

Death 111

Death... and me

Chapter 111: Puppy

Of course, Rean and Roan didn't know where Agis's group was. However, they did know that Stage Three Demon Beasts were in the core region of this Private Demon Forest. All they had to do was to open the map and check which group was the furthest into the there.

A good thing is that Roan's group was following in the tracks of Agis's one. That being said, the places they were passing by had already been partially cleaned out. There had a small number of demon beasts remaining. That allowed them to catch up with Agis and the others faster.

On Agis's group side, they finally reached the border between the Inner and Core Regions.

"Alright, we will begin to look for targets around here."

However, as he looked behind him, he could see that his group was exhausted already. As mentioned before, the further inside they went, the stronger the Demon Beasts became. Thanks to that, they had little power to move at the moment.

Agis couldn't help but get angry again. Still, there was nothing he could do since their cultivations are entirely different. The only one who seemed to be okay was Loki since he is in the Foundation Establishment as well. In the end, Agis decided to look around to see if there wasn't any Demon Beast he could fight in the meantime.

Agis stayed away for quite a few minutes, which at least allowed the kids to catch their breath once more. However, it didn't take long for Loki and the other kids to see Agis running at them at full speed.

Howl!

"Get up, you all! It's not time to rest!"

Sure enough, the Soul Gem System wasn't wrong. There were really Inferno Wolves close to the position where Agis's group was located.

Agis came running while three Fiery Red wolves followed him. All three of them were at the Stage Two Level. Not only that, a little bit behind, there was also a big pack with over ten Stage One Inferno Wolves. Be it Loki or the other kids, their face immediately got pale when they saw that.

That was too hard for the kids to manage, so they quickly panicked. However, Loki promptly took control of the situation.

"Agis and I will hold the Stage Two Inferno Wolves, you guy do your best to defend against the Stage One pack. Gather together and protect each other's back. Wolves like to attack those alone, so make sure to not separate. Do that, and we might have a chance."

With a voice of command, the kids quickly formed a circle and waited. Agis and Loki used their higher strength to catch the Stage Two Demon Wolves' attention, bringing them away from the Energy Gathering Realm kids.

However, they are far into the forest, so those three Stage Two wolves were a lot stronger than Demon Beasts back in the middle of the Inner Region.

The battle soon started. Agis and Loki had to give their all just to bring their side to a standstill. As for the Energy Gathering Realm kids, they were able to hold the advantage thanks to Loki's orders. The wolves were looking for an opening, but those kids were not let them in. They were even able to injure some of them.

"Good, keep like that. Once enough wolves have been defeated, the Stage Two ones will feel threatened."

That was his plan. As long as their numbers were higher, perhaps these Stage Two wolves would retreat.

However, it was only the start.

Howl!

Agis and Loki paled when they heard that. It was a lot louder than any of the Stage Two Inferno Wolves. As they looked in the direction of the sound, they could see a wolf much bigger than the Stage Two ones. That beast was at least double the size. There is no doubt. That was a Stage Three Inferno Wolf and also the alfa of this pack. Together with it, there were another twelve wolves, all of them at Stage Two level!

The Alfa Wolf howled once more, and those extra wolves began to rush at them. But the big guy didn't do so, it only kept looking from the distance as its subordinates did the job for it.

Agis and Loki couldn't help but think about running away. It reached a level where they simply couldn't fight anymore.

However, it was at this moment that they heard someone cursing from behind.

"Fuck those fools! Just how did they attract so many of these dogs."

"No point in complaining now. Just get rid of the small ones before dealing with the big guy."

"That is not a guy, idiot. That's a female wolf."

"Who the hell cares which gender it is? We need to deal with it anyway."

Obviously, it was Rean and Roan. Right behind them, Malaka, Julio, and Lenna followed. However, those three got quite afraid when they saw that enormous wolf at the back. It was evident that they wouldn't be able to do anything against that.

Roan looked at Malaka and the others and quickly gave his order.

"Malaka, Julio, Lenna, help the Energy Gathering Realm Kids. Use everything you learned and protect them. Make sure you don't let them die."

"Rean, let's get rid of the pack that is advancing ahead."

"The Red Color Aptitude donkey over there, make sure to hold these stage two Wolves properly."

Agis felt like cursing Roan. Unfortunately, the three Stage Two Inferno Wolves didn't give him any time for it.

Rean and Roan then separated and got a few meters away from each other. They dashed straight at the wolves coming at them as if they wanted to crash head-on.

At this moment, all the Inner Elders, Core Elders, and quite a few relatives to these kids were watching this battle.

"Are they planning to suicide? The majority of those wolves in the front are Stage Two!"

"I don't think so, but I don't know how those twins will deal against so many Stage Two wolves."

On Alanda's side, he already had an idea of how it would play.

'You only have one chance. After you show your abilities, the wolves will be a lot more careful.'

Back to Rean and Roan, their hair began to change color, becoming a mix of Black and White. This time, they didn't try to hide the power of Rean's Swords either.

Suddenly, Rean and Roan approached each other once more and switched sides. It's just that they didn't go far away from each other this time. By doing this movement, the wolves ahead tried to follow their targets and packed together without noticing.

Spiritual Energy accumulated on their swords as Light Element rushed inside at crazy speeds. But because of the layer of Dark Element on the around of the swords, it didn't look too bright.

By the moment the two sides were just 50 meters away from each other, The twins used Rean's Light Element on their legs. That made their speed soar, quickly catching the wolves by surprise.

Howl!

The instincts of the Alfa Wolf on the back told it that something was wrong. As a Stage Three demon beast, its intelligence was much higher than its subordinates. That howl was given so that the wolves rushing against Rean and Roan would spread and try to avoid those two kids.

However, the warning came too late. With the Light Element supporting the Twin's speed, those wolves didn't even have the time to understand the meaning of the Alfa Wolf's howl.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

Rean and Roan's crossed their swords together before deferring a double wave of Light and Darkness energy forward. Due to their movement speed, the crescent slash arrived in front of those Stage Two Inferno Wolves in a split of a second. The area of effect was also tens of meters wide, which didn't give any space for the wolves to dodge.

The Inferno Wolves simply had no chance to dodge at all. Light Element passed as Dark Element corrupted everything around. The next thing they knew, that Black and White wave of energy passed through their body as if they were made of paper!

What remained a pack of Stage Two Inferno Wolves cleaved in half! The wave of Light and Dark Elements continued forward for a few more meters before it finally disappeared.

The truth is that Rean and Roan didn't have enough Spiritual Energy to send such a big wave. That's why they crossed their swords before using the attack. Their Spiritual Energy fuelled each other, creating this much bigger area of effect. Something that would be impossible for them to do alone. At least, not until their cultivation goes up a few stages.

This kind of combination wasn't something that anyone could do. It was only because of the Link between their souls and elements that they achieved this result.

Back on the base, all the elders looked at the twins as if they were seeing two ghosts!

"This..."

"Where the hell did those two come from?"

Hulian, on the other hand, couldn't help but feel excited! Especially after seeing the expression of all the other Inner Sect elders.

'Those two are already part of MY FACTION! Do you regret letting them go? Too bad, this grandfather doesn't give a damn! Hahaha!'

However, the battle wasn't over yet. Rean and Roan didn't even wait for the Inferno Wolves' corpses to hit the ground before they passed by them like a ray of black and white light! Their target was obvious, the big boss right behind these wolves.

The Alfa Wolf got enraged after seeing that. But just as it was about to pounce at Rean and Roan, something weird happened.

Boom!

Rean and Roan smashed the ground in front of them!

Dust and dirt flew tens of meters in the air, quickly covering their presence.

However, the elders back on the base didn't understand. That's because Rean and Roan had done that far behind. They were still too far away from the Alfa Inferno Wolf. If their intention was to distract the Alfa Wolf, then they played it way too poorly. They should have waited for when the Alfa Wolf was close so that it would be engulfed by the dust and dirt as well.

The Alfa Wolf kept looking at the place where Rean and Roan attacked the ground, making sure to look at the sides of the area to see if they wouldn't appear there. However, both the twins were nowhere to be seen. Still, its instincts told the Alfa Wolf that something was definitely wrong. It felt like it was in extreme danger even though it couldn't understand why.

Suddenly, it heard a voice entering its ears.

"Bye, bye, puppy!"

Death... and me

Chapter 112: Okay!

There was a reason why Roan called the Alfa Wolf's attention with those words. He wanted it to look at him! With that, the Alfa Wolf quickly looked to the sky. Just in time to see two kids slashing down their swords against it.

