

No. 1 Supreme Warrior chapter 2631 - 2640

Chapter 2631

They could have found a better alchemist from Phoenix Valley had they tried to. However, Elder Rick had deliberately caused a scene and insisted on recommending Jackie, evoking everyone's doubt and ridicule.

Master Forrest had a smirk on his face as he walked toward Jackie, saying as he turned to look at Elder Maurice, "This guy is obviously an excellent sixth-grade alchemist. I had thought that everyone participating this time would be seventh grade alchemists."

Elder Maurice steeled himself, refusing to show any unsavory expression. He let out a laugh as he answered, "Jackie truly is excellent among sixth-grade alchemists, but this is just a small tournament, so we didn't really put much thought into who we sent here."

Elder Maurice had not dared to be too confident. After all, he was not sure where Jackie's skills lay. Even if Jackie had assured him earlier, Elder Maurice could not trust Jackie wholeheartedly.

The vagueness of the answer intrigued Master Forrest. His gaze moved around as he looked at Jackie with an even more curious expression. The three participants behind Master Forrest, too, looked at Jackie peculiarly.

Elder Maurice, not willing to continue dwelling on the topic, took a deep breath and raised his voice, saying, "Alright, it's almost time. Let's start the tournament. The rules will remain the same: best two out of three. As for what we're betting on, I won't repeat it. If we lose, we'll be willing to pay up."

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There was weight in Elder Maurice's words, and his earlier confidence had seemed to have dissipated. Elder Maurice had always been very confident in the alchemists produced by Phoenix Valley, but Jackie's abrupt appearance had shattered his confidence.

Whatever would transpire from that moment onward was obscure, and he was no longer as proud.

Jackie, meanwhile, frowned, wondering what it was they had betted on. Even though Elder Maurice did not say anything, Jackie guessed that it had something to do with the conflict against the Unbreaking Pavilion.

After all, that was the biggest incident in Middle Province at that moment. The tournament should have something to do with the war, and maybe even some exchange of resources.

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As for the exact details of the deal, Jackie could not guess it. No matter what, if he lost the tournament, Elder Maurice would not be able to handle the matter easily and would surely exact his anger against Jackie.

Master Forrest nodded. "Of course we'll pay up if we lose, but could I ask you a few questions before we start?"

Master Forrest's sudden question caused Elder Maurice to raise an eyebrow. Even though he did not say anything, Elder Maurice knew that Master Forrest was not someone who did things for a reason.

The questions would definitely not be easy to answer.

However, Master Forrest had just afforded them a bit of time to smooth things out before, so it would seem petty of him if he did not let Master Forrest speak.

Elder Maurice was forced to nod. "Go ahead."

Master Forrest's lips curled up into a smile that could only be described as awfully pleased. "Middle Province has descended into utter chaos now. Everyone has their own thoughts, and the main cause is the conflict between the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance and the Unbreaking Pavilion.

"Even though everyone knows that, we don't really know why you started fighting. Ever since the matter started, I've been incredibly curious as to why you started the conflict with the Unbreaking Pavilion and why it escalated to the point a war broke out."

Chapter 2632

Master Forrest had dug up and questioned something everyone present wanted to know, and even Mr. Zayne did not know the details. All he knew was that war had already occurred, and the higher-ups had no intention of stopping it. It looked like they were willing to fight until they had nothing left.

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Upon Master Forrest's question, everyone turned to look at Elder Maurice with questioning gazes.

Elder Maurice pursed his lips helplessly.

He knew the old fox would ask that question. Thus, he let out a slight laugh as he looked up and said, "I thought all of you already knew. Isn't it simple? It's because of the Valley of Enlightenment, of course, a place with incredibly rare resources. The two of us

have one key to the place each, and it's because of this key that the conflict has escalated to such a state."

Alas, Elder Maurice's answer failed to satisfy everyone's curiosity. It was a very standard and official answer, yes, but meaningless at the same time.

All of them knew that opening the Valley of Enlightenment required two keys. One of the keys was in the hands of the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance, while the other key was in the hands of the Unbreaking Pavilion.

Only by combining the two keys would the Valley of Enlightenment be opened, but that was not where the problem was. Normally, both sides would sit down to negotiate such a situation.

