

Reincarnated as an Energy with a System

Chapter 181: Stuck Here

The people who were charmed by Ria were starting to have their freedom back.

"What's... happening?" they felt like they were a different person just before this, and the facade suddenly shattered.

Ning suddenly turned around and said, "Sorry guys, it's been fun, but it's time you left the realm,"

"What do you me—" A single slash from Ning made everyone vanish.

Ning didn't know how many points he must've gathered, but he assumed it was a lot.

SWISH

Ning tilted his head to the side and let the arrow fly past him. He then turned around to look at his attacker and said, "That's not very nice of you to attack behind my back."

"D-Divine sense. You are a Foundation Establishment realm expert," the man who just shot said.

"Bingo. Nice analysis. But I'm afraid, you must die too," Ning suddenly slashed in his direction and sent a black slash flying towards him.

However, before the slash could even reach him, it hit something mid-air and vanished. "Huh? What happened?" Ning was a little confused.

"Ha— Haha. You scared me for nothing, you idiot. You can never attack me as long as you are stuck in the formation," the man said.

"Hmm... what sort of formation is this?" Ning questioned them, but instead of answers, he got arrows. Each one of them let go of an arrow propped on their bow, sending them all flying towards him.

Ning stopped two arrows with his sword, dodged two, and caught the last one with his bare hands. "Hmm... let me test it," he said and threw the arrow back towards the attacker.

However, same as the attack last time, the arrow was stopped at the barrier.

"Haha, I told you, you idiot. You can do nothing to us as long as we are outside the formation," the man said again.

Ning walked onto the edge of the formation and felt a physical barrier on his hands. "So... this formation allows one free entry, but exit is stopped huh?" Ning asked.

"Yes. As long as you are inside the formation, you can never leave. So, big guy, no matter how strong you may be, you are stuck here with us for the rest of the night. You think you can last our barrage of arrows the entire night?" the man asked.

"Hm, I do have a rib injury, so I can't go on for the rest of the night. But you seem to be mistaken about something," Ning said.

"I'm not stuck here with you," Ning said. The 5 men felt a slight tug on their bodies. Suddenly, the tug changed into a violent pulling force that brought them right in front of Ning.

Ning squatted down in front of the man's face and said, "You are stuck here with me."

"Wh— What? H-How? The formation should stop all Qi from escaping," the men said in fear.

"Well, bad luck for you guys. I don't only have Qi." Ning sent out a black slash to one of the guys and he immediately turned to yellow light before disappearing.

Ning smiled back to the rest of the guys and asked, "Do you think I can last the entire night or not?"

Cries of fear and despair rang out for a few minutes. The 4 remaining men ran up to the barrier and started attacking it to open it up, but none of it worked.

So, they turned towards Ning to hopefully beat him. That was just wishful thinking. In less than a minute, the four of them turned to yellow lights and were sent out of the secret realm.

"Now that that is over, what do I do with the rest of the night?" Ning wondered. He walked up to the barrier once more and placed his hands on it.

"They said it lasted for just 6 hours right? I can try attacking it and see if I can break it. Or... I can just rest here. Seems like the perfect place," Ning thought.

"Aegis, come out," Ning called the Golden Shelled Beetle, Aegis once more.

"Alright, I will cultivate. You look after me, okay?" Ning said.

Aegis did nothing but just stare at him. "Are you going to talk at all this time? You talked this morning," Ning said.

Aegis cocked his head to the side and asked, "Talk?"

It was like he could hear the words but not understand them. His intelligence would still have to increase a bit before he could comprehend sentences.

"Nevermind, just protect me," Ning said and started cultivating.

He had reached a bottleneck and needed time to breakthrough. He tried the entire night, but he couldn't do it. Still, the period wasn't fruitless. He did feel that he had made massive advances and that with just a single more day of cultivation, he could break through.

He opened his eyes to the sun rays in the morning. Dawn had arrived. The final 6 hours of the competition were here.

"Come back, Aegis," Ning said and sent Aegis back to the beast space. He then stood up and went up to feel the barrier, but there was nothing there anymore.

He went to the trees and grabbed the 7 formation flags that were stuck on there. "Once I learn something more about you guys, I will use you," Ning said and put them into his interdimensional space.

He took out a bunch of ingredients and made a pain relief medicine that he drank once more. He didn't want a repeat of last time.

He started walking in a random direction away from where he had come from. The first 15 minutes of walking, he thought nothing about the forest.

However, after half an hour of walking, he could feel something, a sense of Deja Vu.

"Have I come here before?" Ning thought as he walked out of the jungle into the grassland. That was when he remembered where he was.

He had been here before. He had cultivated overnight on a piece of rock not far ahead of him. Beyond that was a forest and beyond that...

"That is where the lake is, right beyond that forest. The lake with the Flood dragon... and the Angel's Touch."

Chapter 182: Lies

For a second, Ning stood there with slight fear boiling inside his heart.

"Damn that Flood Dragon, It's got me scared. But I need to go get my spear," Ning thought. He controlled his fear and started walking.

He took a familiar path to the lake. The grassland was wide so he called out Aegis to carry him once more. He had gathered all the ingredients along the way with Hijaka when he last walked through here, so he couldn't gather any this time around.

Ning put Aegis back into the beast space once he was in the forest and started walking forward by himself. At his speed, it would take around 2 hours for him to cross the forest and reach the water.

He slowly trekked along the way for more than an hour when suddenly he heard movements. A group of people was coming towards him.

Ning brought out his sword and got ready to fight. However, what showed up was a jumbled mess of people that just ran as fast as they could.

They all seemed to be running for their life. "Ah, they must've awakened the Flood Dragon," Ning thought. Still, Ning was quite surprised how many of them managed to survive.

He quickly ran through the forest, disregarding the status of his ribs. He had taken the medicine, so he didn't worry it suddenly flaring up for today.

Once he reached the lake, he saw the blue scaled Flood Dragon rising high above the water sending out waves of water at a man down below.

The man wore orange clothes similar to the ones from the Dazzling sect. "I killed 13 of them except for that one guy that escaped. So does that mean he is the 15th member?" Ning wondered.

The man wasn't fighting the Flood Dragon at all. From what Ning could see, he had a 3rd Foundation Establishment realm cultivation base, not even close to enough to fight the Flood Dragon who had a 5th Foundation Establishment realm cultivation base.

The man was instead running around the lake, dodging the attacks. He had a small and nimble body, so he could easily dodge the Flood Dragon.

Still, he couldn't find openings that he could use to go get the fruit.

Ning hid behind a tree about 50 meters away from the lake and kept tabs on those two's fight. He wanted to use the opportunity to sneak in there and steal the fruit if possible.

Suddenly, something weird happened. The man suddenly split in two. One ran towards the right and another towards the left. The one that ran left was a simple illusion that was there to distract the Flood Dragon.

The one on the right was the real one. When the Flood Dragon attacked the illusion, the man saw his opportunity. He immediately flew towards the fruit.

But before he could even make it a meter away from the shore, he was stuck midair.

"No you don't," Ning thought as he stopped the man from flying forward. Due to the incredible strength of the man, Ning started feeling a little lightheaded due to using too much mental energy.

However, that was all Ning really needed.

The Flood Dragon turned around, and the man couldn't escape anywhere. He was doomed.

WHOOSH

A single blast of water turned the man into yellow lights and he left the realm. Even as he left, he didn't know what had happened to him at the last moment.

'Sigh, now I have to find my own opportunity,' Ning thought.

Suddenly, the Flood Dragon turned around and looked directly towards the tree where he was hiding. Ning felt something wash over his body.

"Sh*t, it's divine sense goes so far out?" he said in surprise. The Flood Dragon had found out his position and it was time to run.

Suddenly, the Flood Dragon spewed out water that reached everywhere. Before Ning could run away, the water reached behind him and created a barrier that stopped him from escaping.

Now he was in the Flood Dragon's domain.

He turned to look at the Flood Dragon and saw a hint of surprise and happiness in its eyes as well as cruel impulses.

"You. Came. Back." The Flood Dragon spoke.

'I should have known. Of course, it has enough intelligence to speak,' Ning thought.

"You remember me?" Ning asked.

"You. Can. Understand. Me?" the Flood Dragon asked.

"Yes, I can understand beast's languages," Ning said. "Since you understand me, can we talk things out instead of fighting?"

"You. Want. To. Talk?" it asked.

"Yes. You see I only came to find my spear. It was flung around here somewhere," Ning said.

"To. Find. Weapon? To. Kill. Me?" the Flood Dragon asked.

"No no no no no no, I just want to find my weapon because it's precious," Ning said.

"You. Don't. Want. My. Fruit?" it asked.

"Uhh... No?" Ning said.

"LIES!" it suddenly shouted and prepared an attack. It sends out slashes of water all around Ning. Ning couldn't bring out Aegis as he could take a lot of damage right now.

Ning used his divine sense to the fullest and dodged every attack that came towards him without worrying about his chest for now.

He then started running around the lake, similar to what the other man was doing just before. At the same time, he used the third layer of Qi Analysis.

Flood Dragon - 5th Foundation Establishment Realm

Skills - Water Shoot, Water Scythes, Water Barrier, Water Armor, Become like water, Lesser Dragon Scales, Truth detection.

"What the F*ck? Why does a Flood Dragon have a Truth Detection skill?" Ning couldn't help but be surprised. "No wonder it knew I was lying."

Ning took out his sword and sent out a black slash towards the Flood Dragon, but it didn't do any damage. "Of course, even though it's Lesser Dragon Scales, it's still dragon scales. I can't defeat it like this."

"If this goes on for any longer, I will get sent out of the secret realm."

Chapter 183: Become Like Water

The Water Scythe attacks that the Flood Dragon threw at Ning were too much for him to block. So instead, he ran as fast as he could to dodge.

He was trying to do what the other guy did, but was failing miserably at it. Thankfully, he was moving around so much that the Flood Dragon couldn't use the Water Shoot technique that broke his ribs last time.

"Stop. Running." The Flood Dragon shouted at him.

"You will kill me if I stop," Ning shouted.

"That. Is. Only. Because. You. Wish. To. Kill. Me. Too," the Flood Dragon spoke.

"Not true. I only want that fruit there," Ning said.

"You. Speak. Truth," the Flood Dragon said. "But. Taking. My. Fruit. Is. Even. Worse."

Suddenly, the barrier around Ning started to clear up as the water fell to the ground. However, as soon as it came down, it went back up as well.

The only thing that changed was that the radius of the barrier had become smaller. Ning had less room to maneuver now. Even the top of the barrier was close now.

He was now inside a water dome, with a Flood Dragon in the 5th Foundation Establishment realm as his enemy.

'Sh*t,' he thought. 'Am I going to lose here?'

"Huh? The barrier got smaller and covered up the top, I can't see anymore," Dion complained.

"Is Doctor Ning going to be alright?" Yelca asked anxiously.

The group kept taking a quick glance at the portal from time to time to see if Ning would leave. If he was to die inside that barrier, he would come out here.

Ning jumped forward and did a barrel roll as he dodged another water scythe flying towards him. 'Sh*t, this is too much. I can't keep this up anymore,' he thought.

It was a do-or-die moment for him now, and he decided to do something.

Suddenly, he stopped moving and raised his sword high in the air with both hands. His sword slowly started turning yellow, even a little golden.

This was his strongest attack and he hadn't used it ever since he reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. He was about to see how strong it was.

He closed his eyes and took a deep breath. The glow got even brighter as he put everything he had into this attack. Even the Flood Dragon was a little surprised at the attack.

He suddenly opened his eyes and swung down his sword as hard as he could.

Radiant Holy Slash

Massive golden energy was released from the sword in the form of a slash. It flew at incredible speed and moved towards the Flood Dragon.

The Flood Dragon tried to dodge but the attack was too fast and it landed directly on its chest.

"ARRGGHHH" the Flood Dragon shouted.

Ning gave everything he had into this attack and now he had nothing left. He dully looked up and saw that he had managed to open a massive hole on the side of the Flood Dragon's chest.

