

Death 1181

Death... and me

Chapter 1181: Body Cultivation Techniques

Roan didn't take that long to find out where the body cultivation techniques were. It's just that the building was quite inconspicuous compared to the one for Divine Energy techniques. Along the way, Roan also contacted Rean to tell him about what he found. 'With that said, we'll probably need a lot of Divine Energy Stones.'

Rean pondered over it for a bit before saying, 'I guess I have no other choice, then. If we want fast money, I'll have to show my Element Gathering equipment.'

Roan didn't mind. 'The other weapons can already gather Elements. It's just that they have to use the inscriptions to do that. Your weapons can do it on their own as long as Divine Energy is poured into them. Whether you think it's worth showing this card or not is up to you.'

'Alright, leave it to me.' Rean couldn't help but comment, though. 'Still, to think that body cultivation techniques exist. We never found anything like that in the Mortal Realm. Now that I think about it, others might think that we were using these techniques when I activated my Enhancement skill. I wonder how good it'll turn out if the two are put together.'

Roan was also interested in that outcome. 'In this Sacred Land, we're only on par or just slightly stronger than the top cultivators. The average ones we can fight up to two stages above. The real top ones aren't so easy, as you saw during the Capture the Flag test. Then again, they were very few in between.'

Rean understood what Roan meant. 'You mean those whose we could only fight at the same level already had body cultivation techniques, right?'

'Yes,' Roan said in response. 'Venali, Hedoi, and even that girl called Liana. There's a reason why they were considered the top cultivators and the leaders of the hundreds of cultivators from their own countries. A reason why they were stronger, and it wasn't just cultivation and soul power alone.'

Rean thought it made sense. 'Cultivating body techniques is hard, painful, and expensive. It makes sense that only the best between them were able to do it while the rest couldn't.' Rean nodded in the end. 'Very well, I'm the one responsible for our money, so leave it to me. Just make sure to grab a good body

cultivation technique. As for pain, you know that it isn't a problem when my Light Element is added to the mix.'

Rean was right. As mentioned several times, Rean could use Light Element to protect the organs. It was to the point that even the pain caused by Roan's Dark Element while using Purification was bearable. Compared to Roan's Dark Element, there was simply nothing out there that could be more painful. That's why neither Rean nor Roan was worried about the fusion of other materials with the body.

'Don't worry. I'll check every single manual available for me. It's just that I don't know if I'll have access to the top floors of the body cultivation technique repository. In the Divine Energy technique repository, I could only access four of the five floors there,' Roan mentioned.

Rean shrugged his shoulders after hearing that. 'Just like you told me, that's up to you.'

Roan nodded and ended his conversation with Rean.

Eventually, Roan arrived at the repository. It wasn't even a tenth of the size of the Divine Energy technique repository. There were five counters, while only two were being used. There were over a hundred in the Divine Energy repository, and almost all were occupied by cultivators making requests. It goes to show the huge difference in popularity between both schools. After getting inside, Roan went straight to one of the free workers there, who seemed to be relaxing due to the lack of things there was to do. "I want to check the body cultivation techniques."

The worker finally noticed Roan's presence and attended to him. "Oh, hi!" He then looked around and couldn't help but say, "Oh, it's quite rare to have three of us working at the same time in this place." He then looked back at Roan and asked, "Which sector are you part of?"

"Inner Sector," Roan said in response.

The worker smiled at Roan. "Inner Sector of the Sacred Land? Seems like you were one of the top ten cultivators in the end, then." He continued, "Alright, give me your badge so that I can register your presence. You can go and take a look after that."

Roan nodded and asked back, "Which floors are available for me to peruse?"

"Floors?" The worker was puzzled for a second before understanding what Roan meant. "Oh, right! The Divine Energy techniques require levels of access. Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. There's no such thing here. All the body cultivation techniques here are available for cultivators in any sector. There's no such thing as restrictions."

"No restrictions?" Roan could not help but become confused. "Why?"

The worker shrugged his shoulders, telling him, "Because almost no one wants to cultivate these techniques due to how expensive and difficult they are. Those who do already have their own techniques they brought back from their countries. In the end, we end up with people like you, who wish to try their luck for the first time and will probably give up after a few days. I wonder how many days you'll last."

Well, Roan was more than satisfied with that. "I see..." He then passed his badge to the worker, and a few moments later, he was given access to the repository.

Although there were no restrictions to which technique one wished to try, they were still divided by levels of difficulty. Their difficulty was divided into five levels, with number five being the most expensive and difficult ones. Roan pondered in silence for a bit and decided to go for level one techniques first. Even though this was the Sacred Land, the number of body cultivation techniques available wasn't even a thousandth of the Divine Energy ones. He was confident he could read and memorize everything in a few days. 'Well, let's start.'

In the meantime, Rean arrived at the Blacksmith Hall.

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Chapter 1182: Ghiraha Lan

"How can I help you?" the worker behind the counter asked.

Rean took out his badge before replying, "I would like to join the Blacksmith Hall. At the same time, I heard you could join the Blacksmith Guild through the Sacred Land's Blacksmith Hall, so I would like to join them as well."

The worker nodded in response. "No problem. What's your blacksmith level at the moment? Be aware that we will have to test you out, so if you're lying, there will be a penalty."

"I'm a Golden Initial-level blacksmith," Rean answered straight away. He knew very well where he stood.

"Alright." The worker used Rean's badge for a moment before giving it back. "You can head to the testing workshop on the right side. There should be two or three elders there responsible for testing the new recruits' skills. Just forge something in the level you mentioned before passing the equipment to them."

Rean was quite satisfied with the straightforwardness and quickly headed to the testing workshop. Because there was only one recruitment every one hundred years, there wasn't much of a reason to keep many elders in this place. In fact, it usually only had a single one. But because of the recruitment, the Sacred Land increased the number to three just in case. It would go back to one a few months later.

"Are you here for the test?" One of the elders there asked Rean as the other two seemed to be occupied with other new recruits.

Rean nodded in response. "Yes, I just joined the Blacksmith Hall. I'm here to take the test as a Golden Initial-level blacksmith."

