

Chapter 1606

“Oh? Why is that?” asked Gerald rather curiously

“Well, you see, Henrick hasn’t completed his training on the Five Blazing Dragons attack! He’s still one level short! With that in mind, the only reason you ended up getting this seriously hurt is because he’s already entered the Sage Realm! Though I can see that you’re already nearing the end of the Rune Realm, I don’t think I have to remind you that a Ninth-rank Chakra King and a Sage’s power is still vastly different!” explained the tree spirit.

“...So... that attack wasn’t what hurt me? I only got all these injuries due to our strength difference?” asked Gerald rather quickly.

“That’s right! If you need further proof, being hurt by a fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons attack would’ve definitely reduced you to nothing but dust! The fact that you’re still in one piece says a lot about that!” replied the tree spirit.

“...I see. Still, you appear to know quite a bit about the attack and even Henrick... Who exactly are you, if you don’t mind me asking...?” asked Gerald, sensing that something was amiss.

After all, it was a wonder why a tree spirit would know so much about outside affairs...

“Hmm? Well of course I’d know him well! Henrick’s my junior!” replied the tree spirit with a chuckle.

Upon hearing that, Gerald was instantly stunned.

“What? He’s your junior? But aren’t you...?”

“Ah, just to clarify, I wasn’t always a tree spirit! Back then, I had fought a great battle with Henrick in the Underworld Valley as well! However, due to my carelessness, Henrick found a chance to launch a

completely avoidable sneak attack on me! As a result, I lost the battle... After being tossed into the valley's abyss, my soul somehow got integrated with a tree spirit within this deep valley. With that said, I'll be staying here for a while! However, know that my resentment toward Henrick hasn't diminished in the slightest!" detailed the tree spirit who clearly despised Henrick with a passion.

Quickly putting two and two together, Gerald then asked, "From what you've told me, both you and Henrick share a master, correct? Why did you end up fighting each other? What exactly did Henrick have his eyes on...? Could it be that..."

"I have to say that you're really smart, mister! As you may already have guessed, Henrick was after my Five Blazing Dragons attack! I say 'my' since at the time, I was the only one capable of using it after master imparted it to me. The fact that he wasn't chosen naturally fuelled his jealousy, and since then, he would constantly attempt to obtain the secret scroll of the Five Blazing Dragons—that I kept within me—in order to train for it."

"While he did succeed in the end, I had one last trick up my sleeve! I made sure to hide the last part of the scroll in the deepest parts of my body, which was why Henrick only managed to get his hands on an incomplete scroll!" sneered the tree spirit as he thought about it.

After hearing all that, it explained why the tree spirit knew so much about Henrick and the Five Blazing Dragons. As it turned out, Henrick was the original heir to the attack!

"Again, since he hasn't been able to complete his training for the Five Blazing Dragons attack, I assure you that you were only hurt due to his strength!" added the tree spirit.

"...Understood! Speaking of which, could I have your name...?" asked Gerald, curious about the tree spirit's real name after hearing all that.

"Of course! It's Roman Freeman!"

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Freeman! I'm Gerald!" introduced Gerald.

“Hahaha! I have a feeling that fate had a role in our meeting, mister! With that said, I’m willing to impart the complete Five Blazing Dragons attack to you on one condition! What do you say?” replied Roman with a subtle smile.

“Go on, Mr. Freeman! I’ll definitely try my best to fulfill it!” replied Gerald, overjoyed that Roman was willing to teach the technique to him in the first place.

Aside from the fact that he was going to master an attack that would surely be able to take Henrick out with ease, Gerald’s enthusiastic reply also stemmed from the fact that he wanted to repay Roman’s kindness for saving him. With that in mind, he was fully ready to agree to any of Roman’s conditions.

Chapter 1607

With Roman’s help, it only took half a day for Gerald’s injuries to be completely healed.

Following that, not only did Roman begin imparting the Five Blazing Dragons skill into Gerald, but the tree spirit also taught Gerald many other martial arts that he had learned throughout his lifetime.

With that in mind, it was obvious that Gerald had agreed with Roman’s terms. As for what the condition itself was, what Roman wanted was quite straightforward, and it was honestly something that Gerald had already been planning to do anyway. In short, Roman wanted Gerald to end Henrick’s life.

