

## Death 1011

Death... and me

Chapter 1011: Time For Battle

"They did it!"

In the elders' room, Kayla's group jumped for joy. Their Lukimira Sect had obtained a Bronze Low-level Divine Vein 500 years ago. That was the only one they had ever had. Now, they obtained a Silver Low-level Divine Vein. How could they not be happy?

However, they were basically the only ones that were happy. In fact, the Soul Guild branch had unsightly expressions on their faces. Unfortunately, no one could do anything about it now that Fabio Kamos intervened on the Lukimira Sect's behalf. No one dared to defy the words of a Royal Family member in a city as small as Cosec.

Another person with an ugly expression was obviously Ranmgues. He saw that his disciple had entered the Soul Power competition. However, let alone trying to beat the Lukimira Sect. He would have to first win the test, which was impossible for his disciple. Instead, Ranmgues could only think about how many more categories those twins would take part in.

Kayla then looked at Ranmgues with a smug face, telling him, "Our first point is finally here, Ranmgues. Just one more, and we'll catch up with you."

Ranmgues narrowed his eyes in response but didn't say anything.

Back in the Soul Power testing room, everyone took a look at the scoreboard after Rean finished his display.

-1st: Rean Larks, Lukimira Sect - 14955 Points.-

-2nd: Roan Larks, Lukimira Sect - 13537 Points.-

-3rd: Sansa Sil, Soul Guild - 13353 Points.-

-4th: Vermont Wafols, Wafols Clan - 11667 Points.-

-5th: Hudi Hadrin, Soul Guild - 9958

-6th: Oglico, Vintchi Sect - 9439 Points.-

-7th: Cloud Sahagin, Sahagin Clan - 9212 Points.-

-8th: Samu Kip, Kip Clan - 9065 Points.-

-9th: Fingpi Tuan, Distro Sect - 8958 Points.-

-10th: Ancel Yubao, Polivas Sect - 8751 Points.-

As mentioned before, the Soul Power competition would reward the ten first places, so they had to stop by Erfalis to collect their prizes... except for Rean. "Divine Veins are awarded to the organization you're a part of. That means it will be delivered to your Sect Leader."

Rean didn't mind it as he stepped through the spatial door that once again appeared. Roan came right behind him with Trinio and Kalau. By now, both of them already considered those twins to be gods.

"Rean, you didn't forget our deal, right?! Quick! Give me the training method you used to reach your level!"

Kalau was obviously interested as well. "What?! You're seriously giving him that? Why? If that's the case, give it to me as well!"

Rean laughed out loud while Roan didn't care. Leaving the Light Element and the advantage brought about by their energies fusing, Rean and Roan's Soul Power was still the fruit of a hellish training. That part alone gave Roan no problems sharing it. With that being said, Rean quickly took out two jade slips and passed them to the duo, telling them, "Here you go. I won't say you can reach our level by just following it, but you won't be far off. The only question is whether you can follow it or not."

Rean and Roan then returned to the Lukimira Sect's group as Trinio and Kalau checked the jade slips' contents. However, their expression turned ugly once they finished reading it. 'Would I even be alive once I finish one set of this routine?' Sure enough, they had the same fears as well.

Wamil, Iulia, Casil, Gobef, and everyone else congratulated them for their victory. Rean just smiled in response as he replied, "I was already considering my victory in it, wasn't I?" Rean then looked at Roan and asked, "By the way, how many Divine Stones did you get from being second place?"

Roan then checked the spatial ring that was given to him on the exit before replying, "Same as you, 500. Not too bad."

Wamil's group sighed in wonder. Rean already got 500 himself. Now Roan got another 500. That amount of wealth would make most Saint Realm cultivators jealous. Given a chance, even some Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators might eye it if they were poor. Within Wamil's group, none of them had ever experienced having so many Divine Stones.

By now, this group of unknown disciples of the Lukimira Sect had become the center of attention in the room. There wasn't a single eye in their surroundings that wasn't directed at them. Well, that was to be expected.

Nevertheless, the assembling wouldn't stop just because of that. A few minutes later, Fabio came out once again and opened the next spatial door to the next testing room. "Let's continue with the side-occupation contests. The next one is for Divine Soul Tunists. Those who will take part in it, go ahead and enter the testing room."

Rean and Roan had never heard about this occupation in the Realm of Mortals. However, it was indeed a side-occupation in the Realm of Gods. From what they knew, it involved using sound. However, the sound wasn't made through air vibration like when someone talks. Instead, the sound waves were created with Divine Energy itself.

Of course, Rean and Roan knew absolutely nothing about this kind of side occupation, nor did they know much of anything else that came after it. They simply stayed outside and waited for those tests to go on.

Lukimira and Qianbel Sect would have a disciple or another taking part in the side occupations, with victories and losses on both sides. By the time the side occupations tests were over, Lukimira had 4 points while Qianbel got 6.

That greatly relieved Ranmgues, who was afraid of the twins entering every single category. "Hey, Kayla. Didn't you say something about catching up to us? How come we got two points ahead of you again?"

Kayla thought that she would get more points than that, but she wasn't sad anyway. "Oh well. Who cares? Even if your Qianbel Sect takes the Divine Stone Mine for the next 100 years, it is us who have a Silver Low-level Divine Vein for use. Hahaha!"

Sure enough, even the loss of the mine couldn't affect Kayla anymore. The main objective of this assembly was already very well completed.

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Chapter 1012: You Can Start

Seeing Kayla's happiness with her Divine Vein, Ranmgues could not help but ask with a hint of annoyance, "Since you're so happy with your Divine Vein, why don't you leave the mine for us these next 100 years?"

Kayla shrugged her shoulders as she replied, her expression carefree, "If I get another Divine Vein, I'll give you the mine for the next 100 years. Hahaha!"

Ranmgues pondered over it for a bit before smiling back. "Very well. I hope you keep your word."

"Wait, are you serious?" Kayla was taken aback by Ranmgues's words. "I'm just pulling your leg here."

Ranmgues didn't seem to care. "We still have a two-point advantage, so it's not like my Qianbel Sect lost the mine already. However, something tells me that those twins you found who knows where are not simple. Perhaps, you really will get another Divine Vein."

Let alone Kayla, even the elders of Qianbel were surprised with Ranmgues's stance. Ranmgues then looked back at the illusory formation while saying, "Well, that's just a thought of mine. Our Qianbel

Sect's disciples will definitely try their best in the battles to get the mine through the points. It's just that since you promised to give the mine if you get another Divine Vein, I might as well hope they get one if they perform better than my sect."

