

## Death 1191

Death... and me

Chapter 1191: Depending on the Payment

Liberf and the other two were taken aback by Roan's words. "What did you say?"

"30000 Merit Points per day," Roan repeated it once more. "Take it or leave it." Roan then began to walk away, not minding the reactions of those three.

"Wait just a second!" Eventually, Liberf came back to himself and immediately stopped Roan.

"What is it?" Roan asked with an annoyed expression. "Have you decided to take the offer? In that case, leave the request in the Mission Hall, and I'll pass by to register it in my name."

That's why Roan didn't like when those three simply appeared there, ordering him to come along. To get a helper, one had to go through the process of posting it in the Mission Hall's helper board. That way, both sides would need to fulfill their agreement, not to mention that half of the payment was given straight away.

"Hmph!" Liberf snorted after hearing that. "Young Master Kihin found out your healing and good comprehension abilities. Instead of charging for this service, you should happily come and help him. It's an honor to serve him as he is the great-grandson of Core Elder Tumao."

"Who the hell are those guys?" Roan couldn't care less. "I have no use for that 'honor' of yours to start with. I have better things to do. If you want my services, it'll cost 30000 Merit Points per day, with the task registered in the Mission Hall." It wasn't like Roan didn't expect some to act high and mighty due to their positions and background, so he was prepared for it. Besides, he could use Etherian's name in case things got out of control.

Liberf couldn't help but stop Roan by holding his shoulder when he tried to leave. However, Roan just glanced at him in response. "What? Are you going to force me? Here? In the Sacred Land?"

The body cultivation technique repository wasn't very famous compared to the repositories for Soul Power and Divine Energy techniques. Nevertheless, it did have a few cultivators. Naturally, some of

them noticed the commotion and were watching the show from the sides. In the end, Liberf had to let go of Roan's shoulder. "You definitely don't want to get on his bad side."

Roan shook his head, saying, "Wrong. I'm not trying to get on his bad side. I'm well aware that buying a fight against certain people would be annoying. However, you want me to work for free by simply using the guy's name. As you definitely know already, I came from a small country and just joined the Sacred Land's ranks. Unless you tell me that there are some benefits behind it, would you simply say 'Yes sir, it's my honor'?"

"This..." Roan's sudden change of attitude took him aback. He was being arrogant a second ago, and he changed to that of a victim soon after. Worst of all, the ones watching from the sides couldn't help but comment in a low voice that Roan's words were correct.

"Since Kihin is part of Elder Tumao's family, shouldn't he be setting the example?"

"Merit Points shouldn't be a problem for him either."

"At least he could offer something for the help, right?"

With that, Liberf had to give in to save his young master's reputation. "Of course, there are benefits in helping our young master. Even if you don't get Merit Points, you can still ask for some advantages like being able to use the facilities of the Core Sector for some time. Our young master has a lot of influence."

Roan finally smiled in response after that. "Oh, is that so? Why didn't you tell me that beforehand instead of simply ordering others around? That would have been a lot faster. Come on, where can I find him?"

Liberf and his two companions didn't know whether Roan was being sincere or making fun of their faces, perhaps both. Nevertheless, it at least meant they would be able to complete their young master's orders. "Come with us. You need someone from the Core Sector to be with you if you want to enter that place."

Roan nodded and immediately followed the guys. He already had enough witnesses that could tell what happened. That would make things much easier if certain actions become necessary.

By taking the Sacred Land's teleport formations and using Liberf's credentials, it didn't take long for Roan's group to arrive in the Core Sector. The residential area there wasn't too far either. It's just that each home for the Core Disciples was ridiculously big. One of those would fit at least ten residences the same size as the one Roan lives in. 'So useless...'

The worker in the house quickly received Roan's group and brought them to the living room where Kihin was waiting. "So you're finally here, huh? Because it's against the rules to enter the private rooms in the cultivation repositories while someone is there, my people had to wait for you there for a long time, you know?"

Roan didn't seem to care much about it. "It's not like I can read minds and guess that someone is outside."

"True," Kihin answered. "Now then, let's get straight to the point. I heard from Calamara, or better yet, from someone who knows him, how you helped improve his Mantis Blade. I didn't take it to heart at first until Calamara used it once during a demonstration battle. I just so happened to get the recording from it and had to admit the changes to the skill were nearly miraculous. Too bad that guy doesn't want to share the secret at all. What about you, would you tell me what has been done?"

Roan shook his head, saying, "I'm under a Soul Binding Contract, so I can't say anything."

Kihin nodded in response. "I expected as much. Anyway, it wasn't because of the Mantis Blade that I called you out. Instead, it was because Calamara insisted that you were the reason behind the improvement. He boasted about how you could heal yourself from almost anything, even shattered meridians. Not to mention your so-called ridiculously high comprehension ability. Are those words true?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Whether it is true or not won't matter. You won't believe it until you see it for yourself anyway."

Kihin couldn't help but laugh. "Hahaha! I like you already! That's correct. I want you to be my helper for a new skill I'm creating from scratch. What do you say?"

Roan didn't mind, saying, "Depending on the payment, everything can be negotiated."

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Chapter 1192: A New Deal

"Payment?" Kihin was surprised to hear that. "Are you charging to help me? For real?"

Roan nodded as he replied, "100% real. Or could it be that you don't have Merit Points at hand? I don't believe it as you're the great-grandson of Core Elder Tumao, aren't you?"

Kihin then laughed out loud even more after that. "Hahaha! I apologize, but you couldn't be any wronger. Do you know what Core and Legacy Disciples have access to in exchange for Merit Point in the Core and Legacy Sectors?"

Roan shook his head in response. "I just joined your Sacred Land a few days ago. How would I know?"

Kihin had to admit Roan was right. "Well, that's true." He then took a piece of Divine Stone from his spatial ring. However, the area immediately began to fill up with Divine Energy to the point Roan compared it to the Divine Stream Lake. Kihin noticed Roan's interest before continuing, "You can feel and even see it too, right? There's so much Divine Energy that it becomes visible. This is a Rank Three Divine Stone, a very rare item in our Huring Continent. However, Core and Legacy Disciples can get access to them with Merit Points."

