

Death 101

Death... and me

Chapter 101: Team Name

However, before the twins could even intervene, Malaka asked Agis while looking at him with her innocent eyes.

"But how can you get first place with Rean and Roan here?"

Let alone Agis, even Rean, and Roan were taken aback by that answer.

Rean couldn't hold back and burst out in laughter.

"Hahahaha!"

He then patted Malaka's head, which much pleased her.

"That's right, Malaka. How can he take the first place with the two of us here?"

Agis was infuriated after hearing that.

"Are you making fun of me?"

Pah!

Out of nowhere, Roan slapped Agis' back head.

"Who would waste time making fun of you? Malaka just stated a fact, that's all. Now shoo, shoo, you are getting in our way."

Still, Roan couldn't deny that felt a little, just a little tiny bit happy to hear Malaka's answer.

Agis was indeed quite young. For someone like him, treated with the utmost respect in his Clan, such treatment was humiliating. But just as he was about to burst out and attack Roan, he received a Spiritual Sense message.

"Ignore them. Your objective is to show your superiority compared to the others. If you attack him here, it will only leave a bad impression on the Core Elders. They will think about you as someone who can't control his own temperament. Is that what you want? You are a descendant of the Kexidor Clan, so act like one."

Agis quickly cooled down after hearing that.

"Tch! Well, you were the one who didn't want to enter the victorious team."

He turned around and began to look for the other Blue Aptitude kids, especially the two who were also in the Foundation Establishment.

Rean and Roan couldn't care less, though.

As Julio saw Agis leaving, he asked the others.

"Is it really okay to buy a fight with that guy? He is the only Red Color Aptitude, after all."

Roan simply snorted after hearing that.

"You are putting way too much importance on that ant."

Rean wasn't even paying attention anymore.

"Malaka, have you found the last kid?"

"Ah!"

Malaka's mind quickly returned to the right track, and she dashed to the middle of the kids who were outside of the top 100 board.

It didn't take long for Rean and Roan to notice that she seemed to be looking for someone in specific.

A few minutes later, Malaka finally spotted the right one.

"Yay! I found you!"

Suddenly, Malaka clinged on another girl's arm.

The girl, of course, was surprised by that. As far as this kid could remember, she had never seen Malaka before.

However, Rean and Roan immediately understood why Malaka chose her.

"Rean, Roan, look, look! Doesn't she look exactly like Liria?"

Liria was one of Malaka's classmates when Rean and Roan were working as teachers back in the Varen Tribe. She was a girl who joined at the same time as them and had a Brown Color aptitude. Malaka liked to often play with her back then.

Rean looked at the little girl closely and had to admit.

"She does look like Liria a lot. If not that she is older and has shorter hair, it would be hard to see the difference."

Roan nodded.

"Indeed, but Liria has a Brown Color Aptitude, so it would be impossible for her to be here. This one also has higher cultivation than her. Still, that is quite the resemblance."

The girl didn't know what those three were talking, so she quickly took some distance from them... or so she tried. Malaka wasn't letting her go at all!

"Let me go! What do you want?"

"Ah!"

Only then Malaka remembered her objective here.

"We need one more person to our group, so I came here to take you!"

The girl was taken aback.

"But aren't you people of the top 100? I have a Yellow Color Aptitude, you know? Even my Wind Elemental Affinity had barely lit up the Fourth Orb. Not to mention that I'm only an Initial Stage Energy Gathering Realm cultivator."

Rean didn't mind, though.

"It's okay. Since Malaka chose you, then so be it. It all depends on whether you want to join our group or not."

The girl didn't know what to do. Even though she was young, she still found it quite suspicious that they selected her. However, Rean's group was indeed a top 100 one. Also, she couldn't feel Rean and Roan's cultivation at all.

'Grandfather said that if I can't feel someone's cultivation in this test, it is because they have a much higher one. If that happened, I should be careful to not offend them.'

Afraid that it might happen, the little girl couldn't help but agree with Rean's proposal.

"O-Okay."

Malaka's eyes brightened as she hugged the new girl.

"Malaka, give her some space. We still don't know anything about her."

Rean quickly pulled Malaka back before looking at the new girl.

"If you don't mind, can you make a self-introduction?"

The girl nodded.

"My name is Lenna Dorvyre, 11 years old. I came from Weageon City, East of Majorias City. You would need around 6 days to arrive there by Spirit Horse. As I said, I'm a Wind Element user at the Initial Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm."

Rean then asked Roan through their Soul Connection.

"How's it?"

"Just a kid, nothing more. If anything, she accepted our offer because she was probably afraid of offending us. I don't feel any malice coming from her, either."

Rean then smiled back at Lenna.

"Well, welcome to the group then. Let's go to the Outer Sect disciples to register."

Lenna couldn't help but ask the same thing as Julio about the group numbers. Obviously, Rean and Roan gave the same answer. 'There was no need.'

As they approached the counter, one of the Outer Sect Disciples took a paper sheet out and asked.

"Is this your entire team?"

Rean nodded.

"Yes, could I bother this brother to register our names?"

The Outer Sect Disciple felt quite pleased with Rean's politeness.

"Sure, but I advise you to bring a few more kids. Otherwise, you might not have enough power to stand the night."

Rean then shook his head.

"Thank you for the advice, brother. But we are pretty confident in our skills."

That disciple sighed but didn't try to change Rean's group mind.

"What's the name of your team?"

"Name?"

They didn't know they would need a name. However, Malaka quickly jumped forward before saying.

"Death Team!"

Julio and Lenna felt quite shocked that a girl as bright as Malaka would come up with such a gloomy name.

Roan, on the other hand, just chuckled while Rean laughed.

"Well, so be it, Death Team it is."

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Chapter 102: Roan's Test

Since all the kids participating were cultivators, the Sect had to provide a lot of space for them to prepared. Roan then decided to take Julio and Lenna to one of the fields available to test their abilities.

Together with them was Alanda, Uncle Wen, and Lenna's grandfather, who came this time around to protect her. Lenna's grandfather was called Tanzon Dorvyre, an expert in the Foundation Establishment Advanced Stage. Different from Alanda and his kids, he lived inside the city. Of course, he wasn't considered rich or anything. He worked as one of the guards of the City Lord, and his family mostly depended on his wage from that job.

It's not that the other family members didn't work, but that they had ordinary Gray Color Aptitudes, with just his first son being a Brown Color. However, it was far from enough to join the City Guard's entourage. So they simply did the jobs available for commoners inside the city.

Lenna was the first one with an acceptable aptitude in his family, having a Yellow one. Because of that, he trained her hard from very young so that she could have a chance at entering the Dalamu Sect. Even if she failed, it would still be a good experience for her. In a certain way, he was betting the family's future in her accomplishments.

Thanks to the harsh training, Lenna got quite a resistant body and strong will. That was what she used to pass the 300km marathon test. Tanzon was quite satisfied already that Lenna made it through the first two tests, so he couldn't help but feel expectant. Especially after he heard that she was chosen by some of the top 100 kids of the first test.

Alanda, Uncle Wen, and Tanzon came to the field as well. At first, Tanzon thought that it was Rean and Roan's relatives that would be testing her somehow. But when he found out that their protector was Alanda, he was quite taken aback. After all, Alanda is only in the Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment.

Then he looked at Uncle Wen, who was Julio's relative. But that man was basically at the same level as him. The only thing that gave him some guarantee was the fact that Rean and Roan were in the Foundation Establishment as well.

"What will you two test from my granddaughter?"

Uncle Wen looked at Tanzon, puzzled.

"Test? I'm only here to see what is going to happen too."

Alanda just laughed, though.

"We old geezers don't need to test anything. The one who is going to do it is Roan. Well, just leave it to him."

Roan didn't know what those guys were talking about, nor did he care. He only wanted to test those two kids' abilities.

"Alright. Malaka, come here."

Malaka came running.

Roan nodded and then looked at Julio and Lenna.

"Malaka will be your opponent. I wish to see you going all out. I will devise our strategy later on based on how well you do."

Julio and Lenna were taken aback.

"But Malaka is alone. Not to mention that I'm in the Advanced Stage of the Energy Gathering while Malaka is still in the middle."

Lenna agreed with Julio.

"I might only be in the Initial Stage, but my grandfather trained me a lot with swords. If we attack together, it won't be training at all. It is not fair to Malaka."

Roan couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Is that so? Then I wish to see it."

Roan then looked at Malaka before saying.

