

Death 1061

Death... and me

Chapter 1061: Ambush

"I'm being tracked?" Langara was surprised to hear that. "How? I can't feel anything in my body."

"Since you can move souls to your descendants, you probably understand your soul very well, right?" Rean asked before continuing. "However, there's a small flaw that you probably didn't notice. I'm using my Light Element to highlight it. Check your soul right now."

Langara closed her eyes and focused on her soul. Normally, it would be hard to do that due to the cultivation level, but she was an exception to this rule. As Langara checked her soul, she was able to see a small stream of light coming from it, highlighted by Rean. "Wh-what is that?"

Rean pondered over it for a bit before telling her, "Seems like they got you, huh? I can't tell the exact generation you got this through Soul Succession, but it seems like this was a trap left in the body of one of your descendants. It's using your own Soul Power to create a beacon. However, the amount used is so low that even you wouldn't be able to notice it."

"Those ungrateful bastards! Is that how they treat their matriarch?!" Now that Langara knew where to look, she was able to check that stream of light by herself. Without a doubt, that was her own Soul Power, and it wasn't her who was using it at all.

Roan was obviously more concerned about something else. "Since they can track her down, the enemies shouldn't be too far. If all the remaining 17 hunters appear and they're all in the Saint Realm, we'll be at a huge disadvantage."

Roan pondered over it a little more before asking Rean, "Rean, how precise would their tracking ability be?"

Rean looked at the beacon for a bit more before saying, "Whatever it is, it uses very little Soul Power so that Langara doesn't notice. I don't know how the tracking device of the enemies works, but if it was something made by me, it would probably have a range of around 300 to 400 kilometers. The enemies would have to look for us until they get into this range, which they probably are already."

Roan nodded after hearing that. "We flew four days straight. Considering no one appeared during this time shows that their speed isn't much different than ours. In any case, we should think that they also have their own Demon Birds for traveling. In that case, I believe we have at most one or two hours before our location is found."

Rean also added, "There's also the fact that they are concerned about the previous three hunters' deaths. They wouldn't charge straight at us if they have the least bit of intelligence."

Fatax immediately looked at Rascal and told them, "Then let's fly! We can't stay here for much longer."

Rean shook his head in response, telling Fatax, "No can do. Rascal worked a lot already. Let him rest."

"But..." Fatax couldn't understand why the twins looked so calm.

Langara couldn't help but ask, "Do you have a way to get rid of this tracker in my soul?"

Rean nodded. "Sure. I can target the source of the Soul Power consumption and use Roan's Dark Element to destroy it."

Roan shook his head. "You can do that later. Now, let's prepare for the visits."

Langara and Fatax didn't understand what Roan meant by that. "Shouldn't we get rid of the tracking thing first?"

"It's fine, it's fine! If we destroy the tracker right now, those friends won't come to us anymore." Rean told them with a smile. "Since we know they're coming, we can make more than enough preparations. Besides, the last guy gave us five thousand Rank One Divine Stones! Perhaps the others also have a few more. How can we let such huge coffers escape so easily?" Right after those words, a lot of materials appeared beside Rean.

Roan glanced at Rean before saying, "I'm not good at formations, but I can help with some simple tasks."

"Sure," Rean was going to ask Roan anyway. "Fatax and Langara, do what I ask you to do."

"You're going to build a formation? Now? Don't you know how long it would take to make something good enough to deal with the hunters?" Langara didn't feel any confidence in that kind of plan. They simply didn't have enough time.

"You underestimate the Royal Family way too much." Rean then passed a few materials to Roan, Langara, and Fatax. "Just do as I say. Now, Langara, head to the northwest side, 110 meters. Fatax, you go to the south, 113 meters. Roan..."

Roan immediately left, leaving Fatax and Langara behind.

"What are you two waiting for? Move, move! We don't have enough time." Rean obviously complained, making those two give up and follow their orders. Without Rean to control Rascal, they wouldn't be able to fly anyway, so they might as well bet on Rean and Roan.

Rean had a reason to be confident, the Circuitry Formation Runes! Besides, he got a lot of Divine Stones from Sutil's group, which would be more than enough to power up the formation. Not to mention that Rean really wanted to try a few ideas that he learned during the assembly.

Roan was right about his prediction. The group of hunters coming after them was around an hour away. They could arrive much faster, but they were indeed concerned about the death of the first three.

That one hour quickly passed before one of them took out something that looked like a crystal compass before pouring their Soul Power inside. A moment later, the compass showed a specific direction and vibrated at a certain frequency.

After that, he looked at the group behind him and used Divine Sense to pass his orders. 'Matriarch Langara is just ahead. We will divide into five groups of four and three and surround her and her group. However, wait for my signal before attacking as we don't know who we're up against.'

The other hunters nodded and quickly separated. Once everyone was in position, their leader used a technique to conceal his presence as he got close. Eventually, he was able to see Rean's group. 'Hmm? No Saint Realm cultivators?' He carefully looked around, but he couldn't see anyone else other than

Rean's group and the sleeping Golden Rascol. It didn't seem like they noticed his group either. 'We can't wait much longer.' With that, he released the signal, which made all the hunters move at once.

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Chapter 1062: Worst Possible Enemies

Rean's group was spending their time cultivating when, out of nowhere, they heard a sound before many cultivators appeared from the surroundings. "Th-this..."

Langara and Fatax's expressions immediately turned ugly when they looked at those cultivators. "Impossible! You people shouldn't be here!"

The cultivators that appeared didn't act straight away, though. Instead, they waited for their leader to come out. "Matriarch, you should know that the clan wouldn't let you go that easily, right?"

Langara looked at the man before exclaiming, "I remember you. Volrie, wasn't it? Why are you here? What are those hunters doing here? Immediately head back to the clan. This is an order!"

Volrie shook his head as he kept his guard up, telling her, "Can't do, matriarch. The Clan Head delivered specific orders to bring you back."

"Hmph!" Langara snorted in response. "The Clan Head? I'm the matriarch of the clan. His position is beneath mine, so my orders are rules. Retreat immediately."