Back when the twins smashed the ground, the dust and dirt flew tens of meters in the air. Right after, Rean and Roan used the Fourth Form of the Death Style, Soaring Dragon. But this time, it didn't have a target, they used it solely to jump high in the skies.

If the Alfa Wolf wanted to see Rean and Roan coming out of the dust cloud, it would need to look far above its line of vision. But it didn't, and that's why it didn't notice them until the last moment.

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

Six Swords, three from Rean and three from Roan, slashed against six different parts of the wolf's head! Because the wolf looked at Roan's direction in the last second, it exposed its throat to the twins. Rean and Roan weren't sure if they would have enough strength to cut the wolf's head, so they went for the safer route, cutting its throat instead.

To make sure the slash wouldn't fail to pass through the wolf's skin, the two real swords aimed directly at the critical point while the other four acted as a distraction. Even though the four fake swords still had 70% of the real ones' power, this is a Stage Three Demon Beast. There was no guarantee if they would be enough.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

Six rays of Light and Dark attacked the Alfa Wolf's head as Rean and Roan landed on the ground like two meteors!

Blood spurted out as the twins immediately dashed away from the Inferno Wolf's range. The twins guessed it right. Even with their full power attack, it was not enough to cut the wolf's head. That being said, the wolf wouldn't die instantly.

Sure enough, the wold immediately pounced at them. It decided to use the last moments of its life to bring Rean and Roan together with it.

Because of the forceful jump and landing, the twins' legs were not in a good state. They couldn't be as fast as the wolf to start with, let alone now. It was just because of Roan's craftiness that they landed such a fatal hit.

However, both of them already expected this from the very start. Rean and Roan have used the Soaring Dragon during practice several times in the past, so they understand very well its side effects.

When they tried to take distance from the Alfa Wolf, they did not run in different directions. Instead, they stayed together and retreated without turning their backs to the enemy. If they wanted to resist the last struggle of this Stage Three demon beast, they would need to defend together!

Through their Soul Connection, Rean and Roan moved their swords in unison. There wasn't a single moment that they didn't block the attacks together. Not only that, but they used the wolf's attacks as an impulse to retreat even faster.

Clang! Clang! Crash!

The wolf wouldn't survive for long, but every second looked like an eternity. One single mistake and they might get separated from each other. At their level, it was simply impossible to resist the wolf's attacks without the other's help. Still, Roan's mind was as cold as ice, he was so calm that it even affected Rean's mind too.

The attacks soon began to become weaker and weaker. Finally, it reached a point where any of the twins could defend alone. However, Rean and Roan continued together until the very end, not giving any chance for a sudden change. Only when the Alfa Wolf fell on the ground did these two stop.

"Stay away from it for a while. We will recheck the corpse in a few minutes. For now, let's help the Red Guy and his friend before they can't resist anymore."

Rean nodded, and they joined forces with Agis and Loki, quickly dispatching the wolves. As for the ones attacking the Energy Gathering Realm kids, they began to flee as soon as the stronger wolves perished.

[Congratulations, hosts. You successfully saved the kids from being killed by the wolves.]

[Reward: 100 Destiny Point.]

[Your Authority Level is now 3.]

[Initiating Reward List Upgrade.]

[Time: 120 hours before the end of the upgrade.]

Only now, Rean and Roan were confident that the wolf was dead for sure.

With the relief of tension, the group of kids felt their legs giving up and fell on their butts. Unfortunately, Rean's group arrived too late. One of the kids of the Energy Gathering Realm's group still died in the end. There was nothing that could be done since he perished before Malaka's group could join them.

Finally, Rean and Roan went to check the Alfa Wolf. Agis and Loki followed right behind. By now, it had stopped breathing altogether. Its heart also ceased to move anymore.

Rean raised his blade and began to open the wolf's head. Rean had already confirmed with his perception of life that this guy has a Demon Core. Some of the kids felt it to be quite gruesome, Agis

included. Others seemed to be used to it. That's the difference between the kids who lived in comfort and those who lived in dangerous places.

"A Stage Three Demon Core, not too bad."

Rean then took the Demon Core and put it in his bag.

"Is it worth something?"

Rean nodded.

"We can get quite a few Rank Two Spirit Stones with this little baby. However, we won't use it for cultivation. Instead, I will keep it to buy more forging materials. I need to get proficient in forging High-Quality Weapons as soon as possible."

Roan nodded. Rean was always responsible for their finances and equipment, so Roan would not say anything unless it was really necessary.

Rean then turned in Malaka's group direction.

"Malaka, Julio, Lenna, we are leaving."

Surprisingly, Rean and Roan ignored Agis's group completely. They didn't even want to look at them. If not because of their harsh decision to come here, they would have fallen in this situation. At first, it like looked Rean and Roan had control over the events, but the truth was that if anything went wrong, they would most likely have died.

Loki quickly came forward, though.

"Wait! Let me thank you for your help first."

Rean shook his head.

"There is no need, it was just a coincidence that we ended helping you."

Still, Loki was happy that they intervened and helped to save everyone. So he thanked them nonetheless.

Agis, on the other hand, was feeling awful. He wasn't angry at Rean's group nor his own. Instead, he couldn't help but be mad at himself. When the Stage Three Inferno Wolf appeared, the only thing he could think about was to run. But Rean and Roan were different. Their cultivation was lower than his own, but they still charged forward and even killed that Alfa Wolf.

His pride as a member of the Kexidor Clan was destroyed by those twins today. He is the only participant with a Red Color Aptitude, not to mention that he is the only one at the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Nevertheless, he totally lost Rean and Roan's display.

He looked at the Twins' direction as they left and clenched his fist. Suddenly, a memory surfaced on his mind. It was about that moment when he tried to invite Malaka to his group. He still remembers every word she said.

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

He finally understood that she wasn't making fun of him, but stating the truth. With the power that these twins showed, he wasn't a match at all!

'It won't always be like this, you just wait!'

Rean and Roan didn't know what Agis was thinking, nor did they care. After that, Rean looked at Malaka and noticed that she seemed a little bit sad. Following her gaze, he quickly saw that she was looking at where that kid had died. He wasn't the only one; Roan also noticed the same same.

It was then that a hand patted Malaka's head. But surprisingly, it wasn't Rean this time, but Roan instead.

"It had nothing to do with you. We already did our best. Remember, people die in the cultivation world. If you really want to follow this path, then this kind of thing will continue to happen in front of you. After today, I don't want to see you showing this face anymore. Otherwise, I will send you back to the Varen Tribe, understood?"

Malaka looked away before taking a deep breath.

"Okay!"

Roan chuckled, and Rean smiled as their group quickly moved away before more demon beasts appear. Agis's group didn't stay long either and promptly returned to the middle of the Inner Region. One Stage Three Demon Beast was more than enough for him to understand that he will just be throwing his life away in this place.

Back on the base, all the elders looked in dismay. What Rean and Roan had done far surpasses their view of the world. They were sure that none of them would be able to pull that off in the same situation.

"What kind of monsters are those two? Wasn't rare Aptitudes and Elemental Affinities supposed to be hard to train? How come they seem to be so proficient at it. They even have created several skills to use with their elements, 'several!' How many skills there are out there that Foundation Establishment can use? Even our Sect has only a few!"

"Are they monsters disguised of kids?"

"I don't know, but their talent is simply boundless. Perhaps their Aptitude Color and Elemental Affinity are not burdens, but improvements instead."

Even the Core Elders were deeply moved by what the twins did. But in their case, what caught their attention the most was their 'connection!' The way they moved, the way they attacked, the way they defended. Everything matched perfectly! Without that cooperation, it would be impossible to achieve what they did.

They had to admit that they also wished to take Rean and Roan to their sides. However, after the discussion about their Aptitude Colors and Elemental Affinity back then, they made it clear that they didn't want to take the twins in. If they chanced opinion now and used their status to take them from an Inner Sect elder, what face would remain for them in the Sect? They could only begrudgingly accept that Hulian already got the golden eggs.

Hulian, of course, was beaming from ear to ear. He only didn't start laughing right there because it would be disrespectful to the Core Elders. Still, that didn't stop him from doing so in his mind.

'Hahahaha! Jealous? Of course, you are! But I won't give them to any of you! Hahahaha!'

But it was then that one of the Inner Elders asked.

"Could they be reincarnations?"

Sure enough, someone would end making this connection. After all, Rean and Roan's display was simply too astonishing for them to believe that they are just kids.

Hulian wasn't surprised either that another elder thought about this possibility.

