

Chapter 1570

In response, Gerald stomped his foot onto the ground, causing him to fly into the air!

Wherever the elongated staff passed, loud explosions would follow as it wreaked havoc all over the place.

After a few stone pillars were smashed into nothing but rubble, all Daryl did was wave his hand slightly for the staff to begin homing in on Gerald again! It was almost as though the staff had eyes!

As more explosions could be heard, Gerald waved his own hand to block the attack!

A smile now on his face, Gerald then flicked his fingers at the staff... and within seconds, the frozen in place staff began cracking rather loudly!

Even though the staff's tip had already exploded into a million tiny pieces, Gerald's immense qi didn't stop there. No, the excess qi actually began bolting all the way back to Daryl!

Taken by surprise, Daryl snapped out of it just in time for him to fly off the ground! It was barely a second later when he watched as the area he had previously been standing on get completely smashed!

The impact was so massive that two pieces of stone even ended up falling to the base of the tower!

Quickly regaining his footing, Daryl could only alternate his gaze between his now half-destroyed staff and the massive hole Gerald had left on the ground...

Utterly horrified, the old man quickly shook out of it before glaring at Gerald and growling, "What immense qi! It seems that I've truly underestimated you! With how things are currently going, I guess I won't be able to defeat you with normal means, huh?"

Following a sneer, Daryl then opened his arms wide!

At that moment, two green dragons suddenly appeared above his palms, hovering there as they made an ear-piercing screech!

Following that, the skies instantly began darkening as strong gales blew wildly, sending all the previous rubble dancing madly in the air!

Anyone standing close enough to the tower was able to sense how unusual Daryl's tactic was, and upon seeing what was happening, Carlos's expression immediately darkened as he shouted, "That... The Double-dragon spell?!"

So this was what a real war between Chakra Kings looked like... It was simply too destructive...

After casting that spell, Daryl leaped into the sky again! The two dragons still hovering above his palms, Daryl then sneered, "In the end, you're just a young man, Gerald! I'll have you know that I've cultivated these demon powers for decades! Do you honestly think you'll be able to endure the power of my Double-dragon spell?"

The spell itself was extremely powerful, and Daryl had spent sixty long years just to learn and refine it! Even so, from the moment he had managed to refine the spell to its fullest capacity, Daryl hadn't found a reason to use it. After all, it was a supreme spell capable of destroying everything!

Despite how intimidating the effects of the spell were, Gerald simply looked around before smiling while shaking his head.

His hands behind his back, Gerald then replied, "...Is that it?"

Infuriated to the point where he could feel his blood boiling, Daryl glared daggers at the youth before roaring, "You... You arrogant little prick! I'll be letting you have a taste of the full force of my Double-dragon spell then! Enjoy being vaporized!"

Following a simple hand gesture from Daryl, an earth-shattering roar could be heard! The roar was so deafening that anyone close enough to the area had to close their ears!

Though their ears were still ringing, nobody had the time to recover in time for what came next...

With hearts skipping beats and eyes wide open, everyone present could only stare as two massive dragons suddenly popped their heads from beyond the darkened clouds...

Before one of them began charging toward Gerald!

This was way too much! It was clear as day that Daryl Crawford had been given the title of Chakra King with good reason!

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By the time the shocked Julian could feel his heart sink, the gargantuan green dragon was already inches away from Gerald!

However, the next thing everyone knew, a golden arc of light suddenly appeared and completely enveloped Gerald!

The second the dragon touched the arc of light, it instantly retracted! From an audience's perspective, it looked like something had shocked it to the core!

"My god! What tactic is he even using?!" exclaimed the surprised Carlos who didn't even dare blink as the battle went on.

Daryl found himself equally as surprised as well. After all, he, of all people, knew how powerful the Double-dragon spell truly was.

While Daryl knew that Gerald had summoned that golden arc of light to shield him from the attack, he hadn't the slightest idea of what the arc of light actually was.

It couldn't have been a magic weapon since that wouldn't have been able to block the Double-dragon spell... The arc was most probably not cast through the use of mere inner strength either. After all, no amount of inner strength—no matter how strong it was—would've been able to block the spell's power.

With all that in mind, what the hell was going on...?

His heart now racing, Daryl turned to look at his green dragon that had almost dematerialized from Gerald's arc of light alone.

