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“Hmph, so what if he can fight beyond his level? I’m not afraid of him at all!”

Cloud let out a snort before scrutinizing Viola with a look. “Babe, you don’t look familiar. Where are you from? Do you want me to show you a good time?”

“You shameless jerk!” Viola snapped while rolling her eyes.

“Hahaha, that’s quite a temper you have there, babe, but I like that attitude. I am the scion of Stellaris Sect. You’ll enjoy a life of luxury if you come with me. I’m sure it will be much better than staying with that Second Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, no?” Cloud suggested with a sleazy look..

Pfft! Viola spat in response. “Do you have a death wish?” Kai asked with an icy look.

Cloud was briefly stunned before breaking out in hearty laughter. “What did you say, kid? Me? Have a death wish? Hahaha, are you kidding. me? You’re just a Second Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator. How dare you speak to me that way? Believe it when I say I can crush you with just one hand!”

“Well, I don’t believe you!” Kai shook his head. “Looks like I really need to demonstrate it to you!”

While speaking, Cloud was about to lunge at Kai when Tyrone stopped him. “Calm down, Mr. Seizon. Fighting is not allowed in Jipsdale. This guy is just provoking you into attacking him. Therefore, we cannot take his bait. If we were to be caught fighting here, we would be heavily punished and kicked out of the city.”

The advice caused Cloud to retract his hand before shooting Kai a piercing look. “Kid, you can only behave with impunity here. Once we’re outside Jipsdale, I’ll definitely kill you for freeing Stellaris Sect’s three wyverns!”

“Oh? You don’t dare to hit me?” Kai sneered.

“Do you? If you dare, come on then. Punch me right here!” Cloud thrust his face forward to goad Kai into hitting him, for he was certain the latter wouldn’t dare break the laws of Jipsdale either.

However, little did he know that the law didn't scare Kai, as the countess of Jipsdale was beholden to the latter. Therefore, even if Kai broke the law, he would be absolved of any punishment. Consequently, Kai unleashed a slap upon Cloud just as the latter's face leaned forward.

Smack! A crisp sound rang out upon impact. Immediately after, Kai slammed a kick right into Cloud's chest. As Cloud was caught off guard, the powerful kick propelled his body back, sending it crashing into the courtyard behind.

Right then, the stunned crowd gave Kai a look of disbelief. No one had expected him to dare assault someone within Jipsdale.

"Mr. Seizon! Mr. Seizon..." Tyrone and the old woman hurried to Cloud's side to help him up. In the meantime, Kai strode out of the room. As for everyone else in the living room, they, too, swarmed outside, hoping to follow the unfolding drama.

"Argh, you b*stard! How dare you hit me. I'm going to kill you if that's the last thing I do!" Cloud thundered.

He felt utterly humiliated that a Second Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator like Kai slapped him, a Seventh Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator, in front of everyone before sending him flying with a kick.

"Mr. Seizon, you must calm down! Please, stay your hand. The guards from Jipsdale will be arriving any time," Tyrone pleaded as he desperately held Cloud back.

No sooner had he spoken than a few armored guards of Jipsdale barged into the courtyard with weapons in their hands.

"Who was it that started a fight here?" one of the guards demanded. "It was him. He was the one who struck Mr. Seizon," Tyrone said with his finger pointed at Kai.

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The guards quickly surrounded Kai with their weapons. In response, the Three Bandits swiftly shielded Kai. There was no way they would allow any harm to come to Kai, whom their fate was tied to.

“The three of you, stand down. The guards won’t do anything to me,” Kai instructed confidently. With that, the Three Bandits obeyed immediately.

At the same time, one of the guards questioned Kai, “How dare you start a fight in Jipsdale? Are you asking for trouble?”

The guard behaved in an arrogant manner as he could see that Kai was only a Second Level Body Fusion Realm cultivator. Besides that, the fact that they were in the outer city meant Kai couldn’t be anyone important.

“Did you see it with your own eyes? I didn’t start a fight, nor did I hit anyone,” Kai answered.

“How dare you deny it when someone has already accused you of the crime? Besides, we already detected the aura unleashed earlier. Don’t think that you can deny your wrongdoing just because we didn’t see it,” the guard asserted.

“In that case, let me tell you that it was they who hit me!” Kai declared, shifting the blame.

