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Chapter 523 How Durable

Upon hearing that, Garrison approached him with a frown.

"Jonathan, what's the point in you asking this now? We did this to the Goldstein family to remind you that you still have weaknesses, no matter how mighty you are. Your troops don't matter when you're facing off respectable families like us. You still failed to protect your family, didn't you?"

"Is this a threat?" asked Jonathan coldly, huffing a laugh as he studied Garrison.

All the while, Garrison marched forward one step at a time, his aura surging to incredible levels.

When he arrived before Jonathan, his cultivation level had reached the beginner phase of the God Realm, which was on par with Jonathan.

"Jonathan, this isn't a threat but the truth of the matter," he explained to Jonathan while smirking.

"Jonathan, you're too soft, so you can't become a hero. You care about family and friends. It's exactly what's happening now. Any person could easily disrupt your mind. This is a warning. The Osborne family never intended to fight you. Otherwise, you wouldn't even be alive by now. You have no ambition despite holding supreme military power. People like you deserve to be trampled over by others. Now, I shall ask you on behalf of the Osborne family. Will you submit to us, allow yourself to be of service to us, and become a vassal of the family?"

"You're full of gibberish!"

Following a cry of rage, Jonathan rushed forth, ready to claw at Garrison's face.

Bam!

There was a muffled noise before Jonathan was sent flying backward.

Meanwhile, a faint golden glow flashed around Garrison.

Is that a shield made of spiritual energy?

After landing on the ground, Jonathan checked on his bloodied fingers. His nails were all uprooted, which was an after-effect of him clawing at the spiritual energy shield. No, this isn't a spiritual energy shield. Although cultivators who have surpassed the Grandmaster Realm could condense their spiritual energy outside their body to form a temporary shield, it would only be a simple form of defense. It couldn't possibly have such power.

As the slabs of stone cracked underneath Jonathan's feet, he lashed out at Garrison once again. His figure was a blur as he dashed forward.

Clang!

The golden glow emerged again, rippling like water.

That time around, Jonathan focused his sight on it and finally managed to see it clearly. There were odd, blurry characters flashing on that glowing orb of light.

It was peculiar, for it seemed like the huge bell found in temples.

It's a protective magical item!

In an instant, Jonathan could already see why Garrison could remain unperturbed. Although he had never seen one himself, Jonathan had read about various pills and magical items in the latter part of the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique.

According to the description provided by the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique, cultivators during ancient times wouldn't only train by making use of spiritual energy found in nature, but they would also boost their weapons by adding various functions to them through the use of special rune arrangements.

For instance, they would use spatial rune formations to create magical items used for storage. Despite the tiny object, it could store huge amounts of items.

Other than that, one could also use fire-attribute rune formations on weapons to add a fire affinity to the weapon and deal more damage.

Protective magical items were the most precious out of all the magical items. It was hard to gather the necessary materials, and the process of forging them was incredibly challenging. Every single one of those items could help save lives.

Powerful protective magical items could even allow cultivators to negate attacks from others, so they were definitely prized treasures.

Yet, despite their prowess, the materials required to forge these items could no longer be found due to the destruction of the spiritual roots in nature.

Even the author who created the cultivation method of the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique had only seen them on rare occasions, adding to their mysterious nature.

Thus, Jonathan wasn't expecting to encounter something that had vanished during ancient times.

He wondered if he was considered lucky or unlucky.

Seeing Jonathan's two failed attempts at attacking, Garrison wore a smirk on his face. "Stop wasting your energy, Jonathan. You can't possibly break through my defense. Moreover, I will hereby inform you that this magical item that I'm using is but a mid-tier item amongst all that the Osborne family owns. Known as The Untouchables, the Osborne family doesn't only get to accumulate their wealth throughout the centuries. You couldn't even begin to imagine the foundations we possess. Submit to the Osborne family, and we will assist you in becoming the new ruler of Chanaea."

"Shut the hell up!"

With a roar, Jonathan reached in front of Garrison in a flash.

He swept his leg sideways, and the golden light orb around Garrison glowed again. Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!

A series of clashing noises rang in the air.