It was then that one of the Core Elders, Kassie Galaraz, stated.

"I also thought about this. Once the exam is over, I will test them myself."

No one said anything. Since the Core Elder would try it, then that was good. In fact, even Hulian wanted to see what results the Nascent Soul Realm elder would bring.

Death... and me

Chapter 113: Last Days Training

Without surprises, the Death Team jumped straight into the first position after they killed the Stage Three Inferno Wolf. After all, it gives 1000 points while a Stage Two demon beast gives only 10. It was as if they had killed a hundred Stage Two ones at once.

From there forth, no one caught up to their group. The difference in points was just too big. Having said that, Rean's group returned to the middle of the Inner Region to continue the exam. They still killed Stage Two Demon Beasts, but not as much as before. Roan focused more on Malaka, Julio, and Lenna's training.

On the last day, Roan kept his promise. He really made Malaka's group fight a Stage Two Demon Beast. Of course, Rean went ahead and looked for a weaker one. It was a bull-type that other than its charges and horns didn't have much of a risk fighting against.

Of course, the difference in cultivation was still there. Not to mention that it had a tough skin, so even Julio had some trouble damaging it with his spear. Roan stayed close by while he kept shouting at them mercilessly. It was the first Stage Two demon beast they fought by themselves, so it was definitely much harder. Thanks to that, a lot of flaws were found out. Even Malaka did not escape Roan's rebukings this time.

But in general, Roan was satisfied with the final result. At least, he and Rean didn't need to intervene to save any of them in this first one. Of course, the three kids got quite injured in the end, with Julio being the one in the worst state. Fortunately, they had Rean there.

"Did you finish healing them?"

Rean nodded.

"They are as good as new."

Roan had an evil smile on his face as he looked at those three. That made Malaka and the other two to feel a chill on their backs. They knew what that meant, it wasn't over!

"Great! Let's find another Stage Two demon beast for them to fight. I'll make you spend your last day fighting them. Be careful since these demon beasts are much stronger. It means that Rean and I might not be fast enough to save your lives if something wrong happens."

Malaka's group felt like crying but had no tears. The bull was already as hard as hell, but they will need to fight these kinds of Demon Beasts until the end of the day. How could Malaka, Julio, or Lenna not feel depressed?

Well, Roan didn't give a damn to that, though. So the trio could only begrudgingly follow his orders. In the end, there were still several instances where Roan had to intervene. But Roan was really cold even during these times. He made sure to only save Malaka and the other two in the very last split of a second. He let the deadly attacks of the Demon Beasts miss by a hair or even hurt them but not enough to kill or cause irreversible damage.

Because of that, these three kids couldn't help but think. What if Roan isn't fast enough next time? So they were always on their wit's end, afraid that they might really die here.

Back on the base, it wasn't just Hulian, Tazon, Wen, and Alanda watching them anymore. Several elders and quite a few of the other kids' relatives were now paying attention to them. After all, they are the first place in the rank. As everybody looked at Roan's training methods, they couldn't help but feel a chill on their backs. But they also understood why Rean and Roan were that strong. With a regime like this, it would be weird if one didn't improve.

Well, the final result was visible. It was the hardest day for the three kids during these two weeks of Practical Exam. Their bodies were bloodied, their clothes were basically torn out, and they could barely move at all by the end of the day.

Splash! Splash! Splash!

Well, Roan still threw them inside of the water without a care. This time, they were not healed before entering the river, so one could already imagine the pain. The only one who took it somewhat well was Malaka, who was more or less used to this.

"What are you screaming about? It's just a little pain, nothing more. Consider yourselves lucky, I still have one last set of clothes that you can change. Now quickly wash so that we can eat and sleep."

Rean couldn't help but remember his own time training in the surrounding forests back in the Varen Tribe. His days were not the least bit easier than those kids. Instead, Roan was even more brutal with

him since he had his Light Element to instantly heal himself. But it wasn't because he could heal himself that he didn't feel pain, though.

'Forget it, it is better if I don't try to recall that dark past.'

When the three stepped out, they quickly put the new clothes, and Rean healed their injuries. Finally, they ate their fill and once more collapsed on the ground. It probably didn't take even 10 seconds before they went into a deep slumber.

Roan didn't even ask Rean to look around during the night. They already got used to having Rean watching the first half and Roan watching the second. However, Rean noticed a faint smile on Roan's face, a smile that wasn't his usual snort of evil one.

'He seems quite satisfied with the results of those three.'

Rean shrugged his shoulder and began to watch for the night.

On the morning of the next day, a loud sound could be heard in the entire extent of the forest. Right after, elder Hulian's voice came out.

"The practical exam is over. All killings from now on are not counted. Return to the base."

Rean woke Malaka's trio, and they immediately made their way back. Since everyone was returning in the same direction, the path was quite devoid of Demon Beasts. Around 5 hours later, they were already back. Because they were one of the few teams all the way into the Inner Region, they were also among the last ones to arrive.

Death... and me

Chapter 114: One More Test For the Twins

Finally, all the kids were reunited once more. Obviously, their numbers had decreased by a lot too. Still, the ones who survived seemed to have a different expression from when they departed. The constant killing without any adults to defend them made those kids mature a lot during this time.

Hulian then stepped forward to announce the results.

"From the 1587 kids who joined in this last exam, 429 perished while 157 were crippled. Still, the Sect had never hidden the danger of its entrance exam, so they can only blame themselves for being too weak. Anyway, let's go to what matters."

"There were a total of 182 teams that had between five to ten members each. Only 106 achieved the 1000 points necessary to pass the exam. However, that doesn't mean that everyone in these groups has passed the exam. I told you before, the entire forest was being observed. If we noticed that some of you were purposely letting all the work to your team, you would be eliminated."

All the kids felt the tension. Even after reaching this point and being a qualified team, they still might get expelled.

Hulian then looked at one of the disciples behind him.

"Have you finished?"

The disciple immediately nodded.

"Yes, elder Hulian."

"Very well, show them."

The disciple complied with the order as he activated a formation.

Suddenly, all the kids' bracelets began to lit with Green and Red lights. However, the number of green lights were definitely higher than the red ones.

"Those with Green Lights have passed the entrance exam and are now members of the Outer Sect. As for those with Red Lights, they can go back home and try again next year."

A lot of kids were surprised by those results. There were kids who were inside qualified teams who failed. Although they were few, they still existed. But the surprising thing was that some kids in groups that didn't get 1000 points passed the exam.

Obviously, it raised an uproar between the kids who failed and those who didn't.

"Silence!"

However, Hulan immediately made all of them shut up.

"There is nothing wrong with the results. Sure, 1000 points were the criteria to pass the exam. But I'm someone who loves effort. So I had the outer sect disciples pay close attention to all teams. During the watch, there were obviously a few kids in loser teams who did great. These kids would definitely have passed if they were placed in a good enough group. That's why they were accepted."

"At the same time, kids who were part of excellent teams just had to pretend to help while they left everything for the other members to deal with. My Dalamu Sect doesn't have any need for these trashes, so they are out! Anyway, that's all. Everyone, return to the Sect!"

The parents, relatives, or protectors of the kids who failed quickly came forward to prevent them from complaining. This is the Dalamu Sect, if they throw a tantrum here, it wouldn't be weird if they lose their heads. Over 400 kids died during the last test, so no one would say anything about one or two extras.

As all the kids began to teleport away, Rean's group and the others who were in the top 10 were called to another corner. There, they received their prize for finishing in the first 10 positions.

Agis didn't mind receiving less Spirit Stones for his second position. After all, with his background, it wouldn't be hard to get even more than it. What hurt him was to see Rean's group to get the first place prize. He didn't dwell there for long and quickly moved back to the teleport formation to wait for his time.

Rean's group received their Spirit Stones as well. Rean then gave the 2/5 of them to Lenna and Julio since they were part of the team as well. However, Julio didn't accept them.

"I'm far from having contributed enough to get these spirit stones. If anything, Roan trained me all this while for free. Take my Spirit Stones as payment for everything I learned during this time."

Lenna also did the same.

"I also grateful for everything. So I won't take them either."

Rean smiled and took them back. He won't refuse these Rank Two Spirit Stones since he really needs them.

Roan didn't say anything while Malaka simply didn't care. Malaka heard Alanda and Roan saying thousands of times that everything related to Spirit Stones is Rean's business, so she should not bother about them.

The group then returned to the queue of the Teleport Formation. After waiting for some time, they stepped on it and were teleported back to the Dalamu Sect.

But just as they arrived on the other side, Sister Orb noticed something.