Another cultivator couldn't help but laugh after hearing her words. "Hehe! Matriarch Langara, you should know that you have no power on the Clan Head's side. The image of an all-encompassing matriarch is nothing more than a joke nowadays. It only serves to inhibit the enemies from outside."

"Enough," Volrie said. He then looked back at Langara before continuing, "Matriarch Langara, don't make things difficult. You will suffer less if you simply follow the Clan Head's lead. Help the talents of the Clan Head's side to grow. The clan will eventually fall completely in his hands anyway. Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the Clan Head to start with. Isn't that good? He's your husband, after all."

"Husband? Hahaha!" Langara couldn't help but laugh out loud from Volrei's words. "He wants nothing more than to imprison me and use my abilities to help build talents forever. On your side of the clan, I would be nothing more than a tool! Do you think a proud person like me would ever accept such a thing?"

"You have no other choice, Matriarch Langara." Volrei shook his head. "Besides, if you contribute to this cause, the Clan Head is willing to set you free once the clan grows big enough. He would even help you find other members of your race again."

"Bullshit!" Langara immediately exclaimed. "Why can't you see how wrong you all are? If we grow too much too quickly, it will attract a lot of attention. Sooner or later, others would find out about my race. Do you have any idea what calamity our clan would have to go through once that happens?"

Volrei shook his head, replying, "The Clan Head is an intelligent man. If he intends to do so, that's because he has a plan."

Volrei then looked at the other hunters, who nodded back at him. They didn't attack straight away as they were waiting to see if something would happen. Surprisingly, they didn't see anything out of the norm. "Anyways, there's no point continuing this conversation. In the future, once we grow strong enough to oppose the Royal Family, Matriarch Langara will see how wise Clan Head is."

Volrei was about to give the order to attack and kill everyone except Langara when suddenly Langara asked one last question. "How did you find my location? It should be almost impossible to track me down after I went this deep into the demon beasts' territory. We aren't even following a straight path to our destination either."

Volrei asked back, "Will you surrender if I tell you?"

Langara shook her head. "Forget it then. However, be aware that I'll fight with everything I have, even if I'm at such a disadvantage." Right after, Rean, Roan, and Fatax positioned themselves in front of Langara, obviously trying to protect her. Surprisingly, all three of them seemed extremely nervous. It was obvious they considered this a desperate situation.

It was then that Volrei remembered to ask. "What about the three dead hunters? How did you kill them?"

Rean, Roan, Fatax, and Langara showed a slightly puzzled expression at that question. "What hunters?"

Volrei tried to read their body language, but all he could see was a determined matriarch and three scared guards. "Forget it. I'll investigate further once I get rid of these guys." Volrei then finally gave the signal. "Attack! Make sure you don't hurt the matriarch too much. As for the rest, no need to leave anyone alive as they heard more than they should."

All the hunters then moved together, ready to overwhelm Rean's group. Unfortunately for them, it was at this moment that Langara asked Rean, "Was this enough time?"

Rean's scared expression immediately disappeared as a playful smile took its place. "Very well done, Senior Langara. In fact, you gave me way more time than I needed. Hahaha!" Soon after, Rean stomped his feet on the ground.

Bang!

Bzzzzzzzzzz!

The entire area around them and the hunters lit up as arcs of lightning began to dance.

Seeing that, Volrei understood they had fallen into a trap. "Retreat!"

Surprisingly, all the hunters acted in unison and retreated without even thinking twice. Volrei was a cautious man, a lot different from Sutil. He gave an order that everyone should give up the attack and take distance at the slightest unexpected change.

Well, that was of no use, though. In the end, Volrei couldn't possibly expect that Rean would have time to build a Slaughtering Formation, much less be able to completely conceal it from their eyes. The formation spanned a hundred meters in radius, far beyond what the hunters could run in a short time.

Following that, two barriers were raised. One barrier spanned three meters in radius, covering only Rean's group. The next barrier was located at the border of the Slaughtering Formation, making it impossible for anyone to escape unless they broke it.

That wasn't all, though. Rean and Roan lifted their hands as Dark Element gathered in their hands.

'Death World!'

The Slaughtering Formation activated at the same time as Death World turned everything dark for Voirei's group. They truly fell into the worst possible situation, or one could say they selected the worst possible enemies to fight against.

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Chapter 1063: No Chance

Kabrum!

A flash of lightning briefly illuminated the dark domain before hitting one of the unaware hunters.

Arrrrgh!

Soon after, everything became dark once again as a charred body fell to the ground. Rean did not show any mercy when he built this formation. After all, he knew that the other side was going to kill everyone except for Langara.

Volrei was one of the hunters who saw the lightning strike. It was really powerful to the point that even he, a Peak Stage Saint Realm Cultivator, might have died if he failed to defend. Immediately, he spread his Divine Sense to talk with the hunters in the formation. 'Everyone, charge out! Use all your strongest skills to break through the barrier!'

The hunters also understood the predicament they were in and followed Volrei's orders.

'Myriad Blazing Spears!'

'Earth's Destruction!'

'Thunder Line!'

'Raging...'

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom...

Skills began to fly everywhere around the formation, hitting the barrier that stopped the hunters from leaving its range. However...

Kabrum! Kabrum!

Two more bolts of lightning came out of nowhere, killing one cultivator and seriously injuring the other, who was able to partially defend himself. As for the barrier keeping them inside the Slaughtering Formation, it didn't even budge!

"I can't even see if I caused any damage to it or not!"

"Do our attacks even have any effect?!"

"Continue attacking, dammit!"

Volrei began to feel nervous. Somehow, he could tell that the barrier wasn't moving.

Kabrum!

Arrrrgh!

"Why?! How can a formation built in such a hurry be this strong?!" Volrei cursed before he continued to attack.

Rean, of course, could see everything inside the Death World. He looked at the cultivators attacking the barrier covering his formations nonstop. 'Hmph! If it was any other time, I would have big trouble building something this resistant. Unfortunately for all of you, you really selected the worst place possible to catch up to us.'

Rean then looked at the area around him in satisfaction. 'This location is very susceptible to Lightning Element. Since Circuitry Formations rely mostly on the Lightning Element, it helped a lot with the formation's construction. I wonder if this has something to do with the karma threads the fairy talked about as well.'