Kihin then put his Divine Stone away as he continued, "I had to put it back into the Spatial Ring as it would lose its energy if kept in the open for too long. Anyway, it's not only me. All the other cultivators in the Core and Legacy Sectors use their Merit Point to buy these little guys. Your cultivation can improve much faster that way. Look at yourself and me. You should be able to tell that I'm slightly younger than you, right? But here I am, a Late Stage Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator. That's because I joined the Core Sector and worked to gain as many Merit Points as possible to exchange for these stones. That's why I reached this level so quickly."

Roan was impressed by that. Kihin opened his cultivation for Roan to see. Well, Roan could already see it anyway, thanks to the Divine Sense bending skill. Roan already judged that by the strength of Kihin's Divine Sense when he tried to check his body. Nevertheless, directly seeing it made it even more obvious. "How much is each Rank Three Divine Stone worth?"

"50000 Merit Points," Kihin replied straight away. It wasn't a secret, after all. "However, do you think it's not worth the price?"

Roan immediately shook his head, saying, "It's absolutely worth the price. To be honest, I think it's too cheap. The Sacred Land must not have many Core and Legacy Disciples if they can exchange it for this price."

"Smart!" Kihin nodded in agreement. "That's exactly the case. The Core Sector only has 500 disciples. Well, the majority didn't come from those who passed the recruitment but were born or had connections to the Sacred Land. Otherwise, it would have been even less."

Roan wasn't surprised by that at all. A power of this size would definitely rely a lot more on those it already knew about than the new disciples who came from different powers.

Kihin also added, "As for Legacy Disciples, to be honest, even I don't know how many of them exist. After all, you can only become one when you reach the Transition Realm, and you must be accepted by one of the higher elders as a direct disciple. It's normal for some of them to keep a low profile. Then again, I don't think there are more than 30 or 40. That's why the Sacred Land can afford to let us cultivate with Rank Three Divine Stones in exchange for 50000 Merit Points. There's a very limited number of disciples here and above."

Roan then asked what really mattered. "I did tell your companions that it would cost 30000 Merit Points per day to have me as a helper. However, since you don't have Merit Points to spend, how will you pay me back? I might as well tell you this. I won't work for free, even if you have a Core Elder as background." Rean and Roan wouldn't stay in the Sacred Land for much longer, so there was no need to care about the power struggles inside it.

"Payment, huh?" Kihin would be lying if he said he wasn't expecting Roan to work for free. Usually, bringing out his great-grandfather's name was enough to move the Inner and Outer Sect Disciples. He then looked at Liberf, who nodded back at him, confirming that Roan indeed would not work if there was no payment. "Is there something you're in need of at the moment? If it's not Merit Points or Rank Three Divine Stones, I might be able to help you with it. However, you will have to prove that you can really help me as a helper once you decide what it is."

Roan nodded in response. That made things a lot simpler. "In that case, do you have any body cultivation techniques that aren't available in the repository? I believe people like you should have some special ones from your families."

Kihin narrowed his eyes in response. As a Core Disciple, he obviously cultivated a body cultivation technique. Without it, it was almost impossible to make it into the Core Sector. Even his great-grandfather wouldn't allow him to enter it, whether it was through the backdoor or not. However, his family's techniques were obviously not supposed to be shown to outsiders.

After pondering a bit, Kihin offered, "Let's do it like this. Help me first with the development of my new skill. If it turns out to be successful, I will allow you to choose one of the techniques I have as long as you sign a Soul Binding Contract. Obviously, the contract is to impede you from sharing information regarding the technique."

"Deal!" Roan immediately agreed with Kihin.. He wanted to see just what kind of technique someone with such a background would have. "So, what type of technique are you trying to create?"

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Chapter 1193: Down to the Cave

Back at the Cosgles Race's village, Rean, Aien, and Aelua finally began to enter the cave. Aien asked Rean if he could come as well. If that thing really became the energy source of the formation, the better he knew more about it. Rean also found it a good idea, so he agreed to bring Aien together.

"So, which direction should we go, Aelua?" Rean asked while he kept a Divine Energy barrier activated around himself, Aien, and her.

Aelua nodded and began to explain, "To not lose my way out, I left several marks along the way. Come with me."

Rean obviously couldn't fly yet, so he could only walk together with Aien and Aelua. "Alright. By the way, is there any danger down there other than the bad energy?"

Aelua shook her head in response. "As far as I've seen, I didn't find any kind of danger. Perhaps the danger of getting lost?" Aelua then looked at Aien and continued, "But Elder Aien had always said that you could also find some creatures inside. It's just that I didn't find any."

Rean looked at Aien, waiting to see what he had to say.

"To be honest, I haven't seen them either," Aien responded. "It was something passed down to me from the previous village elder and the village elder before him. We always considered this place a forbidden zone, so no one entered back then...well, before that idiot in front of you, of course."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "No other cultivators tried to enter this place before? I mean, you don't receive many visits as you said. However, at least one or two would bump into this cave sooner or later, no?"

Aien shook his head, saying, "We never talk about this cave because we don't want to give the cultivators a wrong idea. If they try to enter and some of them die while the others escape, wouldn't they blame us for it? We can't afford to create enemies."

He then continued, "As for whether some found it before or not, I believe they did. However, they most likely never tried to venture down the path."

"Why?"

Aien shrugged his shoulders, telling Rean, "Can't you feel it? We have been walking inside this cave, but we can't feel a thing! Anyone who enters it will think it's nothing but an empty cave that might have a demon beast or two inside it. Didn't your friends enter this cave by coincidence, but they still didn't think there was anything special about it? You also found them here and never thought anything about this cave either, or am I wrong?"

Rean had to admit Aien was right. "True. This cave isn't exactly very easy to find either. Maybe no one actually tried to go down this path before."

