

## Death 1111

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### Chapter 1111: Yin Corpses

Of course, Julian didn't end his explanation there. "Besides, they had a huge flaw. After taking control over the next region, everyone began to send spies nonstop into the region they controlled before. The same one from 1000 years prior. They soon found out how the sect almost wiped out all the lives in their own territory before moving to that next one. They were a plague, a plague that would continue to eat the Huring Continent's body from inside if not dealt with."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Indeed. If they couldn't even control themselves and had an entire region wiped out, that meant they were out of control. I wonder why they let it reach that point. The moment they went out to wage war against the next region and took it, they should have known that the rest of the continent would feel suspicious. It was too overbearing."

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before asking, "Addiction?"

Julian looked with surprise at Roan. "Very perceptive, but not entirely accurate. Sure, the cultivation technique made their users addicted to it. But above all, it transforms the soul."

Rean and Roan nodded after hearing that. "This transformation you talked about is what made that undead army, right?"

Julian couldn't help but ask, "Undead? I've seen you call them that. is that how they are called in your home?"

Roan shook his head as he explained, "No, it's the first time we've seen them, so we simply chose this name as it seems they aren't even alive."

Julian understood after that. "I see. In that case, you better use the names that we use. We call them Yin Corpses."

Roan didn't mind. "So, this transformation you talked about is what made that Yin Corpse army, right?"

Julian confirmed as he explained, "Yes, cultivators of the Soul Devouring Technique must keep consuming other souls to maintain their own souls intact. This is, after all, a technique from an evil path. Such techniques usually give boosts to one's cultivation far above normal ones. But at the same time, they all have huge drawbacks because of their advantages. As you know, there's no such thing as free lunch in the world."

Julian continued, "This 'plague' had to consume more and more souls. The higher one's cultivation was, the more souls one would need to keep one's own from turning into those things. The Soul Eater Sect had no choice. Their cultivation technique had already spread in their region, and they couldn't take it back anymore. Naturally, more cultivators using it appeared day by day."

"That makes sense," Rean said. "Think of this way. The Soul Eater Sect even needed to create farms of people. You can only imagine how dire the life of the people there was. Their only chance was to use that technique and become one of the guys who ate souls instead of having their own eaten. This kind of technique most likely didn't allow them to use the souls of people who passed the same transformation to cultivate it. They needed fresh people."

Julian couldn't help but ask, "Have you seen these types of techniques before?"

Rean shook his head in response. "No. However, I'm quite knowledgeable in the matters of the soul."

Julian didn't know if Rean told the truth or not, but that didn't matter. "Anyways, a cultivation technique widely spread and that couldn't be taken back anymore. In exchange, the life of ordinary people got worse and worse due to the addiction and the fear of becoming those undead things. Obviously, that gave birth to even more Soul Devouring Technique users, hoping to not become food. You get the picture."

With that, Julian got to the point. "Now then, they were in a path of no return, especially their top cultivators, who had already reached a point where they needed thousands of souls daily to maintain their state. The Huring Sacred Land couldn't ignore it anymore, nor could the other regions around the Soul Eater Sect. Even the Evil Path Powers had to admit it went too far already."

"And so started the purging, correct?" Milina asked.

Julian nodded in response. "Yes. That forced the Soul Eater Sect members to immediately retreat from their newly acquired region back to their own. The Huring Sacred Land then closed the exits of the Soul Eater Sect's territories, making it impossible for anyone to leave that place."

"However, the Sacred Land and the powers allied to it didn't try to attack the Soul Eater Sect inside its own territory. After all, they had dominated it for a very long time. Not to mention that they were very strong after consuming so many souls. Bringing the battle into their region would result in too many losses. They only made sure to protect the borders, where the Soul Eater Sect had no power, formations, traps, and other advantages they had inside."

Rean sighed after hearing that. "In the end, the cultivation technique that gave them so much power also became their doom. They had already pretty much cleared the people's souls inside their own territory. And with the Sacred Land's alliance protecting the borders, they had no way of acquiring more."

Milina narrowed her eyes in response. "If they got into that situation, shouldn't the Soul Eater Sect have tried to force their way out to escape?"

"Do you think the Sacred Land would be idiotic enough to not know that?" Roan rebuked her right after.

Obviously, Julian agreed with Roan. "That's exactly it. The Soul Eater Sect was strong, especially inside their own territory. In any case, the Huring Sacred Land was the top power for a reason. They were the strongest. The Soul Eater Sect simply didn't have the time to grow. Even if they had another 1000 years and no one bothered their actions, they would still be behind."

Roan nodded in agreement. "No souls to eat and desperate attacks that had no chance of shaking the defenses on the borders. In the end, they started to lose their forces without the Sacred Land having to do much. They only had to wait for the technique to do its own job. The Sacred Land definitely had experts capable of entering the Soul Eater Sect's lands to check the situation and come back as well."

"Yes." Julian agreed with Roan. "The Soul Eater Sect's downfall happened pretty quickly after that. In just 10 years, most of their cultivators had died or had transformed into those things that came after us. After that, the Sacred Land got rid of the high-level Yin Corpses so that they wouldn't cause problems. What remains are the low-level Yin Corpses that you saw before."

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Chapter 1112: Exit

"Does that mean we need to escape this place to pass the test?" Milina could not help but ask.

Julian shrugged his shoulders in response. "How would I know? The Sacred Land didn't say what the rules were. However, that's the only thing I could think of."

Roan then asked something else. "Alright. Then, we can basically run in any direction until we leave the region with the Yin Corpses. Does that work?" It was obviously a question for Julian.

However, Julian immediately shook his head. "It's not that simple. To make sure these Yin Corpses don't leave the Soul Eater Sect's territory anymore, the region has been sealed. I wasn't sure why the Sacred Land never got rid of these Yin Corpses, but seeing them being used for our test, it makes sense that they didn't. It wasn't just a warning to show what happens to those who defy the Sacred Land."

Rean found something strange, though. "That's not right. If the cultivation technique is what creates those things, how come the Yin Energy in the air can do the same? It's not like we're cultivating that technique."

Julian shook his head as he replied, "Now you've asked way too much. If I were to guess, I think that the Yin Energy that transforms the others comes from the huge concentration of Yin Corpses."

