

Death 1201

Death... and me

Chapter 1201: The Barrier

And so, the further away Roan went. He always aimed at the star that seemed to be the furthest away in his vision before willing to get close. From there, he looked even further away and repeated the process. Other than the fact that the energy of each star seemed different, he didn't feel anything else. It wasn't as if each one of them was stronger or weaker, even though they were obviously different in size.

Another thing Roan noticed was that many of the stars he visited already had owners. When he got close to them, they would repel him away even before he could try to feel their energies. What really surprised Roan was that the stars that already had an owner were more numerous than the ones that didn't have one.

Unsurprisingly, Roan understood why. 'Well, I guess it makes sense. Just Kamos Kingdom alone has trillions of people, then just how many are there in the Realm of Gods? Not to mention that these stars are the closest to the Realm of Gods.' Roan was right. Those stars were definitely closer to the Realm of Gods than others.

Roan continued traveling in his mind through space, taking a very long time. Without him knowing, two days went by in the outside world.

Kihin felt that it was a bit strange that Roan wasn't done yet as anyone who cultivated Starlight would have selected a star already. However, as someone who studied the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique and even modified it, he could see that Roan was still looking for his star. 'Is there a need to be so picky?' Of course, he knew that it was an important step, so he left the room and went back to cultivate. Even if Roan took an entire month, he wouldn't stop him.

Over a week went by, and Roan continued on his travel. Very few Starlight Cultivators had made it this far into the sea of stars. The main reason was that more than 70% of the stars Roan visited at first were already taken by other cultivators when he started this journey. However, after seven days, he would be lucky to find one star with an owner every thousand he visited. 'This is far from enough. I can definitely go much further away.'

Meanwhile, Rean was still in the middle of building the Triple Layer Formation. Usually, Rean would make something for him and Roan alone. However, because he had to take many aspects into

consideration, the work on this one would take several times longer. It was even harder than the formations he did back in the Freedom Sect.

Aien came to see him and asked how long it would take, which Rean had to ponder to answer. "Hmm...the energy from the crystal is very mixed, so I have to work around it so that it doesn't affect the Triple Layer Formation's longevity. I'm not even halfway done."

Aien didn't mind. "It's fine. I was just curious. Still, I can see that you're using a lot of materials to build it. Are you really okay with that? They seem quite expensive."

Rean laughed in response. "Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. The Divine Stones I make with your Earth's Remnants can pay for all of that easily. Just trust me and wait in the village. I'll tell you when I'm done." Rean wasn't lying. Just Rank One or Rank Two Divine Stones could pay for all of that without a problem. It might even be considered overpaid.

Aien nodded after hearing that. "Alright then. If there's anything our village can help with, let me know."

Be it coincidence or not, Rean and Roan ended up spending a lot of time on their own tasks.

Two weeks later, Roan found out that he couldn't go any further while exploring the sea of stars. 'Is this... a barrier?'

That's correct. In the sea of stars in his mind, Roan could see something that looked like a barrier. He tried to move to the stars on the sides, crossing large distances. However, it was pointless. That barrier seemed to be covering the entire sea of stars in his mind. The further to the side he went, the more he believed that to be the case.

However, the problem was that Roan could see even more stars behind that barrier. He could tell that they were also sending their Starlight down to the Realm of Gods. That being said, it should be able to connect to them as well.

Roan didn't know if that barrier was dangerous or not. Even if it wasn't, if it had the power to pull him away from the sea of stars in his mind, he would have to restart his journey all over again. He didn't

touch the barrier until now exactly because of that. However, he couldn't simply resign to his fate and not try it out. 'Fuck it. If I don't try, I won't even know.'

With that, Roan finally approached the barrier in front and tried to touch it. Fortunately for him, nothing happened. But then again, he couldn't pass through it. He looked at the stars on the other side and tried to will his approach. Unfortunately, it was useless. His Dark Starlight attempted to bring him close to those stars, but it slammed on the barrier every single time.

Roan pondered over it for a bit before turning around and sighing. 'Seems like this is it. I'll have to make do with the stars on this side.'

However, just as he was about to leave, he felt a ripple on his own Dark Starlight. 'Hmm?' Roan focused on his Dark Starlight and could somewhat feel that it seemed to be attracted by something...something on the other side! 'What is it?'

Roan focused on that attraction. He tried to differentiate between the nigh countless Starlight Energies and find that specific one that his own Dark Starlight wanted. Unfortunately for him, because he wasn't connected to it yet, it was simply impossible to tell which star it was.

However, he didn't give up. He then touched the barrier once again when suddenly, dark energy began to accumulate in his hand. It wasn't Dark Element, though. 'You want that star, don't you? Then you better open the path for me!' Yes, Roan was using his own Dark Starlight to open a hole through the barrier!

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Chapter 1202: You Can't Be Serious

Roan didn't know whether his Dark Starlight comprehended his words or not. However, it truly did burst with power the moment he said that. At first, nothing happened to the barrier. Then again, that didn't continue for long.

Shhhhhhh...

Roan noticed that the point where his Dark Starlight Energy was touching seemed to start to melt off. It was very slow, not to mention that the barrier was actively trying to heal itself. In any case, it was truly

opening for him. There was a problem, though. 'My Dark Starlight doesn't have enough power. I'm not connected to the star yet, so it can't use the Starlight from outside.'

Roan was right. The energy forming the barrier was enormous, but the energy in his Dark Starlight was anything but so. It had never been cultivated before, so how could it even compare? The worst part was that Divine Energy and Soul Power couldn't be used for it either.

[Hey, Roan. I think I can help with that.] Sister Orb told him out of nowhere. As always, she could see everything that happened to the twins, even if it was in a mental world.

Roan was taken aback for a moment but immediately asked back, 'Help me? How? Rean is too far away, so I can't access any of the system's perks.'

[Don't worry, you don't need anything from the system itself. You already have what you need for it. Try to focus on your White Scythe.]

'My...scythe?' Roan didn't know what Sister Orb was planning to do. That was just his weapon in the real world. At the moment, he is in the Dark Starlight's mind world. He couldn't use it there. 'Is there a way to bring my scythe here?'

