying, "Gerald... You seem a little quiet tonight..."

"She's right! Our family's finally reunited again, you know? Be a bit more joyous!" added Dylan.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly forced a smile to hide his troubles.

A short while later, however, he took in a deep breath before turning to look at his family with determined eyes...

"...Mom, Dad, Jessica, and Yoel... From today onward, I'll never allow any of you to suffer any more pain...! I'll protect each and every one of you no matter the costs!"

"Well said! We believe in you, Gerald!" replied Dylan as he nodded with a smile.

With that said, the laughing and talking continued late into the night...

Eventually, Gerald's parents and Yoel headed off first to retire for the night. Watching as his parents led Yoel away, Gerald then sat in the garden with Jessica to continue talking for a bit.

"I wonder if you remember the time when you first realized that you were a rich heir, Gerald..." asked Jessica with a smile as she stared at the shining stars in the night sky.

Smiling subtly, Gerald then replied, "Of course I do! Thinking back, all of you were truly experts at hiding all that from me! Do you even have any idea how long I suffered from how poor I was?"

"We did all that for a reason though! By making you experience all that, we had hoped that it would make you strong enough to eventually be able to continue carrying our family's torch! And lo and behold, look at you now! With you to rely on, dad can finally retire from being our family's backbone... Honestly, by this point, I don't really care that much about you making a huge impact on society... Instead, I just wish that our family can live together cozily!" said Jessica with words that came from her heart.

Turning to look at his sister, Gerald then lowered his head before replying in an apologetic tone, "...You must have suffered terribly while you were captured, sister... I'm sorry for being so careless! Had I made more precautions, neither of you would have ended up in such pitiful states!"

Upon hearing that, Jessica gently patted Gerald's head before saying, "None of us blame you for all this, Gerald... After all, you couldn't have possibly anticipated all this to happen! I understand that you badly wish to protect us since we kept protecting you back then, but understand that you're already doing a good job! After all, we're all together again now, aren't we? With that said, let bygones be bygones and let's enjoy our time together as a family to the fullest!"

"...I understand, sister..." muttered Gerald as he nodded in response...

At that very moment, a dark silhouette suddenly dashed past the forest right outside the manor...

## Chapter 1612

Though the silhouette was extremely quick, Gerald was still able to see it through the corner of his eye... Realizing that they weren't alone, Gerald had a gut feeling that the person or thing dashing about was up to no good.

Not wanting Jessica or his parents to know about the figure's presence—and potentially get worried or scared—, Gerald then quickly said, “You know, it's getting a bit late, wouldn't you say? You should go ahead and get some rest first, sis!”

“I guess... Don't stay up for too much longer yourself, Gerald!” replied Jessica as she smiled warmly before returning into the manor.

Once he was sure that she had entered, Gerald instantly leaped out of the manor and headed to the spot where he had last been able to sense the shadowy figure's presence. Upon arriving at the spot, Gerald stopped in his tracks before activating his holy sense to scan the area...

After standing there in silence for a while, Gerald eventually looked up at the trees surrounding him before shouting, “Come out already! I know you're close by!”

Almost immediately after, the rapid rustling of leaves could be heard as the silhouette from before dashed out from one of the trees!

Noticing that it was charging toward him with a blade that glinted coldly in the moonlight, Gerald instantly stepped aside to dodge the attack before attacking his assailant with his right palm!

By the end of it all, both of them managed to successfully launch their attacks, though neither of them got hurt...

“Who are you?” asked Gerald in a frigid tone.

“To think that someone at your age would be able to enter the Sage realm... What a promising future you show! Regardless, at the rate of how fast your strength is growing, I have little doubt that you’ll be able to destroy the Quantocks with ease!” replied the slightly surprised person in a rather devilish tone.

Squinting his eyes, Gerald then glared at the man in black as he said, “Again, who are you? If you’re worthy enough then you should identify yourself as well as your intentions outright!”

“Hah! The truth is, you’re the one who isn’t worthy enough to know my identity yet! Regardless, I’ll at least let you know that I was sent here under the orders of God Lord!” replied the man with a snicker.

Before Gerald could even ask him about any more details, the man in black bolted off! And just like that, his presence was completely undetectable, gone in the dark of night...

Shortly after, Gerald heard Jade Infused Blade say from within his body, “Master, that man was strong...! He had to at least have entered the Second-soul-rank of the Sage Realm!”

“...I see. Tell me, Jade Infused Blade, do you have any idea who that ‘God Lord’ that mysterious man mentioned is...?” asked Gerald rather curiously.

“I haven’t heard of him before, though from what I can guess, he must be from Jaellatra!”

So, it was just as Gerald had predicted... Quite a stir must have taken place following the death of the Quartermains... The fact that this man had come all the way from Jaellatra to meet him was already a clear sign that more trouble was imminent.

“Still, I could sense that that man wasn’t trying to fight you, master... From what I could see, it seemed like he was just trying to test your abilities!” added Jade Infused Blade.

Gerald had assumed that as well. After all, the man hadn’t tried to do anything particularly fatal to him.

Understanding that there was a possibility that he was simply being tested, Gerald had made sure not to show too much of his capabilities earlier. Due to that, hopefully the man didn’t manage to gather too much data.

“Well, if I want to know more about this, I guess I’ll just have to look for this ‘God Lord’ and ask him myself!” muttered Gerald to himself as he casually looked in the direction where the man in black had run off to...