Aien shook his head. "I don't know. Perhaps someone did find it and did try to go down. But as far as I know, no one came back from it other than Aelua."

Aelua wasn't lying when she said it went much deeper. Nevertheless, Rean and Aien couldn't feel the bad energy of the place yet. It truly gave the impression that it was nothing but an empty cave. It wasn't before an hour and a few minutes after that they finally arrived somewhere different.

"Hey, look! It's my first marker!" Aelua then pointed forward.

Rean used his Light Element to illuminate the place and was able to see an arrow pointing in a certain direction. It just so happened that the cave was divided into five different paths where she drew her arrow. "This is the first division we found after more than an hour walking down. This place is supposed to be a labyrinth, so I guess it'll get even more complicated from now on."

Aelua nodded while her eyes glistened. "Yes. I think I got through at least a hundred or so divisions. They always had at least three to ten different paths going up and down. Sometimes I even thought I was going back in circles, but since I didn't find my markers, I pressed forward. Just so you know, I always selected the tunnels the seemed to lead further down."

Rean and Aien nodded after hearing that. However, Aien had to ask something else after seeing it. "Isn't this a little too far away from the village to use this place's energy as the energy source of the formation?"

Rean smiled as he shook his head. "Don't worry. This distance is truly nothing at all. Even if it's ten times further away, it'll still be easy. My problem with the underground magma was that excavating all the way down there would be too hard. In this cave's case, not only is it not nearly as far as a thousand kilometers or deeper, we don't need to excavate anything as it's already open."

Aien asked another thing. "What about some enemies coming in here and cutting off the connection? There has to be a connection, right?"

Rean nodded. "Of course! However, I'll be using the Divine Energy gathered here in a spatial formation that will transfer the energy to the village's core. There's no need to worry unless the enemies find the exact place the spatial formation is located." In the Mortal Realm, such a thing would be extremely hard. But here in the Realm of Gods, Divine Energy made everything simpler. Not to mention that Rean learned a lot in the Formation Hall of the Sacred Land.



If there's enough Divine Energy in the air, Rean could even make a teleport formation to send energy up to a thousand kilometers! Of course, there would be a need for a lot of Divine Energy in the air if one didn't rely on Divine Stones. Nevertheless, considering a straight line to the village's center, Rean's group hadn't even gone 100 kilometers away. Let's not forget that Aelua mentioned that she thought she was walking backward sometimes. So, this cave labyrinth was definitely not moving in a single continuous direction, which was even better.

"Oh!" After some time, Rean noticed something. Though, not only him but Aelua and Aien as well. "It's very faint, but I can finally feel that energy I found in Aelua's body."

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Chapter 1194: Alive

Aelua, who always marched ahead, immediately stepped back and went closer to Rean. She could still remember very well how her body turned out because of that energy.

Rean then used his Divine Soul Power to form an energy barrier to keep that energy outside. Surprisingly, it proved to be a lot more complicated than he thought. "This thing is quite strong. I need to use a lot more of my energy to keep it away from us."

Aelua noticed that she couldn't feel that energy anymore and sighed in relief. "If benefactor thinks it's too hard to force forward, we can head back up."

Aien agreed with Aelua. "Indeed. We don't want anything to happen to you after what you've done for us."

Rean shook his head in response, though. "Oh, don't worry. I need more energy to keep it in check, but it's nothing I can't deal with. If things become worse, I can still use Divine Stones to replenish my power." Rean then looked at Aelua and reminded her, "Stay close to me while you guide us further." Aelua nodded and began to walk again. Naturally, Aien and Rean followed her.

Sure enough, the concentration of that energy began to increase the further they went down to the cave labyrinth. Rean also increased the amount of Divine Soul Power he poured into the barrier.

Two divisions, three divisions, four divisions, fifteen divisions, fifty divisions...following the markers left behind by Aelua previously, their path was quite smooth if one didn't think about the increase in foreign energy in the area. It was just as Aelua mentioned. Their group didn't find a single creature mentioned in the village stories.

"Well, it's not that it was a lie, but that they might have left or died already," Rean suggested.

Aien sighed in response. "That might really be the case. In any case, it doesn't matter. The fewer the number of problems, the better." Aien then asked, "How good is this place? Is it enough to place the formation to gather the Divine Energy? It's not like we need to go all the way to the crystal."

Rean smiled after hearing that. "Indeed. However, I do want to see just what that crystal is. Since there's nothing other than this energy, we might as well go and see it."

Aien sighed but nodded in the end. Well, it was not like he wasn't curious either. He was just trying to prioritize safety.

The trip down took around nine hours to be concluded. Eventually, Aelua recognized the place. "We're here! Look, there's the entrance!"

Rean increased the light once again, and sure enough, he could see an entrance further ahead. However, it wasn't like it was the entrance of a cave room. Instead, it was more like a rectangular gate. It's just that the gate was incomplete as if it had been cut in half. That was definitely not something natural. "You didn't tell us that the place the crystal was located wasn't part of the cave itself."

"Is there any difference? It's still inside the gate, isn't it?" Aelua asked as if she didn't do anything wrong.

Aien and Rean sighed in response, and they soon pressed forward. They took great caution to see if there were any dangers, but everything continued as silent as it had been from the start. Rean tried to illuminate inside the gate entrance, but his light couldn't travel far enough to see everything. It looked like it was a very long path, but that was all he could tell.

"The crystal I talked about is right ahead, at the end of this corridor," Aelua explained.

Aien and Rean nodded after hearing that, and they kept their guards up while following Aelua. After some time, they were able to see another source of light other than the light Rean was using with his Divine Soul Power. "Even the light there is multicolored," Aien could not help but mention. It was the end of the corridor, just like Aelua said. At the same time, Rean noticed how the foreign energy, which had been increasing steadily so far, began to ramp up very quickly at every step they took. Thankfully, Rean was still capable of keeping it away from their bodies.