"If you lose, your fighting lessons will be doubled for an entire month."

Malaka felt a chill on her back. She immediately took her staff out and got ready for combat. She looked at Julio and Lenna as if they were her greatest foes.

"Julio, Lenna, I'm sorry."

Anything but more fighting lessons with Roan!

Uncle Wen and Tazon were taken aback by that.

As he looked at Alanda on his side, he couldn't help but ask.

"Your name is Alanda, right? Don't you think this is a little too unfair?"

Uncle Wen nodded as well.

"I agree, shouldn't you stop it?"

Alanda sighed.

"Indeed, I also think this is too unfair. But these friends don't need to worry. Malaka has a good heart, so she won't beat them too much."

Tanzon and Wen were taken aback. They were talking about Malaka being injured, not the other way around! For a moment, they thought that Alanda was being too conceited. However...

Bang! Pow! Crack! Crash!

In a span of just a few seconds, Julio and Lenna were already on the ground while contorting in pain. Malaka was really frightened about the double fighting lessons' idea, so she didn't hold back at all! One must remember that her Staff Skills were taught by Roan, the one who reached unparalleled proficiency with all kinds of weapons in his previous life (or Death) as Death. Just how many forms did his weapon take in the past? Even he can't remember.

Tanzon and Wen looked at Julio and Lenna with their eyes wide open. That was not a fight, but a one-sided massacre!

"Wait! I think I heard Lenna's bone breaking!"

Tanzon quickly rushed to Lenna's side and checked her body. Sure enough, her arm was broken!

"You! How will she participate in the practical test tomorrow?"

Roan looked at Tanzon.

"We haven't finished the test yet, so go outside. Julio and Lenna had clearly held back because they thought they had the advantage. Next time, I want them to really go all out."

Tazon was infuriated.

"Go all out your head! Can't you see that her arm is broken? Are you trying to bully my granddaughter?"

Roan sighed before shaking his head.

"Rean, how long will you keep looking? I'm in a hurry, so heal her already."

Rean shrugged his shoulders after hearing that.

"Yea, yea... Give me a second."

Tazon was surprised by those words.

'Could it be that they brought healing pills? That's why they are not afraid of injuring anyone? But healing pills are super expensive! Do they really have enough Spirit Stone to buy them?'

However, Tazon and Wen's surprised expression changed into disbelief in the next second.

Rean's hand began to glow with a bright milk-white light. As soon as he touched Lenna's broken arm, it began to recover at a frightening speed! No more than a minute had passed, but Lenna's arm was already as good as new! Not only that, but he also took the chance to heal the other minor injuries on her body.

He then moved to Julio, who was also quite beaten up. Since he didn't really have any of his bones broken, his healing process didn't take more than a few seconds, though.

"Alright, they are good to go."

Roan nodded as he looked at Tanzon and Uncle Wen.

"How long will you stay there? Shoo, shoo! I don't have all day."

"Ah!"

Tazon and Uncle Wen quickly came back to themselves. They knew that Rean had Light Element Affinity. After all, everyone was there when he went through his Elemental Affinity Test. But they had never expected that Light Element was this overpowered!

The two old guys immediately retreated. In fact, they were happy to do so. How could they not understand? As long as Rean was in the same group, was there even a need to fear injuries?

Rean noticed Tanzon and Wen's eyes at him. He could understand what they were thinking, too, so he decided to give everyone a serious warning.

"My Light Element is not omnipotent. It is only this effective because my cultivation is much higher than Lenna and Julio's. However, if they lose a limb, I won't be able to reattach them. And you can forget about bringing someone back from death. If they die, that's the end, so they better be careful."

Tazon and Wen's dreams were cut short right there and then. In fact, they immediately understood that knowing that Rean can do such things might make Julio and Lenna ignore potential dangers. That would make it even more dangerous instead. They decided to give Julio and Lenna a severe warning after Roan is finished with them. Rean can't make others immortal, after all.

Roan ignored everything else and returned his attention to Julio and Lenna.

"Again!"

Those two might be totally fine now. However, as they looked at Malaka, that 'bright girl that is happy about everything' image disappeared from their minds completely. They can still remember the pain they went through after being beaten black and blue by her just a few moments ago.

"Lenna, let's go all out!"

"Yes!"

Roan was finally able to see what he wanted. Of course, he wasn't the least bit afraid of Malaka's defeat. Well, at least, Julio and Lenna held much longer than the first time. Nonetheless, they ended up on the floor while contorting in pain once more.

Rean quickly healed those two, putting them back in shape for another round of beating. This process continued for an entire hour...

"Alright, it is enough."

Julio and Lenna felt like they heard the voice of heavens when Roan finally called out the end of the test. Too bad, though. That was death's voice.

"Okay. Tomorrow, we will wander around the inner skirts of the forest. There will be several Stage Two Demon Beasts as there will be Stage One. Rean and I will deal with Stage Two ones. Your job is to get rid of any Stage One that appears."

"Malaka will be in the vanguard. Julio is a Spear user, so your job will be to give the final blows. Malaka's staff is not as suited as yours when it comes to killing. Lastly, Lenna will be responsible for attacking the weak points while Malaka holds them. Try to aim at their legs, eyes, etc. Unless things really get out of hand, Rean and I will not intervene. Remember, the Sect Elders will be observing, so you two have to show that you are really part of the reason why the beasts are being killed, understood?"

Julio and Lenna nodded vigorously. By now, they simply didn't dare go against Roan's words.

"Good! Take this."

Roan then threw two books at them. One was the Death Sword Style, and the other was the Death Spear Style.

"Read it before you go to sleep. Tomorrow, try to implement it during the practical test. If you have any doubt, just ask Rean or me."

Roan didn't mind passing those books forward. Considering his understanding of weapons and his addition of Spiritual Energy, those books only touched the very basics of the basics. He didn't mind if it was leaked or not. Still, it was a lot better than the styles that Julio and Lenna were using so far.

"Alright, let's go back, that's enough for today."

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Chapter 103: The Last Exam Starts

The next day arrived in a flash. All the kids were then gathered as they waited for Elder Hulian to come forth. Finally, Hulian and quite a few other elders appeared once more.

"Good, it seems like everyone is here already."

Elder Hulian began to walk in a certain direction.

"All of you kids and their relatives or protectors, follow me."

Everyone obeyed elder Hulian, and it wasn't long before they arrived in front of another enormous building. The disciples guarding the front noticed elder Hulian and immediately opened the door for him. Inside, one could see several formations of different sizes.

Hulian then guided the kids to the one in the very middle, which was the biggest.

"Alright, this is a teleport formation. It will teleport us to our private Demon Beast Forest. It can support one hundred people at once, so you will all take turns to enter it."

No one complained as they followed Hulian's orders. In just a minute, the first one hundred kids and adults accompanying them were already over the big formation. It soon activated, and with a flash of Silver Light, everyone disappeared.

All the kids were surprised by that. The majority saw such a thing for the first time. Still, no one dared to delay, and one group after another was teleported away.

Finally, Rean's group time came. They stepped on it with the others before the teleport formation activated. The space around Rean's group contorted before everything became blurry. Finally, it all became silver for a second when suddenly, they appeared in another place completely different.

Their sights came back to normal, and they could finally see where they were. It was another building, but this time, there was only one teleport formation inside it. Obviously, it was the one used for bringing them here.

As Rean and Roan stepped outside the building, they clearly noticed the forest a few kilometers away. Around the building, they could also see a few disciples who were probably responsible for defending the area against the demon beasts.

Around one hour later, everyone has already gathered again. Rean's group, obviously, didn't have any idea where this forest was located.

Noticing that everyone was there, Hulian began to float above them before he started talking.

"Very well, this is our Dalamu Private Demon Beast Forest. As I said before, the highest level of Demon Beasts in this place is only Stage Three. However, these ones can only be found around the core of the forest."

"On your right, you can see several bags prepared for you. They have food and water to last three to four days. After that, you will have to find food on your own. Don't worry, this Demon Beast forest has a lot of fruits, water, and all the Demon Beasts' meats are edible. There isn't a single poisonous type in their midst. If you can't find anything at all and decide to give up, just come back to this base. But remember that the exam will be over for you at that point."

"Another thing, attacking other participants is ultimately forbidden, let alone killing! The entire Demon Beast Forest is covered by a monitoring formation. If a participant dares to break this rule, they will be immediately eliminated from the exam, with no exceptions. Understood?"