Kayla somehow felt that she had been tricked. However, that wasn't a problem. If Ranmgues was right and the twins truly got another Divine Vein, then she would give up the next 100 years of mining happily to the other sect. "As the Lukimira Sect Master, I'll keep my word. Not that I think they can get another Divine Vein anyway."

That was the same for everyone. Sure, the twins showed an incredible performance in the Soul Power test. However, their competitors were battle-focused cultivators to start with. Besides, they didn't really battle but tricked the others into doing it against each other. In the battles, there were even some cultivators at the Middle Stage of the Saint Realm. Asking the twins to win those competitions was the same as asking them to battle an entire realm above their level. Unless some stroke of luck happens, that would be ridiculous in most minds.

Fabio was also waiting for this battle event as it was the most entertaining one. Sadly, it was still not the right time for it. He had to go through the odd categories first. With that, another spatial door appeared.

"Alright, let's continue." Another spatial door appeared as Fabio talked. "The next test is Divine Energy Capability. If you're confident in the amount of Divine Energy you can store and use, go ahead and enter this spatial door."

The Divine Energy Capability and Strength Test were some of the contests with the lowest reward, only giving Bronze Low-level Divine Veins as rewards. They didn't even have Divine Stones for those at second place and below either. Nevertheless, there was no lack of powers who would love to get their hands on that Divine Vein as almost none of them could even afford that.

Other contests with low rewards would be the Stealth and Speed tests, which only gave Bronze Middle-level Divine Veins. They were just slightly better than the Low-level ones.

Rean then looked at Roan and told him, "Well, if there's anyone who can win this, that's definitely you. Not that it will be easy with the cultivation difference, of course. Anyways, I'll just stay outside."

Roan nodded and entered the spatial door. The Divine Energy Capability test indeed favored those with the highest cultivations. After all, the higher one's realm, the more Divine Energy one's Dantian could hold. However, one must remember that the twins' dantians were capable of holding around three times more Divine Energy than normal ones.

As for why only Roan came into the test, that's because his Divine Energy Capability was slightly better than Rean. It was basically a balance if one thought about it. Rean's Soul Power was just somewhat better than Roan, after all. The reason was simple. Roan built the training routines for Rean and everyone else, making it as difficult as his own. However, in the end, no one understood his methods as well as himself. That always gave him a slightly better result when it came to Divine Energy Capability than Rean.

Another reason Roan took part in the test was how the test itself worked.

The elder responsible for it quickly came forward and explained, "This test is very simple and quick." He then pointed at a row of cubes that seemed to be affixed to the ground. "There is one formation cube for each one of you. As long as you pour your Divine Energy inside the cube, it will float while the wires attached to them will try to pull the cubes back to the ground. Easy, right?"

"There's a one-meter mark on the wall behind the cubes. Your cubes must always stay above that mark. If it falls even a single centimeter under it, the formation will turn off, making the cube fall straight away. Our staff will then mark down how long you held your cube above one meter. In the end, the one who holds it with their Divine Energy the longest wins."

It was indeed extremely simple and straightforward. It gave no room for cheating as the only thing that could make the cube go up was Divine Energy, nothing else.

The elder then warned everyone as he continued, "Even if someone else tries to help, it will be useless as the cube only accepts the Divine Energy of the first person who touched it. Any other Divine Energy reading will be completely dispersed. With that being said, don't think you have a hidden advantage just because you came with a few of your friends."

Well, everyone had already expected that. Otherwise, the assembly would just be a huge joke.

"Now then, position yourselves in front of the cubes. Don't try to disturb the other cultivators around you since it'll just be a waste of time. I guarantee it. We only want to see the cultivator with the best Divine Energy Capability, that's all."

Soon, everyone got into position.

"Good! You can start... now!"

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Chapter 1013: Settled

Well, although Divine Energy Capability was very important for a cultivator, the same could be said for their control over it. This test benefited those with high amounts of Divine Energy, sure. However, it would be useless if one didn't know how to control it properly.

Control might not look like it had anything to do with the amount one could store. However, that was wrong. Control was directly linked to it. The cubes accepted Divine Energy to go up, but how one would distribute it inside the cube, how much, and at what rate...suppose a cultivator has 100 points of Divine Energy while another one has one 90. The guy with 100 spends 10 points of Divine Energy per hour. While the one with 90 points can do the same thing, spending only 8 points per hour. In the end, who has the best capability? Obviously, it would be the guy with 90 points since the guy with 100 points would run out of Divine Energy earlier.

That was how this test worked and why Roan joined, even though he was an entire realm below the people with the highest cultivations. Not only was his natural Divine Energy reserves three times larger than someone at his own level, but his control was also top-notch.

The only irredeemable thing was that...this competition was too boring! All the participants did was keep the cube above one meter from the ground, that's all.

Fortunately, the cube was made to use a huge amount of Divine Energy nonstop. With that said, those with the lowest Divine Energy Capability and control didn't take more than a minute to let their cubes drop from one meter. Their results were quickly noted down as they stepped aside to watch the rest of the competitors.

Rean watched it from outside and couldn't help but yawn, muttering to himself, "So boring..."

Well, everyone was more or less feeling the same. The only ones not feeling like that were obviously the participants themselves. It was very hard to keep up with the cubes' absorption speed.

Ten minutes into the test, over 30% of the participants had already left.

By twenty minutes, over 50% were gone.

Everything continued like that for one hour, when the number of participants had finally dropped to less than one hundred. Only then did people return to pay attention to it. It wasn't because the test had become more interesting now. No! Instead, it was because Roan was basically the only cultivator below the Saint Realm who was still holding on.

The twins already got so much attention. And now, here they were, messing everything up again.

One hour and ten minutes. The number dropped to just twenty cultivators... and the black-haired Soul Transformation cultivator was still there.

One hour and fifteen minutes. Only nine cultivators remained...with Roan and his Soul Transformation Realm cultivation still in the mix.

One hour and twenty minutes. By now, everyone could tell that this test would finish soon. Those nine cultivators had become only three...with Roan still there.

Let alone the elders of the several powers, even Fabio found Roan's Divine Energy Capability ridiculous for his cultivation level. 'How many cultivators in the Royal Family can match his Divine Energy reserves at the same cultivation level? Probably only twenty or so. Even I am starting to become curious as to how the twins ended up in such a small city.'

Fabio then shook his head after that. 'No, perhaps it's his Divine Energy Control that's making up for his lack of cultivation. However, that only makes it even more impressive.'