It sounded as if countless bells were rung in Moonriver Estate, their chimes spreading far and wide.

Bam!

Following a muffled noise, Jonathan got punched in the face by Garrison and was sent flying backward.

"How do you plan on fighting me when you can't even lay a finger on me?" said Garrison.

Following a roar, his figure was already above Jonathan when he raised his fist to crash it down on Jonathan's skull.

Bam!

There was a crisp sound when Jonathan managed to grab Garrison's wrist tightly while still soaring mid-air.

"Just die!"

As Jonathan bellowed, he activated his spiritual energy force field, crystalizing an enormous amount of spiritual energy around him to form an invisible wall.

The moment his feet touched the spiritual energy wall, he gathered more of his power. Then, grabbing ahold of Garrison's wrist, Jonathan twisted his body around and smashed Garrison to the ground like how one would wield a hammer. Boom!

Gravel tumbled everywhere. Even though he only struck once, he made a hole around four to five meters wide and two to three meters deep on the ground.

Jonathan panted while squatting at the edge of the hole.

"If I get it correctly, your protective magical item is only useful if you remain passive. You'll have to remove the item if you want to go on assault, right?"

Jonathan burst into laughter while watching Garrison struggling to get up in the hole. "I sure want to see how much longer this protective magical item of yours can last." Garrison was still in the hole and bleeding profusely from his nose and mouth.

Although his protective magical item had absorbed most of the force from Jonathan's throw, the powerful impact still dealt Garrison serious internal injuries.

When Garrison saw the crazed smile of Jonathan, who was squatting on the ground above him, Garrison was thinking of retreating.

Jonathan was right. Although the protective magical item was powerful, its fatal weakness was that the protection was applicable to people on both sides of the protective barrier.

As soon as it was activated, not only would the person outside not be able to reach the person inside, but the person inside the protective barrier would not be able to reach the other person as well.

Before Jonathan realized that, Garrison was able to attack by manipulating the magical item at will.

However, now that his trick was exposed, the magical item's power was greatly reduced and had lost its threat to someone of Jonathan's caliber.

Since Garrison had already decided on retreating, he didn't hesitate to leap away in an attempt to escape.

However, the moment he leaped, a footprint descended from above, pushing both him and the protective barrier of the magical item back into the hole.

"What do you want, Jonathan?" asked Garrison with a solemn look on his face. He looked at Jonathan, who landed on the edge of the hole.

Jonathan smiled. "As I said, I would like to know how durable your magical item is!"

"How dare you, Jonathan Goldstein!"

Garrison shot to his feet. The spiritual energy within him started surging wildly. If one were a true fighter, they would be able to judge the gap between themselves and their opponent easily by testing the waters for a bit while engaged in battle. Having gone up against Jonathan earlier, Garrison knew that the man wasn't of the Grandmaster Realm. Like him, the man was also of the God Realm.

That aside, Jonathan wasn't at the beginner phase of the God Realm. After all, the capabilities Jonathan exhibited earlier were far above Garrison's.

He's an expert at the advanced phase of the God Realm! How could this possibly be? At that thought, Garrison lifted his head and stared at Jonathan, a sense of trepidation inexorably swamping him as his spiritual sense spread out.

Despite the Osborne family having gathered elders for over a millennium, they only had a few elders of the God Realm, totaling less than ten.

On top of that, the youngest among them only broke through the God Realm at fifty-five years old. At the end of the day, the most important element in cultivation was long-term amassment and insight of cultivation methods.

However, Jonathan had stepped foot into the God Realm when he wasn't even thirty years old.

He's probably on par with that prodigy from the Gomez family. Then, there's Wilbur Xanthos, the commander-in-chief of Yaleview Army. According to the reports, he has probably broken through the God Realm. In the past, the entire martial arts world would be shaken if someone broke through the God Realm before sixty years old. But now, there are three such prodigies in the world. It looks like this era won't be that peaceful anymore.

As Garrison was standing in the deep hole, his thoughts abruptly took a sharp turn. "Since you don't want to leave, I'll send you to meet your maker instead!"

Letting out a roar, he made hand seals with his right hand. A glimmer of golden light flashed across his body.