The elder then pointed at one of the workstations available. Sure enough, everything there seemed to be pretty high quality. If not because Rean had the system's tools and equipment, this would have been the best workstation he had ever seen. Naturally, he could use this one as well. Although it wouldn't be as good as the equipment that he made using his personal workstation in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

The elder then explained, "We don't care which methods you use as long as you can achieve the desired results. Naturally, every blacksmith here has a different background and was taught differently, after all. Just be aware that you have to provide your own materials. If you don't have them, our Blacksmith Hall has them for sale, but it will cost will Merit Points."

Rean obviously still had a lot of Golden Initial and Middle-level materials, thanks to Kentucky. He took them out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and immediately turned on the forger. However, this time, Rean didn't use his Elemental Gathering technique or other methods, like tempering. He simply

forged a normal Golden-Initial level sword. For him to sell his Elemental Gathering Equipment at a high price, the method of forging them had to be a secret. A few hours later, Rean passed the sword to the elder. "Here you go."

The elder poured his Divine Energy inside and made a few moves. He didn't seem impressed or anything, though. In the end, he simply nodded and told Rean, "It's a Golden Initial-level Sword, alright. A pretty common one without any inscriptions either, but one nonetheless. Alright, you pass the test. I'll input your name in the Blacksmith Hall and the Blacksmith Guild."

Rean smiled in response. "Thank you, elder."

However, just as he was about to leave, the elder called his attention, asking him, "This isn't your limit, is it?"

Rean looked back at the elder in surprise and replied, "I truly can't forge anything above Golden Initial-level, elder. I don't have the cultivation for it."

The elder shook his head, though. "That's not what I'm talking about. I know you can't forge something at Golden Middle-level because of your cultivation. What I'm talking about is that you could make a much better sword, am I right?"

Rean scratched the back of his head as he nodded in response. "Is it that obvious?"

"Hmph!" The elder snorted. "Your forging process looked so easy that anyone with eyes could tell it. From the looks of it, you do have some talent. Let me see one of your real creations. Don't worry, I won't change the results of this test."

Rean pondered over it for a bit before an idea popped into his mind. "Alright, elder. By the way, I'm called Rean. What should I call you, elder?"

"Ghiraha Lan is my name. I'm just a normal elder of the Blacksmith Hall."

Rean nodded and took out a sword from the Dimensional Realm. This one, however, didn't have any inscriptions on it. Its only difference was that it was forged with Rean's Element Gathering power. Of course, it was also much more resistant than weapons at the same level, but it didn't matter at the moment. "Elder Ghihara, I'm intending to sell my creations to the cultivators of the Sacred Land. Would you be able to tell me how much this is worth?"

Ghihara narrowed his eyes as he took Rean's sword. It was a Fire Element Gathering sword. "There's no lack of high-level blacksmiths in our hall. Unless you make them cheaper while keeping it the same level as others, it will be hard to make a quick profit."

Rean smiled in response. "Or...my forged equipment might have some extra perks that others don't."

Ghihara's interest was piqued when he looked at Rean's confident expression. "You seem convinced that you have a good product here. Very well, let me give a quick check."

With that, he poured his Divine Energy inside, preparing to make a few swings while using his Divine Sense and Soul Power to check the sword's internals. However, his expression quickly changed from that of empathy to that of surprise. Not too long after, it went from surprise to disbelief. "This..."

He looked at Rean like he was seeing a ghost. "Ho-how did you do this? There are no inscriptions at all. Or could it be that I can't see the inscriptions?"

Rean shook his head and told him, "There are no inscriptions."

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Chapter 1183: Testing the Weapon

As mentioned before, it was possible to gather elements with a weapon through inscriptions. However, it would occupy space on the weapon itself, leaving less space for other inscriptions. If such a thing could be avoided, then it would definitely bring the weapons a level higher. That's what Ghihara Lan thought when Rean told him that his weapon didn't have inscriptions.

"This isn't all." Ghihara continued to examine Rean's weapon. As a blacksmith himself, especially one who held the position of an elder in the Sacred Land, he could obviously see how good it was made. "This sword's strength is definitely at the very top of what you can achieve with a Golden Initial-level

equipment. Compared to that first sword you forged for me, this is simply leagues ahead. In fact, you could even say they're from different realms."

Ghihara suddenly had an idea. "Come with me for a moment." Ghihara then brought Rean and his weapon to where another cultivator was taking the blacksmithing test. He just so happened to be at the same level as Rean, Golden Initial-level. "Hey, Tiao. How's your kid?"

Tiao was one of the three elders responsible for the Blacksmith Hall's tests. "He's about to finish it. Why? Do you need something?"

Ghihara nodded and then pointed at Rean. "Let's wait for him to finish that weapon of his and test it against this guy's sword."

Tiao was surprised to hear such a request. "Is it something good?"

"Check it for yourself." Ghihara then passed Rean's sword to Tiao.

Naturally, Tiao reached the same conclusion as Ghihara and was just as shocked. "How's that possible?!" Immediately, he understood why Ghihara wanted to test Rean's weapon against the other guy's. "Let's wait. It's almost complete."

Ghihara nodded and watched the other blacksmith finish forging his weapon. "Not too bad. Considering his cultivation, that saber of his should be slightly above average. It's perfect for the test. What's his name?"

"Francis Tussiu," Tiao replied. "He definitely isn't bad. However..." Tiao looked at Rean's weapon before continuing, "I better not make comparisons."

Rean didn't mind much and also waited for Francis to finish his weapon. The guy was focused on the forging, so he didn't notice Rean's group there. Of course, Rean was also a blacksmith, so he could more or less tell how good Francis's Saber would come to be and sighed. 'Sorry for it, brother. It was my idea,' he thought.

As Francis worked on his saber, Ghihara looked at Rean and asked, "I guess I already know the answer, but I'll ask it nevertheless. How did you forge this thing? If possible, be as specific as you can."

Rean smiled and shook his head. "Sorry, but this is my secret. If everyone finds about it, wouldn't I lose my gold mine?"

Tiao laughed as he patted Ghihara's shoulder. "Hahaha! He's very confident in himself that we won't be able to figure it out."

Ghihara shrugged his shoulders after hearing that. "Just the type of answer I expected. However, let's see if it'll still be a secret once I analyze it thoroughly."

Rean didn't seem to mind. "That's not a problem. You can have this sword of mine for free. However, you must tell me the correct price for this type of equipment once you finish the test against Francis's saber."

Ghihara obviously wouldn't refuse it. "Sure, I'll be able to tell you soon."