The Flood Dragon suddenly flopped onto the water causing massive waves.

"I... Did it," Ning said as he too dropped to the ground, very tired. He felt like sleeping, but he knew he couldn't.

"How much longer... before I get to leave?" he asked as he looked towards the sun to check its location. But what he was instead was just water.

Suddenly, he got more attentive. The barrier hadn't loosened yet, which meant—

The lake's surface started moving once more as the Flood Dragon stood up from it. Ning looked at its chest and saw that what was once its chest was substituted by water, which was slowly turning into blood, muscle, bones, and skin.

"How?" Ning couldn't help but ask. Only then did he remember the skill that the Flood Dragon had, the one he didn't know what it meant.

"Become like Water. Is that what it is?" Ning asked.

"That. Hurt." The Flood Dragon said and immediately sent out many water scythes.

Urgency helped give adrenaline to Ning's body to help him move, but at the same time, his body wasn't in the best of condition. So, he was just a moment late.

SLASH

His left arm took one of the scythes directly and was thus cleanly chopped off.

"ARGHH," Ning shouted as he tumbled on the ground and hit his back on the barrier. He tried to grab it when he was cut from it. Unfortunately, he wasn't lucky enough to have the wound be fatal. Thus, he now had to suffer the pain.

"ARGHH," he shouted once more and opened his eyes only to see that the Flood Dragon was right in front of him.

"Die. You. Hateful. Human."

Suddenly, it sent out a blast of water right at Ning. It was the same one that broke his ribs. Ning brought up both his arms to block, but only then remembered that he now only had one.

Still, he used that to stop the attack. The water hit his hand and his torso. He blocked it for a few seconds, but then the Flood Dragon made the water smaller and in return, more deadly.

The water sprout was now around 10 centimeters in diameter and it was ripping away Ning's hand little by little. First the skin, then the muscle, then the bones, then the muscle on the other side, and finally the skin.

His right arm was destroyed too. Finally, the attack landed on his chest and it started ripping away his skin again. The force was starting to break his ribs too. At any moment, he would be sent out of the realm.

The pain relief medicine he had taken had already stopped working given how much pain he was in and the slightly mended ribs were back to breaking and got even worse.

'I lost,' Ning thought and gave into the pain to lose and leave. But then, he couldn't feel the water anymore. He opened his eyes to see that the Flood Dragon was still blasting away water, but he didn't feel anything.

Instead, he heard a single thing.

<You Have gained 160,000,000 Energy>

Chapter 184: Do You Agree?

<The Energy System is back online>

<Punishment period has ended>

<Excess emotion amplification for Fear and Despair has been removed>

<Energy Absorption has been reinstated>

<Energy Abilities are back in use>

<Energy senses are back online>

<The system wishes a warm welcome back to the host>

Suddenly, Ning felt like he was alive again. It was someone who had taken a large stone off his chest and instead put a blanket on top of him.

He had never felt this... free before.

Suddenly, he appeared on the other side of the lake. He was missing both arms and most of the skins on his chest.

"Heal me," Ning said.

<Confirmed>

Ning suddenly felt relief as all of his wounds disappeared in a second.

"Ahh, that feels much better," he said as he looked at both of his arms. "Should I leave or should I fight?" he thought.

"Do I have enough energy? Status," he said to check.

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 6,211,000,000

Separated Energy-

Heat Energy: 5,623,000,000

Sound Energy: 432,000,000

Qi Energy: 0

Kinetic Energy: 156,000,000

Skills: Simultaneous Thinking, Omniscient Map of Kumia, Omniscient Klavian Language, Candle Fire, Yin to Heat conversion technique, Night Vision I, Interdimensional Storage (Stopped Time; 722 KG), Air Cutter, Telekinesis, Yin to Sound conversion technique, Water Filtration, Earthly Jade Cultivation Method, Sun God's Morning Cleansing Technique, Qi Cultivation Analysis, Body Cultivation Analysis, Basic All Language, 8x Qi Acclimation rate, Radiant Holy Sword, Supreme Dominance, Beast Space, Earth-Shattering - Heaven Tempering Art, Divine Vortex Devouring]

"Hmm, I can't tell if it's enough or not," Ning thought. "I should try to find out."

The Flood Dragon was surprised to see that Ning had disappeared and immediately send out its divine sense to check. When it found Ning behind itself, it immediately turned around and went to attack him.

"Before fighting, give me information on the skill Become-Like-Water, the one that is less than 300 million energy," Ning said.

"Confirmed. You have bought Intermediate Knowledge on Become-Like-Water for 248,000,000 Energy>

Ning got the familiar sense of information being sent directly to his head. "Oh how I've missed this," he thought.

He understood the information and thought, "No wonder. You are nigh-invincible as long as you are inside water huh? That's why you haven't left the lake yet. I could've killed you with my previous attack if not for you staying inside the lake. It seems water heals you easily if you have the qi for it."

"You. Will. Die. Now."

"Let's talk in the land." Suddenly, the Flood dragon started floating in midair and was dropped out onto the land. After long last, it was finally out of the lake.

The Flood Dragon struggled and sent out water scythes once more, but this time, Ning didn't care. He had enough energy to move aside the incoming attack with his telekinesis.

Seeing that the scythes weren't working, the Flood Dragon resorted to shooting out a water blast. However, Ning wasn't going to let it do that.

He used telekinesis to redirect the Flood Dragon's head sideways and it blasted water all over the side of the barrier.

"Tsk. That cost me quite a little energy," Ning thought. "Since you serpent-like monsters like water so much, I shall let you go back to the lake."

Suddenly, Ning disappeared. The flood dragon felt him appear right next to him, but then he disappeared once more.

The Flood Dragon searched for him a little longer but was unable to find any hints of him. Ning was truly gone. Seeing that he was no longer anywhere, the Flood Dragon slumped back into the water.

"Sect leader, The barrier is opening up," somebody said. Gion and Yelca barely managed to see the tail of the Flood Dragon enter the water.

"What? What happened to Doctor Ning?" they asked in confusion.

Ning was neither inside the barrier nor was he outside the secret realm. Plus, they were keeping an eye on the barrier and never saw him leave either.

"Is something wrong with the secret realm?" they asked, but could not come up with any answers.

"I hope nothing is wr— Hey, the lake is moving again," Dion said, and everyone looked back on the screen with full attention, wishing to see what was going on.

The lake was deeper than one could imagine. The Flood Dragon swam to the bottom of the lake to rest. Suddenly, its body started vibrating slightly against its control and sound started escaping from its skin.

"So this is what the inside of the lake looks like, huh?"

Ning's voice appeared from his body. The Flood Dragon jumped in fright and immediately sent its divine sense out to check but it couldn't find him anywhere.

"Don't bother, you won't find me," Ning said. "Instead, I have a proposition for you."

"Where?" the Flood Dragon started to get scared.

"Shut up and listen. I want you to be my subordinate. And in return... I won't kill you," Ning said.

"You. Can't. Kill. Me." The Flood Dragon shouted.

"Wanna bet?"

A massive amount of Yin Qi in the water gathered on the surface of the Flood Dragon and started turning to heat. Ning's cap was already full today, so he absorbed none of it.

The heat energy gathered more and more, and soon, the Flood Dragon was getting uncomfortable. It wasn't used to feeling the heat a lot at the bottom of the lake, so the slightest heat caused a lot of pain.

The Flood Dragon tried to swim around the lake to remove the heat, but nothing worked. It didn't know that the cause of the pain was the water it was swimming in so it didn't leave the lake.

Ning stopped. The heat turned back into Yin once again.

"Will you agree to be my subordinate now?" Ning asked.

"No." The Flood Dragon shouted. The heat returned once again. After a while of hurting the Flood Dragon, Ning stopped.

"Will you agree now?" he asked.

"NO."

The back and forth went on for a little longer until the Flood Dragon was hurt so much that he couldn't keep up the will anymore.

"I. Agree. Please. Stop."

- Chapter 185: Outside the Infinite

Chapter 185: Outside the Infinite

'I don't need a body to do it right?' Ning thought. He was currently inhabiting the Flood Dragon's body inside the lake.

"Don't struggle or resist now," Ning said.

"I. Understand." The Flood Dragon said.

Ning prepared himself and said "Dominate."

Supreme Domination was a skill that used energy to dominate another being. It cost more energy the more mental strength or mental resistance the target had.

So, Ning had to first lower the Flood Dragon's defense before he could easily submit it to himself. He could see the energy number dropping in his status very quickly.

Before he knew it, he lost over 600 Million energy. 'Holy sh*t that's a lot,' he thought. Fortunately, that was all he lost.

The Flood Dragon turned docile and stopped moving.

"Can you hear me?" Ning asked.

"Yes. Master."

"There he is, oh thank god he's okay. He must've jumped inside the water to escape from the monster," Yelca said.

"Yes, it's relief," Dion said and looked up at the sky. "There is only half an hour or so left now," he said.

"But... now he will have THAT. This might cause us some problem," Yelca said in a serious tone.

Ning landed at the center of the lake. He stood on the small land and looked at the fruit in front of him.

"The Angel's Touch," he said softly and slowly picked it off of the branch. He then stored it inside his Interdimensional space rather than the storage bags given by the elders.

He then flew out of the lake and walked into the forest. He sent out his spiritual sense everywhere, but couldn't find his spear anywhere.

'Sh*t, did someone else get it?' he wondered.

He really liked that spear. 'Well, whatever, I can make a better one later,' he thought. He could finally see the sun so he knew how much longer he had.

He slumped down on the ground and finally took a rest. Many thoughts started coming in and out of his mind. Some happy, some sad, some angry.

He, however, kept a reign on them all and finally asked the question he had been burning to ask all this time.

"Did I really deserve to be punished like that, System?" he asked.

While the last 16 months hadn't been particularly bad, it was still 16 months of time without the system. He had come to rely on it a lot and not having it felt like walking with a leg missing.

<Killing the innocents is strictly forbidden by the system>

"No, I get that. I actually think it's the proper thing to do. But, couldn't you have stopped me before I got there?" Ning asked.

"You could've teleported me somewhere, or made me unconscious, or do whatever the hell else you could to stop me from killing those people. Why didn't you? Why did you not act proactively and instead just did stuff after they were dead?" he asked.

<The Energy System is not allowed to interfere with how you live your life. It is only allowed to watch over you and help you on your infinite endeavors>

<Thus, the system can only warn you but not stop you>

"Then why the punishment? If I'm allowed to do whatever I want, then why was I punished," Ning asked.

<The Punishment was added to the system to stop the Hosts from carelessly ending lives>

<The System was first created without any restrictions or precautions, and thus the Hosts went on a massacre that lasted multiple universes>

<When the Creator realized that, he added restrictions to the system so that the Hosts didn't go on a power trip.>

<The Creator added the Energy cap system as well as the punishment system to stop the hosts from ending lives that do not deserve to die>

Ning heard all of this and curiously asked, "The Creator?"

He sat straight and asked, "Does that mean someone made the system? Who? Can I know?"

<The System only had information from the Infinite Multiverse>

<Anything outside of that is unknown to the system>

'So the creator stays outside of the Multiverse? How does that work?' Ning wondered.

"By the way, why did you disappear for 16 months?" Ning asked.

<The Creator, through the many hosts, realized that the harshest punishment an immortal could suffer was boredom>

<So, every time a host kills an innocent person, the creator made it so that the system forcefully goes into shutdown, taking away everything related to energy, as well as transferring the emotions that their victims felt into them>

<The period of time for the punishment is 2 to the power of the number of innocents killed.>

"So... 1 dead innocent person is 2 months. 2 is 4 months, 3 is 8 months and 4 is 16 months," Ning said.

<Yes>

"There should be better ways to punish the hosts. For one, you can tell them about the punishment beforehand. That should deter a lot," Ning said.

<The system will gladly accept any suggestions. Please give it more suggestions if you have>

"Hmm, maybe?... no. That's a little bad. How about... stopping a host's— Ah, you can't interfere right? Damn, this is hard," Ning said.