Rean then looked at the core of the formation under his feet. There, three thousand Rank One Divine Stones were gathered! At the same time, tens of them would break into dust due to their energy having been used. 'Last but not least, that hunter friend of yours helped me a lot by leaving behind these Divine Stones. With this amount of Divine Energy, the environmental advantage, and the Circuitry Formation Runes, I was able to create such a formation just in time for your arrival.'

Indeed. If it was anywhere else, Rean would be hard-pressed to build something even half as efficient as this Slaughtering Formation. The Saint Realm hunters would then have more than enough strength to defend themselves or break through the barrier.

Kabrum, kabrum, kabrum...

Lightning bolts came from everywhere, ground, sky, the barrier... It was impossible to tell from where it would hit them. All they could see was the flash of light left behind by those bolts the moment they were created. If one was lucky enough to be facing the right position, one might be able to defend in time. Nevertheless, even this would be difficult, not to mention that most would become seriously injured even if they did.

Langara and Fatax were allowed by Rean and Roan to also watch what was happening in the formation. In the end, they couldn't help but be astounded by what Rean had made. They truly didn't believe a formation made so quickly would harness such power. However, while watching, Langara couldn't help but think to herself, 'I know a little about formations myself after living for so many years. Still, this is the first time I've seen such type of runes.'

After more than two thousand Rank One Divine Stones were used, there was only one hunter still alive in the formation. As one could imagine, he was the leader among the hunters, Volrei. He wasn't looking good, though. There were charred marks everywhere in his body, and he could barely stand at the moment. "E-Enough! I surrender! P-Please, Matriarch! I'm only doing it because I truly believe it is the best for the clan!"

Rean then controlled the Slaughtering Formation to not launch any more lightning bolts before he looked at Langara and asked her, "That's your clan member. What you wanna do?"

Langara narrowed her eyes, but in the end, she sighed. "Lift the formation. Also, don't let him know you are part of the Royal Family."

Rean and Roan nodded before the Death World disappeared. At the same time, the Lightning Formation turned off together with the inner barrier. Of course, Rean kept the outer barrier activated, just in case Volrei had a method to escape.

Volrei then looked at Langara and bitterly smiled. "There's no way you could have prepared such a trap without knowing about us. Was it on purpose that you left the clan? Just to gather a few of the Clan Head's hunters and get rid of them?"

Langara shook her head as she responded, "I had absolutely no idea that you guys were after me. I truly thought I had left the clan without anyone noticing. It came as a surprise that you guys had done something to me during one of my Soul Successions that could be used to track me down. Five days ago, I had no idea about it."

Volrei was taken aback to hear that. "Then, how were you able to prepare this formation this quickly? I had to be here already, no?"

Langara shook her head. "How I did it or if it was here ahead of time doesn't matter. Now, show me. What is the thing you're using to track me down?"

Volrei knew he didn't have a chance to escape, so he could only comply. With that, he took the crystal compass out of his spatial ring.

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Chapter 1064: It seems like it worked

It wasn't Langara who took the crystal compass from Volrei, though. Instead, it was Rean. "Oh! You turned it into a compass. Quite interesting... I'm especially impressed with the size of the runes inside it." It wasn't as small as the runes that Rean could build with the help of the Minuscule Rune Carving Circuitry Device. Nevertheless, it was very good for a formation made without his knowledge on Circuitry Formations.

After that, he moved away from Volrei as he was more interested in the compass, leaving Langara and Volrei alone. With that, Langara told Volrei, "I won't kill you. I'll let you go so that you can tell that guy his time is coming. I'll return to the clan later. He can be sure of that."

Langara then looked at Rean and asked him, "Can you let him leave now? I already said what I wanted to say."

Rean, who was still tinkering with the compass, asked back, "Are you sure? They will find out that you have support. Next time they appear, it won't be only Saint Realm experts chasing us."

Langara shook her head in response, telling him, "If their experts above the Saint Realm move out the clan, then so will the ones on my side. In any case, we're very far from the clan now. Not to mention that my clan doesn't even have more than a few cultivators at the Elemental Transformation Realm."

Rean looked at Roan, who nodded in response. In the end, the Elemental Transformation Realm and the realms after that were still hard to achieve. After all, the Elemental Transformation Realm needed that so-called catalyst. It made sense that her clan had many Saint Realm hunters but few cultivators above it.

Rean then drew a few seals on the air with his Divine Soul Power, which entered the ground under his feet. A moment later, the barrier stopping Volrei from leaving the Slaughtering Formation disappeared. Volrei then slowly got up while he used his Divine Energy to treat his injuries. Of course, he wasn't Rean. It would take weeks before he recovered completely.

Whistle!

After leaving the formation, Volei called over his Demon Bird. Just as Roan had expected, it was really a Stage Five Demon Beast, just like their own Golden Rascol. Volrei then jumped on its back and took flight. He could only head back to the clan and report what happened. As for whether he would be spared or not, she wasn't sure.

Right after, Langara looked back at Rean and asked him, "So, this is the thing that can track me down, yeah?"

Rean nodded before pouring some of his Divine Soul Power inside. Soon after, the compass immediately turned in Langara's direction. "Quite precise, I have to say."

Langara finally asked after that. "So, can you really remove this tracker thing in my soul?"

"Oh, right!" Rean immediately remembered the reason why he didn't remove it earlier. However, before he even moved out, Roan came back with many spatial rings in his hand. "Here you go. Volrei's spatial ring was the one that had most of the Divine Stones. Then again, the others weren't poor either. We got a total of 8356 Rank One Divine Stones here."

Rean's eyes lit up. "Great! I used a little more than 3000 to make the Slaughtering Formation. Considering the materials used, I guess the total cost wasn't over 4000. This is quite the profit."

Rean quickly took the Divine Stones and any other items inside those spatial rings and sent them into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. "There were quite a few Silver-level weapons as well. Surprisingly, no one was using Golden-level equipment."

Fatax nodded as he said in response, "We aren't as rich as you think we are, you know? We kept a low profile up to now because of my race. You should be grateful that all hunters have this amount of Rank One Divine Stones. Only those Elemental Transformation Realm members or important members below this level would have such a thing."