Tiao then looked at Rean with a weird expression. "Ahem... you don't happen to have another one of these weapons, do you? I would like to try to figure out its secrets as well."

Rean smiled in response and took out another piece from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. "Here you go, elder. But in exchange, I want you to help me spread the word later. I'm in need of a lot of Divine Stones, so the more orders I get, the better."

Tiao was more than happy enough to comply with Rean's request. "Sure thing, kid." Well, he was certain that Rean's weapons would grab a lot of attention even if he didn't do anything.

Eventually, Francis finished his saber and couldn't help but look at it, satisfied. "I forged a good piece this time." Francis then looked at Tiao and only then did he notice Rean and Ghihara being there as well. "Errr... is something wrong?"

Tiao shook his head before extending his hand. "Let me take a look at your saber."

Francis didn't know what was happening but gave the saber away without questioning. Tiao didn't take that long to examine it. "Very good. It's a genuine Golden Initial-level saber. I'll register your name in our Blacksmith Hall. Since you're already a Blacksmith Guild member, there is no need to do it here. Now then, I'll use it against the sword crafted by this disciple here. Would you mind if we checked who had the best weapon?"

"This..." Francis was taken aback as he didn't expect such a thing to happen. The worst part was that he obviously recognized Rean. 'One of those weird twins from the recruitment! Why would they want to try my weapon against him?' Surprisingly, Francis accepted in the end. 'There's no need to be afraid. Since I was already accepted into the Blacksmith Hall, it won't matter what happens. Besides, I did forge a good saber this time.'

Francis looked back at them and replied, "Go ahead, elders. I also want to see if my saber is good enough to not lose in a clash against one of the weird twins' weapons."

"We-Weird twins?" Rean couldn't help but repeat those words. 'Is that how we're known?' Rean asked himself.

Tiao and Ghihara didn't care as they immediately raised the saber and sword. Their cultivations were several times higher than Francis and Rean, so one of the two weapons was bound to break after pouring their Divine Energy inside and clash against each other.

The two weapons screamed with the overbearing amount of Divine Energy in them. However, while Francis's saber only trembled, Rean's weapon seemed to become a volcano ready to erupt due to all the Fire Element it gathered.

Eventually, Tiao and Ghihara purposely attacked each other's weapons. As for Rean, he felt like he had seen this scene before. 'This reminds me of the Varen Tribe.'

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Chapter 1184: Finally Part of the Blacksmith Hall

Swish!

Clang!

However, the end result was different from what happened in the Varen Tribe. Back then, Rean's steel sword shattered the other weapon. Here, on the other hand, the ridiculous amount of Fire Element made Rean's sword pass through Francis's saber like a hot knife through butter. Both weapons were on a completely different level.

Of course, there was another reason why Rean's sword won that easily. It was the amount of Divine Energy poured inside it. Because of the much higher cultivation, Rean's sword almost burst apart due to the pressure. That's why higher-level equipment was necessary for higher-level cultivators. It reached the limit of what it could perform in Gihara's hands. If he used such a strong attack one or two more times, Rean was certain his sword would simply burst apart.

In any case, it was perfect for the test since Tiao did the same thing with Francis's saber. In that clash, one of the weapons would absolutely be damaged somehow. At the same time, the better one wouldn't suffer anything other than the side effects of the excessive Divine Energy poured into it before the attack... or so it was supposed to be.

Tiao felt a chill on his back. When he and Gihara attacked each other's weapons, they stood their ground to hold the impact each other would receive from their hands. However, because Rean's sword cut through Francis's saber that easily, the recoil from two weapons colliding didn't happen. With that being said, the inertia that Gihara and Tiao applied with their bodies to the attack wasn't repelled. In the end, Rean's sword continued to move forward, forcing Gihara and Tiao to move their bodies at the very last moment.

Tsssssssss...

A small cut mark appeared on Tiao's left arm as Fire Element rampaged on it. Tiao didn't notice it, though. Even the pain didn't wipe out the image of his body being pierced through if he and Gihara hadn't moved accordingly in that last instant.

"Ah!" Eventually, Tiao came back to himself and used his Divine Energy to get rid of the Fire Element on his arm. "Holy shit!" He then looked at the saber in his hand. That was, without a doubt, a Golden Initial-level saber. How did it cut through so easily?!

Ghihara also let out cold sweat after seeing the aftermath. Although piercing Tiao's body could be fixed with the Sacred Land's healing skills and pills, that would take time and would be very expensive. Worse yet was to explain just how ridiculous the situation that led to what happened.

Ghihara then looked at the sword, which lost the Fire Element gathering property once he stopped pouring Divine Energy. "Is this what a Golden Initial-level sword should be like?"

While that was happening, Francis felt like crying. Both weapons were at the Golden Initial-level, so why did his saber lose so badly like that. He could accept if his saber was damaged to some extent. But he couldn't believe that it was cut like paper.

Tiao, Ghihara, and Francis looked at Rean right after as one of them asked, "Just... what did you do to this weapon?"

Rean scratched the back of his head, embarrassed. "Sorry, I should have warned you it would probably destroy Francis's saber." Rean then patted Francis's shoulder and said, "Don't worry. I'll pay for the material you used in the saber. There's no need to be angry."

Tiao, Ghihara, and Francis's mouths twitched after hearing that. "Who the hell cares about the saber?! We want to know about your sword, idiot!"

Rean understood after that. "Oh! The sword? It was crafted with the Element Gathering method, so it can gather the Fire Element when you pour Divine Energy into it. Didn't I say that already?"

"Not that!" Ghihara shook his head before saying, "Even if your Element Gathering method is overpowered, it shouldn't have been able to cut Francis's saber so easily. I would understand if they clashed and the saber broke apart. But the fact that your sword cut through his saber like butter is totally off the charts! This is not the level of a Golden Initial-level sword anymore. It's definitely at the Golden Middle-level and very close to Golden High-level at that!"

Hearing that, Rean looked at Ghihara as if he was an idiot. "What are you saying, Elder Ghihara? This is definitely a Golden Initial-level Sword. It's just that it's a little stronger than normal ones."

"A... little?" They felt like crying. "Is this what you call a little? Then, what would you call a strong sword?"

Rean thought they were exaggerating. "You guys are forgetting that my sword only cut Francis's saber because Elder Tiao and Gihara's cultivations are much higher than the sword itself. In a normal circumstance where both cultivators have identical strength to the sword requirement, my sword would need at least ten or so clashes before breaking Francis's saber."