“Kai, it’s useless to try and twist the facts, as there are plenty of witnesses here. You were the one who hit Mr. Seizon, while he didn’t retaliate at all. On top of that, you unleashed your aura the moment you struck. Do you really think you can fool these gentlemen here?”

The next moment, Tyrone walked up to the guards with a gleeful smile.

“Gentlemen, this man is unbelievably wicked. Not only did he break the laws of Jipsdale, but he also tried to shift the blame. You definitely cannot let him off the hook!” While speaking, Tyrone handed some spirit coins to the guards.

Upon receiving the coins, the guards replied smilingly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Stone. Anyone who commits a crime in Jipsdale will not go unpunished. We will arrest him right away but will need to trouble you and Mr. Seizon to come with us. Once we have determined that Mr. Seizon was hurt by him, whatever he says in defense will be useless!”

As Stellaris Sect was a major sect in the area, the guards naturally knew its members. “No problem. We’ll provide our full cooperation.”

Tyrone nodded repeatedly. “Come with us, punk. You will need to be punished for breaking our laws.” Just as the guard spoke, he put his hand on Kai’s shoulder.

“Stop!” Right then, a frosty voice rang out, heralding Hester’s arrival.

“Mr. Sparrow...” The guards bowed immediately at the sight of Hester. Even Cloud and Tyrone, along with everyone else in the courtyard, greeted Hester respectfully.

After all, other than the countess, no one else wielded more authority in Jipsdale than Hester. Unlike the countess, whom many had not seen before, Hester was a lot more accessible to the common man.

“What’s going on?” Hester asked the guard. “Mr. Sparrow, we are arresting this man for starting a fight here,” the guard explained.

“Did you witness it yourself?” Hester questioned. “Um...” The guard was briefly stunned. “No, but we have witnesses. Many here saw him strike Mr. Seizon just now.”

“Mr. Sparrow, this man did assault Mr. Seizon earlier. There’s even a wound on Mr. Seizon’s face and body to prove it!” Tyrone frantically added.

When Hester turned toward Kai, the latter maintained a relaxed expression as he spoke. “Mr. Sparrow, do the guards in Jipsdale accept bribes? These people from Stellaris Sect gave these men spirit coins, so they’ll obviously side with them. Anyway, it’s not like I started a fight or hit anyone. But since you’re here, I would like to borrow some spirit coins from you for my expenses.”

“How much do you need?” Hester asked.

“A hundred million,” Kai replied with his hand outstretched, palm up.

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Taken aback, Hester exclaimed, “A hundred million? How could I possibly have that many spirit coins with me? I need to go and withdraw it.”

Right then, Tyrone was stunned that Kai was not only denying the fact that he had beaten someone up but was also asking Hester for a loan. Whoa! How shameless!

“It’s no use denying it when Mr. Seizon is still bearing injuries, Kai!” he roared following the man’s denial. “That’s because he’s clumsy and fell. What has it got to do with me?” Kai scoffed with a disdainful snicker.

“How dare you!” Tyrone was so livid that he had steam coming out of his ears. The few guards were also looking grim at present, for they had never expected Hester to come.

“All right, since I did not witness this incident, let’s just put a close to it. Henceforth, no one is allowed to do violence in Jipsdale!” Hester declared with a wave of his hand. It was evident that he was brushing the matter off without pursuing it further.

Hearing that, Cloud immediately protested, “Mr. Sparrow, I’m bearing injuries, and there are also eyewitnesses to the incident! Yet, you’re closing the case with a single sentence? In this case, does that mean that I can also do violence in Jipsdale?”

“You can try it.” Hester’s expression turned icy at how the younger man challenged him, and he stared at Cloud with a chilly look in his eyes.

At his expression, Cloud hastily amended, “I was just giving an example. I’ll never do violence and violate Jipsdale’s rules. But Kai indeed hit me. It was an act of violence!”

“As I said, I didn’t witness it. If I see him doing violence, I’ll definitely punish him,” Hester asserted. “Okay, then. I’ll show you how arrogant he is!”

After saying that, Cloud stalked up to Kai. He glanced at Viola beside the man and drawled, “This woman is your partner, huh, Kai? But isn’t it a waste for her to serve you alone when she’s so pretty? Once you’ve left Jipsdale, I’ll strip her bare and have everyone mount her.”

“What a monster and scoundrel!” Viola snapped furiously, her face flushed bright red. Nonetheless, Cloud merely looked at Kai with a smile on his face. He was deliberately provoking the man to strike him. Then, Hester would be able to witness it personally.

