

214 Strength or dignity

The fall that would probably have caused minimal pain due to the strength of Kayden's body wasn't even felt, he was unable to feel anything. This was not entirely true. His spiritual sense was still active and his mana manipulation did not seem to have been affected in any way.

It was a strange sensation where Kayden could feel his body, but at the same time, it didn't feel like him. His spiritual sense was not combining with his other senses, making it seem like he was looking at himself outside his body, like a spectator.

A few minutes later, slowly his sensations began to return and this time the pain was even greater than before. He felt every inch of his body being shaped. Easily, he understood that it was his nerves being reset. He paid close attention to see if nothing bad was going to happen.

After another long period of pain, it was the turn of his muscles, which seemed to be in the form of liquid in his body, to be restored. It was a strange sensation of having your body torn and

reshaped dozens of times in just a few seconds.

A few more minutes later, the pain finally went away and control of his body returned fully to Kayden. His body wasn't even tired, it felt like he had slept a long night's sleep.

"Not bad," Kayden tested his gains and saw that it was only something close to 5%. The apple probably worked by destroying the imperfections it found, but Kayden had already polished his body dozens of times and hadn't gained any major enhancements.

When he looked at Ashley, he saw that she was still in the phase of having her body turned into liquid, it would probably take a while longer in this infernal pain before she entered the nerve phase.

Kayden decided to just cultivate in silence while he waited, lost in his cultivation he didn't even notice when the girl went through all the phases and finally woke up with her eyes unfocused by the effect of the altered mana.

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Only when she came within a few feet of Kayden did the boy open his eyes. There was no fear in them as they looked at Ashley. He stood up and smiled his most clumsy smile possible.

"Good spells and I'll do whatever you want."

It took 4 hours after Kayden and Ashley entered the room for one of them to finally call Anthony and Anabela. An awkward silence remained in the group for a few seconds as their gaze went from Kayden to Ashley.

"Worth it?" Anabela asked Ashley without hiding her disapproval.

"15% or so," Ashley replied with a satisfied smile. The group didn't talk much more and went to the next room. As soon as they stepped into the corridor that connected the different levels, Kayden spoke to the two.

"Check your apples." Without asking much, the two grabbed their bags and...

"Where is it?"

"I'm not finding it!"

As Kayden had thought, the maze gave a reward but asked people to stay in that state for a while. Whether they would die there from exhaustion or not was something that seemed to matter to the labyrinth.

"It can probably only be used in its corresponding rooms." For the next few minutes, the two freaked out like normal teenagers after losing a huge treasure. Kayden didn't mind too much and Ashley sighed in relief that she had made the right decision.

"Let's move on to the next room, there's no point crying over spilled milk." His speech woke them both up and made them compose themselves. After just a few steps, they saw two spirits in front of them, the problem was that it was a wizard and a physicist.

"This is going to be boring," Kayden muttered

before unleashing an aura attack against the spirits that was defended by the physique using his body. His group didn't wait and began to release several different spells. Ashley took the lead along with Anthony and Kayden, meanwhile, Anabela released several phoenixes against her opponents.

The mage spirit could not make full attacks like before, as he would not end up hitting his ally. This greatly reduced his danger, even more so when they realized that he was stupid and often hit his companion.

His only attack was a volley of wooden darts. He did several cycles to continue playing, without worrying about anything else. Did it work out? It doesn't matter, throw more darts. Went wrong? It doesn't matter either, just throw more darts.

Whenever he was ready for another round, Kayden and his group would retreat and retreat into a bubble. Most of the damage was absorbed by the physical spirit, but it wasn't much.

"Shooting star!" Anabela unleashed her most

destructive spell while they were inside the bubble. He fell quickly and accurately against the physical spirit, which was relatively weaker than the first one they faced, and suffered several deep burns on his body.

The fight continued like this for a few more seconds, until the wizard did something different and...

"Ugh!" Anthony felt a dart lodge deep in his leg. Fortunately, he was far from the physical spirit and did not suffer because of this slip. The change in attack pattern alerted everyone.

"Let's get rid of the physical, give everything you can," Kayden's sentence was readily accepted and, within seconds, dozens of phoenixes flew against the spirit. A dragon breath raged throughout his body and several aura attacks rained down on him.

Even with this wide variety of spells, the spirit would have managed to survive, if the blanket hadn't lodged itself around its feet and trapped it firmly on the ground, making it impossible to move.

Within seconds, his body was reduced to a shapeless, scorched piece of wood. This cost Kayden's group practically nothing other than a lot of mana.

"Bubble!" As soon as Kayden shouted, Anabela raised a bubble with the remainder of her mana and was supported by the other three. "I'm going to get mana from the environment for you, try to recover while we hold the bubble, we'll do the same as in the other fight."

For the next few minutes, they just held on as best they could. Kayden was gathering mana for them to recover. Unfortunately, the pace was slow as a lot of mana was spent on the bubble.

BOOM!

Kayden occasionally fired lightning at the spirit to buy time. It took his group an hour to recover and be able to fight the spirit again. After that, it was only a matter of time before they landed a large sequence of strong attacks and broke the wooden ball along with him.

"Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!" Ashley again was first followed by Anthony and Anabela, who were in a somber mood. As soon as Kayden confirmed, the chest was opened and revealed four leaves with a golden drop on them.

Her appearance reminded Kayden of the nectar of knowledge, but he couldn't draw that conclusion based on that alone. His group fell silent as they each thought about what it was. At the end...

"I have no idea."

"I don't know."

"I've never seen anything like it."

"Me too."

After a few minutes, Kayden was again the first to take the initiative and took one of the sheets.

"I'll take a chance. Ashley, remember the favor you owed me? I want you to experience this before I do."

"No! And if I die?" The girl promptly refused, but Kayden took the contract out of her pocket.

"Based on everything we've been through, you're not going to die, either you pay back your favor or you die for the contract." Kayden showed her claws to Ashley's fury. The girl looked into his eyes and remained silent when she saw that he was willing to do what he was saying.

Kayden's attitude surprised everyone and made them look at him with new eyes. Within seconds, he revealed his claws and demonstrated that he was a wolf in sheep's clothing.

"Don't worry too much, I'm pretty sure I know what it is, I just have to be sure I know what to use its benefits for." Kayden's speech improved Ashley's mood a little, but her face was still dark.

"All good." In the end, she just accepted it.

Meanwhile, Kayden turned to the other two who were in a moral and ethical dilemma. The doubt of what to do could be seen in his eyes. Strength or dignity?

"This will never come out of the four of us, you have five minutes to decide." With that, he walked with Ashley into the other room and just waited. This was an interesting situation for Kayden. How far did human greed go? How prepared was a person to give up their moral ethics for power?

Ashley was different as her decision was not against her ethics and morals, kayden saw that she did not fight the situation and tried to make the best of it, but when he found himself alone in the break room with Ashley he spoke up.

"Don't worry, they will test it before you do"

"How are you sure they 're going to come?"