Shortly after, he watched as Gerald slowly floated into the air... and it was at that moment when he realized what was really going on.

Though he was still surprised, his gaze tightened as he declared, "So, it appears that you've learned a lot more secret techniques than I've anticipated! No wonder your fighting strategies are always so amazing!"

Following that, he began gathering power in his hands again... and this time, both dragons began charging toward Gerald!

With sparks of electricity running down the dragons' bodies, both of them rammed straight into Gerald's protective shield!

"You're wasting far too much of your essential qi, you know, Daryl? I fear that your essential qi will have completely depleted before you even start fighting me head-on! Still, I'm sure you already knew that you couldn't defeat me using regular means after our little clash yesterday... With that in mind, I can't help but wonder if you proceeded to invite me to a duel thinking that this weak spell of yours could kill me..."

Despite the two dragons continuously ramming into Gerald's protective shield of light, all that did was further thicken the shield's layers!

"Impossible... Impossible...!" roared the pale-faced Daryl whose arms were already filled with bulging blue veins...

Unwilling to just accept this, Daryl kept on ordering the dragons to crash into Gerald's arc of light slowly depleting his essential qi... Deep inside, however, Daryl knew that all he was doing was for naught.

How on earth was Gerald this powerful...? Daryl knew for a fact that Gerald was only a Third-rank Chakra King during their battle yesterday... Now, however, Gerald's training was very evidently beyond that. Daryl's power wasn't even closely comparable to Gerald's anymore! The Herculean Primordial Spirit... It was simply far too terrifying!

Still, the more he thought about it, the more he refused to give up on his assault! Maybe perseverance was the key!

The second his thought ended, however, a massive explosion could suddenly be heard, snapping him out of it!

It was evident that the explosion was caused by the dragons' final ram into the arc of light... And now, all the surprised old man could do was watch as his shattered green dragons slowly began falling apart...

Seconds later, the horrified Daryl ended up spurting out a mouthful of blood before falling from the sky!

Shouting in pain from the impact of falling, Daryl was still more terrified of Gerald as he turned to look at the youth.

He now knew that even if he used up all his strength, he would never be able to break through Gerald's defenses... This... This was all impossible...!

As utter disbelief was reflected in Daryl's eyes, the crowd watching from below found themselves completely clueless as to what had just happened...

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After all, the last thing they were able to see was a blinding light from atop the tower that had forced all of them to shut their eyes...

By the time their eyes finally readjusted, Daryl Crawford, the legendary King of South Asia, was already lying on the ground!

“...What?” muttered a voice.

With such a great battle taking place, it was only natural that those from the other Crawford family would also be present at the dragon tower. The one who had spoken appeared to be some kind of young master, and he had been watching everything through his sinister eyes from the moment the battle began. Even so, he truly hadn't expected that things would go this way.

‘Is grandpa unable to even lay a finger on Gerald...?’

Meanwhile, Carlos and Julian themselves were utterly amazed by what they had just witnessed... This was a battle unlike anything they had ever seen before...

“...You.... Could you have learned all those unique techniques from Liemis...? If that's the case, then that explains why I haven't been able to find any records of the skills he had mastered, even after combing through the entire ancient tomb...!” asked the astonished and pale-faced old man as he slowly got to his feet, his eyes affixed to Gerald's...

“Honestly, had you not mentioned it, I would've surely forgotten to tell you about it! Regardless, there was one thing that I didn't tell you about after I returned from the ancient tomb... You see, Brother Liemis didn't have any physical records stored within his tomb, oh no. Instead, he stored all that information within this jade pendant! Thinking back, it's quite lucky that I didn't inform you about this!” replied Gerald.

Finally seeing the bigger picture, Daryl then nodded before saying, “...Interesting...! How absolutely interesting...!”

Rather than continuing to be enraged, Daryl was now laughing... Once he was done, however, he calmly shook his head before turning to look at Gerald as he added, “Still, what a pity...”

“What is?” asked Gerald.