Ning thought for a minute and said, "The cause of the problem was that enhanced emotion you put in me. If I wasn't enraged and bloodthirsty, I would have probably made a more sound decision. How about... removing that?" Ning asked.

The system stayed silent for a little while and finally spoke.

<They system has decided to send your suggestions to the creator. The system would like to use 800 Million energy to transfer the message>

<Do you accept?>

"What? 800 Million just to send a little message? Urgh.... Sh*t. The creator is outside of our world right? Fine, use it. Maybe that will help the next host," Ning said.

<Thank You.>

<Information is now being transferred out of Kumia to the Creator>

<Sending>

<Sending>

<Sending>

<Sent>

<The suggestions have been successfully sent to the creator>

<Thank you for helping us improve the system>0

Chapter 186: Secret Realm

"How much energy do I have?" Ning wondered and checked the system. After the battle, using the Supreme Dominance, and making a third beast space that was large enough for the Flood Dragon to fit, he now had about 3 billion energy.

"That's still a lot," he thought.

"Argh, it seems my spear really isn't here. I spent so many coins on it too. Sigh, whatever, I will just make a much better one."

"System, help me make a spear," Ning said.

<Please explain the design of the spear>

"Hmm, might as well use my last one as a design," Ning thought and told the system about the design of the blue spear.

<How much energy do you wish to spend?>

"Hmm, how much energy do I need for it to become a Mid-tier Spirit artifact?" Ning asked.

<The lowest energy required is 1 billion 800 million energy>

"Sh*t, I will have less than a billion energy left after that. Ahhh, use 2 billion. Whatever, I will go collect some more after this," Ning thought.

<Confirmed>

Light shined in front of him as energy escaped from his body to create a silhouette of a spear. Soon, the spear gained mass and after that, it gained color.

Finally, it fell onto the ground as a physical spear. Ning picked it up and moved it around a little. "Not bad. Although, for some reason, I feel like I can't use it properly right now. Probably because it's way too high of a spirit artifact for me," Ning thought.

He then slumped back on the ground, with his back to the tree, and waited.

There was still around 10 minutes before he would have to leave the realm. So he just stayed there and waited.

"System, what is this realm? Is it a different space or dimension or what?" Ning asked.

<Would you like to learn about this space for 40 million Energy?>

"40 million huh? And you could've just answered too. Well, I guess I need to go back to being used to you not answering questions. Yes, give it to me,"

<Confirmed>

A flood of information entered his brain. The things he was curious about, the thing everyone wanted to know, he knew it now.

"Haha, I didn't expect the answer to be so simple," Ning said.

The secret realm was actually land inside the hub island. However, due to some natural phenomenon, the space around a certain part of the land was folded in on itself.

The outer walls of that space were stable and closed off from the rest of the island, giving it an appearance that the island was all it was.

From time to time, the walls would get unstable and show up as the portal on the outside.

What others thought was making the opening stable, was simply just them making the stable walls unstable.

The unstable walls would lead to anyone who entered being thrown into different parts of the secret realm.

The tournament holders knew about all of this. From the information they had gathered, they saw that forest life flourished in this land and they wanted it.

However, there was one problem for them. First, the secret realm was too big for them to clear it all on their own. That would take days and that just wasn't worth it to them.

Secondly and most importantly, there was a natural restriction on this place. Anyone who wasn't in the 5th foundation Establishment realm or lower would automatically be rejected. If they forced entry, the laws of this place would crush them to death.

As such, these people needed workers that were high in number and strong enough to fight the beats in this land, were talented enough to recognize the different ingredients, and finally didn't get rejected by the realm.

They came up with the brilliant idea of making exactly that a competition. They would force the disciples of another sect to farm for them and make this the hub of the entire Scattered Isles.

"So that's the reason huh? Bastards. Forcing us to work for them for free. Well, I guess I can get 50% of what I earned so that is nice. But aside from the top 128 disciples, nobody else gets to choose their own items to keep," Ning said.

"Sigh, you really never know when someone is making you work for them. Poor guys," Ning said.

Suddenly, Ning felt something. He looked down and saw that his talisman was starting to glow a little.

"Oh, it's time."

"Sect leader, look." Somebody pointed at the screen.

"Huh? They're glowing? Ah, they're coming out," Dion said and started looking towards the door.

Soon, one after another, the remaining participants started pouring out of the portal and landed outside on the stage.

There were about 60 people remaining inside the secret real when the time was up.

Ning stood straight and watched in front of him to see the plethora of people in the audience.

"I will kill you soon, you bastard," a voice came from Ning's left.

He looked to the left to see that the orange-robed disciple of the Dazzling sect called Gai was looking at him with eyes that would kill if they could.

Ning did nothing but smirk at him and looked forward to seeing 5 men appearing on the stage. These were the people who opened the portal 4 days ago.

The people came and took away the formation flag. Then the host came up and started speaking to them.

"Congratulations on lasting till the final days of the competition. Everyone else who has come before you has put in their points into the ranking board. It's your turn now," The host said to the rest of them.

"Please gather in a line and hand your talisman to the staff. If you land below 128, you have a choice in giving away only that which you don't need."

Ning looked up at the ranking board and saw a lot of names there. And at the top of the list was a person called Faran.

Chapter 187: Points

"Faran... I wonder who that is," Ning wondered.

Next to the name was the number 10341. This was the number of points he had gotten. "What's at 128? He wondered and checked. It was exactly 4392.

"Hmm... about a 6 thousand point difference huh. That's quite a lot he thought. Although, seeing that the 2nd and 3rd only have 8 thousand and 7 thousand respectively... I guess this Faran is just a beast," Ning thought.

He decided to get into the line after seeing everyone get into it when he heard someone calling him.

"Inikaka," Hijaka called him as he ran up to him.

"Oh, hey Hijaka. Did you survive until the end? Nice. I hope you've got a lot of points," Ning said.

"It's all thanks to you Inikaka. If it wasn't for you, I would've lost on the second day from that enormous serpent-like beast. I saw from far away from how it killed nearly everyone. I thought you might have already left because of it, but it seems you didn't. I'm glad," Hijaka said.

"Alright, alright. Let's go back into the line," he said and brought Hijaka to the end of the line.

"3765 points" the person checking the points shouted.

"5343 points"

"2611 points"

He started checking the points and shouting it one after another.

The points in the top 128 kept on changing as more and more kept on getting added to it, and more and more kept on getting thrown out of it.

"8825 points"

Ning was a little surprised to see that number pop up. "Isn't that?" he thought and looked up. It was indeed the new second place, and the name that popped up was Gai.

"Ah, it's that bastard," Ning thought.

More and more points got added to the rankings. Finally, it was just him and Hijaka left. Hijaka went forward and handed his talisman.

The man looked and said, "7430 points."

"Oh, that's... 9th place. Not bad, Hijaka," Ning said.

"Haha, Inikaka, please don't tease me. you have much more than me," Hijaka said with an embarrassed face. Ning smiled and walked forward.

He took off his talisman and handed it to the man. The man at the register glanced at it once and announced, "2228 points."

The man who just said that made a weird face as if something didn't make sense. Ning smiled at him and said, "Read again."

The man complied checked the numbers again. "Oh, I apologize, that was my error. The real points are actually... 22228 points," he announced.

Gion, Yelca, and the rest were dumbfounded when they heard the points.

"Di— Did he just say 22 thousand?" Gion said in disbelief.

"I— I think so," Yelca said as he looked at the top of the ranking.

The first place on the ranking was still Faran, but suddenly, it changed to Ning - 22228. They were finally sure that he had in fact gotten so many points.

"Everyone in the 128 please, follow me. Everyone else, please follow him," two staff appeared out of nowhere and started speaking.

Ning followed him and went where they were taken.

The man then handed them all a talisman once again. "With this talisman, you can check how many points each of your bags have. You must return half of the points worth of items to us," they said.

Ning checked his bags and started separating items. He knew what he wanted to keep and what he didn't. In the end, he was left with 2 bags, while he returned 3 bags.

He only kept the most precious of items which were mostly just ingredients.

Ning walked out and returned to the seats where the Deepskull island folks were. As soon as they saw Ning, they all stood up and congratulated him, calling him their benefactor.

"Sect Leaders, After the competition tomorrow ends, I will be leaving. You do remember that right?" Ning asked.

"Oh, Y-Yeah we remember," they said as he got a little dejected after the reminder. He smiled and said, "Don't worry. I will win the grand prize and you can take it all back."

"For now, let's go back to the hotel."

Along the way, he saw Gai and the other 13 disciples all look at him with hateful eyes. The only one that wasn't was the man he had helped the Flood Dragon defeat.

When he realized that he was responsible for nearly all of their loss, he got a good sense of happiness inside of him.

Once he returned back to the hotel, he got on his bed and started cultivating. He was so close, that he just wanted to finish it.

However, he wasn't able to break through even after an entire day of cultivation.

"Arghh, I am so close. If only I had more time," Ning thought. However, it was time, so he stood up and left the room.

Along with the rest of the people from the Deepskull island, he walked to the center of the huh island, which he now knew wasn't really the center.

He entered the Arena and waited for the tournament to start.

More and more people came in to watch. He then saw a man in an orange robe fly down from the sky.

"Are people allowed to fly in here?" Ning asked the sect leaders.

"Oh, that's Mallus, the sect leader of the Dazzling sect, the only Golden Core cultivator of the Scattered Isles," Dion said.

"No one is going to bother stopping him," Yelca said.

Ning looked up and saw that he was looking towards him as well. 'Did his disciple tell him about me?' Ning wondered.

"Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the hopefully final but most likely the penultimate day of the tournament. Today we will start the 1 v 1 matches that you had all been waiting for. This will be between the 128 participants that got the highest points in the previous match," the host spoke.

"In front of me is a box with 128 numbers. I will now pick 2 numbers," the host spoke and picked 2 numbers from the clear box.

"The first match is going to be between... Number 45 and Number 10."

Chapter 188: Yang Conversion

Hijaka walked onto the stage and stood in front of his opponent who had a cultivation base of the 8th Qi Condensation realm. Hijaka would easily be his match even with just his own cultivation base, not to mention his body cultivation.

They were both made to keep talismans on their body that would teleport them out of the arena if they were mortally harmed.

The fight started, but Ning didn't bother with it, he knew who was going to win. It was obvious. The next few days started to seem very boring to him.

'What's the time again? Around 10 am? I still have an hour and a half before my cap resets,' he thought. 'What should I do? Should I buy something else, should I instead gather energy just in case, or should I think towards increasing the cap?'

'Increasing the cap seems like the best idea. Let's see, what was the next cap doubling price again? System, help me,' Ning asked.

<Here are the Cap increase prices>

<Double your daily cap: 10,000,000,000 Heat Energy>

<Double your daily cap: 10,000,000,000 Sound Energy>

<Double your daily cap: 10,000,000,000 Kinetic Energy>

'Hmm, it's 10 billion for each, since I collect 160 million each day, which means in ten days, I get 1.6 billion energy. Then it should take me around 60 days to gather 10 billion,' Ning thought.

'What should I do?... ' Ning thought. He wanted ideas. He opened his status and check them to see if there really was something.

'Oh right, that should work,' he thought and asked the system. 'Hey, System. How much do the Yang to energy conversions cost?'

<Here are the prices for Yang to energy conversion techniques>

<Yang to heat Conversion technique costs 66,000,000>

<Yang to sound conversion technique costs 60,000,000>

<Yang to kinetic conversion technique costs 96,000,000>

"Oh, I would've probably complained a few years ago, but now these prices are very cheap to me. Buy it, system," Ning said.

<Are you sure? The system suggests you don't buy these techniques>

"Huh?" Ning was surprised. It wasn't every day that the system opposed his ideas. "What's wrong with these techniques?" Ning asked.

<Planet Kumia is not a planet with a very high amount of Qi>

<Thus Yin and Yang energy here are very less>

<You will not be able to fill your cap with these techniques>

Ning thought for a second and said, 'that's right.' He remembered back in the village when he used to suck in Yin energy. From time to time he would run out of Yin to convert just because he took everything from the surrounding. And that was back when his cap was around 5 million.