Roan immediately confirmed Julian's guesses. "He's right. I could feel the Yin Energy being several times thicker when that army came in our direction. After being in this sealed space for so long, it's no surprise that the whole region is filled with this corruptive Yin Energy."

Julian was happy to hear that. "Is that so? That helps." Sometime later, Julian asked. "Alright, I've answered all your questions. Can I leave now?"

"You haven't answered everything yet." Roan shook his head in response. "Since this is a sealed area, and we need to find the exit, there must be a way out. Do you know where it is?"

Julian shook his head. "If I knew, I wouldn't be in such distress at the moment. First of all, I don't even know where we are. It's not like I've ever entered this place. Don't forget that the Sacred Land sealed this place. I've only read of its history. I have no idea what geography it has."

Suddenly, Roan's scythe came out and stopped right on the guy's neck. It was so fast that Julian simply didn't have the time to react at all! Naturally, that took him by surprise. 'Holy shit! How can he be this quick with this cultivation?!' Immediately, he understood that running away from Rean's group was nothing but a pipe dream.

Roan then warned Julian, "This was the very first lie you spoke after all this time." Sure enough, Roan picked out the clues straight away. "But considering that you said the truth to us so far, I'll give you one last chance. Do you know where the exit is? This time, you better tell us the truth unless you want to see your own headless body from afar. Since you know so much, I refuse to believe I won't find more people with information about this place."

Julian let out cold sweat after that. Somehow, he felt that Roan could tell straight away if he was lying or not. "Alright, alright! It's not that I know where the exit is. When I said that I didn't know where we were in the Soul Eater Sect region, I wasn't lying. All I know is that the region was sealed starting from the sect itself. If there's a way out, the only place I can think there is a clue is there. It's true! I'm not lying!"

Roan retrieved his scythe while narrowing his eyes. "He's telling the truth this time. However, the sect's location should be the place where most of these Yin Corpses are located. Not only that, but the highest level ones should be around there as well."

Julian rubbed his neck for a moment before saying, "The second part is right. But the first, not so much."

"What do you mean?" Rean and Milina asked at the same time.

Julian didn't want to offend Roan anymore, so he decided to give a bit more information. "Yin Corpses are the same as Demon Beasts. They don't have sentience anymore, just strength. That means that they're also very territorial. If you don't have the power to live in that area, you have to leave. With that said, the old Soul Eater Sect is most likely the place with the least amount of Yin Corpses."

Roan nodded, satisfied. "That's also not a lie. However, it also means that the real dangerous Yin Corpses are most likely gathered there."

That raised another question from Rean. "Julian, you said that the Sacred Land eliminated the high-level Yin Corpses, right?" Julian nodded and waited for Rean to continue. "In that case, what was the level of this elimination? Do you know what would be the highest cultivation of the Yin Corpses that remain here?"

Julian shook his head straight away. "Sorry, I don't know that much."

Surprisingly, Milina was the one to give an answer. "Well, they sent us here for the second test, right? If there were Yin Corpses at the Transition Realm level or above, it would be a meaningless test. We might as well kill ourselves straight away as we have no hope of passing through a place with many of these. I believe that the highest level would be Elemental Transformation Realm Yin Corpses."

Rean, Roan, and Julian had to admit Milina was right. However, Julian also corrected a small flaw in her theory. "You're right for most of it. However, if that's the case, I believe we might have some Transition Realm Level Yin Corpses, but definitely nothing above it."

Roan agreed with Julian. "He's right. After all, he said that Yin Corpses are basically like demon beasts who act on instinct. We know this recruitment has Elemental Transformation Realm participants as well, although very few." Roan continued, "With that said, we have a huge advantage in combat strategy, especially since we're talking about the cream of the crop of the entire Huring Continent. Everyone can fight way above their level. Having Transition Realm Yin Corpses would just be proper."

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Chapter 1113: Somewhere Else

"Let's not forget the last thing," Rean added.

Obviously, Julian, Roan, and Milina knew what it was. "The other participants. We don't know if only a certain number of participants can leave. Even if everyone can leave, no rules state that you can't get rid of others in the meantime."

Roan then looked at Julian and asked him, "Do you really have no idea how we can find the Soul Eater Sect?"

Julian shook his head vigorously in response to the question. "I truly don't know. I do know a few of the landmarks, but I can't hope to find such a thing in this storm."

"How big is the sealed region, by the way?" Rean soon asked. "I don't believe it's really as big as a true region. After all, we've already bumped into a few cultivators. If it was really as big as a region with several countries, it would be a miracle to bump into a single person as soon as we did."

Julain confirmed Rean's words as he told them, "Indeed. It's not the entire region of the Soul Eater Sect that has been sealed. First of all, it would be too big for the Yin Energy of the Yin Corpses to permeate such a huge area. Once the high-level Yin Corpses were disposed of, the Sacred Land forced the low-level ones back to the state of the Soul Eater Sect. Although the entire region is still considered a forbidden ground, only a part of the country where the Soul Eater Sect originated was sealed. The outside is completely fine."

"And how big is that?" Roan asked the question once more.

"Something around 300 to 400 kilometers, more or less." Of course, that was still a large area. However, it at least made sense to have bumped into other cultivators now.

Roan nodded after that. "That makes things easier." With that, he decided that it was enough. "Alright, Julian. You can go now."

Rean and Milina didn't mind. "May we meet each other again outside. Also, try not to lie to Roan anymore. It's bad for your health."

Rean's group then turned around and began to run away. Their plan was very simple. Since the region spanned around 300-400 kilometers, they would keep running until they found some clues regarding the location of the Soul Eater Sect.

Julian was taken aback, seeing how Rean's group didn't even think of his presence anymore. Of course, it was a good thing that they kept their promise and let him go. At least, they knew how to keep their words.

\*Gruuuuuu...\*

\*Hoaaaaaaa...\*

\*Huuuuuuuuu...\*

Suddenly, the sound of the Yin Corpses could be heard again, which made Julian feel a chill on his back. With that, he turned around and dashed away as well. He definitely didn't want to be there when the Yin Corpses arrived. It's just that a few moments later...

"Err...didn't we just say you could leave?" Rean asked with a puzzled expression. Roan and Milina also looked at Julian while they kept running.