Regardless, it wasn’t long before Gerald was able to completely master the Five Blazing Dragons attack. Since the knowledge was imparted into Gerald, Gerald didn’t even need to undergo any training to master the skill. What more, he could now use all the skills that Roman had previously learned!

Now that he had imparted all his skills, Roman's voice boomed one final time in the tree hole as he said, "I've imparted everything that I know into you, Gerald! Now that I've successfully done my part, I can finally retire! I'll be leaving everything to you now!"

And just like that, Roman was gone. Just as his surname implied, Roman Freeman was now finally able to rest in peace, free from everything that had previously held him back...

With that in mind, Gerald knew that his next step was to get rid of Henrick. After all, the sooner he fulfilled Roman's final wish, the better.

Stepping outside the tree hole, Gerald then turned around to look at the towering tree before him... With determination in his eyes, Gerald had a serious expression on his face as he declared, "I definitely won't disappoint you, Mr. Freeman...!"

After giving the tree a deep bow, he then turned to leave...

Not long after, Jade Infused Blade—who had been inside Gerald's body this entire time—said, "Congratulations, master! You've finally entered the Sage Realm!"

As a result of attaining Roman's skills, the Herculean Primordial Spirit within Gerald's body underwent a rapid improvement, allowing the youth to finally breach the Sage Realm.

For a person who had achieved this level of strength, leaping onto roofs and vaulting over walls was nothing. With that in mind, Gerald easily scaled a stone wall before using the top of the wall to propel himself into the air!

Though Gerald wanted to immediately deal with Henrick, he knew that he had to at least meet up with Nori and Jessica first.

If everything had gone to plan, Nori should have brought Jessica to a small town—not too far from the

Underworld Valley—to recuperate for a while, while waiting for Gerald. Hoping that that was the case, Gerald arrived at the small town just a few minutes later.

Seeing that Gerald had returned safe and sound, both Nori and Jessica were instantly relieved. After all, they had been waiting for him for almost an entire day by this point, and both girls had been worried sick throughout that period.

“I’m so glad that you’ve returned safely, Gerald...!” cried out Jessica as she hugged him tightly.

Patting her back, Gerald then consoled, “You, of all people, should know how capable my martial arts skills are, sister... With that in mind, I’d surely return fine no matter what!”

“As much as I’d love to believe that, accidents can happen, you know? If something happens to you, how am I to even answer to our parents...” mumbled Jessica while pouting like a child.

If something bad ever happened to Gerald, Jessica didn’t even know whether she’d still have the will to live or not...

As she thought about that, Gerald turned to face Nori, a gratuitous smile on his face as he said, “Also, thank you for taking care of my sister, Nori!”

“No problem! Though... How do you plan to repay my kindness?” teased Nori in return, a rather interesting smile on her face.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly felt slightly awkward. That awkwardness, however, didn’t stem from her beauty. After all, he was a married man and he already had an exceptionally beautiful woman as his wife.

Regardless, Gerald knew that he still owed her one, so he simply suggested, “...Well, let’s just say that I’m indebted to you! How would you like me to repay your kindness? Give it some thought and once

you've made up your mind, I'll agree to one of your requests!"

"Deal! Remember, you were the one who suggested that, so you'd better not go back on your words!"

Chapter 1608

The way Nori had said it, it was almost as though she was afraid that Gerald would end up going back on his word.

Sensing that, Gerald looked at her with determined eyes before saying, "Don't worry, I always keep my word! After all, a person who lies is nothing but a coward!"

Following that, Gerald alternated his gaze between his sister and Nori before adding, "Alright, there's still something I need to settle. With that said, I'm going to have to need both of you to continue waiting for me here for a little while. Don't worry, once I return, we'll leave this place together! Also, remember not to go out all willy-nilly and if needed, you can contact me with the sound talisman. The second it's activated I'll rush back immediately!"

"...What? You're heading off again, Gerald? But where to?" asked Jessica in a worried tone. After all, to think that they had to part ways again so quickly after reuniting!

