

RE-BIRTH OF A GENIUS. CREATOR/DESTROYER

Chapter 411: Second Hub

Sam who arrived at the new tree didn't stop his sniping, he aimed immediately and shot another candidate with two consecutive bullets.

Another spatial ring fell to the floor and another candidates was gone.

The rest of them looked towards the tree he is standing on and made a run for it.

The trees around him all started reacting differently, it seems 'man' of the herb garden didn't get his location and is trying to use the trees to find him and at this moment, the trees he was in trembled slightly and Sam understood his location was revealed.

But this time, he didn't move immediately, the tree's movements are sluggish and slow, the candidates are running towards him. Sam aimed the rifle once again and shot two times and another person fell.

By the time the candidates appeared, he disappeared from the tree.

The same situation repeated itself for one more time and only three of them are still there.

As for how they survived it is not for lack of trying. The three of them are really good at their instincts and skills they were able to defend themselves. Maybe it is luck or coincidence, out of three two of them are chosen ones Sam knew. As for the third person, he doesn't know yet.

After some time, Sam halted his attack.

He couldn't crack their defence, in fact they couldn't just block it fluidly, they are also struggling, but one way or other they are able to block the bullet just before it hit them.

Sam is getting sick of it. So, decided to change the bullets.

This time, he loaded the Energy cell bullet.

Since they want to block them, they can block all they want.

Sam shot three times consecutively.

Three bullets are aimed at same person and that person is the other one who he didn't know.

She is a fire elemental user, from herb garden. She might be one of the Pill makers or potion makers.

All this while, her defence is the weakest and also most edgy one. She is using the fire elemental fusion. Of course, it is not full fusion, she is using partial fusion of fire element but her partial fusion is different from others.

The spot of her body where the bullet is going through will be completely turned into fire elemental body and the metallic penetration bullets couldn't hurt her, it would directly go through her body.

As for head shots, it is almost impossible as they are moving too much and she is using her hands to guard the head as much as possible.

The partial elemental fusion intrigued Sam. That is because this is not how orthodox fusion works. Normally a cultivator will activate elemental fusion by layer by layer of their body, but this person seems to have followed different approach where she would complete fusion but only to a small portion of the body.

But it is only some form of intrigue. Nothing much.

Sam made sure that he is in perfect distance from them and shot the energy cell bullets and that too energy cells of fire element.

The lady did the same thing and activated elemental fusion on her chest where the bullet was about to hit. The bullet entered her body and just before it was about to come out from her back, she widened her eyes. She could sense that something is wrong.

The bullet suddenly exploded and her fusion was cancelled. There is a hole in her chest which can fit a baseball.

She looked at the remaining two bullets came and dismembered her arm.

The remaining two were shocked completely.

They didn't expect that something like this would happen. The girl who was hit completely disappeared instantly and her spatial ring was also left behind.

At this moment, Sam decided to shoot the next target, but just before he did that, he noticed that they are not staying there, nor they are trying to find his location, they are escaping.

It is almost like their life depended on it.

Sam still wanted to shoot, but their speed is too high and they are not moving towards his next target anyway. So, there is no need for him to worry, at least for the moment.

Sam then stored his rifle and started moving towards the next hub.

The second hub has three groups and the most number of people. The Usaine sect's five members, the Lightning Spear sect's four members and thunder god temple's three members are there. With a total of twelve members.

The third hub was only targeted by the four members of the Thunder bolt sect.

Sam doesn't know why the three groups decided team up. Maybe, they felt like chances are higher. But he got his answer when he reached the place.

They are able to eliminate one whole group completely. Now only four groups are left. Sam watched it from hiding and saw that there are a lot of spears in the hub. The spears are not of Black star gold. They are the spears that the candidates threw.

From the looks of things, these people also seemed to have experimented in the same way Sam did, to get as much information as they can. But they are slower than me.

Sam saw one corpse of the monkey warrior which was impaled by three spears.

He didn't dwell on it further and snooped around the camp of these three groups.

At this moment they are resting and first group seemed to have been just eliminated.

They are healing at this moment.

Sam decided to stop and see what these people are going to do. He wants to see if he has to use same tactic as before or he should take another approach.

After two hours, the people started moving and the group laid in ambush.

The two chosen of the lightning spear sect came towards the entrance of the hub.

They decided to act as decoys.

Both of them held spears in their hands and one of them even had their spears fully covered with the lightning.

Both of the started concentrating all their energy into their attack. They are not even trying to preserve.

It is almost as if they are their final attacks.

They both aimed at the second group and threw their spears.

With an explosion, the ground below their feet cracked with the exertion of pressure.

The Spears tore through the air and impaled into two Monkey warriors who are in the group. Those attacks were followed by another round of Spears and both monkeys had two spears impaled into their chest. Only then did they fall.

This is due to the impeccable defence of the monkey warriors. After all, they don't have Bullets like Sam which could go through the eyeballs sneakily.

All their attacks even if they use archers are actually quite eye catching when compared to sniper bullets. At the same time, they are too big to aim at the eyeballs of the Monkey warriors.

They could only deal with them like this.

After the two monkey warriors are dead, the group raged and ran towards them.

The two candidates who threw the spears didn't stand there, they knew what would happen, so they ran as if the hell is on loose.

The Monkey warriors ran after them, but Sam surprised to see that there is an archer who is laying in ambush. His attacks are not powerful, at least not as powerful as the sniper bullets or the Spears, but he started attacking the Monkey warriors like crazy. Sam was stunned when the archer attacked so the chase would slowdown.

He is not trying to kill the monkey warriors, but he is pretty good at slowing them down.

At this moment, the ambush started and the whole group attacked the Monkey warriors.

The ambush is an absolute success and the eight monkey warriors are soon dead.

Sam felt like he should just leave them be for the time being. He might as well let them kill a few. At this moment, he noticed that the archer didn't participate in the battle and went to the hub.

He stood on a tree and started shooting the monkey warrior who is about to take the empty spot.

His arrows did make their way towards the eye, but it is not deadly enough. The arrow head is too broad and the skull is obstructing the arrow from going in.

At this moment, he didn't give up and shot continuously, the next arrow went through the shank of the first arrow and hit the arrow head and the next followed the same.

Finally, after four arrows, he hammered the first arrowhead right into the Monkey's brain.

The group is eliminated.

Sam was impressed, these people are doing a great job. There are only three groups left and Sam felt that they would do a great job clearing them up, but what is he thinking at this moment is to how to clear these people up after they cleared the hub.

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Chapter 412: Trapping

Sam looked at the groups as they are at rest. He felt that it would be okay to let them deal with this hub.

As for the rewards, he can come back at that time.

Meanwhile, he went towards the last hub which was occupied by the ThunderBolt sect. They are only four of them, but they still decided to go to the hub and try to deal with it all on their own.

When Sam arrived near the hub, he noticed that the two people who escaped from the first hub are already here.

The 'man' from the herb garden is scanning through the group of four and said.

"Did something weird happen to you guys?"

The leader of the thunderbolt sect asked in return.

"What do you mean?"

"At the first hub, someone somehow got the Monkey warriors to go berserk and targeted us. They came after we wave after wave and finally, he made his move. We couldn't even see him, but he took down five of us.

If it is a real battle, the body count would be huge."

The thunderbolt sect seemed to have been surprised. But they still replied.

"Nothing of that sorts happened. In fact, it is quite peaceful. We tried to take down the monkey warriors, but we could only handle four at a time. We feel like if we take the ten of them at once, we would be able to finish the group and no additions would happen."

Sam looked at them, he couldn't hear their conversation, but that didn't matter. He wanted to see their performance at first, but since these two people came here, they would alert the rest of them, even if he used wave after wave of the monkey warriors.

So, he decided to deal with them all together.

There is no need for them to stay here anyway. But he wants to use them one last time. So, he slowly started formulating a plan.

The first thing he did is take out some Grenades which also act as Landmines and started planting them in the area. He covered almost all the escape routes leaving only one. Even that one route is not completely clean, rather they are planted in such a way so that he can use them.

He did the work until it is evening and stopped. He went to the second hub and see how much progress they made.

He was surprised to see that there is only one group left.

They are making progress and by the time Sam went there, they are already making preparations to deal with the last group.

He didn't do anything there and instead ran towards the third hub.

Here, even though there are only six people, they still were able to deal with the first group. This is something he didn't expect.

But that is all they are going to do.

As they are recovering Sam appeared on the closest tree to the hub and aimed at the groups.