At the end of the day, no one knew what was inside the Valley of Enlightenment before it was opened.

War invoked so many forces, what more with the fact that both the Alliance and the Pavilion were major powers. If they fought to the brink, then it would be a bitter end.

If they end up accidentally wasting too much of their power, the other forces in Middle Province would definitely be staring at them intently. The moment one side could no longer hold on, it was very possible that other forces would jump into the battle.

A fight between two parties made it easier for a third party to win. No one believed that the higher-ups of the two forces did not know such a simple thing. If they knew, they would not have started a war so easily. A war would never start for any small matter.

That should have been a win-win situation. As long as both of them sat down to negotiate, they would run almost no risk of a third party benefiting, even if they did not agree to all terms.

However, over half a month after, the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance and the Unbreaking Pavilion both declared war, shocking all the forces in Middle Province.

None of them could figure out why both sides were fighting.

Master Forrest laughed as he raised an eyebrow. "I know the two of you have a key each, but you could all have just sat down and negotiated for a solution. Why do you have to go to war?"

After saying that, Master Forrest suddenly showed a worried expression, as if he was worried for the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance. "If you start a fight just like that, you might end up being laughed at by other forces. You might just draw attention to yourselves!"

“If you use up too much, they’ll act at the right moment. Then, the consequences won’t be so easily predicted. The Middle Province Alchemist Alliance’s tens of thousands of years of tradition could possibly disappear in a flash!”

Elder Maurice frowned slightly before he nodded with a nonchalant expression. “Master Forrest is right. We’ll make sure we keep our guard up and not hurt ourselves too much.”

Master Forrest continued to speak with concern, “When it comes to war, it’s never easy to control. After all, the moment you start fighting, both sides will end up losing resources.

“Unbreaking Pavilion is one of the best clans among the eighth-grade ones. Even though the alliance isn’t that weak, you still can’t look down on them. The moment your resources are depleted to a certain level, the other forces will all jump in.

“You know how those people in Sable Pavilion are. They’re just hiding in the darkness with their eyes on both parties”.

Chapter 2633

Elder Maurice frowned. Even though Master Forrest’s words seemed to be driven by concern for the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance, Elder Maurice could see the true nature behind those words.

Sable Pavilion was an existence among eighth-grade clans that was on par with the Unbreaking Pavilion. The Sable Pavilion and the Unbreaking Pavilion were the two strongest eighth-grade clans around.

Master Forrest’s words were not wrong; Elder Maurice and the others knew it as well. Ever since the war broke out, Sable Pavilion had been quietly looking into things.

Elder Maurice pursed his lips helplessly as he said, “We know of everything you spoke of. Thank you for your advice.”

After that, Elder Maurice fell silent, not willing to speak anymore. However, Master Forrest was fully intent on digging out the truth behind the scenes and showed no signs of stopping. Even the tournament had turned into an afterthought.

“The Valley of Enlightenment must be an astounding place if it can cause all of you to fight even with the potential consequences. Let me guess... Could there be saint-level treasures within?”

“Oh, might there be some treasures left behind by an ancient ancestor instead? Will you be able to dominate Middle Province if you got it?”

Master Forrest's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets as he spoke, and it was evident just how excited he was.

A human's greed had no limits. Even though Master Forrest knew that there was no way for him to participate in it, he refused to give up on that hope. Even if he could not get the best treasure, it was decent enough if he could just get a little and improve himself.

Sky Peak Pavilion and Phoenix Valley shared a decent relationship. Sky Peak Pavilion had spent a long time trying to figure out the true reason for the conflict, but the Phoenix Pavilion's higher-ups had been incredibly tight-lipped.

Though they could not find the truth behind everything, Master Forrest refused to give up.

He wanted to know the sort of treasure that had caused two massive forces in Middle Province to end up in an all-out war before they even sat down to negotiate. Both of these forces had been incredibly quiet toward Sky Peak Pavilion.

They would only be able to get a sliver of information no matter who they asked, or even just the official answer. The other forces were all restless beyond relief.

Everyone wanted to find out the secret behind all of it. If they knew the secret, they would be able to take advantage the moment there was a chance!