One hour and eighteen minutes. Only two cultivators remained in the test. One of them was a guy called Ion Ui, a member of the Praler Sect. As mentioned before, this was one of the three top sects of the Cosec City Region. As for the other, it was obviously Roan and his near-forgotten Lukimira Sect.

Both he and Ion had ugly expressions, obviously showing how hard it was to keep the cube up. In Ion's case, his pride simply didn't allow him to lose to someone at the Middle Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm, so he held on. As for Roan, he only wanted to know his limit. If a Divine Vein came out of it, then so be it. He couldn't care less about Ion.

The test continued for three more minutes until finally...

\*Clang...\*

A cube fell on the ground after it descended below one meter. With that, the winner had been decided...and it was Roan!

\*Wow!\*

The Praler Sect couldn't believe he lost this test as he knew just how big Ion's Divine Energy Reserves were. "Impossible!"

Obviously, Ion thought the same thing, exclaiming, "How the hell are you still holding on?! You must be cheating!"

Roan glanced at him for a moment while he did his best to keep the cube above one meter. "Hmph! Sure, my Divine Energy Capability is slightly lacking compared to yours. That much, I admit. However, you SUCK at controlling it. Now, shut up because I haven't finished yet."

Ion was taken aback for a moment. However, he didn't dare to do anything as the City Lord elder was watching. Anyone who disturbed a competitor would be immediately eliminated from the assembling.

Even though Roan said that, Ion was indeed an entire realm above himself. Roan was also at his limit at the moment. In the end, Roan was only able to hold for another minute or so before his cube fell on the

ground. His result was very similar to Ion, so he understood that his limit at the moment was somewhere around the Middle Stage of the Saint Realm.

Back in the elders' room, Kayla didn't even know what to say anymore. All she could feel was the countless gazes on her from all around. Of course, she was also extremely happy with the result, and so were Cynthia, Wuxan, Juis, and the other Lukimira Sect elders.

Surprisingly though, the first one to laugh out loud was Ranmgues. "Hahaha! Hey, Kayla. I hope you stick to your words."

Obviously, Kayla knew what she said before. "Hmph! I have two Divine Veins now. Of course, I won't renege on our agreement. The mine is Qianbel's for the next 100 years."

It would be a lie if Ranmgues said he wasn't jealous. Hell, it would be hard to find some other organization there that wasn't. However, guaranteeing the Divine Stone Mine was already a very good outcome for him. After all, that was his Qianbel Sect's main objective when they arrived at the assembly. "Then, it is settled."

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Chapter 1014: Rean's Performance

Kayla nodded in response before paying attention to the competition once again, muttering to herself, "Perhaps...we can get more than two Divine Veins?"

Kayla wasn't Rean and Roan, so she couldn't see the color of killing intent surrounding the people at the moment. However, the death glares directed at her when she said those words made it very clear that she said too much. "Ahem... I'm just kidding..."

Kidding your ass! Who there couldn't see that she was serious?

Naturally, neither Rean nor Roan knew anything about that. Once Roan came out of the Divine Energy Capability test, he simply joined the Lukimira Sect's group again...followed by Kar, who had taken part in the test as well. Of course, he didn't get anywhere near Roan's result.

By now, Wamil and the other could see that Rean and Roan weren't joking when they spoke about the competitions they thought they could win. "Do you really you can get the other categories?"

Rean smiled in response to the question. "Perhaps? We don't know what our opponents can achieve, so we'll have to wait."

Roan then sat on the ground and took a few of the Divine Stones he won in the Soul Power test. The Divine Energy Capability relied entirely on one's Divine Energy reserves, so it was normal that Roan was empty at the moment.

He wasn't the only one, as most of the participants were suffering the same issue. The only difference was that the majority didn't have Divine Stones to recover.

Fabio understood that, so he gave everyone two hours to recover before starting the next contest. "Alright, that should be enough now." He then waved his hand, and the spatial door to the next room appeared. "The next test is Strength Measurement. Those who will take part in it can enter now."

Rean and Wamil ended up being the Lukimira Sect's participants. Seeing that another twin was once again entering the competition, most of those who had the confidence to take first place couldn't help but wonder, 'You've gotta be kidding me! They're also good at physical strength?!' Unfortunately, it wasn't as if they could stop Rean from participating.

Once inside, Rean quickly noticed that the majority of the participants were from very distinct races. Races that had an advantage in their physical strength seemed to be a norm in this test.

The elder responsible for this test just so happened to be from one of those races, the Bogans. "I won't waste everyone's time. You're all under a pressure formation. This formation will detect the use of any Divine Energy skill. As you know, this is not the target of this test. Here, only physical strength matters. Once the competition starts, you will feel pressure over all your bodies, trying to smash you against the ground. Resist it! The one to stay on his foot longest wins."

Rean then raised his hand as he asked, "Can we at least use Divine Energy inside our bodies?" After all, he was relying on his Enhancement Skill to participate in this test.

The elder shook his head, leaving no room for leeway as he replied, "No! Divine Energy is Divine Energy, not physical strength. It can indeed increase your body's resistance, but it would make this test useless. Physical strength. That's all you can rely on."

Rean bitterly smiled, understanding that his plans to use the Enhancement Skill were jeopardized. 'Oh well... I still have some muscles of my own. I didn't survive Roan's training routine until now for nothing. Let's see how far I can go.'

Indeed, Rean could be said to be physically stronger than most humans at his level. However, he was against races that put their all on physical strength.

\*Bang!\*

Ten minutes into the contest, over 30% of the participants had already fallen.

Rean wasn't any better, though. By the time twenty minutes had arrived.

\*Argh...\*

Rean fell to the ground, not being able to resist the pressure anymore. The other participants around couldn't help but sigh in relief. After all, it at least meant the twins weren't perfect at everything.

Rean didn't do too bad, though. He still ended up in the top 50% as a human! In fact, he could be said to be the only human to have entered that contest as Wamil wasn't human. Talking about Wamil, he didn't do much better than Rean anyway, having fallen to the ground just four minutes before Rean.

Well, the formation knew when someone hit the ground, so the pressure assaulting Rean's body disappeared once he lost to it. Rean then made his way back as he paid attention to the participants who still held on. 'Sigh...I could have done much better with my Enhancement Skill. Alas, it was against the rules.'

The winner ended up resisting the pressure for one hour and five minutes. Unsurprisingly, he was part of the same race as the elder responsible for the contest, another Bogan. Those ones were very bulky,

and Rean could feel the natural balance between the muscles and Divine Energy in their bodies thanks to his perception of Life Force. 'Quite impressive. Even if I were able to use my Enhancement Skill, I would still lose in the end. Perhaps my limit was within the top 80%, but definitely not anything better than that. The humanoid races of the Realm of Gods are really interesting.'