[Hm? That again?]

This time, Rean and Roan heard her voice.

"Sister Orb, is something wrong?"

[Nothing much, it's just that someone is trying to use a few seals to check your bodies.]

"Check our bodies? No, wait! You said 'that again,' didn't you? Did it happen in the past?"

[It did, but I blocked those seals since I didn't know what they were about.]

"Why didn't you tell us?"

[Did you see any killing intent like back then during the Tribe War?]

"Well, no..."

[That's why. There was no malice on them, so I didn't tell you so that you could focus on the exam. Also, I wanted to analyze these seals first to understand what they were used for.]

"Then, did you find out?"

[Yes. Basically, they were used to check the connection between your body and soul, that's all.]

Rean and Roan got puzzled.

"It's probably something they want to check because of our display. They might think that our strength is related to this connection."

Rean nodded.

"Anyway, should we let Sister Orb block it again?"

Roan pondered a bit and shook his head in the end.

"If we keep blocking it, they will think that something is wrong. It has no effect on us, so just let it do its job. Oh, right! Sister Orb, there is nothing wrong between our connection of body and soul, right?"

[Yeap! I can guarantee that everything is normal.]

Roan then shrugged his shoulder.

"Well, then just let it go. Whatever happens, happens. It will be a lot worse if something that was supposed to work doesn't work anymore."

[If you say so, then so be it.]

Somewhere in the Teleport Formations Building, Hulian and several other elders were looking at Kassie. She was the Core Elder who said that she would test Rean and Roan's body and soul connection. If it shows a result much lower than 90%, then they are most likely reincarnations.

Suddenly, Kassie's expression changed. In fact, it looked like she had seen a ghost!

"This... Is it even possible?!"

Kassie quickly released the Seals and repeated the process, but the same result appeared again. She did that another three times, but there was no change. In the end, she used her Seals on the other kids to see if she wasn't making anything wrong. Sure enough, the other kids showed the natural value that they should. Kassie then rechecked Rean and Roan, and this time she was sure that it wasn't a mistake.

All the elders around her noticed that change. Finally, one of the Cores elders couldn't hold his curiosity anymore and asked.

"What is it? Are they really reincarnations? What was their percentage? Was it much lower than 90%?"

Kassie's mouth twitched.

"Much lower, you say? Those two freaks are showing a 200% of connection between their soul and bodies!"

All the elders were shocked by that result.

"200%?! Are you kidding me? How can someone reach 200%? You must have made a mistake!"

The other elders who also knew how to use the soul and body connection seals immediately tried as well.

"Unbelievable, it really shows 200%!"

"Yes, I got the same result here. Also, the other kids are all showing normal results, so I'm definitely not doing it wrong!"

"You too? I also tried the same thing."

After hearing so many identical reports, the Core Elder couldn't help but look in the direction of those twins.

In the end, the results were even more shocking than the previous 0%!

Still, Hulian was confused.

'Then why it showed 0% before?'

It was then that someone asked.

"So, they are not reincarnations?"

"Ha! If they are reincarnations, then I'm god!"

"I believe it has something to do with that connection between themselves. Can't they use each other's elements? They are also twins, so it is most likely related."

All the elder nodded at the same time. That could be the only explanation possible.

"Anyway, even if we share the values between the two, it would still give us a 100% each. In that case, it is simply impossible for them to be reincarnations."

That elder hit the bullseye. It was exactly because of Rean and Roan's Soul connection that they got that result. Also, their Soul connection to their bodies is indeed 100%. Obviously, they have Sister Orb and the Soul Gem System to thank for that.

In the end, Hulian decided to not mention the 0% he got before.

'Perhaps it was just a mistake. After all, so many elders tried this time, and they all got the same result.'

Hulian was already happy enough with those results. After all, reincarnations were a completely different story. They were beings who surpassed the Saint Realm in the past. Such experts coming to their Dalamu doesn't necessarily mean good fortune.

Hulian then looked at all the elders.

"Well, I guess we are concluded with the exam now. The outer sect disciples will organize the kids according to our agreement last time. So, have a good day, everyone."

Hulian didn't waste time and left immediately. He didn't want to give anyone the chance to talk about giving one of his twins away.

Only when he disappeared did the other elders notice his intention.

"That old fox! He ran away!"

In the end, they could only sigh and curse their poor judgment. There is no way Hulian will pass one of the twins to any of them. In fact, they would definitely do the same, so who can blame Hulian? As for Rean and Roan's soul and body connection, that is Hulian's problem to deal with.

Death... and me

Chapter 115: Sudden Attack

All the kids had to go to the allocation hall, which basically dealt with sect members' residences. It was also there that Rean's group could finally take out their bracelet. It had an identification number, which the elders could use to allocate the kids they liked to their own factions in the Outer Sect.

"Rean Larks, you are allocated to the residence number 113, room 42. It is located in the Iron and Blood division. If you don't know where it is, just ask the disciples around later."

Rean then took a black token that seemed to have some spiritual energy inside.

"This is your key, your room can only be opened with it."

The disciple then turned to Roan.

"Roan Larks, you are in the same district and building as him, but your room is number 43."

Roan also received the same token. The reason they were put together was that Hulian arranged it to be so. It was quite convenient for them since their cultivation manuals rely on the exchange of light and dark elements. The closer they are, the faster it is.

"Julio Amil, you are in the same district as well, room 45."

"Lenna Dorvyre, once again, the same district, room 44."

Even though Roan put them through hell during the last exam, which improved their abilities a lot, the fact is that the other elders didn't show much interest in Julio or Lenna. That being said, Hulian simply decided that he might as well throw everyone inside his own district. Since Rean's group members were friends and Hulian saw their efforts during the exam, he decided to let them stay together.

Malaka was the last one, so she was totally expecting to be together with them as well. However...

"Inna Malaka, you are in the Blue Orchid District, building number 3, room 7. Again, if you don't know where it is, just ask the Outer Sect Disciples around, and they will point you the way."

Malaka was taken aback.

"Why am I being sent away from Rean and Roan?"

The disciple behind the counter explained.

"The arrangements are done by the Inner Sect Elders. In your case, it was elder Zaia Shinsuo. Since elder Zaia liked you, she obviously brought you under her wing. In fact, you are quite lucky. Her faction is basically the only one that never lacks resources. But that is also because she only accepts exceptionally talented women. With so little disciples, the resources allocated to her are more than enough for all women there. For you have caught her attention means that you have a nice future ahead."

Immediately, Malaka refused.

"I don't wanna! I will go with Rean and Roan. Otherwise, I'll go back home!"

Pah!

Yet, Roan promptly slapped the back of her head.

"What nonsense are you talking about? You will have a lot more attention from their instructors for your training and extra resources, so don't waste it."

Rean, on the other hand, just patted her head and laughed.

"I'm happy that you want to stay with us. Even Roan, behind that cold steel wall face, is probably happy too."

"Hmph! As if!"

Roan immediately denied, obviously...

Rean didn't mind and continued.

"However, Roan is right. If you got a better chance, you should embrace it. We didn't come here to play family, we came to be cultivators. So be a good girl and go to the Blue Orchid District. Besides, it is not like you won't see us anymore. We can still have our training every morning as long as we don't have other tasks. It's just different districts, that's all."

Malaka pouted a bit but still accepted it in the end.

"Okay, but you can't forget me! Julio and Lenna too!"

Rean nodded with a smile. Julio and Lenna also agreed to make her happy. Malaka is the youngest in their group, being only 9 years old. So she still has a lot of her childish side. Julio is already 12 while Lenna is 11, so they have a lot more mature minds. Of course, not to the point of being considered adults. In this detail, only Rean and Roan met the requirements. Well, biologically speaking, they are also 9 years old, though...

"Let leave Malaka in her home before we go look for the Iron and Blood district."

It was then that Rean remembered. He looked at the disciple that gave him the token after that.

"Oh, right. Which Faction the Iron and Blood District belongs to?"

The disciple smiled playfully.

"It's elder Hulan's faction, the one with the highest number of cultivators giving up being sect members and returning home."

Rean and the others were taken aback.

"Why is that?"

The disciple laughed before answering.

"Well, it's because the regime there is hard as hell! Many new disciples simply can't stand the work given to them, so they give up. Elder Hulian puts a lot of importance on building the body, so there is plenty of training regarding it there too. It's almost brutal; no, it is totally brutal!"

Almost at the same time, everyone looked at Roan.

Obviously, Roan noticed that.

"What? Do you have a problem?"