"Ahem..." Julian understood that Rean's group was a lot stronger than their cultivation suggested. Besides, he thought that they could come to a deal. "As I mentioned, I do know a few landmarks of this area. If we spot it, I'll be able to tell in which direction the Soul Eater Sect is located. Let's go together. We can even protect each other along the way."

Roan glanced at him and snorted. "Protect each other? With your strength that couldn't even react to my attack?"

Rean laughed out loud. "Come on, Roan. He's just scared of the ghosts. We don't need to keep running forever if he finds the landmarks. If he holds us back, we can simply use him as bait for the Yin Corpses."

Roan had to admit it made sense. "A bait, huh? That seems useful. Alright, he can tag along."

Julian almost vomited blood after that. 'Can't you at least pretend that I'm still here?' Nevertheless, Julian had to admit he would be safer staying close to the twins and Milina than going out there alone. Not to mention that they had that amazing physical enhancement ability that helped a lot in the snow. "I... will do my best not to bother you. Once I find a landmark, I'll show you the direction of the Soul Eater Sect."

Back in the Sacred Land's guest room, the Apocal Country's elders and princes couldn't help but feel ashamed. 'That idiot! Can't you at least show some guts?' Fortunately, only the country of Rean's group and their own could see what was happening there. Otherwise, they would bury their heads in the



ground in shame. Not to mention that a few of them had to admit that Julian staying with Rean's group was his safest choice in that place.

However, it was then that Roan said, "No, I want you to show us the direction of something else."

"Something else?" Julian was puzzled by that request. Rean's group obviously didn't know anything about this place, so why would they head in another direction?

Of course, he wasn't the only one. Milina was also at a loss. "Shouldn't we go to the sect as fast as possible?"

Seeing their expressions made Rean smile in response. "Hehehe! Leave it to us. We will show you what we'll do once we arrive there."

Milina and Julian looked at each other but decided to believe the twins for now. At the very least, they had the strength to back up their words. They should know what they're doing.

Meanwhile, all the other participants also ran after information. It's just that not many knew about this place.

\*Crack, crack, crack, crack...\*

"Ahhhh! Stop, stop! No more!"

A man was standing on the snow with half of his body frozen. However, it wasn't the Yin Corpses that did that to him. Instead, it was a beautiful woman with a cold expression. That guy was lucky, though. That's because there were four more statues of ice around him. They were all cultivators who tried to mess with her after seeing that she was alone.

"That will depend on what you have to say. If you give me any useful information about this place, I might consider forgiving you for your rudeness earlier. It seemed like you knew a little bit when you talked with your frozen friends a moment ago."

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#### Chapter 1114: Blood Path Sect

Her name was Liana Harizmendi, a member of the Tenke Kingdom, a kingdom filled with people specializing in Yin Energy manipulation. However, she was also their most important participant this time around. She was the owner of the Pure Yin Body. Her cultivation was still in the Initial Stage of the Saint Realm. However, her abilities, talent, and body constitution gave her a huge advantage above even the geniuses who came to participate in this recruitment. The guy she left alive was at the Late Stage of the Saint Realm, but even he stood no chance against her.

The guy could only tell everything he knew. Unfortunately for him, Liana finished the job and froze him completely after that. He was as dead as he could be. "Hmph! Trash like you shouldn't have even been born." With that, she turned around and used the information she got to proceed with her journey.

Somewhere else, a cultivator called Hedoi Garaizabal moved one of his hands nonstop.

\*Arrghhhh!\*

"That's, it, that's it. Keep cutting further down. There aren't enough bones exposed yet, so you need to show me more. Oh, by the way, do you want to see the color of your heart? That sounds nice, right? Take the rib bones in front of it after. Not everyone has the chance to see their hearts beating."

At the moment, he was using some kind of technique that manipulated the cultivator in front of him. It didn't matter how much the guy struggled or screamed as his body continued to move on its own, cutting itself nonstop. Naturally, it was a very unpleasant sight. "Please, let me die! Why are you doing this?"

Hedoi laughed in response to the question. "Hahaha! That's because it's fun, of course! That first test was extremely annoying. I had to fly around in that bullshit Divine Energy stream and keep a low profile as our country was at a disadvantage in that situation. I have to alleviate my frustration, and you just so happened to be here. Isn't that great that you can help me with that?"

Suddenly, a black-robed disciple of the Blood Path Sect appeared close to him. There was one head in his hand with an expression of utter terror. It was a woman who seemed to have quite a few similar features to the tortured guy. "Li-Little sister! How could you?!"

Hedoi moved his fingers, making the guy increase the pace in mutilating his body and scream even more. However, Hedoi ignored him for the moment. "How is it? Is this what we think it is, Gala?"

Gala was obviously the newcomer's name. "Yes, Senior Hedoi. This is really the Soul Eater Sect's sealed area, the Yin Death Zone. I believe the test this time around is to escape this place alive before the Yin Energy corrupts our souls and turns us into Yin Corpses."

Hedoi agreed with Gala. "That's most likely the case. Even I have to admit this Yin Energy is annoying. Oh well. It will take very long for the energy to cause me any damage, so we have more than enough time."

Suddenly, Hedoi closed all the fingers on the hand that was controlling that cultivator. The guy let out a shriek before his eyes went blank. Following this, something that looked like many strands of blood began to come out and enter Hedoi's body. In just a few seconds, all that was left was a dried corpse. "Sigh... this guy's blood wasn't that good. Were you luckier?"

Gala licked his lips as he looked at the woman's head in his hand. "She was quite tasty. Even though she had already surpassed her forties, she was still a virgin. Can you believe that?"

Hedoi couldn't help but show a little bit of jealousy. "So nice...however, you shouldn't be surprised by it. We are talking about the geniuses of the several powers of each country here. They're not like any street dog we find outside. I believe we will find a lot of tasty bodies during this competition, including virgins of both genders. We might even have a breakthrough because of it."

Gala was happy to hear that. "I hope Senior Hedoi is right."

Hedoi smiled in response before asking, "So, where should we go?"

"According to the information from this girl's group, we're at the southeast side of the Yin Death Zone. However, because no one was allowed inside this sealed space for so long, almost no one knows exactly where the Soul Eater Sect is located," Gala replied.