Once they arrived in the end, they were able to see the enormous crystal that Aelua talked about. It was obviously the source of the multicolored light as well. "This thing...is truly big."

The crystal wasn't completely out of the ground. At least half of it was covered by the ground below. The place also wasn't like a cave either. It was an enormous square chamber with more entrances from other sides.

Unfortunately, Rean couldn't recognize that crystal. Was it some material that could be used? First of all, could it be used? All Rean could feel was the chaotic energy emanating from it. All the elements he knew of, including his Light Element and Roan's Dark Element, were in the mix.

[Oh! I thought this could be the case. But even so, I didn't expect that it was truly this thing.] Sister Orb seemed quite impressed when they saw the crystal. She seemed to know what that crystal was.

'Since you already recognize it, how about telling me?' Naturally, Rean wanted an answer.

[It's called a Convergence Crystal. There are a few places in the Realm of Gods that just so happen to be in the perfect spot where all elements converge. They aren't particularly rare when you think of the Realm of Gods as a whole. You can find one in every hundred continents or so. Of course, if you consider one continent alone, then it's very rare.]

Rean nodded after that. 'Alright. So, is there any use for this thing?'

Sister Orb then replied, [To be honest, you shouldn't touch it.]

'Why?'

[Because that crystal is nothing more than an incubator. The real dangerous thing is what's growing inside.]

Rean was taken aback. 'You're telling me this crystal is alive? It's an egg?'

[Pretty much. I have to say, Huring Continent will suffer quite a lot when the thing inside breaks out.]

'Is it some kind of Divine Demon Beast like Kentucky and Celis?'

[No. The thing growing inside is called a Flash Beast.]

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Chapter 1195: How Long?

'Flash Beast?' Rean had never heard of the term before. 'Is it really not a demon beast?'

[It isn't.] Sister Orb replied. [It's a wild creature that only exists for destruction. From the moment it's born, it will rampage and get rid of anything it sees on its way. It moves anywhere it feels Divine Energy is most concentrated in. Do you know where those places are?]

'Cities. It's not only the Divine Veins in the sects, guild, and other organizations. If you consider people's dantians, then the cities have more Divine Energy than anywhere else.' Rean couldn't help but say in response. 'Doesn't that mean that it's possible to guide the beast somewhere else as well?'

[Ha! Good luck trying that. If you can create a concentration of Divine Energy higher than the collective number of dantians in a city, then it might be possible. Then again, what will you do after that? After the beast consumes whatever you use to lure it away, it'll turn back and charge in the direction of the cities again.]

However, Rean found it strange. 'The Sacred Land definitely won't let this happen, though. If they let the beast rampage nonstop, then it would affect the power of the Huring Continent as a whole. They would definitely send their experts out to get rid of it.'

Sister Orb sighed after hearing that. [It seems like you don't understand the real issue here. The Sacred Land doesn't have the strength to fight it back. The beast is much stronger than anyone they could possibly send out. Even if they use all their experts at once, they would still fall short of the beast's power.]

'That strong?!' Rean was shocked just thinking about it. 'So, there's no one who can stop it?'

[Well...I'm just thinking about what I believe that the average level of the Huring Sacred Land is. However, if they happen to have someone at Divinity Realm, they should have the power to contend against the beast. I strongly doubt so, though.]

That's the first time Rean heard of that realm. 'How far is that realm from the Transition Realm?'

[Far enough that a place like this Huring Continent shouldn't even dream of having someone at this level. That's all I can tell you at the moment. Anyways, if they do have someone like that, this person would be able to hold the Flash Beast down long enough.]

'What do you mean by long enough? Shouldn't they try to kill it?' Rean asked, knowing that Sister Orb was probably under some restrictions to talk about the Divinity Realm.

[It can't be killed.] Sister Orb told him. [It's a creature made of all elements and energy. All the skills you throw at it will be simply absorbed or won't cause any damage. All you can do is hold it back long enough for it to disappear.]

'Disappear? It will simply disappear?' Rean found this to be a really weird creature.

[Yep, disappear. That's why it is called a Flash Beast. Considering the average cultivator's lifespan, it truly lives very little. After it's born, it will have a very limited life span. From the records that I have here in the system, the longest a Flash Beast has ever 'lived' was one year and a half. Judging by the size of this crystal, I would say that this one will probably last two months alive or so. If it doesn't consume any Divine Energy while it's out, then it'll be less than two weeks. Of course, as this continent shouldn't have anyone capable of stopping it, it will consume everyone's dantians in the big cities, Divine Stones, Divine Veins, and so on. That's why I'm calculating it should last two months and a half more or less.]

‘Doesn’t that mean it won’t die as long as it has enough Divine Energy?’

[In a certain way, yes. Unfortunately for it, the Realm of Gods has continental barriers. It’s not that this beast, with this power, can’t pass through it. It’s just that it won’t be able to feel the Divine Energy on the other side of the barrier, so it’ll never try to traverse it. At the very least, I don’t have any records of a Flash Beast trying to leave the continent it was born in.]

Sister Orb added, [Well, if it suddenly decides that it’ll go through the barrier, the real experts from the Realm of Gods will take notice of it sooner or later. When that happens, this beast will be dealt with straight away.]

Rean couldn’t help but wonder. ‘Why would such a beast even exist? I mean, it doesn’t seem to have any purpose as it won’t gain sentience.’

[There are many theories. Some say that it’s nothing but a coincidence that it takes form. The Realm of Gods is full of wonders, and the Flash Beast is just one of them. Some say that it was created on purpose by someone, but no one knows who it is. However, the most accepted theory is the regulation idea.]

‘What do you mean by the ‘regulation’ idea?’ Rean asked straight away.

[Most believe the Flash Beast appears when the number of lives in a certain continent starts to surpass the limit it could sustain.]

Rean didn’t need to hear more to understand the rest. ‘I see...the people living on those continents are using too much of their resources, so the heavens send it to get rid of the people, demon beasts, and spirits living there. Is that what you mean?’