"Aish, that's a problem, isn't it?" Ning asked himself.

"Is something wrong, Doctor Ning?" one of the disciples next to him asked when he saw Ning mumble.

"Oh no, nothing's wrong," Ning said and finally paid enough attention to see that the contestants had changed. He looked up and saw that Hijaka had already won.

He watched the next competition for a while and said in his mind, 'Buy it. It might come in handy as the yin one did.'

<Confirmed>

<You have bought Yang to Heat conversion for 62,000,000>

<You have bought Yang to Kinetic conversion for 96,000,000>

<You have bought Yang to Sound conversion for 60,000,000>

'Hmm... I will try when it's time,' he thought and waited. The fight at the stage was boring to him, so he just stayed where he was and started cultivating. At least, that would help him reach a little closer to a breakthrough.

He cultivated for a bit and felt he was making some progress when suddenly he got a nudge on his shoulders. "Doctor Ning, it's your turn," a disciple said.

Ning nodded and stood up before walking down to the stage. A staff member put a talisman on him and sent him up the stage.

His opponent was barely worth mentioning. The moment the game started, Ning rushed forward and immediately kicked his opponent's head.

Had it been a real fight, his opponent's head would be crushed like a watermelon dropped from a very high height. However, here on the stage, he simply turned yellow and got out of the stage.

"Ning Ruogang, Number 1 wins," the host said.

Ning simply went back to this seating area and started cultivating. He didn't give a bother to the rest of the cultivation as it was not worth his time.

"Oh, my cap limit has reset," Ning thought and started activating the Yang to Kinetic conversion technique. It worked for a while and he got around 30 million Kinetic energy, which was the most he had gotten in a single day.

However, that was nowhere near the 160 million daily caps he had, and he wanted to increase it. Ning knew the best way to get energy, but it seemed that getting just kinetic energy was going to be cumbersome.

'Whatever,' he thought and looked at the disciple next to him. "Hey, attack me," Ning said.

"What?" the disciple asked in confusion.

"Hit me on my biceps," Ning said and got ready.

"I can't do that," the disciple said.

"Just attack," Ning started to get annoyed. The disciple nodded quickly and attacked him. He instantly got 160 million from the punch.

"Alright, that is better. Thank you," Ning said and went back to cultivating. The day was long and the people had to wait for all 64 matches to finish. Only then would the next set of matches start.

The host started the top 64 matches on the same day as well. There were around 2 hours left in the competition for today, and so the host wanted to have as many fights finish as possible.

In the end, the host was successful at ending exactly 16 matches in that 2 hours. Once that was done, everyone stood up and left the arena. They couldn't wait for tomorrow, the final day.

Chapter 189: Final Day

Ning was in his room cultivating. Ever since returning from the arena, he had been continuously cultivating. Tomorrow was going to be a long day of fighting. Worst of all, it was probably going to be a boring one.

He kept on moving the same Qi he had in his body around to breakthrough. He cultivated for the entire night and at around 4 am in the morning, he finally managed to push through that invisible barrier and crossed it.

He finally entered the 2nd Foundation Establishment realm.

"Sigh, that's good enough," he thought and slumped onto the bed. Even if it was for only 4 hours, he decided to just sleep.

"Doctor Ning, can you... um... please rethink about leaving? Where will you even go?" Dion asked. He really didn't want to see Ning leave the island. He was strong and could also take part in the next 3 years in the tournament once more.

"I've already thought of it for a long time. My mind is made, I am leaving today," Ning said.

"Sigh, I guess we can't change your mind then. Well, let's just go to the arena," Yelca said and the group started moving from the hotel.

Along the way, there were a few people that turned around to look at him. He had effectively gotten more than double the points of the 2nd place holder in the last competition, so everyone was expecting him to do great.

Ning didn't show any reactions to these people, however. His mind was focused on where to go next. 'That place Hijaka said, I should go there,' he thought.

It wasn't that far away for him and he could easily see himself having fun there. 'Sigh, I also need to find myself a way to leave this planet as well. I wonder what other ways there might be aside from just teleportation.'

Ning looked up to the sky and thought, 'Can't I just... fly away?' he thought.

'That's probably going to take a lot of energy as well,' he thought and stopped thinking about it any further.

"Huh? What is he doing here?" Dion's comment brought Ning out of his mind. He looked forward and saw the sect leader of the dazzling sect standing near the arena's gate, waiting for the arena to open.

'Why is someone who can simply fly inside waiting outside in a line?' Ning wondered.

Mallus was with his 15 disciples and as soon as they saw Ning, they whispered something into his ear. Mallus's face showed no emotions as he heard the things and walked up to Ning.

"Are you the junior named Ning?" Mallus asked.

Ning was a little surprised that he was here for him. "Yes, that is me. What does sect leader Mallus want with someone like me?" Ning asked.

Mallus gave a smile and said, "I heard junior was the reason my disciples did so much poorer this time around in the competition. I was just wondering what you had to say about that."

'The hell does he want? An apology?' Ning wondered.

"I guess... I am a little sad I missed one of them," Ning said as he looked at Mallus dead in the eye.

Golden Core aura flared for a split second before dying down, however that was enough to scare everyone in the vicinity.

"It seems you have a rather sharp tongue on yourself. Make sure it doesn't cut you by accident," Mallus said and left them.

"Dear God, that guy scares me," Dion said. "He could probably hurt me even though my body cultivation is so high."

"He's not the strongest for no reason," Yelca said. "I just hope Doctor Ning's words don't leave an impression on him. If he decides to target Deepskull island for some reason, we will be in trouble."

"I'm sure that won't come to be. I will make sure of that," Ning said.

Finally, they were allowed entry and the entire group went to their seating areas to view the remaining matches today.

"Welcome to the final day of the Triennial Tournament. I hope you are all having a fantastic day. Today's battle will be the continuation of yesterday's, so we will have the remaining 16 matches today."

"I shall now choose our next contestants," the host said and picked up two papers from the lot.

"Number 33, and Number 1"

"Ah, Doctor Ning is first. Please go ahead," the disciples let Ning walk down to the stage. Similar to yesterday, Ning was given the talisman to wear.

He walked onto the stage and saw that his opponent was a girl wearing violet robes. He didn't immediately finish the match like yesterday.

He let the girl attack first. He was so bored now that he would do anything to make the tournament a little more fun for himself. And that meant seeing what the others could do.

The girl suddenly summoned 3 earth golems that seemed like puppets. 'Oh,' Ning said with slight amusement. 'This looks like the ice puppets that Freya made. Only this one is made of earth,' he thought.

The puppets were very rigid with not much flexibility to their limb movements. But since Ning wanted to have some fun, he let the puppets attack.

The girl sent them to punch him down, but Ning just took it. With his body cultivation, there was no way he would ever feel this pain.

It was a little fun at first, but the constant pounding soon got boring. He lifted his arms and caught one of the falling fists. He used the arm to swing the earth puppet and slam it into the other one.

He then took the last one and threw it directly at the girl.

"Arghh!" she shouted, but there was no yellow light. 'She's not lethally damaged huh?' he thought and went to help her if she was injured but not enough to disappear.

He threw the puppet behind him on the empty stage and looked at the girl. She was unconscious.

'Well, seeing a giant earth puppet falling on top of you would be quite shocking.' He looked towards the referee for some help, and only then did the referee realize that she had fainted.

"You win," he said and asked someone to take the girl away.

Chapter 190: Body Breathing Cultivation Method

Ning didn't really watch any of the matches. He simply closed his eyes and listened to the sighs and cheers of the audience. He really wanted to see all the participant's powers for the first time with his own eyes.

The top 32 started and he only opened his eyes when his own name was called. His opponent was a man with a 9th Qi Condensation realm cultivation base. Meaning, he would have no problem winning against him.

The man tried to fight with his best of abilities, but they were of no concern to Ning. He easily destroyed each of his attacks, and in the end, defeated him as well.

The next one fighting after him turned out to be Hijaka. His opponent was someone that was in the 9th Qi Condensation realm. He decided to watch this one match that looked like it would get interesting.

However, thanks to Hijaka's immensely strong body, the match was not even a bother for him. In less than a minute, he managed to win against his opponent with no problem.

"Sigh, it really is boring. Maybe it will get better starting the next match," Ning thought.

"Did you see that Yelca, did you see?" Gion said excitedly.

"Yes, yes, I saw," Yelca said.

"I told you. Cultivating both body and Qi at the same time as possible. You said the disciple will turn out mediocre if they did that, but I never lost hope. You said Doctor Ning was an exception, right? Then how do you explain that disciple," Gion said.

"Sigh. I guess you are right. But we need some better techniques than the one we currently have," Yelca said.

"Do... Do you think we should ask him for the technique?" Gion asked.

"Stop talking nonsense and act like an actual sect leader. You want to ask a disciple for their cultivation method?" Yelca asked.

"Oh, you're right. I was so excited that I stopped thinking straight."

Ning listened to the two's bickering and smiled. 'Hey system, prepare a cultivation method that can cultivate both body and Qi at the same time. The total price must not exceed 500 Million,' he said.

<You can buy 'Body Breathing method' for 395,000,000>

'Make it a physical book,' he said.

He asked the system to create the book inside his robes and there it appeared. He slowly took it out and read it for a bit to see what it was about.

'Oh, so you absorb Qi through your body, hold it in for a bit, and send it out forcefully with your body. That way it cultivates your body while cultivating your Qi as well, huh?' Ning thought as he understood the concept of the book.

It was a very good book. Given that one didn't have to learn multiple methods at once and could make do with this single one, this was a very good technique.

Of course, his Earth-Shattering, Heaven Tempering art was much better since it tempered the mind as well as the other two, and the Divine Vortex Devouring technique was one of the best Qi cultivation techniques.

But they were also very expensive, unlike this one.

"Sect leaders, since I am leaving, take this as a parting gift. It's the cultivation method I use," he lied and handed them the book.

"Your method?" Gion and Yelca both got surprised and immediately jumped on the book and started reading it together. After a while, they looked at Ning with teary eyes and asked, "Do... Do we really get to keep it?" Yelca asked.

"Of course, it's a gift," Ning said.

"Thank you. Thank you very much. With this, our fragmented sects can once again become one," Gion said as tears fell through his eyes.

"Yes, the Purple Dragon-Tiger sect will return to former glory," Yelca said.

"You mean the Purple Tiger-Dragon sect," Gion corrected.

"No, the Purple Dragon-Tiger sect," Yelca recorrected. The two sect leaders started quarreling on what to call the joint sect.

Ning once again smiled and said nothing. He looked to his left and asked the disciple, "hey, hit me," he said.

"What?" he asked in confusion.

"You know, like yesterday? Hit me," Ning repeated.

"Oh," the disciple was a little confused but complied with the request and hit Ning on his biceps. However, Ning only got 40 Million energy.

"What's wrong? Hit me harder," he said.

The guy got a little embarrassed and hit Ning twice. In the two turns, his 160 Million energy cap was reached. The man took a deep breath and leaned back on his seat.

"What's wrong?" Ning asked.

"I don't know, Doctor. Your body feels a little weird when I hit you. I felt it yesterday as well. It's like I'm hitting a cushion or something. There is never an impact. That's probably because your body is very strong," the guy said and started taking deep breaths.

"Are you okay?" Ning asked.

"Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. I... I just feel a little tired after hitting you. I wonder if I am sick or something?" he said.

Alex tried to think of some medical condition this guy might have been suffering from, but nothing came to mind. In the end, he resorted to asking the system.

'What's wrong with his body? Give me some information for 100 million energy,' he asked.

Information entered his mind and his eyes went a little wide in realization. Ning then sighed. 'I guess I will have to find a new source now,' he thought.

It turned out that Ning was basically stealing 160 Million energy the man had when he asked him to hit him. So, in turn, the man was feeling tired and lethargic due to the lack of energy in his body.