Rean patted his shoulder before saying.

"Perhaps we found your long lost father."

Of course, Rean was mentioning about a possible father from the previous Universe.

Roan's mouth twitched.

"Do you wanna see how I can make you never be a father yourself?"

Roan, Julio, and the disciple behind the counter burst out in laughter. As men, they obviously understood Roan's meaning.

However, Malaka and Lenna were completely lost.

"What is funny about that?"

Rean patted the two girls' heads.

"You will know, eventually."

Roan then turned around and left first.

The two girls looked at each other and could see their puzzled faces. They asked a few more times too. However, Rean and Julio refused to explain what Roan meant with that.

It wasn't hard to find where the Districts were located, especially the Blue Orchid, which only accepts women. It seemed like a lot of the male disciples liked to dream about that place. However, they also warned Rean and Roan that only death awaited trespassers.

"Well, it seems quite safe for Malaka in there."

Roan nodded.

They soon arrived in front of the entrance of the Blue Orchid District. Although it was also called a district, the fact is that it was several times smaller than the other ones. Calling it a small area perhaps would be more accurate.

At the entrance, two female disciples seemed to guard it. It was evident that they were already adults, no less than 18. Also, Rean and Roan could tell that both were in the Advanced Stage of the Foundation Establishment.

"Quite the protection, no?"

Julio then commented.

"It is probably to prevent Male Disciple from having wrong ideas."

Rean and Roan didn't mind, though. They are only here to deliver Malaka, that's all.

Rean then asked for Julio and Lenna to wait there while he went to talk with those female disciples of the Blue Orchid District. Roan also tagged along since he wanted to see Malaka off. Well, Roan would never admit that, though.

However, Rean and Roan didn't notice a line that demarcated the area of the Blue Orchid Territory. It was not like it was made to be easily sighted either, so even if they had seen, they wouldn't have cared much.

As soon as they crossed it, the two female disciples took out their weapons, two swords, and attacked the twins.

Rean and Roan were taken aback. Immediately, they saw the red color of killing intent appear around them. That was Roan's ability as death back in the other half of the Universe. The last time they saw it was during the Tribe War.

"The hell?!"

Death... and me

Chapter 116: Teamwork vs. Teamwork

Fortunately, the killing intent also alerted them that things were bad. Rean immediately pulled Malaka behind him while he took out his sword. Roan noticed that Rean already covered Malaka, so he only paid attention to those two Female Disciples. They also took their swords out, as their hairs changed into a mix of black and white color.

The female disciples were really fast. If it was anyone else with the same cultivation as Rean and Roan, they would probably not have reacted fast enough.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

Soon, several moves were exchanged at high speeds.

Those two female disciples were truly strong. In a different level of Rean and Roan would expect of Advanced Stage Foundation Establishment cultivators. But that was to be expected. First of all, this is the Dalamu Sect, so cultivators are generally stronger in here. Also, the enemies are Blue Orchid Disciples. One must remember that Zaia Shisuo only accepts talented disciples like Malaka. So those two were far above average to start with. Still, that deeply impressed Rean and Roan.

However, no one was more shocked than those female disciples. The two girls can totally see Rean and Roan's Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm cultivations. However, those two were almost fighting on equal terms against them. Nevertheless, it only made the girls even more determined. They began to work together, one covering for the other, which increased the pressure on Rean and Roan.

Rean tried to reason with them, but they didn't hear at all. It was then that he heard Roan's voice through their soul connection.

"Stop wasting your breath. Since they came for the kill, we are going to do the same."

Rean gritted his teeth and nodded. Rean had already kicked Malaka far away into safety, so he immediately got together with Roan.

"Do you think you are the only ones who know how to teamwork?"

The Exchange of Light and Dark Elements between the twins began to crazily accelerate. Right after, it seemed like Rean and Roan transformed.

Both sides immediately stabilized, and neither could take the upper hand. But the balance didn't last for long.

Suddenly, Rean's Swords flashed with an explosion of bright white light, which blinded the two females for a second. Although the two girls have their Spiritual Sense, they still use their eyes. Because of that, it made them lose their focus for a split of a second.

"Not good."

Rean and Roan swords came directly at their throats, which they were only barely able to defend against.

Bam!

The two were knock backed far away from each other. But that wasn't all, while one landed further behind, the other stopped close by. When the close girl finally stabilized herself, Rean and Roan were already in front of her.

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

Suddenly, she saw six swords aimed at six different critical points of her body. Even her Spiritual Sence couldn't tell the difference between the six. Her face palled, there was no way she could defend against all those attacks.

Her companion saw that and tried to rush back as fast as possible, but she was just too far away.

"Wala!!!"

Obviously, that was the name of the girl who was about to die. However, just as the six swords were about to land on Wala's body...

Boom!

An explosion of Spiritual Energy happened right between the Twins and her. Against their will, both sides were thrown far away from each other.

When Rean and Roan stabilized themselves and back at where Wala was a moment ago, they saw another woman standing there.

Suddenly, a hand appeared on their shoulders, which frightened the twins for a second. Fortunately, those hands were none other than Hulian's ones.

"That's enough, you two. This fight ends here."

The woman in front also looked at the female disciples before saying.

"The same goes for you, there is no need to fight anymore."

Wala and the other girl were taken aback for a second, but they immediately bowed to the woman.

"Thank you for your help, Elder Zhaia."

However, Roan was anything but pleased.

"What you mean with it is over? Those two attacked us out of nowhere! Do you want us to let it go?"

Roan was brimming with killing intent, his face as cold as ice.

Pah!

However, Hulian immediately slapped Roan's backhead.

"It is your fault for entering the Blue Orchid Territory! Don't you know you can't trespass into their area? Men are forbidden to enter there unless they are allowed to."

Rean and Roan looked at Hulian, puzzled.

"What you mean their territory, we didn't even get close to the entrance, let alone entering it. We only came here to deliver our little sister."

Hulian couldn't help but sigh.

"The Blue Orchid Territory isn't just beyond the gates. Can you see this faint line?"

Hulian then pointed at the line mentioned before.

"Anything on the other side is considered the Blue Orchid Territory. That's why they attacked you since they were doing their duty. It was your fault to start with."

Rean and Roan felt like crying but had no tears.

"This line? This shit is almost invisible! There is nothing warning about its presence either! How the hell you expect us to notice something like this?!"

Hulian ignored the twins and looked at Zhaia.

"I'm bringing them back, you have no complaints, right? This is their first day in the sect, so they didn't know about it."

Zhaia gave a charming smile before nodding.

"Alright. Just make sure they are more careful next time."

"Rean, Roan!"

The two heard Malaka and looked behind. It was just in time when she hugged the two, almost making them lose their balance.

"Are you alright? Are you? Are you?!"

Rean sighed as he wiped the tears on her face. It seemed like she was still not used to sudden developments like these.

"We are fine."

Roan just snorted.

"Hmph! As if something at this level could do something to us."

Zhaia then looked at Malaka, who was hugging the twins.

"You are Malaka, right? Welcome to my Blue Orchid District in the outer sect. Now come here so that our girls can show you your new room."

Malaka's expression then changed into anger as she pointed at Zhaia.

"Who would want a room for you? I don't want anything to do with those who treat Rean and Roan bad."

However, before she could do anything, a powerful Spiritual Energy enveloped Malaka, quickly pulling her into the Blue Orchid Territory.

Zhaia then looked at her before saying.

"Unfortunately, you don't have another choice. Since I selected you, then you are now a member of my Blue Orchid Faction."

Malaka was just about to fight against it when she suddenly received a Spiritual Sense message from Rean.

"It's okay, Malaka. Just go with her. That place is terrible for men, but it is excellent for women. Don't worry. If you want to see us, just come out when they give you free time. We will be in the Iron and Blood district. Also, you already know our room numbers."

Malaka pouted once more but decided to hear Rean's voice.

Zhaia then disappeared inside the Blue Orchid territory together with Malaka and another Female Disciple who arrived later.

Wala and the other female disciple who fought Rean and Roan then moved back to the front of the entrance since their guard duty wasn't over yet. However, the two girls looked at Rean and Roan in a completely different light. Those Twins could fight and even win against them, so they are bound to soar in the cultivation world. There were very few disciples who could fight against members of the Blue Orchid Faction at the same level of cultivation. However, Rean and Roan were not only kids, but their cultivation was also a lot smaller.

The Blue Orchid Territory is considered very dangerous, so almost no one gets close without reason. In the end, this became an isolated event that only Rean's group, Zhaia, Hulian, and the two female disciples knew about.