Elder Maurice looked at Master Forrest's excited face. So excited, in fact, that Master Forrest could not contain his expression. He longed to know the truth.

The more he acted like that, the calmer Elder Maurice was.

"Master Forrest, you're misunderstanding things. Both keys need to be combined if we want to open the valley, but both of our sides are already enemies at this point. How could we work together to open the gate?"

"How could we know what's inside before we open it? Maybe you're right; maybe there's a really valuable treasure inside or something amazing left behind. Until the valley is open, however, this is all just speculation."

Chapter 2634

"Impossible!" exclaimed Master Forrest with widened eyes.

He took a deep breath before he said, "A war wouldn't have broken out if you hadn't known what's inside. The two sides are fighting because what's inside is far too valuable."

“You want it for yourselves; that’s why you just started a war right away! We’re not little children here! Do you think your words will throw me off?”

Elder Maurice frowned, feeling like Master Forrest was borderline obsessed at this point. He seemed insistent on getting to the truth right there, but Elder Maurice did not get angered at all. Instead, he looked at Master Forrest earnestly.

“The Valley of Enlightenment is definitely part of the reason our two forces are fighting, but there are many more complicated reasons as well. As for the actual reason, I can’t tell you-it’s Phoenix Valley’s secret.”

Master Forrest’s face darkened, not trusting what Elder Maurice said. However, Elder Maurice had no obligation to reveal the secret to Master Forrest. Just sparing him so much time on the matter was already incredibly polite to Master Forrest.

Elder Maurice took a deep breath before he said seriously, “Master Forrest, you’ve already asked the questions you wanted to, and I’ve answered everything. As for whether you believe it or not, that’s not something I can control.

“It doesn’t matter if you believe it or not, for all of this is the truth. Today, I brought our people over not because I wanted to answer your questions. It’s late. Should we start the tournament?”

Elder Maurice’s words completely stuffed

Master Forrest’s questions back into his mouth. Master Forrest’s face stiffened, finally realizing that he had gotten a bit too excited.

The most important thing he had to do that day was to hold the tournament for the younger generation. If the Sky Peak Pavilion lost, their future negotiations would involve much higher prices for them to pay.

Master Forrest took a deep breath as he repressed his skittishness. He forced out a smile as he turned to face everyone. “Elder Maurice is right; those questions aren’t the main focus of today. The tournament is more important!”

That signaled the end of the questions.

Even Jackie let out a regretful look on his face. He wanted to know so badly why the two forces went to war, too.

This question had been in his head for a very long time, and he would often find himself wondering about the truth behind everything. He kept on feeling like the matter involved a lot of things behind the scenes.

There had to be an immense reward awaiting them if the two forces were willing to ignore the inquisitive looks of others as well as potentially damage their foundation. After all, the Unbreaking Pavilion was at the peak of the eighth grade clans.

Even though the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance had its roots in Middle Province for a very long time, the Unbreaking Pavilion clearly had a very strong foundation to dare to go to war against them.

No one knew how long the war would last and how many people it would involve, and neither did they know if it would end up involving themselves. Jackie was both concerned and doubtful as he thought of everything.

Even though he was not as cowardly as Rudy, he was not so carefree that he had no concern. If the two sides continued fighting in such a state, Jackie would end up involved eventually.

Chapter 2635

That was not something Jackie wanted to see happening.

He let out a sigh as he looked at Claude and Benedict next to him. The two of them had regretful looks on their faces. It seemed like they did not know the secret behind the truth of the war.

Jackie turned to look at Mr. Zayne. Even though Mr. Zayne did his best to compose himself, Jackie still managed to see a hint of curiosity in his eyes. It seemed like Mr. Zayne was out of the loop, too.

The higher-ups kept everything tightly under wraps, much like a secretive massive chessboard. If the two forces were really at the stage of being such irreconcilable enemies, the secrets should not have been guarded so strictly.

The only reason left, then, was that the secret involved incredible benefits for either side. Jackie became even more confused as he thought about it, feeling like there were far too many things hidden from everyone.