All the kids nodded vigorously. The Sect wasn't here to create discord between their own members, but to get strong cultivators to protect, help expand, and be loyal to it. What future has a Sect full of internal conflict? Such a Sect would end over destroyed; it is that simple.

"The exam will last two weeks. Remember, you need 1000 points to pass. Also, there will be no one here to save you if something goes wrong, so don't try to bite off more than you can chew. The other groups might be forbidden to attack you, but the demon beasts don't give a damn! Keep that in mind."

"Each group received bracelets with some simple formations inscribed on them. Each time someone in your group gives a killing blow, the formation will record it. Make sure to not lose it since you would lose all your points. Oh, right! I almost forgot. If you want to give up and don't know the way back, just send your Spiritual Sense into the Bracelet. The formation inside will show you the way."

"Alright, I said too much already. The exam starts now!"

All the groups immediately rushed to the bags, trying to take more than one each. But the Outer Sect Disciples didn't allow them to do so. Each kid could only carry a single bag, that's all. It wasn't only a test of strength or ability, but also survival. The kids would need to adapt to this place on their own.

Rean and Roan were not in a rush. They waited for the kids to take their own bags and leave. They would be hunting in the Stage Two demon beasts' territory, so they are not afraid of running out of them. Finally, the space in front of the table opened, and everyone took a bag of food and water each.

"Should we go then?"

Roan nodded.

"There will be no point in waiting around the starting point, let's move far away first. After all, there were no rules saying that you can't steal someone else's demon beast. I can already see several groups ganging up on those Stage One demon beasts at the start."

Rean nodded. He also thought about this possibility.

"Should we completely separate from the other groups then?"

This time, Roan shook his head.

"No, that would be too dangerous. We are going to wander on the mobs' outskirts, always making sure that the other groups aren't too far away from our reach. We don't know how the demon beasts here act, so the last thing I want is to be surrounded without a place to retreat."

Malaka couldn't help but ask, though.

"But how do you know the other kids are close to us?"

Roan chuckled before pointing at their bracelets. They had just received them, so it seems like other than Roan, no one verified it with their Spiritual Sense yet.

"Send your Spiritual Sense into the bracelet."

As soon as they did, the group immediately noticed thousands of red dots moving on what seemed to be a map. Rean couldn't help but laugh after seeing that. Not because he was surprised, but because these bracelets reminded him about Earth.

"Haha! No wonder Elder Hulian said that we can find our way back with the bracelets. It shows our location perfectly. Not to mention that this base is acting as a beacon. I didn't imagine they would make something similar to our Radars back on Earth. I guess I need to take a good look at these Formations after we join the Sect."

Julio got puzzled, though.

"What is a Radar?"

However, Rean just shook his head.

"There is no need for you to know."

Roan then made sure that his group was ready before saying.

"Alright, enough of wasting time here. Let's go!"

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Chapter 104: Death Style Training

Everything played as Roan mentioned. All the Stage One demon beasts were quickly cleared out from around the base. Not only that, but it was common to see three or four groups attacking the same demon beast. In the end, only one of those groups would be taking the final blow.

Rean's group spent some time circling around the place where most groups were gathered, which made their hunt start somewhat later. However, they had the demon beasts around free for themselves.

"Shadow Leopard, at your right, you guys, go ahead."

Malaka immediately rushed forward and blocked the demon beast's path. It was one good with speed. However, Malaka's defense was watertight, so it simply couldn't pass by her. Even though Malaka's weapon isn't good for killing, it was still a Low-Level Spiritual Equipment made by Rean. If Roan hadn't instructed her to only hold the Demon Beasts, she could totally finish this one.

Roan wanted Julio and Lenna to train as much as possible. Especially now that they just got his Death Style Manuals.

Slash!

Lenna's sword came from the side when the Shadow Leopard wasn't looking. However, she was quite off, so the Leopard still dodged. Julio tried to use that change to give a killing blow, but he ended hitting the side of the Leopard's shoulder.

Roan looked at that before sighing.

"Sure enough, it will take time for them to understand how to make use of all opportunities."

Rean smiled, though.

"You can't really expect them to learn your Death Style in a single night, right? I think that they already did quite well by grasping those opportunities."

Roan didn't like it anyway.

"It is okay now since there is only one Demon Beast. With Malaka there, they are not in danger. But even Malaka can't take care of two simultaneously. When that time comes, Julio and Lenna need to take care of one while Malaka takes care of another. It will be even worse if there are three or more."

Rean had to admit that Roan was right. But it would take time for them to understand those principles of the Death Style. All opportunities are killing opportunities; that's the path of Roan's weapons.

It didn't take long before the Shadow Leopard was killed. But it wasn't a single hit kill. Instead, it accumulated injuries until it finally fell.

Julio and Lenna were quite excited with their first demon beast down, but Roan quickly threw a bucket of cold water on them.

"What a terrible display. Without Malaka, would you even kill it? Stop wasting time and come here, I'll tell you everything that was wrong."

Julio and Lenna got a little embarrassed and angry at the same time. Sure enough, they are young, so controlling their emotions isn't something that they care about.

Roan didn't care, though. He went from top to bottom on everything that went wrong. He spoke so much that there was no way Julio and Lenna could remember everything.

"Alright, let's go to the next. We are going to use the first three days of the entire two weeks to make sure you will never forget what I say."

Malaka heard that and felt quite sorry for Julio and Lenna. How could she not understand that look on Roan's eyes? She was sure that the hellish training time was about to start.

They continued forward without stop. As soon as a Demon Beast died, Roan was already running to look for the next. However, he and Rean never intervened. He also made Malaka stay out of the battles quite a few times, leaving everything for Julio and Lenna to deal alone.

Fear? Inexperience? Injuries? Roan didn't care about any of that. Unless he saw that Julio or Lenna was about to be severely injured or die, he didn't let anyone intervene. Not only that, but he prohibited Rean from healing them too. They would need to move ahead with their injuries open, or they could try to treat it themselves.

The demon beasts never stopped coming for Julio and Lenna. Roan even Rean bait more so that there would always be a new one as soon as they finished. During all this time, Roan kept shouting at them what was wrong, what they should improve, and what they should forget. Yes, forget. After all, they had been training with other styles so far. So there were a lot of things that Roan deemed useless in their abilities.

Back on the base, there was an enormous pillar inscribed with several types of formations. As long as one poured their Spiritual Sense inside, they could check the participating kids' ranking. Not only that, but you could even observe a kid in specific if you decided to do so. Hulan wasn't lying. The entire Demon Beast Forest was covered in a gigantic monitoring formation.

Rean's group was doing quite well. Their position was 37th. This position was acquired while they focused on Stage One demon beasts only, which was quite good. After all, there were over 200 teams in the Demon Forest at the moment.

However, Uncle Wen and Tanzon expressions didn't seem the least bit happy. Since they could monitor the participants through the monitoring formation, they could see how Julio and Lenna were doing. That kind of training... was beyond painful. There were several times that they thought that Julio or Lenna would die or receive a severe injury. But Roan would always appear at the key moment to save them. However, save was one thing; killing the demon beast was another. Roan would just deflect the attack, but wouldn't touch the demon beast at all.

Eventually, Lenna and Julio would end up killing it. But the time they spent doing so kept increasing more and more. That's because they were too exhausted! Not to mention the several other injuries that, although not severe, were still painful and made them lose blood.

Alanda looked at all of that and couldn't but laugh.

"Hahaha! It seems like Roan like those two quite a lot. To think he would make them pass through his Death Style Training."

Tazon looked at Alanda with a shocked expression.

"He... likes them? Just what kind of training you offer in your tribe?"

Alanda shrugged his shoulders after hearing that.

"That is not our tribe's training. This is something that Roan devised himself. Don't worry, though. Nothing will happen to your kids as long as he is overseeing it. Of course, they will have to experience quite some pain in the next few days."

Although Tazon was angry, the kids had started the test already. There was no way he could intervene anymore.

The day passed in a flash. Finally, Roan called an end for Julio and Lenna's training. As soon as those two heard that, they collapsed on the ground. Their clothes were almost destroyed. There were cuts and bruises everywhere too. If not that they thought that Roan might abandon them right there and then, they would have collapsed much earlier.

Malaka wasn't injured, but she too was drained. She participated in at least two-thirds of the battles together with Julio and Lenna. Still, he felt quite happy to see that she now has some friends who understand the pain she experienced in the past.