There are four groups of monkey warriors.

But before he shot, he noticed that the 'man' from the herb garden is keeping a close eye on the hub. She wants to see if he will come back and the same thing will repeat all over again.

But she doesn't know that Sam has improvised.

He aimed at the first group and shot one of them and he didn't stop there, he moved his aim to the second group and took one of them too.

He did the same to the remaining two groups.

He provoked all four of them. Thirty-six monkey warriors all of them started running towards the exit of the hub.

The 'man' from the herb garden didn't know what is happening. She is looking at the hub without blinking an eye, but before she knew it, the Monkey warrior was dead. She knew that the person who played with them at the first hub came here too, but before she could react, all she saw is the remaining three groups also raging.

She doesn't have time to mind that guy anymore. She turned around and ran like crazy. She started yelling at the rest of the group.

"Leave. Run. All the monkeys are on loose." She started yelling at the top of her lungs, Sam felt funny when he heard her struggling to keep the male voice.

He didn't stop there and ran after the group, but he only used shadow transfer and shifted from tree to tree.

As the group wanted to run in different directions and split up, he aimed the rifle and shot into one of those directions and all of a sudden.

BOOM

An explosion happened and that triggered the nearby two more grenades and the candidates who wanted to run in that direction halted in their tracks and even some monkey warriors got their sanity back which increased the trouble for these candidates.

The same thing repeated again and again and the forest around them is completely burning like hell.

They only have one way left. The 'man' from the herb garden and the chosen of beast faction could see that guy already came and he is trying to lead them

into that way, they don't want to do that, but they couldn't stop. Because the thirty- six monkey warriors are on their tails.

They couldn't help but feel frustrated and wanted to kill that guy to death. But they still ran in that direction.

Sam kept on shooting from time to time as he blew the grenades that are buried as he guided them towards the second hub, where the group is battling the last group. When they heard the explosions, they are stunned. But they don't have the luxury to divide their attention.

They could only continue the fight.

When they saw the group of six running towards them, they are relieved. That relief only lasted for a few seconds, as they saw the large group of Monkey warriors coming towards them. Their faces paled.

All of them combined there are only eighteen of them and the monkey warriors are forty-total which is more than two times.

The Monkey warriors are already a pain in the asses even when they are lesser in number, but now they are outnumbered by them and to their bad luck, they are surrounded too.

At this moment, Sam made his way towards the second hub.

There he saw the archer of the group, still dealing with the last monkey warrior of the hub which appeared just now, he used the same way, the arrows continuously rammed until the arrowhead finally reached the brain and killed the monkey warrior.

The archer also noticed the commotion of the group and decided to check, Sam wanted to wait there and then, but at this moment, the archer suddenly nocked the arrow to the bow and shot it towards Sam's location.

Sam didn't move from there, he aimed the rifle and shot down the arrow.

He didn't expect that the intuition of the archer is this sharp. He probably felt his gaze and shot an arrow.

The Archer narrowed his eyes and yelled.

"Who are you and which power are you from?"

Sam didn't reply, he just waited there. The other person also wasn't surprised by what Sam said. He looked towards the commotion and spiritual energy gathered in his eyes.

A frown appeared on his face. Sam looked at his actions and felt like that it is some kind of eye art. He might have seen the fight happening there.

A suitable art for an archer. Sam thought in his mind.

The archer looked at Sam and said.

"You are the one responsible for this, aren't you?"

Sam still didn't answer.

He started loading the arrow on the bow.

Sam also stored his rifle and took out the handguns.

All these actions are not seen by the archer because, even though he sensed Sam, that is purely based on instincts and also because of Sam's action of shooting the arrow. But Sam is still concealed at this moment.

As for why he changed the guns, it is simple, he cannot be seen with the rifle and there is a chance that he will be seen if the fight broke out.

At the same time, the rifle is too large to freely move and the time taken to shoot is higher. The handguns are the best at this moment.

Archer aimed at Sam again and started shooting. Sam just aimed his gun at the arrows that are coming towards him and took them down. It is a piece of cake.

At this moment, Archer smirked and loaded two arrows and shot them, and followed by that he shot another two. But surprisingly the second ones are faster than the first ones and as Sam concentrated on the first pair, the second pair already reached the tree. They are not even aimed at him. As soon as the arrows impaled into the tree, the tree shook and cracked at the contact point.

Sam revealed himself and jumped to another tree. But this time, he took the initiative to shoot. His speed is obviously higher than the other guy and it would be hard for him to keep pace with the bullets and shoot the arrows.

So, the archer also lost his stable position as he had to dodge the bullets.

As such, the battle between the Arrows and bullets went on.

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Chapter 413: Truce

Sam and the archer faced each other with a series of attacks. The archer is quite skilled and he is too agile to be a normal archer. Because his attack rate is quite slower than normal and there is no way for him to beat Sam's attacking frequency at this current state.

After all, all Sam has to do is to control his will and let the bullet load, which happens with a single thought, load the methane gas which propels the bullets and that happens with a single thought as well.

Finally, a single pull of the trigger.

But the archer has a physically demanding job. But with his impeccable agility, he was able to dodge Sam and use archery skill to launch attacks at Sam.

In fact, Sam couldn't just shoot down all the arrows, he has to dodge at least half of the time. This is extraordinary and Sam must say, he is not as skilled in archery.

He is skilled in many weapons and he learned most of them in his previous life, but unfortunately, he never learned archery good enough for a battle. He only learned archery for hunt. Because, in modern warfare, sadly this ancient and sophisticated art no longer has a place.

He was never able to face a true blue archer in his previous life. But now that he got a chance, he is extremely impressed.

The opponent used some extremely difficult moves, which involved twisting, pulling, and bending the bow-string and some even used the weird angles of bows to shoot the arrows.

With these tricks, the arrows always had weird trajectories, which Sam wasn't able to predict. Sam who is a control freak, who is obsessed with control of the situation is feeling a faint irritation from this.

The arrows which are traveling in these weird trajectories are almost making their way towards his position.

He has no choice but dodge.

After some time, both of them halted as they hid behind thick trees. Although they are unable to make decisive moves, there is no way the battle will be okay for a long time. Sam is not even using much spiritual energy. In fact, his usage can be considered negligible.

"Who are you, man? And what are those weird weapons you are using? They are crazily good." The guns are easy to carry and they are easy to use, but they don't have many tricks with them. For example, the weird trajectory and such, Sam couldn't do that with the bullets normally. There need to be some special circumstances and places for that.

Sam didn't reply, he is thinking of using energy cell bullets to see if he can deal with him easily. But the Archer's voice came again.

"I am Arkiv. What is your name?" Sam only replied with silence.

"Okay, it seems like you don't want to speak. Then it is okay, let us do something else. How about this? There are two buildings, you take the treasure from one and I would do from another. The group couldn't intervene at this moment anyway.

From the looks of it, they started using their trump cards. We can just get away with it and we don't have to get in each other's ways. Are you down?"

Sam thought for a moment and replied. "Sure."

"Okay, then let us go inside and see what it has first."

Both of them walked inside and first entered the weapon room.

"I want half of those weapons. I am not giving up on that." Arkiv said as soon as they entered.

Sam just nodded in agreement, he has too many weapons anyway. There is no need for him to bother about this.

He is looking at the crystal and placed his hand on them. To his disappointment it is exactly the same as the one he got in the first one, in fact, there is even a notice indicating that it is useless to him.

"If you are the same person who took down the first hub, then it is not useful for you."

Sam looked at Arkiv and probed him with a spiritual sense.

When he noticed that there is a tattoo behind him, he nodded to himself and threw the crystal to him.

"You can keep it. The treasure in the next building is mine."

Arkiv looked at the crystal orb and injected his spiritual sense. He got the message and his eyes shone brightly, that is because he is excited. Maybe

the excitement came from the fact that he is extremely confident that he would be going to higher dimensions and probably waiting to go there.

But after a few seconds, he looked at Sam and asked.

"Why did you give this away?"

He is suspicious, and about two things, he is wondering if Sam is also a chosen one and the second suspicion is if he got the first hub's treasure map.

"I don't think I will be able to go to another dimension anyway, even if I want to, I don't know how to. What use is it for me?"

With those words, Sam left the room after taking his treasures, his words made Arkiv lose the first suspicion, but the second suspicion is there.

"Are you the one who took the first hub?"

"Yes."

"Then what did you do to the map there?"

"I just left it there." Arkiv is dumbstruck and both of them entered the next building and once again, there is a platform and Sam got another fruit.