"Don't worry, sister! I'll definitely make a safe return! Just know that there are still some issues I need to resolve!" replied Gerald as he looked straight into Jessica's eyes.

Upon hearing that, his sister simply nodded slowly... She, for one, knew that there was no use trying to persuade her brother against it. With that in mind, she could only pray that he would return unscathed.

With that, Gerald then made a massive leap before flying back to Bario City at immense speeds...

There was going to be bloodshed tonight, and Gerald was going to make sure that none of the Quartermains would remain...

Meanwhile, the Quartermain family manor was brightly lit, with sheets of white cloth hung everywhere. Adding that to the many death wreaths placed all over the place, it was clear that the Quartermains were holding a funeral for Yesirn.

Henrick himself was standing before Yesirn's memorial tablet. After wrapping white strips of cloth over his son's corpse, the teary-eyed Henrick then said, "I've taken revenge for you, son... Gerald's dead now, so you can rest in peace...!"

Upon hearing that, the rest of the Quartermains present began weeping as well. After all, watching one's child die before their very eyes was most definitely one of the saddest things to witness...

Unbeknownst to them, however, the Quartermains were going to reunite with Yesirn very, very, soon.

At that moment, a booming and rather familiar voice suddenly shouted, "Hey now, you old b*stard! Instead of grieving for him, why don't I just send you to hell so that both of you can get reunited!"

Shocked, everyone turned to look at the source of the voice... And there Gerald was, casually standing with his arms crossed atop the Quartermain manor's roof!

The second Henrick saw the youth, he was instantly hit by immense wrath and shock. Gerald had been hit by the Five Blazing Dragons attack, had he not? How was he still alive?! In fact, how did he even remain so perfectly fine?!

"You... You're alive...?!" growled Henrick as he glared at Gerald.

Snorting contemptuously, Gerald then sneered, "Aren't you a bit too confident with yourself, Henrick? You weren't even able to completely master that attack! With that said, there's no way I would've died to that!"

Furrowing his brows, Henrick then gloomily replied, "...How do you even know about that?"

To think that Gerald was aware that he hadn't perfected the Five Blazing Dragons attack... But how? Nobody else—who was alive—should even know about that!

"There's no need to know about that. After all, you're going to be dead soon anyway. As I've promised myself, I'm exterminating the Quartermains if it's the last thing I do!" retorted Gerald in a frigid tone.

Hearing that, Henrick simply snorted disdainfully as he yelled, "You sound rather sure of yourself! If I could defeat you back then what makes you think you'll win this time?! Now stop talking trash and just die already!"

Following that, the Quartermain master leaped toward Gerald, intent on attacking the youth!

Unfortunately for him, Henrick looking down on Gerald was a truly fatal mistake...

Chapter 1609

Despite seeing that Henrick was launching an attack at him, Gerald hardly even looked anxious.

In response, he simply shouted, "Weakening Strike, the first move of Judge Swift Sword Technique!"

The second his sentence ended, Jade Infused blade exited Gerald's body before transforming into a sword! Upon unsheathing the blade from its scabbard, a blindingly white light then flashed, followed by loud ripping sounds that filled the air!

Now feeling increasingly intimidated, Henrick quickly used his essential qi to block the attack!

As an explosive sound followed, Henrick quickly realized that though he had managed to stop the main attack, the force of it alone still sent Henrick flying toward the ground! Upon collision, the Quartermain head instantly vomited a mouthful of blood...

Coughing as he stared at Gerald in sheer disbelief, Henrick then yelled, "You...! How... How are you even able to perform the Judge Swift Sword Technique?!"

As far as Henrick knew, there was only one person who had successfully mastered that technique... And that person was none other than his old senior, Roman!

Created by Roman himself, the Judge Swift Sword Technique was the other skill that his senior had prided himself in, aside from the Five Blazing Dragons technique.

The sword technique itself consisted of three separate moves, with the first being Weakening Strike, the second called Glistening Star Strike, and the final one named the Judge Swift Strike!

Regardless, by right, the Judge Swift Sword Technique should have disappeared together with Roman... After all, Henrick had made sure to finish off his senior before tossing him into the Underworld Valley's abyss.

With that in mind, the fact that the technique still existed was a great shock to Henrick.