Once outside, Rean shrugged his shoulders to his Lukimira Sect's group, telling them, "Well, we can't win everything. Hahaha!"

Wamil, who participated with Rean, felt like giving him a beating. "Then, don't act as if you can get first place in everything. I only entered this test because I wanted to see your performance, you know?"

Rean laughed even more. "Hahaha! My bad, my bad. Then again, did you see the look on the faces of everyone who saw me entering this test? They all thought I was some kind of monster as well. When I fell on the ground, it was obvious how relieved everyone felt. So funny!"

Fabio's mouth twitched in response after hearing that. Rean didn't know it, but he was also one of those who thought Rean would fight for the first position. Now, hearing Rean's words, he truly felt like kicking his ass. 'You're lucky that I'm pretending to not pay attention to you and your brother.'

He then put Rean's words on the back of his mind before continuing with the assembly.

\*Vup!\*

Another spatial door opened.

"The next test is...speed!"

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Chapter 1015: Praise!

"Oh! It seems like I'm going ahead once again," Rean said with a smile.

Roan nodded in response and didn't say anything as he focused on concentrating on his own test later. On his way to the spatial door, Rean also saw that Trinio and Kaleu would take part in the competition as well. "Oh! So, you guys are confident in your speed, huh?"

"Hahaha!" Trinio laughed in response. "Not as much as you, of course."

Once inside the new room, they quickly noticed that this room was basically a huge straight path. Thanks to the spatial formations, they couldn't even see the end of that path.

The elder responsible for this test then appeared to explain the rules, telling all of them, "Well, you would need to be an idiot to not understand what the rules are. Just charge forward. The first to cross the finish line wins! It's that simple. As to how you intend to do that, I couldn't care less."

How could the others not understand the hidden message in the elder's words? Just like the second Soul Power Test, there were no rules that stated one couldn't disturb other competitors.

Rean couldn't help but think to himself after that, 'The tests are quite random. Some allow you to disturb others, while some don't. I wonder why they have such differences.'

If Fabio could hear what Rean said, he would have answered straight away. It's simply because he found it funnier. Not that someone would complain to this Royal Family member about his motives anyway.

Everyone had paid attention to the twins. Naturally, quite a few looked at Rean when he entered this competition. However, because of his average display in the Strength Test, people weren't as wary of him as they were in the past. In the end, he was still a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator in the Middle Stage. There was no chance for him to beat the Saint Realm cultivators that were focused on speed.

With that being said, the Saint Realm cultivators taking part in this competition were a lot warier towards each other than the young white-haired man. Even if Rean used that dark area (Roan's Death World) at the start, the path was several times bigger than what its max range could cover. They could simply ignore it and focus on protecting themselves against the real opponents.

Because of that, a weird situation happened just as the speed test was about to start. Rean...was almost completely alone on the right side of the path. The only exceptions were Trinio and Kalau, who were his friends. "You won't use that dark thing on us, right?"

Rean felt like crying after hearing that. "I'm not the one who uses that. That's Roan. I do know how he does it, but I have never tried it before." Of course, only Kaleu and Trinio heard that. Since no one wanted to get close to him, he definitely wouldn't give them a reason to do so. "Anyways, I'll go all out from the start, so you guys take care of yourselves."

Trinio and Kaleu nodded in response, preparing for the start of the test.

The elder saw that everyone got in their own positions and obviously saw the big gap in Rean's post. Nevertheless, he didn't say anything and waved his hand. "Start!"

Everyone immediately dashed forward. No one tried to stop using abilities against others as there were too many cultivators around. The first priority of the top contenders was to leave the crowd behind, which they did in less than a minute. However, no one knew just how far this path stretched. So, surprisingly, those at the Saint Realm focused on speed stayed within range of each other.

There were two reasons for that. First, one could run out of Divine Energy before the test was over. Second, anyone who decided to take the lead would most likely become everyone else's target.

They all looked around and quickly took notice of their main contenders and their cultivations. Sure enough, there was simply no one below the Saint Realm in the front group. The white-haired twin that everyone took notice of was nowhere to be found, which made them think Rean wasn't good at speed, just like the Strength Test. 'In the end, he's just that, a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator.'

Although the elder didn't say how far away the finish line was, he obviously knew it. The total distance was just 350 kilometers. Although it might look a lot, for the Saint Realm Cultivators at least, such a distance wouldn't take more than two hours or so to be surpassed. If these guys were in the Realm of Mortals, let alone two hours, it wouldn't be surprising if they only took thirty minutes since they could simply fly. Alas, the Realm of Gods had its restrictions.

In the first one hour and a half, none of them attacked anyone. Seeing that made Fabio feel quite bored, so he passed a message to the elder responsible for this test. Soon after, that elder communicated with everyone. "The top contenders already completed 80% of the total distance." That was all that he said.

However, it was more than enough for all those Saint Realm cultivators to understand where they were standing at the moment. They knew how much Divine Energy they still had, so many of them increased their speed straight away.

At the same time, the others began to use their skills to try and disrupt those behind and ahead. One didn't need to be a genius to understand that it had quickly turned into a battle royale. It was everyone for themselves.

\*Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom...\*

Explosions of Divine Energy and Elements could be heard everywhere at the front. Everyone was a target. Everyone was the attacker. Anyone who tried to go much further ahead would immediately be struck by the joint effort of those that were behind. Instead of speed, it looked more like a test of resistance to see who could hold on longer.

Eventually, one of these cultivators saw a chance and used his movement technique to detach himself from the main group.

"After him!"

The others noticed it and immediately stopped attacking each other and focused on the competitor ahead. Just like that, they all rushed at full speed to the finish line while trying to stop the guy ahead.

However, the guy didn't care as he laughed. "Hahaha! I can see the finish line! This Divine Vein will be the Vintch Sect's! You can't stop me anymore! I'm the fir-"

It was then that his words stopped as his body froze in place. However, it wasn't because someone used a technique to do that. He was the one to stop by himself.



He wasn't the only one, though. The competitors behind him also stopped as their eyes widened in surprise. The reason was basically the same one as the Vintch Sect's cultivator.

Last but not least, Fabio, the elder responsible for the test, the elders in the watching room, the participants who were watching outside also looked at the scene in front of them with wide eyes. Literally, everyone went completely silent!

Right ahead of them, sitting on a table and drinking some tea, was a young white-haired man. He looked at the other participants and showed an expression of surprise. "Oh, you guys finally arrived. Indeed, you guys are really fast. I wasn't even able to finish my tea before you arrived. Praise! Praise!"

