

No. 1 Supreme Warrior chapter 2666 - 2670

Chapter 2666

Both Claude and Benedict would end up shouldering the responsibility should they fail the tournament.

With that in mind, Claude felt his heart burdened deeply. He looked up as he shuddered, shooting a glance at Mr. Zayne and Elder Maurice.

The two of them were not relaxed either, but they focused fully on Jackie. Jackie had become their greatest hope.

Claude, noticing that both men did not gaze at him in disappointment, sighed in relief. He walked to Benedict and whispered, "It's different this time. Before this, it was Jackie who'd shoulder the blame if we lose, and we won't be implicated heavily. However, if we don't manage to stave off the pressure this time and end up dragging the team down, then we'd be the one to blame. The consequences won't be pretty."

Hearing that, Benedict shuddered involuntarily. His mood sank as he felt tears pooling in his eyes. Alas, no one could help the two of them at that moment.

Both Claude and Benedict felt their chests tightening rapidly.

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Perhaps both men were far too nervous that Elder Maurice averted his gaze from Jackie and gazed at both Claude and Benedict. When he saw their expressions, he knew what the two of them were thinking.

He could not help but frown as his expression turned cold. "Both of you must do your utmost best. This portion is just as important as the last. Even though we won the first portion, we'll still have to go through the second part if we lose this one.

"I trust you've heard everything Master Forrest and I have said before; this is a best of three. If we win both stages, then we won't even have to go through the last stage.

"However, if we lose, we'll have to go through the third stage. If the two of you drag us down right now, rest assured you'll be hearing from me when we get back."

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Those words caused Claude and Benedict to stiffen, and they felt, at that moment, just how severe the issue was.

Elder Maurice was right. If they won this one, they would not have to compete anymore.

The tournament was incredibly important, and the two of them suddenly felt a lot more nervous. Their bodies suddenly shuddered.

In truth, the ones from the Sky Peak Pavilion were not much better. After all, they had ended up losing in the first round, despite thinking that they had a sure win. The pressure greatly increased for them in the second stage. If they lost this time, they would have lost the tournament completely.

Not only would their reputation be affected, but they would have to pay up a lot of resources as well.

This was tremendously important to Sky Peak Pavilion, so much so that they would end up being punished, especially the organizer, Master Forrest.

Before the tournament, he had assured and swore to the higher-ups that they would win. Out of the blue, however, a dark horse joined the fray, and the results were out of their expectations. Master Forrest refused to accept this, but the dread he felt was undeniable.

Bradley's calm expression had vanished completely, replaced with a frown on his face. The pressure was evident.

Even though he was exceptional, Jackie had been a foil to him. He would still receive punishment if they lost, even if he did his best.

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In truth, Bradley did not really care if he lost at all.

The most important thing was the fact that he was not as talented as Jackie. Bradley had thought that he was the best there was with his talent, but Jackie had somehow soundly beaten him.

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During the first stage, Jackie had produced 300 pill runes more than he did, much to Bradley's bitter disbelief.

Master Forrest could immediately tell what Bradley was thinking. He walked next to Bradley and whispered, "That brat might be talented in a way, but this stage is different from the last. Even though you've never seen these sixty ancient pill runes before, you've still carved other ancient pill runes before.

"As long as you can maintain your calm, you'll surely refine them. Furthermore, I have faith that you'll be able to do it in less than a day!"

These words, though uttered as compliments, were not blind praise.

It was just his inner thoughts. Bradley was no ordinary master. The Three Suns Pill should not be anything incredibly hard for Bradley. As long as Bradley was at his usual standards, He would be able to finish. refining the pill in one day.

Bradley would probably not even need a full day. The main focus of the tournament was Jackie and Bradley, and it all depended on which of them could refine the pill faster. Master Forrest did not want to admit it, but Jackie was very talented as well. He would probably be able to refine the pill in a day.

However, this was something they could not ignore. This time, they were competing in terms of speed.

Both sides thus began consoling their representative before the match started, most likely driven due to the pressure.

Elder Maurice patted Jackie by the shoulder and whispered, "You don't have to feel any pressure; just do as you usually do. As long as you're in your usual form, you'll no doubt wow the crowd!"

Jackie's performance had been far too great last time. Even Elder Maurice, who was usually quite modest, could not bear to be all that modest. With Jackie's performance last time, Jackie should be able to get a good result in the match.

Furthermore, Elder Maurice felt like Bradley was no match for Jackie.

Mr. Zayne nodded and said, "You're our key participant this time. As long as you do well, we'll be able to win."