[Exactly.] Sister Orb said in agreement. [If a continent doesn’t have the power to defend against it, it will lose around 95 to 98% of its total lives. But in exchange, the continent itself will start to recover. It’s very common to see such continents flourishing with resources after a few thousand years.]

Rean sighed, not knowing whether it was a good thing or not. ‘It’s hard to judge whether stopping it is the right thing to do. Anyway, there’s nothing we can do about it.’ Rean then asked something else, ‘Sister Orb, how long do you think it’ll take to come out?’

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Chapter 1196: Very Likely

[Hard to say.] Sister Orb replied. [It might break out of its shell in the very next second, or it might happen one hundred years later. Who knows? It's not something we should care about unless it happens when we're just beside it.]

Rean nodded. 'Nevertheless, it's too dangerous. I will have to tell Aien to move his village somewhere else. Otherwise, they will be the beast's first meal as soon as it escapes.'

Aien noticed that Rean went silent for a moment and couldn't help but ask, "Is something wrong? Is this crystal's energy not enough?"

Rean looked at Aien and sighed after hearing his question. However, just as he was about to tell Aien to move his village away, Sister Orb added another thing. [You don't need to have them move. Did you forget what this Flash Beast is after?]

Rean felt like he was an idiot. Obviously, he understood what Sister Orb meant. Nonetheless, he decided to explain to Aien what this crystal was. "This is called a Convergence Crystal. Inside of it, there's a creature called a Flash Beast..." Rean then took his time to explain everything.

Aien felt terrified when he heard the whole story. He wasn't well aware of what it meant for the Sacred Land to not be able to deal with it since he didn't know how strong the Sacred Land was. However, he was absolutely sure that his village people couldn't contend against it when the strongest power of their continent couldn't do anything either. "Let's leave! I will prepare our village to move out straight away!"

Aelua couldn't help but ask, "But elder, we need a high concentration of Earth Element to survive. Where will we find it?"

"Doesn't matter," Aien replied. "If this thing comes out, we will die even faster than if we try to find a new place."

Rean patted Aien's shoulder to calm him down, telling him, "Don't worry, don't worry. If there's a safe place in this Realm of Gods, that would be your village."

Aien and Aelua were surprised to hear that. "How come?"

"Did you forget what I said?" Rean told them with a smile. "This Flash Beast will always look for the place with the highest concentration of Divine Energy. To be honest, I think the reason why this entire area has so little Divine Energy is because of this thing here. As soon as it comes out, it won't even notice the existence of your village. The cultivators there are just too few and weak. Even if your town gets ten times stronger and the cultivators reach the Transition Realm, the Flash Beast would still completely ignore your existence. You have no need to move out."

"I-Is that so? Are you certain?" Aien still found it quite risky.

Rean nodded, reassuring him. "I'm certain. Besides, this thing is perfect for the formation."

Aien couldn't help but let out cold sweat as he asked, "Is it okay to touch it?"

"Of course not! Hahaha!" Rean laughed as he replied. "I won't try to rob the crystal's energy. Instead, I will use the energy that it's naturally emanating to power up the Triple Layer Formation. For the crystal and the Flash Beast inside, it'll be as if nothing had changed at all. We don't know when the beast will come out either, so you might be in for centuries of free energy. You really shouldn't move away from this place."

Aien didn't know whether to be sad or happy from his words. "Fine...if you're telling us it's safe, then it should be." Aien knew that Rean needed their Earth's Remnants, so he wouldn't tell them to stay there if there really was a risk of death.

Aelua, however, couldn't help but ask something else. "That's good and all. However...was this cave supposed to be like this? Do all Convergence Crystals create a perfect square-shaped chamber around themselves?"

That was the issue, right? It didn't matter how Rean, Aien, Sister Orb, and Aelua looked at it. This place was definitely built by someone or something. There's no way it took this form on its own. That also meant someone knew of the crystal's existence.



“Now that you mention that...” Rean added, “Looking at the state of the walls and the ground, I can guarantee that not a single living soul has appeared here for a very, very long time.”

It was then that Rean had an idea, so he asked Sister Orb. ‘Sister Orb, while this thing isn’t out, would it be possible to teleport it away? That would be a very useful way to get rid of the problem.’

[Hmm...it’s definitely possible. However, you would need some ridiculously powerful teleport formation. Especially since it has to be sent past the continental barriers. I don’t think the Sacred Land of this continent has any Formation Master capable of doing such a thing.]

Rean shook his head, clarifying himself, ‘I’m not talking about us teleporting it away, but that it was teleported here.’

[That’s...very likely.] Rean’s words reminded Sister Orb of the entrance to this chamber. It was a rectangular-shaped gate, but it was incomplete and missing a part of it. If a teleport formation was used, it would make sense that only part of the gate came together as the teleport formation was built with the Convergence Crystal in mind only. The rest of the things simply didn’t matter as long as one could send the crystal away.

Rean nodded in agreement. ‘Then this place isn’t really where the elemental convergence is happening. It’s somewhere else. Sister Orb, since the convergence isn’t here, will this Flash Beast ever be born? After all, it lost its source of power, right?’

[On the contrary, my dear Watson. Without its source of elemental convergence, this Flash Beast will likely pop up a lot sooner. After all, it will feel hungry far earlier. Well, it doesn’t change the fact that it might be now or in the next who knows how many years.]

Rean sighed in relief after hearing that, as it would probably take a long time. Since the time it would take for the beast to hatch was so big, it gave them plenty of time.

Death... and me

Chapter 1197: Coming Out

Of course, Rean also explained his theory to Aien. “I see...so it wasn’t moved here but teleported instead. It does make sense. If I was the controlling power of the continent that had this ‘egg,’ I wouldn’t

think twice before doing the same thing. Whether it would cause trouble somewhere else or not, it's still better than having it happen in my home. You can't think about others when your own people are in danger."

"Indeed," Rean agreed with him on that statement. "Of course, all of it is just pure speculation. With that said, you should keep your eyes open if something different happens at the cave entrance."