'Ten or so clashes?! That's what we call overpowered, idiot! Why don't you just go and die?!' They all thought at the same time.

However, Tiao and Gihara's eyes lit up after that. Whatever Rean did with this sword, they must find out!

Gihara then looked at Rean and said, "Anyways, you pass the test. I'm leaving. Oh, right! I'll let the workers at the counter know that you passed the test. Just give your badge to them, and they will conclude the process of adding you to the Blacksmith Hall and Guild."

Vup!

Rean couldn't even see Gihara's movement before he disappeared from the room.

Well, Tiao wasn't much different. "The same goes for you, Francis. You forged a nice saber. Don't worry about it breaking apart. You were just unlucky. Well then, bye!"

Vup!

And with that, Tiao disappeared like smoke as well.

Francis didn't know how to react. 'Just unlucky? Well, I guess so. Who the hell would come across such a ridiculous sword like that normally?' In the end, he sighed and made his way out of the workshop. He already saw how common sense didn't work on the twins during the recruitment, so he decided to think this was just another one of those moments. "Whatever...at least I passed the test."

Rean nodded in agreement. "The same goes for me."

Rean soon came out of the workshop and passed his badge to the worker there. "Can you pass a message to Elder Tiao for him to not forget our deal?"

The worker nodded as it wasn't strange for new blacksmiths to make contact with the hall's elders. With that, Rean was finally part of the Blacksmith Hall.

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Chapter 1185: Work

Rean then contacted Roan to tell him what he had done.

Roan couldn't help but ask in response, 'Didn't you show a bit too much? Chances are that when those blacksmiths notice they can't reproduce your work, they will try to force you to reveal it.'

Rean shook his head and said, 'That would be the case if we didn't have a background. However, with Elder Etherian on our side, I doubt anyone will try to force anything. At most, they'll ask him to see if he can get me to reveal my forging method.'

Roan had to admit Rean was right and didn't ask about it anymore.

After finishing that, Rean decided to enter the Blacksmith Hall's repository to study. He wanted to see what kind of techniques they had there that he could make use of.

Meanwhile, words about Rean and Roan continued to spread around. In Roan's case, Orphi did as he promised and passed his words to a few of his country's disciples. Naturally, they became very interested in Roan's abilities and wanted to try it out. It's just that Roan wasn't available at the moment.

The same thing happened for Rean. Tiao kept his word and told the disciples about Rean and his new forging method that could gather elements without inscriptions. Those disciples then spread the word around the Outer and Inner Sector of the Sacred Land, catching many ears. Well, the majority was

skeptical. How come a disciple came up with such a method while the Sacred Land and the Blacksmith Guild hadn't? Only a handful believed it.

Time passed as the twins kept studying. After all, the Sacred Land had a lot of study materials. In Roan's case, he didn't simply want to find a new body cultivation technique for him and Rean. He wanted to first commit all the techniques in the Body repository and then formulate a technique specifically for the twins.

With that being said, Rean was the first to come out after checking the materials in the repository that he really cared about. It's just that when he came out of the repository, the worker came to deliver him a few messages. "Oh, so you're finally out of there." The worker then passed Rean a jade slip, telling him, "It seems like you have quite a few cultivators who would like to try out that new equipment of yours, so I put the forging requests in the jade slip. Take a look and see which job you'll take."

Rean was happy to hear that Tiao kept his word. Immediately, he looked into the jade slip to see what those people wanted. However, he was surprised by the small number of requests. "I thought there would be more than just that."

The worker shrugged his shoulders, saying, "There's no helping it. From what I know, the only ones who saw your new weapons were the two elders and Francis. Ever since that day, Elder Tiao and Ghihara had practically closed themselves to the outside world, trying to understand how you forged those weapons. No one other than them had access to your work. Naturally, the majority don't believe it, thinking that it might be some scam or whatever."

Rean understood after that. "I see...you seem to have a lot of experience with that."

The worker nodded. "I have been working for the Sacred Land's Blacksmith Hall during the last 30 years, after all. I'm not a member, but just the huge concentration of Divine Energy in this place makes it very worth it."

Rean smiled in response. If it was him, he definitely would jump into this opportunity as well. "Very well." Rean then checked the orders once more before saying, "I'll take Calamara, Sui, and Polfe's requests. The requests are a Fire Element Shield, Water Element Katars, and a Lightning Element Saber. Tell Calamara to head to the Blacksmith Hall as I'll need his Fire Element during the forging process."

The worker was surprised to hear that. "You need the user's presence to forge that elemental gathering equipment?"

Rean knew what the guy was thinking. "Don't worry, they won't be able to see the forging process itself. I'll only call them during the very first stages of the process. The real important part will be done by me alone."

"If you say so..." The worker then turned around while saying, "I'll call Calamari over. He should be here in an hour at most as long as he's in the sect. If he left for a mission or something else, I'd tell the next guy on the list to come."

Rean was satisfied with that. "That's good enough. Oh, just one more thing. I have the materials to forge the equipment they want. However, if they have specific preferences, ask those guys to bring the material they want to use."

"Sure thing."

The guy was fast, and it didn't take long before Calamara arrived at the Blacksmith Hall. Rean was already in a private workshop, ready to start his work. "So, you've come. How will we do this? Your material or mine?"

Calamara was happy that Rean went straight to the point. "Mine! I have here several kilograms of Amakas Vulcan Ore that I've been gathering for it. However, before you start, I want to make a guarantee."

Rean understood what Calamara meant. "You're afraid that I might be some fraud and will waste your hard-earned ore, right? Very well. If the forging goes wrong, I'll pay back the ore or give you another material of equivalent level."

Calamara nodded, satisfied. "Great! So, what do you need from me? Usually, blacksmiths only call their customers when they are finishing up the design of the equipment, not during the forging process."

Rean shook his head, saying, "For this shield to be perfect, your own Fire Element is necessary. Of course, I'll also follow the design you asked for in the request."

Calamara could only go with the flow. "Well, as long as it works just like the rumors say, I don't mind it at all."

With that said, the two of them began to work.

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Chapter 1186: Richer

The first part of the forging process occurred, as Rean mentioned. Calamara spent most of his time infusing his own Fire Element into the shield. Rean also offered a few of his thoughts to Calamara about the design, changing it to better adapt to Calamara's traits.