[No, what you need isn't the scythe itself, but the thing Rean used to forge the scythe.]

Only then did Roan put two and two together. 'The World Essence?'

[Exactly! You know what the World Essence feels like since it's part of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. As I mentioned in the past, World Essence is compatible with literally anything! That said, it should be possible for you to gather it inside your Dark Starlight, using it to fuel its power. It's just that your scythe will become ruined after you're done with it.]

Roan didn't know if it could work, but he had a feeling he shouldn't let the chance pass up. While still in the mental sea of stars, Roan tried to feel his scythe's presence in his spatial ring. It was quite hard since spatial rings worked with Divine Energy, which he shouldn't be using due to the technique.

In the end, Roan used just a single meridian to do that, the extra meridian! One must remember that the twins had one extra meridian in their bodies compared to other cultivators. That was the point from which their souls connected. Since it wasn't part of standard cultivation techniques, he decided that it was the best place for him to control Divine Energy.

Sure enough, the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique didn't stop even though Divine Energy passed through that extra meridian of his. Eventually, it reached his spatial ring, which Roan used to bring his scythe out. The scythe then fell on his lap, allowing Roan to feel its presence.

Roan knew what the World Essence of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm felt like. It wasn't wrong to say that it was as if it was part of his own body and Rean's as well. Rean's Black Star and Roan's White Scythe were the only two weapons Rean had ever made using World Essence, so they were stronger than any other weapon Rean made in the past. It was proof of how World Essence could be used by almost anything.

The World Essence in the scythe then slowly flowed into Roan's meridians, making its way to his Dark Starlight. Roan's Starlight wasn't very big to start with, and the attack on the barrier made it even more feeble. However, the moment the World Essence touched the Dark Starlight, it burst with power once more. It was as if oil had been added to the fire.

However, Roan could also tell that this wasn't a good idea. The World Essence wasn't really Starlight, so he could also feel the struggle of his Starlight in using the essence. If it wasn't because he was in a tight situation, he would have stopped straight away. 'I better not do such a thing again,' Roan thought.

[Seems like it worked. Now's your chance. Pierce that thing!]

Roan knew Sister Orb was right and used all the extra power of his Dark Starlight into the barrier. The melting of the barrier increased as it screamed in anger. Not only did it seem that the stars had emotions, but that barrier also seemed to have it as well. It was hard to tell whether it was real or not.

Clash!

Soon enough, the Dark Starlight Energy opened the hole, making Roan's Starlight appear on the other side. Not long after, the hole he created through the barrier closed once again in a matter of seconds.

However, it didn't matter anymore as Roan was already on the other side. He then looked in the direction he felt the attraction to his Dark Starlight and willed it to move once again.

Roan then spent two more days jumping from one star to another. Naturally, he couldn't find a single one that was already taken by another cultivator anymore. Every single one of them was completely ripe for the taking. Of course, Roan ignored all of them. He had set his target.

'Even if there's some star here that's already taken, it will be too hard to find. That barrier doesn't seem to be something that can be passed just because you want to pass it,' Roan muttered inwardly.

Eventually, Roan felt the attraction increasing in power as his own Dark Starlight seemed to become excited. He knew that he had arrived at his destination. It was then that he arrived in front of a dark star. To be more specific, it was a black dwarf! However, his mouth twitched right after. That's because the black dwarf wasn't alone. Instead, it revolved around a white dwarf. It was as if the two dwarf stars were dancing in an infinite cycle. 'You can't be serious...'

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Chapter 1203: So it was you!

A black dwarf was a stellar remnant, specifically a white dwarf that had cooled sufficiently to no longer emit significant heat or light. Obviously, the time between the deaths of the stars that these dwarf stars originated from were billions of years apart. That's how long a white dwarf took to become a black dwarf.

Nevertheless, these two dwarf stars still found a way to be close to each other and entered a cycle together that seemed to be almost perpetual. Roan sighed and then ignored the white dwarf. As much as he would rather wish it was not there, he knew that the black dwarf rotating with it was the one his Dark Starlight was looking for. 'Let's get over with it.'

Roan then let his Dark Starlight loose, allowing its energy to come out of his body and move in the direction of the black dwarf. Sure enough, it was as if the two were made for each other. Unlike the stars Roan visited so far, the black dwarf itself extended its Starlight to connect with Roan's Starlight.

In the case of the other stars, they would accept Roan's Dark Starlight if he tried to connect with them. As long as the star was free, of course. However, Roan would have to make a move on his own. This showed that Roan's instincts, telling him to continue ahead, were right.

From the moment the black dwarf and the Roan's own Dark Starlight connected to each other, Roan began to feel the black dwarf in its entirety. Not only that, he could easily pick up the black dwarf's Starlight in between the countless Starlights passing through his body. Yet, it was at this moment that something different happened. The black dwarf's and Roan's Starlight charged into the white dwarf not too far away! The white dwarf seemed to feel it and also answered, sending its own White Starlight to meet them.

Soon after, Roan heard a voice that he would rather not if he had the choice. "Fuck! So it was you! Do you have any idea how much you scared me? I thought I was gonna die! Couldn't you warn me beforehand if you were going to try something like this? No, first of all, what the hell is this place?"

Roan massaged his forehead as he felt his mood getting worse. Obviously, the one who complained to him was none other than Rean! "Then just die! I didn't want you here at all! Doesn't this mean I did all the work for you for free?! For fuck's sake! I should be the one asking that question! How the hell are you even here if we're over 10000 kilometers away from each other?!"

To explain that, we need to go back a minute or so in time. At the Cosgles Race's village, Rean was working on the triple-layer formation, taking his time to make sure everything was perfect. However, while he was building one of his Circuitry Runes, he suddenly felt like something had burst out of his body.

Argh!

Rean couldn't help but scream in pain as he tried to understand what was happening. It didn't take long for Rean to identify the problem, though. It was his Divine Energy and Soul Power! Both of them were forcefully expelled from his meridians and body in a single go, which hurt a lot! However, because his dantian and Soul Power were still working, that process continued, forcing Rean to close both of them before he passed out. Now, his meridians were completely empty of Divine Soul Power.