“It’s a pity that you now have access to such talent that others won’t ever be able to obtain, even after training for several lifetimes! A pity that you’re now truly an unparalleled genius on this planet... And last but not least, a pity that you’re my enemy...! With that said, you won’t be able to escape death today no matter what! Thinking about it, I’m honestly a little pained by all this. If you were my real grandson and you didn’t have the Herculean Primordial Spirit within you, everything would’ve surely gone fantastically... Just imagine, me and you, grandfather and grandson! With our powers combined, we could easily dominate the three worlds!” replied Daryl as he shook his head with a bitter smile.

“However, it’s now far too late for all that wishful thinking... I’m ending you today, Gerald! Otherwise, nothing in the world will be able to control you anymore with how rapidly you’re progressing!” added Daryl.

The second his sentence ended, a black Dead Annie suddenly began materializing before the old man’s chest... Though the flower was only the size of an adult’s palm, it was clear as day that it contained an extraordinary power...

As the flower slowly floated into the sky, a beam of light shot out and completely enveloped Daryl!

Barely a second had passed when yet another massive explosion could be heard coming from beneath the dragon tower!

“W-what’s happening?!”

“Is this an earthquake?!”

With even the ground below now trembling, the astonished crowd instantly began speculating what was happening.

Staring at all that was happening, Gerald found himself frowning slightly before he asked, “And what spell are you casting this time?”

“Heh... I’m borrowing the energy from the entire nation just to initiate this ancient spell...! What I’m casting was left behind as a legacy from the ancients! It’s called the great dragon extermination spell...!”

The second Daryl’s explanation ended, he began charging the flower with all his power! With the last of his training aura, Daryl then sent out the Dead Annie!

The Dead Annie was the ultimate flower that Daryl had spent decades to nurture... It was a transcendent magic weapon.

With its power, he could enhance his holy sense in order to forcibly initiate the spell...

Naturally, all this power was well over what a magic weapon was capable of storing... With that in mind, Daryl had managed to get this far by doing something that nobody else had ever done before.

He had merged the Dead Annie with his heart. It was a process near-incomprehensible to ordinary people, but in the end, it worked out for Daryl.

However, this also meant that though Daryl had managed to attain the ultimate magic weapon, the Dead Annie was now essentially his heart.

Despite knowing that, Daryl wasn’t daunted in the least. As long as he could take Gerald out, he didn’t mind sacrificing his life!

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With the Dead Annie still merged with his heart, it was near-impossible for Gerald to truly kill Daryl. After all, no amount of power would’ve been able to destroy that ultimate magic weapon.

Even so, Daryl was well aware that if he didn’t use the flower to initiate the great dragon extermination spell, he wasn’t going to be able to lay a finger on Gerald.

He wasn’t about to allow such a strong demon to exist! Not on his life! With that, the Dead Annie continued shining brighter than ever!

Meanwhile, mass destruction was occurring at the foot of the dragon tower! As multiple draconic screeches filled the air, even more dark clouds began flying toward the area, completely covering the sky...

Even to the ancients, the spell had a reputation for being extremely powerful... With that said, changes in both the sky and earth were only natural once the spell was cast.

As all this was happening, Carlos, Julian, and the rest could only look around them rather anxiously.

“What’s the meaning of all this, Laughing Master...?” asked the worried Julian.

In response, however, Carlos simply shook his head, a bitter smile on his face. After all, he knew for a fact that by this point, the battle between the two was already well beyond his comprehension...

“I’m not allowing you to continue living, Gerald!” yelled the old man, prompting nine colossal obsidian dragons to burst out from the ground, each looking equally as furious!

Upon getting to the top of the tower, all nine of the evil dragons looked like they were about to simultaneously attack Gerald when the youth simply shook his head while smiling bitterly as he said, “I guess you really are willing to pay any price just to kill me!”

Were these dark creatures capable of finally taking Gerald down?

Watching as he shook his head, the nine dragons then encircled the dragon tower before diving in to attack the protective shield that Gerald had just set up again!

The second the collision happened, however, a blinding light swept through the entire area... Followed shortly after by an explosive sound that sent fierce gusts of wind blowing in the audience’s direction!

For those who didn't have much training, they ended up getting easily blown away by the strong gales, many finding themselves colliding against stone walls!

Thankfully, a few of the audience members had brought along people with higher ranks, and they were able to be protected since their training was much higher.

All in all, there was simply a lot of screaming and utter chaos at the foot of the dragon tower...

