

No. 1 Supreme Warrior chapter 2581

Chapter 2581

"You're finally back! If Lou hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known where you went!" exclaimed Rudy emotionally.

Jackie helplessly pursed his lips. Ever since what happened to Grayson, Rudy had basically become a lost puppy that always seemed to want to go wherever Jackie went.

Jackie did not want that at all.

Jackie frowned and said, "I have my own plans on where I want to go. Why are you here? Did something happen?"

Rudy nodded. After taking a few deep breaths, he composed himself before he said, "If you weren't back now, I would've gone to look for you. We'll be going to Holy Cloud Mountain this evening."

Jackie was stunned for a moment after hearing that. He did not know how to react

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for a moment. Where was this Holy Cloud Mountain?

Just by glancing at Jackie, he knew that Jackie had definitely forgotten about it.

He pursed his lips in exasperation. "How could you forget? Elder Eliot announced three days ago that all the alchemists would be transferred to the Holy Cloud Mountain to pick up medicinal materials, didn't he?"

With Rudy's words, Jackie finally recalled what had happened three days ago. Elder Eliot had summoned all the alchemists to the Elder Hall for a meeting, announcing that they would head to the Holy Cloud Mountain in three days.

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The Holy Cloud Mountain was an incredibly important place to Phoenix Valley. There were no violent fiends there, and medicinal materials were plentiful. Every once in a while, Phoenix Valley would gather all the alchemists there to collect materials.

It was something of an added benefit to alchemists because the materials gathered there would all belong to the alchemists themselves.

Nonetheless, Holy Cloud Mountain was incredibly large. It was up to themselves if they could find anything valuable.

He still remembered how excited all the alchemists were when Elder Eliot announced this. Everyone felt like they would surely be able to get something incredibly valuable on Holy Cloud Mountain.

Jackie nodded as he gratefully responded, “Thankfully, I came in time. I really forgot about it.”

Rudy pursed his lips in exasperation as he pointed at the Elder Hall. “Let’s hurry up. We’ll probably have to gather soon.”

Jackie nodded as he headed toward the Elder Hall.

Rudy had a dark look on his face, and it was obvious how worried he was. Noticing this expression, Jackie asked Rudy, “Why are you so worried? Didn’t we talk about it before? Even though we don’t know how Grayson is right now, we should be safe for the time being. Don’t think too much about it. As long as we don’t do anything too overboard, they shouldn’t cause us any trouble.”

Rudy could only muster a wane smile at Jackie’s words as he then turned to look at Jackie in admiration. “I’m a narrow-minded person, unlike you. This has always been bugging me. I can’t even breathe, what with the thought weighing me down like a massive rock. It’s even been keeping me up at night.

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“I can’t figure out why Grayson is the only one who disappeared after what all the three of us experienced. What did he do that we don’t know about? What made him get taken away?”

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Chapter 2582

Jackie irritably raised an eyebrow at Rudy’s questions, the same ones that had floated in his mind for a long time. He concluded that he would not be able to get a clear answer to Grayson’s situation, so he threw the thought to the back of his mind for the moment.

There was no evidence, and they had no way of getting any evidence. There was no way to figure out the truth, so anything they tried to figure things out would only be speculation.

Since there was no way to gain anything, it was better to not let it disrupt his mood. With that thought in mind, Jackie decided to stop thinking about it.

True to his word, Rudy remained internally frantic, a great contrast to Jackie. Grayson’s disappearance had loomed over him like a ghost, and the more he tried to figure out

what had happened to him, the less he understood. He did everything he could to find the answers, but what greeted him were more and more riddles.

Jackie stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Rudy seriously. "You won't be able to figure this out, so it'll be in your best interest to just stop troubling yourself over it now. All you need to know is that you won't be in danger for the moment."

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Rudy's lips twitched, wanting to say something else but swallowing his words after some thought.

The two of them continued on their walk before eventually, they reached the square in front of the Elder Hall where about 80 to 90 people were already there, either chatting among their own groups about the trip or resting.

They talked about what sort of materials they would be able to obtain on the Holy Cloud Mountain, and how many spirit

crystals they would be able to get from it.

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To keep the alchemists happy, Phoenix Valley would occasionally give them some benefits. Sometimes, they would allow all the alchemists in the outer valley of Phoenix Valley to head to Holy Soul Mountain to pick medicines, and anything the alchemists picked up would be for the alchemists themselves to take.

Other than that, they would also invite high-level alchemists to answer any questions from the alchemists in Phoenix Valley. They could also use their results to redeem free materials for practice.

Jackie felt like all the benefits Phoenix Valley gave were very deliberate. Anything that was free or not were all given after very careful consideration.