But this time it is a different one.

Sam didn't care though He stored the fruit after he listened to the instruction.

"What fruit is that?"

"An extremely highly potent healing fruit. It can heal all kinds of things from your body. Including curses, poisons, soul damage too."

Arkiv was surprised, but only for a bit. He didn't say anything. Since they agreed on something, they have to stay true to their agreement.

Sam looked at him and made his way outwards.

He lied to Arkiv, the fruit is not as simple as a healing fruit. It is also the same as the first one. The first one is related to the body and this one is related to the soul. That is all there is to it.

After they came out, Arkiv asked.

"Do you want to raid the third hub together?" But when he turned to see, Sam is not there. He disappeared from that place.

He shrugged his shoulders and went to the battlefield. To his surprise, the battle is still going on. There he saw many dead bodies of the monkey warriors and then only he remembered what he saw earlier.

The large group of monkey warriors couldn't have come out of thin air. That means Sam already dealt with the third hub.

He was stunned and started running towards the third hub. But how can he be as fast as Sam? Arkiv might have enough agility that could rival a close combat fighter.

But when it comes to speed of running, there is no way anyone in this place could rival Sam.

As for the battle near the second hub.

Out of eighteen, only ten people left. But they still did a lot of damage to the monkey warrior group.

Even though they are of a larger number, they are still extinguished by half.

In normal situations, this wouldn't happen, but the eighteen of them, who are elites of the major powers, have their fair share of trump cards to rely on and they are exhausting all their means to stay in the competition.

As the battle went on, a few of them noticed that they wouldn't be able to win. Because the true battle is not between them and the monkey warriors. The

true battle is between Sam who caused the monkey warriors to chase the cultivators and caused this much damage to them.

All of a sudden, the 'man' from the herb garden looked at the chosen from the Beast faction and said.

"Cover for me for thirty seconds. We need to escape."

That person nodded his head and suddenly spiritual energy surged. His body seemed to have buffed a little and his eyes became ferocious.

He swung his staff with such a force, that monkey warriors avoided dodging it at all costs.

The 'man' closed her eyes and started spreading her spiritual sense and spiritual energy all around. She is using the plants as a medium to extend the range of spiritual energy.

All of a sudden, a vast number of vines, roots, and branches started moving towards them and suddenly, the monkey warriors who are being pushed back by the chosen of the Beast faction are all entangled. The attack doesn't have many offensive uses.

But it can be used for a large scale entrapment.

The whole situation turned completely upside for a brief moment.

The 'man' from the herb garden and the chosen one from the beast faction, didn't hesitate. They trapped ten monkey warriors to clear an opening for themselves.

So, they simply ran away. As for why both of them teamed up instead of going for the companions of their powers. there are none left. And at the same time, they also have some knowledge of each other since they escaped from the first hub together.

Anyway, she needs someone to cover for her and he needs someone to make an opening. Their plan is achieved.

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Chapter 414: The Great Sage

Sam didn't know that two fish escaped the net he laid down. At this moment, he is in the third hub taking the rewards.

The weapon room, once again only has the same crystal for the treasure map, this time he didn't leave it there, he took it and then stored all the weapons away.

When he entered the next building, there is another fruit. But this has a different colour than the first two fruits.

Of course, this has completely different uses.

After taking everything that he could take, Sam went back to the battle field and as soon as left the hub, Akriv arrived and when he noticed that the treasures are gone, he couldn't help but curse himself for being slow.

By this time, Sam is already half way back to the battlefield.

After some time, in the battle field. After the two candidates escaped, the rest of them also tried to escape the place, but the vines let the monkey warriors go and they are besieged again.

In fact, they were let go intentionally, because the 'man' from the beast faction also noticed that this is the best chance to eliminate the whole group in a faster way. She doesn't know how many people are left to fill the five spots, but she is confident that this battle will be the last until they get to the final obstacle.

Sam looked at the remaining candidates, by this time, the monkey warriors are not attacking crazily, they simply surrounded the remaining four

candidates who are left and let them fight one on one. They are also exhausted and the monkey warriors are conserving their energy to prepare for unexpected situations.

As for the four people, two of them are of thunder god temple and the remaining two are from the Usaine sect.

Arman and Arthur both survived. But they are extremely exhausted.

There are around ten more monkey warriors and the candidates are clearly in a disadvantageous position.

"Fuck, even if I have to lose, I am taking these monkey bastards down with me." A candidate from the Usaine sect went berserk and started attacking two monkey warriors.

He didn't care about the attacks of the monkey warriors and took them all in. He is determined to kill the two monkey warriors even if he is dead. Looking at him, the other Usaine sect candidate also went all out for one final struggle.

Sam didn't feel a single wave of emotion. This is a competition after all. The two of them disappeared while they took four monkey warriors away.

The remaining monkey warriors learned their lesson and didn't want to give such chance to the remaining two.

"Shall we try and escape together?" Arthur asked Arman. A monkey warrior came in between so that both of them wouldn't communicate, they are trying their best to not repeat the same situation.

At this moment, when the monkey warriors were about to gang up on them, one of them who was nearest to Arman fell dead out of nowhere.

Sam shot him straight in the eye. He didn't follow up though.

The monkey warriors halted in their tracks and didn't know what is happening, the situation is similar to what happened before.

They don't know who the attacker is so they decided to direct their anger at Arman and Arthur.

But at this moment, one more Monkey warrior who is near Arman. Now only four of them left.

They suddenly felt that they shouldn't mess with Arman, because the monkey warriors who are near Arthur didn't stop in time and attacked, but no bullet came for them.

They suddenly had a faint idea on what is happening, so they wanted to confirm it, so the monkey warriors once again attacked, but this time only Arthur.

They left Arman alone and no bullet came.

They immediately targeted Arthur.

Arthur is no idiot, he also observed the situation and looked with his eyes wide open.

He understood that the person hidden in shadows is helping Arman, but he doesn't know why.

"Arman, save me too? Please. We can cooperate with each other."

Arman didn't say anything stood there. He doesn't know what to reply. He knew that someone is helping him, even though he has a faint speculation on who would do so, he couldn't confirm and if his thoughts are correct, there is no way he could ask him for something.

"I don't who it is, but he seems to have chosen me to save in random. I am really sorry Arthur." With that he ran away without looking back.

"Whoever you are Please save me?" Arthur yelled at the top of his lungs.

But there is no reply.

Sam didn't care about the situation. From what he knew, there are already four people including him and Arman is the fifth person.

As for saving Arthur, he doesn't have that close of a relationship with him. In fact, Arthur has almost clearly drawn a line with him after their few business deals because of his enmity with the Beast faction. He doesn't want to get involved. So, Sam is also not bothered to be involved in this mess.

Even if he wants to save him, then he has to eliminate one of the remaining candidates, the 'man' from the herb garden is dangerous and slippery, the archer is a tough opponent, with all the restrictions placed on himself to hide his identity, Sam doesn't have enough confidence to finish the battle easily.

The chosen one from the Beast faction is also tough to deal with. His defence and physical strength are quite hard to deal with.

Arman is his lackey, so it is obligation to help him. So, there is no chance for Arthur to survive. He has to get lost even if he doesn't want.

The battle was over soon and Sam aimed his rifle at the monkey warriors as soon as they dealt with Arthur.

He went to the battle field and collected the spatial rings and the weapons from the dead bodies.

As he finished storing everything, he looked towards a direction, where a bright light shot towards the sky.

Not just him, all the five of the remaining candidates who are strayed in various place all looked towards the light.

At this moment, the voice which gave introductions to them, came again.

"You guys finished faster than I thought. Only a few days, less than a week. I thought you would take at least a month to deal with the three hubs.

But well done.

The five candidates, come to the place where the light is arrived, your last test will be here."

All five candidates immediately moved towards the light. The final test.

They like this palace of inheritance better than the previous. At least they don't have to stay in for a month inside and the gains are more.

Indra didn't give these many treasures.

When they reached the centre all five of them faced each other.

They are extremely vigilant, the pillar of light still didn't disappear.

They are looking at it with curiosity.

At this moment, Arman is looking at Sam. He is familiar with that silhouette. He has seen that silhouette, when he was awake and when he was sleep in the form of nightmares, how can a mere mask make him not recognize that.

Sam also looked at him, but didn't say anything.

Both of them stayed silent after that brief exchange of glances and looked at the pillar of light.

After a few seconds the light completely disappeared.

There are a total of six platforms in front of them.