Of course, the only thing Calamara saw was the Fire Element he was gathering being taken away. Rean made sure that he couldn't see anything else regarding the forging process, just in case. Once that part was over, Rean brought Calamara outside the private workshop and continued the forging process.

Rean wasn't afraid of other people seeing him either, as the workstations were protected by formations that prevented Divine Sense and Soul Power Scanning. Not to mention that Sister Orb could at least check if any other kind of formation was being used there.

However, Rean reached a part of the forging process where he was at a crossroads. 'Hmm...should I use the Earth's Remnants on this first piece? Using the normal alloy material is enough to bring my Golden Initial-level equipment to being almost equivalent to something at the Golden High-level in power. If I do that, then this shield would just be like Roan's scythe and my new Black Star. It would definitely be strong enough to butt heads with Golden High-level equipment, which was much better.'

The problem was that Rean didn't have much Earth's Remnants left. After all, the Cosgles Race had been getting rid of it as they had no use for the material. 'I wonder if they were able to accumulate more in the meantime. However, they did tell me that it was a quick process. If they did, it probably wouldn't be more than a few kilograms either.'

It was then that Rean had an idea. 'Right! Why didn't I think of it before? It's the perfect . Hahaha!' With that in mind, Rean immediately took some of the Earth's Remnants he had and used it to create the alloy. Sure enough, it worked perfectly fine with Calamara's Amaka's Vulcan Ore, just like it did with his other tests. 'This is really the god's component.'

Rean came out of his workshop around a day later. He wanted to make the best shield he could, so it took longer than normal. Calamara, obviously, was there. "Oh, you're finally out!" He immediately noticed the shield on Rean's hand, and his eyes lit up in response. "Quick, quick, give it to me."

"What 'give it to me'? You must be dreaming! Aren't you forgetting something?" Rean then extended his hand and said, "100 Rank Two Divine Stones! Pass it over."

"100!" Calamara almost vomited blood. That was more or less the entire income of three years taking missions for the Sacred Land. Sure, this was the Sacred Land. Nevertheless, Divine Stones at Rank Two or above were hard to get. "You're the crazy one! There's no way this shield is worth so much!"

Rean smiled in response. "So much? Hahaha! Do you know how lucky you are? I decided long before that the first three pieces of equipment I forge would be 'Special Editions.' Believe it or not, I'm charging you the price of common equipment. This Special Edition would normally cost 300 Rank Two Divine Stones! But since you and the other two guys are my first clients, I'm making an exception."

"What?! You must be out of your mind! Do you think someone will pay you 300 Rank Two Divine Stones? It doesn't matter how good your Elemental Gathering method is. It's definitely not worth such a value. With that amount, I can even buy real Golden High-level equipment. It's just that it would be useless since I don't have the necessary cultivation to use it."

Rean nodded and asked in response, "And what if I tell you that this shield of yours is equivalent to a High-level one even though it's at the Initial-level? Can you imagine how much of an advantage you would have in a battle against someone of your own level?"

Calamara couldn't help but laugh out loud after that. "Hahaha! Bullshit! There's no way this shield is that good. If it was, let alone 300, I would give you all the 453 Rank Two Divine Stones I have!"

Rean smiled in response. "Oh! Is that so? Well, it seems like the difference between a piece of equipment that can display the power of a High-level while still being in the Initial-level is worth a lot more than I predicted." Rean heard from Gihara that his evaluation of that sword should be around 100 Rank Two Divine Stones. That's why he thought his special edition would be worth around three times more. It seems like he underestimated the value of Golden Initial-level equipment that could match Golden High-level equipment in power.

Rean then offered, "Let's do it like this. I'll let you test this shield of mine so that you can comprehend its power firsthand. If it turns out that it really is as good as a High-level one, then you will have to pay me that."

"This..." Calamara was taken aback by Rean's confidence. However, he quickly recovered. "And what if it doesn't?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders and replied, "I'll give this shield to you for free."

Calamara thought it to be weird. He could just lie and say that the shield didn't reach the level Rean mentioned. However...

"Oh, and by the way," Rean added. "You better not try lying to me. After all, I'll be making more Special Editions. You don't really think you'll be able to hide the truth when the other Special Editions show that I wasn't wrong, right?"

Calamara couldn't help but feel a chill on his back after that. Reputation meant a lot in the Sacred Land. At least it did for the righteous path cultivators. If that really happened and others found he lied... "Hm-hmph! I'm a Sacred Land disciple. If it's at the level you mentioned, I'll definitely pay the price." He couldn't step back anymore.

Well, Calamara also didn't see how he could end up on the losing side. If Rean's shield was really as good as he said, 453 Rank Two Divine Stones would still be a bargain! "Give the shield to me. I'll invite a friend to test it out and let you know the result."

Rean nodded and passed the shield over.

Around two hours later, Rean became 453 Rank Two Divine Stones richer.

Death... and me

Chapter 1187: What's the Reason?

Rean did exactly the same with the next two clients, who ended up paying the Divine Stones as well. With that, Rean had finally run out of Earth's Remnants. It didn't matter, though. 'A good thing about being part of the Sacred Land is that they have many subordinates to take tasks for the disciples and elders.'

That made sense as those people could live in the Sacred Land as well. It's just that they didn't have access to the facilities or the resources. They had to earn it all by themselves. Nevertheless, it was the same as the worker in the Blacksmith Hall. Just the huge concentration of Divine Energy due to the innumerable Divine Veins was definitely worth it.

However, Roan immediately denied the idea when Rean told him. 'Don't send anyone there, or it'll turn ugly.'

'Why?' Rean asked in response. 'Even if the blacksmiths of the Sacred Land find out, they won't know how to use the Earth's Remnants anyway.'

Roan shook his head, saying, 'They won't know, but that doesn't mean they won't try. It means that they will offer much more than what you did to them. Worst case, they will capture those village members, and you will never find other members of the Cosgles Race's village there anymore.'

'Ah!' Rean had to admit Roan was right. 'Then...I wonder if I should go there by myself.' It was then that Rean had an idea. 'Oh, right! This is a perfect task to give to Kentucky.'