They would not provide free materials for all the alchemists because they would not be able to make ends meet if they did.

After all, there were too many alchemists. They needed a lot of practice, and they would use up a lot of materials if the materials were just given for free. Their spirit crystals would rapidly plummet.

People often did not appreciate things that were free as well. If they used their own money for materials, they would be more careful when they were practicing and try to waste as little as possible. They would probably appreciate less if Phoenix Valley provided everything for free.

Rudy started to get excited while Jackie was thinking about everything. He looked around before he said, "I thought that Phoenix Valley would keep on pushing us, though. I never expected benefits like this. I might be able to get something amazing in Holy Cloud Mountain!"

The thought of finally showing up and showing off on Holy Cloud Mountain. inspired Rudy, and he could barely contain his excitement. Jackie, on the other hand, nodded with a smile, not saying anything. He could already tell the Holy Cloud Mountain was a place to be.

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Chapter 2583

Rudy finally had a better impression of Phoenix Valley because of that.

"I've already made some marks the last time I went to Holy Cloud Mountain, and I won't go anywhere else this time. I'll first find my mark and pick up some Wind Spirit Grass."

"Why didn't you pick it up last time? Why did you have to wait for this time? It hasn't been that long, do you think it would really get better in just a few months?"

"Do you have a brain? I made a mark and didn't pick it last time because those guys were around. I noticed it at that time, but they didn't. Don't you think they would've snatched it from me had I taken it at that time?"

"That's true... With how they are, the moment they find something good, they'll try to take it for themselves. The Wind Spirit Grass is a seventh-grade medicine, and an upper-rank one at that. If they noticed it, they'd take it, whatever it may cost."

The flurry of discussions had caught Jackie's attention. He turned to look around to notice a few familiar faces. He had seen them in the Elder Hall before but did not know what they were called.

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Rudy had naturally heard their exchanges as well. He frowned as he thought about it for a while before he whispered, "The conflicts happening here aren't hidden at all. Those who think they are talented will just take things from others without bothering to hide it, and that's a bother. Why do you think the elders just allow them to do anything they want to?"

Rudy got more frustrated the more he thought about it. No matter how he looked at it, he was at the end of the line in Phoenix Valley. In that case, if he picked up anything that was at a high level, it would be forcibly taken away by those who were talented if they noticed him.

They might not be that much stronger than Rudy in terms of martial arts, but they would no doubt try to push Rudy down with their power. Anyone who learned the Way of the Phoenix Pill thought they were better than all the others.

Furthermore, the whole Phoenix Valley supported that idea. After all, the Way of the Phoenix Pill was incredibly hard to understand and learn. Regular alchemists never even dared to try.

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The Way of the Phoenix Pill was open to all in Phoenix Valley. Any alchemist was allowed to try to learn it, yet not many managed to learn it even though it was in the Elder Hall for all to see.

The harder a Way of the Pill was, the more potential a person had in alchemy if they mastered it; this was common knowledge.

Anyone who mastered the Way of the Phoenix Pill would at least become a seventh-grade alchemist. The power of ranks between alchemists was incredibly huge, and a seventh-grade alchemist could easily deal with a sixth-grade alchemist without any issues.

That was why alchemists who were not as talented would never dare cause trouble to those who were. Even if the talented ones looked for trouble, the non-talented ones would just have to tolerate it and suck it up. As long as the talented ones got what they wanted and were satisfied, they would leave.

Frustrated, Rudy looked up at Jackie. "If I had your talent and courage, I wouldn't be so afraid or conflicted right now."

Jackie glanced at Rudy and saw the frown on Rudy's face. When he thought back to what the others were saying, he immediately knew why Rudy was so frustrated.

Jackie merely sighed; there were some problems that he just could not be solved.

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Chapter 2584

Rudy started to get frustrated as his face reddened. "What do you think the higher-ups are thinking? I refuse to believe they don't know anything about these thieves operating right under them. We're being bullied here! Can't they stand up and say a thing or two or even take care of matters for us?"

Jackie looked at Rudy helplessly. Not wanting to have his ears filled with his complaints, he answered, "Can you just think about it? You're asking why they aren't caring about

anything, but don't you realize that the more they allow the infighting to continue, the more people would try to fight for themselves?

"Phoenix Valley gives every alchemist their own chances, but the reason they do that is to find more talented and stronger alchemists.

"They let the alchemists do what they want because they want to stir up the competitive spirits of regular alchemists. They want the alchemists to be frustrated so they'll put all their focus into alchemy. They want the alchemists to constantly want to improve so they'll get more higher-level alchemists. This will benefit Phoenix Valley even more, hence why they let such rivalries and conflicts persist."