Rean was satisfied, though. "Oh! But I am grateful! Now we have 11032 Divine Stones after everything has been discounted. For us, it's not a bad number, even as people related to the Royal Family."

Of course, Langara couldn't care less. "Who cares? So, can you get rid of the tracker or not?"

Rean nodded. "Right, let's get over with it. However, I'll warn you. It will be very painful this time."

Langara didn't mind. "Even if I start screaming in pain, don't stop it."

Rean then touched Langara's shoulder as his hair changed into black and white. He then focused on the hidden seal attached to Langara's soul and covered its surroundings with Light Element. Following that, Rean used Roan's Dark Element to attack the seal.

'Life Style, Fourth Form, Purification!'

In the end, it was the same principle as eliminating some poison. Light Element protected the body while Dark Element destroyed the harmful Element.

Arrrgh!

Langara couldn't help but fall to the ground as Rean administered the treatment.

Well, even when Light Element was involved, the process of attacking something with Dark Element had always been painful, let alone when it was on the soul. Rean also moved very carefully as the soul was many times more fragile than the body. If Langara hadn't left her soul open for him to work on, chances are that she would get severely injured in the process.

Thirty minutes later, the hidden seal completely disappeared from Langara's soul. Rean also used his Light Element to help stabilize it before he took his hand off her. "Phew... dealing with a soul is really troublesome. However, everything has gone as planned. Because they couldn't allow you to notice the seal, it wasn't that risky of a procedure to start with. Otherwise, I'm not sure if it would have been this simple."

Roan then asked something else, "Won't you try out the compass to see if it is still working?"

Fatax and Langara's attention was immediately piqued.

Rean then took the tracking device out and poured his Divine Soul Power inside. This time, however, it didn't point at Langara. Instead, it kept spinning as it couldn't find a source to lock on. With that, he said, "Well, it seems like it worked."

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Chapter 1065: On the Way

Rean then retrieved the materials that could still be used from the formation before putting them inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. After that, his group spent the rest of their time cultivating. After all, Rascal had to rest for a few more hours. Since they had a lot of Divine Stones at the moment, the twins didn't care about saving them either.

Puff...

Puff...

Crack... Puff...

The sound of Divine Stones turning into dust after their energy was consumed echoed throughout the area every few minutes. At some point, Langara couldn't help but ask the two, "Can you really absorb all this Divine Energy like that?"

Rean looked at Langara before nodding, telling her, "We sure do. It's quite a pity that these Divine Stones levels are so low, though. Otherwise, we would be much faster." One must remember the size of the twins' energy pool, not to mention their perfect cultivation technique and the system's upgrades. Obviously, they could absorb much more energy in less time.

"I've been wondering for a while now. Are you two really humans? Or could it be that you're part of some other race with some high Divine Energy Affinity?" Langara could not help but ask soon after.

"We're humans. It's just that we have access to a few extra perks as part of the Royal Family." Sure enough, it was a lot easier to simply use the Royal Family as an excuse.

A few hours later, Rascal finally woke up, full of energy. Rean had given him a lot of food that he liked and didn't bother him during his rest at all.

Cree! Cree!

Rean smiled at the guy, who reminded him of the time Kentucky didn't have sentience. Well, not counting the perverted part that Kentucky seemed to have innately acquired. "Hahaha! Alright, alright. We can go now." Rean looked at everyone and told them, "Let's go. We still have a long way to go until Erqs Forest."

As always, Rean kept his Light and Divine Sense bending skill active. When they began to pass through the core region of the demon beasts' territory, Rean would catch the presence of Divine Senses of demon beasts at Stage Eight or Nine. However, since he was able to feel it at the very border of their Divine Senses, he could change Rascal's direction before they became too strong for him to bend.

At first, Langara and Fatax were very concerned about having to fight or flee from high-level demon beasts. They were also concerned about fighting or fleeing from demon beasts at the same level as themselves but in much greater numbers. However, they soon came to understand that the twins had some way to avoid those battles.

Along the way, Roan asked Rascal to come down into the forest a few times, which he used to collect a few rare herbs he saw. He then sent them all into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, which Celis's saplings took care of. His herb garden, which he used quite a few times for him and Rean, was still growing.

Once they were close to leaving the demon beasts' territory, Langara asked the two a favor. "If possible, can we avoid Giliga City and head straight to the next one? Of course, if you need to get more supplies or something like that, you can ignore me."

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he told her, "To be honest, we were going to ignore it anyway. First, your clan probably knows that you looked for Beast Tamers heading straight to Giliga City. There's a good chance of having more hunters waiting at the city entrances."

Langara nodded in agreement. "Indeed. That's also the reason why I would rather avoid Giliga at the moment."

Roan was happy to hear that. "Good. The second reason to ignore Giliga is that we simply have no need to go there. We're sort of in a hurry to reach the fairies' territory in Erqs Forest, so we will fly there as fast as possible."

It turns out that Langara and Roan were right. As soon as Rean removed the tracking seal in Langara's soul, the Clan Head side of the Talan Clan immediately noticed it. After all, the compass Rean was using wasn't the only one available. Not to mention that Rean and Roan took away Volrei's spatial ring as well. With that being said, he didn't have access to his own Thoughts Transmission Talismans to warn the clan that their ambush failed.

The Clan Head's forces had no other choice other than to move their forces stationed in Giliga City to watch the entrance. In the end, they didn't know where Langara was going as she hadn't told anyone about that. Even her own side of the clan who supported her didn't know. She simply said that she was leaving to try and resolve their problems. Even Fatax only came to know about it when they were already far away from the Talan Clan.

Rean and Roan predicted with the maps that they verified the travel would take up to four months. Since they began to ignore most cities, they more or less started to make a beeline for Erqs Forest. And just like that, three months went by without any concerns to speak of.

At the moment, Rascal had landed near a small village in the middle of the mountains. It was at this moment that Rean could finally say that this was the real 'small' he knew about. There weren't millions of residents as in all the cities he saw so far. 'Well, I wouldn't be surprised if they called a place with a million or two residents a village compared to their 'small cities' that have hundreds of millions of people in them.'