Sometime later, Rean felt like something in his body was burning in excitement. Rean was surprised and scared at the same time. He didn't know that such a thing was inside his body. How did it end up there? Was it some kind of tracker? Someone attacking him? Was he gonna die there now? He didn't know and didn't have time to ponder over it either. That's because when he tried to check that thing in his body, it suddenly sucked his mind inside it. As a result, Rean was now standing beside Roan, and he didn't even know why...well, he did know one thing.

It was all Roan's fault!

Naturally, Rean wouldn't take Roan's words for granted. "How the hell would I know?! I was suddenly pulled into this place! If it wasn't you, then who else? This is your doing! What is it? What work are you even talking about?"

Roan knew that this conversation wouldn't work out, so he asked Sister Orb to share everything he had seen so far. Usually, Roan would do it through their Soul Connection. However, the twins were still over 10000 kilometers away from each other, so that didn't work. In any case, Sister Orb could share information directly into their minds, so it was faster than explaining everything with words to Rean.

[I say, are you two sure that you don't like each other? How come you're always together like this?]

Rean and Roan immediately cursed Sister Orb with as much force and fervor that they could muster.
%%!#!&#!&#"@&!!!!

[Alright, alright. You guys can't even take a joke.]

With that, she shared all the information at once, which made Rean understand the situation he was in at the moment. "Starlight Body Cultivation Technique? So that's what's happening. Sigh...I guess the ice block is not to blame this time. Let's hope this is something good." After that, Rean let his own White Starlight, which was inside his body, break free. The white dwarf was as excited as Roan's black dwarf when it received Roan's Dark Starlight. The two connected together, allowing Rean to feel the white dwarf's presence and pick its Starlight in the middle of all those others.

That didn't end there, though. Both Rean and Roan could feel each other's Starlights as well. In fact, it seemed like those two Starlights had fused together just so that the twins could use both at the same time.

Well, the twins weren't very happy with that. 'Even the fucking universe is forcing us to do things together...' they thought.

At the same time, in several different places on the Realm of Gods, some old monsters from the demon beast, humanoid, and spirit races looked up at the sky. The expressions of shock on their faces were

obvious as they couldn't believe what they were feeling. Their gazes seemed to pierce through space and time, far into the distance. 'How can it be...two new Star Bodies appeared at the same time...'

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Chapter 1204: Awaken

It wasn't like those observers could see Rean and Roan. They simply could feel the emergence of the Star Bodies, which they themselves had. They also used their own methods to break through the barrier that Roan did, but that's not all. Breaking the barrier was considered the easiest part of acquiring a Star Body. After so long, the top powers of the Realm of Gods had already found their own methods to go through it. Of course, they all keep those methods in secrecy.

The biggest problem in acquiring a Star Body...was that one would need to find the right star! And Roan did exactly that. Well, to be more specific, his own Starlight, which he and all the other living beings are born with, did. But that was also based on pure luck. Roan just so happened to get close enough for his own Starlight to feel the presence of its own compatible star.

As for Rean...well, he might be considered the luckiest person in the universe to be dragged together without lifting a single finger. Maybe those two dwarf stars saw in them what they saw in each other, or something like that? No one knew.

In any case, finding one's own compatible star in the sea of stars on the other side of the barrier was extremely hard. Only a few people, demon beasts, and spirits had done so. Except for those who died on the way, all of them turned into important figures in the Realm of Gods as a whole. That's how much a Star Body could guarantee the future of a being.

Unfortunately for them, all they could feel was that two new Star Bodies had appeared. That was the case for every single Star Body in the past countless number of years. It was also good as it would be pretty dangerous if one's location was found due to that. After all, these Star Body owners might try to get rid of the competition in case they couldn't get the new owner on their side. Usually, when a Star Body appeared, it was a new cultivator, demon beast, or spirit, so they were all weak at that point.

Well, that didn't mean they would give up that easily.

"Immediately send the news."

“Two new Star Bodies have just appeared.”

“I want all the intelligence networks to search for news on this.”

“It’s probably one of the top powers. Tell our spies to gather information.”

“If it’s one of our enemies, make sure you find their identities so that we can kill them.”

Without Rean and Roan knowing, the entire Realm of Gods began to move to try to find them. To be honest, it was quite hilarious that they had the wrong idea. In their heads, they believed only powers equal to them would have cultivators that could acquire Star Bodies. They would never guess two young men in a god-forsaken continent were the ones behind it.

Rean could feel the Starlight in his body, so he asked Roan, “Do I need to do anything else now?”

Roan shook his head in response. “No, don’t do anything with the Starlight just yet. I’ll research this body cultivation technique and see what’s wrong with it.”

“That doesn’t make sense, right?” Rean asked. He heard all the story behind the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique, so he had his ideas. “The problem that Kihin told you about was that the Starlight Energy was the problem with the technique. However, now I’m pretty sure that it’s not the Starlight being the problem. Instead, users are.”

Roan agreed with Rean. “I can get where you’re coming from. You mean that they have a problem with their Starlight because they selected a star that wasn’t supposed to be theirs, correct?”

Rean nodded in agreement. “Yes. I’m not cultivating this Starlight Body Cultivation Technique. However, I can tell that the Starlight I’m getting from my white dwarf has absolutely no harmful effects on me. In fact, the same could also be said for your black dwarf, but that’s most likely because we have our connection. In any case, if a cultivator finds his own star, he won’t suffer whatever the issue Kihin mentioned they would.”

"In any case, don't cultivate it just yet. Let me learn more about it first. Besides, I want to see just what the methods Kihin talked about to circumvent this problem are," Roan told him.

Rean nodded without thinking much about it. "Sure, do as you see fit." Roan was responsible for the training, and Rean wouldn't intervene unless he had something important to add. "By the way, I'm still in the Cosgles Race's village. I found something quite interesting here. Once I get back, I'll talk more about it."