Rean...had won this test quite some time ago...

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Chapter 1016: Rean's Plan

Rean's words made everyone cry. Fast? Praise? Was he making fun of everyone? If they were fast, then how come Rean was there already? First of all...they had a bigger concern in their minds.

'Why the hell does he have a table and a chair in his spatial ring?! He even brought a teapot! He's making fun of us, right? RIGHT?!!! Fuck him!' Or so everyone thought...but they didn't have the courage to say out loud.

To understand how Rean did that without anyone noticing, we need to go back to the start of the speed test. Rean did say he would go all out in this competition, but he never said 'when!'

Rean had a very slow start, staying together with Trinio and Kalau. It could also be said as his way of protecting those two for the first part of the competition while things became chaotic. No one wanted to get close to him.

Soon, he lagged behind while the top contenders disappeared in the distance. In this test, everything was valid as long as one was the fastest. That meant the elder didn't need to pay attention to the cultivators who fell behind. If they wanted to kill each other, then so be it.

Naturally, the formation used to project the images of the contest also focused on the Saint Realm contenders ahead. As impressive as Rean might have been before, there was no point in paying attention to him if he wasn't in the front with the Saint Realm guys.

Fabio, the elder responsible for the competition, and everyone else then only paid attention to what happened to the Saint Realm contenders at the front, completely forgetting about him. It was all part of Rean's plan for this test. 'Those guys won't go at full speed from the start since they don't know how far they have to run. Hehe, see you later.'

It did happen as Rean had expected. Before the elders overwatching the competition told the front runners they had completed 80% of the course, none of them had been putting their all into running ahead.

One must remember that there were cultivators at the Middle Stage of the Saint Realm there. They were still an entire realm above Rean's cultivation. With that being said, it wasn't as if Rean was faster than them, even if he went all out. In fact, there were two who were faster than Rean because of this exact reason. This was, after all, a competition where those who focused on speed excelled. Being an entire realm above and also being focused on speed? Rean couldn't create miracles. Last but not least, Rean didn't want to become everyone's target because of his cultivation.

Now then, once Rean was certain that neither the watchers nor the front runners could see him anymore, he decided to finally show his true colors...or not!

'Light and Divine Sense bending skill!'

The ground was flat and sturdy, made of some hard material like concrete and ceramic tiles above it. As big as this path might look, it was still located inside the City Lord's residence. It's just that the Spatial Formation made it much longer than it was in reality. That being said, Rean could run as fast as he wished without worrying about leaving marks on the ground for the others to notice.

Another point was Rean's Light bending skill. If one only used the naked eye, even a Transition Realm cultivator couldn't hope to see through Rean's ability to bend light.

As for Divine Sense, a single realm difference wasn't enough to pierce through Rean's Divine Sense bending. Of course, unless Rean got very close to the owner of that Divine Sense. One must remember that Divine Sense was stronger the closer one got to the source, making it harder to bend.

Fabio and the elder responsible for the competition wouldn't be there accompanying the leaders either. There were no rules to be imposed, after all. The watching formation was more than enough to see what was happening, so they just watched it through the same formation as everyone else. Because of that, their Divine Senses obviously weren't present to watch the competitors. Only Divine Senses as strong as theirs could have pierced Rean's Divine Sense bending from further away.

Well, even if they were there, Rean wasn't breaking any rule. Neither the elder nor Fabio would reveal Rean's presence if they found him with their Divine Senses. After all, everything was valid in this test, including hiding. Telling others that Rean was just there with them would be seen as the same as giving an advantage to the others. They must be impartial as the name of the Royal Family couldn't be sullied. Then again, they also didn't know anything.

In the end, everything played according to what Rean had planned. The Saint Realm cultivators would hold each other back. Rean's speed was definitely faster than theirs in that situation when he used his Enhancement skill. Obviously, Rean avoided getting near those guys while keeping his Light and Divine Sense bending skill active.

The result was as they saw. Rean got to the finish line... where there was no one present. He was quite tired of moving at his top speed nonstop, so he took a table and a chair from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to sit. Others would simply think he got it out of his Spatial Ring. Last but not least, he prepared some tea to wait for the others to arrive. But of course, the part about the tea was just Rean making fun of these guys who disturbed each other while he leisurely passed by.

"Ahem...are you guys going to stay put like that? Although the Divine Vein is my Lukimira Sect's, you can still get the Divine Stones for second and third place." This test did indeed have Divine Stones for the second and third place. But unlike the Soul Power test, it did not extend to the top ten.

"Ah!" The Saint Realm cultivators quickly came back to their senses and rushed forward. By now, trying to attack each other would be useless due to how close to the finishing line they were. They went all out on speed alone, trying to at least get the Divine Stone prize. After all, Divine Stones were very rare, even for them.

And just like that, Rean won the speed test.

Death... and me

## Chapter 1017: Stealth Time

Once the second and third place was decided, the Saint Realm cultivators looked at Rean with dark expressions. "How did you do that?"

Rean smiled before extending his fingers. Soon after, his body completely disappeared from everyone's eyes! However, his voice still came from the location where he was sitting, telling them, "You guys paid so much attention to each other that you failed to keep your Divine Senses fully spread."

As soon as Rean said Divine Sense, those cultivators used it, and sure enough, they could see Rean with it. It's just that to their eyes alone, it looked like the chair was empty.

Rean then reappeared as he continued, "I basically used the gaps in your Divine Senses to pass through as fast as I could. I'm quite surprised it worked this easily. After all, I'm just in the Middle Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. If you guys didn't focus on holding each other back, I couldn't possibly be faster than you all. At most, I would match the speed of the slowest ones of your group. It wasn't I who won. It was all of you who let me win."

Of course, Rean was lying! He didn't use any gaps in their Divine Senses whatsoever. It was his Divine Sense bending skill that made it possible for him to pass through without anyone noticing. However...who said he had to reveal his cards now? Let others think it was their mistake, not his. The only truth in his words was that he was indeed not the fastest one there. Were those guys to go all out with speed alone from the very start, Rean wouldn't have won. After all, he did fall behind on purpose at the start. In a certain way, Rean had gambled that they would hold each other back while he hid away.

"Fuck!"

"Despicable!"

"This isn't fair!"

The elder responsible for the test narrowed his eyes after hearing all their complaints. "This isn't fair?" His voice caught everyone's attention. "Since when was the assembly fair? This test alone has both Soul

Transformation and Saint Realm participants! Do you think your cultivation is fair to those from very small powers?"