Death... and me

Chapter 117: Learning About the Benefits

It didn't take long for Rean's group to arrive at the Iron and Blood district of the Outer Sect. As for Hulian, he left a long time ago. It would be too weird to have him showing the twins' rooms, after all. The rooms were pretty simple, but more than enough for each of the kids.

Rean and Roan didn't spend too long in there. As soon as they were familiarized with the place, they went to the sect entrance, where Alanda was waiting together with all the other adults.

Alanda noticed the two coming his way.

"So, how is it?"

Roan nodded.

"Except for some crazy girls of the blue whatever district, the rest is pretty much fine."

Rean then took out a token from his waist and passed it to Alanda.

"This token is the proof that the Varen Tribe has at least one of its members in the Dalamu Sect. As long as you have it, none of the tribes will dare to touch it. This should be more than enough deterrence to the Big Tribe that controls the area where our Varen Tribe is located."

Alanda took the token from Rean's hands as if it was some kind of treasure.

"This is great!"

Rean then continued.

"However, it is only valid for a period of three years. After that, someone from the Tribe has to come back and ask for another one. That's because the Sect can't guarantee that we will be alive after this period. In case we are dead, they won't need to look out for the Varen Tribe anymore."

Alanda didn't mind.

"That's okay, considering your strength, I don't think you will die anytime soon. Not to mention, we have three members in the Dalamu Sect. You, Roan, and Malaka. How unlucky do we need to be for all three of you to die?"

Rean agreed with Alanda. With this, their parents and the Tribe should be safe for the time being. With the steel business running in the Astreg city, the Tribe will have a lot of time to grow until it reaches a point to defend itself.

"Anyway, what about Malaka?"

Rean then explained the Blue Orchid Faction issue.

"I see, so she will probably stay there for a while. Anyway, that might be something good as well."

Rean and Roan then talked with Alanda for a while longer.

"Alright. I guess this is all for now. I'll go back to the Tribe to tell everyone the good news. If anything happens, just send us a letter. I doubt it will be a problem considering the Dalamu Sect resources. Also, make sure to take care of that sunny girl."

The twins nodded, and they bid their farewell.

It was still early, so they decided to check what the Iron and Blood District and other places had to offer. Rean and Roan went in different directions to cover a bigger area too. After all, they could simply talk through their soul connection with the Soul Gem System. In the end, it offered an array of benefits. However, to use them, you would need Sect Points. They could be earned in a plethora of ways. Completing missions, helping with the Sect's affairs, etc.

"They even have energy gathering formation rooms. I heard from the guy taking care of the place that it is almost the same as using Rank two or even Rank three Spirit Stones depending on the room you select. However, a single hour inside costs quite a lot. The cheapest one goes for 10 points/hour with the most expensive being 100/hour."

Roan nodded.

"From what I found, the fastest way to get Sect Points is to complete missions. Obviously, the more dangerous, the more points you get. The tasks go by ranks. Rank One missions give 50 to 100 points, Rank Two gives 100 to 200, Rank Three 200 to 400, and so on."

"There are higher ranks, but our level is far from that. Rank Four Missions, for example, would need cultivation at the Advanced Foundation Establishment, at least. Rank Five can only be taken after you enter the Core Formation. This would be things with danger level similar or higher to that Inferno Wolf."

"At our level, Rank three would be the available choices. Of course, with our strength, there wouldn't be a problem taking Rank Four missions. But it seems like we need some kind of permissions from the elders to apply for those. That is to prevent low-level sect members from killing themselves because they think they are stronger than they really are."

Rean agreed with the Sect's rule.

Roan then continued.

"The Sect gets most of its income from those missions. Other than points, you also receive Spirit Stones from the employers. The Sect then takes 30% of it. That's how they keep all the formations and other things running."

Rean nodded.

"That's okay. We don't need to worry much about Spirit Stones. Once I get free time, I'll go back to Majorias City to deal with this problem."

"That aside, there are also cultivation techniques and skills repository. As you can guess, to have access to their manuals, you will need Sect Points. The manuals can't be brought outside. You need to read and memorize without leaving the place. The number of points required depends on what you read too."

Roan wasn't surprised by that.

"That's fine. Oh, right! I found something you might be interested in. There is a place outside the districts where you can learn side occupations. Alchemy, Blacksmith, Formations, Talismans, etc..."

Rean's eyes lit up!

"Really? I'm going to take a look at the Blacksmith one later. I want to see what a sect of this size can do."

Roan then continued.

"Another good thing you can find here is the arenas. That is also the place you must go if you want to ascend to the Inner Sect. The Sect seems to have a battle score system that is used to find who is worthy of going up. From the looks of it, only cultivation is not enough. The Inner Sect has a predetermined number of cultivators. So if you want to go up, you will need to defeat one of them."

"You can challenge anyone in there. However, it seems like the Inner Sect has only 1000 members. So you can imagine that they are not easy to deal with. Also, to challenge them, you need to pay an enormous number of Sect Points."

"Those two girls guarding the Blue Orchid District's entrance had cultivations at the Advanced Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. As you probably noticed, those two were definitely stronger than ordinary Advanced Stage Foundation Establishment cultivators. Still, they are only outer sect disciples."

"That's not all. To prevent unfairness, you can not challenge anyone more than 1 year younger than you. Otherwise, there would be 19 to 20 years old cultivators challenging 10 to 12 years old kids. That can not happen. They are not stronger, they just had more time to cultivate."

Rean had to admit that such a system was necessary.

"That's good enough. Technically, we are 12 years old. Or at least, that's what we registered in the Sect as. Have you checked those at 12 or higher? Or, right! There are no restrictions if a younger Outer Sect cultivator wants to challenge an older Inner Sect one, yea?"

Roan confirmed.

"Exactly. Only the opposite is prohibited, the other way around is okay."

Roan continued.

"As for the other question, there is no one under 14 years old in the Inner Sect at the moment. Also, their cultivation is already at the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment at the very least."

Rean couldn't help but sigh.

"As expected of a cultivators sect. From what I can see, the outer Sect definitely has tens of thousands of disciples. I found it weird considering how many passed the last Sect Entrance. But after asking around, that was because elder Hulian's tests are usually the hardest ones and rarely rely on the kid's cultivation. During other elders' tests, it is not uncommon to see over 3000 kids entering the Sect at once."

Roan didn't mind that, though.

"Anyway. There is one last thing about the Inner Sect. Those outer sect disciples above 20 years old can't enter the Inner Sect anymore. If you fail and go past this age, you only have two options. You can leave the Sect or try to become an outer sect elder. Either way, your future in the Dalamu Sect is pretty much over at that point. Well, it's not like it matters to us anyhow."

Rean agreed with Roan. If they couldn't become simple Inner Sect Disciples by the age of 20, then forget about joining the Universe's two halves.

The day quickly passed. The first day in the Sect was pretty much free so that the new disciples could go around to learn more about it. But starting from the next day, all new Iron and Blood disciples would understand why it is called the hardest faction. It is to the point that it became the faction with the least number of disciples after the Blue Orchid.

Death... and me

Chapter 118: Talk Business

First of all, Hulian's faction and the elders under his command put a lot of importance on the body. Totally different from the rest of the elders who regard the cultivation level as more important. That being said, a lot of training given to the disciples of this faction is based on it.

The next morning, when the sun had barely appeared, the entire Iron and Blood District was woken up by the bells inside all buildings with bedrooms. The rule was that every single disciple should be out in the training field in at most 10 minutes after that. Rean and Roan didn't find it a problem. They were used to wake up early anyway.

However, quite a few didn't have this habit between the new kids, so it was quite hard, and some even got there late. Too bad for them, though. Lateness was punished with extra work.

The morning of all Iron and Blood disciples had all kinds of body-related training. But there were differences here. Everything was done without the help of Spiritual Energy. It was to the point that the training field had the same formation used during the 300km marathon exam. Simply put, the disciples wouldn't be able to use Spiritual Energy even if they wanted.

Here, there was no such as distinctions between men and women. At most, you would have something like weight training having lower weight for the women and things like that. Still, that was carefully calculated based on the difference between a man and a woman's body. Simply put, both genders would leave the field with similar degrees of soreness. The Iron and Blood Faction had existed for centuries. Elder Hulian was far from being the first elder who took care of it. Thanks to that, they know very well how much pressure each gender can have.

Of course, that meant anything but easier, especially kids who had relied on Spiritual Energy all this while. That also included Julio and Lenna.

The training happened every day as long as the disciple was not in charge of some other duty of the sect. Missions were one of those examples.