Eventually, Rean brought out the material to start building the energy-transferring spatial formation. After all, he didn't want to stay there for much longer as keeping that beast's energy away from his group was becoming more and more difficult. He even brought out a few Divine Stones to help him recover his energy.

Rean decided to use a different model this time. Before, he intended to convert the energy into something easier to use by the triple-layer formation in the energy source itself. However, he would use the spatial formation to send the energy over to the village. After getting it there, another formation would make the conversion into something useable for the triple-layer formation.

"Why did you change your plans?" Aien and Aelua asked curiously.

Rean smiled in response, saying, "That's because it will make it easier for me to create a long-lasting formation. If this formation only has a single job, it won't need much maintenance. Not to mention that I'm also building an auxiliary formation with the same objective. If the first one stops working for some reason, the second one, which will be something never used before, will take its place."

Rean then pointed at the Convergence Crystal, or the egg, if one preferred that. "This energy is truly too mixed and chaotic, so it affects the formations' runes themselves. The longer the runes work, the higher their degradation. With two formations, I can basically double its lifespan. I also don't want anyone coming down here to check why the formation stopped either."

Aien and Aelua nodded in understanding. "So that's why."

Aien then looked around as Rean worked on the formation and couldn't help but ask, "The way we're using the energy means that we won't try anything against this crystal. Shouldn't you tell that Sacred Land of yours about this thing so that they can be ready? Even if they can't stop it, they could at least formulate some contingency plans."

Rean shook his head in response. "I can't." However, Rean didn't seem to want to explain why.

Of course, there was a reason for that. Simply put, Rean shouldn't be someone who knew what this Convergence Crystal was. It's so rare that most people in almost every continent don't even know it exists, including big powers like the Huring Sacred Land. How would he explain that there was a beast capable of destroying everything inside that crystal?

Rean already tried to use his Divine Sense and Soul Power against it. However, the crystal had a natural barrier preventing seeing what was inside. Sister Orb already explained to Rean that no one could peer into it either.

One might think he could just tell the Sacred Land he found something he didn't know what it was so that they could investigate. But then again, if they couldn't identify it and tried to break the crystal to investigate the insides, that would instead bring the calamity far earlier. Wouldn't that only make things even worse?

However, Rean definitely had a plan in mind. He and Roan would eventually leave the Huring Continent. The idea was to leave a message for Etherian that he would only receive after the twins got out. At that point, it wouldn't matter if they wanted to do anything with the twins anymore. With the information at hand, it would be up to the Sacred Land to decide what they should do with it.

As for the Cosgles Race's village, Rean would ask Etherian to take care of them when the time came. It was a very small village, so it was easy to move it somewhere else with the Sacred Land's power. Finding another place with the right amount of Earth Element would be the smallest of their issues.

A few hours and many Divine Stones consumed later, Rean finally finished building both formations. "Alright, let's get out of here. I'm getting really tired of keeping this barrier up all the time."

Aien and Aelua had nothing against it, so they immediately went out. However, little did they know, but something that looked like an eye made of energy appeared on the crystal's surface. It looked in the direction Rean's group left for a moment and then disappeared once more. What that meant, no one knew.

The way out was a lot easier. Since there were no dangers along the way, they moved much faster back up. It only took two hours for them to exit the cave once more. "Phew...we're finally out."

Rean then looked at Aien and Aelua with a serious expression. "The information about the Flash Beast must be kept a secret, understood? If you spread it out, then I won't be responsible for what happens to your village. That will also implicate me directly. I only told the two of you because you were there with me. You had the right to know what you were dealing with."

Aien and Aelua immediately nodded in response. They understood how serious this issue was. "Don't worry, Rean. Even if you haven't asked us, we wouldn't have done it anyway."

Not too long after, they were already back in the village. Nothing changed even after the days they stayed down there. "Alright, I'll work on the formation now. Don't call me if you don't need anything."

Aien made sure that it would be done. "Don't worry, I can guarantee you that no one will bother you during this time."

Death... and me

#### Chapter 1198: Starlight Technique

While Rean worked on the formation, Roan came out of Kihin's training room. Kihin, of course, was there as well. Kihin didn't show Roan the thing he was working on straight away. Instead, he spent some time testing Roan's comprehension ability and healing power. "Impressive. I wonder just what kind of place you came from to give birth to a guy like you."

Roan didn't care about that. "It doesn't matter. I've already proved I can help you with that technique of yours. So, what was it that you wanted me to help you with?"

Kihin then passed a Soul Binding Contract to Roan that stated he would never show the information. Well, Roan expected that already, so he dropped his blood straight away after checking the clauses. Well, it didn't really matter. He had the system's dummy soul, which protected the twins' soul regardless of the situation or how far away they were from each other. Naturally, he was just pretending there. "Alright, it's done."

Kihin nodded, satisfied. He then looked at his subordinates, indicating that they should leave the room as well. Only then did Kihin explain his ideas to Roan. "Have you heard of the Starlight Technique?"

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before shaking his head. At the very least, it wasn't present on the first and second floors of the Divine Energy technique repository. "Is it a technique only available for those at the Core Sector and above?"

Kihin shook his head in response. "You're thinking about the wrong repository. This isn't a Divine Energy cultivation technique, but a body cultivation technique. I have to say, I was surprised when I heard that you wanted to check my family's Body Cultivation Technique as your task also involved one."

Roan found it strange as he read all the techniques in the body cultivation technique, and none of them went by that name. Still, he nodded and extended his hand. "Give me the jade slip. We can talk about it after I know its contents."

Kihin did as Roan said and waited for Roan to finish analyzing it. With the comprehension ability he showed, he shouldn't take long to understand how it works.

Sure enough, Roan gave the technique back to Kihin a few minutes later. "This is quite an interesting technique. It connects you with a star and uses the star's power to refine your body. To be honest, I didn't even know there were stars in the skies."