Regardless, though dust was now all over the place... Daryl's slow but increasingly maniacal laughter could be heard...

After all, he had finally defeated Gerald! Without a doubt, Gerald would've surely turned to dust by this point!

Simply continuing to laugh for a while longer, Daryl's laughter came to an abrupt halt when the dust finally settled again...

There he was. The man he now utterly feared...

Watching as the unscathed young man began walking toward him with his hands in his pockets, Daryl found himself muttering, "...W-what... How... How is this possible...?"

He simply couldn't believe it. He had used the Dead Annie to initiate the great dragon extermination spell knowing full well that he would die doing so. Shockingly enough, even after all that, Gerald was still perfectly fine! In top condition, even!

"...Master... He's alright...!"

From beneath the dragon tower, Carlos could finally calm himself after realizing that Gerald was still fine. Following that deafening explosion, he could now finally stand on the tower again.

“This... This is impossible...! How are you still okay...?!” stuttered the terrified Daryl as he stared wide-eyed at the smiling Gerald.

How had the great dragon extermination spell failed to have killed him?

His hands still in his pockets, Gerald simply replied in a cheerful tone, “But of course I’m alright. After all, your ‘great spell’ is nothing by child’s play in my eyes...”

“You...!” retorted Daryl as a pointed at Gerald.

However, before he could even say another word, he felt as blood began gushing up his throat!

While vomiting a mouthful of blood, Daryl thought about all that had just taken place.

The great dragon extermination spell... It was a highly restricted ancient spell, yet to Gerald, dealing with it had simply been child’s play...

It was also Daryl’s suicidal but strongest attack, and even though Daryl had sacrificed his life for all this, he still wasn’t able to land a single hit on Gerald...

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The Dead Annie was gone, Gerald was still alive and well...

The more Daryl thought about it, the more pain he felt in his chest. As his head began spinning and a trickle of blood rolled down the corner of his mouth, the dying man—who was still pointing at Gerald—could only mutter in his sheer disbelief, “You... You... My... My Dead Annie...!”

Holding onto his chest as he continued mumbling to himself, it almost felt like Daryl had completely lost his soul... Not only that, but he now appeared much, much older than he previously had. The youth on his face and the sheen of his white hair were no longer present...

Clenching his teeth as he tried his best to continue glaring at Gerald, the old man knew deep in his heart that there was nothing else he could do.

Gerald, on the other hand, appeared rather chipper as he walked even closer to Daryl. With a calm voice, Gerald then said, "Before you die, there's something I'd like to tell you, Daryl."

"...What is it...?"

"Well, during our initial fight, I had only used about twenty percent of my essential qi..."

"...You... What...?!" muttered the weakened old man as his eyes bulged.

"And to block your great dragon extermination spell, I simply had to use forty percent instead," replied Gerald.

"You...! That... That's not possible...!" shouted Daryl as he fell feebly to the ground.

"Why wouldn't it be? After all, I only have to use about ten percent of my essential qi during regular fights! Regardless, from what I could tell, you were only able to claw your way up the hierarchy due to the Dead Annie, correct? As for the demonic powers you own... I'm assuming that that's the power of the primordial spirit that you injected into yourself. Whatever the case is, with your primordial spirit now destroyed, your life should be over in a few minutes."

"Also, I can't deny that we were affectionate with each other for a time in the past. With that, I'm giving the cultivating Crawfords half an hour to prepare for their own funerals. Once that time is up, I'm wiping all of them out!" added Gerald in a stern voice.

Before Daryl could even reply, Gerald simply kicked the old man off the dragon tower...

With that, Dylan finally found his chance to shout, "Gerald...!"

"Dad! Mom! Sister...!" cried out the moved Gerald as he quickly ran over to set them free.

With that done, he then looked over to Mila...

Momentarily overwhelmed, Gerald couldn't help but ask, "Mila...! Do you still remember who I am...?"

After studying Gerald for a brief moment, Mila slowly replied, "You... feel familiar... But I'm afraid I can't remember a thing about you...!"

"Heh, it's fine. I'll eventually find a way to recover your memory... From now on, we'll never be apart again!" said Gerald with a wide smile on his face.

At that moment, an explosive sound could be heard as the dragon tower began shaking violently! It was on the verge of collapse!