The training would go all the way to midday, which means around six hours of training each time. One can already imagine how the new kids felt once they were finally discharged. The Outer Sect elders really pushed everyone to the limits, no exception was made.

Rean and Roan were not feeling bad, though. Those two had been following similar spartan methods for several years already. Malaka would be feeling the same if she was here.

Although Julio and Lenna were close to the breaking point, those two were still better off than the majority of the new kids. Sure enough, Roan's hell training session during the last exam played a big part in their newfound strength.

As they left the field, Rean couldn't help but comment.

"The Iron and Blood District really knows what to do. The changes are small, but I can tell through the others' life force that their meridians will improve a lot if they continue like this."

Lenna couldn't help but ask why.

Rean smiled, then continued.

"Everyone's meridians exist in the body, not the cultivation inside your dantian. By completing the morning training, the meridians around your body get a lot 'loose.' After here, everyone will probably begin to cultivate for the day. Their 'loose' meridians will then be washed with spiritual energy, which will expand them."

"Of course, this is not something that will happen in just a few days. There will be a need for constant training for years until the results become really apparent. Still, disciples with low aptitude would be the most suited for this method. That's why Hulan cares little about High Color Aptitude ones. Instead, he prefers those who know how to put the effort necessary."

Suddenly, their group heard a voice coming from behind.

"Rean is correct."

Their group looked at the newcomer, and they all bowed.

"Elder Guliva."

Elder Guliva was the one responsible for the Iron and Blood District in the Outer Sect. He was one of Hulian's most trusted subordinates. Truth be told, he could have become an Inner Sect Elder with his cultivation. Still, he preferred to stay in the Outer Sect to take care of the affairs here while Hulian did the same in the Inner Sect. Rean and Roan also noticed that the Outer Sect Elders didn't just order the kids around, but they also participated in those bodily training sessions. Elder Guliva wasn't different. All in all, Rean and Roan, especially Roan, had a good impression of him.

"Hulian wasn't wrong. Even though it was only your first day in the morning training, Rean and Roan are utterly different from the other kids. All the others collapsed during it or can't even walk properly now that it was over. But you two seemed to have taken it as a good warm-up."

The elder then looked at Julio and Lenna, which made them a little embarrassed. It was easy to tell that the two of them were also one of the kids who barely made it through. They were far from being like the older disciples or the twins.

Rean smiled.

"Thanks to the block of ice here, we are used to this kind of regime. Is there something Elder Guliva needs from us?"

Roan's mouth twitched.

'Who is the block of ice?'

Guliva nodded and then threw two green tokens at Rean and Roan.

"These are the Special Mission Assignment Tokens. With them, you can accept missions that are one rank above your cultivation level. Hulian told me that your strength far surpasses that of an Initial Stage Foundation Establishment, so I prepared it for you."

Rean and Roan were quite surprised by that. After all, they were indeed intending to ask for this kind of permission. To get it this easy was really a good thing.

"Thank you, elder Guliva."

Guliva nodded and then left.

The twins then pretended to put the token in their bags before sending it into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

In the end, Julio and Lenna were too tired to walk around with them, so they returned to their room to rest.

As Rean and Roan walked through the Iron and Blood district once more, they noticed that the disciples who had been here for more than two years all had well-built bodies. Even the women had some apparent muscles. It's just that as cultivators, those women had their own methods of keeping their beauty even in that condition. In the end, women put a lot of importance on appearance. Even the Iron and Blood District ones were no different.

Rean then went to the affairs office in the District while Roan went to explore a little more.

Rean quickly arrived there. He then asked the disciple behind the counter what he needed.

"What do I need to do if I want to go to Majorias City?"

To leave the sect in the first years, one had to sign their departure. It also depended on whether the sect needed you or not. If you were, let's say, on a particular building guarding duty, you couldn't go out until your time was finished.

"First, I need your number and your disciple's number."

Rean quickly passed the information, and the disciple verified it.

"Oh, you are a new disciple who joined yesterday. Your first duty is the Demon Beasts caring in two weeks' time. If you need to go out, you will have to be back before it starts, or there will be punishment."

Rean was happy that the procedures were that simple.

"That's good then, I only need to go to Majorias City, and I should be back in at most a few days."

The disciple behind the counter nodded.

"In that case, you just need to sign your departure. Remember to use the sect's badge and robe while you are outside, understood?"

Rean didn't mind. He had received several sets of the sect's robe to use, not to mention that he already had his badge. He quickly signed it and left straight away. As for the morning training, Rean didn't have a problem skipping it since the elders already know his and Roan's abilities. Not to mention that he wasn't really intending to slack. He always makes sure to keep Roan's regime even when Roan isn't looking.

When Rean exited the sect and went past few kilometers, Roan noticed it. That's because their connection had a limit of distance. Once the limit was broken, they wouldn't be able to contact each other anymore, nor could they use each other's elements. However, they could always feel in which direction the other is.

Rean had brought a lot of Rank One Spirit Stones with him, but it wouldn't last forever. He was planning to start a partnership with the local blacksmith of the Majorias City to sell Steel weapons. As one can expect, Majorias City also had a Zafa Bank branch.

The Varen Tribe has a contract with the Zafa Bank, so he first had to talk with them before annexing another blacksmith workshop into the Steel business.

Even with Spiritual Energy available to use, Rean still took over ten hours to cover the 300km distance between the sect and the city. Well, at least it wasn't several days like before. It was already late at night when he arrived, so he simply rented a room to rest until the next morning.

After eating breakfast and once again following Roan's training regime, he went straight to the Zafa Bank Branch.

The Zafa Bank employee found it quite weird that a Kid was allowed to take care of such things. Still, after seeing his Dalamu Sect robe and badge, he didn't comment on this issue. Sure enough, being a member of the Dalamu Sect opened a lot of doors. The issue of being a Kid could also be resolved with it.

Finally, Rean arrived at the Janariz Weapon Store, the same one where he destroyed their sword back then.

One of the employees recognized Rean from the last time, and above all, he recognized Rean's new robe and badge. That being said, he didn't waste time and went inside to call the Chief Blacksmith once more. Folca Janariz came out a few minutes later. When he looked at Rean, he nodded his head.

"As I thought, you wanted the Dalamu Sect to have your back before discussing things about that sword of yours."

Rean smiled after hearing that.

"It's good to talk with intelligent people. Indeed, I wanted to join the sect first. Anyway, how about we talk business?"

Folca chuckled before turning around.

"Come with me, there are way too many eyes here."

Rean then quickly followed Folca.

Death... and me

Chapter 119: Maybe Another Day

Rean spent a total of 5 days in Majorias City. During this time, he made a new contract with the Janariz Clan that controls the Janariz Weapon Store. Their clan is quite big, so they have branches in quite a few different cities. Rean had chosen this one to make a partnership precisely because of this reason.

Rean wasn't afraid of betrayal since the Zafa Bank was also involved. Janariz Clan would need to be courting Roa- cough, cough, Death if they tried to pull the Zafa Bank's leg. After all, Zafa bank had 30% of all income acquired through Steelworks. It was in moments like this that Rean liked Juri's judgment about signing a contract with them.

Rean also spent a lot of his time teaching Folca about the composition of Steel. Folca couldn't help but feel impressed with how Rean worked with such common ores to achieve such a sturdy alloy.

"In my eyes, you are still a kid, so I don't believe that you learned it alone. However, as a blacksmith, I couldn't care less about your origins. What I want to know at the moment is if you know other combinations of alloys that used much better metals."

Rean smiled and passed his Sword to Folca.

"This is a Spiritual Kaz Sword that I made. Of course, although it uses Kaz as primary ore, it is an alloy nonetheless. Also, this is the first Spiritual Equipment I had ever forged. As you can imagine, it can only be considered a Low-Level Spiritual Equipment. I don't have the Spirit Stones necessary to buy High-Level materials since they all need Rank Two Spirit Stones, so this is my limit at the moment."

Folca was taken aback by the Sword. As far as he could see, the Sword didn't look like a normal Spiritual Kaz Sword that much. Sure, it still had the blue color, but it was a lot lighter. Standard Spiritual Kaz Swords would be Marine Blue, but this one was more like a Sky Blue. There was also this white hue over it that Folca couldn't understand where it came from.

"A Low-Level Sword made with a different technique..."

Folca then looked at one of his subordinates right after.

"Bring me a Spiritual Kaz Sword, the best one you can find in the Weapon Store."

"Yes, Chief!"