Hedoi nodded after hearing that. "Well, the clues to escape this sealed area should be in the sect itself. It's probably located in the center of this sealed area, so we can just move northwest and hope we find it."

He then changed the topic as he asked Gala, "By the way, did you find any information about the guy the sect master wants us to find? We were supposed to force him to fail the Sacred Land's test. However, if we do it here, he'll most likely die. The sect master definitely won't like it. If possible, we need to help him pass this test and then force him to fail in a future opportunity. If we do that, the sect master will surely reward us. Perhaps, he will even give us a blood pearl for consumption."

Gala's eyes lit up when he heard the item's name. Unfortunately, he had to shake his head in response. "No, Senior Hedoi. That's not surprising, though. This place is very big, after all. Our best chance is to head to the sect and hope he's there. Then again, the other disciples of our Klacks Country know of it as well, so they'll probably find the black-haired guy first."

Hedoi snorted in response. "Hmph! If they find the guy, they'll have to give him to me very nicely. Otherwise, they can forget going back alive. In a certain way, this is good news." Hedoi then turned around as he said, "Alright, let's go. We need to arrive there as soon as possible so that we won't miss that guy."

Gala nodded, and with that, the two Blood Path Sect disciples disappeared in the snow.

Similar situations happened everywhere. Everyone was gathering information and finding their way to the Soul Eater Sect.

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Chapter 1115: This Is Perfect

The Huring Country's party was one step ahead of everyone else, though. Almost all of them knew very well what this place was the moment they saw the Yin Corpses. It's not that the Sacred Land went out of its way to tell the Huring Country's disciples regarding the second test. It's just that the case regarding the Soul Eater Sect and the Death Yin Zone was famous in the Sacred Land's territory.

Because of that, many of the Huring Country's disciples, who were also teleported randomly, began to appear near the Soul Eater Sect. By the time other cultivator groups from other countries arrived, the Huring Country was pretty much ready to enter the sect. Well, there were few exceptions, of course. For example, Julian's country knew about this place, so quite a few of his companions had already arrived in the place.

The leader of the Huring Country's group was a guy called Venali Petsys, one of the very few cultivators at the Elemental Transformation Realm. Of course, considering the Huring Country's power and background, he wasn't the only one at that level.

"Ricab, is everyone ready?" Venali asked one of his friends.

"Yes. There are a few members of our initial group missing, but they were probably caught by the Yin Corpses. Otherwise, they should have arrived by now," Ricab replied. He was at the Peak Stage of the Saint Realm.

"Or they were killed by other participants looking for information," said a girl on the side. Her name was Dessielle Qilamin, and she was yet another of the Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators from Huring Country.

Venali agreed with Dessielle. "Our Huring Country is indeed the strongest power during every recruitment century. However, that doesn't mean we're invincible. If those guys and girls were caught by a large group, it would make sense that they were captured or even killed."

Of course, he wasn't in the mood to wait anymore, though. "Let's head inside. The other countries are starting to make their way here as the information spreads. The Yin Corpses are becoming annoying to deal with as well. Also, although the Yin Energy of the environment would take many days to start changing our bodies, I would rather not risk waiting any longer."

Everyone around Venali nodded in agreement. There had never been a rule where everyone from Huring Country had to finish the tests or that the ones ahead had to help the late ones. Huring Country also had its own internal competition, so everyone wanted to end it to show they were at the forefront.

"First of all, it would be shameful if we weren't the first ones to find our way out. As the strongest power of the continent, we must set an example," Venali said before he pointed in the direction of the Soul Eater Sect far in the distance. "Let's go!"

Quite a few groups like Julian's Apocal Country kept an eye on the gathering of cultivators of the Huring Country. The moment they saw their members moving out, they also made their move.

"The Huring Country is taking the lead!"

"Obviously. They have their pride to keep."

"Isn't it too risky to follow them from behind? Their strength alone is enough to force us to stay away from their path."

"That won't happen. My sect master said that the Huring Country won't kill people unless necessary."

"Indeed. However, it's not because they're benevolent. That I can guarantee at least."

"Obviously. They simply think that it's beneath themselves to bother with small fries like us."

"Hehe! Let them think that way. As long as they open the path, I'm more than happy to be ignored."

Hedoi and Gala were also there, with a few members from their Klacks Country. Of course, their numbers far lacked in comparison to Huring Country. Besides, even if they were of equal number, Hedoi knew that it was better not to engage a country like that. At the very least, not until it was necessary. "There they go. Their pride is so convenient."

Hedoi then looked around before asking, "Are you all sure you didn't see the black-haired guy sect master talked about?"

Everyone shook their heads in response. Well, it's not like they would tell the truth just because Hedoi asked anyway. Hedoi knew that, but he wanted to check if someone would show any kind of telltale signs with their bodies. "Tch... nothing, huh? Well, he was just at the Late Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm from what the sect master told us. Chances are that he became another Yin Corpse or was killed by some random cultivator in the Saint Realm. It's a pity I can't save him now, but the sect master will have to understand. Let's go."

The few members of the Klacks Country that were there then followed Hedoi and the Huring Country's group.

Liana from the Tenke Country was there as well. "The Huring Country's people are entering. Let's follow them." She and the few members of her Tenke Country that arrived immediately followed as well.

\*Uuwssaaaaaaa...\*

\*Groooooo...\*

\*Huuuuuuuuuuuu...\*

The Huring Country's disciples didn't take long before finding their first obstacles, though. Venali and Dessielle immediately engaged a pair of Yin Corpses that brought a big group with them. "Sure enough, the real strong Yin Corpses are here. Two Transformation Realm Yin Corpses and a few Saint Realm ones that submitted to their power."

Venali then shouted to the group behind him, "Dessielle and I will hold the Transformation Realm Yin Corpses. All of you, get rid of the Saint Realm ones as fast as possible! This is just the beginning!"

Although there were a good amount of Yin Corpses, it couldn't even compare to the Yin Corpse army that roamed outside the sect. Julian was right on this point. The number of Yin Corpses close to the sect was a lot smaller due to territorialism. In any case, their power was no joke... It's just that Julian himself... wasn't here to see it. Instead, he was still following the twins and Milina.