He then pointed at Rean as he continued, "Despicable? Yes, definitely!" Rean's mouth twitched in response, but he didn't say anything as the elder hadn't finished his words yet. "However, he's still a cultivator at the Middle Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. If he was there on the front, running with you all, would you simply let him stay? Don't tell me you wouldn't focus him before anyone else. He's definitely the easiest target to get rid of first."

The elder then snorted. "Hmph! Cultivators complaining about fairness. What a joke! Don't blame him for being despicable just because you can't be as despicable as him. If you could, would you complain once you got the first place?"

"Ahem..." Rean couldn't help but comment. "Can we not use the word despicable? This was a proper and very effective strategy."

"Alright then, everyone out." The elder and the other cultivators completely ignored Rean's words. In the end, they simply felt he was despicable as his sect already got two Divine Veins. Now they got the third one! It didn't matter what he said. They simply couldn't accept it.

In the watching room where the leaders and elders were watching, Kayla was at a loss for words. Rean won another Divine Vein. It was a Bronze-level one, but a Divine Vein nonetheless. The third one! Instead of feeling happy, she began to wonder if the other powers would wipe her sect out to get her Divine Veins. 'They might get so angry that even the Royal Family's rules might not stop them.'

Of course, that was just her overthinking. The top powers usually got their own Divine Veins. The really wealthy ones could even buy one of them. They wouldn't be idiotic enough to condemn their forces just because they didn't get a Divine Vein. Besides, they still had their own from past assemblies. After all, the Divine Veins last 500 years each. But one thing was correct... they were jealous of all the Divine Veins her Lukimira Sect got. As wealthy as some of them might be, Divine Veins were still extremely expensive. Let alone the average and small powers who couldn't even dream about buying one.

Fabio, who brought everyone out of the Speed Test room, called everyone's attention. "Alright, let's continue. It's not like the Lukimira Sect got the majority of the Divine Veins, so don't stare at them too much." He was right. More than 12 have been distributed already, and Lukimira got only three. It's just that the powers who got the others got only one.

Trinio even distanced himself from Rean, afraid that others might target him as well. Kalau, on the other hand, was part of the Lukimira sect, just like Wamil and the others. So they had to bear with everyone's death glares. Rean and Roan, who could see the red color of killing intent, were having it worse.

"Hehehe! They love us!"

Wamil's mouth twitched in response. "I would rather live without this much love."

The Speed Test room's spatial door disappeared and was quickly replaced by the next test one. "The next contest is stealth! Ambushes, scouting, hiding, running. Cultivators often have to deal with these kinds of situations. Naturally, the stealthier you are, the better you will be at these moments. This next test will check just how good you are at it."

Roan then opened his eyes and got up. Without saying anything, he made his way to the spatial door.

The other cultivators who were going to take part in this test immediately noticed the black-haired twin's presence. 'Fuck! It can't be that they're good at this as well, right?'

As for the elders watching it through the illusory formation, the only question in their heads now was something else. 'Can it be that they can get their fourth Divine Vein?' They had a bad feeling when they looked at Roan. Somehow, Roan gave them the feeling that this kind of test was the thing he excelled in the most...and they were right! The problem was whether he was better than the others or not.

Death... and me

Chapter 1018: Definitely Despicable

The stealth test had several phases. After all, some people were better at hiding in certain environments and situations than others. However, there was one element that excelled in all of them, Darkness! Many of the cultivators here knew how to use Yin Energy, allowing them to manipulate Dark Element. There wasn't a single one among the top contestants that didn't know how to do it. After all, even the Realm of Mortals had cultivation techniques that allowed one to use Yin Energy, let alone the Realm of Gods.

Yet, one thing was to use Yin Energy to manipulate Dark Element. Another...was to be born with an affinity to it! Roan's Shadow Steps could merge with the shadows. When he used Rean's Light and Divine

Energy bending skill with his own experience, he basically ceased to exist as long as he didn't need to get too close to someone.

Roan never left as much as a blade of broken grass behind to denounce his position. His position in relation to the artificial wind in the several tests was always the most optimal as it could be to hide his smell. Divine Sense couldn't catch his presence as long as the other party's cultivation was lower than his or he didn't get too close.

Any time he had to go from one shadow to another, Rean's Light bending skill would suffice as well.

In the end...

"Roan Larks wins the Ambush Test!"

"Roan Larks wins the Scouting Test!"

"Roan Larks wins the Silent Escape Test!"

"Roan Larks wins the Infiltration Test!"

"Roan Larks..."

By the time half of the stealth tests were over, none of the top contenders felt like participating anymore. After all, each test gave a certain number of points for a score, just like the Soul Power Test. Roan's score...was over double what the second place had.

'He's a ghost!' That was the only thought in everyone's minds when the stealth test was over.

Of course, it wasn't as if Roan was perfect at everything. There were many random elements that caught even him by surprise. Mostly, he would fall into someone's Divine Sense range and would be too close for Rean's bending skill to work. Everyone watching the stealth test naturally caught that flaw. It's just that compared to everyone else's flaws, Roan's flaw could barely be considered an issue.

"Ahem..." The elder who took care of the test looked at Roan and couldn't help but feel jealous of his stealth ability. Sadly, he didn't have Dark Element Affinity. "Roan Larks gets the Bronze Low-level Divine Vein!"

This was another one of the low prize competitions.

Fabio then came outside of the spatial door with the participants of the Stealth Test. "Alright, we are having a break of one hour. Just make sure to not leave the room until I come back since the assembly isn't over yet." Fabio then left while the City Lord mansion's subordinates stayed behind to guarantee no one would do anything idiotic.

Roan came back to his Lukimira Sect group after that, telling Rean, 'One more Divine Vein.'

Rean nodded with a smile. 'Obviously. They just had to have something like the Stealth Test in this assembling. How the hell would anyone defeat you? Let alone those Saint Realm guys. I believe you wouldn't lose even if Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators participated.'

Of course, Rean and Roan used their Soul Connection to talk about that. However, they didn't have time to talk for long as they soon began to receive a few visits.

"Hey, where are you guys from?"

Rean immediately recognized the voice as he looked behind him. "Oh! It's Sansa! Do you need something from us?"

Sansa shook her head as she replied, "No, but I'm curious. You did say you weren't from this place. You told me you just joined the Lukimira Sect to take part in this competition in their name."

Another voice continued, "That's true. Considering your cultivations and true abilities, you shouldn't be from the cities around." Roan glanced at the newcomer and also recognized him. It was Tiran Dastin, the person who got second place in the stealth competition, a Kunstan Race member. "My Kunsten Race has an advantage when it comes to stealth, but I still lost to you, a human, by over double the points."