As Jackie was deep in his thoughts, Master Forrest had his subordinates bring in the tools required for the tournament. There were a total of six condensation cards, and each card had 2000 pill runes within.

Not a single rune in them was complete. Some lacked 80 percent, while some lacked half.

Jackie immediately knew what the first match would entail the moment he saw it. It was like the test that Jackie had gone through in the Elder Hall back then. The six of them would all have to fill up 2000 pill runes.

Just like Jackie had thought, Master Forrest, acting as the host of the tournament, started to read out the rules as he pointed at the six cards, "Everyone should be familiar with the first match today. You should have gone through this test plenty of times back at your respective places.

"The requirements for the match are more or less the same as what you've experienced. The six of you will have a condensation card each. There are two thousand pill runes that are incomplete within them.

"The runes are a lot more lacking than the ones you would've had to fill before. After you fill up the runes, you have to achieve a sixty-percent refinement rate. Any pill runes with a fifty-percent refinement rate will be marked as failures."

Everyone nodded at that. Even though they had all gone through this test before, only a fool would not know that the test they were about to go through would be far harder than anything they had gone through.

Claude glanced at the condensation card and could not help but whisper, "My gosh, so many of these pill runes are incredibly hard to understand! Almost half of them are pill runes that are only used in eighth grade pills and above. This test cannot be underestimated..."

Benedict frowned and said, "The degree of incompleteness isn't uniform either. Some of them are even lacking as much as eighty percent. We only have twenty percent of the pill rune to figure out what it is, and we still need to fill it up. This is a little too hard.

"If it's only half incomplete, I'd be quite confident, but now? I don't even know how I'll perform!"

Jackie raised an eyebrow as he looked at the condensation cards. He had to say that he did not blame Benedict for losing his confidence. He had gone through the same test in the Elder Hall before, but it had been far easier.

Even though the pill runes were incomplete that time as well, the degree was just half or 60-percent at most. At the very least, they could figure out what the original rune looked like from the parts that remained.

A pill rune that only had 20-percent was only left with a corner. The difficulty was raised several times. Even very skilled seventh-grade alchemists were not necessarily able to figure out what the original rune looked like just from 20 percent of the rune, let alone with limited time.

Due to how young they were, they had not been seventh-grade alchemists for that long. They were very talented but lacked the time put into the craft.

Chapter 2636

After the six contestants saw the runes that they needed to complete, all of them had concerned expressions except for Jackie.

All of them were really worried and scared that they would not perform well. Other than Jackie, the other five contestants were considered quite skilled back at their irrelative forces.

They were quite confident in their own skills and were always proud of themselves when they went out. However, this time they looked like they were in trouble.

Conrad from Sky Peak Pavilion frowned and said, "Isn't this test a bit too hard? Two thousand pill runes, it would already be amazing if I managed to complete eighty percent of them.

"If seventy-five percent of those runes I completed were passable, then I would have performed beyond any expectations. This

will probably be the worst result I've gotten since I became an alchemist."

Conrad's words resonated with everyone around him. All of them nodded, but Jackie was the only one who quietly observed the condensing card.

Jackie was constantly searching for those incomplete runes in his memories. He had already shut himself out from whatever anyone else was saying.

At that moment, Master Forrest suddenly said, "This tournament means a lot this time. It would be meaningless if we used only easy questions."

After that, Master Forrest looked over at Bradley. Bradley merely nodded without much emotion on his face. He looked exceptionally calm, which Elder Maurice and Jackie both caught.

The two of them frowned at the same time, feeling like that expression must mean something. Master Forrest let out a cough

and said, "You'll have fifteen minutes to prepare yourself. After all, the tournament is an important matter this time. All of you have to maintain a calm state."

After saying that, Master Forrest turned around and sat on his chair. He sipped on some tea that was brought over. Master Forrest seemed incredibly calm and collected to any outsider.

He had calmly explained the rules and sat back down. He even continued casually sipping his tea. In Jackie's eyes, there was definitely something up. He frowned as he turned to look at Elder Maurice next to him.

Elder Maurice had his eyebrows furrowed and were deep in thought as well. With the two of them behaving like that, Jackie immediately knew that something was wrong. Even though there was nothing odd with how Master Forrest was acting, he was being far too composed.

