

Death 1141

Death... and me

Chapter 1141: Determine Your Future

"Can't you just say yes?" Rean felt helpless. "Anyways, we should stay together. At the very least, we can trust each other, which would be difficult to do with other teams, don't you think?"

Regio, Milina, and Roan nodded in agreement. Eventually, Samanta gave in as well. "Fine! I still do owe you two, so I'll use this chance to pay for that."

The groups quickly took form. The majority had five people. However, a few had four, and some even just three. The reasons were various. Some simply didn't find enough members, while others thought they worked better than way. In any case, Cassia wouldn't complain about their decisions.

"Alright, let's proceed." Cassia started to explain, "This is a very simple game. It's called...capture the flag!"

Rean's mouth twitched as soon as he heard that name. 'What? Are we back at Earth and I just didn't realize it all this time?' He obviously remembered the games that had those modes. Although he didn't play due to his emotional issue, he did hear about it quite a few times during school.

"Your objective is to capture the enemy's flag and bring it back to your base. However, you must have your flag at your base as well once you bring the enemy's flag. Once that is done, you would have won the match."

"The second winning factor is to simply get rid of all your opponents. However, pay attention when you decide to go for this approach. Otherwise, you might have your flag get caught and lose the match before you could deal with the opponents."

"Last but not least, you will all carry a protection device with you. The ones who made it far are the cream of the crop of our Huring Continent. Unlike the previous tests, we can't afford to have such talents dying here as they are the future of their countries and our continents. That's true even if they don't join our Sacred Land."

"With that being said, this device will deploy a protective barrier the moment it assesses you're about to die or are about to get crippled. This is also a way to make sure that you won't hold back against groups that happen to be from the same country as yours. Simply put, go for the kill every time even if you can't achieve that."

Hedoi and a few other people couldn't help but become disappointed when they heard that. 'So boring...' Of course, they didn't say that to Cassia.

"The battlefield will be different each time. It might be a forest, an ocean, a desert, or some other environment. Some of you might think you're at a disadvantage in a specific terrain and that it isn't fair to your team. Well, too bad! The Realm of Gods isn't fair to start with. Deal with it!"

After that, Cassia asked the participants, "Are there any questions?"

Someone immediately raised his hand, asking in response, "Can we move our own flag so that it can't be captured?"

"No!" Cassia replied. "Only your enemy team can move it. However, you can defeat the person that has taken your flag. As long as that person drops the flag, it will immediately teleport back to your base. The same is valid for the opposing side."

"What if someone hides the flag?"

Cassia shook her head after hearing that. "That won't work. You can't see your opponent's positions, but you can always see the flag's location. The mechanic will be similar to the map you could see in your mind in the Dream City. The flags, both your flag and the opponents' flag, will appear there."

"What if neither side takes action?"

Cassia continued to answer. "Each match lasts for 15 minutes. If no flag is captured until the end, the winning factor will be on who lost the highest number of members of their own group. However, if both sides have the same number of members at the end, the match will end in a draw."

"Can we watch other people's battles?"

"No!" Cassia immediately cut off that idea. "Everyone will be brought to a waiting field, where their groups will be called for the matches. The ones who are not in combat will not be able to watch those who are in combat. In the real world, you usually wouldn't know what your opponent is capable of, and I intend to keep the same conditions here. I hope you paid a lot of attention to the other competitors during the Yin Death Zone test. That might make the difference here."

"Out of the 2341 competitors, how many will be accepted into the Sacred Land?"

"Three hundred or maybe a little more." Cassia then explained, "That has something to do with the scoring system of this test. Each team will battle nine times. Since it's impossible to die or become crippled, it won't take long for everyone to recover after a battle. We also have a few of our Sacred Land elders ready to help you with it."

"Each victory gives you 3 points. A draw provides each team with 1 point and a loss, obviously, 0 points. That means at least 60 teams will be accepted into the Sacred Land, depending on their numbers. If more teams have identical scores at the bottom of the scoring board, extra matches will be carried between those bottom groups. That's all."

Cassia then looked at the people once more after this. "Any more questions?"

Surprisingly, Roan raised his voice. "Is this really the end of the tests? The way you arranged your words a while ago got me thinking. You said, 'This is the last test that will decide who will join the Sacred Land.' right? Does that mean we have some other tests after this? It's just that it won't change the fact that we will be part of the Sacred Land at that point."

Cassia couldn't help but laugh after that. "Hahaha! Smart! Indeed, you will join the Sacred Land through this test. However, it won't really be the last one. After all..." Cassia smiled as she continued, "We need to decide how important you will be to the Sacred Land once you join us. That will determine your future in here."

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Chapter 1142: The Matches Start!

Some other people asked more questions, but nothing important was told anymore. Once that was over, Cassia's subordinates brought all the remaining participants to another place, separated from their own elders. It was a place where Divine Sense, Soul Power, and any other form of communication could be used from the outside.

Following that, Cassia got everyone to draw numbers randomly. There were 2341 participants, but due to the varying number of participants in each group, 512 teams were created. Not everyone got to have five participants, after all. Rean's group just so happened to draw number 91.

Once that was over, Cassia explained, "Numbers one to ten will battle each other in order during the capture the flag matches. The same goes for eleven up to twenty. Then twenty-one up to thirty and so on... That way, you will have one battle against nine random teams. After all, you got your numbers randomly."

Rean then looked at Roan and couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. "This is way better than we could expect, don't you think?"

Roan nodded in agreement. "This is a good thing. It's as Cassia mentioned. It doesn't matter if a team has an advantage over another since the Realm of Gods isn't fair to start with. The fact that this test plays to our strengths just so happens to fit into this description."

Samanta couldn't help but ask after hearing that, "Is there even any test that doesn't play to your strengths in this world?"

Rean and Roan looked at Samanta in surprise. "Well... that's true."

Samanta felt like crying. They didn't even try to deny it."

Suddenly, Rean thought about something. "No, wait! There is! For example, suppose everyone could keep their own cultivation. In that case, Roan and I definitely couldn't do much against opponents with high cultivations. See? There are places where we're at a disadvantage."

Samanta wanted to give Rean a beating when she heard that. "Fuck you! That's a disadvantage, sure. But that's cultivation-related. It has nothing to do with personal skills. We're talking about similar level situations."