One of them is in centre and the remaining five are around that.

All of them are circular platforms.

On the five platforms, high above in the air, somethings are floating in a spiritual energy bubble.

Apart from that, on the six platforms, there is a monkey statue holding a staff. The one in the centre is a golden statue while the remaining five are stone statues.

The Golden statue moved and started speaking.

"Hello, my dear candidates, congratulations on making this far. I didn't expect that everyone who came this far will only be players chosen by gods. I expected at least one of you would be a normal kid."

When the statue spoke like that, everyone was stunned. They didn't expect that this guy would lay it bare like that. It seems like their identity within themselves is not much important.

The statue continued.

"My name is Sun wukong. The Great Sage; Heaven's Equal." The monkey statue said proudly.

The five of them are stunned. They didn't expect that someone would proclaim that he is an equal to the heaven. But Sam was even more surprised. He didn't expect that he would meet such a character.

Even though, Sam's origins are from India, how could he not know about Sun Wukong? He is in fact very familiar with that. He did have a faint speculation about this, but didn't dare to confirm.

First Indra and now the monkey king. One who belongs to Indian Mythology and another one Chinese.

Sam felt extremely intrigued from this development and wants to meet other gods.

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Chapter 415: Battle

Sam and the rest of the candidates are looking at the platforms excitedly. The treasures are something they don't recognize, but they knew they are valuable.

The golden statue looked at the candidates and said.

"I know by this time, that asshole Indra has given you some enlightenment or something the previous time. But don't expect that from me. Okay.

I was such a genius of my time that I don't need things like enlightenment to cultivate. Before you knew it, I was already strong enough to rival the heavens.

So, I will not be giving you crap like that. Even if you need enlightenment, it is better if you get it yourself.

As for what I will give. I have five platforms here and those statues are a representation of me when I am a Nascent stage cultivator.

They will perform only the techniques I learned when I made it to the Nascent stage, any form of attack that I learned after that will not be used.

So, that means, you guys are fighting, the actual Sun Wukong when he was a nascent stage cultivator and that too at Level-1.

Pick a platform and defeat him, you will get the reward of that platform.

If you are strong enough and there are still other platforms left, you can try and challenge them too provided that there are no challengers on that platform.

After the five platforms are cleared, you get to face the final test. But for that, you have to defeat at least one opponent. If you didn't do so, there is nothing left for you here.

If you understand what I said, then you can start."

The five stone statues took a battle stance at the same time.

The five candidates looked at the rewards on the five platforms. They don't know what they are. At least, not everyone. Sam is trying his best to remember every detail of the story he heard and read about the monkey king.

He has to understand what these treasures just by looking at them.

One of them is a scroll with a symbol of an eye on the fire. He could guess, something along the lines of the Golden eyes-fiery gaze. Of course, it wouldn't be real art. Because they are not cultivated, they just popped up for the monkey king.

Then he looked at the next one, it is a wine gourd. Maybe, it is a type of wine.

The other one is a peach. He doesn't know what type of peach that is, but the peach is also wrapped up in some type of energy container.

The fourth one another scroll. In that there is a symbol of a person sitting in between fires and there is a depiction of smoke emitting from his body. Maybe a body tempering technique.

The last one is the hair strands. There are five of them. Sam is most interested in them. He does know something related to the hair of Sun wukong. It can summon the clone of the monkey king himself and there are some other things as well.

But he knew that it is not real, that is because if the real monkey king arrives, then there is no way for this world to survive, the sheer force of his sneeze will cause an apocalypse to this world. Even though they might not be real, there is no way he is going to let it go.

He is the first one to make a move and landed on the platform with the hair strands. The rest of the candidates are puzzled, they don't know anything about the things present here. Even the chosen one from the Beast faction, the one who is chosen by the monkey king himself doesn't know anything about them.

When Akriv looked at them for some time, he went towards the peach. As for why he didn't go for the eye art, he must have had his reasons. Sam felt that

he might go for it. Even though the Golden eyes- Fiery gaze is not an ability suitable for archers, that would be the only known after he cultivated it.

Anyway, he is not bothered much. In fact, he is relieved. Out of all people, he is worried about Akriv most. This guy might be an archer. But he is still good in the close range too.

Ten feet in a cultivator's battle can almost be considered as hand to hand combat, but he could still use his bow and arrow there.

And the platform allows more than that distance.

The rest of the candidates also moved. Particularly the monkey king's chosen one. He leaped towards the scroll which has the person sitting in the middle of flames.

Sam took out the staff and got into a battle chance. The monkey king's stone statue looked at him with an expression of natural confidence. It is as if the whole world cannot defeat him and the heavens are beneath him.

Particularly, when he saw the stance, even the golden statue started looking at him.

Sam made the first move. He swung the staff from the side to hit the statue on the left side of the face, but the body bent backward in an extremely unnatural angle and the statue backflipped. Then he whipped the staff towards Sam.

Sam who is an expert in battle, felt like it is the first time, he couldn't read the opponent's moves. They are unconventional. They don't have any form of rhythm.

Sam started feeling the pressure. As he was attacking, he started using the wind elemental energy with his attacks and there are sharp tail wind blades that are attacking the statue.

There are some small scars appearing on the surface of the statue.

Sam is already sweating, but after exchanging more than twenty moves, the statue somersaulted and smashed the staff in Sam's chest.

He was flung away and crashed into the ground.

Sam lost.

Then only he noticed the others, and they are already down even before him and are already halfway through healing their wounds.

Seeing that they are not concentrating on him, Sam started using his light element to heal himself. he doesn't want to waste time with the digestion of pills.

He closed his eyes as he healed and started recollecting all the information he has from the previous fight.

The monkey king is more of a monkey than the warrior when he is at the Nascent stage, that is what Sam understood from those moves. It is not following any form of style of stance. The statue is behaving the same as a monkey.

Unpredictable is the only word that could be used to describe that fighting style.

After healing himself, he walked up to the platform once again. But this time, there is some other reaction from his body.

Sam started sending all his spiritual energy to his muscular fibers.

His body is enveloped with spiritual energy. His body seemed to have buffed up a little and the skin under his robes tightened.

Sam decided that this is the best time to utilize the results of the body refinement.

Due to his body cultivation, the natural strength, defense, endurance, and stamina of his body improved greatly and his physical attacks are stronger than normal, but the real prowess of the body tempering comes, when the muscles are fed with the spiritual energy.

This is the best physical form of his body.

At this moment, due to his disguise, Sam couldn't use his other elements and weapons, so he has to find a way to deal with them and the physical attacks are the most common things and are easy to cover up.

Sam's body is emitting a dangerous aura. At this moment, the spiritual energy around his body is being repelled due to the force emitted by the body.

Sam didn't bother to use any form of elemental powers.

He took his battle stance and swung his staff straight at the statue's head. The statue's eyes turned mischievous and slanted its head to the side to avoid hitting its head and used its staff to block the blow from landing on its body.

But as soon as both the staves collided, there is a large spiritual energy outburst. The spiritual energy at the contact point was blasted away and cracks appeared on the ground below the statue's feet.

For the first time in the fight, the expression of the stone statue and the expression of the golden statue turned serious.

Sam resorted to the most straightforward way to counter the unpredictability of the statue. The brute force.

With his skill, Sam was able to land at least a few hits in the first bout. So there is no way he would lose.

The exchange began and every time, the statue blocked Sam's hits, the whole body of the statue started trembling.

Sam's moves are fast, precise, and most importantly tyrannical. Every move he is making is driving the spiritual force away.

After a few exchanges, the monkey king statue back down and suddenly opened its arm and blew on it.

A lot of sand appeared on the palm out of nowhere and the vision is blocked for a second.

The statue is laughing his heart out at its trick.

But Sam didn't bother, he held the staff in his left hand and punched with his right hand in full force.

Half of the sand cloud cleared away with just one punch. The force of a punch is almost like an explosion.

As he hit a few times, the sand cloud disappeared and then lunged forward as he swung the staff on the statue. The statue was caught off guard due to the surprise from the punch.

As for why Sam threw punches instead of staff, which is the question the rest of the candidates who are watching the scene are all wondering. They knew the answer.

As Sam landed the hit on the statue's head. Even before the point of contact, they could hear a cracking sound from the staff. It couldn't take the energy and force from Sam's attacks.

Sam doesn't want to waste the staff away without landing a proper hit.

And the proper hit it is.