Roan nodded, not minding to talk a little. He recognized that Tiran's hiding ability was truly good as he still opened a sizeable distance from the third place. "We are indeed not from here. However, my stealth abilities are more connected to another reason." Roan then raised his hand and used his Divine Soul Power to gather Dark Element. "You didn't see my test before entering the assembly, did you? If you did, you would understand why I'm so good at Dark Element Manipulation. I'm one of the odd element cultivators, and my affinity is Darkness."

Tiran was taken aback. "What?! Darkness Elemental Affinity?!" Tiran then used his Divine Sense to check the Dark Element gathered around Roan's hand. "Holy shit! You're not using Yin Energy to gather Dark Element!" Tiran was truly jealous of Roan's natural ability. He also could more or less accept why he lost so through.

Roan nodded, saying, "Exactly. However, Dark Element Affinity also gives me a huge Yin Energy Affinity, even better than Water Element users. When I put both together, there are indeed few who can match me in a stealth competition." Of course, there was also his countless years of experience on top of that from his previous life (or death?).

Rean was quite surprised to hear Roan talk so much. "Aren't you being too amicable today?"

Roan didn't even bother to answer Rean. He simply took a liking to Tiran's abilities. Be it scout, assassin, or anything else, he was sure Tiran would do great. "Here, take this." Roan then passed a jade slip over as he explained, "Some of my insights on stealth skills are inside. I won't say you can reach the same level as me since you don't have Dark Element Affinity. Still, with your abilities, you're sure to get close one day."

Tiran completely forgot about the question of where the twins came from. The moment he put his eyes on the descriptions in that jade slip, his world only existed for that. Others could only hear Tiran murmuring, "I see...so that's how it is...oh! I can understand what I was doing wrong in that second environment...what? Is such a thing possible?! I have to test it once I head back to the sect. Hey, this part is funny..."

Well, Tiran might have forgotten about the question, but Sansa didn't. "Aren't you going to tell me where you came from?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "Even if I did, you wouldn't believe me anyway."

Sansa narrowed her eyes before muttering out, "Could it be that you came from the capital of our Kamos Kingdom?"

Ran was taken aback for a moment. However, it made sense that she reached that conclusion. In fact, many were thinking the same thing as Sansa. "Hmm... let's just say that I'm from really far away."

Sansa didn't like that answer but also understood that Rean wouldn't tell her the truth. "Definitely despicable."

Death... and me

Chapter 1019: A Monster

Back in the elders' watching room, Fabio returned to check how they were doing. Well, it wasn't hard to read everyone's minds.

The Lukimira Sect had a total of four Divine Veins! Kayla even pondered if she should ask Fabio to allow her to sell one. After all, they were just too many! If she decided to sell, it would ease the mood in the room. What mood, you ask? The mood where everyone wanted to swallow Kayla's sect whole!

Suddenly, Kayla heard a voice from behind, asking her, "How is it? Your small sect will benefit a lot from these veins, right?"

Kayla almost jumped in fright as she didn't see how the guy appeared there at all. "Se-Senior Fabio!"

Fabio nodded as he continued, "You found a very interesting pair, I have to say. I'm looking forward to seeing how many more Divine Veins they can take away from the other organizations. Hahaha!"

Kayla and the others felt like crying after that. Fabio was obviously adding even more oil into the fire.

Fabio then passed a spatial ring over to her. Instantly, Kayla could tell that the spatial ring was of a much higher quality. Without a doubt, her four Divine Veins were inside. "Take good care of them."

Soon after, he departed to distribute the Divine Veins from the other powers. After all, Lukimira Sect wasn't the only organization to win them.

However, Kayla could totally see the ravenous eyes on the faces of the powers that didn't have them. Before, she was happy that Rean and Roan were obtaining the Divine Veins. But by now, she felt more like they were hot potatoes. Besides, Fabio didn't lower his voice at all when he said he was expecting more Divine Veins from the twins.

At some point, Kayla, Cynthia, Juis, Wuxan, and everyone else from the Lukimira Sect began to think, 'Rean, Roan, that's enough! Please, there's no need for more Divine Veins. We don't want to be hated for all eternity!'

Sadly, that wouldn't happen. When Fabio returned to the participants' room, he opened the next spatial door. "Alright, the pause is over. The next test is...strategy!"

Poor Kayla, her wishes would not be fulfilled.

Rean looked at Roan, who got up once again, and said, "Well, this is just bullying already."

Roan glanced at Rean in response, asking him, "Do you want me to hold back?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "Do you even know how to hold back?"

Roan showed a rare smile after hearing that. "It's good that you understand."

Wamil and the others obviously heard that conversation. However, they didn't doubt anything anymore. "Is there even a need for us to be here? These two can totally carry the sect on their backs alone."

Once again, the participants of the assembly felt terrible. That's because every time one of the twins entered a competition, there was a huge chance they wouldn't win that contest.

The Strategy Test used a table game common in the Realm of Gods. In fact, it was quite similar to the game Roan played back in the Sasamil Empire. It was a war game with thousands of pieces for both sides. Just like in the Realm of Mortals, this one was used to test a person's commanding ability.

Roan didn't know the game at first, so he had to ask the elders there for the rule book. Hearing those words made the other participants sigh in relief.

Roan received the book, but he was also told to go to his gaming table since no one would wait for him to learn how to play. Eventually, the elder responsible for that test came forward to announce the rules. "I refuse to believe that anyone aiming to excel at strategy didn't know how the Realm Conquer War Game works. If you don't, then today, you're out of luck since this is exactly the game we will use to try out your commanding abilities."

The elder continued, "Other than the rules in the game, there is only one more rule. You must make a move within one minute. Otherwise, you will lose your turn, giving your opponent an advantage. Alright, that's all. You can start!"

Roan then looked at his opponent for a second before returning to the rulebook, telling his opponent, "You can start."

His opponent snorted in response, seeing Roan reading the rules. 'There's no way you will grasp the full extent of this game. I'm truly lucky today.' Still, to not give Roan time to learn, he made his move straight away. "Your time now."

Roan nodded but didn't move a single piece. Instead, he kept reading his book until finally...his turn was over. Yes, he didn't even bother to take his eyes away from the book.

His opponent felt like laughing out loud. However, he held back and made his move once again.

And just like that, Roan's opponent prepared his soldier in a way he could get rid of Roan as fast as possible. It wasn't before thirty turns later and after Roan lost more than half of his pieces that he finally closed the book and looked at the table. "Well, that should do for now. I'll get the hang of it during the next matches."

