

Death 1211

Death... and me

Chapter 1211: Teach

Sure enough, Roan and Hura's weapons were done by the next day. In Roan's case, his scythe had to gather Light Element, so there was no need for Roan to be at the forging process. Of course, when it came to Roan's weapon, Rean entered the Dimensional Realm Workshop to use its tools so that it would be as perfect as possible. With that being said, Rean simply left the scythe in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm so that Roan could grab it from there and put it in his spatial ring.

Hura was also waiting outside of the workstation, so Rean passed her the needle. "Here you go. Give it a try."

Hura immediately poured her Divine Energy inside the needle. Sure enough, Wind Element began to gather around the needle on its own, without the need for inscriptions at all.

Rean smiled after seeing Hura's excited expression. "As you requested, this is a special version needle. That means although it's a Golden Initial-level equipment, it has the power equivalent to equipment at Golden High-level. You can test it anytime you want."

Hura immediately fixed her long hair and used that needle to hold it before looking at Rean. "Thank you. I can tell just how much better than my previous one it is. Because I'm still in the Saint Realm, I can't use Golden Middle or High-level equipment, so this needle is very important to me."

Rean nodded after that. "No problem. Let me know if something goes wrong with it."

Following that, Rean looked at the side and could see that one of the elders he was supposed to forge equipment for was already there. 'Sure enough, he's a blacksmith. He definitely wants his piece as fast as possible, but he didn't bother me while I was in the middle of delivering Hura's weapon. A blacksmith shouldn't cause trouble for other blacksmiths when they're dealing with their clients.'

After some time, Hura thanked Rean once more before leaving. Only then did that elder step forward and immediately pass a spatial ring to Rean. "Here you go. The materials inside are the ones I want you to use to make me a morning star. As you can imagine, I need it to be a Fire Element weapon."

Rean checked the materials and was quite impressed by them. Those items could be used to even make Golden Peak-level equipment, but he wanted Rean to use it for Initial-level equipment. Of course, Rean would not complain as they weren't his. "Sure. Elder, I'll need your help at first while I create the Element Gathering Alloy. Come with me. The workstation has an anti-Divine Sense and Soul Power formation, so no one will be able to see what happens inside."

Rean immediately started the forging process and kept the elder in a place where he could only infuse his Fire Element but not see anything else. Rean could imagine that the guy wanted nothing more than to use his Divine Sense to watch Rean, but that wouldn't work here. The Sacred Land's formations were no joke.

The elder couldn't help but sigh when Rean told him that his job was done and he had to wait outside. However, he didn't become dispirited. Once he got his morning star, he would spend all his time analyzing the thing.

The same thing happened during the next few days. Rean would receive the materials, bring the elders inside to infuse their elements, and then send them back. After he finished the weapon, those elders would evaporate in a moment. It seemed like finding Rean's secret method to creating Element Gathering Equipment became some kind of competition. The one who found it first would be the winner. Rean just found it funny, though. 'Well, good luck trying to do that without the knowledge about metallurgy from Earth. Hahahaha!'

Eventually, Rean came out of the Blacksmith Hall, preparing to leave. There were only four days before the opening of the Demising Catacombs, and he needed to bring Kentucky to the Sacred Land before that. However, the elders who were researching his weapons seemed to have also employed their own disciples to help in the tasks. That meant that Rean's weapons had become even more famous, which increased the number of disciples waiting for him to be free. Now...the crowd waiting for Rean to come out of his workstation was even bigger!

Only the disciples remained since the elders who wanted the weapons already got them. That meant the same chaos happened once again as all of them wanted Rean to forge their weapons or armor first. However, just as Rean was about to snap on all of them, a strong voice echoed in everyone's ears. "Silence! All of you, open space."

The power behind that voice made all the disciples tremble to the core. Without a doubt, the voice's owner had very profound cultivation. It wasn't something they could fight against.

The crowd opened the path for Rean, who was finally able to see who intervened on his behalf. ‘Hmm...? I don’t seem to remember that guy. Oh well, I’m now free, so that’s what matters.’

Rean then thanked the man nonetheless. “Thank you, sir. Do I know you?”

The disciples were taken aback when they heard it. How could Rean not know that person?

The old man also found it unexpected that Rean didn’t know who he was. “Perhaps that’s what makes you such an accomplished blacksmith. You don’t pay attention to anything else other than your forging skills,” the old man could not help but say. “I’m Grabol Pemal, the blacksmith responsible for the entire Blacksmith Hall.”

Rean nodded in response, telling him, “I see. Nice to meet you. Thank you for the help again. Now, I have some things to do, so I’ll take my leave.”

“Wait a moment,” Grabol said as he pointed at everyone waiting for him. “This chaos was caused by yourself, so you have to fix it first. I don’t want to have to come out to stop this kind of bullshit every time you appear.”

Rean had to admit Grabol was right. “Understood. In that case, I’ll have everyone here draw lots. That’s the only fair way to do this.”

However, Grabol had another idea. “Doesn’t matter how I see it. There are too many people. You won’t be able to attend all of them even if you have an entire year, and their numbers will only increase. With that being said, I need you to teach some blacksmiths of our Blacksmith Hall on how to forge your Element Gathering Equipment.”

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Chapter 1212: I'll Keep That in Mind

Hearing those words, the other blacksmith disciples in the area immediately offered their help.

“Let me learn it!”

"No, let me!"

"Me too!"

"I'll even pay you if you teach me!"

However, Rean immediately raised his hand, telling him, "Not gonna happen. This is my source of income. If I show everyone how to do it, how do you expect me to make money after that? There will be a lot of competition, and the price will plummet. I'm sorry, but I have no intention of revealing my methods."

Grabol then gave him a suggestion. "Why don't you sell the method, then? As you probably know, there are many of our elders trying to figure it out. They will eventually find out how to do it, and you won't get a single Divine Stone for that."