'He should be fine for now. I don't think his body had much energy without his cultivation base fully in use,' Ning thought.

Normal environmental energy was gone from his list of sources due to how much energy he required, and now another source was gone as well.

"Sh*t, I will have to find better ideas now."

Chapter 191: Top 16

The top 16 battles was now starting. Ning could see a few people he recognized make it into those rank. Hijaka was one of them. With his dual body and Qi cultivation, his fighting strength was really high.

Next was that orange robed man he hated, Gai. The next one was the orange robed man he helped the Flood Dragon kill whose cultivation base was higher than him. He had found out that this was the man named Faran, the 2nd ranking participant from the secret realm.

Another one of the people he knew was the leader of the group of 5 that tried to use the charm girl to lure people into their formation and kill them.

He had surprisingly made this far up. However, this was going to be his final match since all the remaining ones all were in the 1st Foundation Establishment realm.

The host started picking two names from the box to start the top 16 matches.

"No 10 and No 76"

Hijaka stood up and walked to the front of the stage. From the other side, Jan walked in.

'Oh, this guy was here too,' Ning thought when he saw him. He hadn't been paying attention much and had missed his fights.

'Well, I guess this is where he loses,' Ning thought and watched. The guy named Jan used his swords to fight and send out very strong attacks. With his massively strong attacks, even with his strong body, Hijaka couldn't handle it at all.

After a few minutes of struggle, Jan drove a sword right into his chest. The talisman lit up and Hijaka was brought out of the stage. He had lost.

Hijaka was sad, but he knew he was dealt a bad hand. The opponents were just too strong for him. He turned towards Ning, far in the audience seat and made a saddened face, but Ning just shook his head and gave him a smile.

Hijaka got a little less sad and smiled as well before walking towards his own seating area.

The next few fights went for a little longer than Ning expected. The fighters were almost equally strong, so in the end it came down to a battle of wits, knowledge and endurance.

After 4 different matches, he was finally called to fight a 1st Foundation Established realm cultivator. His opponent was a girl who called out 2 beasts the moment she saw him on stage. He was the one they all feared, so when she found out it was him who would be fighting, she didn't hold back.

Her two beasts were also at the same cultivation base as herself. One of the beast was a large vulture with a really long neck. The other beast was actually a large centipede that crawled along the ground.

Ning smiled when he saw this, "finally, there's something fun to do." He didn't participate in this match by himself. Instead, he called out someone else to fight for him.

"Come out, Aegis," he said and Aegis suddenly appeared in front of him. The 2 meter tall body with the additional meter trident like horn was unique to the audience.

The girl frowned a little and asked, "Why is your silver beetle golden? Did you paint it so other's wouldn't find out?"

"Haha, this is not a silver beetle, its something better. You'll see," Ning said and gave a single command to Aegis.

"Kill"

Aegis immediately flew away and went for the centipede. It was the thing protecting the girl so Aegis tried to get rid of it instead.

While it wasn't the fastest flying beast, Aegis still surprised the girl with how fast it flew. "How?" she felt a little shocked. From her knowledge, this was something impossible for the Great Shelled Silver Beetle.

Aegis swiped both of it's right arm at the centipede. The centipede also jumped to attack Aegis. Aegis got hit in the chest, while the centipede got hit in the face and neck and started bleeding.

The girl looked at her centipede, then towards Aegis. While her similarly powerful beast was bleeding, the beetle was perfectly fine.

Golden Shelled beetles could block a lot of damage from their back and only a fraction of that from the front. However, that did not mean that their front was weak. It just meant that their back was abnormally strong.

The vulture immediately flew and sent gusts of wind towards Aegis. The winds contained many small wind blades that would cut everywhere. To counter this, Aegis simply turned around.

All the wind blades landed on him, but none actually worked.

"GO!" the girl shouted.

Both the centipede and the vulture rushed towards Aegis. Both of them attacked him at once, however, all the attacks landed on his back, so he was fine despite the barrage.

Suddenly, he opened his wings and flew up. As soon as he was high enough, he did a U-turn and returned towards the vulture. His horns started to turn golden and shined.

The vulture sent out massive wind slices with its wings, but it didn't work. Aegis' horn pierced through the vulture's wings, and the vulture cried out in pain.

The girl was surprised and immediately took the vulture back. However, Aegis wasn't done yet. He flew up once again and turned around before flying down very fast. This time however, his horn didn't shine.

Instead, he slowly shifted his body such that his body was what was going to attack the centipede. He was planning on stomping it.

The girl felt horrified when she saw that. She was still worried about Ning himself moving if she took part in the battle as well.

"No!" the girl shouted and called back the centipede into her beast bag as well.

BOOM

Aegis landed on empty space. If she had been a split second late at calling her beast back, she would've probably lost it today.

The dust settled and the confused look of the beetle was what showed through it. After not finding either of the beasts, he turned towards the girl as she was his main target to begin with.

The girl didn't hesitate a single second and shouted out loud. "I give up."

Chapter 192: Top 8 and Top 4

The Top 16 ended, and now it was time for the top 8.

The very first battle was between Ning and Jan. Ning wasn't the least bit surprised when he got one of the Dazzling sect disciples to fight.

There were 3 of them, so the chances of him having to fight them were nearly 50 percent. Ning walked onto the stage and saw the man and his sword ready to fight.

Ning just smiled and looked sideways to check their sect leader Mallus. He gave him a little nod before casually walking forward.

The man was ready with his sword, but he was also afraid that Ning was going to call out his bird. The bird was too strong for him and did not want to fight it again.

"W—What are you doing? Don't come closer," he shouted, worried that Ning was getting close to summon his bird at close range and attack him.

However, Ning kept on walking forward. Seeing that he was not listening to him, Jan decided to attack Ning while the bird wasn't out.

"HAH!" he shouted and swung the sword at Ning.

DING

Ning caught the sword with his bare hand. It cut a little into his palm, but that was the extent of the damage. "Not bad," Ning said. "But now it's my turn."

He swung his fist and hit the side of the sword, trying to break it in half, but the most he was able to do was bend it. That was still enough to scare the soul out of Jan's body.

The bent sword fell to the ground with a little 'ting' sound and Ning grabbed his shoulders with both hands. He forced him to sit down. He then used Telekinesis to pull out just his tongue forward so he couldn't speak.

Ning then called out Aegis. "Remember him? He was the one that attacked you so much back in the forest," Ning reminded him.

"Now, it's your time for revenge."

Aegis seemed to somewhat understand what Ning said and also remembered what happened. He remembered the barrage of attacks he had to suffer while being unable to complete his master's orders.

Aegis got angry.

SLASH

He scratched Jan's face with his sharp claw, and then scratched from the other side with the second claw, followed by the third claw and then the fourth claw. Then, he repeated by scratching with his first claw again.

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

Jan's face was bloody, with blood dripping all over his orange robes. In the end, Aegis used his horn to stab him through the herd. Just then, the talisman glowed and he made it out.

However, he still had a bloody face and needed quick treatment. Ning looked towards Mallus with a smile and nodded.

Ning didn't bother with the next two fights. Just from the cultivation base, he knew that the two Dazzling sect disciples would win it.

The last one was a mystery, but soon that too was cleared when one of the two fighters turned out to have an excellent armor that blocked most of the damage done to him.

Finally, the Top 4 started. The people remaining were Ning, Gai, Faran, and the guy with the armor. When the match was decided, Ning smiled.

His next opponent was Gai.

Before that, Faran and the other guy fought. Everyone expected the fight to last a while, but that was only because they didn't seem to realize how strong Faran was. He had been acting very lowkey and not using any flashy attacks to draw attention.

Nings 22 thousand points acted as the shadow that hid the impressiveness of Faran's 10 thousand points. People somehow forgot that there was a reason his points were so high.

The moment the fights started, Faran surprisingly took out a spear for the first time. Until now, he had been fighting with a sword, and while he wasn't great at it, he wasn't that bad either.

Now that he took out the spear, they finally realized why he was bad at the sword. That wasn't his weapon of choice at all.

When the spear came out, both Ning and Gai reacted with a surprised look. The shaft of the spear was ocean blue in color, while the blade was made up of a long metallic silver-colored metal.

"Why does brother Faran have that?" Gai asked in surprise.

"So, that's where it went," Ning said in understanding.

Faran's opponent got ready to fight and rushed at him. He believed that with his armor, Faran couldn't hurt him at all. Faran took a deep breath and sent a spear slash towards his opponent.

Before the opponent could even react, he turned into yellow light and disappeared. Faran kept his spear back and walked off of the stage.

Ning smirked and stood up. He then looked towards Gai who also stood up and walked towards the stage.

Gai seemed to be wary about Ning after seeing his fight with Jan. Anyone that could bend a low-grade spirit weapon in half with a single punch was definitely not normal.

Gai took out his spear and cautiously got into a stance. Ning however, didn't take out anything. He instead simply walked towards Gai at a slow pace as he did with Jan.

He had a really hard time fighting against Gai when his ribs were hurting back on the 3rd day. However, now he was perfectly fine, his system was back and he had also broken through.

He was in the best position he could be in.

His bloodlust was returning after seeing Gai, but unlike last time, he was able to keep it in check. Still, he wouldn't mind hearing little cries.

However, just as he was about to start his attack, he heard the most rage-inducing words from the man he had heard yet.

"I forfeit," Gai shouted out his surrender before the match could even properly take place. The referee accepted and the match was ended.

Ning couldn't help but get annoyed at how anti-climactic this round was.

Chapter 193: Intent

"F*ck, I was looking forward to fighting that guy," Ning thought. The match was over but he didn't leave the stage. It was time for the finale to start.

Faran gave a disappointed look towards Gai and shook his head.

"What?" Gai said angrily when he saw that. "If you saw what his other beast could do, you would quit too."

"Tsk. Go talk with the master, I won't say anything," Faran said and walked up the stairs onto the stage.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the moment you have all been waiting for. The final fight, between the Number 1 and the Number 2 winner of the last competition. This will reveal who is the best of the young generation in all of the scattered isles is. "

"Let the battle... Begin"

Faran immediately brought out the blue spear and got ready to fight.

Ning looked at him curiously and asked, "Did you know that's my spear?"

Faran was a little surprised and asked seriously, "What do you mean?"

"I dropped it near the lake when the Flood Dragon attacked me. I came searching for it on the 4th day but couldn't find it. It seems you had found it earlier than me," Ning said.

Faran looked at the spear in his hand and said, "If you lost such a good spear, then you were never worthy of it in the first place."

"Yeah, well..." Ning smiled and said, "I've got something better."

Something blue appeared in Ning's hand all of sudden. When Faran saw the thing in Ning's hands, he couldn't understand what was happening.

"Why are there two of the same spear?" he asked. "Is this part of a pair?"

"No, the one I have was made later and is thus better," Ning said.

"I doubt it."

Faran slashed his spear in front of him sending an attack towards Ning. Ning blocked it with his spear easily. Ning didn't have spear techniques that could create such attacks, so he decided to use sword slashes instead.

He assumed the long shaft was the sword handle, and the small blade was the blade of a sword. He then slashed as well.

A not very amusing slash flew forth and was easily stopped by Faran. "Tsk. I guess close combat is all I can really do for now," Ning thought and dashed forward.

With as incredibly fast speed, he reached in front of Faran and launched the One True Spear strike. Faran barely managed to stop it and was pushed so far back that he nearly was thrown off of the stage.

Faran finally realized just how strong Ning was. His arms felt numb from the hit on the spear shaft. He knew it was time to get serious.

He took a deep breath and got into a low body stance where the end of the spear was pointing top behind him, and the tip was pointing towards the ground a little ahead of where his feet were.

Suddenly, his clothes started rippling and so did his hair. Ning could see what seemed like tiny glints of light in the aura that Faran was putting forth now.

'Is that Qi?' Ning wondered, however, he couldn't tell at all. The glints of lights occasionally turned to spear heard but reverted back to glints of light again.

Ning was genuinely surprised for the first time seeing anyone's fight today. "Spear Intent?" he said in shock. He didn't expect somebody in the Foundation Establishment realm to have learned the spear until he got Spear Intent at all.