Despite their praises, Jackie remained visibly passive. In fact, he felt somewhat... exasperated. There were some things he did not want to say, but Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne were expecting too much of him, so he had to say something.

After a deep inhale, Jackie commented, "Don't hope so highly. The key this time isn't on me or Bradley, but on Claude and Benedict. We'll both naturally be able to finish refining a pill, but it's not a done deal for the four of them.

"Claude and Benedict are at the same level as Conrad and Jameson. The key point will be who manages to refine a pill among them.

"Even if Bradley and I both manage to refine a Three Suns Pill in the shortest amount of Time, it'd be completely pointless if the other four can't even succeed,"

Jackie's words served as a reminder to Elder Maurice and Mr. Zayne. It was then did they realize that Jackie was right. The key for the match was not on Jackie and Bradley.

The two of them were exceptional and would no doubt be able to refine a pill in a day, but such a case was uncertain for the other four participants.

The tournament might look into everyone's results, but being able to, or even failing to, refine a pill depended on their skills individually.

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Internalizing that fact, Elder Maurice's expression scrunched as though he had swallowed a bitter pill.

At the same time, both Benedict and Claude had overheard Jackie's words, and their expressions soured even more. The pressure had already gotten to them at that point, but with Jackie's no-nonsense statement, the pressure felt even worse.

The worst situation would be if not a single one of the four of them managed to refine the pill after a whole day; that would be absolutely embarrassing.

Elder Maurice's lips twitched helplessly. "You two will have to work hard as well. I've seen the sixty ancient pill runes, and it's not too hard to draw them, in fact. As long as you manage to compose yourselves, you'll surely succeed!"

Elder Maurice looked at Claude and

Benedict seriously as he spoke, but Claude had a twisted look on his face, not knowing what to say in response.

Master Forrest cleared his throat before saying, "Alright, time's up. The timer will start from now on. I've already had my people prepare the ingredients-they're right behind you. We've even prepared the best furnaces for you, so you can show us what you've got now!"

Master Forrest then waved at the entrance of the hall. All of them looked over and saw a group of burly men carrying specially made wooden planks. With a shout, they walked in at the same time.

Jackie and the others were stunned, momentarily unable to guess what those planks were for. Master Forrest had probably been too emotional before and was not in the mood to explain at all.

Master Forrest ordered the men to place the planks in the right place. Astoundingly strong physically, the muscular men quickly brought in the planks and arranged them accordingly and made up a total of six small rooms.

Even though the tops were sealed off, there were six isolated spaces. There was no need for Master Forrest to explain anything at that point. All of them knew what the small spaces were for.

After all, refining pills was something that did not allow for any distractions.

Spectators would have no effect on the first stage's results. Even if they were distracted, they would be able to get good results if they composed themselves. However, refining pills was different, and everything would be in ruins if they made a mistake. They would not only waste time but their resources as well.

Even though the Three Suns Pill was a seventh-grade pill that was not all that valuable to any large forces, the materials needed to make them were provided bountifully. If they wasted the ingredients haphazardly, it would still be a large expense nonetheless.

Jackie could not help but let out a small laugh as he looked up at Master Forrest and Elder Maurice. He could not help but lament that even powerful forces could not use resources recklessly.

The six individual spaces were not large, but there was enough space for them to do anything they needed to. Each entrance had its label.

Master Forrest furrowed his eyebrows as he pointed to those labels. "We'll go with your results from the first stage: Jackie will be number one, Bradley will be number two, and so on. All of you know your results better than I do, so go on."

Master Forrest fell silent afterward; it was evident how bad his mood was. Everyone could remember how pleased Master Forrest had been during the first segment.

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Jackie had the urge to burst out laughing at the decline he was seeing.

It was about time, and they could not delay for much longer, so Elder Maurice turned to look at Jackie with a frown.

The moment Jackie looked at Elder Maurice, he knew the elder had a lot to say. Jackie pursed his lips helplessly, knowing that Elder Maurice was disconcerted. The tournament was incredibly important, after all.

If they won, they would not even need to compete in the third stage; they would win over Sky Peak Pavilion with two wins out of three possible ones. However, if they lost, there would be too many variables that would follow.

Elder Maurice's conflicted expression was awfully visible, and Mr. Zayne was no different. He, too, wished for the tournament to be a success.

After all, they would have to bear the wrath of Phoenix Valley's higher-ups if they lost, and no one would be able to come out of it unscathed. Mr. Zyane had planned on not saying anything to not give Jackie too much pressure, but the pressure he felt was too much to bear.