Rean laughed inside as he thought, 'Sure, if they came from modern Earth, then they might indeed find out how to do it. Hahaha!' Of course, he didn't show that on his face. "It's fine, Senior Grabol. If it happens, then it happens. Until that day, I will try to make as much profit as I can. I know that with the seniors' blacksmith level, this day will definitely come, but I think I can make a lot more until they find it by themselves than if I sell it straight away."

Grabol sighed but decided to not force it. He obviously knew who was backing Rean up, not to mention he wouldn't do anything shady even if Etherian wasn't there. "Sigh...whatever. Don't say I didn't warn you. I will also join one of them as I'm curious as to how your equipment can gather elements on their own, so I'll take my leave. Just make sure you get these people sorted before you leave." After saying his piece, Grabol left.

Nevertheless, his intervention was enough to at least give Rean some breathing space to talk with the rest of the disciples. "As I've mentioned before, we will draw lots. That way, everyone will have an equal chance of being selected. If you want to buy or sell your position after that, that's your problem."

Everyone nodded. Some of them had big backgrounds, so they were pretty sure they could get those positions from those who didn't have as many contacts. For example, the new disciples from outside countries.

There were a total of 378 disciples waiting there, and they were quickly set to have their equipment forged one after another. Only then did they let Rean leave, but not before asking, "When will you start forging the weapons?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "I'm not sure, but I'll let you know."

Obviously, the first people in the queue weren't happy, let alone the ones far away. However, before they could say anything, Rean cut them out. "I don't want to hear any complaints. Did you just see what happened? I spent eleven days forging weapons nonstop. One for Hura and another ten for the elders. During this time, I wasn't able to train, cultivate, study, or anything like that. There are more than 300 people here. Do you think I will spend an entire year only forging? You all know very well that the most important moment for a cultivator is the time when they're young. Every single day is extremely important, especially to people of our level of talent. I'm not here to work for you but to gather resources for myself."

With that, Rean turned around and left the vicinity. Sure enough, there wasn't a single person there that could blame Rean for what he was doing. They were all geniuses who had a lot invested in their future. How could they not know how important each day of their youth was?

Rean then went straight to the teleport formation building. He needed to go fetch Kentucky, after all. As for fear of someone following him, he didn't care about that. He simply used the same method as before and teleported somewhere far away first. After changing his appearance and making sure no one was watching him with his Divine Sense bending skill, he took another teleport formation before heading back to the Lukimira Sect.

While Rean was gone, Roan looked at Kihin, who seemed to still be looking for his own compatible star. He thought that the Demising Catacombs would open before Kihin was back. However, it turned out that Kihin opened his eyes again on that day.

"Oh! So you're finally back," Roan could not help but say, a little surprised. "Did you find your star? No, first of all, did you pass through the barrier?"

Kihin nodded, saying, "You were right. The solution was enough to break through the barrier when fused with the foreign Starlights. However, I kept moving everywhere on the other side of the barrier but couldn't find the star I was compatible with at all."

Roan had warned him about that. "It's like I told you, the sea of stars is just too big. I was just lucky to have been close to my own. First of all, we don't even know if everyone really has their own compatible star or if I'm just an exception."

Kihin knew that. Nevertheless, he couldn't help but feel disappointed. "If it doesn't work, I will have to use my own cultivation method. At the very least, now I know it works as I already used the solution myself."

Roan agreed with him on that. "It's not a bad thing. Now that you have already passed through the barrier, you won't need to do that again. You will appear in the exact same place when you enter the mental sea of stars. All the stars beyond the barrier have much better Starlight, so it's not a loss."

Kihin hadn't given up just yet, though. "I just came back because I felt my mind was becoming strained. Once I rest, I'll go back and continue my search."

"That's good and all," Roan told him. "However, don't focus too much on it. Don't forget that while you're looking for it, you aren't doing anything else. No cultivation, no training, nothing. You're still young, so you should carefully ponder as to how long you wish to continue the search."

Kihin couldn't help but comment, "Why do I feel like I'm talking with my grandfather or someone older?"

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Chapter 1213: Bring Kentucky

Well, Kihin wasn't wrong if one thought about Roan's real mental age. Of course, Roan wouldn't tell him that. "Anyways, I'll take my leave. I need to prepare to go to the Demising Catacombs, so find someone to watch over you when you decide to enter the sea of stars again."

Kihin sighed when he heard that but nodded in the end. "Alright, good luck out there. Oh, right! I told you I was going to let you look into one of my family's body cultivation techniques when your job was over."

Roan shook his head in response, telling him, "There's no need. The Starlight Body Cultivation Technique is already a payment much higher than anything else I could have asked for." However, it was then that

Roan thought about an idea. "In fact, there's something else you can do for me. Just pretend that I'm still within your residence, helping you with your technique. I'll change my appearance and then leave."

Kihin didn't mind that at all. He understood that Roan didn't want others to know that he was going to the Demising Catacombs. "Sure thing. This is a low price for your help in finding the compatible stars and the barrier." Kihin then got up before moving to a corner of the room. There, he drew a few seals in the air before they entered the wall.

Vup

Suddenly, part of the wall completely vanished, opening up a passage behind it. "Use this path to go out. No one else knows about it, so you don't need to be afraid of people knowing that you left."

Roan could tell that Kihin wasn't lying. "Thanks." Soon after, he passed through it before Kihin closed it behind. He walked for a few minutes in there, and sure enough, he arrived at an exit not too far away from the Inner Sect. 'Quite convenient.'

Meanwhile, the Sacred Land was preparing for the opening of the Demising Catacombs. Well, at least the disciples that used Dark Element or Yin Energy techniques were. There were a few who didn't have either of them but were still entering the place to gain experience or look for treasures. The Demising Catacombs wasn't the only place in the continent that the disciples liked to go in, though. With that being said, the majority obviously opted to stay out of it.