Roan pondered over it for a bit and shook his head. 'If Kentucky was at the Transition Realm, then I would agree with it. However, do you think you can have Kentucky fly into the cities alone to use the teleport formations? All the cultivators there would think he is a savage demon beast and attack. Even if he talks to them, who knows what could happen? You better let him stay in Lukimira to keep cultivating.'

In the end, Rean couldn't help but sigh in response. 'Well, I guess I'll have to head there by myself.'

'That isn't too much of an issue. You have the Sacred Land's badge, so you can use the teleport formations of the entire Huring Continent for free. If you teleport to the closest formation, it won't take more than two or three days to make a round trip,' Roan told him.

Rean had to admit Roan was right. 'Well, I guess I can only do just that.' Rean didn't have anything else to do in the Blacksmith Hall after finishing the third piece of equipment. With that being said, he didn't waste time and immediately went to the Teleport Formation Hall. Sure enough, he didn't have to pay anything before he was teleported away.

Of course, Rean made sure to use a different appearance once he arrived in the city with the teleport formation. Also, Rean wasn't exactly teleported to the closest city. Instead, he arrived somewhere else and then hid the fact he was part of the Sacred Land. Then, he paid with Divine Stones to be teleported to the closest city to Cosgles village.

Aien was in doubt if Rean would ever come back, but he did keep the Earth's Remnants, just like Rean instructed. Seeing Rean appearing after a few months really made him ecstatic. The same could be said for the rest of the village members. "So you weren't lying. You really came back." Rean's Divine Stones were of great help to the village, so they obviously took a liking to him.

Rean laughed as he patted Aien's shoulder, saying, "Hahaha! How could I not? Didn't I tell you? Your Earth's Remnants are way too important for me. However, make sure you keep it a secret, understood?"

Aien didn't mind. Many people, including members from the Blacksmith Guild, saw his village's Earth's Remnants, but they didn't find any use for it. The last thing he needed was for Rean to stop buying it from them because he opened his mouth. "Don't worry. I'll keep my word."

Rean nodded, satisfied. "Now then, since you were not throwing the Earth's Remnants out anymore, how much of it did you gather?"

Aien smiled and asked one of his village members to bring a huge sack. "Hehe! With the last Divine Stones you gave us, we were able to use it to cultivate our best village members much more efficiently. As a result, they ended up gathering a lot more Earth's Remnants."

Rean's eyes lit up as he measured the weight of the sack. "Wow! You got 21 kilos in just these few months! I can make at least ten pieces of equipment with all of this."

Rean immediately took out the Divine Stones from the Dimensional Realm, and he even threw a bonus over. "Here, I'm also giving you 10 Rank Two Divine Stones as a gift for your loyalty."

"What?!" Aien's eyes almost popped out of their sockets when he felt the ridiculous amount of Divine Energy coming from those ten stones. "This...this is too much! We can't accept it."

Rean pulled Aien's hand over and put the stones there. "If I'm telling you you deserve it, it's because you really deserve it. Believe me, I'm doing a lot more because of your Earth's Remnants."

Aien was happy that Rean felt like this about him and his village. However, he still pushed the stones back to Rean, saying, "We can't accept it. It's not that we don't want to, but that it would only cause trouble."

"Cause trouble?" Rean became puzzled. "Do you mean it'll generate internal strife?"

Hearing Rean's words made the other village members narrow their eyes in response. Obviously, they didn't like what Rean said. Of course, Aien understood why Rean thought like that, as it was a normal thing in the Realm of Gods. "Calm down, everyone. You should know how the world outside is, so it makes sense that Sir Rean had such ideas."

After that, Aien looked back at Rean and said, "That's not it. I can vouch that no one in our village would try to steal it for their own good. We are Cosgles, who can't leave this place for obvious reasons. If we dare to think about something like internal strife, we're basically dooming our village to extinction."

Rean couldn't help but show an apologetic expression. "Sorry, everyone. I have misspoken."

Seeing Rean's sincere actions eased the mood immediately.

In any case, he was still confused, so he asked, "Then, what's the reason?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1188: Triple Layer

Aien sighed before saying, "In fact, there are two. First, other cultivators. There aren't many passing through this place, but it does happen every now and then. You and your brother were a very good example of it. As you can imagine, not everyone is forthright like you. If they find out that we have some Rank One Divine Stones, that's one thing. At most, we would be robbed, but that's about it. As long as

we don't resist, we would usually be fine. However, if Rank Two Divine Stones are found in a place like this, I don't even want to imagine what could happen. Don't forget that due to our race's limitations, we all have low cultivations. I'm the strongest, only being at the Soul Transformation Realm."

Rean couldn't help but sigh after that. The Realm of Gods was the realm of the strong. Being greedy was just normal. Looking at the faces of the others, it seemed like they didn't have fond memories of other cultivators in general. Of course, not everyone was like that, but chances weren't on their side.

Aien continued, "The second one is demon beasts. As you know, this place isn't far from the demon beast territories. Demon beasts live within nature, so they're more sensitive to Divine Energy. Keeping those Rank Two Divine Stones here will definitely attract their senses sooner or later. Demon beasts who can feel Divine Energy from this far away are definitely not something we can deal with."

Aien then smiled at Rean as he concluded, "Nonetheless, we all thank you for the kind intentions."

Everyone else agreed with Aien.

"Man, if only others were like you."

"Hey, don't push your luck."

"We are happy with Rank One Divine Stones. With time, we will be able to strengthen our best members to help defend the village."

"Well, some of the other cultivators who stop by didn't cause trouble either, although most of them love to act arrogant."

"That's good enough already, so let's not complain about it."

"Yeah. Do you remember the last time a Stage Six Demon Beast came by? That was huge trouble. How many died there?"

After all of that, Rean simply couldn't stay put anymore, saying, "Well, it seems like I'll have to stay in the village a few more days than I initially planned."

Aien looked at Rean, puzzled. "For what? Help us protect it? Don't worry, such problems don't happen every day. We'll keep the Earth's Remnants for you since no one else wants them. Just go back to your... your... I guess I don't even know where you came from. Hahaha!"

Rean smiled but didn't comment on it. Due to how isolated and weak this village was, they wouldn't understand what the Huring Sacred Land was anyway. "That's not it. Just keep looking, and you will understand."