Surprisingly, he removed his protective barrier.

"You're right in that this protective magical item isn't perfect. One must remove it to launch an attack. It's indeed impressive that you've managed to discern that in such a short time. But don't tell me you thought that I only managed to climb to my position today just because of this protective magical item when I'm an elder of the Osborne family. It isn't that simple. The Unmovable King Seal! Converge!"

Following that bellow, Garrison clasped his hands before his chest with his fingers interlocked. In the blink of an eye, a strange hand seal took shape.

At the same time, the spiritual energy within him surged wildly.

In merely a few breaths, the turbulent spiritual energy within him doubled. Garrison shot up to the advanced phase of the God Realm.

Is this... a secret method to milk one's potential?

At the sight of the veins popping up on Garrison's forehead, Jonathan's eyes brimmed with excitement.

"You're finally willing to reveal some capabilities, huh, old geezer?"

Ever since Jonathan established Asura's Office, there hadn't been any military upheaval in Chanaea. As such, he never unleashed his full capabilities after that.

After learning that there were still many cultivators in this world, in particular, he had been looking forward to finding an opponent of the same level to test his capabilities. Looks like the battle I've been anticipating is transpiring today!

The corners of his mouth turned up, and fire blazed in his eyes as he regarded Garrison below.

"Come at me and show me what you've got!"

As Jonathan spoke, he slowly backed away for real. He went a distance away and waited silently.

"You're courting death!"

Garrison's expression was icy, his hands locked in a hand seal.

Having utilized a secret method to activate his potential, Garrison experienced unprecedented strength.

Along with that, overwhelming self-confidence flooded him.

Sensing Jonathan's aura, Garrison leaped lightly and finally stood on the ground once more.

At that moment, he had confidence that he had at least an eighty percent chance of killing Jonathan with his methods.

The two of them stood on the ground carved with the Great Torhen, one on the white half and the other on the black half. By then, Jonathan had already moved Sophia to the side with spiritual energy.

As Garrison stared straight at Jonathan, the former expanded his force field and enveloped Jonathan within.

"Take this!"

Following that shout, the slate beneath Garrison's feet shattered.

A fist appeared in front of Jonathan, heading straight for the front of his head. Whoosh!

A muffled thud rang out, and a gust of wind swirled around him.

"You're too slow," Jonathan commented placidly after stretching out a hand and blocking Garrison's terrifying blow with a frown.

Back when Jonathan sparred with Wilbur, it was exceedingly dangerous although neither of them unleashed their full capabilities.

Yet, Garrison's punch then was of no threat at all. At once, Jonathan sensed something amiss.

Sure enough, the moment Jonathan uttered that remark, a sneer tugged at the lips of Garrison, whose fist the former held in his palm.

"Break!"

With a bark from Garrison, Jonathan sensed a violent burst of spiritual energy rushing into the meridian of his arm from his palm.

Excruciating pain assailed him, and he promptly flew backward.

In the meridian of his arm, the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique automatically activated. Countless bursts of pure spiritual energy poured into the meridian of his right hand, wrapping around the unstable spiritual energy and directing all spiritual energy back into his energy field.

His golden core glowed. In an instant, all the unstable spiritual energy was purified. "Spiritual Energy Hit? I've learned it."

Jonathan gave a sneer before his figure disappeared in a flash.

"How is this possible?" Garrison exclaimed.

Within his force field, Jonathan's movements were distinctly imprinted in his mind. Jonathan moved in the same trajectory and replicated Garrison's action. A fist appeared before Garrison, heading straight for the front of his head.

Alas, it did him no good despite being able to see it all.

In the force field, all information was relayed almost simultaneously.

Ultimately, sensing it and being able to dodge it were two different things.

In the face of the punch that was similar to what he had unleashed earlier, the only thing Garrison could do was to stretch out his hand and block it as Jonathan did. Bang!

A muffled bang rang out, and a spurt of blood arched across the air. Garrison was thrown dozens of meters back, only stopping after smashing into the low wall around the garden.

In the square, a mist of blood hung in the air in front of Jonathan.

As the protective barrier of spiritual energy diffused, the mist of blood scattered on the wind.