Quickly casting a spell, Gerald easily brought everyone down the tower.

The second all of them set foot on the ground, the entire building completely collapsed!

It was barely a few seconds later when someone shouted, "...Hey, look there! What's that under the tower?"

Hearing that, Gerald turned to look back at what remained of the dragon tower... And upon realizing what that person was talking about, Gerald's eyelids instantly began twitching rapidly...

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While a huge cloud of dust was still floating around in the air, a deep ravine had clearly formed beneath the tower...

However, that wasn't what shocked everyone most. Oh no, their surprise stemmed from the fact that colorful lights were being emitted from within that very ravine! With such dazzling lights that lit even the darkened sky, it made everyone feel like there was treasure waiting to be uncovered down there...

However, seeing that Gerald wasn't making a move, nobody dared to go any closer. After all, after witnessing such a deadly battle with their very own eyes, all of them were naturally concerned about whether the King of the North would end up killing them if they weren't careful...

Daryl, on the other hand, was quickly being carried away by the other Crawfords...

When he saw the colorful lights, however, his eyes instantly widened as he shouted, "...No... No...!"

Even so, nobody appeared to hear his cries... In a way, it was almost as though he was desperately trying to stop something...

Regardless, Master Ghost slowly walked over to Gerald, looking at the ravine the entire time as he said, "Master..."

Nodding in response, Gerald then walked closer to the foot of the tower...

Looking down, he saw that a deep pit—not unlike the opening of a big well—had formed underneath the tower... The more he looked at it, the more he felt like there was some kind of underground palace underneath!

To think that the collapse of the dragon tower would reveal such a place...

"What on earth is that...?" asked the audience among themselves, unable to continue remaining patient.

Peering in to get a closer look, Gerald was able to identify that the light was coming out of a colorful pool of water located in the center of the underground palace... The palace itself appeared to be over twenty meters below ground.

Understanding that he wasn't going to be able to get any more information if he remained up here, Gerald then leaped down together with Master Ghost and a few others.

The deeper they went, the more intense the sensation became, and all this was due to the fact that there was an abundance of holy spirits down here...

Before this, Gerald had mainly relied on pill making to help him train since he had learned the art of pill making. Adding that with the talent that he obtained with the aid of the Herculean Primordial Spirit, Gerald had to say that the rate of his training was rather satisfactory, even though it was sometimes not as rapid as he had anticipated.

This, of course, was understandable. After all, there weren't that many holy spirits on earth to go around in the first place.

Down here, however, it was completely different. The holy spirits came like the wind, and Gerald could even feel his entire body soaked in it.

Even Julian and Carlos had their eyes widened in disbelief as they began feeling the drastic changes this place was doing to their bodies.

The feeling of holy spirits seeping into their bodies... It was a near indescribable feeling.

To put into context, being in the world above felt like being a penniless child who dreamt of becoming rich. Of course, that wasn't going to happen anytime soon from just a single wish.

Down here, however, it felt like that same child had just found out that their bank account had been loaded with a million dollars! That sudden rush of excitement... That was what all of them were feeling right now.

Turning to look at the astonished Gerald, Carlos then asked in his amazement, “What even is this place...? How could there be such an abundance of holy spirits...?”

Raising an eyebrow, Gerald then began looking around... Eventually, his gaze fell on the ancient-looking and colorful pool from before.

After contemplating for a while, he eventually realized something and quickly asked, “...Say, doesn't this pool look a lot like that source of holy spirits that Zyla had told me about before...?”

As the name implied, the source of holy spirits was capable of releasing a lot of holy spirits. In a way, it functioned similarly to a water well.

Whatever the case was, it was rumored that there was once an era of great trainers around a few hundred thousand years ago... Back then, great masters were everywhere, and many were even able to enter the realm of the Immortal Body!

When one began training, however, it was obvious that there was a great price to pay in order to climb up the other ranks.

From the time one started training, to the moment they turned into a Chakra King, the journey was never easy. Even after breaking into the levels of Sage and finally entering the legendary levels of attaining immortality, the journey would never become any less arduous...

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With that said, it appeared that there were actually others back then who had managed to attain the realm of the Immortal Body...

In recent times, however, people were skeptical even when it came to the existence of Ninth-rank Chakra Kings, so nobody even considered the existence of Sages.

