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A faint smile tugged at Kai's lips. "It's okay, Fandor. I'm confident in winning the duel." Seeing that the man was so sure of himself, Fandor could not quite say anything further.

Since Kai agreed to a duel with Kawasaki three days later, Jetroina's martial arts world started hyping things up and mandated everyone who was someone in the martial arts world to watch the event.

It was going to be Kawasaki's last battle. In the future, no one could witness the flair of the top samurai in Jetroina anymore. Many people promptly set off upon learning about the duel and headed toward Fujio Mountain's volcanic crater.

Although ordinary people could not climb up the volcanic crater, they still tried their best to ascend Fujio Mountain to the highest point possible.

Thus, Fujio Mountain was already crowded before the day of the duel. Everyone there came for a glimpse of the top samurai in Jetroina-an immortal who had lived for almost two hundred years.

Even Jetroina's government was paying close attention to the matter. Right then, all citizens of the country had their attentions riveted on that epic duel. In the blink of an eye, three days flew past.

Kai, Flaxseed, and Fandor headed toward Fujio Mountain's volcanic crater. This time, Kai did not bring Ryosuke along because there were tons of things related to the Watanabe family that the latter needed to deal with at the moment. Among them was overseeing the construction of the shrine.

When Kai and the others arrived, they were wholly stunned by the sight before their eyes. People were everywhere on Fujio Mountain, almost occupying all available space.

Muto stood at the foot of the mountain, anxiously waiting for Kai to arrive. He was afraid that the man would fail to turn up. If that were to happen, they would have no way of explaining things to the people.

A great number of people were paying close attention to that matter, including the government. Verily, he would be at a loss to justify things if Kai did not put in an appearance.

The instant he spotted Kai's car slowly approaching, the heart that had been lodged in his throat finally settled back into his chest. "Unexpectedly, you're quite punctual, Mr. Chance," Muto remarked.

"I've always been punctual, especially when it comes to a duel I'm sure to win," Kai replied with a smirk. "You're really arrogant," Muto commented, the corners of his mouth lifting. "No, this isn't arrogance but confidence," Kai amended calmly. "Great! I hope you can remain confident until the very end."

After saying that, Muto turned around and cast his gaze at the mountain. In no time, the dense crowd parted and made way for them. Following Muto, Kai slowly walked up the mountain.

Throughout the entire hike, everyone talked about him. "He was the one who destroyed the Four Great Shrines? He's too young!" "Could it be a case of mistaken identity? He only looks to be in his twenties."

"If it's him, I can kill him with a single punch without needing Mr. Kuroki to intervene!" They all gaped at him in disbelief. Soon, Kai and the others reached the foot of the volcanic crater. If one wanted to climb up the volcanic crater, he would need to possess a certain degree of capability.

While there was a good deal of people in the volcanic crater then, they were all powerful figures in Jetroina's martial arts world. In fact, the majority of them were Greater Martial Arts Marquises.

"Mr. Kuroki is waiting for you in the volcanic crater. You'll have to go up by yourself as I don't have the capability to do so," Muto murmured.

Glancing at the volcanic crater, Kai abruptly leaped up, shooting right into the sky like an arrow released from a bowstring. With that light jump, he sprang dozens of meters high.

On the heels of that, he tapped his forefoot on the stone wall, and his figure hurtled higher. again. Two leaps were all it took for him to reach the edge of the volcanic crater.

Right then, many people were standing on the edge of the volcanic crater. They were all elites in Jetroina's martial arts world. Needless to say, Kazuo was one of them.

When Kai caught sight of the man, his gaze stilled on him for a heartbeat. Sensing Kai's eyes on him, Kazuo shuddered imperceptibly and hastily dodged behind the person next to him.

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Meanwhile, everyone else gaped at Kai, all gasping in shock. Despite being impressively capable, they still had to employ martial energy to hike up the volcanic crater. Yet, the man achieved it with a gentle leap.

They had never witnessed such formidable capabilities. If they had such power, they would not have been trapped in the volcanic crater and mortifyingly needed Kawasaki to carve a passage out with a slash of the sword.

Fixing his eyes on the small hut in the volcanic crater, Kai glided down and landed steadily in front of the structure. As soon as his feet reached the ground, the door of the wooden hut opened automatically, and Kawasaki walked out slowly.