“How, you ask? Well, let’s just say that I’m fully aware that you’re vicious enough to not even spare your senior! With that said, I’m going to be executing the principles of your sect on behalf of Roman today!” sneered Gerald contemptuously as he casually pointed the sword at Henrick.

At that moment, Henrick swore that he could almost see his senior standing where Gerald was...

“...To think that you had been alive this entire time, senior...! You even imparted all your skills into this person! Still, I hope you realize that I’m much stronger than I was back then!” grumbled Henrick as he quickly got to his feet.

Following that, Henrick spread both his hands out... and seconds later, his entire body was set ablaze! With a fiery dragon now wrapped around his body, it was clear that Henrick was about to use the Five Blazing Dragons technique!

Gerald, however, simply replied, “Just saying, but you haven’t really mastered that technique yet. You know, in case you’ve forgotten.”

“So what of it? Allow me to remind you that the secret scroll of the Five Blazing Dragons is still with me! With that said, this incomplete attack is still sufficient in ridding you for good!” scoffed Henrick confidently, clearly unaware that Gerald had not only mastered that very attack, but had also entered the Sage Realm!

“I see... Well, since you’re holding onto that incomplete attack so obstinately, I’ll show you how it’s really done before you die!” replied Gerald who couldn’t be bothered with any more of Henrick’s nonsense.

With that, Gerald then did the same gestures as Henrick had... Just like his opponent, Gerald’s entire body was then engulfed within flames! However, unlike Henrick, Gerald’s flames were golden! Following that, two dragons appeared, one made of fire and the other made of golden light! Coiling around each other, both individual dragons were more dazzling than what Henrick’s dragons could ever achieve.

“What?!” yelled the deeply astonished Henrick as his eyes widened. This... This was the fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons technique...!

“Take a good, long look at what the fully mastered Five Blazing Dragons technique looks like, Henrick!”

Chapter 1610

After Gerald declared that, a furious roar could be heard as the youth summoned five fiery dragons, each shining in blindingly golden light! However, Gerald wasn't done.

Following that, all five dragons merged to form a blast of fire and light that then shot out toward Henrick!

Unable to avoid the attack, Henrick was instantly turned to ashes the second the flames engulfed him!

Though the rest of the Quartermains were instantly terror-stricken, they barely had any time to react as the attack began aiming for them as well! Soon enough, the entire manor was set ablaze, and all that remained of the Quartermains were their ashes...

This was the true power of the finalized Five Blazing Dragons... Everything within thirty feet of it would simply crumble!

Regardless, now that the Quartermains had been completely eliminated, Gerald began making his way out of Bario City.

While he was glad to have helped Roman fulfill his dying wish, Gerald was well aware that news of the Quartermain's extermination would surely spread like wildfire throughout Jaellatra.

With the public in chaos, it definitely wouldn't take long for the forces who had initially been backing the Quartermains up to have their revenge.

Though Gerald had already entered the Sage Realm, Gerald understood that there were many other exceptional people within Jaellatra. With that in mind, staying there for any longer would surely spell trouble. Due to that, Gerald knew that he had to leave with Jessica as soon as possible.

With the plan all set, Gerald then left Jaellatra with Jessica early the next morning.

While Nori chose to return to Earth Capital on her own, she made sure to remind Gerald that he owed her one before he left. She also added that when a suitable time came, she would surely call for his help.

Regardless, true to what Gerald had predicted, chaos ensued all across Jaellatra not long after he and Jessica made their escape.

After all, the Quartermains were a greatly famous and reputable family in Jaellatra. They were also known to be extremely strong. With that in mind, the fact that they had been taken out in a single night was definitely stupefying...

It was sometime later when a person wearing a phoenix robe and a golden crown could be seen sitting atop a throne within the God Temple of Jaellatra... Holding a scepter with dragon carvings all over it, the person went by the name of Apollo, and he was the king of the God Temple. Apollo was also the ruler of all of Jaellatra, and he had attained the Seventh-soul-rank within the Sage Realm...

At that moment, a man donning a black cape ran in before respectfully saying, "God Lord, the Quartermains have been completely eliminated! Due to that, I believe that a few of Jaellatra's forces will begin causing trouble in their attempt to snatch the previous turfs that the Quartermains owned!"