One had to be very passionate about spears in general and must have practiced it for a very long time to even have intents appear in the first place.

Ning got into a stance as well. He wasn't scared of the Spear Intent; He was happy.

Faran made the first move. He launched forward and stabbed at Ning. The Spear Intent followed the path of the spear and moved forward as well.

Ning hit the incoming spear aside but the intent of the action was still there, so the energy behind the attack still followed through and hit Ning.

Ning didn't take any damage, but he was pushed back. Ning looked up and saw that Faran was already doing an overhead swing.

Ning quickly held the spear horizontally to block the attack. However, once again, the energy followed the intent and hit him.

"Urghh, this is annoying. How do I fight this?" he thought. He pushed Faran back and started his own attack. If Faran never got to hit, he wouldn't have to worry about Spear Intent at all.

Ning started swinging and slashing and stabbing as much as he could. This forced Faran to go into a defensive position and he could do nothing but block the attack.

BANG BANG BANG

Faran kept getting pushed back with each attack and was nearing the edge of the stage. With each attack, he was getting closer and closer to falling off of the stage.

The audience looked in awe and believed Ning was going to win now. However, such fears never appeared in Faran's face.

Suddenly, Faran's aura erupted and the glints of Spear Intent started appearing once more. They were constantly fluctuating turning to spearheads, before returning back to normal glints of light.

Ning kept on attacking, however, he couldn't push back anymore, and with each attack, the period of time the spearheads lasted started getting longer and longer.

Ning suddenly stopped and stepped backward. "F*ck, he's using me to temper himself right now," Ning said. Faran was continuously getting better with each attack he handled. His Spear Intent was slowly treading towards its higher form.

Ning tried to attack but his hits were not being blocked more efficiently. Faran was continuously getting better and better and at some point, he started counter-attacking.

Ning could have probably won already if he used his full physical strength to fight, but he wanted to have some fun before he did that.

Just then Faran spoke for the first time in a while, "You can't beat me like that. Bring out your beast that the others are scared of."

Chapter 194: Result

Ning stood completely still, however, his face showed a little bit of surprise as he asked, "My beast? Did your fellow disciple tell you about him?"

Faran's chest moved up and down as he tried to catch his breath, yet his face still didn't show any emotion. "I saw how scared they were. It must be a really strong beast, other than the beetle you have," he said.

"Yes, my beast is strong, but he's not in the condition to be called out right now," Ning said. Faran's face immediately darkened. It was almost like he was disappointed a little.

"Haha! But if you really want to fight one of my beasts, I can help you with that. You see, I just recently acquired a new beast, and... well, I haven't had the opportunity to use him yet. In fact, I haven't had the time to even name him."

"Let's see... I will just call him Blue for his skin color. So, what do you say? Do you want to fight blue?" Ning asked.

Faran got back into his attacking stance as Spear Intent rose off of him. "Do not disappoint me," he said.

Ning smirked a little. "As you wish. Come out, Blue."

Blue light suddenly flashed as a large beast appeared on the stage. The blue beast looked like a snake to the people with its large body that had scales all over it.

However, when they saw the head, they showed fear. It had the head of the fabled True Dragons.

"That's... that's the monster from the lake," Faran said with a trembling voice. "Ho— How did you tame such a beast?"

Ning didn't answer the question; instead, he asked his own. "Are you disappointed yet? How about you help me test how good this beast of mine is."

"Why. Did. You. Call. Me. Master?" The Flood Dragon spoke as he looked at the different people around him. However, what should be like words to Ning, sounded like beastly screams to the rest of the people.

"He called you out," Ning said as he pointed towards Faran.

Blue slowly moved his head as he looked straight at Faran. Seeing the large lizard-like eyes blink scared him very much. The handle of the spear dropped from his right hand and hit the floor with a ting sound.

The Flood Dragon breathed warm air into his face as it said, "It. Is. You." However, to Faran, that just sounded like normal growling.

Faran was unresponsive. He had no idea what he could even say in this situation. Not only was the beast 2 realms higher than him in terms of cultivation base, but it also had a very high defense, which he knew from his fight 2 days ago.

Aside from that, just the fact that it was in some way, a Dragon that was going to fight him, scared him the most.

Ning didn't bother waiting any longer and said, "Finish him."

WHOOSH

A massive blast of water erupted from Blue's mouth and hit Faran. Before the water could even touch him, however, he disappeared and appeared elsewhere away from the stage.

The water blast however kept on flying until it reached the audience. The different sect masters of the sect seating in that general area immediately put up a barrier of their own.

Even then some of the water spilled through and hit the audience. It didn't hold the same power, however.

The sheer power of the attack left the audience in shock. Ning put his spear back into his storage space and walked up to blue. He gently caressed his scales and said "Good Job, you can go back in now."

"But. Master. He. Survived." Blue said.

"That's okay, he hasn't done anything bad yet," Ning said.

"But. He. Tried. To. Steal. My— "

"GO BACK!" Ning commanded with a stern voice. Blue immediately complied and went back into Ning's beast space. He sighed and looked at the audience who looked at him like he was a monster.

He then turned to the host who also was similarly befuddled and said, "Aren't you going to announce the result?"

"Oh Y-Yes. You Win," the host finally spoke and then addressed the audience.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, here we have the winner of the Triennial Tournament, Ning Ruogong."

The audience didn't react at all. They were still in shock. Ning looked at the whole crowd yet not a single person seemed to be themselves right now.

CLAP CLAP

A set of claps rung out amongst the audience. Ning looked towards the person who clapped and smiled. It was Kaezir who had come out of his shock and started clapping.

Mikaela who had been sitting next to him also started clapping.

Hijaka started clapping next followed by a massive clap and cheer from the people of Deepskull island. They were genuinely happy at the result. Following them, everyone except the dazzling sect clapped.

Ning ignored the claps of the others he didn't care about and walked up to the host. "I have rewards right?" he asked.

"Y-Yes, of course. We always give rewards to the winners," the host said.

"Good, give it to the people from Deepskull island," Ning said.

"That's your island right?" the host asked, and Ning nodded.

He then walked into the audience. However, he didn't go to Gion and Yelca, he instead went to Hijaka.

Hijaka walked out from his group and went to Ning. "Inikaka, is something the matter?" he asked.

"I came here to let you know that I am leaving now. I will come to visit sometime soon. If you meet Hyesi, tell him to stay alive until then," Ning said.

Hijaka nodded and thanked him.

Ning then walked up to Kaezir and Mikaela.

" Mr. Kaezir, I am leaving. Thank you for everything you did for me," Ning said with a bow.

"Umm, that's alright, but why are you leaving? Are you ill? I can help you," Kaezir said, not really understanding what was going on.

"Haha, no. I'm not just leaving the arena, I am leaving the Scattered Isles itself," Ning said.

"You might not remember it as it was a small event for you, but you once saved me in the forest back in Starsight city when I had just arrived from Klavis. I will never forget that. Truly, from the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Chapter 195: Come With Me

Ning left Kaezir and Mikaela with their shocked faces and moved to the people from the Deepskull island.

"Doctor Ning congratulations."

"That was amazing, Doctor Ning."

"How did you tame that monster?"

Multiple congratulations and questions appeared one after another, which Ning just smiled throughout and reached Gion and Yelca.

"There you are Doctor Ning, you did amazing back there. You won us the tournament," Gion said.

"Haha, we can go back with a proud smile now," Yelca said.

Ning smiled and then dropped the bomb. "Sect leaders, I am leaving now," he said.

"Huh? What do you mean? Why are you leaving now?" Gion asked.

"You still haven't taken your rewards, doctor Ning," Yelca reminded.

"I don't need those. I asked the host to pass everything along to you guys. As for why I'm leaving, the answer is simple, I got bored," Ning said.

"Well, not exactly bored, I guess. You see, I didn't expect to spend so much time in the Scattered Isles as I did. I was interested in a few different things at first and joined various sects, but after I got the experience, I needed to leave but I couldn't for some reason."

"Finally, I can, so I decided to waste no time and leave," Ning said.

"Sect leader Gion, please take care of Anya for me. She is a fantastic little girl and will be of great asset to you. Who knows, she might be the one to win this whole thing for you in the next three years," Ning said.

"She is the same as me, capable in both body and Qi. I'm sure that once your two sects join, she will be the most important person there," Ning said.

"Also, I have left my entire medical knowledge with her, so let her go out and treat people from time to time."

Gion smiled and asked, "You seem quite worried about the little girl. Why didn't you take her with you?"

"I'm a rogue cultivator who can survive anywhere. But she is a young girl who is barely starting her journey in cultivation. I don't want her life to be as harsh as mine could be sometimes," Ning said.

"Don't worry, Doctor Ning. We will treat her like we treat you," Yelca said.

Ning needed nothing more than that. "Very well then, I shall leave now. Goodbye everyone, if fate wills it, we will meet again."

Ning bowed towards them once and started walking away. He didn't look back once and directly went out of the gates of the arena.

The hotel he stayed at was towards the south, the ship he came in also was towards the south. However, Ning wasn't going there, he was going north. He was now going to go to the northern continent.

Ning stopped for a moment and looked at the various people that we're still focusing on the massive screen from outside. Even though the tournament had ended, they were waiting for the reward ceremony.

Ning saw Yelca and Gion hurriedly walk upstairs to accept the reward. Ning felt a little melancholic seeing this, but he immediately let go of such emotions and turned around.

He was determined now and wasn't going to turn around anymore.

He made his way to the northern gates and booked a ticket for a ship that was going to go to an island up north. Ning was going to take the scenic path up north.

The cold breeze of the sea moved his long hair as he stayed on the deck and looked at everything. Everything in front of him was nothing but ocean, but Ning knew that around 250 kilometers up north, there was a major city in one of the islands.

Ning would drop there and then take another ship from there to another island where he would —

AHEM

Someone coughed from behind him. Ning suddenly sent out his divine sense and was surprised when he saw who it was.

"Oh, might I ask what you are doing here, Sect Leader Mallus?" he asked as he turned around. Behind him was Mallus and the rest of the disciples of the Dazzling sect.

"Oh, what a coincidence, junior Ning. You see, we were returning back to our sect. We have spent a bit too long here," Mallus said with a fake smile.

"I see. Then you must be tired from your journey. I am too. How about we both go to our rooms and take our deserved rest," Ning said.

"Haha, we both know what's happening here junior. You have something I want, and I am going to get it," Mallus said.

"Oh, what might it be?" Ning asked. He had a general idea, but he still wanted Mallus to say it himself.

"The Angel's Touch. That is something I need to reach the Nascent Cultivation realm. After that, I will be the strongest person in the entire lower half of the northern continent," he said.

Ning smirked a little and asked, "Oh, you weren't here for the mid-grade Spirit Artifact I showed on the stage today or any of my beasts?"

That caught Mallus's attention a bit. Gai came up to him and whispered something in his ear. He looked towards Jan and asked, "Is it true that his bird killed you before you could see it?"

"Yes, sect leader," Jan replied.

"I see, it seems junior Ning has a surprisingly high number of exotic stuff that we have never seen before. Can you tell us where you got them?" Mallus asked.

"Oh, you know, here and there. I find stuff lying around and it turns out to be gold," Ning started talking big.

"Sigh, I guess junior Ning doesn't want to speak so easily. Then I must insist you come with us so we can persuade you a little," Mallus said.

"I'm afraid I can't do that," Ning said. "Instead, how about you come with me?"

Suddenly, Ning disappeared. Mallus was surprised for a second, but on the next second, he felt a hand lay on his shoulder. Same thing for Gai as well; he too felt a hand on his shoulder.

After that, they all disappeared.

Chapter 196: Maelstrom

A minute earlier.

When Ning saw Mallus appear behind him, his heart skipped a beat. Not only was Mallus there, but even his disciples were also there as well.

'This is troublesome,' he thought.

As they talked, Ning realized why they were here. He first wanted to immediately teleport to a faraway location so he didn't have to worry about him.