When he laid eyes on Kai, he was startled, for he had never imagined the man to be so young. Likewise, Kai was also taken aback. He did not expect Kawasaki to have retained his middle-aged appearance, always having assumed that the latter was an elderly man with a gray beard.

Both of them were merely stunned briefly, gathering their wits about them in the next second. "You're Kai Chance?" Kawasaki questioned. "And you're Kawasaki Kuroki?" Kai queried in return.

In spite of the fact that Kai called him by his name, Kawasaki did not fly into a rage though no one in Jetroina dared to do so, not even the emperor. "Yes, that's me." Kawasaki nodded in affirmation.

"And I'm Kai Chance." Similarly, Kai dipped his head a fraction. Thereafter, none of them said anything, merely staring at each other silently. While doing so, they both surreptitiously released a great burst of spiritual sense toward the other. In other words, they were feeling out each other's capabilities.

However, the crowd in the volcanic crater was completely stumped to see both men motionless. They could not fathom what exactly Kai and Kawasaki were doing.

About a few minutes later, Kawasaki withdrew his spiritual sense and started unhurriedly, "I never expected you to be so young for real. Although your physique differs from the average person, you can't possibly have attained such a high cultivation level at this age. How strange. It's downright peculiar."

Kai also retracted his own spiritual sense. "No wonder you dared not leave this place to duel with me. If you go out of here, not only will your capabilities weaken, but your present appearance will also age rapidly. Bluntly put, this place is just your cage. If I hadn't agreed to come here to duel with you, you couldn't have done anything about it either."

The probing earlier granted them some understanding of each other. "You're right. Indeed, I'm nothing more than a tiger in a cage. But since you've come here, you can only resign yourself to your fate."

As Kawasaki said that, he waved a hand lightly. In a flash, the small wooden hut exploded. Immediately after, a stream of magma spurted out from the middle of the wooden hut, bringing along a katana.

Catching the katana, Kawasaki gripped it in his hand. "Draw your weapon," he urged. "My spirit is one with my sword. I'll naturally use a weapon when it's time to do so," Kai replied placidly. "Oh? Are you planning to fight me empty-handed?"

Narrowing his eyes a fraction, Kawasaki flung the katana in his hand back into the magma before continuing, "If so, I'll do the same." "I'd advise you to use your katana. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'd never have the opportunity to use it again," Kai countered mildly.

"Hmph! What an arrogant brat! Your future would've definitely been infinitely promising since you managed to cultivate to such a high cultivation level at this age. Alas, you're too full of yourself and not wary enough. Therefore, you've got to pay the price for your haughtiness!"

Kawasaki snorted. A frosty gleam glinted in his eyes, and he shot his hand out at Kai. He had made the first move.

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Upon seeing that Kawasaki had made a move, the crowd in the volcanic crater watched wide-eyed for fear of missing a second of the intriguing battle. Whoosh!

A gust of strong wind rushed at Kai. With a roar that resembled a howling gale, the immense burst of martial energy reached Kai in a split second.

Following that blast of air, even the magma that was jetting out was swept along, sparking a series of blistering flames. At that, Kai fisted his right hand. A golden light shimmered from it.

"Sacred Light Fist!" As he shot his clenched hand out, dense spiritual energy instantly gathered and formed a gigantic fist, rushing toward the air currents generated by Kawasaki's punch.

Boom! The energy and wind collided, upon which a thunderous boom rang out. The volcanic crater turned into a natural loudspeaker, transmitting the sound to the skies.

The great blast forced everyone standing in the volcanic crater to clap their hands over their ears. In fact, practically the whole of Jetroina could hear that deafening boom. Subsequently, a great wave of residual energy rolled out in all directions. Blocked by the volcano walls, it proceeded to shoot upward.

In a trice, those in the volcanic crater were all sent flying by that force before they realized what was happening. They fell off one after another, promptly resulting in severe injuries and devastating casualties.

Even Kazuo toppled over and hit the ground hard. All who could stand in the volcanic crater were some of the most capable people in Jetroina's martial arts world.

Yet, at that very moment, the aftermath of Kai and Kawasaki's duel rendered them severely injured or dead. That was evidence of the tremendous power in the battle between the two men.

The magma that gushed out of the volcanic crater initially splattered out due to the force from the residual energy during the duel this time and rained down from the sky.