The village only had two thousand or so people, all from the same race, the Cosgles. Their cultivations weren't high either, with their village elder only being in the Initial Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. Plus, he was quite old at that.

Seeing that such a strong group of cultivators appeared in their remote home, the villagers couldn't help but feel somewhat nervous. It was very rare for anyone to appear in a place like this. Of course, that only happened because the twins completely ignored the cities' paths.

Nevertheless, their head came forward to greet them. "Hello, friends. I'm Aien Sarthana. Is there something you need from our small settlement?"

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Chapter 1066: Is That So?

Rean smiled at the elder before shaking his hand, introducing the four of them to the elder as he said in response, "Hello, Senior Aien. I'm called Rean. These people behind me are Roan, Langara, and Fatax. There's no need to worry as we mean no harm whatsoever to your village or the people inside."

Aien didn't completely trust Rean, but it was true that Rean's group had the power to do whatever they wanted in his small village. The fact that they didn't was already a good start. "I see...is there a reason for you to stop by our village?"

"We were just passing when I noticed your village," Rean replied. "Since we needed to let our Demon Bird rest, I thought we could simply stay here for the moment." Rean then took ten Divine Stones from his spatial ring and passed it to the elder. "This should count as payment."

The elder was taken aback. As mentioned before, Divine Stones were very rare, let alone in a place like this. If not for the things the twins went through, they most likely wouldn't have much of them. Of course, Rean hadn't tried to start any businesses so far either.

"This..." The elder quickly put the Divine Stones away before looking back at Rean with a smile in response. "Of course, of course! These Divine Stones will be of great help to our small village. This friend's group can stay here for as long as you need."

The elder then pointed at a place where they had a few Stage One Demon Beasts lodged. "You can have your Demon Bird rest there. Just make sure it doesn't attack our demon beasts as we use them for our day-to-day work."

"Sure thing, Senior Aien." Rean then patted Rascal and passed it a bag with its food. The Demon Bird's eyes lit up, and it immediately flew to the location the elder appointed. There, it gorged itself in the food, surely falling asleep once it finished.

Seeing that the Demon Bird was well trained, Aien nodded in satisfaction. "We don't have much here, but I can still provide you with a few simple rooms for you to rest."

"That would be great!" Rean immediately thanked the elder.

On the way, Rean couldn't help but ask, "Senior, why are you living in such a remote place? We flew four days straight through this region, but it was the very first settlement we found. Could it be that I'll find more villages ahead from now on?"

Aien sighed when he heard that question, explaining, "No, you won't find any more villages around here. If I consider the speed of that Demon Bird of yours, I would say that the next city is still six days ahead. If we talk about another humanoid race settlement, you won't find another one for the next four days at least."

Rean became curious after hearing Aien's tone. "Why do I feel like you aren't here because you want to be?"

Aien nodded, saying in response, "Because that's exactly the case."

It was then that Fatax remembered something. "Oh! Now I remember those brown spots all over your body. You guys are part of the Cosgles Race, right?"

Aien smiled back at Fatax and said, "This little friend seems quite knowledgeable."

Even Langara didn't know about them with her long age. "Cosgles? Do you know anything about them?"

Fatax nodded as he explained, "They're a very odd and extremely rare humanoid race. However, don't think of it as a good thing. I just so happened to read about them when I was studying back in the clan. If I'm not wrong, those brown marks on their bodies are connected to the land itself. They need that connection to stay alive as well. I think it had something to do with the concentration of Earth Element in a specific region."

Rean's group then looked at everyone around them and could see the same traits. However, neither of them seemed very happy after Fatax mentioned their race's connection to the land. With that, they looked at Aien to see if he would confirm it.

Aien could only nod as it was the truth. "That's correct. Our Cosgles Race has evolved to become dependent on Earth Element. If a place doesn't have a certain abundance of it, our bodies will start to slowly deteriorate. Even for me, I can't stay out of this place for more than a month if I don't want to incur some irreversible damage. That's why we're living in this place and have so few members."

Roan found it strange, though. "Abundance of Earth Element?" He didn't have Earth Element Affinity, but that didn't mean he could feel it. "How come I don't feel anything different from the Earth Element outside?"

Aien shook his head as he told him, "You won't. Without our race's traits, you can't connect to the Earth Element Source deep below this region. For you, it really is as if there isn't anything different in this place. That's also why you don't see any power trying to take control of the region because of the Earth Element's abundance. It's too deep to be worth creating an organization in this place."

Rean's group nodded in response. Indeed, if the abundance in Earth Element was readily available to anyone, there would be no lack of sects or other organizations trying to claim this land. After all, Earth Element Affinity was one of the five mainstream affinities.

As the elder guided them to his own residence, Rean noticed a group of people cultivating close to the village's center. However, what caught his attention wasn't their cultivation but what was happening in the center of that group. 'Hmm?'

Rean then used his Divine Sense and could see that in the middle of those Cosgles Race cultivators, there was a lot of Earth Element being gathered. But above that... "Elder Aien, what's that thing in the middle of those people?"

Aien looked at the cultivators and quickly noticed a yellowish rock slowly taking form there. "Oh! We call that the Earth's Remnants. It has no value if that's what you're thinking about. It's too soft, like wet clay. It's a side effect during cultivation after we process the Earth Element. We cultivate together like that so we can gather it all in the center. It's a lot better than letting it accumulate over our body as it's quite annoying to remove."

Rean narrowed his eyes in response, saying, "Is that so...?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1067: Earth's Remnant

Roan could recognize the interest in Rean's eyes. 'Did you find anything interesting?'

Rean nodded, telling Roan, 'Maybe...I would need to take a further look into it.'

Rean then looked at the elder and asked, "Senior Aien, would you perhaps have more of those Earth's Remnants?"

Aien was puzzled by Rean's question. But since Rean paid him so much Divine Stones just to stay in the village, he didn't care. "Well, because it doesn't have much use to us, we simply destroy it all once we accumulate a certain amount of it. It's better than simply throwing it away and letting it gather around like trash."

Rean couldn't help but feel somewhat disappointed after hearing that. "Would you mind taking what you have and bringing it to me? I'm a blacksmith, so I might have some use for it."