But then he remembered that if he left after antagonizing the strongest cultivator in the scattered isles, he would certainly show retaliation towards the Deepskull island folks.

While he cared about Gion, Yelca, and the other folks, he was especially worried about Anya getting mixed in all of this. So, he asked the system a question.

'Hey, System. How do you determine innocents from the guilty ones? How do I know if I can kill someone or not,' he asked.

<Anyone who hasn't had a conflict with the host, or has no malicious intent towards the host is considered innocent>

<System will warn you if your intention ever settles on killing innocent people>

'I see... so I can consider everyone here not innocent, right?' he asked.

<No. There is someone innocent that holds no malicious intentions towards you amongst them. Others hold to a very low degree. Only 3 people amongst the group have a very high malicious intent>

Ning looked at the group and thought, 'I can tell which 3. But who is the one that doesn't hold a malicious intent towards me?' he asked.

The system showed a disciple from the group that surprised Ning. 'That Faran guy actually doesn't hate me enough to want to hurt me?' Ning said curiously.

Now that that was resolved, he needed to find a way to escape this predicament. 'It's really just Mallus that I have to worry about. I need to take care of him.'

'I need to think of a way to kill him without dying myself.' Ning looked into the map and looked for places that looked dangerous. One place, in particular, stood out to him as... weird.

'System, can my body survive here while a Golden Core cultivator dies?' he asked.

<Would you like to buy that information f—>

'Just give me a damn yes or no answer. Take as much every as required,' he said.

<Yes>

That was all Ning needed.

"Sigh, I guess junior Ning doesn't want to speak so easily. Then I must insist you come with us so we can persuade you a little," Mallus said.

"I'm afraid I can't do that," Ning said. "Instead, how about you come with me?"

He teleported to Mallus and Gai, grabbed them, and teleported again.

It didn't even feel like they were teleported. In fact, all that changed for them was the location.

Suddenly, a large vortex of colorful lights engulfed them 3 and started to pull them on a downward spiral. The multitudes of lights in the vortex started making minor cuts on their body as well.

Ning and the others immediately put up a barrier of their own Qi to stop the outer Qi from attacking. Mallus's barrier was strong enough to block those attacks, but Ning's wasn't. While he stopped some, some still managed to enter.

Not only that, Ning immediately felt very cold, far beyond what could bother a cultivator.

He tried to move his arms, but the cold was making it hard to do. The large vortex was not only a vortex of Qi but a vortex of snow as well.

'So, this is what the northern pole of the planet looks like,' Ning thought.

Mallus and Gai were both beyond shocked. They tried to fly away, but the vortex kept on sucking them into the maelstrom below.

"Where are we? Where have we brought us?" Mallus shouted with a bloody face. In the fraction of a second when he didn't have the barrier up, the Qi around him had ripped away a lot of the outer skin. The same was the case for Gai who needed his protection.

"Haha, to your death," Ning shouted. The Qi was still cutting into his skin

Mallus immediately attacked Ning. He did not bother wasting any time dealing with him right now. A large yellow ball of energy left from his hands and escaped his barrier. However, the moment it left the barrier, it was completely destroyed by the ever-moving specs of Qi.

"What?" Mallus shouted in fear. He had never witnessed anything like that.

'Holy,' Ning thought. Even he was amazed at how terrifyingly strong the outer Qi was. And given the fact that his own Qi was continuously draining due to the barrier and he too was falling onto the maelstrom, he would no doubt have his body destroyed.

'Was the system wrong?' he wondered. That should have been impossible yet somehow he was the one taking damage, while the person he wanted hurt didn't take any.

'Something is wrong,' Ning thought. Mallus tried attacking a few more times but none of his attacks survived the bombardment of the Qi.

Suddenly, Ning felt himself falling faster. Not only was the vortex pulling them, but for some reason, gravity also increased all of a sudden.

It took them nearly 5 minutes of falling to reach the maelstrom deep in the planet, and there they disappeared.

Ning felt nauseous all of a sudden he felt gravity shift. He hadn't changed the direction at which he had moved and yet the gravity was on the opposite side of where he was going towards. Ning could feel himself slowing down a bit.

Then, the intense gravity disappeared. A burst of force pushed him up as he was sent high in the sky and then, out of the colorful vortex of light.

Suddenly, his barrier disappeared. He fell from a massive height and landed into fluffy snow that killed his momentum.

THUD THUD

Two more sounds came not far from him as well. The snow wasn't as cold as before and Ning could finally move. He stood up and looked at Mallus and Gai who were standing up as well.

Mallus gritted his teeth knowing that Ning was the cause of what was happening to him right now. He immediately put his palms in front of him and shouted as he sent forth an attack, "Die."

Chapter 197: Bloody Raim

"Die," Mallus sent out an attack through his arms.

"DIE," he tried once more.

"What is happening?" he said in shock as he looked at his own hands. No matter how much he tried, His attacks weren't launching.

Ning was surprised and tried to feel his Qi as well. However, there was nothing. The feeling he got was the same as when he was just a normal person back on earth.

"What's...what's going on?" he couldn't understand either.

"What did you do you bastard?" Mallus tried to bring out a sword but not even his storage bags worked. Everything that required Qi to function, including divine sense didn't work anymore.

'Qi is not working for some reason, but that doesn't concern me,' Ning thought. He immediately jumped forth and landed right in front of Mallus.

Ning looked at him dead in the eyes and said, "Here I am. Come, kill me."

Mallus shook a little. It was hard to say whether that was because of the cold environment or his pure terror of Ning jump so far with just his body.

Either way, he couldn't stop the shaking.

"Yo— You, how do you still have your strength?" Mallus asked with a shaky voice.

"Hmm? Oh, you didn't know? I am a body cultivator too. My body is just that strong," Ning said with a smile. He then looked behind those two, at the massive crater that kept shooting out Qi and snow into the sky, making an aurora in the night sky.

"Why is there Qi there, and yet not here?" Ning asked out loud. "Senior Mallus, won't you go check that out for me?" he said.

"Why would I do anyt—" Ning suddenly grabbed him by the robes and threw him into the crater. The moment he entered, the Qi started cutting up his body. However, he also immediately set up a barrier to protect himself.

The burst of Qi reaching the sky once again threw him up and down onto the snow with a Thud.

Ning picked him up from the snow and looked at his more bloody face. "Can you use your Qi now?" he asked. Mallus seemed to be severely distraught and didn't answer at all.

"Sigh, I guess you will have to find out for me," Ning said and walked towards Gai.

"N— No, don't come towards me," he shouted. "Don't you dare come towards me."

Gai tried to escape, but he couldn't walk anymore. The cold was getting to him. He stumbled and fell back onto the snow. Ning went forward and grabbed him by the collars.

"Please, spare me," Gai tried to beg for mercy, but Ning didn't care about any of it. He simply tossed him into the crater.

The moment he entered, Gai immediately put up a barrier around him as well, however, similar to Ning's situation, the barrier wasn't able to protect him completely.

Multiple specs of Qi blasted through the barrier and started making multiple cuts on his face. However, unlike Ning, he couldn't heal as fast. He too was thrown back onto the snow, and he slowly started bleeding the snow red.

Mallus barely stood up and saw his disciple being treated like that. "You!" he shouted, but the cold was getting to him as well.

Ning walked up to Gai once more and took away his storage bags. "Better not waste this," he thought. "Oh, you're up," Ning said as he looked towards Mallus.

"Can you use your Qi now? No, right?" Ning asked.

"Put down my disciple," Mallus shouted.

"Hmm... Him? Nah," Ning said and tossed Gai behind him into the crater. This time, there was no barrier protecting him. So before his body could even be sent flying upward, it was shredded into millions of bloody pieces and the blood showered as frozen ice.

"Yikes, I didn't expect that to get so bloody," Ning said as he winced a little. He then walked towards Mallus. Mallus was getting scared now.

Ning once again took him by the collar and threw him into the crater. Mallus managed to save himself with a barrier, but it was slowly getting weak. His cultivation base was running dry.

In a few more turns, he could no longer have any Qi to use, and would thus die as well. Until that, Ning would keep throwing him in.

Again, and again, and again.

Each time he threw him in, Mallus's body would get a little more bloody due to the fraction of a second he didn't have his barrier up. With each time, the barrier started letting more and more Qi in.

Finally, he fainted. Ning realized that he could no longer survive like this, so he took away his storage bags and tossed his body into the crater.

Similar to Gai, he too turned into bloody mist within minutes that started raining down on the snow.

Ning stood there and looked at the crater. "Damn, what do I do now?" he thought. The crater did nothing but shoot everything up, and it felt very hard to survive in a place where the Qi shredded you to nothing in seconds.

"Damn, this is a problem," he thought. "In the first, why can't I use my Qi?"

He sighed once more. He turned around and finally looked away from the immediate scenery. Far away in the sky, he could see light coming from the sun as if it was about to come up at any moment.

"It was daytime just now, so does the sun not show up in the Northern Pole, or am I just on the wrong side?" he asked.

"Either way, I will need to get out of this place. Let's see... I should go to this place and I can take a carriage or something to see the path along the way to the Seven Lights city," Ning thought as he looked at the map of Planet Kumia.

"Alright system, Teleport here," Ning said.

<Host cannot teleport to that spot>

"Huh? What's wrong with this place?" Ning was confused. "Whatever, go to this place then," he said.

<Host cannot teleport to that spot>

"What the hell? What about this location then?" Ning asked.

<Host cannot teleport to that spot>

"What the F*ck is going on? Why can't I teleport there?" Ning asked in frustration.

<Host can only teleport away from the planet after collecting energy that amounts to 10% of the planet's energy>

"... huh?"

Chapter 198: Vilmore

Ning tried to understand what the system meant. "Wait, why do you think I want to teleport out of the planet? I just want to go to this location," Ning said as he showed the spot on the map once again.

<That location is out of this planet>

"How can it b—" Ning suddenly stopped. He looked around. He remembered the maelstrom, the flipping of gravity he felt, and the lack of Qi in the area.

He swallowed a mouthful of saliva and asked, "I— Is this... a different planet?"

<Yes. You are now on the Northern Pole of the Planet Vilmore>

"And this planet doesn't have any Qi?" Ning asked.

<None>

Ning was a little flabbergasted. He couldn't believe that he was on another planet right now. "Wha— How— What?" he made nonsensical sounds as he tried to make sense of the situation.

"So, you are telling me... that that thingy at the bottom of the Northern Continent... a portal?" Ning asked.

<The Maelstrom is a wormhole that connects Planet Kumia to Planet Vilmore>

"A wormhole?" he finally got the answer. "Did that maelstrom create a wormhole?" he asked.

<No. The wormhole created the Maelstrom>

<When the two planets came into contact through the wormhole, the Qi of Planet Kumia and the Aether of Planet Vilmore mixed together to amalgamate into the specs of light in the air>

"Aether... is that another form of energy?" Ning asked.

<Yes>

"So... can I absorb it? Is it in the air around me?" Ning asked.

<System suggests you buy information on Aether and Aether users to learn everything>

"Oh, yeah sure. Also... give me the map of the planet at the same time," Ning said.

The system showed him a list of knowledge he could choose from. Ning decided to go with the intermediate version of all of them to save energy for now.

He immediately learned about them. The planet was a truly unique planet; the upper half of the planet, the northern hemisphere, was just a massive ocean.

The southern hemisphere was a single continent with no name to it. Ning was shocked when he realized that he was currently on the southern pole of the planet.

"Sigh, I need to acclimated to it before I can properly user Aether?" Ning said as he realized that he would have to go through the same thing he went through with getting acclimated to the Qi.

"How much energy to fully acclimate this body, right now?" Ning asked.

<It will cost you 216,000,000,000 energy>

"Yes, acclimation is good," Ning said.

He thought for a second and asked, "you said a cultivator can collect those right?" he pointed towards the crater that was spewing out a mixture of Qi and Aether into the air.

<Yes. Your body will reject Aether and only collect Qi>

"And I do not need anything special like a spiritual root to collect aether right?" Ning asked.