Hearing Jackie's explanation, Rudy could only nod. Jackie made sense when he said that Phoenix Valley allowed those habits to cultivate even more alchemists.

They would not care if it was fair or not, because the world practiced the survival of the fittest only. There was no such thing as fairness.

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The two that were standing in front of Jackie and Rudy got more and more excited as they discussed. They talked about various pills to the materials that they needed, and all the while, Jackie listened to the important points.

"It's been raining constantly the past few months, so the Flame Roots must've already matured. As long as we look around at the wetter areas, we should be able to pick up quite a few Flame Roots."

"Flame Roots are amazing things, and a mature Flame Root is incredibly valuable. There was a five-hundred-year Flame Root a few days ago sold for two thousand spirit crystals!"

The moment he heard that, the other guy's eyes widened. "Two thousand? Why has the price soared by so much? I saw someone selling Flame Roots before. A five a hundred-year-old flame root is already one of the best, but it was only worth a thousand and five hundred. How could it go up by so much?!"

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"How could you ask that question? Haven't you heard about what happened before?"
The moment the person finished, it was not

just the guy next to him to widen his eyes. Jackie and Rudy could not help but perk up their ears to listen to the explanation.

Unfortunately, the person suddenly pushed his voice down to a whisper, unwilling to let anyone else hear it. Jackie concentrated to listen in though only able to catch only a few words.

The other person said, "They're already fighting outside. I don't know when they'll stop."

That was massive news. Even though he could not get the details, Jackie could see how important the problem was. Ever since they entered Phoenix Valley, they had been completely separated from the outside world.

Jackie did not know what was happening in Middle Province. Even though Jackie was not tied that closely to the place, he felt like he would be in danger if he did not figure it out, especially after the ambush and Grayson's disappearance,

Jackie took a deep breath, wondering if he should go to the individuals and inquire more about the situation. After all, the situation was already at that level, so it should not be a big issue for him to ask about it.

Just as he was preparing to ask the questions, Rudy suddenly whispered something to Jackie.

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Chapter 2585

"Those two guys have been looking at you the whole time, and I felt something was off from the start. When we first came over, he was only stealing glances at you, but now he's staring at you really obviously."

Surprised by this, Jackie turned to look at Rudy, who lightly coughed as he tilted his head to the side. Jackie thus averted his gaze and saw two familiar faces staring at him.

Harold and Johnson were staring at Jackie with widened eyes. Various emotions could be seen on their faces as they looked over at Jackie and Rudy. When Jackie looked over, the two of them averted their gazes at the same time, turning around as if nothing was happening.

Jackie frowned. He had been busy with other things as of late, while Harold and Johnson had both kept quiet and not caused him any trouble, so he had almost forgotten about what had happened between the two of them.

However, it seemed like he had thought too kindly of these two; Harold and Johnson probably did not have the right opportunity to cause him trouble. The hatred that practically burned in their eyes toward him was unmistakable, and Jackie could see it.

Rudy furrowed his eyebrows. "It looks like they're going to cause you trouble, but I just don't know how and what. I had thought that things would be peaceful after you slapped the two of them in the face with your skills."

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Jackie sighed lightly, "I did, too."

After that, Jackie continued with a cold smile, "I thought of them too lightly. I thought that my display of skills had zipped them up entirely, but that seemed to be in vain after all."

Rudy looked at Jackie with slight worry. "Will they pull a low blow? Should we prepare something? Maybe we should counterattack first?"

Jackie shook his head as he said calmly, "It's pointless to do all of that; we just need to respond to anything that happens. Even if they want to cause me trouble, it'll depend on if they have the skills to do so."

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Rudy nodded. He was quite confident in Jackie, but the moment he thought about Harold and Johnson's gaze from earlier, Rudy felt incredibly uncomfortable.

Grayson's riddle had already frustrated him enough, and with Harold and Johnson added into the mix, Rudy felt like Phoenix Valley was a vortex of trouble. He wanted nothing more than to leave.

"I think you can't let them do as they please. I say you give them a lifelong lesson they won't soon forget, and only then will they know you're no pushover," persisted Rudy as he rubbed his chin.

Jackie nodded. Jackie might think that Rudy was incredibly foolish when it came to other matters, but Rudy was spot on on this one. He could not show too much leniency to people like Harold or Johnson.

Only by showing them true fear would he be saved from trouble in the future.

With that in mind, Jackie started to think about how he would deal with both Harold and Johnson.

After Johnson and Harold averted their gazes, the two of them started to whisper to each other.

"Harold, do you think that person is reliable?" fretted Johnson. "An inner disciple might be strong, but he's still an inner disciple in the end."

“Why don’t we spend a bit more money for a chosen disciple? That would guarantee

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our success!”