Even though the statue reacted in time to block with the staff, it broke apart and Sam's staff landed straight on its left shoulder and

BOOM

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Sam's staff left a deep crack on the statue. The upper half of the statue was almost completely riddled with cracks and there is a hole on the contact point.

Sam's staff was completely broken, the metallic staff almost broke like a rotten wooden stick.

Sam didn't halt his attacks there. He stepped forward and then held the broken staff tightly before stabbing the broken side straight into the hole that was created by the hit.

The stone pieces flew to the back of the statue and the statue collapsed.

Sam took a step back and he is panting.

He exhausted a lot of spiritual energy. His main aim when cultivating the body refinement is to improve his defense. Not for the attacking purposes. But it sure did come in handy when needed.

Sam jumped high into the air and grabbed the spiritual energy bubble. As soon as he touched it, the bubble disappeared and he caught the five strands of hair in his hand. He threw them straight into the divine dimension without a second thought.

After dealing with that, he stepped down the stage.

He didn't deactivate his body transformation. Rather he placed a space jade in his mouth and started absorbing spiritual energy continuously.

Even though he won, he too some injuries. But this time, he couldn't heal directly. The rest of the candidates are watching him cautiously.

Sam felt his internal organs are shaking. This is the shock from the staff hit he landed just before it was broken.

He sat cross-legged and stabilized himself. He stayed like that for a few seconds and after noticing that others are still looking at him. He frowned in displeasure and took out a pill. He has tons of pills that he got from the Old one. There are even healing pills that can heal Consummate realm cultivators. Some lower-level cultivators might even die just by taking such a healing pill. Sam started digesting his pill.

In his mind, he was thinking that he should beat the crap out of these people when he got the chance. Because of them, he has to take these disgusting pills. In his opinion not only, they are bitter and tasted awful, they don't do any justice for the precious herbs that were put into them.

In fact, he preferred the dishes that were cooked with those herbs over pills. That is why he wouldn't take them unless it is an emergency or absolutely necessary. But because of these guys, Sam had to take these pills.

His anger can be felt from his aura and Arman further confirmed that it has to be Sam.

Because only he would have such a reaction when taking pills. And how did he know about that? That is not a pleasant thing to remember as Sam beat the crap out of him because he saw him taking pills in one of their sessions.

He kind of understand why Sam has such a reaction when he linked the disguise and not using other elemental powers.

He felt like it is not going to be good for the rest of them.

Sam opened his eyes and walked towards the next platform. The eye technique scroll.

Sam didn't cultivate any form of eye techniques and from what he knew the original Golden Gaze-fiery eyes could see through good and evil, hidden

things, thoughts, and many other things. So, he figured that this lesser version might be similar to the original even if it is not as powerful.

The person near the eye technique scroll is actually Arman himself. He picked that because there is nothing left for him to take.

When Sam is near him, he secretly gestured him to target the next one the platform which has wine gourd.

At this moment, the 'man' from the herb garden is still healing herself and the platform for wine gourd is already empty.

"Just go for it. Don't preserve anything." He whispered and dropped a space jade at his feet.

Arman picked it up without raising any suspicions.

And entered his spiritual sense into it only to see the lightning saber inside.

This is the same saber that was completely subdued by Sam. But since Sam is giving him permission and the spirit is sentient and also familiar with Arman, he can use it. But the full prowess of the blade couldn't be shown.

Arman is still satisfied.

Next time, he entered the one with the gourd of wine and took out the saber. He started concentrating his energy on the blade and a large lightning saber was formed. With a single slash, Arman made a devastating attack.

This time, at least the monkey statue didn't understand what he was really doing and waited. Unlike Sam who held his hand directly in its place not letting him attack at all.

The fight was almost over after that attack. The statue became extremely weak and Arman started squeezing his energy reservoir dry.

The battle is bloody at least, Arman is soaked in blood while the statue was filled with cracks.

Slowly, Arman was able to grab the victory and the wine landed in her hands. The 'man' from the herb garden is speechless. She didn't think that her platform was the first one to be targeted.

Sam nodded at Arman's performance and climbed up on the next platform. He took out another staff and spiritual energy roared around him.

The same scenario almost repeated. Except for this time, as soon as Sam broke the statue's staff and stabbed the piece of staff inside, he felt a piercing pain in the left abdomen.

The statue also stabbed him back.

But Sam didn't let go. He just went through with offense, completely ignoring the pain he is feeling.

After the fight is over, he took down the reward and stored it in his storage.

He came down and leaned his back against the nearby tree.

He lifted his shirt up to see what the damage is like. There is something wrong with the wound. He could feel that the staff didn't just pass through him. It was stabbed diagonally upwards and it hit the rib.

Both the rib and the staff broke. The stone fragments of the staff were stuck inside and some of them even pierced his lungs.

He took off his shirt completely. When the candidates saw the scars on his body, they felt chills all over.

Sam's body looks perfectly sculpted, any warrior will have a great body like that of course, all of their bodies are not aesthetically pleasing, but Sam's bone structure makes him look great.

But those scars are like the art of a crazy person who wanted to ruin the look of the body and failed. All that gave him is the scarily handsome look. The men are jealous except for one 'man' though.

But when they thought of the battles that they have to go through to get what Sam got on his body, they abandoned the ideas.

The watched keenly on what Sam is doing.

To their surprise, he didn't hesitate before pulling the staff out like its nothing, his eyes are still cold and unfeeling. No one saw a hint of pain from it.

When they saw the staff's edge, then only they understood that the injury is more than what they thought.

Arkiv who got acquainted with Sam previously stepped forward to see if he can help. But as he neared Sam, he got a dangerous feeling creeping down his spine. He felt that if he took one more step, he would be dead.

At this moment, Sam is emitting the killing intent and if they really did come here, he might kill them.

He is pissed off because he was injured this badly.

After all, if not for the fact that he had to maintain the disguise, he wouldn't have to worry about using all the attacks in his arsenal. He is confident that he could defeat the statue without taking this bad of an injury.

He is pissed at the major powers. If the major powers stopped being nosy and minded their own businesses, he would have come into the Palace of inheritances without a care in the world.

But now, he has to disguise so that the war wouldn't start prematurely. If the Beast faction is implicated because of him, he would have to intervene.

Sam shook his head to clear these thoughts off his mind.

He took out a dagger from his storage and started cutting the wound. He made a large incision. It would fit his whole palm without any problem.

He cut the flesh and placed his palm inside. When it brushed past the internal organs, he felt a soul-searing pain, but he made sure that he has as little contact as possible.

He reached the lowest part of the lung, where the shards of the stone staff are punctured in.

He delicately held one of the shards and plucked it out. He felt like the air was completely pumped out of his lungs forcefully.

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Sam picked out on shard after another until it was completely done. The next step was healing. But when he looked at the people around him, he really wanted to beat the crap out of them. They could have just minded their own business.

Why would they want to look at him all the time?

There is no need for them to continuously observe him. Ge gritted his teeth and took out a formation disc. A concealing formation appeared around him. He then started cleaning up the wound and the internal organs, his palm is not the cleanest of all things, he has to be careful.

He took out any possible impurities with his spiritual energy and started healing himself. The light elemental energy enveloped the wound and slowly recuperated. He didn't bother taking pills, he just took out an energy cell of light element and stood there weakly.

He completely unclenched his muscles and relaxed as he took small low breaths.

After healing the lung and other internal organs along with the bone crack the rib suffered, he started healing the flesh.

Just like every time, he left the scar.

After healing himself, he took back the formation disc and started eating some food. This is made by Mackey. Sam got used to his food and decided that he would bring the food wherever he went. Anyway, the food will not lose its heat, in the spatial ring.

The others looked at him with a dumbfounded expression. They didn't expect that he would just eat a meal that casually.

It is almost as if he didn't care about the injury. They don't know what he did behind the concealment formation.

But they do know that he didn't stay for a long time, behind the formation and there are not many things that could be done in such a short amount of time.

Sam looked at the remaining platforms and saw that the candidates are still looking at him without fighting the statues.

There are only two statues left and there are three candidates.

Sam then looked at the treasures that are floating on them. One of them is a peach and another one is the scroll of the body tempering.

When they noticed Sam's gaze the candidates suddenly came to their senses, they realized that if they don't take the chance immediately, Sam might take the treasures away. Then they wouldn't be able to fathom the regret they would have to swallow.

Arkiv is the first one to make a move.

He didn't hold back any longer. He knew that he couldn't get past the stone statue if he was still like this. From what the golden statue said, he knew that

all of them are of the same kind. They are chosen ones, the people who got second chances from the gods.