The person speaking—who had attained the Second-soul-rank in the Sage Realm—went by the name of Hisham, and he was one of God Lord’s followers.

“I see... Do we have the culprit?” asked Apollo in a slow but deep voice. His commanding tone alone was enough to send shivers down one’s spine...

“We do! The one responsible for all this is a youth by the name of Gerald! According to what I’ve gathered, he appears to be from Earth!” replied Hisham.

“From Earth, you say... Very well. From this moment onward, you’re tasked with heading there and testing that person’s strength out! Once you’ve done sufficient tests, come back and report the results to me!” ordered Apollo before closing both his eyes.

“Yes, God Lord!” replied Hisham as he cupped his hands in obeisance before leaving immediately.

Not even bothering to open his eyes again, it appeared that Apollo had little interest in Gerald...

Regardless, it didn’t take long for all the Quartermain family’s turfs to be snatched and divided among the other families in Jaellatra, leaving the Quartermains nothing but a distant memory...

By that point, Gerald and his sister had already made their safe return to Earth...

Upon reuniting her with their family, Gerald’s parents—and Yoel—were instantly overjoyed to find out that both of them had returned in one piece. Their family was finally together again!

While the occasion was certainly joyous, Gerald knew that things were far from over. After all, though the Quartermains in Jaellatra were no more, the Quartermains in Sunniva City—the Quantocks—were still alive, and Gerald was well aware that both families were connected by the same sect and bloodline...

Truth be told, this entire incident began from the actions of the Quantocks, and they were also responsible for sending his sister to the Quartermains. With that in mind, Gerald definitely had to take out the Quantocks next...

Chapter 1611

It was late that night—within a secret manor in Yanam—when Gerald and his family could be seen cheerfully eating while talking with each other.

Even Yoel—whom Gerald's mother was currently supporting—found himself smiling due to how joyous the reunion was. It truly had been ages since they had last gotten together like this...

Even so, Gerald couldn't seem to feel truly happy about all this. After all, in the end, poor Yoel still had his eyes gouged out and his tongue snipped! His parents no longer had functioning legs either, and as for his sister... He couldn't even imagine all the suffering she had gone through while waiting for him...

To Gerald, all this had only happened due to him not doing his best to keep his family protected. With that in mind, he blamed himself for all their suffering, and all that guilt prevented him from enjoying himself at the moment...

If only he had made a few more precautions, Yoel would've surely been able to live both normally and happily like any regular person... However, Yoel had actively tried to defend his family, and as a result, he ended up in such a pitiful state... It truly made Gerald feel like he had failed his brother...

With all these thoughts plaguing his mind, Gerald knew that he would only be able to rest easy once he took down the Quantocks. That was the only way Gerald was going to be able to fully avenge his family...

Gerald's train of thought was cut short when his smiling mother turned to look at him before saying,

“Gerald... You seem a little quiet tonight...”

“She’s right! Our family’s finally reunited again, you know? Be a bit more joyous!” added Dylan.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly forced a smile to hide his troubles.

A short while later, however, he took in a deep breath before turning to look at his family with determined eyes...

“...Mom, Dad, Jessica, and Yoel... From today onward, I’ll never allow any of you to suffer any more pain...! I’ll protect each and every one of you no matter the costs!”

“Well said! We believe in you, Gerald!” replied Dylan as he nodded with a smile.

With that said, the laughing and talking continued late into the night...

Eventually, Gerald’s parents and Yoel headed off first to retire for the night. Watching as his parents led Yoel away, Gerald then sat in the garden with Jessica to continue talking for a bit.

“I wonder if you remember the time when you first realized that you were a rich heir, Gerald...” asked Jessica with a smile as she stared at the shining stars in the night sky.

Smiling subtly, Gerald then replied, “Of course I do! Thinking back, all of you were truly experts at hiding all that from me! Do you even have any idea how long I suffered from how poor I was?”

“We did all that for a reason though! By making you experience all that, we had hoped that it would make you strong enough to eventually be able to continue carrying our family’s torch! And lo and behold, look at you now! With you to rely on, dad can finally retire from being our family’s backbone... Honestly, by this point, I don’t really care that much about you making a huge impact on society...”