It was as though the tournament did not seem to matter at all to him. Master Forrest had been in Sky Peak Pavilion for so many years. He did not rise to power purely because of his skill, but his scheming ways as well.

It was a tournament that involved many benefits. Even Elder Maurice was nowhere near as calm as Master Forrest. It was as if the results were not that important at all. Thinking about that, Jackie raised an eyebrow as he looked over at the three contestants on the other side.

There did not seem to be anything wrong with them. The one called Bradley had left the most profound impression on Jackie. It was not only because of the look Master Forrest had shot Bradley.

Ever since he saw Bradley, Jackie noticed there was not much emotion on the guy's face. Even when he was introduced to everyone, people were looking at him with a confused gaze, but he maintained a calm expression.

Chapter 2637

Bradley acted as if everything that was happening around him was not that significant. The more Bradley acted like that, the more suspicious Jackie was. Could something be different about Bradley?

Before every test, the contestants would always be given fifteen minutes to calm themselves down. That amount of time was not too long, but it was not that short either.

Claude and Benedict had not found anything wrong with the situation. Ever since Master Forrest announced that the fifteen minutes had started, the two of them had their eyes shut as they started to prepare themselves.

However, Jackie was different from the two of them. Jackie did not need to prepare as they did. He had always been the most composed one. At the start, five of them were silent, but after a while, Elder Maurice could not hold it in.

He turned to look at Mr. Zayne and lowered his voice, "Actually, I've never thought we would ever lose in this tournament. After all, Sky Peak Pavilion might be an eighth grade clan, but they still focus on martial arts.

“Phoenix Pavilion doesn’t only have martial artists, but large amounts of alchemists as well. I’ve never thought for a moment that our alchemists would lose to them. That has never changed.

“Even though Jackie appeared, I feel like our chances of winning are still very high with Claude and Benedict. Yet, just look at Master Forrest, he looks like he’s incredibly confident. I refuse to believe he’d be so idle if he did not prepare anything!”

After saying that, Elder Maurice’s lips were pursed into a line. He narrowed his eyes slightly as various thoughts danced in his

head. Mr. Zayne frowned slightly, feeling like something was wrong as well.

At that moment, Master Forrest was idly holding his teacup and leisurely sipping his tea. He looked like a customer at a teahouse. However you looked at it, it seemed like he was not concerned about the results at all.

Mr. Zayne took a deep breath and whispered back, “I think they must have made some preparations. After all, this involves a lot of benefits. If they lose, they’ll end up paying a greater price.

“Since he represents Sky Peak Pavilion, he would naturally want the best for them. He doesn’t need to think about anything else. The fact that he’s so calm means he’s confident in this tournament. He has definitely come prepared!”

When Elder Maurice heard that, his expression soured. He even clenched his fists slightly as his breathing quickened a little.

Elder Maurice felt incredibly helpless. He felt his composure coming and going in waves. He was the person in charge of the tournament this time. If they lost the tournament and Phoenix Valley ends up having to pay a greater price, he would definitely be berated harshly. He would be given the relevant punishment as well.

Those were actually secondary, he was more afraid that his position would be threatened. Thinking about that, he could not help but curse Elder Rick for being so petty and despicable.

If someone else was there instead of Jackie, he might be more confident. Even though Jackie had given his guarantee before, Elder Maurice was not someone who just believed the words of others.

He would not believe in Jackie before he witnessed Jackie’s skills for himself.

“This time, defeat is absolutely not allowed! Do you all hear me?!” Elder Maurice said in a low voice.

Chapter 2638

After noticing that something was wrong, Elder Maurice pulled the four of them aside to an empty space. He was not in the mood to be drinking tea with Master Forrest. His emotions were all over the place at that moment.

“We have to think of a counterplan!” Elder Maurice said indignantly.

Mr. Zayne’s lips twitched in mild exasperation as he carefully said, “Things have already advanced to this point, what kind of counterplan could we have? We can’t possibly have a change of contestants at this point.

“Actually, I was very curious about this. If this tournament is so important, why didn’t we send alchemists from the inner valley?” Mr. Zayne’s words caused Elder Maurice to feel even more helpless.