As a big clan of blacksmiths with branches in several cities of the country, they obviously had Spiritual Kaz Swords and other weapons as well.

The Spiritual Kaz Sword was quickly delivered to Folca, who compared both. Rean's Sword had the same traits as his Steel Swords. It was a lot smoother and sharper. The weight was also completely different, and Rean's Sword was around 30% lighter.

"Won't the lack of weight reduce its power instead?"

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

"Although I can get more attack power if the weight was higher, I would lose too much in speed. This is a Sword I create for the Foundation Establishment Realm. If it was someone at the Core Formation, I would have increased the weight, as you said. That's because their strength can counteract the increase in weight. Still, I believe this is the best weight for Foundation Establishment Cultivators. Besides, the main point is not the weight, but the element gathering ability."

Folca showed a puzzled expression.

"Element Gathering Ability? Is there such a thing?"

Rean nodded.

"Why don't you try to focus your Spiritual Energy on the Sword?"

Folca got curious and immediately gathered his Spiritual Energy on it. Sure enough, Light Element began to rush inside from the surroundings, which made Folca's eyes almost pop out. If not because he was the one using it himself, he would think that the one calling the Light Element was the cultivator, not the weapon.

Any cultivator at the Foundation Establishment Realm or higher could call forth the Elements they have an affinity with. So there was nothing strange in seeing their weapons shining with the color of the Elements they use. In fact, one could even call other Elements they have a low affinity with. Of course, the result would be several times worse.

However, Folca isn't doing such a thing at all! The Light Element, which is also something that he only saw Rean using in his life, was now entering the Sword by itself. How could he not be shocked by it?

"This!"

Rean smiled before continuing.

"I guess I don't need to tell what the advantages of having a weapon that can call another Element forth are, right?"

Folca nodded absent-mindedly. Cultivators have an affinity with one Element, that much is true. At least, that is the truth in the world they live at the moment. However, that doesn't mean they can't use other elements to increase their attack power. It's just that only those at the Core Formation and above would begin to do that. For example, a Fire Element Affinity Cultivator also using Wind Element to increase the power of his Fire Element.

However, if their weapon can already do it by itself, just how much better would it be? Controlling various elements, especially when you don't have an affinity with them, is anything but easy. This is a kind of weapon that would improve the combat power of any cultivator in the world. Not to mention that it can be used by Foundation Establishment cultivators too! Folca doesn't know if there are Foundation Establishment cultivators out there that can use more than one Element proficiently. Still, if there are, he is sure that they are few and far between. This weapon, however, would allow any of them to do that.

Yet, there was one more thing Folca wished to try out. He passed his Store's Kaz Sword to another guy before saying.

"Let's strike the swords against each other. I want to see what else it can do other than gathering elements."

The other blacksmith nodded, and both sides released their Spiritual Energies in their Swords. Suddenly...

Swish!

Rean's Sword cut the Standard Spiritual Kaz Sword right in the middle. One must remember that neither side spared Spiritual Energy to protect their Swords, they both went full attack mode. That's why Rean's Sword could destroy the other one so easily. Still, that was the purpose of the test, to see which one was more resistant.

"Unbelievable. Your alloy alone, even without the Element, is already much better than my Store's Spiritual Kaz Sword. However, the terrifying thing is that the Light Element in the Sword gathered in the edge, increasing the sharpness several times. No, it would be more correct to say that it helped burn through the other Sword. Both the Sharpness and Light Element worked together, which increased the power beyond the alloy limit."

Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap! Clap!

Rean couldn't help but clap his hands in admiration.

"Senior Folca is really an expert blacksmith for sure. You are the first one to really see through the trick behind it."

Folca didn't care about any of the pleasantries.

"What to do you want to teach me this? Any price is negotiable."

Rean took his Sword back before saying.

"Maybe another day."

Death... and me

Chapter 120: Time to go back

Folca felt like crying but had no tears.

'Then why did you show it to me? Are you a sadistic or something? Is it funny to see others suffering?'

Of course, he only thought it in his mind. He decided that since his Clan got the formula to make Steel, he might use it to research new weapons. Perhaps Rean's Spiritual Kaz Sword was made based on the Steel crafting process.

He wasn't completely wrong since Rean's Steel was made based on his knowledge as a metallurgist back on earth. However, the main secret behind his Spiritual Kaz Sword was not present in the Steel Weapons, which was how to transform a Spiritual Metal into an Element Gathering One.

There are types of natural ores out there that already have Elements on them. But those would not gather the Elements to them like Rean's sword. Instead, they would make it easier for the Cultivator to use that ore's specific element on the weapon. For example, it would be much easier to use Fire Element on a weapon made with a Fire Elemental Ore. However, it doesn't mean that the ore will gather Fire Element by itself. That's something that Rean invented by matching Spiritual Energy and his knowledge as a metallurgist from his previous life.

"Alright. It seems like your blacksmiths already got the principle behind forging Steel. Do you need an anti-Spiritual Sense formation to hide the forging process? I can ask the Zafa Bank to send someone to deal with it."

Folca snorted after hearing that.

"Hmph! Who do you think we are? A blacksmith clan of our size obviously has its own forging secrets. We had long since built those formations to prevent them from leaking out. Besides, since the Zafa Bank has 30% of the profits, no one will dare to steal from them. Even if someone is idiot enough to do that and succeed, he would never be able to sell Steel Works in Sasamil Empire. That being said, our business is pretty much safe."

Rean nodded, satisfied.

"Very well. I will leave the price of the Steel Weapons and Armors up to your judgment. Just don't forget that Astreg City and the surroundings are off-limits. Oh well, I doubt your Weapon Store would open a shop in such a remote place anyway."

Folca nodded.

"Indeed, we have no interest in a place so far away. But that is also good since we can put higher prices for the Steel Weapons and the others would buy anyway. It is not worth traveling all the way to Astreg City to buy them. Also, we will make a few enhancements with our own techniques, so our Steelwork will be different from them to start with."

Rean didn't mind. Folca is a very experienced blacksmith, so he didn't need to teach him more than necessary.

"Very well. As per the agreement, Zafa bank has 30% of the profits, your Shop has another 30%, while I have 40%. However, don't waste your time gathering Rank One Spirit Stones. Just trade them directly into Rank two if you can. I know that although the exchange rate is said to be 10 Rank one for 1 Rank two, the fact is that you will need at least 12 Rank one Spirit Stones for it. Still, I don't mind. As long as it doesn't surpass 13 Rank one Spirit Stones, you can trade it straight away."

Folca nodded. 12 Rank one Spirit Stones was the average price. If he can even use 13, then it will be easy to trade them.

Rean then continued.

"However, if you wish so, you can pay me with High-Level Spiritual Ores and other forging materials. I need to start working on a stronger weapon since my Spiritual Kaz Sword is reaching a limit. I even saw a few of the kids in the Dalamu Sect Entrance Exam using High-Level Spiritual Weapons, so I can't fall behind."

Folca wanted to say that Rean's Spiritual Kaz Sword is already equivalent to a High-Level Spiritual Equipment. However, Rean definitely knows that already, so there was no need to point it out.

"Very well. You can leave all the crafting process with us. In at most a month, everyone in the cities we have branches will know about the Steel Weapons."

Rean nodded and was just about to leave when Janariz spoke once more.

"My offer is still valid. Any price is negotiable for the secret of the Elemental Gathering Metal."

Rean smiled and finally left. It was not that he didn't want to share the secret, but that it was too early. Steel Weapons were as good as Low-Level equipments. Still, ultimately, they would be used by Foundation Establishment cultivators as most. Any Core Formation or higher would definitely use High-Level Spiritual Weapons and Armors.

However, if the Elemental Gathering Metal appeared in the market, maybe even the Dalamu Sect name wouldn't hold the greedy ones back. This kind of weapon can totally change the way Foundation Establishment Cultivators and above do battle. Before Rean gets strong enough, it was better to not spread it. Having Folca Janariz knowing about it to prepare the terrain for the future was already good enough. That man is smart, and won't open his mouth easily.

As Rean left the Janariz Weapon Store, he put his hand inside his bag to pretend to take something. But in fact, he was accessing the Soul Gem Realm to take a few Spirit Stones. But only then he remembered something.

"Oh, right! I can't access the Soul Gem Realm if Roan is too far away from me. Such an annoying system..."

Rean was planning to stay in the city another two or so days but decided against it in the end. He spent quite a few Spirit Stones during the contract process, so he was pretty much broke until he could reaccess his Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'I guess Roan is also in the same dilemma at the moment, I better go back.'