“Are you purposefully provoking me so I’d hit you?” Kai asked.

“Yes. Weren’t you all high and mighty just now? Why, have you lost your guts now that Mr. Sparrow is here? Hit me! Come on!”

Cloud placed his face right before the man and goaded him incessantly. "Since you want to be beaten so badly, I'll grant you your wish." While saying that, Kai lifted his hand and swung it forward.

Slap! A crisp sound rang out as a hard smack landed on Cloud's face. Unexpectedly, while Cloud was thrilled and ready to urge Hester to punish Kai, the latter did not stop but continued slapping him.

Slap! Slap! Slap!

A series of crisp slapping sounds split the air as the smacks landed on his face. Everyone was stumped at that sight. Cloud's head whipped back and forth as Kai slapped him, yet he dared not retaliate.

Tyrone quickly stepped forward upon seeing that and said to Hester, "Do you see this, Mr. Sparrow? Are you seeing this? Kai has gotten physical. He's hitting Mr. Seizon!"

"I see it. I don't need you to remind me about it," Hester uttered coldly. "In that case, hurry up and put a stop to it!" Tyrone prompted anxiously.

By then, Cloud had already been slapped a dozen times by Kai. He wanted to dodge, but it was already too late as his head spun from all the strikes he had suffered.

"Are you giving me an order?" Hester regarded Tyrone with a frosty expression on his face. Such fear struck Tyrone that he shuddered and waved his hands, denying, "No, no, I'd never dare!"

Everyone watched quietly as Cloud was beaten into a pulp. Not a single person stepped forward to put a stop to it.

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"Ahh!" After having been slapped multiple times without anyone putting a stop to things, Cloud went ballistic. With a bellow, he swung his hand at Kai. Seeing that, Kai swiftly backed away and dodged that blow.

Cloud was at the Seventh Level of Body Fusion Realm and striking in rage, so that blow carried immense force. Hence, Kai would never confront it head-on. When Cloud saw that the man had dodged his blow, fury blazed in his eyes. Leaping into the air, he lunged right at Kai.

However, no sooner had he done so than Hester waved a hand lightly. In a flash, a tremendous force crushed Cloud to the spot and rendered him immobile.

“What audacity to make a move right before me!” Hester roared. “It was Kai who made the first move, Mr. Sparrow! You saw it too!” Cloud countered furiously, “Of course, I saw it. He made the first move and hit you, violating Jipsdale’s rules. Thus, I’ll undoubtedly punish him. But you retaliated, which makes this fighting. Both of you must be punished!” Hester stated.

Upon hearing that, Cloud hurriedly explained, “It was Kai who made the first move, Mr. Sparrow. If I hadn’t retaliated, I would’ve been beaten to death. It was self-defense on my part! It was rightful self-defense!”

“There’s no rightful self-defense. When you retaliated, you made it a fight. There’s no room for negotiation. Nevertheless, in consideration that you fought back because you were being beaten, I’ll give you a light sentence while punishing Kai severely,” Hester announced.

It was only at those words that Cloud felt much better. He pinned his eyes on Kai coldly and crowed, “Don’t be so arrogant, Kai. You even dared to make a move against me in front of Mr. Sparrow, huh? Just wait and see how he’s going to punish you later!”

Alas, Kai remained unfazed with a sneer on his face.

“Kai, you did violence in public and violated Jipsdale’s rules, so I’ll definitely punish you. You must leave the city within half a day. If you do not do so, I’ll seize you and put you in the water dungeon!” Hester said to Kai, his expression solemn.

“Okay” Kai merely nodded.

He had planned to leave Jipsdale anyway, and half a day was sufficient time for him. However, Cloud was wholly stumped to hear that sentence. He gaped at Hester in disbelief and questioned, “T-This is severe punishment, Mr. Sparrow?”

“Hmm? Do you find it inappropriate?” Hester asked. In response, Cloud shook his head profusely. “No, no, that’s not what I meant. Then, how are you going to punish me, Mr. Sparrow?”

“Your sentence is light. You only need to pay a fine of a hundred million spirit coins. I won’t kick you out of Jipsdale!” Hester answered casually.

“A fine of a hundred million spirit coins?” Hearing that, Cloud was so livid that he almost burst a blood vessel. How the hell is this a light sentence? This is obviously an even more severe punishment than Kai’s!