Roan shook his head in response. "That's where you're wrong. You can't expect to get similarly leveled enemies outside."

Milina then patted Samanta's shoulder as she consoled her, "Forget it. You will only become angrier the more you force the issue. They live on a different plane."

Regio, on the other hand, was more interested in the groups they would have matches against. "Tacon Country, Yugves Country, Parvin Country, another group from Parvin Country, Holang Country, Klacks Country, Kembit Country, Wasxia Country, and Vilad Country. Those are the five countries that got numbers 92 up to 100. We're 91, of course."

Samanta couldn't help but ask, "Wait, did you say Holang Country?" Obviously, Holang Country was one of the big powers that usually succeeded with quite a few participants in each recruitment. That's why it was easy to spot its group in their bracket.

Roan then looked at the board, which depicted each Holang Country's group member. "I heard from the other countries when we arrived that Holang Country's leader was a guy called Sinso Zubli, an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator. His name is not on this list, though."

Samanta and Milina sighed in relief when they heard that. "Good, good! It means their strongest group isn't here."

Regio also mentioned the other strong country there. "Don't forget about Klacks Country."

"Isn't that the country from that Hedoi guy of the Blood Path Sect?" Samanta and Milina asked at the same time. Sure enough, he also caught their attention and the other countries, so they heard much of him.

Rean and Roan then remembered something. "We did meet him once in the Dream City test."

"What do you think of that guy?" Regio asked.

Roan didn't think about it. It was as simple as that. As for Rean... "Hmm...he's a little tall?"

Little did they know that Hedoi was close to them at that moment and overheard those words with his Divine Sense. 'I'm... tall? Is that all you think about me? Fuck! If not because of Sect Master and that protection device, I would skin you two alive! No, I would make you skin each other instead!' While everyone was afraid of him because of his background, the twins looked like they could barely even remember his face.

Samanta pondered in silence for a bit before saying, "Then our biggest obstacle would be Klacks Country as Hedoi's name is in the group that will fight against us." Samanta then pointed at the list of names. Hedoi, Gala, Funxi, Qrasclev, and Sumadia. Those were the names there.

"Oh...okay then. If things turn awry, we can simply give up on the battle," Rean said without much concern. "We just need to be in the top 60 teams to guarantee our vacancy, so we might as well focus on the not-so-powerful countries."

Milina then warned the twins. "Ahem...those might not be the top countries...but they sure are bigger and better than a small fry country like our Kamos Kingdom. We shouldn't underestimate them."

Roan nodded. "Obviously. I have no intention of holding back anyway."

Cassia then called everyone's attention in the waiting room. "As you can see behind me, there are five spatial doors. The groups I call forward should enter the designated ones.

Cassia began to call numbers after that. "Groups number one and ten, spatial door number one. Groups number two and eight, spatial door number two. Groups number three and seven..."

And just like that, the first five capture the flag matches started. It was quite unfortunate that the other competitors couldn't see what was happening. Then again, it wasn't hard to guess the results of one of the groups as it was the Tenke Country.

Fifteen minutes later, four countries got three points on the scoring board, and Tenke Country took the first position as they finished their match the quickest. There were two matches that ended up in a draw, so they got one point each. As for the last four, they obviously lost, so they continued with zero.

Roan then saw Liana and her team members exiting the spatial door. 'Pure Yin Body, huh? I still haven't had the chance to test it. Guess that won't happen anytime soon.'

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Chapter 1143: Free Fall

The first matches between different groups mostly went as everyone expected. Countries with similar strengths would be unpredictable. As for top countries, unless they were fighting each other, they mostly won. Of course, there were always some black horses in this situation.

You could see two black horses at the top of the scoring board, which showed all the groups who got three points so far. Lisnal Country and Sonwesden Countries fought groups from Tenke and Volava country, emerging victorious in the end.

Of course, people could guess it had a lot to do with the situation they were put in. For example, the field generated was advantageous for those two countries, or that they came up with a plan to quickly snatch the other teams' flag. Whatever it was, little did people believe they won a fair and square fight. They also wanted to have such an advantage if they fought a strong country, so of course, they didn't complain.

Eventually, Cassia announced the start of the battle of Rean's group. "Numbers 91 and 100, spatial door number one. Numbers 92 and 99, spatial door number two. Numbers..." Hedoi's group was number 93, so they wouldn't fight Rean's group so soon. Holang was 94, so it wouldn't be them either.

"Our opponent is the Vilad Country, which is number 100. Baercand, Sulkoc, Gudgruzax, Strenalgah, and Khaeseth. Those are the members of Vilad Country. Does anyone know anything about them?" Milina asked after Cassia was done announcing.

Rean and the others shook their heads in response. "Forget it. Because of how we passed the tests, they also don't know much about us, so we're in a similar situation. Let's go."

Rean's group then passed through the first spatial door, followed by the Vilad Country. Obviously, they were teleported to the right positions, right beside their flags. However, what caught everyone's attention was the environment they were placed in.

Wow!

Milina couldn't help but be impressed. They were all free-falling from the skies! This time, there was nothing keeping them afloat as they fell down to a nigh endless abyss. However, there wasn't a ground to fall on as far as they could see below.

"Could it be that we will keep falling forever?" Regio could not help but ask in this situation.

Rean nodded, replying, "Most likely. Look at us. Even though we have different weights, we're all falling at the same speed. Our flag just so happens to be falling at the same speed as us, and we can't move it either."

Roan looked into the distance and could see where Vilad Country was positioned. "There are our enemies. Alright, I'll protect the flag. The four of you, go there and take their flag."

"What?!" Samanta was taken aback. "Can you really protect it on your own? What if they ignore us and come all at you?" Sure enough, she still knew little to nothing about Roan's real strength.

Swish! Immediately, Roan took out his white scythe and snorted, telling her, "You have no need to worry about me. Instead, I hope you won't lose too quickly. Anyways, even if that happens, Rean can most likely take their flag, so it doesn't matter."