Roan then looked at Rean before asking.

"Well, it's your part now. Make sure Julio and Lenna are as good as new for tomorrow."

Rean couldn't help but laugh.

"Sure. It is always good to have some new Roan victim friends."

"What Roan victim? Did you forget that I also applied the same training for myself? I dare say that I went even further on my own practice."

Rean smiled but didn't answer. Roan was simply too crazy when it came to these things. He would definitely draw the last bit of energy of their bodies before calling it. However, Rean understood that Malaka and his own progress so far were all thanks to this 'I-rather-die' training of his.

He quickly called forward the Light Element and began to treat their injuries. There weren't just cuts and bruises, but even a few cracked bones too. Those two didn't notice it only because of the adrenaline that never stopped. As he healed them, Julio and Lenna slowly regained their consciousness.

But they didn't even have time to think when the pain in their bodies took over! Immediately, they began to contort in pain.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, you two. By tomorrow, your bodies will be 100% ready for another day of happy training with your big brother Roan."

Hearing that name made Julio and Lenna's hearts skip for a second. They looked at Roan's direction and could see a faint smile. He looked at them as if he was looking at his prey.

Because there were many more injuries this time, Rean took almost an entire hour to heal both of them. Finally, the pain disappeared, and only the fatigue of their body remained. But before they could even get up, Roan grabbed both their arms and threw them inside a river nearby.

Splash!

"You two stinky! Take off your clothes and wash yourselves. I have a set of clothes for you already."

Roan was really prepared for everything. He put his hand inside his own bag, and from inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, two sets of clothes appeared on it.

Splash!

Malaka didn't even wait for Roan. The moment he looked at her, she knew that she had to go too. She might not have got injured, but she sweated rivers! The only difference was that Roan told her to wash her own clothes instead of throwing them away. Since they were not destroyed, so why should they dispose of it?

The only ones that were completely fine were Rean and Roan. Stage One demon beasts couldn't make them even sweat anymore, so they were as clean as when they first arrived in the forest.

Lenna felt a little embarrassed when she heard that she had to take off her clothes. Although she is only eleven and basically a kid, she is still a woman. However, after seeing Roan's dark expression, Lenna quickly threw those thoughts away. What if Roan decides to increase her training in the next day because she refused? Some embarrassment was definitely not worth the risk!

Rean didn't even care about the kids washing themselves. Instead, he went around to select the beast who seemed to have the best meat to cook. Back on Earth, he was a 31 years old adult who lived alone, so he had to learn how to cook. Although he doesn't have the utensils from Earth here anymore, he still could more or less manage to cook something edible.

As for Roan? The last thing he could care about is a woman's naked body. Souls have no clothes to start with, so just how many women naked souls had he seen in his previous life (or death)? He didn't even dare try to count. One must remember that a Soul takes the shape of the body when it is brought outside. Back then, the same happened with Rean as well. Not to mention that there were countless instances where the women who died were naked to start with. For Roan, such things were utterly worthless and didn't entice him at all!

The kids quickly finished washing themselves and took Roan's set of clothes. After they finished eating the food prepared by Rean, they immediately collapsed once more. This time, they fell into a deep sleep. Roan was satisfied with that sight, though. If they hadn't slept straight away, that meant that his first day of training was not harsh enough.

"Alright, same thing as always. You keep an eye for the first half of the night while I look the next half."

Rean didn't mind and sat above a boulder close to them. Roan then checked every one to see if everything was in order and went to sleep as well. The next day, he would push those two new recruits even harder!

Death... and me

Chapter 105: Roan is Feeling Bored

On the next day, Julio and Lenna's bodies were fully recovered. They slept for 12 hours straight, and probably wouldn't wake up if Roan hadn't made them so. During the night times, a few Stage One demon beasts appeared around. But be it Rean or Roan, they were able to dispatch them without any problems.

In the morning, Roan made sure that those two eat well to prepare for the day. Malaka also gorged herself with Rean's food. When everything was ready, the hell training started once more. On the very first day, Julio and Lenna remembered all Roan's words. On the second, they began to be able to adapt to whatever he said. Of course, there were several mistakes here and there. Still, they were doing much better than before.

The day continued the same way. Except for the resting time, Julio and Lenna spent most of their time fighting against the Stage One Demon Beasts. Malaka also joined the battle several times, but Roan let her out on her own as well. In the last hours of the day, Roan stopped to use Julio and Lenna as a group

and put them to fight alone. Sure enough, injuries began to accumulate even more. Still, they could at least take care of themselves now.

When the night came, the same scene played once more. Rean healed those two, then Roan threw those two with Malaka in the river for them to wash their bodies, and passed another set of clothes. This time, neither side cared about feeling embarrassed because they took off their clothes once more. Those two were just way too tired to think about such things.

After they finished eating Rean's food, they once more collapsed on the ground in a deep sleep, much for Roan's satisfaction.

On the third day, the 'I-rather-die' training continued. This wasn't really the last day of training, but would be the last one they stayed in the outer region. Although they wouldn't be able to compare to Malaka, they won't be totally helpless in case they had to fight alone.

Tanzon and Uncle Wen, who had been watching Julio and Lenna during the last three days, had to admit that their progress was unbelievable fast.

Seeing their faces, how Alanda couldn't understand what they were thinking.

"Roan might be a little bit cruel with his methods, but they are definitely effective. Under his watch, a single day might as well be the same as a month elsewhere. Also, you probably noticed already that the Sword and Spear styles that they are learning are several times better than the ones you taught them before. Keep looking, once your kids leave this Forest, they won't be the same ones anymore."

Tanzon and Uncle Wen nodded. The time to be angry about what happened there was already over.

Back on Rean's group side, the end of the day approached. Finally, Roan called the last day off.

"Good, that's all for today as well. From tomorrow onwards, we will enter the inner region where we can find Stage Two Demon Beasts. Let Rean heal you and then go wash yourselves. Make sure to eat well and have a good night of sleep too. From now on, Rean and I won't always be ready to save you if you mess up."

Julio, Lenna, Malaka nodded. They are happy as long as this hellish training days are over.

That night, Roan talked to them about what he saw during the day. What they should improve and what was wrong. He also heard their questions and answered with the best of his abilities.

"Very well, just go sleep now. We are leaving tomorrow when the sunlight comes out."

When the three kids fell asleep, Rean took the opportunity to ask Roan.

"I still think that three days is too little for them to adapt well enough. Wouldn't it be better to give them a week instead?"

Roan nodded.

"I know, but we can't stay put all the time either. Otherwise, we will lose the first position. Still, I'm planning to have them fight a lot as we deal with the Rank Two Demon Beasts. We are not entering the Stage Two Demon Beasts' territory completely. We will just stay on the border, so there shouldn't be much of them appearing. We can get a steady amount of points as we let Julio and Lenna adapt to my Death Style."

Rean then thought about something else.

"But what about that Red Color aptitude guy called Agis? Wouldn't he open too much of a distance from us this week?"

Roan shook his head.

"I doubt so. Agis is in the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, but that is all. I doubt he can really control a team properly at his age. Besides, he is quite arrogant, so I can already imagine quite a few conflicts on his side. Don't forget, all teams are composed of 13 years or less old kids. Do you think they will become his feet and hands that easy? I doubt so."

Roan was right. Agis did kill a few Stage Two demon beasts with the help of another Foundation Establishment kid. But the numbers were anything but impressive. If not for his own personal strength, his team wouldn't even be in the first position at the moment. Not to mention that his arrogance was causing quite a few conflicts with the kids in his group. You can't really expect that bunch of underaged minds to follow orders strictly. In the end, two of the Energy Gathering Realm kids even got severely injured and had to return.

The next day, Roan woke up Julio and the others. They took their time getting prepared and immediately departed to the inner region of the Forest. Of course, Roan made sure to verify his bracelet so that his group wouldn't be too far away from the others.

On the way, he had Malaka, Julio, and Lenna dispose of all Stage One demon beasts. Since they were not purposely looking for them, there weren't many battles. As he looked at the progress of Julio and Lenna, he gave a small nod. They were improving as he expected.

Half a day later, Rean's group arrived at the border of the Inner Region. They found a few other Stage One Demon beasts first, but it didn't take long for a Stage Two to appear.