Roan also nodded in response. "Alright. Let's go back. You just have to will it, and your mind will return to your body."

The twins had met in that sea of stars because of their connection. However, now that they were connected to their stars, they wouldn't be able to do the same thing. Well, they could still have Sister Orb pass over information when they were too far away from each other, so it wasn't that big of a deal.

When Rean returned to his body, he wasn't in the field anymore, though. Instead, he was in a bed while Aien seemed to be using his Divine Energy to try and find out what was wrong with him. When he saw that Rean finally opened his eyes again, he felt like a huge burden was taken off his shoulders. "Boy, you gave me a fright out there. You suddenly fell on the ground out of nowhere. It didn't matter how many times we called you, you didn't answer at all. Are you okay?"

Rean looked at his body and smiled in response. "I'm fine. I was just rudely invited to a party that I didn't want to participate in at all." Rean could see that his spatial rings were all where they had been. He also didn't have any extra injuries other than the ones caused by the burst of Divine Soul Power leaving his body. The village had the opportune chance to kill him and take all his items, but they rescued his body instead and even tried to heal him. In a place like the Realm of Gods, that was a very heartwarming feeling.

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Chapter 1205: The Truth

Aien and the others didn't understand a thing. "Invited...to a party?"

Rean then shook his head, instead telling them, "It's something personal, don't worry." Soon after, he used his Light Element to recover the parts that were still hurting and got up. "Alright, it won't happen anymore, so I'll go back to work."

Before Aien or anyone else could say anything, Rean had already disappeared from the room and continued his work.

Back in the Sacred Land, Roan finally opened his eyes again and got up. He now had his connection with his star...or a dead star, if you may. In any case, the Starlight from there was truly reaching him without any issues. 'Guess this is it. Let's hear what's wrong about it from Kihin.'

Roan left his room, and a worker was already there, waiting for him. Naturally, Roan told the guy to call Kihin over as he was finally ready to discuss the Starlight Technique.

Sometime later, in the living room...

"You truly took your time, huh? Was there a need to be so picky about the star you wanted to choose?" Kihin asked him.

Roan shook his head, telling Kihin, "The fact is that I found what I wanted. Now, can you talk more about the issue with the Starlight Energy you mentioned earlier? What exactly is the problem?"

Kihin looked at Roan, puzzled. "If you cultivated the technique and got connected to the star, you should have felt the problem by now." In any case, Kihin explained anyway. "Well, the fact is that when you start cultivating it, the Starlight from your star will cause a side effect called oppression. Because you're connected to a real star, its Starlight is too strong for the body...or so everyone thinks. At first, you can cultivate with it and only feel some pain after each session. However, that 'oppression' will accumulate. Eventually, it will reach a point where it will cause irreversible damage to your body."

Roan nodded in response. Kihin's words pretty much confirmed Rean's words, which Roan already thought about as well. "And what about your change to the technique. What's it about?"

Kihin got excited and began to explain, feeling very proud of himself. "I found out in the Ruins of Yaz that someone tried to change the technique to calm down the Starlight Energy. Unfortunately, whoever tried it seemed to have met an unexpected ending. I just so happen to have this method in my hands right now."

Roan found it strange. “If the previous owner died with it, why would you try it out?”

“Of course, I’m not trying it out.” Kihin shook his head. “Did you forget what I said? I said I made modifications to the original Starlight Technique, using this method as a base. However, neither the Starlight Technique nor the method I found is going to be used. I truly created a completely new version of the Starlight Technique, which I believe in having resolved both issues.”

Following that, Kihin passed the new version to Roan, saying, “Here you go. Take a look and see if you find any issues. Naturally, as my helper, you will have to test it first.”

Roan received the jade slip with the new version and checked it out. “I see...as a body cultivation technique, we need certain materials to be refined into our bodies. You found out that some types of material can have a calming effect on the Starlight Energy. That way, the efficiency of the Starlight reduces by about 50%. However, it helps cope with the oppression effect. Even if it takes longer to cultivate, this is the best Body Cultivation Technique you have here, so it’s worth the extra effort.”

Kihin couldn’t even feel surprised with Roan’s comprehension ability anymore. “You’re correct. So, what do you think? Do you wanna give it a try now, or do you have something to add? Obviously, I’ve already gathered the materials to use in this new version that I believe to be the perfect match.”

Roan pondered over it for a bit whether he should tell Kihin about what he found. After all, that was obviously not something just anyone could do. ‘Well, it’s thanks to him that I found out about the Starlight Technique, so I guess I owe him one.’

Roan’s expression then turned serious as he told him, “Kihin, I’ll talk through Divine Sense for now. Whether you want to make my findings a public thing or keep it to yourself, that’s your problem.”

Kihin was surprised to hear such a thing from Roan, thinking that he found something important in his own technique. “Alright, hit me.” Obviously, it had nothing to do with that.

Roan then resumed the entire story in one Divine Sense Message. There were so many things that Kihin had to spend a few seconds just to organize everything in his head. Of course, Roan left out that there were two dwarf stars and that Rean was brought there because of their connection. In any case, it was truly an amazing saga.

"This..." The shock on Kihin's face was obvious for anyone to see. He even was having a hard time accepting Roan's words. "Are you telling the truth?"

Roan nodded, saying, "I don't mind signing a Soul Binding Contract, stating that I was absolutely saying the truth just now."

Indeed, with Kihin's background, even the expensive Soul Binding Contracts didn't mean much to him. The fact that they were used to force the truth out of people was also a common thing in the Realm of Gods. Kihin didn't think Roan was lying exactly because of that. Nevertheless, he still took a Soul Binding Contract and used it so that he could confirm without a doubt that Roan was telling just the truth.

Well, even though Soul Binding Contracts were of no use against Roan, he was telling the truth anyway. He also didn't mind signing the contract as he would have done exactly the same thing in Kihin's shoes.

Seeing that Roan suffered nothing from the contract, it was 'obvious' that Roan was telling the truth in the end.