Somewhere else, Julian had a weird expression on his face, so did Milina. At the moment, he, Rean, Roan, and Milina were as far away as one could possibly be from the Soul Eater Sect. In fact, they were so far that it was even hard to find Yin Corpses. "So... I brought you here. I hope you really have some plan in mind as we are definitely very, very late to join the other forces entering the Soul Eater Sect."

Rean looked at what was in front of him and smiled. "Yep, this is perfect."

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Chapter 1116: That Doesn't Seem Right

Julian wasn't the only person puzzled by Rean and Roan's actions. Back in the Sacred Land's guest hall, Fabio and some elders from the Apocal Country also noticed that. In Fabio's case, he was responsible for the twins and Milina. The other members of his kingdom didn't care about his proteges.

As for Apocal Country, Julian was still a direct descendant, so it made sense that a few more elders watched his progress. In any case, both Fabio and those elders were as lost as they could be. 'Just why are they there? Could it be that they're lost? No, that can't be. Julian definitely recognized one of the landmarks there. He should have been able to tell the direction of the Soul Eater Sect after that, so why did they head in the opposite direction?'

However, the current situation reminded Fabio of the assembly in Cosec City. 'Could it be...'

Milina then looked at Rean and Roan before asking, "This is the barrier that seals the Yin Corpses inside the Yin Corpses Zone, isn't it? Shouldn't we have gone to the Soul Eater Sect to find the way out instead?"

Julian agreed with Milina on that. "She's right. This barrier was made by the Sacred Land, you know? There's no way to pass through this thing."

Rean laughed in response as he told them, "Hahaha! Heading to the Soul Eater Sect, where there might even be Transition Realm Yin Corpses wandering about? Who would go through such a dangerous situation? We might as well stay as far away as possible from it."

Julian felt like crying after hearing that. "But if we don't head there, how do you expect us to leave? I'm pretty sure that there's some hidden formation that can bring us out there. But here..."

Roan shook his head as he explained, "You're forgetting one important thing. No one said what the rules are, so we can only guess that the Sacred Land wants us out of this place. Since that's the case, they have no right to complain as to how we get out of here, don't you think?"

Julian nodded in response. "Sure...but do you have a way out?"

Rean was the one to answer his question. "Probably. But first, we need to check something." Following that, Rean took a small boulder nearby and tossed it at the barrier.



\*Bang!\*

The boulder hit the barrier and quickly crumbled. However, it was not because the barrier destroyed it. It's just that the impact allowed that result to happen. "Hehe! It seems like it's just a barrier and nothing else. If this barrier wasn't allowed to be touched, then things would become complicated. Especially if it attacked back."

Rean then approached the barrier and was ready to jump back at any moment. He still needed to test if the thing only reacted to living beings. However, Rean soon touched the barrier, and nothing happened. He could only feel its structure. If he was a common person with his eyes closed, he would have a hard time telling if it was a solid wall or something sustained with Divine Energy. "Great! It's just as I thought."

He then looked at Roan and told him, "Alright, Roan. It's up to you now."

Hearing that, Roan nodded and approached the barrier. Soon after, he focused on his Divine Soul Power and Yin Energy and used them to gather Dark Element. One must remember that Dark Element has the property of destruction. Roan used it against the barrier and made a circle of Dark Energy around the place where they wanted to attack.

The Dark Energy in the center was used to create a hole to pass through. The circle was to prevent the seal from repairing the damaged area of the barrier. With the circle there, the Dark Element destroyed the Divine Energy that was supposed to return the barrier back to normal.

Slowly but surely, the seals on the attacked point began to break apart. It was a slow process as the level of the barrier was truly very high. In any case, it was a fact that Roan was succeeding. "It works. Seems like we won't need to join the crowd in the Soul Eater Sect."

Milina and Julian's eyes lit up after seeing that. "Unbelievable...how come no one tried to do it before?"

Rean shook his head in response as he replied, "How do you know that no one else is trying to do it? It's just that the majority believes that they can't break a sealed barrier made by the Sacred Land at their level."

Well, there was another reason as well. The Dark Element used by those who needed Yin Energy to control it was different from Roan's natural affinity. His Dark Element was in its purest form. Roan wasn't certain about that, but he believed that someone using Yin Energy to control Dark Element wouldn't get the same result as him. That's because even he was having a hard time breaking the seals. His approach was different. He didn't need to use Yin Energy to gather Dark Element. Instead, he could use it to strengthen it. It's two completely different concepts.

Time passed and a week went by. It turned out that progressing through the Yin Corpses of the Soul Eater Sect was a lot harder than they thought. In any case, they had succeeded in getting rid of quite a few Transition Realm Yin Corpses and were getting even further into the sect. It wouldn't take long before they finally got out of there.

Back in the Sacred Land, Cassia was monitoring the fights against the Yin Corpses with a bored expression. "They sure are taking their time to go through the Yin Corpses, huh? Well, I guess that's okay as well. Dying isn't worth it."

She then received a report from her subordinates, who had weird expressions on their faces. "At the moment, of the 124852, 25984 cultivators died, killed by the Yin Corpses or the other cultivators. It's a number smaller than expected, so we could say that this batch isn't too bad either."

He continued, "76325 cultivators already arrived in the Soul Eater Sect and joined the battle against the Yin Corpses. The other 22539 are moving in the Soul Eater Sect's direction or are still lost in the Yin Death Zone, not knowing where to go."

"Hmm? That doesn't seem right..." Cassia noticed a problem.

Death... and me

Chapter 1117: Congratulations

Cassia had done this recruitment many, many times. She obviously paid a lot of attention to the numbers as it went forward. "22539 doesn't fit. Shouldn't there be another extra four? There's supposed to be 22543 people that haven't arrived in the Soul Eater Sect instead."

It was then that the reason why the subordinate seemed to have a conflicted expression came. "Those four...seemed to have exited the barrier and are heading back to our Huring Sacred Land at this very moment. They... opened a hole in the seal."

Cassia's expression finally changed after that. She immediately grabbed the guy and asked with a cold voice, "What did you say? How come no one told me that before?"

The subordinate then explained with a scared expression, "It's because we were only collecting the information about their positions. We weren't looking at each one of them individually as there were just too many of them. The only ones we paid close attention to were the groups far ahead in the Soul Eater Sect."