Samanta really hated how Roan acted. "Hmph!" Suddenly, a powerful torrent of Wind Element gathered around Samanta. At the same time, she took out something that looked like a fan made out of green feathers. Rean could tell with a glance that the fan was very high quality. Golden Initial-Level, at the very least. "Don't forget that my affinity is Wind Element. Let's see who'll be holding who back. Don't come crying to me later once you get beaten up." Samanta then shot forward, using her Wind Element to move through the air.

This environment was completely different from the first test. In the first test, there was no wind when they moved around. The formation kept them afloat all the time. Here, on the other hand, the wind kept blowing from all sides, not to mention the air hitting their faces due to their continuous descent.

Roan looked at Rean, who nodded back.

'Life Style, Second Form, Enhancement.'

The only thing Rean could do was use the same method as the first test. It's just that it was a lot more limited because of the wind. However, it was then that Milina called Rean's attention. "Hey, leave the creation of stepping stones up to me. Just make sure you keep that enhancement ability of yours on Regio and me up all the time."

Rean, Roan, and Regio were surprised to hear that. It was then that they noticed something. "Oh! You're right! We'll leave it up to you, then."

Milina smiled as she began to gather Earth Element to create stepping... boulders! Milina was the first one to understand the trick of this environment. Sure, they were falling very quickly. However, everything here fell at the same speed! It meant that Rean didn't need to create small stones and kick them straight away. Better than that, Milina could create much better stepping boulders for them.

Samanta then looked behind and could see many boulders taking form around Milina. She then began to advance, creating a path of boulders for Rean and Regio to follow. It was really a very good plan. Of course, once Regio and Rean used their strength to jump to another boulder, the boulder under their feet would shoot in the opposite direction. The boulders didn't stay in the same place after being kicked.

That meant that at the same time they were making their way, the path behind disappeared.

Samanta then stopped midway. She wasn't idiotic enough to attack the entire team on the opposite side. She needed backup, and Milina proved to be very good at it.

It was then that three men from Vilad Country detached themselves from their flags' range. All of them had Wind Element Affinity! Now that Rean, Roan, and Regio had left Roan alone, they decided to aim at

their flag. As quick as Milina could create boulders for Rean and Regio, it couldn't compare to the speed of Wind Element users.

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Chapter 1144: Two vs. One

"Shit!" Samanta was just about to turn back to help Roan. However, one of the three cultivators that were moving to where Roan was separated and attacked her!

'Wind Blades!'

Swish, swish, swish, swish...

Samanta gritted her teeth and was forced to make evasive motions while using her fan to create a powerful gale. The gale destroyed a few of the Wind Blades, leaving just a few she could dodge on her own. However, that also consumed time. Not to mention that her opponent continued to move closer to her.

"Rean, Milina, Regio, go back and help Roan!" That was all she could say as her opponent wouldn't let her go easily.

Suddenly, a Divine Sense Message reached her. 'Who the hell told you I need backup? The enemy has just left their flag with only two cultivators protecting it. Stop caring about others' jobs and focus on your own.'

At this point, it would be no surprise if Samanta ended up crying. 'Fuck! Fine! Don't complain about it later!'

Well, Samanta was the only one who really thought about helping Roan. Rean, Regio, and Milina continued on their way forward. In Milina's case, it was because Rean told her to ignore Roan. As for Rean and Regio, they knew what he was capable of.

Back in the guests' hall, the Vilad Country elders couldn't help but become excited. "Hahaha! They know they won't arrive in time. How can they be that dumb to leave just one person to defend their flag?"

"It's not that they just left him there. They also bet on our country's group not having so many Wind Affinity Users. They were just unlucky as moving in that environment takes time."

"Indeed, they would be able to provide backup if it was necessary in any other case. Too bad. Hahaha!"

This time around, all matches were open for the guardians of all countries to watch. As one could expect, almost half of them were watching the Klacks Country's match, while the other half watched Holang Country's match. They were top countries, after all. Nevertheless, Fabio, the princes, and the princesses of Kamos Country were all looking at the battle of Rean's group. And so was the case for Vilad Country or the other countries in other matches. Other than that, Cassia was also interested in the twins' match as she was used to seeing top countries winning things like that.

Eventually, the two Wind Element users arrived at Roan. Their plan was very simple. They didn't intend to force Roan's protecting device to become active. Instead, one of them would keep Roan busy for the other to capture the flag. With their Wind Element Affinity, they could move back to their own base before Rean's group attacked. After all, other than Samanta, the rest of them moved through the boulders Milina created.

Roan looked at the two guys coming from his two sides with a deadpan face, though.

'Death World!'

'Enhancement!'

'Shadow Bind!'

'Light and Divine Sense Bending!'

Immediately, the area over a hundred meters around the flag transformed into pure darkness. Not only that, but Roan's location also became a mystery to the two guys approaching from the outside. One might think that there was no place for Roan to attach the Shadow Bind. However, there was. In fact, it was a very convenient piece of solid material, the flag! Only the enemy could move it. Anyone else on

Roan's team couldn't even budge it from its place. Since that was the case, he attached his Shadow Binds to the flag and himself!

The two guys looked from the border of the Death World, not knowing if they should enter it or not. This huge domain-like skill was out of their expectations, not to mention Roan's disappearance. One of them immediately sent a Divine Sense Message to the other.

'Use Wind Blades! They don't cost much Divine Energy, and we can fill this dark field with them.'

'Alright!'

'Wind Blades!'

'Wind Blades!'

'Wind Blades!'

'Wind Blades...'

Tens of Wind Blades ran everywhere inside Roan's Death World. Roan had to admit these guys knew how to think. Once the Wind Blades got close to him, they would disappear from his enemy's Divine Senses as well. Naturally, Roan could only be in that area where the Wind Blades disappeared.

With that said, Roan's enemies focused their Wind Blades where Roan was located. Although not all the Wind Blades were hitting the target, some definitely were. They could keep attacking Roan from outside until he finally couldn't endure anymore. If things continued like that, Roan was bound to run out of Divine Energy... or so they thought.

In Roan's hand, his white scythe moved back and forth, hitting one Wind Blade after another. If one looked closely at his face, all you could see was an expression of boredom. Sure, their idea was good. But that was about it. The wind blades couldn't possibly cause any damage to a scythe made by Rean. Roan simply moved it around and destroyed the Wind Blades without having to use any Divine Energy at

all. It was that simple. Too bad those guys couldn't see it since his Divine Sense Bending Skill was still active.