<No>

"Alright then, let's see if I can collect it then," Ning said and walked close to the crater. He had his arm stretched upfront just in case there were invisible blasts happening near the crater.

He looked at the barrier-like wall that was forming due to the blast of Qi being thrown upwards. Ning slowly put his hands inside it. The moment he did that, the Qi and Aether amalgamation started cutting his arm.

He was a body cultivator, so it didn't immediately shred it. However, if he kept it there, he would have lost his entire hand in less than 10 seconds.

He immediately pulled his arms out and watched it heal in front of his eyes. The wounds were many but tiny enough that his healing could easily fix it.

"Ow! I can't even keep in there for 10 seconds, how am I going to return?" Ning asked. He took out something from his storage and threw it into the crater. That too immediately got destroyed.

"What about the spear?" Ning thought and quickly brought out the blue spear he had with him. It was one of the strongest objects he had created and so he wondered if even it could be damaged.

He didn't want to throw it in completely, so he put the end of the spear to test it first. At first, it seemed like it was okay, but at some point, it started taking damage and in less than a minute, it was close to being completely gone.

"Sigh, not this too. System, fix it."

Blue light shined as the spear end regenerated and fixed the end of the stick. Suddenly, he had an idea.

"Wait, what if I jump in with something ridiculously tough, and continuously fix it with the system as I make my way through the maelstrom?" Ning wondered.

"I really just need to make something really small yet really durable. Hmm... I also need to move on my own against this upwards blast too.

"I guess I will have to collect a lot of energy then. Sigh, the next few days are going to be horrible," he thought as he looked at his healing hand.

He slammed the spear into the ground and jumped into it. At the same time, he also pulled in his body into his storage space.

"System, wake me up when my cap returns," he ordered.

<Confirmed>

The moment his consciousness slipped away from him, he woke up as well. It was like he never slept at all. "Ahh, I've missed doing this. Now that I can get the energy in a split second, I should be able to collect billions in less than 10 minutes," Ning thought and started to get excited.

He jumped out of the spear into his body and put his hand into the crater. The Qi-Aether specs hit his arms, but instead of damaging, they only gave him energy.

It didn't even take a split second for him to collect hundreds of millions of energy. "Wow, this is going to be quick. I should sleep again."

Chapter 199: Low-Level Heat Ignorance

Ning's consciousness had returned back to him. Instinctively, he sent out his body out of his storage and jumped into that body.

Then, he stood up and plunged his hands into the dangerous burst of Qi and Aether. Within seconds, he absorbed a lot of energy and took his arms back.

He was starting to get the timing right, so he was no longer getting injured when he plunged part of his arm in there. Once that was done, he jumped back into the spear.

'Urghh, it's getting way too boring. How many times have I done it by now? 20? 30? Can I not do this again?' Ning complained to himself.

'How much energy do I even have?' he wondered.

'Status'

[Status

Name: Ning Ruogong

Energy: 12 Billion

Separated Energy- [A/N : I've decided to put words instead of 000s going forward. Hope you guys don't mind]

Heat Energy: 8.25 Billion

Sound Energy: 750 Million

Qi Energy: 0

Kinetic Energy: 3 Billion

Skills: Simultaneous Thinking, Omniscient Map of Kumia, Omniscient Klavian Language, Candle Fire, Yin to Heat conversion technique, Night Vision I, Interdimensional Storage (Stopped Time; 522 KG), Air Cutter, Telekinesis, Yin to Sound conversion technique, Water Filtration, Earthly Jade Cultivation Method, Sun God's Morning Cleansing Technique, Qi Cultivation Analysis, Body Cultivation Analysis, Basic All Language, 8x Qi Acclimation rate, Radiant Holy Sword, Supreme Dominance, Beast Space, Earth-Shattering - Heaven Tempering Art, Divine Vortex Devouring, Intermediate Map of Vilmore]

'Woah, 12 Billion? Then that means I can— Oh, wait no. Right, I still need nearly 2 Billion in Heat energy,' Ning thought. 'Well, at least I don't have to worry about Kinetic energy for long.'

He would now have to continue doing the same thing for another dozen or more days.

He looked around him and saw that the bloody mess he had made had been buried under fresh snow. There was no sign that there was a massacre that took place in this place around...

'How long has it been?' Ning wondered. 'Hey system, when did I come to Vilmore?' he asked.

<You arrived at Vilmore exactly 63 days and 21 minutes ago>

'Two months huh? No wonder my energy increased by so much. Let's grind a little more,' he thought and asked the system to put him back to sleep.

The grind was boring, but he kept it up. Waking up, taking out the body, jumping into that body, plunging your arm into the deadly burst of Qi and Aether to get energy, jumping back into the spear, taking in the body, and then going back to sleep.

That was the routine Ning followed for as long as he could remember.

Finally, He stopped after many iterations.

Once he plunged his arms, he took it back out and checked the status. According to it, he had nearly 11 Billion Heat energy, 10 of which he could use to double the cap right now.

He didn't hesitate at all. 'Double it.'

<Confirmed>

<Congratulations, You have bought all Heat Energy Cap Increments>

<As a reward, the system has awarded host with [Toggle -Low-Level Heat Ignorance]>

<You now have the ability to ignore 15% of Heat that you come across>

<You can improve this skill in the shop>

Ning was a little surprised at the notifications he had just received. "Wait? I've bought all heat energy cap increment?" he asked as he read the notifications.

<Yes. You can no longer increase your Energy cap through Heat Energy>

"So... there is no more doubling with heat energy? Are 3 doubles the most?" Ning asked.

<All normal forms of Energy get 3 chances to double your energy cap>

<You have reached the max number of Energy cap doubles with heat energy>

"Damn, that sucks. The other energies are a little harder to come by than heat energy. Hmm... although... this new skill isn't bad," Ning thought as he checked the information of the [Low-Level Heat Ignorance] skill once more.

"If I can ignore 15% of all heat energy at all times, doesn't that mean I don't have to absorb 15% of the heat I come across? What's more, I can toggle it to not work too," Ning said as he rubbed his chin.

"Yes, let's try it."

Now that Ning had 160 Million energy before he could reach the Cap, he decided to try out his theory. He put the toggle on so that he ignored 15% of the heat energy that he would be feeling now.

He breathed in and plunged his hand back into the light. He waited for just long enough so that it was time and pulled his hands back. He then opened the status to calculate how much heat energy he got in comparison to before.

"Huh? Did I not hit the cap?" He thought when his calculations showed that he hadn't reached the 160 Million he had still left.

"Oh, wait. I really did ignore it. No wonder I didn't hit the cap," Ning thought. He put his hands back for a split second to hit the cap and then pulled it back.

He thought of restarting the routine once more but stopped. "Wait, I need to think of ways to get sound and kinetic energy. Heat is pretty much useless to me now," he thought.

"Once I get sound and kinetic's final cap increment too, the cap increments will stop there. At that point... I will need to unlock the next energy" Ning thought.

"System, can you tell me what the next energy is?" Ning asked.

<System will reveal that information once you collected 1 Quadrillion Energy>

"1 Qua— What the hell? Why would you require so much?" Ning asked.

<That is one of the requirements to learn about the next energy>

"Fine, whatever, do what you do. I will go back to following the routine. I need to leave this place fast. I— I have people I need to go back to," Ning said solemnly.

He wasted no more time and jumped back into the spear and took his body inside his storage. It was time to start the routine once more.

Chapter 200: Aether

Around 20 or so iterations later, Ning stopped once more. He was getting a little frustrated at this point. On one hand, doing the same thing over and over was very vexing and he was about 3 more iterations away from tearing this hair out because of the monotonousness of the task at hand.

On the other hand, even after 20 iterations, his Kinetic energy had only barely increased by less than 2 Billion energy, which was a far cry from the over 4 Billion energy he had got from Heat energy.

"Urghhh, I need to find another way. This is going to take too long," Ning complained, but there was no other way. He had to stick to it.

"Sigh, let me refresh my mind," he thought and sat down on the cold snow to clear his mind. He started to cultivate. Of course, there was no Qi there for him to cultivate his inner Qi, but there was Aether, and he was going to try cultivating that, however, that worked.

He recalled what he had learned about Aether a few hou— months earlier.

Aether was a liquid that one could keep in their body and use to conduct what the Aether users called Aether arts. They would have to burn the liquid and use what powers they got from it.

However, even though Aether was a liquid, finding it in the liquid form outside of one's body was damn near impossible. Only in rare places where the aether was concentrated at a very high amount would one be able to find liquid Aether.

Otherwise, most people used the aether that was in the air, or perhaps the rarer version, Aether ores. The aether in the air was very diluted, so most people stuck to aether ores that could be mined from Aether pits.

Even then, both air and ore were really just vessels for the tiny amount of Aether liquids.

"So, the Aether in this Qi and Aether amalgamation is liquid Aether?" Ning asked the system.

<Yes>

"I see, then I need increased acclimation rate for the Aether right?" Ning asked. "Give me the costs."

<Here are the Acclimation rate for Aether>

<You can pay 266 Million Energy to speed up the process by 2 times>

<You can pay 1.064 Billion Energy to speed up the process by 4 times>

<You can pay 40.64 Billion Energy to speed up the process by 8 times>

<You can pay 216 Billion Energy to fully acclimate right now>

"Get me the 4 times one," Ning said.

<Confirmed>

"So, I also have to get cultivation techniques and such right? Can't I get automatic ones that do it passively? Now that I think about it, I need those for Qi as well," Ning thought.

<Automatic Cultivation techniques are available with the rate of auto collection>

<Please chose Aether per second you will want to collect>

"Aether per second? What's the normal amount needed to go from... uh... Aether Starter to Aether Student?" Ning asked.

Aether Starter and Aether Student were the ranks that were given to Invokers and Enchanters based on how much Aether they could hold at once.

Invokers were ones that could use Aether to create stuff, while Enchanters were ones who could use Aether to control existing stuff. All people in Vilmore had the ability to use Aether, but, not all of them could use a lot of it due to the physical limitations as well as resources.

Aether Starter was the starting rank and everyone in this world was one. Aether student was the next rank after that. There were 11 ranks in total and the world's hierarchy was set with that.

<You need 10 Million Aether to go from Aether Starter to Aether Student. The requirement to go up a rank will increase by 10 times for each rank>

"Hmm... wait, do I technically count as an Aether Starter?" Ning asked.

<No. You were not born in this world. You will need to intake Aether and store it into your body to become a starter>

"Hmm, and I will require the Aether Cultivation method for that huh? So let's see... 10 days should be fine. Give me an automatic one that can collect 100,000 Aether in a day," Ning said.

<It will cost you 12 Billion>

"12 Billion for just 100,000 Aether in a day? Isn't this just robbery?" Ning was flabbergasted.

<Automatic cultivation methods cost a lot>

<You can get better value if you buy ones that aren't automatic>

"Sh*t, you're right. However, at least with automatic, I won't have to worry about finding different cultivation techniques. In fact, I should buy this for all. After I have the energy of course," Ning thought and decided to start the routine back up.

He disliked doing it a lot but he was determined to get both of the Automatic ones for Aether and Qi, so he ignored all thought and just followed the routine. He also toggled off the Heat ignorance skill so that he didn't have to worry about losing heat energy.

He got hurt a few times while going that due to not knowing how much he could go on with the

In the next 30 iterations, he had enough Heat energy to waste on Aether's cultivation method.

"Alright system, give me the Aether one first," Ning said.

<Should the system use Heat Energy only?>

"Yeah, that was why I waited all this time to begin with. In fact, only use Heat energy for everything if possible," Ning said.

<Confirmed>

Ning suddenly felt something change in his body. It was like a new stomach had appeared inside his guts and it was hungry as hell. So, it started sucking in as much food as it could find.

"I can feel it. It's... right next to the sea of Qi. Wow, is this what they call the Sea of Aether?" Ning wondered. While he couldn't see it, the feeling was the same as when he first formed his Sea of Qi.

"I guess... that makes me an Aether Starter now."