Before Jackie walked into the room prepared for him, Mr. Zayne suddenly walked forward and whispered, "You were right before. The key to this match isn't you, but..."

Jackie frowned as he sighed helplessly. "Mr. Zayne, it's pointless for you to worry. Just wait for the results. I can only tell you that I'll do well, but I can't guarantee what'll happen with the others.

"It's a competition in the end, and the results won't all be totaled together but counted individually. The one I'm facing is Bradley. As long as I beat Bradley, I'd have done my part. As for everything else, that's out of my control."

It was as if Master Forrest had heard what the two of them were saying as he suddenly spoke, "All of you should have an understanding of how the results will be counted this time."

Jackie frowned. Master Forrest had brushed past the topic earlier, not going into it in detail. Master Forrest let out a smile as he glanced at Jackie, moving forward.

He slightly raised his chin as he said, "The six of you will be refining the Three Suns Pill together. The target is to successfully refine the pill, and the one with the shortest time taken will be ranked higher.

"If the six of you all manage to refine the Three Suns Pill, then all of your times will be added together and the side with the lowest total time will win.

"However, if not everyone succeeds in refining it, then the side who refines the most pills will win. Have I made it clear enough?

"Feel free to voice out any opinions you have. Of course, I'll just give it a listen. After all, both I and Elder Maurice set these criteria."

Jackie sighed internally. Master Forrest was clearly aiming those words at Phoenix Valley. The rules were very much in Sky Peak Pavilion's favor.

Jackie's skills were already plain for all to see, and as long as he performed like he usually would, he would be able to beat everyone there. However, this match was incredibly special.

Only if everyone managed to refine the Three Suns Pill in a day would the time be used as a metric.

However, if not everyone managed to refine the Three Suns Pill, then the side with the most pills would win. Even though they had not started, Jackie was sure that there would be those who would fail.

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The Three Suns Pill might not be difficult for Jackie, but it was different for the others. After all, there were 60 ancient pill runes among those that the Three Suns Pill needed.

Those ancient pill runes were distinct from modern ones. They would not only need to memorize them in a short amount of time but also successfully carve out those runes with a refinement of over 50 percent.

Anyone with a subpar talent would be stuck there. After all, they have never refined Three Suns Pills before. The first refinement would take a while to get used to, but they unfortunately had a time limit to it.

All these setbacks made the competition all the more difficult.

Jackie did know what Claude and Benedict's final results would be. After all, he was not sure what their level was at.

Even though he had already seen them completing the pill runes, no one would know if they would be able to successfully refine the pill based on the results of the first segment.

The second segment was a bigger test of one's talents.

Jackie sighed helplessly. Bradley and himself would no doubt be able to refine the pill, of course, but even if he managed to beat Bradley, his efforts would go to waste if Claude or Benedict hindered them.

Jackie shook his head in exasperation, and Mr. Zayne sighed heavily as well. He knew that Jackie was right. Jackie's job this time was to eliminate Bradley.

The true key of the match was the four others. If they failed on that front, they would lose the match, but Mr. Zayne did not have much hope for Claude and Benedict.

Even though they were somewhat talented, it did not mean that the talent would shine through at such a key moment. Mr. Zayne looked at Claude and Benedict, his entire being haunted with worry. He had a lot of things to say, but the words never made it out of his mouth.

After all, there was no point to saying anything else at that moment. Claude and Benedict were already incredibly nervous, and they both knew very well that they could determine the outcome of their match.

Jackie sighed, not saying anything else as he entered the first space. Everything was already prepared inside, including a furnace about half as tall as him. Giving it a good once-over, Jackie deduced that it was well made and probably cost a lot of money. Apart from that, the materials for the Three Suns Pill were right next to it. Just counting the Lorn Roots, there were eight of them.

Jackie took a deep breath. Since the planks encased him, no one could see his expression. At that moment, Jackie thoroughly relaxed.

The match might be an incredibly harsh test for anyone else, but it was not difficult for Jackie at all.

He grabbed onto the plaque again as he sent his senses inside. The refinement process for the Three Suns Pill revealed itself. Jackie already had that memory in his mind.

Even though the ancient warrior already stood at the peak of alchemy at the end of his life, even in a first-grade world, getting to the peak required him to start from the bare basics.

The Three Suns Pill was nothing to the ancient warrior, but he had nonetheless refined it before in his youth. All Jackie needed to do was make use of that memory. He did not start off refining the pill right away but instead tried to carve the 60

ancient runes.

He needed to first master that before he started the refinement. It would make things much easier. To Jackie, ancient runes did not exist because they were called ancient runes, simply because they were inherited from second or first-grade worlds.