At some point, Rean, Regio, and Milina traveled more than half of the distance to where the enemy's flag was. Because of how long it took, Roan's enemies also increased the number of wind blades they shot out, cursing Roan for not giving up.

Eventually, Vilad Country couldn't wait anymore. Otherwise, the two guys defending their flag would have to fight Rean, Regio, and Milina alone.

'Let's enter!'

They couldn't see the flag, nor could their Divine Senses. However, the flag still appeared in the mind map that Cassia talked about. They definitely could move in its direction.

That was the right decision. Thanks to that, they finally got close enough to Roan so that they could pierce the Divine Sense bending ability. It's just that they were way too close!

'Aerial Slash!'

'Wind Emperor Sword!'

Immediately, they attacked Roan. Unfortunately, that wasn't the real Roan...

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Obviously, the real Roan didn't let the chance pass up.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

Swish!

Bzzzzzzz!

Bang!

Both enemies' devices activated at the same time, protecting the Vilad Country members from certain death! The two on one...failed miserably.

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Chapter 1145: First Flag

After that, Roan looked at his body and saw a few marks from the Wind Blades from before. 'I believe those two guys were the first ones to really come up with a way to find me in my Death World. If they knew of my ability to use clones, I wonder what they would have done to deal with it.' That was very high praise coming from Roan.

'Of course, I also understand that this cultivation limit is helping me out a lot. If they were in their real realms, they definitely would be able to act fast enough to defend against my surprise attack.' Roan then pondered about the raw power they showed with their cultivations sealed. 'I guess that's what you can expect from big powers. Rean and I are just barely above them in raw power alone, counting both Divine Energy and Soul Power. On top of that, we're supposed to have much bigger Divine Energy Pools in our dantians.'

Sister Orb couldn't help but comment after hearing that. [Now, you're mistaken there, Roan.]

Roan was taken aback. 'What mistake?'

[Sure, their cultivations are sealed to the Peak Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. However, their dantians are still of normal size, with the Divine Energy in there still being the same amount. It's just that they can't use as much at once as they could have without the seal. Simply put, they have their Saint Realm level Divine Energy storage available to use. This alone is a huge advantage. The fact that you can match them while actually being in the Soul Transformation Realm and even be a little stronger shows how much better you and Rean are.]

Roan had to admit Sister Orb was right. 'I see...that's good then. In any case, just being a little stronger than them at the same cultivation level shows that they're definitely above the majority.'

[Of course! These guys, even if they aren't from top countries, are still top geniuses with a lot of resources and techniques available. Not to mention that they're top talents themselves. That much is to be expected.]

Roan then deactivated his Death World as he looked at Rean, Regio, and Milina. While he was pondering about his battle and talking with Sister Orb, Rean's group arrived at the enemy's flag. Well, first of all, they had the advantage in numbers. One guy was fighting Samanta, leaving only two to protect the flags.

Rean, by himself, was already stronger than his opponents. Roan couldn't move as well as Wind Element users, so it made sense that he took that long to deal with them while protecting his flag. However, the two cultivators guarding the enemy's flag were not. Naturally, with Rean, Regio, and Milina attacking them, it made sense that they easily won.

However, Roan received a message from Rean right after. 'Holy shit! Milina is really overpowered in this kind of competition. Did you see her power just now? Even I would have trouble dealing with her.'

Roan shook his head in response. 'No, I was discussing something with Sister Orb. Just share your memories of the battle through our Soul Connection.'

Rean immediately sent the memories to Roan, who was able to check the battle. Obviously, Rean had no problem against his enemy. However, Milina was even faster than him. She was not better than them, but she overpowered her enemy in terms of Divine Energy power alone. Her skills were still coming out at the Saint Realm level since she was using the Divine Energy of her body and not her dantian. Regio didn't even have a chance to participate in the fight as he was also shocked by Milina's display.

'Indeed, she can really fight at the Saint Realm level. Well, everyone here can do the same against average cultivators. However, she's doing that against geniuses, which is very good. This test just so happens to use her race's strength best.'

Roan then pondered in silence for a bit before deciding on something. Soon after, he sent everyone a Divine Sense message 'Alright, we will keep this plan. The defense is up to me. Rean and Milina will be our main attacking forces. Samanta and Regio will provide support to Rean and Milina. Any questions?'

Samanta felt somewhat distraught to hear that. After all, she was supposed to have the highest cultivation and combat power among the group. But with the seal in place, it was obvious that Rean and Roan were stronger than her. And now, even Milina was better than she was in this situation. If not because this free-falling environment gave her an advantage, would she have performed anything good?

Regio didn't mind it at all. With the chance of entering the Sacred Land right in front of his eyes, how could he care about the process? With that, he just nodded as he wasn't the type to be emotional anyway.

The only reason the battle wasn't over yet was that Samanta's enemy hadn't been defeated yet. First of all, Samanta and the guy were pretty much alike in combat power. When he saw that both the attackers and defenders were defeated, he immediately retreated. He simply didn't want to use more Divine Energy as it would be useless.

He definitely couldn't take Roan's flag as he easily defended against two people at the same time. Trying to take his own flag back would be even more useless since there were four people defending it. Naturally, Samanta was the fourth. Even if he miraculously got his or Roan's flag and ran away, waiting for the 15 minutes to be over, the match was also decided by the number of lost members at the end. He already lost four, so it would still be a lost cause. He might as well conserve his energy instead.

Back in the guest hall, Fabio was already jumping for joy! "Hahaha! Did you see that?! Even in a disadvantageous situation, they still got an easy victory. I can already see not only one but five members of our Kamos Kingdom joining the Sacred Land!" Fabio then looked at his brothers and sisters with a mocking expression. "By the way, how are your competitors doing...if you still have any? Hahaha!"

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Chapter 1146: Well, that's true

Haera and the others felt terrible when they heard that. Almost all of Fabio's siblings lost their competitors. The only ones remaining were Kalanda, Haera's Granddaughter, and Plinio, Julio's son. In any other circumstance, they would be happy for that as their Kamos Kingdom rarely got anyone this far into the Sacred Land Recruitment, let alone two. It's just unfortunate that Fabio's proteges simply destroyed it.