Instead, I just wish that our family can live together cozily!” said Jessica with words that came from her heart.

Turning to look at his sister, Gerald then lowered his head before replying in an apologetic tone, “...You must have suffered terribly while you were captured, sister... I’m sorry for being so careless! Had I made more precautions, neither of you would have ended up in such pitiful states!”

Upon hearing that, Jessica gently patted Gerald’s head before saying, “None of us blame you for all this, Gerald... After all, you couldn’t have possibly anticipated all this to happen! I understand that you badly wish to protect us since we kept protecting you back then, but understand that you’re already doing a good job! After all, we’re all together again now, aren’t we? With that said, let bygones be bygones and let’s enjoy our time together as a family to the fullest!”

“...I understand, sister...” muttered Gerald as he nodded in response...

At that very moment, a dark silhouette suddenly dashed past the forest right outside the manor...

Chapter 1612

Though the silhouette was extremely quick, Gerald was still able to see it through the corner of his eye... Realizing that they weren’t alone, Gerald had a gut feeling that the person or thing dashing about was up to no good.

Not wanting Jessica or his parents to know about the figure’s presence—and potentially get worried or scared—, Gerald then quickly said, “You know, it’s getting a bit late, wouldn’t you say? You should go ahead and get some rest first, sis!”

“I guess... Don’t stay up for too much longer yourself, Gerald!” replied Jessica as she smiled warmly

before returning into the manor.

Once he was sure that she had entered, Gerald instantly leaped out of the manor and headed to the spot where he had last been able to sense the shadowy figure's presence. Upon arriving at the spot, Gerald stopped in his tracks before activating his holy sense to scan the area...

After standing there in silence for a while, Gerald eventually looked up at the trees surrounding him before shouting, "Come out already! I know you're close by!"

Almost immediately after, the rapid rustling of leaves could be heard as the silhouette from before dashed out from one of the trees!

Noticing that it was charging toward him with a blade that glinted coldly in the moonlight, Gerald instantly stepped aside to dodge the attack before attacking his assailant with his right palm!

By the end of it all, both of them managed to successfully launch their attacks, though neither of them got hurt...

"Who are you?" asked Gerald in a frigid tone.

"To think that someone at your age would be able to enter the Sage realm... What a promising future you show! Regardless, at the rate of how fast your strength is growing, I have little doubt that you'll be able to destroy the Quantocks with ease!" replied the slightly surprised person in a rather devilish tone.

Squinting his eyes, Gerald then glared at the man in black as he said, "Again, who are you? If you're worthy enough then you should identify yourself as well as your intentions outright!"

"Hah! The truth is, you're the one who isn't worthy enough to know my identity yet! Regardless, I'll at least let you know that I was sent here under the orders of God Lord!" replied the man with a snicker.

Before Gerald could even ask him about any more details, the man in black bolted off! And just like that, his presence was completely undetectable, gone in the dark of night...

Shortly after, Gerald heard Jade Infused Blade say from within his body, "Master, that man was strong...! He had to at least have entered the Second-soul-rank of the Sage Realm!"

"...I see. Tell me, Jade Infused Blade, do you have any idea who that 'God Lord' that mysterious man mentioned is...?" asked Gerald rather curiously.

"I haven't heard of him before, though from what I can guess, he must be from Jaellatra!"

So, it was just as Gerald had predicted... Quite a stir must have taken place following the death of the Quartermains... The fact that this man had come all the way from Jaellatra to meet him was already a clear sign that more trouble was imminent.

"Still, I could sense that that man wasn't trying to fight you, master... From what I could see, it seemed like he was just trying to test your abilities!" added Jade Infused Blade.

Gerald had assumed that as well. After all, the man hadn't tried to do anything particularly fatal to him.

Understanding that there was a possibility that he was simply being tested, Gerald had made sure not to show too much of his capabilities earlier. Due to that, hopefully the man didn't manage to gather too much data.

"Well, if I want to know more about this, I guess I'll just have to look for this 'God Lord' and ask him myself!" muttered Gerald to himself as he casually looked in the direction where the man in black had run off to...