Roan, using a different appearance, arrived in Etherian's house a day later to talk exactly about that. However, the one who appeared was one of Etherian's subordinates instead, as Cassia held up Etherian in office work. "Ahem...Master Etherian told me that he has already made the preparations for you to go to the opening of the Demising Catacombs. No one knows that you're going, though. How you will keep your identities concealed or not will be up to you. Just come by the teleport formation building on the day of departure and join the group heading there."

Roan was obviously satisfied with the straightforwardness. "Alright. Do I need to do anything when the teleportations start?"

"No," the subordinate answered. "As long as you step on the formation, that is enough. The elders don't care as to who wants to go or who wants to stay as it's free for everyone in the Sacred Land to go. Of course, if someone asks you anything, it'll be up to you on what you will answer."

"Alright." Roan then asked one more thing. "I still have some things to talk about with Etherian. Let him know that I'll come and ask him once more after I'm back."

The subordinate nodded and then guided Roan out of the residence. Only then did Roan go back to his home.

One day before the departure, Rean returned to the Sacred Land. This time, he brought a big black and white Demon Bird with him. 'How is it, Kentucky? Can you feel the presence of any other Divine Demon Beast here?'

As mentioned before, Divine Demon Beasts could feel the bloodline power of other ones. That's how he knew that Celis was one of them as well as the other demon beast leaders from the Zasfins' planet.

However, Kentucky narrowed his eyes, telling them, "How can I say this... I can feel a presence, but it seems to be in a strange state. For example, the other side didn't notice my presence at all because of it."

Rean found it strange. "Weird...I wanted to see if we could ask a few questions about your race to the Sacred Land's Guardian Beast. If someone knew anything, it would be that being. Can you at least tell where it is?" Rean had always wanted to understand how Kentucky's egg appeared in Sunkan. For that, it was best to ask other Minokawas. However, his research into this topic didn't result in any findings.

Kentucky nodded as he pointed at the center of the Sacred Land, far in the distance. "It's definitely in the center of this giant floating island."

"In the center?" Rean shook his head. "There's no way we can go there. I'll have to ask Senior Etherian if he can allow us to visit the Sacred Land's Guardian Beast after we return from the Demising Catacombs."

Kentucky couldn't help but feel excited when he heard that. "So we 'e finally going out for some adventure again, huh? I was bored to death, having to cultivate every single day."

Rean snorted in response, telling him, "Weren't you the one who said you didn't want to do anything dangerous and preferred to stay with your beloved girls?"

Kentucky looked away after that. "Was there such a thing? How come I can't remember?"

"Hahaha!" Rean couldn't help but laugh. "Alright, alright. Now, come down and try not to talk. Use Divine Sense instead. Although some people should already know about you, I would rather not go around displaying that you can talk at your stage."

"Alright."

The Sacred Land obviously had a Beast Taming Hall, so Rean brought Kentucky there. There wasn't anything special in taming a demon beast at the same level as the cultivator in the Sacred Land, so no one paid much attention to Rean there before he left Kentucky to find Roan. The Demising Catacombs would open the next day.

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Chapter 1214: Roan's Love

It wasn't that hard for Rean to avoid attention this time, though. Although he used his token to enter the Sacred Land, he did that while also using a different appearance. It wasn't like everyone knew who he was either. Only those who wanted his equipment really knew more about him and his appearance. With that being said, even though the guys at the entrance of the Sacred Land saw who he was through his badge, but they didn't tell anyone as they simply didn't care.

Rean didn't go back to his home either. He knew that it would be filled with even more cultivators this time. A cultivator's lifespan was long enough, and he only distributed less than 400 forging tokens. Cultivators wouldn't mind waiting more than a year for something else. With that said, more cultivators who found out about the news later would definitely be waiting for him to get a position in the queue as well.

Instead, Rean found an empty place where he couldn't feel any Divine Sense with his bending skill and entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Rean and Roan were heading to the Demising Catacombs, that's true. But who said the both of them needed to enter it together? Rean decided to simply stay in the Dimensional Realm until Roan brought them inside.

Kentucky, on the other hand, couldn't do the same. Roan wanted to use him to fly away from the crowd when the barrier was lifted. Cultivators with their own demon beasts were nothing rare, after all.

The day quickly passed, and Roan joined the group of people in the Teleportation Hall while keeping up his different appearance. Because of the number of Yin Energy users around, the place felt quite chilly. There were many Evil Path cultivators, as well as Righteous Path ones.

As he looked around, he identified some of them. Hedoi was the first one, and he quickly recognized his team members, like Gala, for example. The Tenke Country's people seemed to be in mass there as well. As a country with mostly women, the disciples of their country who joined the Sacred Land obviously stuck together as Yin Energy users.

In fact, Roan quickly noticed that it wasn't just Tenke Country. Actually, there were many, many women there, waiting for the teleport to be made. 'A place filled with Yin Energy and Dark Element. Either user will find it an optimal area for training. I guess it makes sense that half of the people here are women.'

Kentucky seemed to notice that as well. 'So many beautiful sisters. How many of them will be able to resist my charm?' Kentucky then compressed himself like a small feathery ball. He wasn't fat anymore, but he truly looked very fluffy when he assumed that position.

Sure enough, he had always been a hit with the ladies. Quite a few of the females around couldn't help but want to pet and hug him, much to Roan's anger. Of course, most of them still held themselves back as Kentucky wasn't their demon beast.

'Stop messing around, idiot! Did you forget that I don't want to catch anyone's attention while entering the Demising Catacombs?' Roan complained.

'Oh, right!' Kentucky immediately stood up after that. Well, his form still attracted the females' attention, even when he wasn't trying.

Suddenly, a feminine voice appeared by Roan and Kentucky's side. "How much for him? State your price."