In the end, Kalanda and Plinio had to look for teams from other similar countries to join this last test. The problem was that neither of their teams seemed to have anything special, not that they had anything going either. Haera and Julio couldn't predict at all if they would get into the top 60 at the very least. Rean's group, on the other hand, obviously showed huge promise.

"Hmph! Don't count victory before the end. Unlike our groups, yours have the Klacks and Holang Country in them. Who knows what could happen there?" That was all Julio could come up with.

Fabio shrugged his shoulders as he said in response, "It's fine. They can even give up straight away and simply focus on the six other teams. They would still have a huge amount of points if they won against those. Besides, who says they'll lose to Klacks and Holang?"

Rean's group finally came out of the spatial gate once the 15 minutes were up. Sure enough, the free-fall never ended before they were dragged out of that place.

The members of Vilad Country were also brought outside and taken to a corner by the Sacred Land people. There, they deactivated the protective devices, allowing those members to move again. Any injuries they had were then healed before they were given the order to recover. They had a lot of time until the next match started.

Each group of ten teams only fought once before the queue moved to the next group. They would only fight again once all the ten teams' groups fought once. That was also the case for Rean's group.

Rean checked the scoring board and could see they were quite far behind first place. "Well, I guess it makes sense. We did win, but we took a long time to return to our own flag in that environment. The other matches for the winners definitely ended faster."

"We just need to keep winning. That's all," Roan said in response.

With that, the capture the flag matches continued. Winners and losers appeared one after another. Black horses did come out once in a while, but most of the top countries still got their wins.

The queue rotated, and Liana from Tenke Country fought again. Without any surprises, her team won again, and very fast at that. Only three teams had 6 points right now, and her Tenke group was at the top due to the speed they were finishing their matches.

Even Venali's group making up the Huring Country team couldn't surpass the Tenke Country. They obviously won their match but couldn't finish it as fast as Liana's group did. The worst thing was that they weren't in the same group of ten teams as Liana, so they couldn't try to stop her.

Eventually, Rean's group match arrived once more. "Number 91 and Number 99. Number 92 and Number..."

99 corresponded to Wasxia Country, which had won its first battle against Tacon Country in the first round. They did seem a little tired, though. From the looks of it, their victory didn't come that easily.

The new environment they fell into was a jungle type. Other than the flag's location in their mind map, it wasn't possible to see the other team at the start.

Roar!

Not only that, but the jungle also had many Stage Six and even some Stage Seven Demon Beasts. The two groups would have a lot more to worry about other than their opponents.

Seeing that, Roan then took out his white scythe and simply waved his hand. "Go away already. I'll protect the flag."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Sure. Everyone, just follow me closely."

Immediately, Rean's group left, leaving Roan alone with the flag. Following that, Death World once again took form, covering everything over a hundred meters in radius around the flag.

Surprisingly, Rean didn't wait either. He immediately activated his Light and Divine Sense bending skill, completely disappearing from anyone's eyes together with Regio, Milina, and Samanta. They only had to be careful with the marks they left behind while moving through the forest. He also warned everyone,

'Don't use your Divine Senses. Otherwise, our opponents will know that we're getting close.' One must remember that Divine Sense can be felt if the levels aren't too far apart.

It didn't take long for Rean's group to find those demon beasts. However, they also didn't seem to have any special trait that allowed them to see his group. He also learned very well under Roan's tutelage to not move against the wind blowing in the beasts' direction. The demon beasts obviously didn't have sentience, so Rean ignored them completely.

While making their way to the opponents' flag, Rean noticed some movement ahead. 'Stop!'

Samanta, Regio, and Milina immediately stood still before two guys passed a few hundred meters away from them. They seemed very cautious in their movement, also making sure to not catch the demon beasts' attention. Rean and his group only had to wait until they were gone, though. In the end, they were simply too hard to spot. 'Let's go!'

Rean didn't mind having to fight those two there. However, there were too many demon beasts, so he didn't want to risk it either. Roan was more than enough to protect the flag, so it didn't matter if they let those guys pass through.

Eventually, Rean's group was able to see the opponent's flag in the distance. However... 'Smart! They destroyed the entire forest surrounding their flag and kept three people defending it. Even with my Light bending skill, it'll still be possible to see our steps getting close.'

Samanta didn't seem to care as she said, 'We have the numbers advantage, so who cares? Let's take them down. With Milina and you taking the lead, I don't see us losing this fight.'

Rean shrugged his shoulders before nodding in agreement. 'Well, that's true.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1147: Rounds

There weren't many issues in their flag battle. Rean and Milina were indeed stronger than their opponents. Regio also joined in on the attack as there were three people defending the flag. Samanta stayed on the sides, providing support to those three. Then again, she was basically supporting Regio as Rean and Milina had little to no trouble dispatching their enemies.

Nevertheless, part of the reason why they lost was that their opponents hadn't fully recovered from the last match. Rean's group noticed that their reserves of Divine Energy weren't full, so that helped with their demise. Not too long after, all three of those guys had their protective devices activate, officially being out.

Of course, this was a demon beast forest, so the demon beasts nearby heard the commotion and came out to attack. In any case, it was well within what they could manage.

Rean then took the flag before using his Light and Divine Sense bending skill to move back to Roan's place with his group. Back where their flag was located, they saw two more cultivators with activated protective devices and Roan sitting on top of a demon beast's carcass. There were a few more demon beast bodies in the surroundings, all cleaved in half. "Is there a need to transform this place into a gore scene?" Rean could not help but ask.

Roan glanced at him in response and said, "I simply killed them as fast as possible. Since there were quite a few, it turned out like this. Anyway, just bring the flag here already."

Samanta, Regio, and Milina couldn't help but feel a chill on their backs. Roan not only dealt with the enemy's group, but he also fought several demon beasts on his own. Not to mention that he didn't look tired at all. Milina had a lot of confidence in her strength in this test. However, even she didn't know if she could do what Roan did.

Rean's group then came out of their spatial door while the Sacred Land took out the enemy team away to heal them. They were also the first team that got outside since the match was over the moment all Waxsia Country participants were defeated. Bringing the flag back to their flag wasn't really necessary.

However, it was then that Rean noticed something. "Milina...aren't you somewhat slimmer?"