At once, many people were scalded by the magma, their wails of pain echoing incessantly. Right then, the outside of the volcanic crater resembled hell on Earth.

Meanwhile, Kai and Kawasaki stared at each other after exchanging that blow. Kawasaki's expression started taking on a grim shade, and his right arm trembled imperceptibly.

With just that first exchange of blows earlier, he had sensed the infinite energy within Kai. After all, a single move was all it took to tell the victor when elites battled.

His pupils abruptly began constricting. Despite having cultivated for more than a hundred years, he doubted himself in that instant. Even if Kai had cultivated from the day he was conceived, he shouldn't possess such colossal martial energy!

Nonetheless, he remained fearless in the face of his shock. He was convinced that the martial energy within Kai would eventually be exhausted in spite of its enormity.

On the contrary, he could perpetually absorb the heat from the underground magma so long as he remained in the volcanic crater. In other words, he could have an unending stream of power infusion, but the same could not be said of Kai. That was his advantage..

"Let me see how much martial energy exactly you can store in your body, kid!" Having said that, Kawasaki let out a roar and attacked Kai once more.

He used his palm as a blade and swung it at Kai without holding back. This time, the martial energy was so condensed that it immediately cut through the air with a piercing whizz.

Seeing that, Kai swiped a finger through the air, using it as a sword. A flash of golden light shimmered, followed by an immense burst of spiritual energy shooting out from his

finger. It then condensed into a long sword and likewise struck at Kawasaki. Although neither of them used weapons, they formed blades with their energies and battled.

Clang! While the blades were formed by condensed energy, they still produced a crisp metallic cling upon collision. On the heels of that, Kawasaki's domineering blade was severed by the glint of light from Kai's blade. However, the terrifying sword energy did not stop there. It headed straight for Kawasaki's chest.

Kawasaki's brows creased, and he had no choice but to back away to dodge it. Unfortunately, his retreat then was considered a defeat in the eyes of others.

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Kawasaki's expression began to darken frightfully. He initially thought that he could easily win the duel, yet he was then on the losing end.

Crack! Spreading his palm, he yanked his katana out and started using a weapon. When the katana was pulled out, another stream of magma spurted out. This time, it did not only gush out but also flowed in all directions.

Soon, the magma reached Kawasaki's feet, but the man remained unmoved. Even when it enveloped his feet, he did not budge an inch. Clouds of white mist began wafting out of the magma, during which he inhaled deeply. He swiftly absorbed the heat within the magma in great quantities and transformed it all into energy.

The magma similarly flowed to Kai's feet, but the man was not bothered either. It was as though he was not the person standing in the blistering heat.

As Kawasaki held the katana in hand, his aura suddenly changed, his confidence skyrocketing. Gripping the katana in both hands, he swung it out at Kai.

A silver light glinted off the blade, and all his martial energy condensed on the weapon. At that, Kai swiped his right hand through the air. In a flash, Dragonslayer Sword appeared in his hand.

The moment that happened, Kawasaki was slightly stunned. He initially misunderstood that Kai had no weapon since the latter carried none with him.

Unexpectedly, Kai's weapon had integrated with the man's body for real. That was the highest cultivation level where sword and spirit became one.

Regretfully, it was impossible for him to stop when he had already swung his katana out. He had no choice but to bite the bullet and continue bringing the blade down. At once, Dragonslayer Sword in Kai's hand buzzed and shot out to meet it.

As the blades collided, a crisp metallic sound rang out. The instant that happened, the air started vibrating violently. It was as though time and space were close to being overwhelmed, on the brink of collapsing into the black hole..

Kawasaki realized that there was no way he could break Kai's sword energy. His katana glinted, and he turned into a stream of light as his sword and spirit became one.

However, his merge was still lacking in practice. While his entire person turned upside down, the katana in his hand emanated flashes of metallic glints, engulfing Kai whole.

In the eyes of outsiders at that moment, countless clones of Kawasaki with katanas in hand were attacking Kai on all sides. No matter how hard the latter tried to hold his ground, he would not possibly be able to block off attacks from all directions..

"Nine Shadows!" Right after Kai roared that, his body vibrated violently. In the blink of an eye, shadow clones radiating strong auras manifested, one after another.