With a slight leap, Jonathan crossed dozens of meters to stand before Garrison. "You're Garrison, yes? If you've got an ultimate technique, you'd best use it now. Otherwise, you won't have the opportunity to do so anymore," Jonathan advised mildly,

gazing down at the man whose chest was all bloodied.

When Garrison looked at Jonathan again right then, the look in his eyes was as though he was beholding a monster.

He replicated my attack!

In truth, Garrison had already noticed that the man's attacks were exceedingly plain despite his high cultivation level.

It was as though he was filled with energy, but he hadn't yet learned to use it.

And now, that proved to be the case indeed. The only thing Jonathan lacked then was the corresponding techniques.

Although the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique was incredibly powerful, it was merely a profound basic cultivation method at the end of the day.

The basic cultivation method worked internally. It could boost a cultivator's cultivation level continuously by establishing a foundation.

Techniques, on the other hand, were external. With cultivation level as the base, a cultivator could come up with various attack and defense techniques.

That was precisely why Jonathan had been holding back and testing the waters when he battled with a cultivator, be it Philip from the Gomez family previously or Garrison right then, although he could have defeated them easily.

It was to learn how they utilized their cultivation level.

Despair inundated Garrison as he stared at his right arm, which was a mess of blood and flesh. That was a result of the Spiritual Energy Hit Jonathan had just learned from him.

While Spiritual Energy Hit sounded simple, it was exceedingly difficult to cultivate. Back when Garrison learned it himself, it took him a whole year of trial and error to have a basic grasp of it.

Right then, however, Jonathan managed to replicate it perfectly just after a single look. Is he... for real?

Chapter 525 The Old Geezer Exploded

"You asked for it!"

Supporting himself against the brick wall that had cracked and collapsed, Garrison slowly rose to his feet.

"Although I have known that your cultivation level is high and you're a rare talent, it seems that the Osborne family has underestimated you, Jonathan. Since you refuse to submit, let me eliminate this obstacle for the family!"

While saying that, Garrison lifted his left hand and pressed his fingers against his right arm hard.

A flash of pure spiritual energy flitted across Jonathan's eyes. Garrison didn't activate his force field this time. Thanks to the augmentation of spiritual energy, the spiritual energy under the surface of his skin became distinctly visible.

Ah, the triple energizer meridians!

As Jonathan clocked the positions of Garrison's fingers, his lips curved into a smile. Those five acupoints governed the circulation of blood in the meridian of the arm. In other words, Garrison was sealing the five acupoints. Not only did he manage to stop the flow of blood, but more importantly, he also blocked off his arm's senses.

"You want to go all out?" Jonathan queried calmly.

"No, I'm not going all out. Instead, I'm killing you!" Garrison declared, cackling manically. His teeth that were stained scarlet by blood appeared horrendously ghastly.

"Since you refuse to let me go, you can only die here!"

With a cry from Garrison, a bronze-colored bell appeared in his left hand.

When Jonathan sensed the ominous aura on the bell, his heart lurched. Seemingly on reflex, he activated his force field and backed away.

"You want to flee now? It's too late!"

Garrison charged after him. He shot out his right index finger, tapping it against the bell in his left hand.

Ding!

It was a light nudge, but a resounding ring split the air.

Blood instantly spurted out from Garrison's finger that flicked the bell, but it merely scattered an inch before the bell absorbed it.

Standing before him, Jonathan had his force field wide open, sealing his entire body within.

Even so, it couldn't withstand the invisible ripple that headed straight for his energy field. Death and emptiness pervaded the air.

Wherever the bell sounded, one's spiritual energy would suffer a shockwave while their spiritual sense dispersed.

"Die!"

Garrison gave a loud roar upon seeing that Jonathan's force field was unstable. In a flash, he streaked over to the latter.

"Converge!"

With a bark from Jonathan, his remaining force field promptly formed a shield before

him.

"Smash!"

As Garrison struck the protective barrier of spiritual energy, Jonathan endured the spasms of spiritual energy within his mind and flicked his right hand imperceptibly. At once, more than a dozen boulders rose behind the former. Flying forward so fast that they became afterimages, they shot right at the back of Garrison's head.