Samanta, Regio, and Roan looked at her and had to admit Rean was right.

Milina then laughed before explaining through a Divine Sense Message. 'Hahaha! Of course! After all, I'm using my body's Divine Energy to fight at the Saint Realm level. Don't forget that this is my race's special ability. However, it takes very long to recover the Divine Energy used, so I'm obviously becoming

slimmer. Don't worry, though. I'm pretty confident that I have enough to last until the end of the battles.'

Milina then winked at Rean, Roan, and Regio. 'Just don't fall in love with me after seeing how I look without Divine Energy inflating my body.'

Roan completely ignored the last comment, and so did Regio. Rean just laughed in response since he found that funny. "Alright, alright. Look, someone else is coming out of the spatial doors."

The next group to appear was Klacks Country, with Hedoi leading them. Hedoi also looked at Rean's group and smirked at them. "I'll see you guys later."

Following that, the five cultivators of his opposing group were brought outside. Just like Rean's group, Hedoi's group had defeated all their opponents. Of course, they were all alive and didn't receive any lasting injury due to the protection device. It's just that they had terrified expressions on their faces.

Milina couldn't help but tremble a little after seeing that. "That guy is really creepy."

Everyone agreed with her.

The second round continued as the scoring board took form. With their quick victory, Rean's group shot up in the rankings, stabilizing in 15th. At the moment, 179 countries had 6 points. Tenke Country was still in first place, though. They won their matches faster than anyone else, after all.

The third round wasn't any different. Liana's Tenke Country smashed their way through the enemy and got another swift victory, keeping their first position in the ranks with nine points now. Venali's Huring Country group wasn't any different but was still a little slower than Liana's. With that said, they kept their second position with nine points as well.

Rean's group didn't find any issues during the third round either. They fought group number 98, Kembit Country. The environment for this match was an island, with both flags being located on opposite sides on the beach. Using the same strategy, Roan defended their flag while Rean and Milina overpowered their enemies. The only difference was that Kembit Country wasn't feeling tired like Wasxia was.

Because of that, the battle lasted a lot longer, especially because they kept four people defending their flag.

The leader of Kembit Country was very confident in his strength, so he was the only one to go after the enemy's team flag. Roan understood why the guy came alone. He had a similar cloning ability, just like the twins. The guy used a clone to catch Roan's attention while his real body tried to capture Roan's flag.

The plan failed, but he still fought Roan in the Death World for several moves, showing that he wasn't just a common cultivator. He could also use his clones to fight Roan's clones. Roan won in the end, but it was definitely not a walk in the park as in the previous matches. Well, for Roan, that was a lot better. He stopped in front of the guy's protected body and nodded in satisfaction. "Your cloning ability is very well-refined. However, you're wasting too much Divine Energy to have them follow your commands. Try to set up some patterns beforehand next time, and you should improve even more."

The guy's eyes moved a little in the protective barrier, but he couldn't answer Roan at that moment.

In the end, Rean's group had to bring the Kembit Country's flag back to their own position as their enemies tried to escape. Pursuing them would be a waste of time and Divine Energy, so they simply won the match by capturing the flag.

Death... and me

Chapter 1148: Parvin Country

The fourth round had Rean's group fight group number 97, the first team from Parvin. As mentioned before, Parvin ended up having two teams from their country entering the same group. Things didn't go well with this group, though. They talked with the other countries who fought Rean's group and exchanged information with them. They knew that Rean's group only had Roan on the defense.

The Death World skill was too complicated to deal with. With that being said, they pretended that only two people stayed behind, protecting their flag. However, when Rean's group attacked, the other three came out. Just to make sure, they also stayed far away, to make sure that no Divine Sense could notice their presence.

What happened next was a five-on-four battle. Two of the members of Parvin Country focused on Milina, who looked a little slimmer again. The rest focused on Rean, Regio, and Samanta. Their leader, a guy called Jixe, was the one to fight Rean.

Parvin Country had two teams in this capture the flag test. That in itself showed that Parvin was definitely among the strong countries, not far from the top ones. Besides, the team Rean's group was fighting against was the strongest group of Parvin Country as well. Jixe just so happened to be an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator. So, he had a lot of Divine Energy to use, even though he couldn't use as much as an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator normally could.

Rean had to go all out in his fight against Jixe as Roan kept behind. Roan also couldn't possibly arrive fast enough to help Rean as he was on the other side of the field. In the end, Rean finally had to use the twins' elemental exchange to make up for the lower amount of total Divine Energy available to use since his fight with Jixe wasn't going anywhere.

Well, that was supposed to be a huge battle for Rean. However, Rean had never forgotten the real objective of this test. Capture the flag! It didn't matter how many of your group members you lost. If you succeeded in bringing the enemy's flag back to yours without having yours stolen, you win!

'Death Style, First Energy Form, Shadow Bind!'

'Death Style, First Movement Form, Shadow Steps!'

Obviously, Rean could use Shadow Bind as well. Better yet, no one knew he could do that as it was a skill that Roan used, not him. The Shadow Bind attached themselves to Parvin Country's flag before slinging shooting it in a direction none of the Parvin Country members could reach in time, only Rean. He also used the Three Claws of the Dragon with one of his clones against Jixe at the same time. It gave him the chance to use the Shadow Steps to get away.

Grab!

As soon as Rean got the flag, he used his Divine Sense to talk with the rest. 'Retreat or stay, that's up to you. I'm going ahead with this flag to end this match.'

'What?!' Milina, Samanta, and Regio were taken aback. Was he leaving them behind to fight five vs. three? However, they quickly noticed that everyone completely ignored them when Rean shot into the distance. What was the point in fighting Milina and the others? They would lose if Rean arrived back to his flag instead.

"Hold them back!"

Naturally, they immediately attacked Parvin Country's team even more fiercely. That allowed only Jixe to get away from them and pursue Rean. Unfortunately for him, if it was speed alone, Rean was king! Once Rean increased the gap between them to over tens of meters...

'Light and Divine Sense Bending!'

Rean disappeared from both Jixe's vision and Divine Sense. Of course, Jixe was close enough to at least see where Rean was running. Those marks couldn't be wiped out. With his Divine Sense focusing on those clues, he kept after Rean. Unfortunately, following Rean was already hard enough, let alone a few marks on the ground.