Roan looked at who asked the question and was taken aback. Before he could even answer, the girl was already hugging her face against Kentucky's feathers. One must remember that if Kentucky didn't want it, his bladelike feathers were just like any other fluffy feather. Naturally, they felt very good as it was one of Kentucky's special marks.

However, what caught Roan's attention was not that. Instead, it was because the person having the time of her life with Kentucky was none other than Liana. She was the leader of the Tenke Country participants during the recruitment. That and she was also known as the Pure Yin Body owner. Roan was curious about the Pure Yin Body as it was the first body constitution he had ever seen. Especially since it had the same properties as his own, Yin Energy Affinity. It's just that this wasn't exactly the best time for that to happen.

He wasn't the only one. Even Liana's country people hadn't seen that side of her before. 'To think she was this weak against cute beasts...' Well, most of them were women, so it wasn't like they couldn't understand what she was feeling. They, too, wanted to do the same but had held themselves back.

"Get out! He's not for sale," Roan said as he tried to pull Liana away from Kentucky. Of course, he also told Kentucky to do the same through Divine Sense. 'Harden your feathers into blades. If you do so, she will let go.'

Kentucky shook his head, though. 'How could I do such a thing against a beautiful girl like her? She just loves this god here, so she can't be blamed.'

Roan felt like giving Kentucky a kick. However, if he did that in front of all the girls admiring Kentucky's presence, he would have caused an even bigger headache for himself. 'I should have thought this could happen. Why didn't I put you in the Dimensional Realm beforehand...'

Roan then increased his physical strength, which finally pulled Liana away from the pervert bird. "Are you deaf? He's my demon bird. Now piss off."

Liana obviously got angry at that. "Bullshit! I won't accept it. Let's do it like this. I will arrange a Stage Seven Demon Beast to be given to you. It's a nice trade, right? After all, yours is only Stage Six. Now, give him to me, please!"

That was a stark contrast to the cold behavior that everyone knew Liana for. This Liana in front of them was more like a teenager filled with excitement. Was that how she really was?

Unsurprisingly, Roan declined. "Let alone Stage Seven, I wouldn't trade him even for a Stage Twenty. Now, back off!"

Kentucky was taken aback by Roan's words. 'I didn't know you loved me this much, Roan.'

Several veins popped out on Roan's head after that. Oh, how much he wanted to beat this perverted bird up.

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Chapter 1215: Understanding the Catacombs

Liana saw the anger on Roan's face and thought that it was because she was insisting on buying him. "So, you like this Demon Bird that much, huh? However, I can't give up! There has to be something that will convince you to part ways with it."

Roan's mouth twitched in response. Since when did he like this idiot bird? If anything, Roan wanted to kick this guy away right now. He was truly regretting bringing Kentucky into this journey.

Roan looked around, and all the attention was focused on him, Liana, and Kentucky. That truly went against what he wanted. After all, Liana was considered one of the big fishes heading into the Demising Catacombs this time around. Even Hedoi seemed to be slightly interested in him. Of course, because Roan changed his appearance, no one found out who he really was as of yet.

Roan could only keep trying to get rid of Liana like that. "I already sai—"

"Alright, that's enough." Suddenly, another voice interrupted their discussion. It immediately caught the attention of all participants there. That's because several elders of the Sacred Land began to enter the

Teleportation Hall. "Stop fighting over a Demon Beast. This is not time for that. If you still want it, then you can talk again after this event is over." The one who talked was Elder Tiramisu, an Evil Path cultivator. Most of the other elders were also the same or Yin Energy experts. Since the danger zone was related to this point, it made sense that they were the ones taking care of it.

Liana obviously didn't like it, but she did let Kentucky go. However, it was obvious that she hadn't given up just yet.

After that, Tiramisu looked at the formation masters in the room before asking, "Is the teleport formation ready? The participating countries should be waiting for us to open the danger zone already."

"Yes, elder." One of the formation masters there immediately confirmed. "We can send you over at any time."

"Good!" Tiramisu turned his attention to the disciples before saying, "All of you, on the teleport formation, now! We are leaving straight away."

Sure enough, all the disciples immediately followed Tiramisu's orders. Quite a few of them had their own demon beasts, but the teleport formation was more than big enough to fit everyone and still have space to spare. The teleport formation then activated soon after.

Vup!

With a flash of silver light, the Sacred Land's entourage disappeared from the Sacred Land.

The Demising Catacombs was located on the north side of the continent. However, that didn't mean that the further north one went, the colder it was. Such laws didn't apply in the Realm of Gods. If anything, the place was quite warm.

As soon as the disciples appeared on the other side of the teleport formation, they noticed the enormous wall in front of them. It went up to the skies and expanded to the sides as far as they could see. Without a doubt, that was the Demising Catacombs' protection formation that was only open for a month every year.

Other than that, the Sacred Land disciples noticed many, many more cultivators in the area. Only the Sacred Land could open the Demising Catacombs, so they were all waiting for them. The number of Evil Path and Yin Energy expert cultivators was truly enormous, though. The Sacred Land brought around 550 disciples, but they didn't count for even a single percent of the total number of participants.

That didn't intimidate Tiramisu and the other elders, though. Unless one wanted to have their background wiped out, no one would mess up with the Sacred Land's entourage. Well, at least not while they were outside the Demising Catacombs. "Listen up, brats. Once you enter the Demising Catacombs, anything is valid. Even if all countries focus on wiping you out, no one will say a thing. It has always been like this. Of course, you can also attack and kill anyone you want in there. It's quite the fun place," Tiramisu told them with a cold smile. An Evil Path cultivator through and through.

"You are all here for different issues. Some just want a high concentration of Yin Energy to cultivate some new skills. Others took several tasks in the Mission Hall that can only be accomplished in this place. Obviously, there are those who are here just for the pleasure of killing. There are also those who are here to steal items. After all, one of the fastest ways to make a profit is robbing other's corpses. Remember, all of this is 100% valid, and no one will try to seek revenge for you once the Demising Catacombs close."