All of them held Dragonslayer Sword in hand and began wielding it effectively. Kai's true self and his shadow clones formed a circle, Dragonslayer Swords in their hands emitting sword energy interminably. With that, Kawasaki lost his chance..

Clang! Clang! Clang! Deafening yet crisp metallic strikes rang out. Kawasaki's blows were all blocked off, and he could not break through Kai's defense. At the sight of Kai's Nine Shadows, Kawasaki was wholly stunned.

Right then, even he had no way of distinguishing which of the figures was Kai's real self, for he could sense genuine auras and blood flowing through the veins of each figure.

He had never seen such realistic shadow clones. Nine Shadows was the Watanabe family's ultimate technique, and he once witnessed it, but it paled in comparison.

Unbeknownst to him, Kai did not steal Nine Shadows. Instead, someone else imparted it to him. As such, the potential of Nine Shadows wielded by Kai was far greater than anyone in the Watanabe family. Kawasaki's expression turned grim beyond words.

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The heat from the magma continued to gather on Kawasaki's body. The martial energy that he had lost was replenished in an instant. In other words, Kawasaki's power could be maintained at its peak for a long time.

That was Kawasaki's greatest asset. Hence, he was confident in his abilities. "I'd like to see how long your shadow clones can last..." With that, Kawasaki swung his katana at Kai once more.

On the other hand, Kai summoned back all of his shadow clones. After all, his spiritual energy would deplete faster if he had lots of shadow clones.

Kawasaki could gain energy from the magma, but Kai could not. He also could not convert the heat to spiritual energy. Kawasaki kept swinging his katana, the sword moving so swiftly that all one could see was nothing but blur shadows. Kai also swung his sword toward Kawasaki.

Clang! Sparks flew as their swords collided, and an ear-piercing clang spread across the area. It was their nth time fighting as their swords collided with one another..

The changes in the wind due to the battle caused the volcano's magma to splatter everywhere. Clang! Another loud clang was heard before the two figures separated. Kawasaki stared at Kai as surprise flashed across his eyes.

He did not expect that Kai would not show any hint of exhaustion after fighting for such a long time. He was shocked to see Kai still full of martial energy and having a strong aura.

Kai's fighting spirit grew as he stared at Kawasaki. The stronger his opponent was, the more excited Kai would become. That was because Kai could absorb more power from stronger opponents.

"Amazing! Let's go again!" Kai smirked as his grip on Dragonslayer Sword tightened. His competitive spirit was ignited, and there was no sign of it weakening.

He raised Dragonslayer Sword and swung it forward.

A thunderous dragon roar could be heard as the sword was swung. The sword energy instantly transformed into a golden dragon, soaring into the sky and flying around.

Upon seeing that, Kawasaki's expression turned grim as he moved forward and kept slashing at the body of the golden dragon.

Clang! The two swords clashed against one another once more. Kawasaki was hit with a huge counter-shock that he staggered backward. The katana in his hand vibrated non-stop as though it feared the golden dragon.

Kai did not stop. Kawasaki is at a disadvantage! My chance has arrived! A murderous glint flashed across Kai's eyes as his competitive spirit bubbled within him.

"The first technique of Nine Shadows!" A bright light flashed around Dragonslayer Sword before a green light shot out of the sword.

The green light transformed into a human figure. Although its face and gender could not be determined, it was clearly the figure of a human. "The sword spirit..."

Kai was taken aback when he saw the figure. He did not expect the Dragonslayer Sword's sword spirit to have formed. Though it was not fully mature, it actually exited the sword and showed up.

I'll gain another powerful helper if the sword spirit fully matures! The sword spirit stood proudly on top of the golden dragon. Kawasaki was terrified to see such a scene.

He did not expect Dragonslayer Sword in Kai's hand to produce a sword spirit. The sword spirit had not properly formed but could leave the sword, and the aura it emitted was outrageously strong.

Kawasaki elevated all the martial energy in his body as he tried to control the vibrating katana in his hand. The magma beneath his feet slowly solidified and turned black as he absorbed large amounts of heat from it. The sword spirit rode the golden dragon and soared toward Kawasaki. Kawasaki clenched his teeth and swung the katana.

Clang! Light spread out in all directions as the katana collided with the sword spirit and golden dragon. Katana staggered backward once more as a small dent appeared on the katana.