Roan's opponent was taken aback by his words. Roan was being utterly humiliated in the game since he never bothered to make a move. However, he talked as if the victory was already his! "Fuck you! There is no way you can turn this game in your favor anymore. Stop pretending to be some bigshot!"

Roan glanced at the guy with a confused expression in response, asking him, "Did I talk to you?"

That made the guy even angrier. "You asked for it!" He then changed his strategy into an even more offensive one, aiming to finish Roan in the next few turns. However...

"Sigh...although it wasn't enough to win, you did have a good advantage a few turns ago. Why would you give that up?" As Roan said that, the table's situation began to change quickly.

It didn't matter what the guy played, what strategy he used. Every time both sides encountered in the game, Roan would come out on top. Quickly, the pieces of Roan's opponent, which used to be double, decreased to around the same number. Not too long after, Roan's pieces were already dominating the entire table. Eventually, he took the head of the enemy's king, finishing the game.

"How can that be?" The guy couldn't believe his eyes. Even if one gave him ten years to study the game, he wouldn't have escaped that situation if he was in Roan's shoes. It felt more like Roan knew every single movement that he was doing several turns before he even thought about them.

Roan then looked at the table and narrowed his eyes, muttering, "Indeed, playing a new strategy game for the first time is quite hard. The number of mistakes I made was not small. Oh well, I'll get better as I go."

"Number... of mistakes?" The guy finally lost all confidence. If Roan won against him so thoroughly while making mistakes, then how faster would he have lost if Roan knew the game from the start?

The answer to that question came in the next round. Just to make sure, this guy stayed around to watch Roan's next match. During their match, the game was over in 412 turns. But this time...it only took Roan 78 turns to utterly annihilate his opponent. With that, the guy exclaimed inwardly, 'This guy is a monster!'

Death... and me

## Chapter 1020: One ends, other starts

In the end, Rean was right. This strategy game wasn't anything more than using Roan to bully everyone else. He and the others were simply not in the same league.

Of course, it wasn't as if everyone lost to Roan so brutally. Roan encountered a few guys who had a better grasp of the game and strategy than the majority. Once those rounds arrived, he would take over 100 turns to win, with the hardest fight taking 213 turns. In any case, compared to the first game where he was reading the rules, none of the matches after that got even close to reaching 300 turns.

"Roan Larks from Lukimira Sect wins the Strategy Competition!"

Roan nodded and made his way out of the testing room. As always, he simply ignored all the shocked eyes. Stealth and Strategy were a given in his eyes as they relied way too much on abilities where Roan was unbeatable.

Kayla, Cynthia, and the other elders of the Lukimira Sect didn't even think of celebrating anymore. She didn't want the other powers to lose their patience and attack them, even if it meant going against the Royal Family. That's how irritated everyone was feeling.

Fabio couldn't care less, though. He was excited because all the side occupations and odd tests were finally over. The moment he had been waiting for so long has finally arrived. "Enough with the low-quality Divine Vein prizes and all the boring stuff. The battle-related competitions are finally starting."

Soon after, another spatial door appeared for everyone. "The first one is for physical-based one-on-one fights. In this category, Divine Energy, Soul Power, or any other type of energy is prohibited. You can only rely on your own body's reaction and the weapons you're holding. Now then, those who'll take part in it can come inside. Just remember, there are no rules. Everyone will strike to kill. If you aren't confident in your survival ability, stay outside."

Rean stretched his arms as he moved towards the spatial door's direction, telling the others, "Well, that's my spatial door."

Wamil and the others couldn't help but ask, "You were behind in the strength test. Are you sure you want to take part in this competition? After all, you were planning to use that enhancement ability or whatever of yours, right?"

Rean nodded, replying, "That's true. However, it's not like I'll stay put like the strength test. Don't worry, I'll be fine."

Roan glanced at him and asked, "Since Divine Energy can't be used, isn't it better for me to go? Your main advantage in this physical test was indeed the Enhancement Skill, after all."

Rean agreed with Roan but decided to go anyway. "It's fine. Since you're the best of the two of us in battles, I would rather leave you to take care of the other three categories. Besides, I followed your training schedule up to now, didn't I? Do you think I would lose that easily?"

Roan had to admit Rean was true. No one knew better about Rean's progress than himself, who molded it. "So be it."

Rean didn't think he was at a disadvantage, though. The rules were very clear. No Divine Energy or Soul Power could be used. That meant that the difference between his Soul Transformation Realm cultivation and the Saint Realm contenders wouldn't be as big. Sure, the higher one's realm, the stronger one's body became, even if you didn't use Divine Energy to strengthen it. However, not only did Rean survive Roan's hellish training up to today, but he also had two more tricks up his sleeve.

First, everyone could use their own weapons. That meant Rean was able to use his Black Star. Rean has already tested it out. Thanks to the methods he created because of his past-life job as a metallurgist, his Black Star was still much better than any other weapon at the same level. He was confident it wasn't any worse than the weapons used by the Saint Realm cultivators taking part in this test.

The second one was obviously the Soul Gem System's reward! One must not forget that Rean and Roan already got all the Bone Enhancement Upgrades, having the Dragon Bones at the moment.

If anything, Rean was happy that Divine Energy and Soul Power couldn't be used. Sure, he couldn't use his Enhancement skill. However, he still had Roan's training, Dragon Bones, and his own weapon. In a battle where Divine Energy and Soul Power were prohibited, they were far more than enough to cover the gap of cultivation. Rean had all the reasons to feel confident. Raw strength was far from being enough to defeat Rean.

Once inside, Rean immediately saw the many arenas spread in the giant spatial room. Many elders were present to act as the judges of the battles and formations to prevent the fighting from going out of the arenas. However, what caught Rean's eyes was the number of participants. 'As expected of the battle-related categories. This is just the first one, but I can already see at least ten thousand participants. Cultivators might not be good at side occupations and odd tests, but they will always focus on combat strength.'

One must remember that 3889 organizations were taking part in the assembly, each one being allowed to bring up to ten participants. There wasn't a single one of them who didn't bring the maximum number possible. Over ten thousand proved how popular battles were compared to the other contests. And this one relied only on physical strength, which was the most unpopular among all battle-related categories.

As always, an elder of the City Lord's mansion was appointed as the person responsible for the competition. "Welcome. My name is Ravio Dnil. As you can imagine, I will preside over the physical strength battles. Each area has one elder to act as the judge. If someone says 'I give up,' they will immediately act to stop the fight. However, don't forget what Senior Fabio said. Your opponents won't hold back. So if you die before uttering those words, then too bad for you. The judges are there basically for that. Now, let me explain the other rules."