Aien nodded in response, not minding it too much. They've already lived in this place for a very long time. Obviously, other blacksmiths had already tested whether the Earth's Remnants had some use or not. However, they didn't find any good use for it, so Aien didn't think Rean would find one either. "Sure, we should have a few kilograms somewhere."

In their room, Langara and Fatax couldn't help but ask, "Weren't you a Formation Master? Are you a blacksmith as well?"

Rean nodded in response. "The white and dark swords you saw were crafted by me, you know?"

Langara and Fatax didn't even know what to think anymore. Amazing talent, huge strength, and on top of that, he was also a Formation Master and a blacksmith. Besides, both Fatax and Langara could tell how good Rean's swords were. "That's really impressive, even for the Royal Family. You two certainly have a very high position there, no?"

Rean smiled in response but didn't comment any further. A few minutes later, someone knocked on their door. "Oh, it should be the Earth's Remnants."

Rean was right. One of the residents came with a bag with all the Earth's Remnants they had, a total of three kilos or so. "That's all we had lying around as we destroyed the rest around a month ago."

Rean nodded. "That's more than enough, friend. By the way, do you have a workshop here in the village I could use? If necessary, I can pay for that as well." Rean had the Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop, but that meant he would need to enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. It was better not to do so in this place. Besides, no one would find it strange if Rean brought some tools out of there as they would think he simply took them out of his spatial ring. At most, they would consider Rean to have a spatial ring with a lot of space.

The guy obviously didn't mind. "Of course! However, it doesn't have anything of high quality. If this friend doesn't care about it, I can show you the way."

"I'll stay here cultivating. The rest of you can do whatever you want until Rascal gets his rest," Roan said before sitting down and taking some Divine Stones out.

Langara and Fatax decided to leave the room and go somewhere else. As to whether they would take that chance to leave Rean's group or not, that wasn't a problem. Rean and Roan didn't feel like they had to help those two to start with. If they wanted to leave on their own, then so be it. Even if Rean couldn't get information on the Fallen Light Star Fragment, he could still use the Royal Family to get it.

Well, Langara was relying on Rean to talk with the fairies, so she wouldn't leave either way.

In the workshop, Rean began to work with the clay-like Earth's Remnants, trying to analyze its properties. 'Indeed, it seems like the people of the Realm of Gods also don't know much about modern forging. Otherwise, there's no way the blacksmiths who saw it before wouldn't understand how good this thing is.'

Roan, who was cultivating, heard Rean's words through their Soul Connection. 'What's special about this Earth's Remnants?'

Rean then explained, 'Almost all forging materials blacksmiths use are deeply connected to Earth Element. Even those metals that attack other elements are no exception. After all, the earth is usually their place of birth. You understand that much, right?'

Roan nodded and waited for Rean to continue. 'The point is, this Earth's Remnants can feel the gaps between the crystals that compose the metal very, very well.'

'Crystals?' Roan asked back.

Rean noticed he went too far ahead in his explanation, so he simplified it and replied, 'Oh! This is related to my field of metallurgy. It's a crystalline solid in which the atoms are held together by metallic bonds. When you use X-ray crystallography, you'll see that their structures look like tiny crystals.'

'We make alloys, trying to improve these bonds. For example, when making steel, we use lime in the composition. Lime can reduce the concentration of impurities in the steel. Fewer impurities, better bonds. That's what I used back then in our Varen Tribe,' Rean continued. 'Anyways, this Earth's Remnants simply makes all the materials I used in my alloys look like trash!'

Rean didn't get ahead of himself, though. 'Of course, this is just my theory. Without trying it out by myself, I can't be certain. Since we still have a few hours ahead, I want to try something.'

Rean then reached into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm before asking, 'Sister Orb, how is our supply of World Essence in the Dimensional Realm?'

[Oh! So, you're finally going to use it? As I mentioned before, the Dimensional Realm is very small, so it doesn't make much. Still, it should be enough for you if the job doesn't need too much of it. Just remember that World Essence will take a long time to accumulate again if you use everything.]

Rean smiled in response. 'That's good enough. I have the knowledge I acquired in the Blacksmith Hall back in Lukimira Sect. I'm still a Silver Middle-level blacksmith, but I think I can head straight to Silver Peak-level once I'm done.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1068: Bored

Even though Rean said such a thing, it wasn't as if he would get any new equipment today. During this time, all he did was test the uses of Earth's Remnants and see if his conjecture was true. He used a little bit of World Essence, but it didn't account for even 5% of everything the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm had produced so far.

Several hours later, Rean finally came out of the workshop with a grin on his face. Following that, he called one of the workers there, asking him, "Hey, friend. Would you mind calling Senior Aien to my room? I'll be waiting for him there."

The worker quickly nodded in response as he was tasked to take care of Rean's needs while he was in the workshop. After that, Rean left and went back to the room where Roan was cultivating.

Seeing that Rean came back, Roan went straight to the main topic. "So, how is it? Can you use that thing to improve your crafts in the future?"

Rean laughed in response, saying, "I can. Not only that, the Earth's Remnants is truly wonderful when matched with World Essence. I didn't have time to test it further or make any equipment. However, I'm pretty sure that it can be used on almost any type of equipment."

Rean was just about to continue when he heard a knock on the door. Naturally, it was Aien that came to see Rean and Roan after being told by the worker of the workshop. "Raphali said you wanted to talk with me?"

Rean nodded and began to pat Aien's shoulder, telling him, "Senior, this Earth's Remnants of yours is really good. I want to make a deal with you. From now on, don't destroy it. Instead, sell it to me. I'll buy everything."

Aien couldn't help but be surprised to hear that. "This...did you really find any use for it?"

Rean confirmed his suspicions, replying, "Indeed, I did. However, you told me it took more than a month to gather just 3 kilograms of it, right? Was everyone cultivating during that time?"

Aien was still surprised by Rean's confidence, but he still nodded. "Err...yes, everyone cultivates here. However, it's very rare for anyone to find their path in a place such as this. That said, I'm the only Soul Transformation Realm cultivator at the moment."

Rean didn't care too much about that. The path was something someone had to find by themselves. It couldn't be taught whatsoever. "I see...how about this? I'll pay ten Rank One Divine Stones for each kilogram of Earth's Remnants. Would you make sure to save them for me from now on?"