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Chapter 1206: Give It a Try

"I don't know what to say." Kihin was lost. "I can't really say I've never expected that there was a star compatible with each person. However, there are too many of them for one to start searching. At the very least, you're the first person I've ever heard of to have found your own compatible star. In my head, it was just a delusion."

Kihin continued, "Now, not only is there such a thing as a compatible star, it's probably behind that barrier you commented about."

Roan nodded in response. "Yes. There's one thing I can guarantee about it. The Starlight Energy from the stars beyond the barrier is very different from the ones behind it. I'm not sure that only the stars beyond the barrier are compatible with you and the others. However, just the difference in the quality of Starlight already makes it a lot more worth connecting with stars that are on the other side."

Kihin agreed with Roan. Since Roan 'signed' the Soul Binding Contract, he knew that Roan wasn't lying. "You said that you used your own Starlight's energy to open a hole in the barrier for you to pass, right?"

As you can imagine, I haven't cultivated the Starlight Technique yet, let alone the new version. After all, I didn't want to start with it before I was sure it was safe. Do you reckon I can do the same thing with my own Starlight? Naturally, I've already found my own Starlight a long time ago since that's a necessary step for either technique. The danger is after you select a star."

Roan immediately shook his head, telling him, "I'll be honest, I don't think the power of your Starlight alone is enough to pierce through the barrier. In my case, I believe my own Starlight happened to carry the same property as my Elemental Affinity. After all, I told you that it was a Dark Starlight. It was thanks to that fact that I was able to pierce through." Roan wasn't lying. His Dark Starlight indeed gave him the impression of being similar to his own Dark Element. It's just that he didn't add the World Essence in the conversation.

Kihin bitterly smiled in response. "That's not something I can copy, you know?"

Roan had an idea, though. "It's not like you are without options."

Kihin's eyes lit up when he heard that. "What is it? Do you have some other method?"

Roan shook his head, telling him, "It's nothing that impressive. Basically, you can try to brute force your way through the barrier."

"That doesn't make sense," Kihin replied. "You said it yourself. My own Starlight alone shouldn't be enough to break that barrier."

Roan confirmed his words. "Indeed. That's why you must find some auxiliary energy source that your Starlight can use. Surprisingly, that flawed technique that killed the guy in the Ruins of Yaz just so happens to have it described there."

"It does?" Kihin did give Roan the version he found as well, so he also knew it. "How come I don't know of this?"

Roan then took the jade slip with the Ruins of Yaz's version of the technique and pointed it into a specific thing there. "Starlight Fusion."

That puzzled Kihin even more. “Starlight Fusion refers to the fusion of the Starlight Energy from the star you connected to with the material that will calm it down. Not only will it not give you a boost, but it will also reduce the power of the Starlight. First of all, it’s only possible after you have selected a star. If I select a star to do it, I won’t be able to look for another one anymore.”

Roan shook his head, expanding his horizons as he told him, “Your mind is too narrow. Who said that only the Starlight from your connected star can be used here? Have you not noticed it yet? This technique is all about reducing the harmful effect of the Starlight you’re receiving. Then, why not do the same thing with the Starlight Energy from other stars? Make the oppression power of the other Starlights go down so much that it can be used even by someone not connected to a star.”

Kihin looked at Roan as if he was seeing a monster. “Yes! Yes! That’s it! Why didn’t I think of such a thing before?”

“You can’t be blamed,” Roan told him. “It’s not that you couldn’t think about it, but that it would be useless. The other stars’ Starlight Energy can’t be used to cultivate the Starlight Technique. That being said, why should you bother to fuse them and reduce their oppression power? They would be useless for you in the end. However, if it’s to use them as an energy source for your own Starlight, then that’s another story.”

Kihin didn’t waste time and immediately called his subordinates. “Bring me Cold Tusan Peak Flowers, Amarel Swamp Beast blood, the...” Kihin then passed a list with the materials necessary for the fusion, which he had long since prepared.

After that, Kihin and Roan were left alone in an alchemy room. Surprisingly, it turns out that Kihin was an alchemist himself and a Golden Middle-level one at that. He could concoct the solution that would be used to reduce the Starlight Power on his own. Roan, of course, also helped him as he was also at the Golden Level.

Later that day, the duo finished concocting a lot of it so that Kihin would not run out during his attempt to break the barrier.

Roan, unfortunately, couldn’t help him much with that. “You have researched the Starlight Technique a lot, so you should know that I can’t help you in the journey around the sea of stars. Everyone can only do it on their own. However, I can give the solution a test to see if I can use other stars’ Starlight Energy. It won’t do anything for my Starlight Technique cultivation, but it should be of some use as an energy source.”

Kihin took a deep breath and nodded. "Alright, give it a try."

Death... and me

Chapter 1207: Helping Kihin

Roan was still the helper. That's why he offered to test it first. The solution, however, wasn't the one found in the Ruins of Yaz. Instead, it was the one revised by Kihin himself. Not only that, he and Roan improved it even more.

Roan took the solution, which immediately spread through his body, especially his meridians. Following that, Roan got rid of all the Divine Soul Power inside them. Of course, he also closed his dantian and stopped his Soul Power from moving.

Only after all of that did he allow the mixed Starlights to enter his body. Sure enough, the solution immediately took effect and acted on the Starlights. They made their way into Roan's own Dark Starlight while the solution acted. By the time the mix arrived at Roan's natural Dark Starlight, it had already lost more than 80% of its oppression power.

Yes, the original solution was supposed to reduce the oppressive power by 50%. However, because Roan and Kihin wanted to use foreign Starlight Energy as just fuel, it had to be reduced even more. Eventually, Roan fed his own Dark Starlight with the Starlight Energy from other stars. To make sure it was the right call, Roan also moved the dwarf stars' fused Starlights and kept them outside.

Bzzzzzzzz

Immediately, Roan felt a surge of power coming from his Dark Starlight. In fact, it was so strong that Roan had to immediately cut the source of energy by closing his meridians. If he continued, he felt the same thing would happen as it did when he used the World Essence, which could damage his Dark Starlight if he used it for too long.