As outraged as Jixe could have felt, he understood after a minute that he definitely wouldn't catch Rean anymore. He then took the decision to change his direction and head straight to their flag. He could at least try to prevent Rean from delivering their flag back to Roan's place.

It's just that it didn't work well either. Sure, by making a beeline to their flag, he arrived ahead of him. However, the Death World was already waiting for him. He gritted his teeth and entered the Death World without minding the consequences. He was even able to react and exchange a few moves against Roan in that unfavorable position. However, he suddenly heard a Divine Sense Message from Cassia.

'Kamos Country has delivered their flag back to their own. It's the Kamos Country's victory.'

Immediately, Roan's Death World burst apart as Roan saw no reason to continue the fight. Only then did Jixe see Rean holding his team's flag beside their own. "How can you be that fast?!"

Rean laughed in response. "Hahaha! That's because I knew you would come here. All I had to do was follow you from behind, just far enough for your Divine Sense not to see the marks I left on the ground. In fact, I could have delivered the flag earlier, but it was nice to see your fight against my beloved brother."

Roan's mouth twitched after hearing that. "Who the hell is your beloved brother?" Naturally, he didn't like that at all. "Also, since you wanted to see the fight, you could have let this guy and I fight to the end."

Rean shook his head. "We need to think about Milina. The less Divine Energy she uses, the better for us."

Roan hated it but had to admit Rean was right. "Fine."

Suddenly, everyone in that field was teleported back through the spatial doors. Rean then saw that Regio was enveloped by the protective barrier, showing that he had been defeated. 'As expected of a strong country. Milina has also gotten a lot slimmer than she did in the previous battles. It's almost to the point that one can't call her fat anymore.'

A moment later, the Sacred Land deactivated the barrier, allowing Rean's group to go back and wait.

Death... and me

Chapter 1149: Defend!

"Sorry, I wasn't my opponent's match in the last fight and ended up losing," Regio apologized.

Rean didn't seem to mind it as he told the Sacred Land people that they didn't need to heal Regio. He could do it much better and more thoroughly. "It's fine, it's fine. They have a better background, resources, cultivation techniques, and other things. It makes sense that you were weaker than them. Look at Samanta. She looks like she was almost trashed to the ground."

Samanta's mouth twitched after hearing that. "Are you looking for a fight? My opponent was extremely strong as well, you know. Be grateful that I could at least hold him until you delivered the flag. I know my limits, okay?"

Rean laughed in response. "Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. I'm just joking."

Rean then looked at Milina, telling her, "Your race is truly something. The fat you and you at this moment are two completely different people."

Milina had heard that quite a few times in her life. "Hehe! I told you I was different. However, this last battle truly used up a lot of the Divine Energy in my body. I believe I won't be able to perform at the same level when we face Holang and Klacks Country.

Rean then smiled in response as he said, "Well, there's good news. Holang and Klacks... had just fought each other. Look!" Rean then pointed at the scoring board, showing that Klacks Country got the victory and was now at 12 points, just like Rean's group. "It was good that they got each other before we had to fight any of them."

That truly improved the mood in their group. "That's true. Who's our next opponent?"

"It's the other Parvin Country group," Regio replied.

Rean nodded in response. "Parvin was quite difficult to deal with. Fortunately, you have my healing skill, so you just need to recover your dantian's Divine Energy reserves. Make sure you're ready for the fifth match."

"Yes!"

The matches continued without many changes at the top of the scoring board. Other than a few black horses, the top countries would only lose a match when they fought other countries of the same level. In any case, the top 60 on the scoring board was finally beginning to take form. Rean's group was obviously there with their 12 points.

The fifth round started, and Liana's group from Tenke Country got another victory. The same went for Venali, Gari, Fulia, and all the other members of top countries in other fighting groups. It was basically what everyone expected.

Rean's group's fifth round wasn't any different, though. Parvin's strongest group was the previous one. The next group was strong as well, but definitely not at the level of Jixe's. They ended up winning that match without losing any members this time.

The sixth round wasn't any different. Yugves just so happened to be a country at the same level as Kamos, so they weren't anything impressive. In fact, three of their members were from different countries as well. It's just that they joined forces for this test. Naturally, Rean's group easily took them out.

Once the queue rotated once more, they finally arrived at the seventh round, and Rean's group would have to encounter Holang Country. That was the first top country they had to fight in this competition directly.

Vup, vup, vup...

Both sides passed through the spatial doors, appearing on the new field. Well, in fact, they fell into the water straight away. That's because the new environment was a huge ocean. There wasn't anything else other than water and more water out there.

"This is quite complicated. Do we have anyone here good at Water Element?" Samanta asked.

Rean then looked at Roan before asking, "How has your Water Element training going so far?"

Roan nodded and told him, "I haven't reached the same level as my Dark Element, but it's usable." One must remember that back in the alchemist competition, Roan already had started to train in manipulating the Water Element. After all, he was the epitome of Yin Energy, which was perfect for this. The reason he hadn't used it far simply was that it wasn't as useful as his own Dark Element skills.

Suddenly, Water Element gathered around Roan and his team members before everyone started to rise to the top of the water. Roan could concentrate the water under everyone's feet so much that they could use it as a platform.

Roan then looked in the distance and could see the members of the Holang Country there. "There are only three people there at the moment. It seems like two of them drowned, or they're also Water Element users. Obviously, it should be the second one since their teammates don't seem concerned with their friends' disappearance."

"What should we do?" Milina felt quite helpless in that environment with her Earth Element Affinity.

Roan coldly smiled as he pointed forward. "I told you before, didn't I? I will defend while all of you attack." Suddenly, the water began to take the form of a tube around Rean's group, except for Roan. "Have a good journey."

'Water Cannon!'

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Yes, Roan simply launched everyone from his group directly into the Holand Country's flag defense. Along the way through the air, Rean couldn't help but sigh, muttering, "He totally enjoyed it."

However, it was too late to head back, so Rean began to use his Divine Sense. 'Samanta, help control our descent. This free fall is not like that one we had in the first battle. Everyone's weight will affect our resistance against the air.'

Samanta was already preparing for that anyway, even though she hated how she was put in this situation. 'Fuck this shit! I swear I'll give that guy a beating one day!'