"But I must remind you once more that this place will only be open for a month. That's because the Dark Element inside will start to corrupt your bodies to the point of no return if we allow you to stay longer than that. One more thing, there's no lack of danger in this place. The thing you should pay attention to is the Yin Ghosts, remnants of the souls of experts that died a long time ago. Every year, their numbers increase with the death of idiots like you lot. They feed on living being souls, so you better not underestimate how crazy they can be when they're out on the hunt."

"Last but not least, there is the yearly Sacred Land Prize of the Demising Catacombs. The strongest Yin Ghosts are able to form a Yin Ghost Core. Anyone who brings a Yin Ghost Core by the end will receive a hundred thousand Merit Points for each one. Of course, this prize only applies to Sacred Land disciples. We have nothing to do with the other countries participating in this thing. With that being said, you can also steal their Yin Ghost Cores if you feel like it, and so can they steal yours. After all, they also have their uses for the Yin Ghost Cores."

Many eyes lit up right there, especially the people from the Core Sector of the Sacred Land. After all, one hundred thousand Merit Points meant that they could buy two Rank Three Divine Stones!

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Chapter 1216: Absolute

Even Roan had to admit it interested him. He saw just how good Rank Three Divine Stones were back when he helped Kihin. Naturally, he wanted to have more of it. It didn't matter how many Rank Two Divine Stones one had. It couldn't compare to the cultivation speed one would get with a Rank Three alone.

Rean tried to sell his weapons for Rank Three Divine Stones. Unfortunately, not a single person wanted to pay using those stones. That's how important the Core Sector disciples and elders thought those stones to be.

Then again, it was quite unfortunate that Roan lost his interest as fast as he got it. The reason was simple, he wasn't a Core Sector disciple. Only Core Sector disciples could exchange their Merit Points for Rank Three Divine Stones. Inner and Outer Sectors could only get Rank Two. 'Joining the Core Sector would also be complicated as everyone there is at least in the Elemental Transformation Realm.' That was obviously still out of Rean and Roan's league. Perhaps, after they started cultivating the Starlight Technique, they would be able to jump another stage or two in combat power.

But at the moment, even Middle Stage Saints and perhaps even Initial Stage Saints would give the twins a run for their money, depending on their power. That's the Sacred Land for you. Also, let's not forget that the Huring Sacred Land was still just considered an insignificant continent's power hidden in some corner of the Realm of Gods.

Eventually, the Sacred Land's group arrived at the formation's entrance. All the other countries' participants and their demon beasts were waiting for it. Roan having Kentucky on his side didn't catch much attention... if one didn't consider the females from all sides wishing to hug the idiot bird.

Roan decided to ignore that for the moment and focused on the disciples from other countries. Roan had heard it from Gille before. Except for Huring Country, which was led by the Sacred Land, the other top countries wouldn't really send their strongest disciples to join it. Roan didn't take long to find Gille and the Klacks Country's entourage. Or, to be more specific, the Blood Path Sect that came from there. 'Sure enough, he also appeared this time around. Anyone would think that I would wait until I reached the Elemental Transformation Realm before coming to this place. However, he couldn't risk it and came together, even though he's the Blood Path Sect's leader. he wanted to see if I really wasn't in the Sacred Land's group.'

Roan was right. Gille wanted Roan's body way too much, and the Demising Catacombs was just the perfect place to get it. Whatever happened there, even Etherian couldn't complain. Of course, Roan's

appearance was completely different from his normal self. Also, because there was no need to identify oneself, no one other than Etherian and his subordinates knew that Roan had really come this time around.

Gille narrowed his eyes as he looked at the Sacred Land's disciples. He then took his chance to send Hedoi and his group a Divine Sense Message. 'Have you found any information on the Dark Element boy?'

Hedoi immediately nodded, responding, 'Yes, I had the Core Sector's workers keep an eye on him. He's working as a helper for Kihin, a descendant of the Sacred Land's big elders back in the Sacred Land.'

'A helper?!' Gille obviously knew what the job of a helper meant in the Sacred Land. They were nothing more than testing subjects. 'Why would he do such a thing? Fuck! What if his body and Dark Element Affinity get crippled? His body would be of no use anymore after that.'

Hedoi shook his head, telling him, 'That's something we could not intervene with, Sect Master. We can't make any moves while we're in the Sacred Land. Especially in the Core Sector.'

Gille obviously knew that. 'Are you sure he stayed back in the Sacred Land?'

Hedoi pondered a bit before saying. 'At the very least, the eyes I put on him said that he had never left Kihin's house during the last two months. I also had my subordinates keep an eye on his house in the Inner Sector, but there wasn't a single shadow getting close to the place either.'

Gille then looked at the other Sacred Land disciples. There were indeed a lot of known faces, but there were some he didn't know anything about either. Let alone the Sacred Land, even the other countries had many participants who hid their real appearances. This was a very good danger zone for Evil Path cultivators to train, after all. Many of them had some grudges with people they shouldn't have and didn't want to be identified.

However, Gille remembered one thing. 'He was in the Peak Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. As far as I can see, there are only 36 people within the Sacred Land's entourage that have such cultivation. If he's between those 36, then this might be a good chance. But then again, I would have to use my best disciples here to go after every single one of them, and none of them might be that Dark Element brat. If I did that, it would jeopardize their training.'

Thanks to Etherian, all people knew was that Roan came from Lukimira Sect. The existence of Kentucky, the talking bird, was kept under wraps. After all, it was directly related to the fact that the twins came from the Mortal Realm, so he had to be careful. Gille couldn't relate Roan to the Demon Bird exactly because of that. He didn't know the twins had a Demon Bird back then.