Roan also took that chance to ask Sister Orb. 'Didn't you say there were no stars in the Realm of Gods?' One must remember Sister Orb's words when they arrived in the Realm of Gods. The Realm of Gods was just a single enormous piece of land. There were supposed to be no planets or suns out there.

[I did. However, you know very well that it has been countless years since Soul Gem left. Who knows what could have happened during this time? At the very least, we couldn't see a single star in the skies during the night.] Let's not forget that Roan's group still doesn't know how the light of the skies during the day was created since there were no suns.

Kihin didn't know that Roan was talking to Sister Orb, so he simply began to explain. "It's not that there aren't stars. It's just that they're too far away for us to see."

That was even more ridiculous in Roan's opinion. The light of a star could travel, but it was just too, too far away. How come they couldn't see it? Unless something was preventing it from arriving in the area where he was now.

Sure enough, Kihin explained exactly that. "Then again, the main reason for that is the atmosphere. Do you know what an atmosphere is?"

Roan nodded in response. "Don't worry, go ahead." Using the word 'atmosphere' was quite strange as the Realm of Gods wasn't a planet. It wasn't a round sphere. However, Roan didn't mention that.

Kihin was surprised that Roan knew it, but he also didn't ask how. It didn't matter for his plans anyway. If anything, that made things easier. "Alright. The atmosphere is basically stopping the light from those stars from reaching the ground. Perhaps, if your continent is in the right place and the conditions are just perfect, you might be able to barely see something."

That pretty much confirmed Sister Orb's words. The Soul Gem System had been out of the Realm of Gods for way too long. Somehow, the space above it now had stars as well. Well, at least that's what it looked like. There was also a chance that the stars Kihin was talking about weren't the same stars Roan knew from the Mortal Realm.

Kihin continued, "However, the stars are definitely out there, and there are countless numbers of them." He then pointed at the jade slip, explaining, "This Starlight Technique uses exactly that to strengthen your body. Of course, it also needs materials to be fused into your body. However, the results are much better when starlight is added to the mix. Believe it or not, but your gain in strength is increased by 7 to 8 percent on average compared to other top body cultivation techniques, including my family's techniques."

That was a huge increase in Roan's eyes. Once something was refined too many times, it became hard for one to increase its efficiency even a single percent. That's the case for top body cultivation techniques like the ones used by Kihin and the top brass of the Sacred Land. "That's truly impressive. So, what's the downside? I'm sure there must be one, or everyone would be using it. Could it be that because we can't see the stars, no one can cultivate it?"

Kihin shook his head in response. "If that was the case, I would simply ask any subordinate of my clan at the Transition Realm or above to bring me up to the skies. At some point, you will start to exit the atmosphere and will be able to see the stars."

Roan had to admit Kihin was right.

Kihin continued, "The problem...is the Starlight Energy itself."

Death... and me

Chapter 1199: Transformation

Roan obviously didn't understand what he meant by that. "I haven't cultivated it, so I don't know what could be wrong with the energy."

Kihin nodded in response, telling him, "No problem. The technique I want you to test isn't the one I showed anyway. Instead, it's a modified version I created based on something I found during exploration at the Ruins of Yaz."

"Yaz? Is it in the Huring Country?" Roan asked.

Kihin laughed in response. "Hahaha! Of course not! There shouldn't be a single inch unexplored in our Huring Country anymore by now. The Ruins of Yaz is in another continent instead. The last time the portal to the Wesbin Continent opened, I was one of the lucky cultivators selected to go there."

Roan knew about Wesbin. It was one of the continents neighboring Huring, just like Lanqueas and Jhiod.

Kihin continued, "As part of the activities allowed for us, self-exploration was one of them. We just had to be back at the portal before it closed. Of course, my group had already left the Sacred Land knowing exactly where we were going." Kihin didn't mind telling these things to Roan as Roan was restrained by the Soul Binding Contract...or so he thought.

Kihin ended his explanation there, though. "Anyway, all you need to know is that I was able to create a new version of the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique thanks to the findings we had there. I'll give that for you to take a look."

However, Roan immediately stopped Kihin, saying, "No need. I'll cultivate the original version first."

"What?!" Kihin was taken aback. "Why would you do that?"

Roan then explained, "I need to understand how the original version worked before I can understand whether your changes were good or not."

Kihin couldn't help but warn Roan, though. "Are you sure? Once you start cultivating it, you will have to select the star you connect to. You can't change your choice anymore after that."

Roan, of course, saw it in the cultivation technique. "I know. However, the issue isn't the selection of the star, right? The issue is Starlight Energy itself. With that being said, I don't need to really change it anymore. I can use the same energy for your version later."

Kihin pondered over it for a bit and had to admit it made sense. "Alright then. However, don't complain to me if something goes wrong." Kihin then turned around, preparing to leave. "It will probably take some time for you to take the first step, so I'll head back and cultivate. Come out and tell the workers to call me back once you're done." Kihin finally left after that.

Roan was fine with that. He then sat on the couch and began to run the Starlight Cultivation Technique. One needed some specific materials to refine one's body in order to break through the stages of a body cultivation technique. However, Roan wasn't going to break through any stages. He just had to take the first step to prepare the body to receive the Starlight Energy. He could think about the materials another time.

'First, I need to open my meridians and empty them of Divine Energy. After that, I need to stop the flow of Divine Energy coming out of my dantian, or else I would never be able to clear the meridians. Soul Power seems to not intervene with the process. However, since my Soul Power and Divine Energy are fused, I'll have to stop that as well.'

Roan concentrated and went even further. He used his Dark Element to get rid of the Divine Energy in his meridians much faster. Naturally, his body was immune to his own Dark Energy, so there was no pain or damage.

'Alright, now I need to connect myself with the star... This is the weird part. From what is described in the manual, I have to first feel the Starlight in the air. Starlight is always present, be it day or night. Even if the light itself can't pass through the atmosphere, Starlight Energy definitely can do so. The problem is...'