Aien's eyes immediately lit up after that. "Are you serious?"

"100% serious. Also, don't think that I'm doing it because I pity you or anything like that. This Earth's Remnants is truly an amazing item that's above any Golden-level material for equipment forging," Rean replied.

Aien found it strange, though. "That doesn't make sense. Be it my ancestors or even I, we brought the Earth's Remnants to the closest city to be checked. However, the blacksmiths there said it had no use. We even tried to pay to see if they could find any good use for it, but nothing came up whatsoever."

Rean shook his head in response. "That's because no one other than me knows what it can be used for. Of course, it can be used to make equipment. However, the way to use it is what matters. So, I understand why they said it had no use as I'm the only one who can work with it." Rean said all of that for two reasons. The first reason was for Aien to not think about destroying it anymore. As for the second reason, it's so that he wouldn't try to sell it to others as it really didn't have use to anyone other than Rean. Of course, unless someone found out how he forged his equipment.

As one could expect, Aien immediately accepted the offer. "Then, it's a deal. In fact, I brought you only three kilograms because I didn't think you would really find any use to it. If I go around the village's houses asking for it, I think I can gather another 10 kilograms or so thrown in the corners."

Rean was more than happy to hear that. After all, he found those three kilograms he had at the moment hard to work with. In fact, he had already used more than half of it during his tests in the workshop. "Great! It seems I'll have to rely on senior Aien to collect them for me. The price is the same, ten Divine Stones for each kilogram."

"Leave it to me." Without wasting time, Aien immediately departed to look for more Earth's Remnants.

Roan couldn't help but ask after Aien left, "Isn't that price too high? If you had offered a single Divine Stone for ten kilograms of this thing, I think you would still make him agree."

Rean shook his head as he explained, "I must make them understand that I will be back for more. If I offer so little, they might think it isn't even worth the trouble. Besides, I truly think I'm paying very little already. Once I finish making the new White and Dark Stars, you'll understand that it was an excellent business."

Hearing that, Roan took out his Silver Middle-level White Star from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and looked at it for a moment before looking back at Rean. "Since you plan to make a new White and Dark Star, I want you to make a different weapon for me. I'm too bored of swords already."

Rean was surprised to hear that. "Really? Oh well, you did say you're a master of all weapons. However, will it match my Dark Star? I only know how to use swords. Would it be a burden if we need to fight together?"

Roan shook his head in response. "Don't worry. I can match you with any weapon."

"If you say so..." Rean shrugged his shoulders. Roan was responsible for all battle-related measures, after all. "So, what weapon do you want?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Make me a scythe."

Death... and me

Chapter 1069: They Left

Rean was taken aback by Roan's response. "Wait a second... a scythe? Didn't you mention in the past that the weapons you held were part of the people's imagination of you? If I'm not wrong, you didn't even like the scythe."

Roan nodded in response. "Indeed. However, the reason I'm choosing a scythe has nothing to do with what I like or dislike. The reason is that no one I've seen so far has tried to use it. Even though I say I don't like it, that doesn't mean I don't know how to use it."

Rean pondered over it for a bit before finally understanding. "Oh...the fact that no one uses or sees anyone using it is the reason behind your choice, right?"

Roan was satisfied Rean understood his reasons so quickly. "It seems you can think, after all. Indeed, I know how to use it and how to fight against other weapons while holding such a thing. However, others simply have no idea how to fight against a scythe. It'll be a big advantage for someone like me."

Rean agreed with Roan on that. "Alright then, a scythe it is. By the way, can you use your skills with a scythe?"

"Obviously," Roan responded. "The only exception would be Stellar Piercer. It uses the thrusting ability of the sword to send a very long and straightforward attack. I obviously can't do that with a scythe."

"Oh! In that case, you can simply modify the Crescent Moon skill to cover that flaw." Crescent Moon was also a skill that used energy to sweep a big area. It meant that it went much further away than the length of the sword. Of course, it couldn't possibly compare to the Stellar Piercer's distance and piercing power.

Roan was surprised that Rean remembered that so fast. "It seems like I haven't trained you so assiduously for nothing. That's right, I already have plans to modify my Crescent Moon. I just need a good scythe to put my theories to test."

Rean had a problem, though. "The scythe itself won't be a problem as I still have Golden-level materials for use. I have only low-level ones, but it matches my skill. The problem would be the grip for it. What do you want? A wooden grip or a metal grip? If it's a metal grip, then I can make everything. If you need a wooden grip, then we need to find suitable wood to craft into it."

Roan immediately answered, "Unless you make the metal holder bend like wood, I would definitely prefer wood. You did change our swords after we reached the Realm of Gods so that they can slightly bend now. Can you make it bend to a much higher degree?"

Rean shook his head as he replied, "If it goes over the threshold, chances are that it will break very easily. In that case, we do need to find a good piece of wood. Your scythe will have to wait until we visit

one of the Royal Family's offices. Besides, I still have more tests to do. At the moment, I simply confirmed that the Cosgles Race's Earth's Remnants can be used."

Sometime later, Aien came back with a much bigger sack full of Earth's Remnants. "Phew... I had to run everywhere around to gather it as fast as possible. Here you go, there's a total of 14.3 kilograms of it inside. This is definitely everything we have."

Rean didn't waste his time and took out 143 Rank One Divine Stones from his spatial ring. "Here you go, Senior Aien. Don't forget, keep all the Earth's Remnants you gather from now on. I'll definitely come back later to buy them."

Aien obviously wouldn't destroy them anymore. The 143 Divine Stones in his hand was more than enough of a reason to keep them, even if Rean took years to come back. "Leave it to me. You also don't need to worry about me selling them to other cultivators. First of all, no one else other than you has seen its true value. Not to mention that with your group's strength, you could have forced us to give it for free, but you're still paying for it."

Rean smiled in response. "I don't know what kind of cultivators you've seen in the past. However, I've never attacked or robbed anyone that didn't cause trouble for me first. Whether you believe it or not is up to you, though."