Back in the base, Hulian was watching Rean and Roan closely. He had great expectations for them. Even though they had weird Element Affinities, he was sure that they would sooner or later find a way to use them with enough training. But he never expected that Rean could already use his Light Element so well. The way Rean healed Julio and Lenna made him open his mouth wide at the end of every day!

Since then, he had been looking at them with even more interest. He saw the entire process where Roan trained Julio, Lenna, and Malaka. For someone who loves hard effort like him, he began to think that he found a kindred soul on Roan. That kind of harsh training was usually something that Hulian would only use for himself. But Roan didn't care and made the other kids pass through it every single day.

Now, Rean and Roan were finally entering the Inner Region, so his eyes were glued to see how they would fight. Since Rean can use his Light Element that well, perhaps Roan can use his Dark Element too.

The Stage Two demon beast that Rean's group found was Crimson Lion. It had the power of a Middle Stage Foundation Establishment cultivator. Not only that, but it also had a few subordinates who came with it.

"Julio, Lenna, and Malaka will deal with the Stage One demon beasts. Leave the Stage Two for me."

Rean looked at Roan and asked through their soul connection.

"Don't you want to attack it together?"

"No need, I'm feeling quite bored after so many days watching over those babies. Besides, since when did you start to care about me?"

"I don't, but our mother would be sad if something happened to you, so I'm helpless."

Roan snorted but didn't answer. As cold as he might be, he also likes that woman that made so much for him.

Rean stayed close to Julio and the others just in case he had to save them. As for Roan, he immediately pounced at the Crimson Lion. Stage Two Demon Beasts don't have intelligence, so it didn't care about Roan's size. As soon as it saw him coming at it, the Crimson Lion also attacked using full force.

In just a few seconds, the two were already close to each other. It was then that Roan's hair became a mix of Black and White. Sure enough, Roan wanted to finish it in one strike.

Hulian looked at that and was surprised. That's because he could see that both Rean and Roan's hairs changed at the same time. However, Rean wasn't participating in the battle.

'Just what is happening to those twins?'

He didn't time to think about it, though.

Roan used Rean's Light Element on his legs, and for a second, his speed far surpassed the Crimson Lion. All the Demon Beast could see was a flash of Black and White Light!

'Death Style, Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

Three Swords came at the Crimson Lion at once. All three powered by the Light Element while filled with Dark Element on the outside. The Lion tried to protect against the one that came for his face. But too bad, that wasn't a real one. Well, it wasn't totally fake either since it carried 70% of the power of the Real Sword.

Swish, Swish, Swish!

One sword on the neck, other on the face, and the last on the heart. The Lion almost lost his paws while protecting his face against the fake sword. As for the other two, the Lion simply didn't have anything in his body to use to protect against them. By the time Roan stopped and looked behind, the Crimson Lion had already fallen on the ground on a pool of blood! It was as dead as dead could be.

"Phew... that's more like it."

Rean shook his head as his hair went back to its pure white. He then turned his attention to Julio, Lenna, and Malaka, who were still fighting the Stage One demon beasts.

Back on the base, everyone heard three loud shouts.

"Impossible!"

Sure enough, they were Elder Hulian, Uncle Wen, and Tanzon. Those were the three guys who had been watching Roan's attack just now. They immediately understood that they had seen the same thing when they heard the others' voices. In the next second, they all looked at Alanda.

Alanda, on the other hand, just smiled. He felt quite good with those gazes.

'That's our Roan, alright?!'

Death... and me

Chapter 106: Roan's Compliment

They had all the reasons to be shocked by Roan's skills. First of all, the number of Foundation Establishment cultivators that can really use skills at Roan's level is minimal. Usually, those are descendants of prominent old families and clans with hundreds if not thousands of years of history. As mentioned before, skills for Foundation Establishment are extremely rare.

Another thing is Roan's background. Hulian had made sure to check it and knew that he came from a small tribe. There is no doubt that a place like that wouldn't have skills for Foundation Establishment cultivators. In fact, they wouldn't even have for Core Formation either.

Hulian couldn't help but send Alanda a Spiritual Sense message.

"Just where did he learn that skill? The level that he displayed far surpassed anything that I know. Not to mention that I have never seen that skill before."

Alanda smiled before answering.

"That was the Third Form of the Death Style, Three Claws of the Dragon. He created it himself."

"What?! Are you making fun of me?"

Alanda shook his head.

"I wouldn't dare to lie to an elder of the Dalamu Sect. I know very well what might happen to my tribe and me if I tried to do so."

Hulian narrowed his eyes for a second. Indeed, no one with a background like Alanda would try to make an enemy of their Dalamu Sect. But it was then that he noticed a problem.

"Wait? What do you mean with 'third form'?"

Alanda shrugged his shoulders before answering.

"It means exactly what it means. That is the third form. There is also the First and Second Forms that Roan created first. Anyway, I can only talk to this point. Roan was the one who came up with them, so elder Hulian will have to ask him about that. Although I know the First and Second Forms too, I can only use the First Form, and it is far from Roan's level."

Hulian pondered a bit before changing the topic.

"In that case, what about that change in the twins' Hair Colors? I might be wrong, but I'm almost sure that Roan used Rean's Light Element. Am I seeing things?"

Alanda confirmed as well.

"He did. Those twins were born with a particular connection between themselves, which allows them to exchange elements. If I were to guess, it probably has something to do with the fact that they are twins. But don't ask me how it works. Even I have no idea how such a thing is possible."

Hulian began to ponder about it. It doesn't matter how he looks at it, Roan is way too young to be able to create so many skills. And that Elemental Exchange is even more incredible.

'An inheritance, perhaps? No, that shouldn't be the case. His skill was way too perfect. It was evident that he created it based on the Light and Dark Elements. It might be able possible to use it with other elements as well, but I don't think it would be as good as what he showed. Even if he had found an Inheritance, there is no way it would be related to Light and Dark Elements. That means that he must have created it.'

Hulian continued to ponder until he finally thought about a possibility.

'Reincarnation? That would indeed explain his proficiency with his Element. However, would that mean that Rean is also a Reincarnator? That seems unlikely. I've never heard about a double reincarnation. Not to mention that during these last four days, it didn't look like Rean and Roan are close at all. Would you reincarnate together with someone you hate?'

Little did Hulian know that he hit the bullseye. Rean and Roan don't like each other but did really reincarnate together.

'Wait, there is a sure-fire way to confirm whether they are reincarnations or not.'

Hulian then disappeared from his spot and appeared right above the teleport formation.

"Activate the teleport formation, I need to go back to the sect immediately. Tell the other elders that I will return in a few hours."

The disciples taking care of the formation immediately complied with his orders. With a flash of silver light, Hulian disappeared.

Back on Rean's group side, Roan watched as Malaka, Lenna, and Julio dealt with the Stage One Demon Beasts, Lionesses. That Crimson Lion had 5 subordinates under his command, so it became a battle of 5 vs. 3. Rean and Roan, of course, did not intervene at all.

"They did quite well in sharing their jobs. Malaka is fighting two of them while Julio and Lenna work together to take care of the other three."

Rean nodded.

"Indeed. However, they are still taking too long to finish it. Especially Malaka."

However, Roan shook his head.

"I made Malaka hold those two without killing them on purpose. That way, Julio and Lenna will think that Malaka doesn't have the spare time to help them. This will definitely drag more of their potential out. Let's see how they deal with it while outnumbered."

Roan was right, Julio and Lenna really thought that Malaka couldn't help them. Not to mention that they knew Roan wouldn't help them at all, either. After so many days of hellish training, they felt like Roan

wouldn't step out even if they were about to die! Of course, that was just their misconceptions due to Roan's treatment. If it really came to this point, Roan would still step forward. However, Roan was more than happy that they are thinking like that.

Lenna and Julio's eyes were red as they did their best to defend and attack. It was then that Julio noticed an opening on the demon beast's attack. It came just when Lenna turned her back to one of them, so it was trying to take her by surprise.

"Lenna, get down!"

Lenna didn't know why Julio asked that, but after many days working together, she learned to trust Julio. At the same time that she moved, a spear passed right where she had been a split of a second ago. Although it wasn't a skill, Julio could at least control his Wind Element to make the attack more swift.

As the Spear passed above Lenna's head, a demon beast's head appeared just beside her. The Lioness was taken aback by that Spear. It was completely concealed by Lenna's body, so it didn't see the weapon until it was right in front of its eyes. The Lioness tried to dodge, but because it had pounced at Lenna, it was in mid-air at the moment. It simply couldn't change directions without a foothold.