There is no way they don't have trump cards.

When he saw this, the chosen from the beast faction also leaped on to the stage, the 'man' from the herb garden who is observing Sam the most, didn't react fast enough and missed the chance.

She knew that she lost the opportunity to compete further.

These candidates wouldn't just give up anymore. If they did, then it wouldn't be her place to get the treasures, Sam would take them no problem.

Both the candidates on the platform seem like they have gone berserk. They used their most powerful attack without any reservation, but still, it became a bloody battle instead of a clean sweep.

The monkey statues are only lost because of their stone bodies. If they are really made of flesh and blood of the monkey king, they could dream of defeating him even on the same level.

They might be geniuses, but even they are not comparable to the Monkey king.

Even Sam, who is well versed in a myriad of arts wouldn't think he is better than Sun Wukong.

After the five battles are over, everyone is in a ragged state, the 'man' from the herb faction is in the best shape. But she doesn't have further qualifications to take part in the final test.

As for the remaining people, Arman decided to withdraw from the test.

It almost cost his arm and a leg to deal with the statue, the final test wouldn't be simple. Anyway, with Sam here, he wouldn't dare to compete and humiliate himself further.

The man from the beast faction chose to take it, while Akriv was hesitant.

The five platforms disappeared into thin air and the Monkey King said.

"Okay now, the final test is to fight me. I will be using a special technique and you have to fight me. If you are competent enough then you can even learn this. In fact, I am doing it so that you can learn it.

Even if you don't learn it, if you can beat me, you can get the final prize.

Since all of you are here, I am feeling extremely generous today. If you three of you manage to defeat me. Then I will reward all three of you in the same way. But if none of you defeat me within the next few days and decides to give up, then I will not give any reward and after all three of you gave up. I will let you all leave."

The chosen from the beast faction was the first one to climb the platform. He doesn't want to give the chance to Sam or Arkiv.

If by chance they succeeded, then he would regret it.

At this moment, several lines appeared on the Golden statue as it turned translucent.

All these lines looked like the muscular fibers and the meridian network of the body. They could see the energy flow that is going through his body.

He is showing the energy flow of the technique that he is using so that the candidates could learn it.

In fact, the energy circulation is also not extremely different, Sam could see that this is somewhat similar to the physical state he was in previously.

The spiritual energy is spreading through the meridian network at the same time, the muscles are also being used as a medium.

The muscular lines contracted a bit and they felt as if the whole statue has become leaner. The energy circulation is mostly uniform.

The monkey king didn't use the staff. He struck the staff into the platform making it stand straight.

He then threw a casual punch.

The candidates could see the spiritual energy movement over the meridian network and the muscle fibers.

The spiritual energy moved in waves and at the point where the punch struck there is a small energy explosion, the energy explosion doesn't have any sound because as soon as the energy exploded, there is a certain vacuum created on that spot and the surrounding spiritual energy hurriedly tried to occupy it.

And due to the overflowing of energy into a single spot, the energy collided and created a force. Everything in the surroundings showed a reaction. Sam who is below the platform could also feel the might of the punch. The spiritual energy in the atmosphere is in turmoil and the wind also blasted on his face.

As for the chosen from the beast faction, he tried his best to defend from the force but he was still blown back and was almost out of the platform.

"I call this the Void technique. Looks great right. That is the best technique in the world. It can be used in all forms of techniques as long as it involves physical attack." The monkey continued explaining and picked up the staff.

He swung the staff and they could see the spiritual energy passing through the staff. Once again the body's muscle fibers started making the same type of energy waves. And they noticed that the longer the wave, which means the more area of the body is covered the stronger the force would be.

The waves started passing through the staff and he struck the staff in the air.

The air suddenly roiled, the spiritual energy is in chaos. This is almost as good as destabilizing a spiritual stone.

This is what Sam thought after he looked at the attack.

The chosen from the beast faction couldn't handle the force and fell from the platform. It is hard to even take the force coming after the attack is completed. One should wonder what it would be like to take the hit directly.

The Monkey king looked at the candidates and said.

"This is just the force of Nascent stage cultivator. Imagine if you were to be a Consummate realm cultivator and attack someone. What would happen?

Imagine if you are a cultivator of a higher level and fought like that?

Of course, there are some drawbacks. The spiritual energy consumption is high. There is no such thing as a free meal.

If you guys master this technique, I don't think you have to worry about energy consumption though. All you would need is a single clean hit anyway."

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Sam felt like going up, but Arkiv beat him to it.

"Great sage, you said any form of attack would work with this technique as long as it is physical, how about archery then?"

Arkiv asked humbly. His tone is full of respect.

"Of course, archery is also useful. Let me show you." The Monkey King seemed to have enjoyed someone calling his Great Sage. After all, from what Sam knew this is his self-proclaimed title. Maybe no one calls with that. After all with his strong temper, it is already great that no one is calling him rogue and such, the Sage is really not a fitting title to him.

The statue took the bow and arrow and started channeling his energy once again. At this moment, they noticed that as the energy formed waves in the arrow and the bow, the link with the energy in the body was cut off.

Unlike the time, he used the staff, the energy wave in the body and the staff are all a single cycle, but now, they are both having individual cycles.

After he trapped the energy within the arrow and formed the energy wave, he let the arrow go.

The arrow landed right at the feet of Arkiiv and he was blasted off from the platform, straight towards a nearby tree.

Sam looked at him and tempted to go up. He knew that he wouldn't be able to stand a chance. This situation is the epitome of the scenario when the strengths are equal the skill reigns supreme.

He's quite confident that even his body and elements might not be of equal level to that of the monkey king's constitution.

But he is sure that he is not far off. But the monkey king's skills are something is far off from.

Sam always used basic skills, he didn't like flashy moves, he always used the simplest moves to the maximum advantage.

In fact, this move is also a simple move. It doesn't have any fancy hand signs and flashy large moves. This all depends on the energy flow.

He held the staff tightly and said.

He slightly bowed in respect to the monkey king. This is his respect for a person who is willing to teach such a precious technique to them without any prejudice.

Sam knew that there is something going on between gods and the twelve candidates that came are not going to have an amicable relationship. At least,

they are going to have some rivalry. These gods chose these candidates as players in their stead and they can just teach to their own candidates.

No one would blame him. In fact, Indra did just the same. He personally didn't even talk to anyone except Arman himself.

But the monkey king is different. Maybe this magnanimity is what makes him worthy of Sage's title. When Sam thought of this, he chuckled to himself on how he is contradicting his own thoughts.

He said to the Monkey King.

"Great Sage, I would like you to create a barrier around us. I don't want to reveal my skills to anyone due to some personal reasons."

The monkey king thought for a moment and nodded. There was a barrier around them and Sam took off his cloth that is covering his face.

He held the staff in his hands and his whole body buffed up a bit, the spiritual energy was completely roaring around his body.

But this time, it is not normal spiritual energy, it has fire elemental energy mixed in the temperature within the barrier increased.

"Your technique is good, but the spiritual energy is too violent and making the muscle fibers to have some space between themselves, they are not quite close and a lot of strength is being lost, you might want to rectify that."

The Monkey said, Sam nodded.

He made his attack and the monkey actually let him. When the staff clashed with other's staff, the fire elemental energy exploded and golden flames blasted at the contact point.

The Monkey king raised his eyebrows as he was a bit amused, that he is because he noticed that the attack is not finished, the tailwind of the strike is

still acting and it made the flame sharper and more ferocious at the same time.

Sam wanted to test his own prowess at this moment. He wanted to see how he will reign in front of a supreme existence like the monkey king himself. The one who is arrogant enough to claim himself to be Heaven's equal, how magnificent would he be?

He wanted to see how he could compare to him.

After Sam's first hit, he quickly made the second one, he didn't dare delay much. But the monkey king is no pushover and he didn't stand there just to take a beating.

He made a move and the energy waves made Sam extremely cautious, his hair stood at the end and he immediately kicked the ground hard, there is a crack in the platform and with that force, he jumped to the side.

When the staff move of the statue was finished, a huge force went and hit the barrier. Sam felt his heart shudder. He didn't expect that he would feel this scared when he is this close.

The attacks started coming at him continuously, Sam didn't dare be careless and moved like crazy.

He started kicking the Platform so that he could use the force to dodge. He didn't want to block the attack.

After a few hits, the aura around him suddenly changed and all of the purple mist seeped out of the staff's edge.