When Jackie heard that, he perked up his

ears as he looked toward Claude and Benedict. Turns out the two of them did not come from the inner valley.

That was actually incredibly strange to Jackie. The two of them had acted so arrogantly that Jackie had thought that they were from the inner valley. After all, the inner valley was the core of Phoenix Valley.

Only the best of Phoenix Valley gathered there, but after Mr. Zayne’s words, Jackie finally realized that he was completely wrong. The two of them were not from the inner valley but were alchemists from the outer valley.

However, Jackie had never met the two of them before! Elder Maurice shook his head helplessly and replied, “This is something out of my control. With how complicated the current situation is, we can’t use the power of the inner valley. We can’t have them reveal themselves, they have to be our last line of defense!”

Mr. Zayne obviously could not tell the meaning behind that explanation, and only saw that Elder Maurice was filled with a sense of helplessness. After Jackie heard those words, he frowned as well.

He thought about those words in his mind over and over again. Why could they not use the power of the inner valley? The inner valley was full of secrets, but seventh grade alchemists were not some secret that nobody knew.

Why were they unable to leave the inner valley? Why were they the last line of defense? Jackie got more confused the more he thought about it. Mr. Zayne’s lips twitched, not knowing what to say.

Elder Maurice looked even more worried at that moment. He felt like he was going to start growing gray hair. Initially, Claude and Benedict were still standing by the side as they rested and listened to Elder Maurice.

The more they listened, the more it felt off. Mr. Zayne's words seemed to be questioning their skills and talents. Claude could not accept that.

Claude let out a slight cough as he said, "I doubt those people really amount to anything. Even though we're not from the inner valley, it's only a matter of time before we get in. Mr. Zayne, you don't have to look down on us like that..."

Mr. Zayne's lips twitched when he heard that, almost rolling his eyes at them. Elder Maurice let out a small laugh as he said without any mercy, "Do you think the inner valley is somewhere you can just get into if you want to? Even though you're both seventh-grade alchemists now, the test to get into the inner valley has never been about how good you are as an alchemist, but about your actual talent!

"Even a sixth-grade alchemist can be chosen to enter at any time if they're talented enough. The two of you have been in Phoenix Valley for quite some time, but you've never received the test before. That proves that you have no right to enter the inner valley."

Elder Maurice's words held nothing back as they damaged their pride. Claude widened his eyes in disbelief, while Benedict was so angry his fists were clenched up and shaking.

If Elder Maurice had not been the one speaking, the two of them would definitely have kicked up a fuss. After hearing those words, Mr. Zayne let out a cold smile.

Chapter 2639

Even though Mr. Zayne did not say a word, Claude could sense the mockery behind his cold smile. At that moment, Claude felt even more unhappy with the situation.

Neither of them knew how to get into the inner valley, and they had never received the test before. The two of them had thought that it was because neither of them had any noticeable breakthroughs as seventh-grade alchemists.

Yet, it seemed that it was purely because they were not talented enough! When Jackie heard that, he got even more curious about the inner valley.

Jackie had not planned on staying in Phoenix Valley for that long. He felt like Phoenix Valley was an incredibly dangerous place. If he stayed there for too long, it was possible he would end up being pulled in, but Jackie was beginning to sway from that decision.

He really wanted to see why the inner valley was so mysterious. Even with so much at stake, the higher-ups of Phoenix Valley were not willing to send them. There had to be a reason for that.

Jackie narrowed his eyes as various thoughts swam in his head. While he was occupied with his thoughts, Mr. Zayne suddenly let out a surprised exclamation.

The few of them followed his gaze curiously. Mr. Zayne faced forward as he looked in the direction of the members of the Sky Peak Pavilion. Jackie followed his gaze and noticed that Mr. Zayne was staring at Bradley.

Mr. Zayne frowned as he scanned Bradley up and down a few times. He looked like he had seen something through Bradley. After a while, Mr. Zayne finally said, "I keep feeling like I've seen Bradley before! As for where I met him, I can't really recall. Why do I keep feeling like he looks really familiar?"

After that, Elder Maurice hurriedly asked, "He looks familiar to you? You've seen him somewhere before?"