Despite that, he dared not say anything since he was in Jipsdale then, someone else’s territory.

“Do you find it too little?” Hester queried. “No, no, it’s not little! Not at all!” Cloud promptly shook his head and had Tyrone pay the one- hundred-million fine immediately.

Although a hundred million spirit coins were nothing to Stellaris Sect since the organization was involved in business and was rich, such unfair punishment had resentment welling within him..

Unexpectedly, something that upset him even further transpired in the next instant. After receiving the one-hundred-million fine, Hester gave the money to Kai right away.

“Here’s the one hundred million spirit coins you wanted as a loan. Take it!” he uttered, tossing the money to Kai.

“Thank you, Mr. Sparrow!” Grinning, Kai put the spirit coins away.

Pfft! Witnessing that scene, Cloud was so enraged that he spat out blood. Even so, he dared not voice a word of protest.

“This is a warning to all of you-I’ll never let anyone who dares to do violence off the hook!” After Hester had said that, his figure blurred and vanished into thin air.

The few guards also left with their tails between their legs. Meanwhile, everyone else stared at Kai with shock written all over their faces.

Even if they were blind, they could tell that Hester was obviously favoring Kai..

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Cloud was seething with anger, his body trembling as he stared coldly at Kai. Through gritted teeth, he threatened, "Kid, just you wait. Once you leave Jipsdale, I'll take your life."

"I look forward to that," Kai responded with a faint smile before turning and entering the living hall. Others followed suit. Many now cast curious glances at Kai. They wondered about his identity and why Hester would openly favor him.

After all, Kai was just a cultivator at Second Level Body Fusion Realm. He was not really that powerful. They wondered if he could be related to Hester in some way as well.

"Hello there, I'm Beau Yule. Are you here to buy a treasure map too?" A burly man with a large sword strapped to his back approached Kai. Kai nodded. "Indeed."

"I'm not sure whether the treasure map is real or fake, but I've heard that the Archaic Body cultivators do possess a treasure. If you're planning to seek the treasure, perhaps we can team up," Beau proposed. "You see, the far north is sparsely populated, with harsh conditions and frequent demon beast sightings. Moreover, many Demonic Cultivators hide out in those remote areas. With your current cultivation level, even if you find the treasure, it'll be difficult for you to defend them."

Beau actively sought an alliance with Kai. Kai understood that Beau's intention to ally with him was likely influenced by Hester's attitude toward himself.

Otherwise, why would a cultivator at Fifth Level Body Fusion Realm seek an alliance with cultivators of lower levels? It would only be burdensome.

However, Kai wasn't keen on forming alliances with anyone. In Ethereal Realm, he couldn't easily trust strangers, as anyone could succumb to the allure of personal gain.

"I'm sorry, I haven't decided to search for the treasure yet. I'm just here to take a look," Kai said with a casual smile.

"Oh, I see. In that case, never mind," Beau replied in disappointment and returned to his seat. At this moment, a tall figure entered the room, wearing a

mask. With a bow, the figure addressed the group, saying, “Apologies for keeping you all waiting!”

Kai gave the man a quick once-over before shrouding him with his spiritual sense. The man seemed to be suppressing his aura on purpose, as Kai’s spiritual sense couldn’t discern anything.

Kai strengthened his spiritual sense, this time detecting a trace of the aura of an Archaic Body cultivator emanating from the man. This confirmed that Vasker was indeed an Archaic Body cultivator and was not lying about his identity.

Vasker sensed someone probing him and turned his gaze toward the people in the living hall. Realizing this, Kai swiftly withdrew his spiritual sense and feigned a calm look.

After glancing around, Vasker could not identify who had probed him and decided to let it go. He began, “I believe you all have come here for the treasure map. Since it’s our first meeting, let me introduce myself. I’m Vasker from the far north, and I’m a member of the Archaic Body Cultivation clan. Many of you might have heard that our predecessors buried a treasure long ago. After all these years, its location has faded from memory. However, I possess the treasure map for this treasure. Due to its age, the map is incomplete, but it still shows the general direction.”

He added, “My treasure map is priced at one hundred million spirit coins per piece. Whether you can find the treasure using the map or not depends on your luck. Don’t ask me about the authenticity of the map. If you believe in me, pay for the map. Otherwise, just leave. I won’t force anyone to believe me and buy it.”

Vasker sounded arrogant even though his face was hidden by a mask. He acted as if his treasure map was in no danger of going unsold.