He slammed the staff into the Monkey king. He is using poison. He doesn't know if it works on the statue but the answer came.

The Monkey King took a step back and shook his head.

"Hydra's Poison. Not bad. The Gambler's candidate is as resourceful as him." He praised Sam. One could see that the dazzling light of the monkey king dimmed a bit.

As the body is translucent Sam could see the poison mist which seeped inside to do its job. The monkey king didn't play dirty. He made sure that things like poison will have the same effect on the statue as they would have on fleshly beings.

But Sam was surprised to see the next development. The whole poison which was seeping into the muscles suddenly started moving along with the energy waves.

When the monkey attacked one more time, the poison came out along with the spiritual energy.

This is the amount of control that the Monkey King has over his body and spiritual energy. He can contain the most potent poison in his body without letting it affect him much and expel it as he wished.

This is the epitome of control.

Sam became incredibly vigilant, he dodged the attack by hair's breadth and landed another hit on the monkey king, but this time, it didn't land cause external damage, because what Sam used is water elemental energy and his main aim is to disrupt the energy flow.

Since the effects on the statue are the same as fleshly beings, Sam used the water element to send tremors through the blood in the body.

The Monkey King stumbled for the first time.

Sam didn't want to miss this opportunity.

Suddenly two types of auras raged around his body. One of them is silver in color and the other one is black in color. Sam's silver lightning is raging all

over his body. Out of all his elements, the lightning element has the most destructive raw power.

He disappeared from the place with the shadow flash and appeared right behind the monkey king, who is stabilizing his blood circulation.

Sam's staff was brimming with energy and as he landed his hit squarely on the back, he also felt a extremely powerful blow landing on him.

Then only he noticed that the monkey king already made his move and the elbow was emitting the same energy waves.

Sam took such an attack squarely.

Both of them flew to opposite sides and Sam hit the barriers quite strongly.

The monkey king also fell down. But he stood up immediately.

Sam couldn't do anything, he sat up with difficulty and once again started covering his face. The robes on his body were tattered.

The barrier disappeared and Sam walked down. The spectators are stunned by his state.

They didn't expect that the battle is so fierce. They did hear some sounds, but they all thought that most of it are caused by the monkey king himself.

Then they saw the monkey king's statue and the dazzling light covering it is a lot dimmer and it is gradually increasing as if recovering.

This is what shocked him even more.

They weren't even able to dodge the attacks.

But Sam seemed to have done more than just dodge.

Sam walked down and leaned against the tree.

Then only they saw the gaping wound on his right abdomen. That is where the elbow landed.

They could see that his flesh almost burst apart and they could faintly see the ribcage.

They couldn't imagine the hit that he took.

They want to see his face all of a sudden.

Sam didn't care about them and took his concealing formation disc once again.

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Sam set the barrier and took off his face cover again.

He is gasping for breath; he doesn't want to cover his nose at this moment.

He started coughing and blood spewed out of his mouth. His internal organs are shivering and he could see a rib piercing out of his body.

He didn't take this much of beating in quite some time. His whole body is shaking and he has yet to stabilize the spiritual energy wreaking havoc in his body.

He took that Void elbow directly. Sam finally understood the true horror of the attack.

It is not just the vacuum explosion or the sudden injection of atmospheric spiritual energy gathering and colliding at this spot. Rather the vacuum is sucking the spiritual energy from the body itself.

The spiritual energy of his own body caused this much damage to his body. Sam felt like dying. This one true vicious style of fighting he must say.

Sam wondered how it would turn out if the energy used is not normal spiritual energy and elemental energy instead.

He doesn't want to find that out at this moment at least not on himself.

Sam took out some herbs from the divine dimension and started extracting their juice. It is a herbal gas that is used to deal with impurities and has a faint cooling effect. He didn't want to place his hand inside the wound again. At least not immediately.

After crushing the juice and pouring it all over, he felt the burning sensation was gone and he is feeling slightly numb. Then he took out an energy cell and placed it on his lap. This is of light element. He first absorbed some energy to replenish his reservoir. After that, he covered his hand with the light elemental energy and held the broken rib which was in a displaced weird position.

He gritted his teeth and started adjusting the rib and placing it normally. He doesn't have enough energy to heal the bone anew.

First, he started healing the lung that was perforated and then healed the rib carefully. After the bone was healed, he started healing the injury slowly. This time too he left the blast mark on that place.

It might be ugly to look at, but he doesn't want to lose the remainder.

These scars will show him how much pain there would be if he gets injured again.

After healing the injury, Sam started eating another meal. He wanted to replenish his blood loss. But as he took a bite, Sam suddenly felt something and frowned.

He hurriedly grabbed the cloth to cover his face and then closed his eyes once again. He started using dark elemental energy and he disappeared from his spot all of a sudden.

He reappeared right behind the 'man' of the herb garden and held her in a chokehold with the dagger in his hand pointing into her ear. One stab and he is sure that he can slice the brain in half.

The 'man' from the herb garden couldn't help but shudder and the cold killing intent Sam is emitting.

"There are some things that are not meant to be seen." Sam's words are extremely dangerous and cold. She felt her legs go weak all of a sudden.

She felt like she is paying too much of a price for a small thing.

After all, she only got curious about what Sam is doing and wanted to peek a bit. Who wouldn't be curious when someone is trying to even use concealing formation? And from what she saw earlier, Sam even healed himself to his top condition after using the concealing formation.

She just wanted to see what he is doing.

That is why she used her ability to extend her spiritual senses with the help of the grass within the concealing formation.

But to her dismay, Sam noticed as soon as her spiritual sense entered and retaliated before she could see anything. All she was are the scars and the tattoo on his back indicating he is a chosen one.

And that is not a secret from what Monkey said at the beginning of the final tests. She felt like Sam is overreacting.

Arman was also surprised.

"Let me go. I apologize."

"Apology. If every offense can be forgiven just for the apologies, do you think there is a need for cultivation in this world? Half of the cultivators in this would lose their motivation to cultivate.

Anyway, since you also have something that you don't want to show, how can you just watch other's secrets?

Here I am being a good human being by not letting out your secret and yet you are trying to violate mine."

Sam said as if he is saying nothing wrong.

"What did you see?" Sam asked as he concentrated on her breath and heartbeat. He wanted to see if she is lying.

"I don't have time to see your face. I only got to see your scars and tattoo. You reacted too fast." She said. Sam found no signs of lying, but he is still a bit suspicious. He slowly released her from his grip and said.

"I don't care if you saw me or not. If my secret is out after we leave this palace, I only have you as my suspect. I would come for you and take your life myself."

With that, he went back to his formation.

The Monkey king heard the whole thing and was a bit amused.

Sam healed himself and went back onto the stage, the remaining candidates already lost twice already.

They don't want to give up that early though. They still want to put up a fight.

They are trying so hard to replicate the technique.

Sam closed his eyes before he climbed the platform. He wanted to memorize the energy wave when the monkey king attacked.

He is confident that once he could get the hang and rhythm of the energy waves, he can replicate the attack. Because he has an inherent advantage compared to others. His spiritual core abilities, observe and manipulate.

He is confident that if he can use the manipulate ability and observe the ability to make sure that he is following the correct flow, he can replicate the attack.

He didn't use this staff at this moment. He wanted to try fists first before he could go to staff.

He once again fed his spiritual energy to his muscles and remembered the monkey king's words from earlier and tried to contract the muscle fibers together so that they have much more collective strength.

His body is not as buff as before. The monkey king raised an eyebrow. He waved his hand and raised a barrier and said.

"What are you so afraid of? Trying so hard to hide like that. Who are you trying to hide from?"

The monkey king asked him.

"I am not as talented as you Monkey king. Not everyone can teach jade emperor a lesson whenever they want. I am not as talented as you, so to protect myself, I have to stay low profile."

The Monkey King is surprised for a second and said.

"So you are originally from the earth. Huh. You must have some serious talents for the gambler to consider to take you from that place. After all, the spiritual energy of that place is dried up."

"You have to see that for yourself."

Sam said with a smile and made his move.

This time, he closed his eyes and started to get a feel for the spiritual energy as it passed through the muscles, monkey king, who is standing in front of him didn't make a move immediately. Sam is trying to use Void style. He wants to see what is going to happen.

Sam started manipulating spiritual energy. His mental strength is taking a toll due to this. But he endured it. After continuous usage, his body and brain will get used to this and he wouldn't have to use manipulation to forcefully do this.

Then he doesn't have to endure this stress.