Roan then took a deep breath and used his own Dark Element to wipe out the rest of the solution of his body. At the same time, he resumed the flow of Divine Soul Power through his meridians. "Alright, I'm done."

Kihin's eyes lit up in expectation. "So? How was it? Did it work?"

Roan faintly smiled as he nodded, saying, "It did. My own Starlight was able to use the weakened outside Starlights as fuel to increase its power for a small moment. However, I had to stop it straight away as it could have damaged my Starlight in the process."

"Damaged?" Kihin was taken aback. "Then how can you say it worked?"

Roan then explained, "That's because I had nowhere to use that extra power that my Dark Starlight received. I obviously couldn't use it for the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique as it's not the right Starlight. I also don't need to attack a barrier anymore. With that being said, it was trapped inside my body, with no place to go. That's why I stopped."

Kihin understood after that. "I see...so you mean that I must first reach the barrier and only then take the solution and absorb the foreign Starlights to fuel my own. The moment that happens, I must use all that extra energy, which can't be used for cultivation, on the barrier itself. I have to try and pierce through it."

"Exactly." Roan nodded. "However, I won't force you to do it. In the end, this is a new path that no one knows about. No, to be more precise, this is a path that we don't know about. I believe other powers of the Realm of Gods might have figured out something similar already."

Kihin agreed with Roan. "Yes, but such powers could probably vaporize a continent like our Huring. Obviously, we can't go out and try to ask them about it. First of all, even if we did, I don't think we would ever get to find one of them. The Realm of Gods is just too big."

Roan was satisfied that Kihin understood that principle. "Good! Whether you try it or not is up to you. Also, don't forget what I told you. Traversing the barrier is one thing. Finding your own compatible star is a completely different one altogether. I don't know if your own Starlight will detect its own star as it did with me."

Kihin shook his head, saying, "Even if I can't find it, I can still connect to one of the stars beyond the barrier. From what you said, their Starlights are several times better than the Starlights from behind, isn't that right?"

“That’s correct,” Roan nodded.

Kihin then sat down while saying, “Don’t worry, whether it works or not, this method will not leave this room. At the very least, I won’t share it with someone unless I absolutely trust them. There are also the Soul Binding Contracts to guarantee that.”

Roan didn’t mind. “I told you before that if you decide you want to share this method, I won’t stop you. I’m just warning you that it might bring a calamity to your doorsteps if you do so.”

Kihin took the warning to heart. “Alright.” Soon after, he decided to give it a try. “I’ll enter the mental sea of stars now. Please stay here and prevent anyone from bothering me. I already told the workers outside about it, but I feel like it’s easier to trust someone that knows what’s happening.” He wasn’t lying. It had nothing to do with the Soul Binding Contract. Kihin simply felt like Roan was someone he could truly trust, which wasn’t wrong.

“Alright. Just be aware that I will need to leave once the Demising Catacombs open. If you aren’t back by then, I’ll have to leave you alone.”

“No problem.” Kihin then put all other thoughts behind and started.

Roan watched as the Divine Energy and Soul Power in Kihin’s body completely vanished. Obviously, he had started to use the Starlight Technique to enter the mental sea of stars. ‘If this works, it means we have found a method to break the barrier artificially. I wonder if this is a good or a bad thing.’

Roan then sat down and took some Divine Stones from his Spatial Ring. He knew just how long it would take for Kihin to reach the barrier in the first place, so he would stay in this room for a few weeks at the very least. Perhaps he would really need to leave before Kihin was back.

Death... and me

Chapter 1208: Blown Out

Time passed in a flash, and only fifteen days remained before the opening of the Demising Catacombs. On this day, Rean had finally finished the triple-layer formation, using the Convergence Crystal’s energy to fuel it up. “Hahaha! Let me see if anyone below the Transition Realm can pass through my formation!”

Rean was very satisfied with his work. Thanks to the concealment formation forming the first layer, the village simply disappeared when looking at it from outside. The barrier right after that was the second layer, strong enough to stop anyone at the Elemental Transformation Realm and below. In case they found a way through, the slaughtering formation, which was the third layer, could be used to deal with them. After all, if they were trying to break the village's barrier, wanting to enter it by force, then they obviously didn't have very good intentions.

Aien and the Cosgles people couldn't help but watch as the barrier took form. Naturally, they could see everything as the concealment only worked for those who were outside. Aien felt somewhat emotional once it activated as safety had always been the village's biggest issue. "Thank you, Rean."

Rean shook his head in response, telling him, "I'm only protecting my business, that's all. Hahaha!" Well, no one really believed that.

Rean then took a token from his spatial ring and passed it to Aien. "Take this as well. If everything fails, you can still pull out this trump card."

"What is this token?" Aien had never seen it before. But then again, the Cosgles people rarely ventured far away from their current environment, so it made sense.

"This is the Kamos Kingdom's Royal Token," Rean explained. "With it, you can call up the name of the Royal Family to scare any intruders. If they don't know better, they definitely won't try anything." That was Fabio's token. Since Rean was already in the Sacred Land, that token lost its value. However, it was the complete opposite for the Cosgles Race's village.

"This..." Aien's hands couldn't help but tremble as he held that token. He might not know the Sacred Land very well, but he at least knew who ruled the Kamos Kingdom. "This is too much!"

Rean shook his head, clarifying to Aien, "For me, it has no value anymore. Just keep it. As long as you don't use it for personal gains, no one will try to take it back. I'll also inform a friend of mine in the Royal Family that you might appear one day, asking for help with my token."

Aien already understood that when Rean made his mind, he wouldn't go back anymore. In the end, he sighed and closed his eyes while saying, "Fine...in that case, I'll keep the next few years of Earth's Remnants here and give them for free when you come to take it. This is the least we can do."

Too bad, though...

"Ahem...Elder Aien, Rean isn't here anymore," one of the people present at the moment told him. Rean selected a few Cosgles people that seemed to have some talent with formations to teach them how to operate the triple-layer formation. This guy was one of them.

"What?!" Aien opened his eyes, and sure enough, Rean was nowhere to be found. Instead, all he saw was a bag on the ground that emanated a ridiculous amount of Divine Energy. "Rank Two Divine Stones!" There were a hundred there! Also, there was a small written memo.