He continued, "However, a few hours ago, we noticed that four cultivators suddenly disappeared. We had to use the tokens they had with them to finally find out where they had gone. We thought that it was some mistake and had some members check it. When they arrived in the place these four used to escape, they saw the sealed barrier repairing itself but had some difficulty in doing it."

Cassia found it ridiculous. "That's impossible! Do you know the level of the seal we used there? Youngsters at their level shouldn't even dream about being able to open a hole in it."

"We thought about it as well," the subordinate clarified. "That's why we took this long to report. We were investigating if they had received help from some high-level cultivator from outside."

Cassia finally let the subordinate go as she had to admit he made sense. "So, who was it? I want the guy or girl in front of me immediately! I'll show them what happens to those who try to intervene in our Sacred Land's recruitment process. Do they think they can get by without us finding out? Ha! I'll skin those four cultivators and their helper alive!"

Unfortunately, the subordinate's expression turned even weirder as he answered, "The fact is... no one helped them. They really used their own abilities to open up a hole and escape."

Cassia felt like a bomb dropped on her head. "You must be kidding!"

"I wish I was," the guy could not help but say. "We already concluded the investigation. There was absolutely no one there to help them."

Cassia pondered in silence for a bit before saying, "Then, they must have brought some item that could do such a job. The problem is that there were no rules about it."

"That's not it either. They truly used their own cultivation to do that. Well, to be more specific, one of them did as the other three just watched."

Cassia found it even harder to believe. However, the subordinate still had to ask. "What should we do in this case? The whole idea of this test was to leave the Yin Death Zone Alive however the participants saw fit. It's just we never thought someone would find a different way than the teleport formation we prepared for them. Should we disqualify them?"

Cassia immediately shook her head in response. "What do you want? To make a joke of our faces? If what you're saying is true, then we have no right to do anything to them. We were the ones to come up with this test, and they managed to accomplish its objective."

For some reason, Cassia's anger disappeared after saying that. "Hey, now that I think about it, isn't it quite interesting? I was hoping for something different to happen, just like it did in the first test with those weird twins. It seems like we have even more interesting people this time around. The Huring Country disciples will feel quite ashamed to see that some other countries were ahead of them. Perhaps this isn't a bad result at all. It goes to show that they aren't invincible."

"By the way, who are the cultivators who succeeded in doing that? Don't let them make it all the way back on their own. Send one of our experts to bring them here straight away as I want to ask them how they opened the barrier. I want those four, especially the one who destroyed the barrier, in front of me in at most one hour." Cassia was quite happy to see that happen.

"This..." However, the subordinate couldn't help but scratch the back of his head after hearing that. "It's exactly those twins who are part of that four-person group. To be more specific, it was the black-haired Dark Element Affinity youngster that opened the barrier."

Cassia was taken aback. "Really?"

"Really!"

Cassia then thought about something. "Alright, bring them here anyway. If they travel to the nearest teleport formation, it will still take them a whole week to arrive. There aren't any active countries near the Yin Death Zone, after all. By the way, are they all from the same country?"

"No. The twins and a girl are from the Kamos Kingdom. But the fourth member of their group is from the Apocal Country."

Cassia nodded after that. "Alright, you can go."

As soon as the subordinate left to carry the order, Cassia turned around and clapped her hand. She also used Divine Energy so that the sound would reach all the people watching the second test.

"Congratulations! We have our first batch of cultivators out of the Yin Death Zone."

Immediately, the room went into an uproar. After all, everyone was watching the battles that were going on.

"The Huring Country was the furthest group ahead, right?"

"That they were."

"It must be them."

"Or maybe some of the other strong countries."

"Indeed."

However, Cassia raised her hand to make everyone stop talking. "Kamos Kingdom's Rean, Roan, and Milina, and Apocal Country's Julian. May the ones responsible for them come forward."

Fabio and the elders watching Julian felt a chill on their back. 'Sure enough, it had to be them,' they all thought.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 1118: Brought Back

Fabio and Julian's elders then came forward, feeling somewhat out of place. To be honest, they had been checking on Rean's group all the time until they opened the hole in the seal. After that, they lost the ability to find out where those four headed. They had been nervous until now, not knowing if it was okay to do that or not. But then again, considering their small countries' chances in this test, they didn't say anything else either.

Huring, Holang, Klacks, Tenke, Volava, and many other large and strong countries looked at them as they narrowed their eyes. In the case of Huring Country, it bothered them to no end that someone else passed the test first. For the rest, they wouldn't mind losing to Huring or some of the other strong countries. However, they also felt terrible seeing such small countries taking the lead there.

Finally, one of these people couldn't help but ask, "Senior Cassia, I'm from your Huring Country. I've been watching my Huring Country disciples all the time until now and can tell they had been ahead of any other power so far. How did these guys pass ahead of our people with that many Yin Corpses out there? Those Transition Realm Yin Corpses should be able to detect them and prevent those guys from reaching the teleport formation."

Cassia shrugged her shoulders as she responded, "That's the point where you guys are too small-minded. The moment the participants were teleported into the Yin Death Zone, you all understood that the objective was to escape that place. However, you considered that no one could pass through the barrier just because it was us who sealed that place. With that being said, all your disciples headed to the Soul Eater Sect."

"That wasn't wrong, of course. We did indeed leave a teleport formation right in the middle of the Yin Corpses there for them to use. As long as they reach the core of the Soul Eater Sect, they will find that formation. It was quite unfortunate for them that it wasn't the only way out."

Someone else asked another question. "So, you left other means to exit the Yin Death Zone?"

Cassia answered without a single drop of shame, "Nope, that teleport formation was supposed to be the only way out."

"Then..." Obviously, that answer took everyone aback. "Shouldn't they be disqualified?"

However, Cassia shook her head as she refuted, "Why? Did we ever tell the participants that they must use the Soul Eater Sect's teleport formation?"

"Errr... no?"

"Exactly!" Cassia nodded after that. "That's what I found so impressive about these four people. They believed that they could find a way out, a safe way! Now lo and behold, they really did. While your disciples are dying out there, they're making their way back already. I'm especially surprised that there really was another way to leave that place."