"It's not going to work!"

Rays of golden light manifested around Garrison unceasingly. When the swift boulders were an inch away, they turned into dust and scattered.

"I used my own flesh and blood for the exchange, so you're dying for sure today!" Ding!

Garrison tapped the bell again. His middle finger exploded. Again, the blood was absorbed by the bell in his left hand.

"Shield!"

The Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique was whirring at warp speed within Jonathan. Rays of golden energy glimmered, and spiritual energy surged within him ceaselessly. At that moment, Jonathan felt as though even his blood would boil. In the face of the bell, his spiritual sense merely scattered for a bit before it gathered again. "Die!"

Following his bellow, Jonathan rushed to Garrison's right at such speed that he turned into an afterimage.

"How is this possible?"

Shock deluged Garrison when he saw that Jonathan was seemingly not affected in the least.

"Fire!"

With a roar, Garrison stretched out his hand and struck the bell.

"Slash!"

Jonathan's figure flickered. He waved his right hand, upon which pure spiritual energy formed an invisible blade in his right hand.

A single strike from him severed Garrison's right arm.

Alas, Jonathan was a step too late. The severed palm still struck the bell.

Ding!

Following that light ring, the bell blurred and expanded until its diameter exceeded three meters.

Meanwhile, Jonathan was thrown back the instant the bell rang, falling into the artificial lake dozens of meters away.

His meridians were severed, and his skin was flayed into a bloodied mess.

Having fallen into the lake, he bled from all orifices. His consciousness almost faded entirely away.

Ultimately, I still overestimated myself! That isn't a bell at all. Instead, it is an ancient magical item with engravings of an arcane array, a large bell with many runes on it. As he cast his mind back at the final afterimage he saw, bitterness swamped him. Well, I'm going to die, huh?

Sensing the squishy sensation at his back, Jonathan knew that he had probably sunk to

the bottom of the lake.

He wanted to swim to the shore, but the shockwave earlier made it so difficult that he couldn't exert an ounce of energy. Even the spiritual energy within him had then lost all contact with him.

The only thing he could feel was that the spiritual energy in his energy field was swiftly disappearing into his body.

Just when Jonathan had already resigned himself to his fate, a figure dived into the lake.

In the next second, he felt someone seizing hold of his collar, and he quickly started rising to the surface.

"Phew!"

The moment he broke the surface of the water, he gulped in fresh air.

At his cultivation level, it would have been a piece of cake for him to even stay in the water for several hours as long as he held his breath.

However, he couldn't use any spiritual energy at all because of the recoil of that strange, large bell. If he hadn't broken the surface of the water, there was only one ending awaiting him—drowning to death.

Never had there been a moment when he found the air so sweet.

He turned to the person who was holding onto him, only to see that it was Andy. "Mr. Goldstein!"

Using both his hands and legs, Andy dragged Jonathan onto the shore.

"Are you okay?" he shouted anxiously upon seeing that Jonathan's limbs were completely limp.

"Well, I'm not dead yet!" Jonathan replied as he panted heavily.

By then, he was already seemingly paralyzed from the head down. Besides his head, he couldn't feel any other part of his body.

Even a four or five-year-old kid could easily stab him in the heart with a knife right then, not to mention Garrison.

Nonetheless, sheer relief suffused him the instant he saw Andy.

I'm not going to die, after all. At least, I'll definitely be fine as long as Andy remains alive.

Jonathan had no reason to suspect Andy when the latter was someone who was willing to follow him and launch a revolt against Yaleview's authorities at any minute. "What happened to you, Mr. Goldstein?"

"I was injured by the recoil. Oh yes, where's Garrison from the Osborne family?" Jonathan asked worriedly.

Although he had taught the Eight Kings of War some cultivation techniques from the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique, even Hades, who had the highest cultivation level among the Eight Kings of War, was only at the threshold of the Grandmaster Realm. I can no longer move now, so if that old geezer from the Osborne family is to attack us, we'll definitely perish. Andy alone is no match for that old geezer.

"The old geezer you're speaking of exploded!"