Nevertheless, Gille felt like he might be onto something here. In the end, he looked by his side, where the top disciples from his country were gathered. 'Granto, Clincks, Erbasxe, Kluo, Rimari, I want the five of you to join your forces with our Blood Path Sect members in the Sacred Land. Pay attention to those 36 Peak Soul Transformation Realm cultivators of the Sacred Land. I want you to check on them. If it turns out that any of them has a Dark Element Affinity, you must capture him and bring him back to me. Understood?'

They were taken aback by that order, and none of them were happy with it either. After all, they didn't want to waste their time with some weaklings. Unfortunately for them, the Sect Master's orders were absolute.

'Yes, Sect Master.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1217: Are you even asking?

Tiramisu didn't know anything about that. Even if Tiramisu did, he wouldn't lift a finger as long as they didn't act outside the Danger Zone. There was no lack of people in a similar situation in this place, after all. "I believe all of you are ready, so be prepared to enter the Demising Catacombs. Remember, no one at the Transition Realm or above is allowed to enter. If you do, not only will the formation protecting this place stop your advance, I'll get rid of you and your group myself."

He then took out a black token and poured his Divine Energy into it. The token then began to float as it emanated black energy before it zoomed towards the entrance of the Danger Zone. However, there was no impact. Instead, the token hit the barrier as if it had hit the surface of a calm lake. Some ripples appeared on the point of contact before the token disappeared inside.

Shua!

Suddenly, an enormous hole appeared where the token hit before, forming a several-kilometer-long entrance into the Demising Catacombs. The place felt quite warm a second ago. However, when the Danger Zone was opened, a huge wave of Yin Energy came from inside. The temperature immediately plummeted, although no ice was created.

Uuuggghhhhhh...

Wraaaaaa...

Vrooooo...

Following that, many lesser ghosts began to pour outside the entrance. However, the moment they stepped outside, some kind of energy was released from the formation itself, striking their heads. In an instant, those ghosts were wiped out from existence.

The ghosts inside didn't care, though. First of all, they gathered here because they could feel the life force of the cultivators gathering outside. Otherwise, there wouldn't be this many. They kept coming out of the hole, trying to capture the cultivators from several different races. Unfortunately for them, every single one of them was killed without exceptions. None of them could resist the formation's might.

Tiramisu ignored that before looking back at all the participants and used his Divine Energy to make his voice travel for many kilometers. "What the hell are you all waiting for? You only have one month to make use of this place, so go ahead alre-"

Swoosh!

Suddenly, someone passed by Tiramisu's body, flying at top speed before he could even finish his words. Of course, with his cultivation, he had no trouble seeing who it was. It was a duo. One of them was a Black and White Demon Bird, and the other was a cultivator who seemed to be from his Sacred Land. Naturally, it was Roan and Kentucky! Roan didn't like to waste time to start with. That's why he was the first one to act there.

Tiramisu couldn't help but faintly smile after that, telling the others, "What about the rest of you? Are you going to let a Peak Stage Soul Transformation and an Initial Stage Saint Realm cultivator show that they have more courage than the rest of you? They just flew straight inside, you see? You guys disgust me!"

Tiramisu's words stoked the flames on those cultivators below before they all soon charged into the formation. Those who had flying demon beasts did the same thing as Roan and flew. Others had land demon beasts and moved through the ground. Of course, the majority didn't have demon beasts, so they just went ahead by foot.

However, it didn't matter if one was in the air or on the ground. All Yin Ghosts could fly as they didn't really have bodies, so both types were assaulted by them.

The good thing was that these were all lesser ghosts from the outskirts of the Demising Catacombs. None of them were as strong as the cultivators, so their groups were quickly massacred. Not too long after, the cultivators and demon beasts began to split in many different directions as they didn't want to stay close to people they didn't know.

Back on Roan's side, he didn't pay attention to any of that as he flew with Kentucky. However, he noticed something really, really strange with Tiramisu's words a few minutes later. 'A Peak Stage Soul Transformation and... an Initial Stage Saint flew inside?!

Kentucky would always have equivalent cultivation to Roan's own. This meant that Kentucky's Peak Stage Six level was equivalent to the Peak Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. First of all, even if Kentucky was an Initial Stage Seven Demon Beast, Tiramisu wouldn't have said Initial Stage Saint. He would have used Initial Stage Seven for sure. That meant...

Roan then used his Divine Sense to check Kentucky's body when suddenly, his mouth twitched in annoyance. Holding onto Kentucky's leg, a certain Pure Yin Body owner held tightly to not fall. "It's fucking you again!"

Sure enough, it was Liana who reacted fast enough to hold Kentucky's leg just as he took flight. "Of course, it was me! Do you think I would let you bring this poor guy inside this place without doing anything? What if he dies because of you?! I won't let that happen. I want him!"

Roan felt like crying already. ‘Kentucky, why the hell are you not shaking her off? You should know that she won’t suffer even a scratch with her cultivation even if she falls from this altitude, right? First of all, what if she died because of it? Everyone here is an enemy, idiot! Get rid of her already!’

Kentucky sighed with an emotional expression after hearing that, telling Roan in response, ‘I can’t betray my fan’s feelings, sorry.’

Eventually, Roan snapped.

Bang!

Ouch!

He smacked Kentucky’s head. Kentucky did have a huge defense capability, but Roan still knew how to make it hurt. “Why did you hit me?!”

“Are you even asking? We didn’t come here for you to entertain the female cultivators!”

“Still, I could have just dropped her sometime later when we reached a safer place!”

“Safer place?! We shouldn’t be helping her to start with!”

“But she loves me!”

“And why should I care?!”

This time... they didn’t use Divine Sense to talk, so Liana heard every single complaint from Kentucky.
“It...it can talk?!”

Only then did Roan and Kentucky realize that they fucked up.