Puch!

The Spear passed through the Demon Beast's skull, piercing it all the way to the other side. It quickly fell on the floor right after. It was as dead as dead could be.

One of Roan's eyebrows raised a bit after seeing that.

"That wasn't too shabby of a reaction. Julio noticed that the Lioness was going to pounce from Lenna's back and positioned himself so that the demon beast wouldn't see his Spear. Lenna also reacted really fast to his call. Otherwise, such a team play wouldn't have worked at all. It seems like she has got quite some trust on Julio after so many days of 'happy training' together."

Rean glanced at Roan on the corner of his eyes.

"Happy training, uh?"

Roan heard that and smiled faintly.

With one of the three Lionesses out, Lenna and Julio's burden instantly reduced. The battle continued for a while longer until they finally got rid of the other two. At the same time, Malaka also finished the two Lionesses who were attacking her. Of course, that was because she received Roan's authorization to do so.

Once everything was over, Roan looked at Julio and Lenna and commented.

"Although your teamwork is still ugly to the point I can barely keep watching, that first kill wasn't too terrible. Now, here are the things you should pay attention to."

Roan then started his endless stream of words while they moved to find the next demon beasts. Still, Julio and Lenna couldn't help but feel happy. That was the first time Roan had ever complimented something that they did...

It was a compliment... right? They weren't sure, but it was already a significant improvement.

Death... and me

Chapter 107: New or Old

Rean's group continued to run around the border of the Inner Region. After two hours, they had found a total of three Stage Two Demon Beasts. One thing worth pointing out is that in general, those demon beasts are rarely alone. They always have a few weaker ones of the same species following them.

Be it Rean or Roan, they had no problem dealing with them. First, their real combat power was far above their Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. As Sister Orb mentioned before, they could fight ordinary Advanced Stage Foundation Establishment cultivators. So it goes without saying that even a Peak Stage Two Demon Beast would most likely be helpless against them when they worked together.

It was also a good thing since Malaka's group could exercise against the weaker ones that followed them. This time, Julio and Lenna had a lot more time to rest between battles since they didn't find demon beasts all the time.

As time passed, the Death Team's position began to grow in the ranks. Of course, three days killing only Stage One demon beasts without having Rean and Roan's help made the gap between them and first place quite big. Just a few hours that wouldn't eliminate that difference.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

A ray of Light moved at extreme speeds against what seemed to be a giant red rabbit.

Puch!

It pierced through its right back leg, which immediately made it fall on the ground.

Roan appeared on the flank and finished it with the Third Form of the Death Style. It was a Blood Rabbit. In the first clash against Roan, it instantly got injured. Noticing the danger that it was in, the rabbit immediately turned around to flee. But as seen just a moment ago, it didn't get too far before breathing its last. Sure enough, it was another Stage Two Demon Beast.

Roan looked behind and saw several other Blood Rabbits who were in the middle of a battle against Malaka, Julio, and Lenna.

"This Demon Beast had quite a few underlings, no?"

Rean nodded.

"Well, it looked like a Rabbit, after all. I don't know if I could really compare it with a real rabbit from my previous world, but it seemed like it was quite fertile."

Roan nodded. At the moment, those three were fighting against 8 Stage One Blood Rabbits. However, Rean and Roan could see that they weren't that strong. It looked more like that used their advantage in numbers than individual prowess.

"Can they resist so many?"

"Give them a chance, but stay close to them just in case."

Numbers had its own quality, so Julio and Lenna had a hard time to hold against them. They kept retreating without stop as Malaka did her best to hold a few of them. Even for Malaka, too many enemies were too hard to deal with.

Finally, a breach appeared in Julio's defense, and one of the Blood Rabbits targeted his neck. But just as it was about to hit its target, a ray of Black Light Pierced its shoulders. Julio couldn't help but sweat cold when the Blood Rabbit's teeth passed just a few centimeters of his neck.

"How can you leave your guard down? You have a fucking Spiritual Sense, so use it! How come you didn't notice it coming from your side?"

Roan was harsh as always, which put quite a lot more pressure on Julio. It was not that his Spiritual Sense couldn't see the Blood Rabbit, it's just that there were too many for him to focus on. That's why he missed this last one's attack.

Spiritual Sense wasn't exactly like a 360 degrees sensor. You could cover this area, but you had to lock on the target as well, or you might miss it. Keeping several targets under watch was quite difficult for someone at Julio's level.

However, Roan was quite impressed with Lenna's awareness. Be it during the Lionesses fight or this time around against the Blood Rabbits, it seemed like she had some talent at sharing her attention everywhere. It was easy to see since her cultivation was a lot smaller than Julio's. Still, she hadn't been taken by surprise even once in this fight.

As for Malaka. Well, she was used to this kind of treatment anyway. Just how many times Roan made Malaka battle Stage One demon beasts on the nearby forests of the Varen Tribe? Those were dark memories, so Malaka didn't want to remember them, though.

Finally, the first Blood Rabbit fell. With that, a chain reaction began, and the others died one after another. In the end, the last three tried to run away, but they were quickly caught by Malaka and the others. Without their numbers' advantage, there wasn't much of a threat coming from them.

"Good. Although a certain someone wanted to offer his neck on a plate for the Blood Rabbits, the rest of the battle wasn't too bad. It seems like your teamwork is improving considerably. Let's go find the next group."

Julio felt embarrassed but didn't complain. After all, Roan had still saved his life just a moment ago.

Half a day passed since Rean's group entered the Inner Region, but they didn't find many difficulties.

Back on the base beside the Dalamu Sect's private demon forest, the teleport formation inside the build began to shine with Silver Light. Once the Light finally settled, a man appeared above it. That was obviously Elder Hulian. Together with him, there was a female cultivator. Her name was Tarshalia Wolkans, an Advantaged Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator.

"Well, where are they?"

Hulian smiled before answering.

"Let's check the Pillar. It should be easy after that."

The two of them sent their Spiritual Sense into the ranking pillar and soon found Rean and Roan's location. They also had their own bracelets, so they quickly marked which one of the red points on it represented the twins' group.

Without giving any explanation, the two of them took flight and dashed into the forest. The other elders saw that and felt quite puzzled. However, since it was Hulian's time to organize the Sect Entrance Exam, they didn't mind it that much.

What took Rean's group hours to arrive, only took Hulian and Tarshalia around 15 minutes. Eventually, they could see Rean and Roan in the middle of the forest with their Spiritual Sense.

"I see the twins. All I need to check is the connection of their souls with their bodies, correct?"

Hulian nodded.

"Yes, please do."

The way Hulian thought to check whether Rean and Roan were reincarnations was quite simple. Those who reincarnate with their memories would not be well connected with their own bodies. That's because they would usually pick up a body that they felt to have the highest potential. That being said, they would enter the body of someone else's soul. In the end, the soul that was supposed to enter that body will go back into the Reincarnation Path once more to wait for a new chance.

Since that body was not supposed to be theirs, the connection with the reincarnations and their new bodies would be below average.

Usually, the average percentage of synchronization would be between 90 to 95%. However, an expert who kept memories for reincarnation would already be fortunate if he or she achieved 80%. After all, that wasn't supposed to be their bodies to start with.

Because of Hulian's request, Tarshalia already had an idea about what he wanted to verify. She looked at the twins as she began to draw a few Seals on the air. As those seal accumulated, spiritual energy started to rush at them.

"Well, let's see if they are 'new' or actually 'old' friends."

Death... and me

Chapter 108: Dead?

[Hmm?]

Rean and Roan didn't notice anything, but Sister Orb was totally different.

[What is this...? Seals? I'm not from this Universe, so I'm not sure what they are for... I better block them for the time being.]

Back on Tarshalia's side, her Seals in the air kept floating until finally, they gave her a result.

"This..."

Hulian noticed Tarshalia's change in expression and couldn't help but ask.

"What is it? Are they below 90%?"

Tarshalia nodded.

"Yes..."

Hulian's eyes lit up.

'So they are really reincarnations!'

However, before Hulian could finish forming this idea in his mind, Tarshalia continued.

"But there is a problem, their soul and body connection is... 0%."

"Wait, what?!"

Hulian thought like he had heard a joke.

"Are you sure it is 0%? Because that would mean..."

Tarshalia nodded.

"I know what that means. It is as if they are dead! Only in death would someone's soul lose the connection with their bodies entirely."

Hulian looked at Rean and Roan with his Spiritual Sense.

