## - - -

"Huh? Where did he go?" Kazuo mumbled with a confused frown. "Are you looking for me?" Jared's voice came from above him all of a sudden.

As Kazuo looked up, he saw that Jared's body was completely unharmed even though his shirt had been torn to shreds. He looked majestic with his body exuding a golden glow. "What the... How could this be?"

Kazuo could not believe what he was seeing. "Nothing is impossible. You're nothing but an insignificant bug to me. I could squish you with a finger if I so much as wanted to. Did you really think you would be able to kill me?" Jared asked coldly with a sneer.

"Oh, just you wait, Jared! I'll teach you a lesson for running that mouth of yours!" Kazuo screamed at the top of his lungs in frustration as he raised his katana high into the air and charged it with martial energy.

The katana buzzed loudly as a terrifying energy came surging out of its blade. "Die!" Kazuo roared as he unleashed a blindingly bright attack with it. It was as though someone had compressed the sun into an energy wave and fired it as a projectile.

Boom! With one swing of his katana, Kazuo sent that energy wave flying toward Jared, who was still in the air. He looked tiny and weak in comparison when faced with such an overwhelming attack.. Even so, he simply continued levitating in that same spot without even trying to block or dodge

it. As the energy wave closed in on Jared, he held his arms out as though he was welcoming it. The energy wave produced a ton of sparks as it collided against the golden light around Jared's body, making it look like a fireworks display from afar.

As the seconds went by, the energy wave from Kazuo started getting shorter and shorter. Eventually, it disappeared completely, while Jared remained perfectly fine.

Just like that, Jared had completely dispelled Kazuo's attack with the sheer toughness of his body alone. "W-What..."

Kazuo swallowed nervously in shock and disbelief. I'm a freaking Greater Martial Arts Marquis who will soon become a Martial Arts Saint! How are my attacks so weak against Jared? C-Could it be that he has already become a Martial Arts Saint at such a young age?

"Is that all you've got? If so, then it's about time I sent you back home!" Jared said coldly. "Aaaargh!" Kazuo screamed like a madman as he launched energy waves at Jared again and again.

Clang! Clang! Clang! However, all of his attacks were blocked by the golden light around Jared's body, so they did no damage to him whatsoever. It wasn't long before Kazuo was drenched in sweat and panting heavily.

"I'm surprised someone as weak as you had the audacity to come after my life!" Jared said nonchalantly as he descended from the sky. Kazuo gripped his katana with both hands, clenched his teeth, and glared at Jared when he saw him coming.

Boom! Jared swung his fist with so much force that it created a sonic boom in the air as it came crashing down upon Kazuo. Kazuo instinctively tried to block it with his katana, only to have his weapon break in half upon contact with Jared's fist.

Kazuo's face clouded over as he stared at his broken katana. "You... How dare you break my katana? This is a royal item!" he yelled furiously. "Hmph! So much for it being a royal item! It's nothing compared to my sword!" Jared replied as he summoned Dragonslayer Sword.