Death... and me

Chapter 1218: Who else?

Kentucky pondered over it for a bit before...

“Ahem...”

Chick?

Roan almost vomited blood after seeing what Kentucky was doing. “Who the hell do you think are you convincing with that kind of act?”

“Shut up!” Kentucky replied. “At least I’m trying. It’s your fault that I ended up getting angry and talked in the first place.”

Bang!

Ouch!

Roan hit Kentucky’s head once again. “My fault, your ass! You shouldn’t have let her come in the first place.”

Kentucky then looked below his chest while flying to look at Liana. Soon, he asked her, “Errr... can you keep it a secret? I’ll very much appreciate it.”

Roan didn’t know what to say. There was no way Liana would keep it a secret. After all, demon beasts shouldn’t be able to talk before reaching the Transition Realm. In a small city like Cosec, it didn’t mean much. However, for cultivators in the Sacred Land, that was another story.

However, it seemed like Liana was even more excited now. “Yes, my precious! I’ll do anything you want. I don’t mind even signing a Soul Binding Contract.”

Roan didn't know whether she was crazy or an idiot. 'How can this perverted bird's charm be so powerful against females?'

However, Liana didn't stop there. "In exchange, leave this idiot hitting your head behind and come home with me! I promise I will love you very much. No one will ever know that you can talk before you reach the Transition Realm."

"That does sound like a nice idea," Kentucky could not help but say.

Roan couldn't even get angry anymore. This conversation had already reached a realm of foolishness that he refused to pour more of his emotions into.

It was then that a new voice appeared from behind Roan. "Oh, why don't we bring her with us? Did you know? Any female that falls in love with Kentucky has never been a bad person."

How could Roan not know who it was? Obviously, Rean decided to leave the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm exactly at this moment. "You're doing this on purpose, right?"

Rean nodded shamelessly. "Obviously."

Liana, on the other hand, had a shocked expression on her face. She had been watching Roan with her Divine Sense. After all, Roan hadn't deployed the Divine Sense bending skill yet. She then saw how Rean appeared out of thin air. "Wh-where did you come from? No, wait! I know you. You're that twin from the recruitment!"

Rean waved his hand in response, telling her, "Don't mind the small details. So, how is it? Do you wanna traverse the Demising Catacombs with us? Roan is quite interested in your Pure Yin Body." Rean then looked at Roan and asked, "Isn't that right?"

Roan simply didn't care anymore. "Whatever. If something goes wrong, don't expect me to jump in to save her skin."

Kentucky was happy to hear that. "Did you hear that? You can also follow us around this time. Don't worry! I, the great Kentucky, will protect you if things get awry. I'm very resistant, just so you know."

"Wait... Rean... Roan...? Then... the guy beside Rean is his brother? You changed your appearance!"

"Obviously," Roan didn't mind confirming it. "Rean, change yours as well. Did you forget we don't want anyone knowing we're here?"

Rean immediately used his Light Element to change his body structure. Following that, he took one of the alchemical liquids to dye his hair. "Done. However, there's no need to worry. I used my Light and Divine Sense bending skill around us as soon as I stepped outside. No one should be able to see us anymore."

Rean was right. Gille had given the order for his disciples to follow those Soul Transformation Realm cultivators. Naturally, they had someone tailing Roan from behind. However, the guy saw how Roan, Liana, and Kentucky suddenly disappeared without a trace. Neither his Divine Sense nor his eyes could see where the Demon Bird was located anymore.

However, he didn't feel sad about that. After all, he did get information on the twins before entering it. 'Sect Master did say the target had a skill that could conceal him from Divine Sense and the naked eye. Of course, there's still a very big chance that the guy is someone else with similar skills. After all, concealment skills aren't anything rare when you talk about the Sacred Land's disciples.'

Instead of continuing to move in the direction he last saw Roan's group, he immediately turned around and left. 'I better warn the others that I might have found the target. If it's really the target, then his group is definitely looking for the Life's Nemesis Rocks. In that case, I know where they're going.'

Kentucky suddenly did a flip in midair, throwing Liana high up in the skies. Soon after, he positioned himself right under her before she fell on his back. Rean and Roan were already expecting that, so they opened space for the girl.

Of course, Liana had her guard high up. She saw the twins' power during the recruitment and knew that their cultivation didn't display what they were truly capable of. She wouldn't be concerned if it was that unknown guy she first talked to, but now that she knew the guy was Roan, who defeated her in the Dream City, it was different. "What will you do?"

Roan snorted in response, seeing her expression. "If I wanted to get rid of you, I wouldn't let you land on Kentucky's back. Are you sure you're the leading cultivator of Tenke Country in the last recruitment? How can you throw yourself into danger like this?"

Liana then showed a proud expression before pointing at Kentucky under her. "I love cute and fluffy things, and... errr... Kentucky... is by far the cutest and fluffiest I've seen until today. He's perfect! It's definitely a thing worth risking my life for."

Kentucky couldn't help but say in response, "Oh~ you make me blush." He then told Roan, "See? That's the kind of treatment you should give me. Why don't you learn a little bit from her?"

Roan completely ignored Kentucky's words, though. "I guess idiots can attract each other. Yes, that must be the case. Don't I have three of them right here? It's definitely destiny."

Rean obviously noticed the addition. "Are you adding me to the mix?"

"Who else?" Roan said in response as if he was just stating something factual.

Death... and me

Chapter 1219: Where are we going?

Rean decided to ignore Roan's words and focused back on Liana. "So, as I said, any woman who loves Kentucky is usually a good person. Are you a good person?"

Liana had a weird expression on her face. What kind of question was that? If she said yes, would they simply believe it? No one would be idiotic enough to do so. "Listen, I just want your Demon Bird, okay? Tell me what price you need me to offer to give him to me."