Immediately, Rean used his spatial rings and brought out many materials. Rean kept many things in his spatial rings for moments like these, where he couldn't access the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. After all, he was too far away from Roan at the moment. All the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm features were blocked due to the distance from one another. The only thing he could do was talk with Sister Orb. Not to mention that even this feature was very recent, an extra perk from the last Soul Connection Range upgrade.

Following that, he took the demon beast he rented from the Beast Taming Guild and flew around the village. "Hmm...definitely a small village. However, I better make something that will last." Rean pondered over it for a bit and nodded, muttering, "Alright, a triple-layer will do."

Rean's Demon Bird landed sometime later before Rean immediately started to work. "Senior Aien, I will need to take that residence of yours in the center of the village. Sorry about that."

"What?!" Aien and the others were taken aback. Did Rean suddenly decide to rule over them? No, that definitely didn't seem the case. "Why would you need my residence?" Well, Aien didn't have much attachment to it, though. It was in the center as it was the best place for him to watch over the village. It was always like this for him and the previous village leaders.

Rean smiled while he used his Divine Sense to tell his plan to Aien and the others around.

"The core of a Golden Initial-level Triple-Layer Formation?!" Aien did know what formations were, obviously. Aien even knew a little bit and used very simple ones in the village itself. However, let alone triple-layer formations at that level, he couldn't even construct a Bronze-level double-layered formation.

That's how limited his knowledge on it was. He was just a Bronze Middle-level who learned of it on his own, after all.

Rean laughed after seeing Aien's expression and asked, "What? You don't want it? Oh well, I'll take my leave then."

"Wait, wait, wait!" Aien immediately stopped Rean right there. "We want it! You don't even need to pay the Divine Stones. If you build such a thing for us, we will give you all our Earth's Remnants for the next hundred years for free!"

Rean shook his head, saying, "I'm building the formation because I want to. It has nothing to do with our deal. No, I guess it does. I'm not only helping you but myself as well. Keeping your village and its members safe will obviously result in even more Earth's Remnants in the future."

Aien couldn't find a reason to deny that. "Well...that's true, I guess. Still, this is too much. How expensive would such a thing be?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response, saying, "Believe it or not, those ten Rank Two Divine Stones I offered you should be enough to pay a Formation Master to do it. However, it would be a bad idea to let anyone else at such a level know that you have those stones. Anyways, go ahead and empty your residence. I'll work on the other things during then."

Before Aien could say anything else, Rean and the materials he was carrying disappeared like smoke. Of course, Aien didn't waste time before looking at the rest of the people. "Quick, quick, help me bring everything out. Farlis, I'll be dining at your home this night. Hahaha!"

Farlis was the name of the vice leader of the tribe, a Cosgles at the Late Stage of the Nascent Realm. "Hahaha! Come, come! I'll tell my wife to make extra food. We can think where to build a new residence for you once our benefactor finishes his job."

Death... and me

Chapter 1189: Crystal

Rean began to add the materials and even added his Circuitry Runes into the mix. It's just that the place really lacked Divine Energy compared to other places, so it became a problem. "As I expected. Just this amount of natural Divine Energy won't be enough to hold a triple-layer formation."

Rean's triple-layer formation was made up of a protective barrier, a concealment formation to hide the barrier and stop the Divine Energy from attracting demon beasts, and a slaughtering formation to use in case the village was found out regardless. Of course, other than that, Rean would also need auxiliary formations to keep everything running, including the formations necessary to gather Divine Energy. Of course, his main goal was to make the triple-layer formation last a very long time.

However, the main problem wasn't that. "Even if there was enough Divine Energy, I would use the Divine Energy that the tribe members need to cultivate to keep the formation running. In that case, they would need to head out to cultivate, which isn't very practical."

With that, Rean looked under his feet and decided on a plan of action. "Well, geothermic energy it is. The only issue is how deep down I would need to go to get access to the magma, or if there's any magma at all."

Divine Energy existed in the entire Realm of Gods. Naturally, the magma under the earth was bound to have a lot of it, together with Fire Element. Fortunately, he just happened to know the perfect people to look for it. "Who else other than the Cosgles would find the right spot? Hehe!"

One must remember the Cosgles had an affinity with the Earth Element so high that they couldn't even live long without enough of it. They reached a point where they considered it to be a curse instead of a gift. That's why they were stuck to this place.

Sometime later, Rean called Aien out.

"Do you need something?" Aien was eager to help with anything.

"I do. Can you tell me where the place closest to the magma underground is?" Rean asked.

"Magma underground?" Aien pondered over it for a bit before replying, "Well, I can, but...it's very deep." Aien then closed his eyes as specks of yellow light began to come out of the ground and interact

with his body. Even without using a single iota of Divine Energy, his body could interact with the Earth Element underground.

After some time, he pointed to the southwest side of the village. "23.7 kilometers away from the village, you can find molten magma at a depth of 1497 kilometers. That's the closest place to the surface that has magma."

Rean was truly impressed. Back on earth, molten magma could be found between 40 to 250 kilometers. As a metallurgist in his past life, he did a study on all types of minerals, including the ones underground. That's why he knew of it. He thought that although he wouldn't find magma at a depth of 40 kilometers, it should at least be between 100 and 200. It was quite unfortunate that he couldn't have been any more wrong.

"That's...quite deep." How long would he need to excavate? Of course, he would go all the way to the magma. He would just get close enough to draw its Divine Energy and Fire Element to use in the formations. However, it would definitely be at least 1000 or more kilometers. That was way too much!

Aien couldn't help but ask, "Why do you want magma?"

"I was planning to use it as the source of Divine Energy for the formation. Divine Energy here in the tribe is too sparse to make the triple-layer formation work. Not to mention that even if it was, it would make cultivating very hard in the village as most of it would be used by the formation."

Aien couldn't help but ask, "But isn't the Divine Energy and the Fire Element in the magma below too aggressive for usage?" Naturally, he knew a lot of it as a member of the Cosgles Race.

Rean shook his head, explaining, "That's where the core of the formation enters. With the right materials and runes, it can calm the energies down. It's far from being good for people's cultivation. However, it's definitely fine as energy for the formation."

Aien pondered over it for a bit when an idea came to mind. "Just a moment." Soon after, he went back to the village and brought a young woman back with him. The woman's body seemed to have seen better days, though. Naturally, Rean was puzzled as to why he would call her up.

Aien then asked Rean, "You said you can drag and calm down the Divine Energy out of magma, right? Does it mean you can drag it out from other sources as well?"