She then took her fan out and poured her Divine Energy inside.

'Rising Gale!'

A powerful wind then came from below everyone, hitting each member of her group with different levels of force. That allowed them to descend simultaneously in the direction of the enemy's team.

Of course, Holang Country wouldn't stay still while Rean's group came directly at them.

'Kill them!'

'Fire Dragon!'

'Myriad Corrosion Spikes!'

'Sword Formation!'

Several attacks came from below, trying to hit Rean's group. As they were falling, moving around was difficult, so they could only defend themselves.

Immediately, Light Element gathered around Rean before spreading around.

'Life Style, Fifth Form, Light Aura Burst!'

Everyone felt the Light Element entering their bodies, increasing their strength. It had been some time since Rean used that area of effect enhancement ability.

'Defend!'

Death... and me

Chapter 1150: Fighting Holang Country

'Leave it to me!' Milina decided to use the remaining Divine Energy in her body in this battle as Holang was probably easier to defeat after seeing their results. Since they lost against Klacks, they should still be feeling its effects.

Milina then aimed downwards as Earth Element gathered around her body. With the help of the stored Divine Energy in her body, even the disadvantageous environment didn't stop her skill from taking shape.

'Castle Wall!'

A huge shield of Earth Element appeared in front of their group, powered by Saint Realm level Divine Energy. Rean and the others weren't idiots, so they also poured Divine Energy into it even though it wasn't their skill.

Boom, boom, boom, boom...

The Castle Wall was hit head-on by the three skills of the Holang Country's people. Holang couldn't help but snort at seeing that. How could their skills be stopped by some small fry from a smaller country? They only won all fights so far because they got trash to fight against...or so they thought. Just as they were about to follow up with their next skills and get rid of Rean's group, they noticed the yellow wall-like shield passing through the dust caused by the explosions.

"What?!"

They were strong, that's for sure. Milina's defensive ability almost crumbled due to their power. She was mainly affected by how there was only a small amount of Earth Element in the area. Nevertheless, it resisted, helping Rean's group touch the enemy's flag area intact.

Splash, splash, splash, splash!

All four of them landed in the water safely. Of course, their opponents didn't wait for them to regain their balance after the fall.

'Earth Spears!'

Milina immediately retaliated against the Earth Element enemy with the same skill, though.

'Earth Spears!'

In this field, using any more complicated Earth Element abilities was too hard, so they had to opt for common ones. However, her opponent was taken aback by the number of Earth Spears coming his way. 'Impossible! There's no way someone at the Soul Transformation Realm can create this many spears in this environment!'

'Sword Assault Array!'

Rean was immediately assaulted by several flying swords.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Immediately, he created four clones of himself as his hair changed into a mix of black and white color.

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

Rean's clones then used Three Claws of the Dragon to deflect the swords as Rean himself swan in the enemy's direction!

'Fire Dragon Charge!'

The last opponent shot in the direction of Rean's group. He knew that his Fire Element performed the worst in such a place, so he took the initiative.

Samanta and Regio immediately joined forces to fight him. Regio had the same problem as that enemy since he also used Fire Element. Because of that, he decided to give Samanta support instead by using long-ranged attacks.

'Fire Wisps!'

Hundreds of specks of Fire Element appeared in front of his opponent, exploding at contact. Their strength wasn't anything praiseworthy but enough to slow the guy down.

Samanta then took the front and counterattacked. Her fan shone with Wind Element as the feathers suddenly detached from it.

'Feather Blade Storm!'

Samanta used one of her strongest attacks right from the get-go. Of course, she wasn't an idiot. As she mentioned, she knew the difference between her and the geniuses from top countries. What she and Regio had to do was hold that guy down long enough, that's all.

Meanwhile, at the back, Roan snorted as he felt two Divine Senses approaching his position. 'Hmph! They saw me launching the rest of my group to fight their members. They knew it would be a three-on-four battle, but they completely ignored that. As expected of a top country, I guess? They think that even with smaller numbers, their companions couldn't possibly lose to us.'

'Death World!'

'Shadow Bind!'

'Mirage Assault!'

'Light and Divine Sense Bending!'

Immediately, Roan's defensive measures took place. So what if his opponents were Water Element users? His skills worked against any elements!

The two guys underwater were surprised to see Roan's Death World. Due to their pride, they didn't ask the teams that lost against Roan's team how it happened. Naturally, they didn't know much about Roan's Death World. It did appear in the first test, but who cared about what small countries did there?

Without being able to locate Roan's clones or the real one's position, they decided to aim for the flag instead.

'Stream Movement!'

'Cyclic Water Repel!'

The first used the speed approach while the other preferred to mount a strong defense while inside Roan's Death World.

Suddenly, the first cultivator saw Roan through his Divine Sense and immediately changed targets.

'Icicle Frenzy!'

'Water Compression!'

Roan snorted as he answered in the same coin. 'Good chance to test my control over Water Element with my Yin Energy.'

'Icicle Frenzy!'

'Water Compression!'

Both Roan and his enemy were caught by the icicle storm and could barely move due to the water compression. However, Roan didn't didn't stop there as his Yin Energy burst outwards, affecting the Water Element in the area around him.

Thanks to that, his movement was restored somehow while he still shot icicles at his opponent.

Of course, the enemy wasn't going to stay still. His icicles suddenly made a turn and smashed against's Roan's icicles. He also pushed his water movement skill to the limit, trying to get away from the range of Roan's Water Compression.

'Nicely done!' Roan thought for a moment.

Roan then swapped his position with one of his clones while he moved against the second guy.

'Hehe! I wonder if you can continue to hold your protection skill in my Death World.'

Roan was right. One must remember that although the Death World's Dark Element was spread thin, it was still Dark Element. The guy's Cyclic Water Repel formed a large barrier around himself. That meant it was in contact with a lot more Dark Element than his body would normally come in contact with.

After he made it halfway to Roan's flag, he already had to pour more Divine Energy than ever to keep his skill up. 'Fuck it!'

In the end, he could tell that Roan was fighting his companion, so he deactivated his Cyclic Water Repel and made a beeline to the flag! Unfortunately for him, he also didn't know about Roan's clones and that the real Roan was waiting for that to happen.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'