-I'm busy, so I'm going ahead. I left the payment here for you for the next batch of Earth's Remnants you collect. See ya!-

Aien looked at the stones and didn't know what to say. Refusing it now would be meaningless. Who would he return the bag to? The owner already disappeared like smoke, obviously with no intention of getting it back. "Fuck! Alright! Then see how I'll have our village warriors use these Divine Stones to cultivate like crazy machines. Next time you appear, there will be so many Earth's Remnants that you won't be able to fit them all in a single spatial ring!"

For some reason, several warriors in the village felt a chill on their backs that day.

Two days later, Rean was finally back at the Sacred Land. 'Roan, where are you?'

'I'm in Kihin's house, looking after him,' Roan quickly answered. With the distance between the twins being less than 10000 kilometers, they could talk through their Soul Connection once again.

'I see. Anyway, I wanted to talk about the Flash Beast.' Naturally, Rean went straight to the point as he made his way back to his residence. However, just as he was about to continue, he noticed something different in front of his home. "What the hell?!"

Right in front of Rean, there were a sea of people from various races. They seemed to be all waiting for his return.

“Look! It’s Rean!”

“Finally!”

“Where the hell has this guy been until now?!”

“Rean, I need a polearm that can gather Lightning Element without inscription. I already brought 300 Rank Two Divine Stones to buy the Special Edition type.”

“Get the fuck out of the way. I arrived here first, so he’s obviously making my weapon before anyone else’s. Here, I have 300 Rank Two Divine Stones as well. I need armor, not a weapon, though. I brought you the material I want to use as well.”

“Ha! So what if you arrived first?! My young lady needs a new weapon, and your Element Gathering equipment just fits her needs. Her name is Glamiadia Kedaoybe, a direct descendant of Elder Hin. You should know how good it’ll be for yourself if you owe her a favor, right?”

“What? Are we competing on backgrounds now? Shameless!”

Rean felt a headache. After spending this time in the Cosgles Race’s village, he had totally forgotten about his initial reason to go there. It was to get Earth’s Remnants to craft more weapons and make money to use during the Body Cultivation Technique. However, as it stood so far, it had obviously blown out of proportions. ‘What to do now...’

Death... and me

Chapter 1209: I’ll be waiting for all of you

“Alright, alright! Everyone, calm down! Can’t you see that I’m just a single person? It’s obviously impossible for me to make all your equipment like this,” Rean complained.

Roan didn't know anything and kept waiting for Rean to continue. To make things faster, Rean simply decided to share his memories of the Flash Beast 'egg' that he found in the cave. 'Anyways, Roan. I'll talk to you later after I finish dealing with all these people wanting a piece of equipment.'

Roan also saw what was happening to Rean and nodded. 'Alright. I'll think about this issue while you're at it. By the way, since you're going to craft weapons, make a new scythe for me. I used the World Essence in the previous one, and now it broke apart.'

'Such a waste...' Rean couldn't help but mutter inwardly. 'Alright, I'll work on it. There should be enough World Essence now to make one more weapon.'

Rean then returned his attention to the people around him. "For those who asked where I was, I had some business to take care of. In any case, the fact still stands that I'm back. Since you're all here, I believe you all found about the Elements Gathering Equipment I've made in the Blacksmith Hall. However, there's only so much I can make with the time I have. I can make one piece of equipment per day, that's all. I'll attend the people by order of arrival. I don't give a fuck about your background nor how much you wish to pay. Now, who was the first to appear here?"

"Me!"

"No, it was me!"

"Like hell it was! I was here before any soul thought about it."

Rean massaged his forehead after that. Obviously, it would be impossible to find the real one like that. However, a smile appeared on his face a moment later. "Oh, so all of you arrived here first, huh? Very well, let's use a Soul Binding Contract stating that you must be telling the truth about your arrival. If it turns out to be a lie... let's see... dying is too harsh... aha! If you lie, you will never get a piece of equipment from me ever."

Immediately, all the voices disappeared. Obviously, it would be impossible to lie with a Soul Binding Contract in place. The worst part was that they wouldn't get a piece of equipment for sure if they did.

After some time, a young woman stepped forward before saying. "My name is Hura, and I was the first one to arrive at your home's doorstep."

Rean nodded and looked around. No one there seemed to want to contest her claims, which proved that at least a few of them saw her here before themselves. The rest simply didn't know. "You can prove it with a Soul Binding Contract, right?"

"Yes!" Hura immediately took a Soul Binding Contract from her spatial ring, ready to write the terms down. However, Rean held her hand before she did that. "No need. The fact no one's contesting it is because they knew you were here before them. Very well, your request will be the first."

Rean then looked at the rest. "It will be annoying to decide the next ones, so I'll just say this. While I spend a day working on Hura's equipment, I want you all to decide on an order for me to work. If I'm back and you haven't decided by then, I'll simply make you all draw lots."

Rean turned around and decided to make his way to the Blacksmith Hall. However, some people there were not in it for the weapon. Instead, they were interested in Rean's Elements Gathering Method. "Wait a moment."

Suddenly, an old man came out of the crowd, followed by a few others. The disciples there could tell that they were all elders of the Sacred Land, so no one tried to intervene. "Before crafting their weapons, can you make an exception and forge a few for us? We are elders of the Blacksmith Hall and would like to study your technique."

Some people thought that Rean wouldn't like to hear that. After all, that basically meant they were trying to steal Rean's ideas. However, Rean simply smiled back at them. "It depends. If the disciples here don't mind it, I can work on your equipment first."

The elders nodded, satisfied. Right after, the leader between them looked at the disciples around. "I believe no one here has a problem, right? Don't try to bring your background against me, just saying." He obviously didn't seem afraid of whose some of those disciples were related to. Rean then looked around, and sure enough, there wasn't a single voice of discord. Only ugly expressions could be seen as they knew they couldn't go against the elders' wishes. "There you go, Rean. You will work on our weapons first."