This was mainly due to the sudden depletion of holy spirits on the planet back then. Due to that event, not only was there great turmoil between heaven and earth, but

calamities also happened rather frequently for a time. Regardless, all this eventually spelled the fall of the era of great trainers...

Either way, there were a few who were lucky enough to discover that the earth was actually hollow inside. Realizing that there existed another world between the earth's crust and core, those who found ways to escape there were able to survive the great catastrophes...

In this other world, the earth's core was their source of energy, not unlike the sun.

Regardless, following that, not only did they manage to survive, but they even successfully created a civilization there! While it still exists today, nobody there was ever able to train to the peak that they had once been able to achieve...

While it was true that sources of holy spirits used to be scattered everywhere on earth in the past, it was still quite unexpected that there would actually be such a source hidden underneath the dragon tower....

'Had I trained here, I could've easily gotten to the level of an Eighth-rank Chakra King...! Though it may still have been rather difficult to enter the level of a Sage...'
Gerald thought to himself.

After surveying the area for himself, Master Ghost then reported, "...It seems that someone has been here before... And there appears to be other things in here as well!"

"I see. For now, order the people from the Sacrasolis Palace to block the vicinity of the dragon tower. Nobody is to enter this place!" instructed Gerald.

Upon hearing that, Julian instantly got to his feet and began executing the order.

With that done, Gerald finally decided to look away from the source of holy spirits and begin scanning through the rest of the area...

While the place wasn't particularly large, it appeared well-equipped. There was also a coffin present in the corner of the room.

Walking over to it, Gerald found that the body inside belonged to none other than the God of Battle, Liemis.

'After killing that giant snake, Daryl must have used this place to keep Brother Liemis's body safe and hidden... Thinking about it, it's no wonder why he chose this place to have our battle!' Gerald thought to himself.

Aside from the coffin, there was also a huge furnace there which Gerald assumed that Daryl must have used to make pills for his own benefit.

With all these new discoveries, Gerald was quite glad that he had managed to attain the Fifth-rank before today's battle. Otherwise, there was a very real chance that he could've fallen right into Daryl's hands by this point! The thought of it alone made Gerald shudder.

His train of thought was cut short when he heard Master Ghost's surprised voice saying, "Master, look! There's a codex here!"

Turning to look at Master Ghost—who had the parchment in hand—Gerald then took it for himself to have a look at its contents.

Though many of its pages were already coming loose due to how old it was, its contents were still pretty readable.

On the first page, Gerald was greeted by the image of a strange plant... Following that, there were two maps and some written descriptions... From the looks of it, Daryl had spent a considerable amount of time trying to study all this since most of the words were marked.

"What's written in there, master?" asked Carlos.

After carefully studying the image of the plant for a while, Gerald then replied in a serious tone, "...Have a look at this plant. If I'm not mistaken, it appears to be a Primocorose! It was mentioned in the ancient manuscript about pill making that Brother Liemis left behind!"

"A... Primocorose...?" muttered both Carlos and Julian who had clearly never heard of the plant.

"The Primocorose is the main herb needed to create advancement pellets... Even so, this ancient plant has supposedly gone extinct, even in today's Jaellatra! Hell, the Primocorose was already an extremely precious herb during the Shunzuog Civilization! With that said, the herb is extremely rare!" explained Gerald as he recalled what he had learned from the manuscript.

"It can be used to create advancement pellets? My god!" replied Carlos as his jaw dropped.

"Oh? You know what advancement pellets are, Laughing Master?" asked Master Ghost in surprise.

"Of course I do! Those pellets are essential in helping a Chakra King break through to become a Sage! While it's extremely difficult to become a Chakra King, there are some who have managed to attain the rank of a Ninth-rank Chakra King after training for thousands of years. Even so, nobody's been able to advance to the level of a Sage for the longest time due to the lack of advancement pellets!" replied Carlos with a sigh.

"I see! I never thought that advancement pellets would be so crucial!" replied Master Ghost with a nod.

"Indeed. However, since the Primocorose is extinct, nobody is able to make any more of them. If one still hastily tries to become a Sage without the help of the pellet, death is a very real possibility!" explained Gerald before turning to look at the map on the next page...

However, after giving it a good look, Gerald momentarily froze in place!