

"D-Don't come any closer, Cathy! I was wrong. Don't come over. I'll return the golden elixir to you. I swear..."

Hank appeared to have seen something. terrifying as he was repeatedly begging for mercy. He thrust an arm at his abdomen and dug out a golden elixir from within him amidst a spray of blood. Jared took the faintly shimmering golden elixir from him and handed it to Flaxseed, as it had belonged to Cathy. Flaxseed gazed at the golden elixir in Jared's hand with complicated emotions in his eyes.

Slowly, he reached out an arm and received it. After a moment of hesitation, he opened his mouth and swallowed the golden elixir. A familiar sensation coursed through Flaxseed's body. At that moment, he could seem to see the woman he loved deeply, who betrayed him.

With an arm extended forward, he caressed the space before him as though she was standing right there. It was all due to the effect of Jared's mental energy. His intention was to have Flaxseed free himself of that misery of his. Soon, Flaxseed's cheeks were wet with tears as he embraced the empty space before him..

Jared felt that it was time. Hence, he gently withdrew his mental energy. "Cathy! Cathy!" Flaxseed cried woefully, but the figure before him still disappeared.

Standing on the other side, Hank stared at Cathy in terror. He was hoping for her disappearance. It would be intriguing to know how she would feel if she were still alive to witness that scene.

"Ah!" Upon coming to his senses, Hank looked down at the bloody gash in his abdomen. The agonizing pain caused him to howl. Realization struck him the instant he looked at his hand. Everything he saw earlier was an illusion conjured by Jared's mental energy.

It was clear as day that Hank was inferior to Jared, even when it came to mental energy. "Do you still have anything to say?" Jared regarded Hank with an icy look.

Hank was already convinced of Jared's superiority. "Please, spare me. I'll be your slave if you let me live..." he begged, hanging his head. "Spare you?" Jared slowly tilted his head to look at Flaxseed. "That is Mr. Flaxseed's decision to make."

Hank froze before directing his gaze toward Flaxseed with a horrified expression on his face. Alas, the latter was already charging toward him ferociously without giving him a chance to speak. "I'm going to avenge Cathy, Hank!"

As Flaxseed bellowed, he swiped at Hank. Already grievously injured, Hank was unable to dodge the strike. Flaxseed's fist found its mark. and shattered his opponent's skull.

With Hank's death, the wrathful aural surrounding Flaxseed dissipated. "It's fortunate that you didn't destroy his body, or the golden elixir within him would have been wasted," Jared remarked while waving his hand.

Hank's body then exploded like a bomb. The beadlike golden elixir was thrown up into the air, and Jared caught it. Even though his power would not increase by much from ingesting Hank's golden elixir because he had long since been a Greater Martial Arts Marquis, still, it would be better than nothing.

It was a worry of his that he would have to ingest the golden elixir of a Top Level Greater Martial Arts Marquis, or even a Martial Arts Saint, to increase his power.

Kayson, who had been silently observing the proceedings from one corner, could barely stand still. By then, his legs had turned to jelly. He was thankful to have heeded his father's words. I would have lost my life if I were still going against Jared.

As of then, Kayson began to admire his father for being able to adjust his mindset swiftly, opting to cooperate with Jared when the Zagorski family came to harm.

Now that I look at it, Dad made the perfectly right call. It's definitely worth losing the ten-thousand-year herb to befriend Jared.