"It doesn't matter how I see it; they are very well alive and kicking! If some dark arts were used to lock their souls inside, their connection would be shallow, but definitely not 0%. Not to mention that the bodies used by them were dead ones. But Rean and Roan are absolutely alive, or at least, their bodies definitely are."

Tarshalia nodded.

"I know, I can see that with my Spiritual Sense too. However, the results still show 0%."

"Try it again, maybe you failed while drawing your Seals."

Usually, Tarshalia would be enraged by that comment. But even she had to admit that it could only be a mistake. There is no way that Rean and Roan are dead.

Tarshalia then took a deep breath and restarted the process, just for Sister Orb to block her once more. Two times, three times, four times. It kept showing 0%. In the end, Tarshalia used her Seal on Julio, Malaka, and Lenna. Finally, she got the results she wanted. All three of them had connections between 90 to 95%. That proved that she wasn't mistaking her readings.

"Just what is happening with those two?"

Hulian thought a little before saying.

"According to their protector, Rean and Roan have the ability to exchange the Elements that they can use. Roan can use Rean's Light Element, and Rean can do the same with Roan's Dark one. Their hair colors even change when that happens, becoming a mix of white and black. Do you think this anomaly in those twins could be causing these results in your search?"

That was the first time Tarshalia heard something like that.

"This... I really don't know. I've never heard of such a phenomenon before. However, that could really be the case, unless..."

Hulian's interest was immediately picked.

"Unless what?!"

"Unless someone is purposely intervening with my search. But I'm already in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. So even if it was a Nascent Soul Realm expert, I would still detect it. In fact, I'm confident that even a Soul Transformation Realm would still leave some traces behind. However, there is absolutely nothing in my readings that show it."

Hulian understood what Tarshalia meant.

"Are you saying that it might be a... Saint Realm expert? Ridiculous! I refuse to believe that a Saint Realm expert would lose his or her time in a place like this."

Tarshalia immediately nodded.

"I agree with you. That's why I struggled to say that. After all, no one would believe this notion. In that case, we are only left with one option. These twins' connection is really affecting the readings, which also means that this connection is made through their Souls."

Hulian agreed with her.

"This is a lot more plausible than the Saint Realm option. Still, if that is the case, there is no way to find out whether they are reincarnations or not."

Tarshalia sighed.

"Most likely, they are not. After all, would two reincarnations try something as dangerous as a soul connection? I don't know if something like this is possible, but I can guarantee that the risks would be way too high!"

"Besides, if you were an expert strong enough to brand your soul and keep your memories for reincarnation, why would you do something that risky? There is simply no need for an expert at this level to do that due to their own knowledge. They would be more than competent enough to raise back to their peak on their own."

Hulian had to admit that Tarshalia is right.

"That's not all. You need to be at least above the Saint Realm if you want to brand your soul. I refuse to believe that such an expert would lose his time to enter our Dalamu Sect, right? They would be much better alone."

Hulian nodded his head once more.

"I'll keep an eye on them. Even though they are probably not reincarnations, I can't simply ignore this. That 0% result is bothering me, after all."

Tarshalia agreed with Hulian.

"That's the correct decision. There is nothing bad in keeping one's guard up. Anyway, you can continue with your entrance exam, I'm going back to the sect."

Hulian quickly bowed to Tarshalia.

"Thank you for your help. Keep it a secret, as we discussed before."

She nodded and quickly departed, soon disappearing in the distance.

Hulian looked at Rean and Roan from above for a few more hours after that. Sure enough, Rean and Roan really impressed him. Those two are in entirely different leagues compared to others, especially Roan.

"Well, their cultivation is still shallow, so it would take decades for them to present the sect any degree of danger. As long as they mean no harm to the Dalamu Sect, then I'm okay with anything."

Hulian then turned around and returned to the base.

As for Rean and Roan, they kept going on their hunt as if nothing had happened. Sister Orb was the only one who knew about what happened, but she decided not to comment.

[I need to finish analyzing those Seals before I can get a conclusion.]

Just like that, the time continued to pass. Rean's group finished their fourth day six positions higher, and they are now the 31st one.

Death... and me

Chapter 109: Gentle

"Go wash yourselves, eat, and sleep! Also, there are no extra clothes for you today. So you better take your time to wash them as well."

Julio, Lenna, and Malaka could only follow Roan's orders. Well, Malaka has been washing her clothes anyway. However, Rean and Roan also jumped into the river. After all, even if they were not even sweating, several days without washing their bodies left them quite sticky.

The same thing as always happened after. Rean took care of the first half of the night while Roan took care of the next. Julio kept asking to let him help with that too, but Roan always refused. Especially now that they are close to the Stage Two Demon beasts. As for Malaka and Lenna, those two little girls had learned to not even bother trying anymore.

On the next day, the hunting continued. But this time, Rean's group went a little further from the border of the Inner Region. Sure enough, they did find more Stage Two Demon Beasts. There was even an occasion where they found a group of Demon Beasts with two of them. This time, Julio and Lenna were put through a real test. That's because Rean and Roan had to deal with the Stage Two Demon beasts, so they didn't have time to care about them.

Well, at least that's what they felt like. But the truth was that those Stage Two demon beasts were on the weak side. Their power was equivalent to an Initial Stage Foundation Establishment Realm. But both Rean and Roan had combat power of Advanced Stage ones. So if necessary, one of them could still retreat to help the kids while the other could deal with those Stage Two demon beasts on his own.

But in the end, that was not necessary, Julio and Lenna began to have much better teamwork with Malaka. With her support, they slowly grinded out the Stage One demon beasts of this group. Of course, they aren't some geniuses or anything, so there had been several cuts and bruises here and there. Even Malaka got some on them, but she also held the most significant burden.

"Good. We had to deal with two Stage Two demon beasts, so we wouldn't have to time save your asses if you were about to die. Keep going like this. Rean will heal you all now."

Rean felt like he was some kind of unlimited healing pill stock. Still, he did heal the three kids before they continued.

Soon, the first week went by. By now, the Death Team was already in the 13th position of the rank. Not only that, but their distance to the first place reduced by almost half.

On the morning of the eighth day, Roan woke everyone up. As they eat their breakfast, he took the chance to announce the day's schedule.

"It's been a week already, so Malaka, Julio, and Lenna's teamwork improved significantly. Malaka isn't doing all the job alone as it was at the start. That being said, we are leaving the border and diving right in the middle of the Inner Region. That also means more and stronger demon beasts. There might even be a moment where three or more Stage Two demon beasts appear."

"So, you better put your all from now on. Otherwise, don't blame me if you end inside some demon beast's belly."

Julio and Lenna felt a chill on their backs. They were able to deal with everything, but there are still times when they get injured badly. Malaka is basically the only one in their midst that can really hold on her own. Of course, Malaka had spent years with Rean and Roan, so that was to be expected.

Lenna then decided to ask for something else.

"Can you wait for just one hour? I think I can finally make a breakthrough into the Middle Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm."

After hearing that, one of Roan's eyebrows raised in surprise. He got up and then pressed his hand against Lenna's Dantian position.

Lenna is only eleven years old girl, but she already has some awareness between genders. So when Roan suddenly made that action, her face still got a little red.

"Circulate your Spiritual Energy as if you intend to make a breakthrough. I need to see if you are really ready or just forcing it."

Lenna quickly calmed down and executed Roan's orders. Spiritual Energy began to gather around her, and it was guided to her Dantian through her meridians. A few minutes later, Roan finally took his hand back.

"Good, seems like all the training paid off. Your foundation is as sturdy as it could possibly be."

Roan then put his hand inside his bag and teleported some spirit stones from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm into his hand.

"Use these Spirit Stones so that there won't be a problem with lack of energy. Go ahead and make your breakthrough without worries, we will protect you while it."

Lenna was shocked to hear that. This 'gentle' Roan was completely unfamiliar to her, and even Malaka was taken aback.

Rean then put his hand on Roan's shoulder before asking.

"Has spring finally arrived for you?"

Roan's mouth twitched.

"I don't know if spring arrived for me, but I can make your body turn as cold as the winter if you continue spouting nonsense."

Rean couldn't help but burst out in laughter.

Malaka, however, didn't like it.

"Not fair, you never treated me this well!"

Still, Roan just snorted.

"If I treat you well, you will only slack off. For kids like you, I need to be harsh all the time. Also, if you keep complaining, I don't mind giving 'private fighting lessons' while we are here."