As Sam let the energy flow, she started to get a feel of what is happening in his body and threw a punch straight at the monkey king.

BOOM

An intense explosion sounded and Sam felt an excruciating pain in his hand. He opened his eyes only to see that the monkey king has slid back a little. But his arm which is still extended was torn. All the muscle fibers were torn open and they are bleeding, he can even see the bones of the fingers as the skin completely disappeared.

Sam didn't shout, but gritted his teeth and endured all of it. The Monkey king relaxed, but at this moment, Sam made his move, he jumped in and threw his left hand. He connected directly as he caught the opponent off guard.

BOOM an explosion occurred and Sam first time saw a crack on the golden statue.

But the crack is so minute that it didn't take even a minute to heal.

"So, you can bleed too?" Sam said with a smile. His left hand was also wasted, but he is more ecstatic that he was able to land a hit on the monkey king and cause some damage.

The Monkey King looked at him and said. "Maybe if it was my true body when I was nascent, then I should probably have bled for real."

Sam shook his head and went down the platform after the barrier was taken down.

Everyone was stunned once again.

Sam's two hands are hanging down with blood. He left two trails of blood when he went back to the tree.

Then they looked at the monkey king who is still looking at Sam with a curious expression.

RE-BIRTH OF A GENIUS. CREATOR/DESTROYER

Chapter 420: Knock out

The next two weeks went by and all these days, candidates didn't give up at all.

They are trying to replicate the void technique. They are trying so hard actually.

But unfortunately, there is not much progress. After all, it would be hard for them to suddenly gain this much control in such a short period of time.

The major powers although powerful, only teach their disciples in the conventional ways and according to them, the bigger the spell, the bigger the technique, the more damage it does, the better it is. They generally, wouldn't account for the disadvantages and backlash of the technique.

So, these candidates although chosen didn't get their training from God's themselves, they are only trained in these major powers and in the same ways.

They will learn the importance of control and efficiency of the spell or a technique when they truly meet a person who is a suitable rival.

They will only learn this the hard way when they experience what a second of time makes the difference in a cutthroat battle.

But they are still far from that. Sam is the only one who has at least some experience in this field. All his techniques are based on efficiency which relies on the control of his energy.

But even he has extreme difficulty in controlling this.

He has blasted his limbs many times due to the lack of control.

And for some reason, Monkey king is talking to him in a friendly way as the days passed.

As for the 'man' from the herb garden and Arman, they are just cultivating calmly. They don't have anything to do here. They are extremely calm and utilizing this environment to improve their cultivation.

As they are not qualified for the final test, they couldn't see the energy flow in the body of the statue no matter how much they tried, so they gave up.

Now, at this moment, Sam is setting back the bones in his palm. The fingers are all distorted in weird angles.

His expression is still so calm as if he is fixing someone else's bones and not his.

This time, the damage is not just because of the void technique, rather his punch and the monkey king's punch collided straight and his body is obviously not as strong and the monkey king's void punch is the better one with complete technique.

So, naturally, he lost.

But he is getting a hang of this. He could find a way to draw with the monkey king, if not defeat him. Of course, if a special situation arises, he could even win, the probability is less than two percent though.

After healing himself, he started meditating. Out of all people, he is the one who has taken the most damage.

The rest of them didn't get so close to the Monkey king. The chosen one from the beast faction is the only one who damaged his leg and the staff and stayed put for four days.

Sam is the only one who is constantly fighting back, he has fought three battles a day. Continuously, healing and destroying his body. At some point, he even stopped wearing the upper robe.

After all, for every battle, it is being torn into shreds.

Sam is the only one who has significant progress in the technique.

After some time, Sam came out of his formation and made his way towards the stage.

He held the staff in his hands and stood ramrod straight in front of the Monkey king. The Monkey king created the barrier around the platform and looked at Sam.

"So, are you confident in doing it this time?" He is asking about defeating him. Sam's expression is serious and he said in a low voice.

"No."

Sam started channeling the energy wave and is ready to make the move, this time the energy is being channeled into the staff. He kicked off the ground as he leaped towards the Monkey king.

He spun the staff around his head and aimed it straight at the head of the monkey king.

The latter didn't move immediately. He just smiled and moved his head to the side and placed the staff on his shoulder.

He also channeled his energy and just moved the staff a bit upwards. Both the staves collided and Sam's body took the most damage. The recoil of the attack is making his arms tremble and a cut appeared on his right palm, making him bleed.

The monkey king pushed the staff upwards one more time, wanting to push Sam away, but at this moment, his eyes flashed in surprise. Because Sam

held both the staves in place and used the shoulder of the statue as his support and swung his high up into the air.

The Monkey King was surprised and wasn't able to react in time.

Before he could react, Sam is already making his. He kicked straight at the chest of the monkey king with his two legs.

The energy wave of the attack this time has covered the whole body and the impact is actually huge.

The kick landed squarely on the chest and Monkey king flew backward. Sam's legs are bleeding, the muscle fibers are torn apart. But he didn't stop at all.

As the monkey king is flying towards the barrier, Sam held his own staff and started channeling the energy.

He lunged forward and swung the staff with all his might.

He hit the monkey king in the abdomen with the staff and he could see the cracks that appeared on the chest and abdomen.

The Staff was broken and only a small piece of the metal rod was left in Sam's hands. But at this moment, both his hands are torn and bleeding.

But he didn't halt at that. He stood there and channeled his energy into the small piece of the metal rod.

He didn't go for the close combat. Rather, he is trying for a ranged attack. It is the same as the arrow the monkey shot.

The metal rod tore through the air and stabbed itself into the chest of the monkey king.

The three consecutive spiritual energy explosions happened in a mere second. Sam moved extremely fast and extremely decisively.

The Monkey king flew in the air and passed through the barrier as if it was not there and crashed into the ground below.

Sam who is on the stage couldn't stand anymore and fell down on the platform. He noticed that the barrier is dimming so, he tried his best to move his broken hands and cover his face back.

By the time, the barrier broke Sam is already disguised. Right now, he used all his energy to sit straight.

The Monkey also sat straight and looked around in confusion. He was making sense of what happened. In this small exchange, Sam actually took more damage than the monkey king himself. But the latter was thrown off the stage.

Sam also realized at this moment, that the barrier is only applicable for Sam. The reason why Sam was blocked by the barrier is that he doesn't want to be revealed outside.

As for the monkey king, he made sure that barrier shouldn't stop him. How can he rob the glory of a junior who was able to send him off the platform? That should be seen by the rest of the candidates and give him due credit.

The monkey king slowly stood up and took out a gourd. He walked towards Sam and slowly made him drink some wine from the gourd.

Sam's body started healing and he is as good as new in a few seconds.

The Monkey king sat beside Sam and took a swig of wine.

"Damn it. It is a pity that I don't have the real thing, otherwise, we could have shared a drink. You can keep it." He passed the wine gourd to Sam.

Sam felt extremely honored.

This is the first time he is feeling this in this life.

The Monkey looked at the rest of the candidates and spoke to the chosen one from the Beast faction.

"Akhil, I chose you because you have a relationship with monkeys and apes in the previous life. You are doing great, and I have to say that I don't regret my choice.

But you have to work hard. Harder than now. You have to face many things and this planet is but a minute place that was in this vast universe."

With that, he extended his hand and a light fell on that person. His body slowly started going through the metamorphosis, which is similar to what Arman has gone through.

He then looked at the rest of the candidates and said.

"I am doing this openly because all five of you are chosen candidates by some other gods. You will get your chance sooner or later. Work hard.

And it is better to keep this topic on the down-low. The powers you all are in, you are not going to stay there forever. Don't get too involved in the disputes and don't pick a bone with the rest of the candidates."

He then finally turned towards Sam and said.

"Your talent is impeccable and I am not talking about the talent of cultivation, I am talking about your talent to learn, you might be the best candidate of all at this moment. I look forward for you to climb the realms and reach the highest place.

Then we can have a drink together."

He said that and stood up and pulled Sam up as well.

With a wave of his hand, the golden staff came to him. He then gave it to Sam and said.

"A spirit weapon. This may be useful for you. This is a replica of my own staff. Although it doesn't change the size, it still possesses the spirit and will which are enough for you to save yourself. The seals will be opened along with your cultivation.

These are transference scrolls. You might be familiar with them."

He gave three to Sam and gave two to Akhil and Arkiv. Then passed one each to the 'man' from the herb garden and Arman.

"There is one more reward I can give you. What do you want?"