Of course, no one knew that the way Roan used to get out couldn't be used by others.

Everyone who didn't like the result then went quiet. If they complained more about it, they would just be telling others that their own disciples couldn't do any better.

Cassia then looked at Fabio and Julian's elders before saying, "Well, truth be told, it was the black-haired twin who did the work. The fact that Julian followed them was his good luck. Nevertheless, in a certain way, it could be said that Julian had good eyes to see the chance in front of him, even though both sides had never seen each other before. That was his merit in this escape."

Fabio had many eyes on him. However, the ones that mattered were the ones from his own Kamos Country.

The success of Rean's group was obviously Fabio's success. The fight for the throne of the Kamos Kingdom still had many hundreds or maybe millenniums of years to go. In any case, getting so much attention from the Sacred Land was a huge accomplishment in the Kamos King's eyes. Fabio would be sure to tell everything that happened to the king once he was back.

There was nothing wrong with Cassia complimenting someone. It's just that it was a rare thing during the recruitments. "Anyways, their cultivations aren't very high, so I'm curious as to how they will deal with the incoming tests. I hope they show me some surprises again."

As Rean's group used Julian's knowledge of the place to move to the nearest country, they were suddenly stopped by a woman who came from high in the skies. Rean's group immediately recognized her clothes, though. 'The Sacred Land!'

Julian was nervous as to what she would say. He wasn't certain if what they did was allowed or not. Still, it was too late to regret.

The woman then used her Divine Energy to grab their group and pull them into the sky. Before they even knew it, they were already flying at extremely high speeds. Rean's group couldn't even make sense of the land passing below them. However, on the other hand, the woman seemed to be flying leisurely.

"You four passed the test. But because we didn't expect anyone to escape the Yin Death Zone like that, we didn't prepare a way back outside that place. I'll bring you to the nearest teleport formation and send you back to the Sacred Land."

Only after hearing those words did Julian calm down. Well, Milina also felt the same way, though. On the other hand, Rean and Roan didn't look surprised at all. No, to be more specific, they didn't care. So what if they were disqualified? They could still use Rana's Glittering Coin to contact Tulipa and get what they needed.

Sure enough, Rean's group was brought back to the Sacred Land to see Cassia in less than an hour. Immediately, a lot of the elders recognized the black and white-haired boys. Most of them didn't know who they were when Cassia talked about them since they had never paid too much attention. Only now did they match the twins' appearance to the large black sphere moving around in the first test.

Obviously, Gille noticed that as well. 'It's him again! Great! I was afraid he would have died in this test. It seems like he's a lot more interesting than I initially thought.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1119: No Need To Answer



Cassia then looked at Roan before asking, "You've gotten quite the attention. Can you deal with the angered powers for stealing their frontrunner position?"

Roan glanced at Cassia in response and replied, "We just used the best available option there. That's all. If others try to get revenge because of that, then so be it."

Seeing how Roan didn't show even a hint of worry impressed Cassia. After, he was in front of all the leaders from other countries, especially the strong ones. "I'm looking forward to it. You can head back to your guardian while you wait for the rest of the participants to finish the second test."

Rean couldn't help but ask, through. "Isn't there any reward for being first?"

Fabio let out a bit of cold sweat after hearing that. 'Is he trying to cause trouble? Who would ask something like that to Cassia?' He was right. No one would ask that as the only thing they wanted was to be selected.

"No," Cassia answered. "The only reward you can get is entering the Sacred Land, but you haven't finished everything yet."

"So petty..." Rean then went to the back with Roan, not seeing Cassia's mouth twitch after hearing that. Roan also did the same, not caring about it at all.

Milina and Julian felt a chill, though. they quickly retreated before Cassia lost her patience. Fabio did the same thing, hoping that Cassia wouldn't take Rean's comment to heart.

Well, Cassia's companions looked at her with some surprise. They totally expected her to not let things go like that. However, she didn't say anything and returned her focus to the test. 'Since when has she been so... forgiving?' Of course, none of them questioned her actions or the lack of it.

Three days later, the Huring Country participants, especially the Elemental Transformation Realm ones, finally finished defeating the Yin Corpses. However, they didn't kill most of the Transition Realm ones. Although the Yin Corpses moved on instinct, they still feared being destroyed, so they simply fled. Once the second test was over and everyone left or died, they would return to the Soul Eater Sect again.

\*Vup, vup, vup, vup, vup, vup...\*

One by one, the Huring Country's participants began to appear in the guests' hall of the Sacred Land. Venali and Dissielle seemed quite tired, especially since they had been exposed to the Yin Death Energy for all this time. Nevertheless, they carried a proud expression, knowing that they were the first ones to reach the teleport and escape the Yin Death Zone.

Venali quickly located the Huring Country's elder and joined them to report. "Your disciples have concluded the test, elders. We are happy to say that we upheld the Huring Country's name and were the first ones to come out."

Venali then looked at the elders' faces, expecting to see their smiling expressions. However, all he could see was the weird look they showed. Obviously, the leading elder of the Huring Country had to break the news to Venali and the others. "You were not the first group, but the second one. Another group escaped the Yin Death Zone three days ago, so you're all far behind."

"What?!" Venali, Dissielle, Ricab, and all the other members of the Huring Country were taken aback. "Impossible! The teleport formations were infested with Yin Corpses. If not because of our Huring Country, no one would be able to access it any time soon!"

The leading elder could only use his Divine Sense to explain what happened to all the Huring Country participants. 'And that's how they got out. There was no helping it as everyone else didn't consider that breaking the Sacred Land's sealed barrier was possible.'

Venali then looked in the Kamos Country's direction. Ever since they succeeded in the second test, it became quite easy to find them in the middle of the crowd. However, Rean and Roan weren't paying attention to anything. At the moment, they were cultivating with the help of the Sacred Land's huge concentration of Divine Energy. Even the Kamos Palace couldn't match its density.

That wasn't all. Both of them had Rank Two Divine Stones in their hands. Sure enough, they took the chance to make use of Rean's success in bargaining back in the Yin Death Zone. With Celis and Kentucky also cultivating back in Lukimira Sect, they advanced their cultivation speed in at least two weeks these last three days.