Mr. Zayne did not answer Elder Maurice immediately and merely continued staring at Bradley. He looked like he wanted to skin Bradley alive.

After a moment, Mr. Zayne finally slapped his head in realization.

"I remember now! It's the test from the inner valley a year ago! Bradley was there! Elder Maurice, weren't you sent off on an errand then? The few of us were left behind to help out.

"The guy had a very good showing that time. I was sure he would be accepted into the inner valley, but his family suddenly changed their mind. They paid a very big price to bring Bradley out!"

Those words caused everyone there to widen their eyes. That piece of news was too shocking. Turns out that Bradley was also part of Phoenix Valley before and had even taken the test.

"He had performed excellently in Phoenix Valley and was just a step away from being accepted into the inner valley before he was brought away by his family. They had paid a large price as well."

Elder Maurice's expression changed immediately to those words. He quickly pulled Mr. Zayne's arm and said, "Keep your voice down! Tell me about it in detail!"

Jackie was suddenly speechless at Elder Maurice's words. It was obvious Elder Maurice did not want everyone else to hear it. Mr. Zayne proceeded to whisper into Elder Maurice's ears after that as they talked in private for a long time.

Chapter 2640

Their expressions turned more serious the more they spoke. Elder Maurice in particular had his brows furrowing tighter and tighter.

Even though it was not clear what they were talking about, a lot could be learned from Elder Maurice's expression. If Bradley really was that talented, then it would be over for them in the tournament.

Elder Maurice had been incredibly confident in their lineup, but there was no way he could keep up his good mood after knowing Bradley's talent.

Claude stood by the side as he whispered, "Even though Bradley is quite talented, it doesn't mean we've lost..."

He was not willing to admit defeat. Even though he had never participated in the inner valley tests, Claude did not feel like he lacked any talent. He had always done very well in Phoenix Valley and had done much better than his peers.

He did not know how one gets qualified to get into Phoenix Valley, but he felt that he was more than qualified to take the test and enter Phoenix Valley.

Jackie could not help but let out a cold smile at those words. He had seen many people like Claude. All of them felt like their talents were better than everyone else, and that no one could beat them.

Everything was good and all the honor belonged to them. However, Jackie felt like they had that attitude only because they were arrogant.

After entering Phoenix Valley, Jackie had asked Lou how one could get into the inner valley. Lou had said assuringly that he did not know how to get into the inner valley because that was a big secret.

The inner valley would constantly observe all the alchemists in the outer valley. The ones they thought were qualified would go through a test to enter. There were times when even excellent, high-ranked alchemists were not accepted by the inner valley.

The inner valley never had any sort of testing standards, nor had anyone ever seen how they were chosen. The more secretive it was, the more curious Jackie got about the inner valley.

Elder Maurice said in anger, "No wonder that guy's still in the mood to drink tea. He was already prepared! However, what's wrong with Bradley? He actually didn't want something as amazing as the inner valley!"

“He’s now suddenly at the Sky Peak Pavilion and one of their alchemists. What sort of place is the Sky Peak Pavilion? They’ve never produced any notable alchemists before, so why would he choose this place?”

Elder Maurice got angrier the more he thought about it. He was already struggling to even keep his voice down. Mr. Zayne frowned and said in exasperation, “There’s definitely something happening behind the scenes that we don’t know about. We did not care about it that much that time, since there are already so many masters in Phoenix Valley, but I never expected him to be standing on the opposite side of us, helping the Sky Peak Pavilion fight over our resources!”

Elder Maurice’s face darkened a little, “The Middle Province Alchemist Alliance has always been the gathering spot for the alchemists of Middle Province. Every single alchemist would fight incredibly hard to enter the alliance.

“Yet this brat is trying to go against the grain! If he ruins things for us today, I’ll make sure he pays!” Elder Maurice was incredibly furious.

There were too many variables at this point.

Even though the test has yet to start, Elder Maurice was already worried about the final result. Everything pointed to the tournament that day spiraling out of his control.

After he sighed, he suddenly turned to look at Jackie and the others. He reached out and grabbed Jackie’s arm before exclaiming, “The first test determines the total scores of everyone. You must not drag us down, understand?!”