Malaka's mouth immediately closed, even her breath became slower than usual so that she wouldn't too much sound. Sure enough, Roan is this hyperactive girl's nemesis.

"Alright, give Lenna some space while she concentrates on her breakthrough. Once she finishes, we are going to leave immediately."

Everyone nodded as Lenna began to consumed the Spirit Stones. She was quite happy that she could breakthrough this early, so she still felt thankful to Roan. Well... it was a hell of a week he made her pass through, so that gratitude was barely perceptible...

Death... and me

Chapter 110: New Mission

It was just a small realm breakthrough, so there wouldn't be problems even without the Spirit Stones. Of course, having them made it faster and less likely to fail nonetheless. After just 20 minutes or so, a wave of Spiritual Energy rushed out of Lenna's body.

Obviously, it caught everyone's attention. As Roan looked at her, he nodded with a satisfied expression.

"Good. It seems it went very smoothly."

He then looked at the rest.

"Alright, now that she finished, we are moving out. Make sure to stay close to each other and tell if you notice something suspicious. Depending on how much you progress you make in this last week, I might let you three fight a Stage Two demon beast to test your abilities."

Malaka and the other two sweated cold. Even Malaka doesn't think that she can contend against a Stage Two Demon Beast, let alone Julio and Lenna.

Roan, of course, noticed that, so he couldn't help but chuckle.

"Let's go!"

Their group quickly departed. But at the same time, their route was the same as the other groups. Those groups in the bracelet formation were obviously the strong ones with Foundation Establishment in their midst. Sure enough, Roan made sure to never be too far away from the others.

Time continued to pass, and another three days went by. With Rean's group's new hunting area, their position in the rank began to soar at high speeds. By now, they were already in the third place, and it would take at most a few more hours before they surpassed the second.

Agis, the leader of the first positioned group, obviously noticed their approach. After all, it was possible to check the ranking positions in the bracelet as well. It was made on purpose so that the teams would put even more effort into their test. The Kids' parents told them to be positioned as high as possible. After all, it would catch the elders' attention and bring benefits in the long term while they are part of the Sect.

Ten days of teamwork would help even a disorganized group to work better together, let alone Agis's one that had two Foundation Establishment at the forefront. Agis continued to be as arrogant as ever, but the other kids simply began to ignore this attitude of his. To be more precise, they started to follow the words of the second Foundation Establishment kid, a guy called Loki Hatun. He has a Green Color aptitude, but thanks to his family, he had enough resources to push into the Foundation Establishment before the exam started.

It is not because someone came from a well off family that they would turn arrogant like Agis, and Loki was pretty much this type of kid. The reason he joined Agis's group was that he thought that it would be the fastest way to get the first place.

Agis noticed that as well. But since they were working better and killing more, he ignored it. For him, the important thing is to get first place. Not to mention that he was still the one registered as the leader of this group.

Unfortunately for him, he underestimated the level of the monitoring formation covering this private demon beast forest. As the only Red Color Aptitude, he was one of the most viewed kids. Soon, everyone began to notice that Agis was losing his leadership. His protector, for example, had a terrible expression on his face as time passed. However, he often sighed a lot too.

He knew why it was like this. Agis had been treated with a golden spoon ever since his talent was found out in the clan, and it turned him into this spoiled kid. Because he had the ancestor's protection, no one, not even his parents, dared to rebuke him. This is now the final result of such an education.

The Core Formation elders who were observing him couldn't help but shook their heads. Since he is a Red Color Aptitude kid, none of them would give him up. But they understood in these last ten days. Agis will need harsh training on the mental side once everything is over.

"I guess it can't be helped. Most of those highly talented kids with significant backgrounds turn out like this. Just look at the others Blue and Green talents with expensive clothes. Most of them act pretty much like Agis."

Another elder nodded before saying.

"Well, we are used to this kind of new members anyway. Soon, they will understand how useless their backgrounds are once they enter the Sect. Still, Agis isn't completely helpless. Even though he is losing his leadership in his group, he can swallow it for the sake of the first place. There is still hope for him. I'll be sure to give him the proper training later so that he will change that pride of him into something more constructive."

"Hmph! You talk as if he is already entering your faction. Look at the score, the way things are going, he will most likely join my side. The one who will give him the right mental training will be my group."

None of those core elders wanted to lose the only Red Talent, so they once again began to argue with each other.

Rean's group passed the second positioned one in the raking by the end of the 10th day. On the 11th, the difference between Agis and them reduced even more. Finally, Agis began to lose his patience again.

How can he accept being second with his superior talent? Because of that, he decided to change his plans and go even deeper into the Inner Region.

Loki, of course, noticed it not too long after.

"Hey, Agis, we will get too close to the Core Region!"

Still, Agis didn't mind.

"Haven't you seen the rank, idiot? That Death Team is almost passing us! There is no doubt that they are very deep into the forest as well. If we want to win, we need more Stage Two demon beasts! Stop complaining and follow me!"

Too bad, though. Rean's group wasn't so deep as he thought. In fact, there are quite a few groups that went further than them because they also wanted to go higher in the rank. The difference in Rean's group was pretty simple, the efficiency of Roan's commands combined with his Death Style.

Roan's Death Style was focused on killing as fast as possible while keeping oneself safe. It was far more advanced than any of the kids' weapons' styles. So their killing time was simply unbeatable! Not to mention that both Rean and Roan had the power of Advanced Stage Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators.

Another point is that Agis and the groups advancing further into the forest are making another mistake. There is indeed more Stage Two Demon Beasts over there, but they are also stronger than the ones closer to the outer region border. So their killing number would probably not change much at the same time that they would be in even greater danger.

Because Rean's Group killed their target too fast, they had a lot more time to look for more of these weak Stage Two demon beasts. It was as simple as that.

Roan, of course, didn't know about Agis's group or the others, nor would he care even if he knew. For him, as long as he takes the first position, that will be fine. He had to prove that Malaka's words weren't wrong. It was his pride as a big brother.

But it was at this moment that Rean and Roan received a message from Sister Orb. Or to be more specific, from the Soul Gem System.

A few hours later, the core elders noticed what kind of decision Agis made.

"That idiot is going too deep. Does he think he is a match for the Stage Three Demon Beasts?"

"It seems like we need to send someone to prevent the worst. We can't let a Red Color die just like that."

"Wouldn't it be against the Sect's rules? We shouldn't give any support to any of the kids passing through it. Otherwise, what about the kids who died already? More than 200 passed away already."

"So do we let him die just like that? How many years will we have to wait for another Red Color Aptitude? It might be just another two or three years, but it might also be decades!"

These elders continued to argue until finally, one of the Inner Sect elders intervened. In fact, the one who spoke was hulan, the organizer of the tests this time around.

"Hum...? Is it me, or is there another group following Agis's right behind?"

The elders quickly expanded the map around Agis's group, soon noticing that as well.

Back on Rean's group side, Rean and Roan were cursing without stop.

"Sister Orb, you can't do it with us! That's a suicide mission!"

Roan also complained.

"It is on purpose, right? We haven't talked with you for some time, so you are doing it to get back at us!"

[I wish you were right. At least, it would be interesting seeing your faces. However, it has nothing to do with me. The Soul Gem system opens its own Authority Raising Missions whenever it wants. You can only blame your luck. But don't worry, even if you die, I will simply be transferred to a new host. You already did good enough to help me reach this side of the universe.]

The twins felt like crying but had no tears.

Who the hell cares if you are going to be transferred or not? The important thing here is that we will be dead if it really happens!

"Sister Orb, can't you simply change the content of the quest like you did last time?"

[I can't. In fact, I couldn't back then, either. It's just that I had hidden the other missions available, leaving only the 'brotherly affection' mission for you to see. But this time, this is really the only mission available.]

"Fuck! So it was really on purpose at that time!"

[Are you sure you want to talk about it now? I think you should be more worried about how to pass this test.]

Rean and Roan smiled bitterly. She was right; they could only comply with the system.

A few hours earlier.

[Authory Mission has Started: Sect members are the same as brothers and sisters, people that you should treat dearly!

Mission Objective: Save the first positioned group from being killed by the Stage Three Demon Beast, Inferno Wolf.

Target: No more than 3 members of the group can die.

Reward: 100 Destiny Points.

Failure Penalty: 1000 Destiny Points. In case the hosts can't provide the points, hosts shall be wiped out, and a new host search will start.]