Rean nodded. "Well, it should be possible depending on what kind of source you're talking about."

"Alright." Aien then looked at the girl and said, "Aelua, tell him about that thing in the core of the mountain. Your recklessness might be of some use for once."

Aelua seemed a little embarrassed with Aien's comment but nodded regardless. "Yes, elder." She then looked at Rean and asked, "Do you remember that cave where you found your friends during your first visit?"

Rean nodded in response. At that time, Langara had left the village while their Demon Bird rested from the travel. Rean found her not too far away, inside a cave in a mountain nearby. At that time, he didn't care about the cave too much as he couldn't feel anything wrong with it. It truly looked like a simple cave that perhaps was used by some demon beasts every now and then. "I do. What about that?"

Aelua then explained, "The fact is that that cave goes much, much deeper into the earth. Well...I was quite curious about such things, so I left the village without anyone noticing to take a look into it. Usually, that place is out of limits for our village people, but I just couldn't hold myself."

"Obviously," Aien said in response. "That place's energy is bad for our body. I'm impressed that you even made it back alive, idiot."

Aelua dropped her head and continued, "There are many caves going in many different directions in that place. However, I just so happened to enter the right ones on my way down...I guess? It was then that I found something that looked like a gigantic multicolored crystal. That was the thing that created the bad energy for our bodies."

Death... and me

Chapter 1190: Sure

"Multicolored crystal?" Rean pondered over it for a bit as to what it could be. "Well, there are a few materials I know of that have many colors. It's nothing rare in the Realm of Gods. But I don't remember one that can create harmful energy for the body."

Aien shook his head, saying, "I also don't know what it is. Well, once she came back, I didn't change the rule and still prohibited anyone from going there. Look at her. It seems like her skin rotted or melted. I don't even know what to call it."

Aelua dropped her head even more. "I..."

Rean touched Aelua's shoulder and used his Light Element and Divine Soul Power to check her body. He was then able to find traces of that weird energy that affected the girl's body. "Oh! This is different from anything I've ever seen. However, this does indeed have the potential to serve as an energy source. Just need to make a few modifications on the formation."

Rean then touched Aelua's forehead with his finger, sending a wave of energy into her soul that made the girl lose consciousness. Naturally, that puzzled Aien as he didn't think Rean was trying to harm her. "Is something wrong?"

"Not really," Rean replied. "But since she was the one who found that energy source, the least I can do to thank her is to return her body back to normal. It's just that it's a painful process, so it's better if she isn't awake to not remember it."

Soon after, Rean took out his Black Star and poured Divine Energy inside. Dark Element then began to gather around it, which Rean absorbed and sent into Aelua's body while his Light Element protected the organs.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Since Roan wasn't anywhere near ten thousand kilometers from him, Rean obviously couldn't exchange elements with him. He had to rely on his Black Star to gather the necessary Dark Element. Obviously, it took much longer, which would keep the Dark Element that destroyed the foreign energy inside Aelua's body acting for a longer time. It definitely wouldn't be a pleasant feeling.

Aien saw how Aelua's body contorted due to the pain. However, he was also able to see that her skin began to go back to normal little by little. "Seems very painful indeed...good thing she's unconscious."

One hour was what it took for Rean to eliminate the foreign energy from Aelua's body. It took another thirty minutes to use Light Element to heal the damaged skin as he had to remold it to take the old shape. When Rean was over, Aelua's body seemed to be covered in a dark liquid with a foul smell. "Phew...it's done."

With that, Rean used his Light Element to awaken Aelua's soul once again. Naturally, she didn't remember a thing about what had happened. It's just that her body seemed to feel extremely light at the moment. "Did...did I fall asleep?"

"Kind of," Rean said with a smile. "By the way, you smell terrible. You should go back and take a bath."

Only then did Aelua notice the dark thing around her body and the horrible stench coming from it. "Ah!" Immediately, she ran back to the village, not even noticing that her body was back to what it was.

Rean looked at that and couldn't help but let out a chuckle. "Hahaha! A different girl indeed."

Aien sighed, though. "She only causes trouble with that mind of hers." Nevertheless, he was thankful. "Thank you for helping that idiot. I hope she learned to think things through before making such actions again."

Rean nodded and began to walk back to the village with Aien. After all, Rean did need Aelua's help to head down that cave. Around one hour later, Aelua finally came back. It seemed that she finally noticed that her body wasn't like it was anymore, which she realized was because of Rean. "T-Thank you, benefactor." It was easy to see the happiness on her face.

Rean just waved his hand in response. "It didn't cost me anything to help you. Now then, it's time for us to go down the cave. I hope you still remember the route."

"Yes! I definitely do! But..." Aelua was still worried about the side effects of the energy in that place.

"Don't worry. I'll use my Divine Energy to keep us safe. Even if that energy causes the same problem to you again, I can deal with it just like I did before," Rean assured her.

Aelua immediately felt excited. "Is that true? Then let's go!"

Aien slapped the back of her head, though. "What are you all getting excited about? Just because there's someone to protect you, do you think you're going out on another funny adventure of yours? This has the future of the village at stake. Take it more seriously!"

Aelua rubbed her backhead, feeling wronged.

Rean couldn't help but think instead, 'She truly reminds me of a certain happy-go-lucky girl. Well, I hope the kid she had has helped Malaka calm down a bit.'

After some time, Rean nodded and put the materials he hadn't used in the formation yet back in the Spatial Ring. "Alright, let's go down."

Meanwhile, back in the Sacred Land, Roan had finally finished reading through all the body cultivation techniques in the repository. He found many possible candidates, which used different approaches and materials in the cultivation process. Of course, he wasn't entirely satisfied with them, so he decided that he would create his own body cultivation technique from scratch. At the very least, he now had the knowledge to do that with the information regarding other techniques in his head.

However, when Roan stepped out of his private study room in the body cultivation technique repository, he found out that three cultivators were waiting for him already. He also recognized their clothes. 'Core Sector disciples.'

Roan narrowed his eyes before nodding in response. "That's me. What is it?"

"Come with us. Our young master has some uses for your service as a helper."

"Who are you?" Roan asked.

Their leader nodded before introducing himself, "You can call me Liberf."

Roan nodded, saying, "Very well, Liberf.. 30000 Merit Points per day."