“No problem. Which type do you want? The normal element gathering type, or the special edition? The normal type can jump one stage in power, while the special edition can jump two. The first one costs 100 Rank Two Divine Stones, the second one 300. As elders of the Sacred Land, you won’t actually try to make a new disciple work for free, right?”

“Hmph!” Rean’s words obviously hit their pride. “Here, take it.” The elder then threw Rean a Spatial Ring. There were ten elders there, so there were 3000 Rank Two Divine Stones inside. “This should be enough to forge all our equipment.”

“Thank you for your patronage.” Rean then looked at Hura before continuing, “Of course, your weapon will be the first one since I already gave you my word. Sorry elders, but I can’t go back on my promise.”

It was only a single weapon, so they still agreed, although the elders didn’t feel happy. “Fine. We will come by in the Blacksmith Hall tomorrow. After all, you said you need a day to forge each piece of equipment.”

Hura couldn’t help but feel excited while Rean just smiled. “No problem, I’ll be waiting for all of you.”

Death... and me

Chapter 1210: Fetch Kentucky

Back at the Blacksmith Hall, Hura arrived in the private workstation with Rean before she reached her hair and pulled out a green hairpin. Her hair then fell down while she gave the hairpin to Rean so that he could have a look at it. “Can you tell what this is?”

“This is a Golden Initial-level needle, made in the shape of a hairpin. The tiny inscriptions in it show that it’s a very intricate one at that. Whoever did this needle is a very skilled goldsmith,” Rean said before looking back at Hura. “Do you want me to make another one similar to this?”

Hura nodded. “Yes, there’s no need for you to care about the inscriptions, though. I already have someone to do that for me. However, you can see that the needle is just so big, so not many inscriptions fit on it anyway. The only inscription that I was able to put in it is a Wind Element Gathering inscription. I want you to make another one that has no need for an Element Gathering inscription.”

Rean smiled in response. “No problem at all. Do you have the material you want to use, or should I choose it? Also, do you want the standard edition or the special edition? The former is 100 Rank Two Divine Stones while the latter is 300.”

Hura immediately passed 300 stones to Rean, followed by a spatial ring with the necessary materials. “The special edition, please. Here’s the material I wish you to use.”

Rean nodded and began to work on it straight away. He had Hura there for the initial phase while preventing her from being able to see anything. After the infusion of her own Wind Element was done with, Rean asked the girl to go wait outside the workstation.

Rean was already used to the process, so while he worked on the needle, he also took the opportunity to work on Roan’s scythe. Then again, the needle was small, so it was a lot easier to craft. ‘Hey Roan, can I just make a copy of the previous scythe?’

Roan quickly replied, ‘Yes. The previous one was very good already.’ Roan then took the opportunity to talk about the Flash Beast. ‘About the Convergence Crystal. You made the right choice to keep it a secret. We can tell Etherian about it once we decide to leave Huring Continent. As to what they do about it, that’s not our problem. We can’t help out with our strength anyway.’

However, Rean had another idea, telling Roan, ‘I’ve been thinking. That crystal had all elements on it, right? Couldn’t we use that as catalysts for breaking through the Elemental Transformation Realm?’

Roan immediately denied the thought. ‘Let alone that it also has more elements than just Dark and Light. What if breaking the crystal shell causes the beast to suddenly pop out? Do you wanna be near it when that happens?’

‘Well, it was worth a shot.’ Rean needed to go to Lanqueas Continent to get his Light Element Catalyst. If he could prevent that, it would obviously be for the best. That’s why he brought that thought forward even though he knew that Roan would most likely refuse it. Perhaps Roan would have an idea himself.

Suddenly, Sister Orb talked about it. [Well, even if you can’t do anything about the egg, just the fact that you got involved with it has already changed the destiny of a lot of people. You guys have accumulated quite a decent amount of Destiny Points after all you’ve done so far. After all, everything in the Realm of Gods’ scale is worth a lot more points.]

That made sense. For example. A single city like Cossec already had hundreds of millions of people, and the twins caught all the powers' attention there. The Sacred Land was even more ridiculous as it was the main power of the entire continent. How much did the destiny of everything around them change after they appeared here?

'Oh, is that so? How many Destiny Points do we have now?' Rean asked, excited.

[You had 22728 points before that you decided not to spend. After everything that happened, you've already surpassed 40000. To be more precise, you have 42361 points.]

'That's indeed a lot. Although we did participate in some big events, it's not like we directly influenced any of them. At most, we got two Sacred Land slots that were supposed to go to someone else. In any case, it's quite surprising that our initial journey in the Realm of Gods gave us this much without actively trying to change things.' Rean seemed very satisfied with that.

'Sister Orb, let us know when we accumulate 50000. We want to buy the upgrades.' Roan also had nothing to complain about as those points came while they were simply moving on with their lives. It wasn't wrong to say they got them for free.

[You got it.]

'By the way, Roan.' Rean then jumped into another topic while he worked on Hura and Roan's weapons. 'During the opening of the Demising Catacombs. Do you want me to come as well, or are you going inside on your own?'

'You better come with me,' Roan told him. 'I might need our Elements Exchange depending on the situation. I don't want to spend the Glittering Crystal if I can help it.'

Rean nodded in response. 'In that case, we better bring Kentucky along with us. We don't know how big the place is, so it'll be perfect if we have the Minokawa to move around at first. The place seems to be filled with Dark Element, which is also good for Kentucky's cultivation.'

Roan pondered over it for a bit and nodded in response. 'Indeed. The dumb bird has been stationary for too long already. Considering that Etherian knows about its ability to talk, it wouldn't be a bad idea to bring it along. We can leave Celis there, cultivating. Celis was already a Peak Transition Realm in the first place and doesn't need the experience. If anyone asks, we can just say that we're also demon beast tamers.'

Rean obviously liked that. 'Then I'll go bring it here once I'm finished with the elders' weapons. There are ten weapons for them, which will take me ten days. With Hura and your weapons, I'll spend eleven days to forge them all. That gives me four days to go fetch Kentucky, which is more than enough with the Sacred Land's free teleportation perk.'