Roan remembered the next step in the manual, saying, 'The Starlight within oneself shall serve as a guide to help one perceive the Starlight outside.'

'The Starlight within oneself? Does that mean everyone is born with Starlight already present in their bodies? Then again, it might be a characteristic of the Realm of God's living beings. There's no guarantee that I have it as well. The manual also says that it's useless to ask others as everyone perceives their own Starlight in a different way.'

Roan decided to wipe out all thoughts from his mind. This was the first time since he started to cultivate that he didn't have Spiritual or Divine Energy running in his body, so it somehow felt empty. However, that was exactly the feeling Roan was trying to achieve.

No thoughts, movements, Divine Energy, nor Soul Power, only his breathing and the beat of his heart. If there was anything else within his body, this would be the perfect state to feel its presence. If that didn't work, then Roan's first theory might be right.

Time passed without Roan even noticing. One minute, thirty minutes, one hour, two hours...the longer he stayed like that, the more he could feel his body. He was within his own mind world, and everything was dark. That didn't bother him, though. Darkness had always been by his side, even in the other half of the universe.

\*Tinkle...\*

Suddenly, Roan felt like something shone in that world. It was there, and at the same, it wasn't. It was something that no other person could tell other than Roan himself. It wasn't exactly bright. If anything, the dark world in his mind was brighter than that. It was more like that shining point in his previously empty mind world was bending that light around it.

Roan knew that he had found what he was looking for. With that, he could 'see' and tried to reach out to it.

\*Shua!\*

When Roan touched that dark spot, the world around him transformed!

Death... and me

Chapter 1200: Let's go Further Away

When Roan opened his eyes again, he could see a different environment than before. No, to be more specific, everything was still as it was. However, it was as if a second layer was added to the world. He could see something like a shower of light coming down from through the walls and entering the ground. The formations in Kihin's residence made no difference. Roan could also feel the similarities between that dark light and the energy passing through. 'So this is Starlight Energy, huh?'

It truly was different from Divine Energy and Soul Power. It gave him a 'robust' feeling. To form an analogy, Divine Energy was like water, Soul Power like air, and Starlight Energy like earth. Each energy had its own properties and advantages. 'No wonder it's used for a body cultivation technique. This is just perfect for it.'

Roan then put those thoughts behind. He found Starlight Energy, so what? Most people would feel excited, happy, impressed, and other positive feelings. However, Roan had never been like that. No need to dwell on it for much longer. It was time to try it out and see just what was wrong with the energy itself.

Roan then focused on the next step of the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique. 'Next, I need to fill my meridians with Starlight Energy. It will naturally connect that Dark Starlight in my body. Once that's done, I will finally be able to look for a star to connect to. It's not possible to use Starlight before it. From what is told in the manual, the Starlight I can see is, in fact, a mix of countless Starlights. I can't use all of them as they aren't really equal to one another.'

Roan continued, 'Also, it seems like when a star is taken, no one else can take it anymore until its 'owner' dies. The star simply won't accept you. But then again, the number of Stars is big enough that I don't need to be afraid of running out of options. I guess that's because the number of people that use Starlight in the Realm of Gods isn't that big.'

Roan couldn't help but think. 'I wonder what just happened for so many Stars to appear in the Realm of Gods after Soul Gem left.' But it was then that he shook his head as his mind wandered off from the task at hand. 'No, this isn't right. The Realm of Gods is still located in the same Universe. That meant that it always had countless Stars.'

Roan then asked Sister Orb, 'Could it be that the people in the Realm of Gods couldn't see the stars of the Mortal Realm before, but now they can?'

Sister Orb heard that and agreed it was a possibility. [Maybe? At the very least, your theory makes a lot of sense. It would also explain why so many stars appeared out of nowhere. It most likely has something to do with the event that culminated in the universe's separation into two halves.]

Roan nodded in agreement. 'I thought so as well.' Roan then put this issue behind his mind. 'In any case, there's no way I can confirm that right now. We'll find out one day.'

Roan then again focused on the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique as he knew his mind wandered away from his initial task. He took a deep breath and allowed that mixed Starlight to enter his body, allowing it to reach his own Dark Starlight. 'If I focus on the mixed Starlight through my own Dark Starlight, I should be able to 'see' all the stars that compose the mixed Starlight.'

Roan once again reached for that Dark Starlight of his and felt like his mind was sucked in. However, he wasn't afraid or anything like that. For some reason, he could tell that he was in complete control of his Dark Starlight and could pull his mind out wherever he wanted. Of course, he didn't do so. That's because a sea of stars had just appeared in his mind!

'It's been a while since I saw something like this.' As a Death Spirit in the previous life, he obviously saw the other half of the universe from space many times. 'Let's see...'

Roan continued to focus on the body cultivation technique's information. 'All I need to do is look at a star and 'will' for it to get close.'

\*Vup!\*

Suddenly, Roan felt like he moved at a speed many times above the speed of light itself. Before he could process it, he was already in front of the star he had just wished to see from up close. 'I see...even though it's all happening in my mind, I'm really seeing the star as it is right now. The distance it is from the Realm of Gods makes no difference. It's all thanks to the Dark Starlight in my body, and so it should be for all living beings and their own natural Starlights.'

With that, Roan reached the point he wanted. 'Now I can just select a star to connect to. As long as I wish it and the star isn't taken, I should be able to connect to it.'

He tried to concentrate on the star in front of him and could see that it didn't have an owner. However, Roan narrowed his eyes. He could have selected it straight away. Though, he simply didn't like that one.

As if the star had felt Roan's emotion, Roan was suddenly repelled away by it, much to his surprise. 'Do stars have their own conscience? Or perhaps it's instinct?' In any case, he could only shake his head as he couldn't confirm it. 'Whatever. Let's look for another one.'

It was then that he had an idea. 'Could it be that the distance of the star affects the results?' Naturally, the closer it was, the easier it should be to feel that specific star's Starlight. However, Roan felt like things were not that simple. 'Let's go further away.'