Venali then went to check the twins. He wanted to know how they did that. However, he was shocked when he saw their cultivation. 'Peak Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm? They're just two ants! How the hell did he open a hole in the Sealed Barrier with his power alone?'

Roan noticed Venali's attention on him and finally opened his eyes. Only then did he notice that the other participants began to come out of the Yin Death Zone. "Tch...couldn't they have stayed there another two or three weeks?"

The people around, especially Fabio, felt that Roan was being too bold with the Huring Country's leading participant. 'Why must you do that?!'

Venali's mouth twitched after that. "Are you looking for a fight?"

Roan looked at Venali, puzzled. "An Elemental Transformation Realm of the so powerful Huring Country, challenging a Soul Transformation Realm from a small fry country for a fight? Despicable."

Fabio and even the other princes and princesses of the Kamos Kingdom felt like crying already. 'For fuck's sake! Can't you read the situation?'

Venali's expression went red in anger. However, he could see that everyone's eyes were on him. He didn't really challenge Roan, but that did sound like that. "Hmph! You talk like you could defeat me in a fight of the same level."

Roan shook his head as he said in response, "That I don't know. Perhaps, if the chance presents itself, we can give it a shot." Roan wasn't overconfident. He didn't know what kind of abilities and strength Venali had. He had never thought about himself as invincible on the same level, especially in a place like this. Of course, he would be very eager to try.

Venali narrowed his eyes and finally decided to ask, "Forget it. How did you open a hole in the sealed barrier?"

Roan obviously had no need to answer that. "That's a secret."

Death... and me

## Chapter 1120: Let's Proceed

Eventually, one of Venali's elders sent him a Divine Sense Message. 'Enough! Leave the guy be. So what if he got outside of the Yin Death Zone ahead of you guys? In the end, he isn't your real opponent. The other Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators are. He's still not someone that could fight you, nor should you aim to fight him either.'

Venali could only follow the elder's orders and turn around to leave. "Let's hope the chance presents itself."

Fabio and the other Kamos Kingdom members finally sighed in relief after that. 'Fortunately, the Huring Country didn't force the issue.'

Rean couldn't help but ask Roan through their Soul Connection, 'That's not exactly something you would usually do. I totally expected you to stay quiet and ignore everything that guy said.'

Roan nodded in agreement. 'Usually, yes. However, it's true that I'm interested in what kind of power someone from a big country like him has. Let's see what happens in the future. It might be a good benchmark.'

'If you say so...' Rean said in response.

The next countries, who followed behind the Huring Country's shadows, began to appear after that. Of course, Kamos Kingdom's participants were between the last ones to come out...or at least part of them. Many had died to the Yin Corpses or to other cultivators. Of course, that also included people from Rean's group. Gulia didn't come back in the end.

Fabio sighed after noticing that. "It seems like she wasn't lucky enough."

However, Fabio was already very lucky with his proteges. In the end, five of them returned. He had sent six people inside, knowing that this was a very dangerous test. The worst part was that everyone that passed the first test was teleported straight away into the Yin Death Zone. If he knew what kind of test it was, he would have at least given Gulia and the others the chance to give up on the test.

Only Haera had the same result as Fabio, losing just a single one of her members. The rest of the princes and princesses had lost at least three of their members. Well, none of them were surprised by it. They had come to the Sacred Land in the past, especially Haera, the oldest king's child. This number of losses was very normal to them. One could see that strong countries only had 10 to 20 participants succeeding in entering the Sacred Land even though they had hundreds of candidates.

Jamiu Kamos, the 5th king's child, had the worst result among those from the Kamos Kingdom's Royal Family. He lost everyone from his side in this test. He already expected that none of them would enter the Sacred Land, just like all the others. However, he didn't expect that they would all die. After all, there were tests where one simply got disqualified. The first test was a good example of it. If one had fallen from the Divine Stream Currents, one would simply land in Huring City. Of course, if no one else killed them while trying to push them out of those streams. 'Father definitely won't think well of it.'

As mentioned before, the Kamos Kingdom came with 250 participants. Thanks to Rean and Roan, 243 of them passed the first test. As for the second... only 113 remained. Fabio then looked at his own proteges before saying, "That's what you can expect. If any of you wish to give up right now, I won't blame you. However, you did make it through the first two tests. The next stages are definitely going to be even harder, but you do stand a chance here. Whatever your decision might be, I won't complain."

Rean didn't mind that as his and Roan's answer was obvious. Instead, he looked at Samanta and asked, "Gulia was holding onto you when the teleport happened. Didn't she teleport to the place you were in as well?"

Samanta nodded in response. "She did, but we were caught by a Yin Corpse army not long after. We decided to separate so that the chances of both of us dying would be smaller. I don't know what happened to her after that anymore."

Samanta then looked at Regio and continued, "I met Regio and some of our Kamos Kingdom members after I arrived at the Soul Eater Sect. We did the same as the others and followed the Huring and the other strong countries from behind. Unfortunately, we still lost quite a few members as the strong countries ahead didn't kill all the Yin Corpses. Eventually, everyone discovered that the Huring Country found the teleport formation that led outside, and we all headed there. We even found a few more members of the Kamos Kingdom that came from other sides. These 113 remaining participants are the final result."

Roan nodded as he could tell that Samanta was lying. "That was the most optimal option. The army who came after you didn't cover all sides, so you at least had the chance to separate in different directions. In

our case, we could only flee in a single direction as all other directions had Yin Corpses. Well, not that it was much of a problem to us."

Rean still felt somewhat down. "It's quite unfortunate that Gulia didn't make it."

Regio didn't say much as he wasn't the type to talk. "She knew the risks, as did everyone else."

Fabio was satisfied with Regio's words. "He's right. I doubt Gulia regretted her decision, as I believe none of you did either. Alright, what will it be? Will any of you give up here? If so, stay by my side once Cassia calls everyone out again."

The answer was obvious. "We're continuing."

At some point, Cassia received the report that no one else remained in the Yin Death Zone anymore. Or they left, or they died, or they became Yin Corpses. "Very well."

She then called everyone's attention before announcing, "Alright. The second test is over. Surprisingly, 45810 participants made it through. That's a lot more than I expected. We even had four who made it through in a very unexpected way. However, it's not over yet. Let's proceed with the third test."