Aien nodded. "You're right to think like that. We did meet a few other cultivators in the past. After all, this is the Realm of Gods. Eventually, some cultivators will pass by even though this is a desolate place. We did have some trouble with them before."

Rean and Aien then talked a little bit more before Aien left the room. Following that, Rean went to check on Rascal, who had been resting for quite some time already. "How are you, little boy?" He patted the Golden Rascol's feather, much to its delight.

Cree! Creee!

Rean couldn't help but laugh after hearing that. "Hahaha! I see, I see! You're already full of energy, huh? Then, I guess we can depart."

It was then that he remembered something, so he contacted Roan through their Soul Connection. 'By the way, where are Fatax and Langara? I haven't seen them anywhere.'

'No idea,' Roan replied. 'It's not like I have to keep an eye on them. I don't think they would have left on their own, though.'

Rean agreed with him. 'That's true.' He then went to ask Aien and some other villagers until eventually, he finally found out where they had gone.

"They left the village?"

A man nodded in response. "Yes. I saw it when they stepped out. As you can see, our village is in the middle of the mountains. They just so happened to head to that mountain on the northwest exit."

Rean nodded in response before saying, "Thank you, good sir."

Following that, Rean left the village as well. Since he knew the path they went, it wasn't difficult to follow their tracks. Roan had taught him well about that.

Death... and me

Chapter 1070: Let's Get Going

"Hmm...they didn't go far, nor does it look they were in a hurry." Rean followed their tracks until he reached the base of the mountain. There, the trail began to skirt around it as he followed the clues. Eventually, he came across a cave entrance. "Seems like they went inside."

Rean kept his Divine Sense and Soul Power Scan spread as he moved through the cave. Naturally, one would never know whether it could be a trap or not. 'Sister Orb, if you detect any formation, let me know.'

[On it. There doesn't seem to be anything as far as my detection range goes, though.]

Rean nodded, knowing how precise Sister Orb's detection was. She might take a very long time to analyze a high-level formation. But if it was just detecting one, then he had never seen her fail.

Rean also kept his Light and Divine Sense bending skill active, just in case. He didn't have to walk for much longer, though. After twenty minutes or so, he began to hear two people talking to each other.

"Hahaha! So that's what Naile did, huh? He's such a figure."

"Hehe. Well, that's Naile for you. He would be happy if he could see you right now, you know?"

"It's fine. This is something I decided on myself. Besides, I'll obtain a huge reward when it's over."

Rean could see that it was Fatax and Langara talking to each other. However, he couldn't help but feel that Langara seemed somewhat different.

Fatax's eyes narrowed as he became pensive. "Sister, things are not so simple anymore, you know? While you were sleeping, many things happened."

Rean was surprised to hear that. 'Sister? I see...that's not Langara, but the soul of the owner's body, Eminia. So Langara can allow the owner's body to take over...or perhaps she has to do it periodically.'

Eminia patted her brother's shoulders as she said in response, "It's fine. I trust Matriarch Langara will find a solution for it. I'm just happy that she allowed you to follow her because of me. That little already shows a lot about Matriarch's character."

Suddenly, Eminia touched her head, feeling some pain.

"Is matriarch coming out?"

Eminia nodded in response. "Yes, she has rested for long enough. This break in that Cosgles Race's village was a huge relief for her as she was close to reaching her limit." Eminia then smiled at Fatax, telling him, "I'll see you another time, brother."

Fatax didn't look very happy as he nodded. "Sure, I'll see you another time."

Eminia then closed her eyes. As Rean watched it, he could feel the demeanor of the girl changing before she opened her eyes once again. "Sigh...the intervals are getting smaller. We need to reach the fairies soon. Truly, what a terrible moment for that man to start stirring up problems in the clan."

It was then that a voice came from behind the cave room Fatax and Langara were talking. "Oh, so do you want me to increase our travel speed?"

Fatax and Langara were taken aback as they looked in the direction of the voice. "You! How long have you been there?"

"Long enough to know that you need to take some time to rest," Rean explained. "Don't tell me I shouldn't have done it. You two had been out of the village for many hours, you know? It was obvious that Roan or I would come out to look for you. Of course, if I noticed that you wanted to leave our group, then I wouldn't have come as you aren't our prisoners or anything like that."

Langara narrowed her eyes after hearing that. "However, there was no need to be that sneaky, right?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders. "If I wanted to, you wouldn't even know I was here. In any case, there was no need to keep this problem hidden from me. We have a deal about the fragments, don't we? I would have tried to increase our speed. Still, what do you mean by intervals getting smaller? Could it be that you have to change into another body soon?"

"That's not your problem. In any case, this situation shouldn't happen again," Langara answered. "So, how's your Golden Rascol? Is it ready to fly?"

Rean sighed after hearing her words, nodding soon after as he replied, "Rascal is definitely ready to take flight. That's why I came to look for you. Let's go."

On the way out, Rean also offered, "Well, if you feel like you're having issues with your soul, let me know. Light Element is very useful for these kinds of matters. I don't think I can heal the issue with compatibility between you and this little girl. However, I can definitely alleviate the strain."

Langara couldn't help but say in response, "You're quite naive, aren't you? Or perhaps a pushover could be a better description."

"Hahaha!" Rean laughed in response to those words. "Roan often says the same thing. Do you think it's a flaw?"

Fatax and Langara nodded together. "In the Realm of Gods, it definitely is."

Rean then asked back, "Then, do you think this is an issue with me, or is it an issue with the people in the Realm of Gods? Is it really bad to be a good person? Or is it the Realm of Gods' way of thinking that makes it seem that way?"

"This..." Langara and Fatax were taken aback. Was it really a bad thing to be good? In normal circumstances, they would say yes. Then again, wasn't it because Rean was good to them that they reached this far? That also included Roan, although, in his case, he simply thought it to be more interesting to have more hardships.

"Think about it. Perhaps you'll see the world in a different light in the future."

Rean then left ahead, leaving Langara and Fatax with pensive expressions. Of course, they quickly recovered from it and put those thoughts behind their mind. Above everything else, they needed to reach the fairies' territory.

Roan was already waiting close to Rascal, ready to depart at any moment. Of course, he heard everything that happened with Rean through their Soul Connection. "You're finally back. Let's get going."