However, this time, it was Kentucky who answered. "I'm sorry, lady. However, this Demon Bird here is everyone's Demon Bird. I can't give everything to just a single fan of mine. Otherwise, the others will feel it's unfair."

Roan couldn't help but think that Kentucky now had shit for brains.

Surprisingly though, Liana didn't seem to mind how Kentucky thought so highly of himself. "There are a lot of people from the country I came from. Don't worry, I won't keep you all for myself. However, I can definitely provide you a lot more than the twins here can. You all came from a small country, after all."

Rean shook his head in response, saying, "It has nothing to do with who has more resources. Kentucky can't be separated from us, even if he wanted to." Well, that wasn't entirely true. However, Kentucky being around was definitely much better than not. Rean just put it that way to see if Liana would give up.

Liana didn't believe it, of course. "That's just an excuse. What? Did you sign a Soul Binding Contract, saying that you must always be together? I highly doubt so."

Roan wasn't interested in that anymore, so he changed the topic. "I've been wanting to check this Pure Yin Body of yours. As you already know, I have Dark Element Affinity, so I can also manipulate Yin Energy a lot easier than others."

Sister Orb immediately intervened there. [Idiot. No one can be better than you in Yin Energy Manipulation. At most, they would be able to match your proficiency. I told you that already.]

'Shut up. I won't believe you that easily,' Roan said to Sister Orb. Of course, Liana couldn't hear any of that.

Liana could see that she wouldn't be able to acquire Kentucky now, so she decided to go with the flow. "That's easy to prove. The amount of Yin Energy one can gather in a given time can also be considered part of one's talent in this aspect. Let's just set a ten-second marker and start to gather Yin Energy. Both you and I are very sensitive to Yin Energy, so it's easy for us to tell who won." Liana had to admit she was curious as well. After all, it wasn't every day one would find a Dark Element Affinity cultivator.

Roan pondered in silence a bit and had to admit it was true. "Alright, let's do as you say."

Kentucky and Rean immediately paid attention to that. How could they not watch the show? Also, they wished Roan would lose just so that they could make fun of him.

Rean immediately appeared between them before raising his hand. "Good! Pay attention to my hand. Once I drop it, you shall start gathering Yin Energy!"

"Why should we follow your call?" Liana asked.

Rean smiled in response. "Oh, come on. Are you afraid that I'll give my brother an advantage? Don't worry, I hate him enough to do the exact opposite."

Liana was taken aback. Hate him? Now that she thought about it, those two didn't seem to have the best harmony between siblings out there. "Fine, we will do as you say."

Rean nodded in response as he prepared to give the signal. "Ready... go!"

Immediately, Roan and Liana began to gather the surrounding Yin Energy. The Demising Catacombs just so happened to be the perfect place as the concentration here was many times higher than a normal environment. There would be so much Yin Energy gathered by those two that it would be easy to decide who was the winner.

Roan and Liana noticed as the concentration of Yin Energy around their bodies increased at a very fast pace. Roan had to admit she was different from others. Until now, everyone he had seen couldn't compare to what she was doing, even the likes of Hedoi and company.

Liana was also shocked by the amount of Yin Energy heading in Roan's direction. Because both of them were very close to each other, they would obviously end up robbing the other of the Yin Energy in their surroundings. She could see that Roan was taking a lot of the Yin Energy from her, just like she did from him.

However, that balance didn't last long. Sister Orb wasn't joking when she said that Roan was the epitome of Dark Element and Yin Energy. Others at his level could never do better than him. At most, they could match his proficiency as long as both sides used the same methods.

"Time's up!"

Gasp!

Liana could finally breathe again. In the battle just now, she truly had to go all out to confront Roan that she didn't think about anything else. Unfortunately... "It-it's your victory."

Roan nodded, not trying to deny that fact. If the amount of Yin Energy Roan obtained was 100%, then Liana got around 90%. Both Roan and Liana could tell that.

[See? I told you.] Sister Orb reminded Roan.

'I'm still not 100% sure that it's the case, but it seems likely.' Roan wouldn't get ahead of himself, though.

Liana then sat on Kentucky's back with a sad expression. "I was planning to use this victory as an excuse to take Kentucky for myself. Seems like it didn't go well. No, worse than that, I can't believe someone below myself in cultivation can have higher Yin Energy Aptitude."

Roan shook his head, saying, "I also did everything I could just now. The fact you were just one-tenth behind me is proof of your abilities. You can still train to get as good as I am."

Rean was surprised to hear that, telling Liana, "Roan rarely compliments anyone, so it means a lot when the compliment comes from him. You should feel proud of yourself."

Liana bitterly smiled before deciding to change the topic. Since she had already lost, there was no point in denying the truth. "Anyway, since you're dragging me together with you three, where are we going?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1220: You can have them

Roan faintly smiled when he heard that. "Oh! So we are dragging you, huh? Very well! Kentucky, go down. She wants to leave."

"Wait, wait, wait!" Liana immediately changed her choice of words. "I'm not being dragged along! I'm not being dragged along at all! I'm going with you out of my own volition, alright?!"

Rean still found that behavior of Liana weird. She had always acted so cold until she saw Kentucky. "Is this the real you, or do you only act like that in front of things you like?"

"This..." A rare redness appeared on Liana's face as she replied, "Acting cold is how I really am. I've never acted like this before. If not because of this beautiful Demon Bird, I wouldn't have gone out of my way. It's all your fault, so give him to me as an apology!"

"Dream on," Roan said without even thinking. "Anyways, you might give up on coming with us once you find out our destination. We're entering the core region of the Demising Catacombs to look for Life's Nemesis Rocks. You should be able to guess why I need it."

Liana immediately understood the danger she was getting into. Of course, she also understood why Roan needed those things. "The catalyst for breaking through to the Elemental Transformation Realm. However, you should really not go there right now. You guys are just too weak. Did you know that even Yin Ghosts as strong as those at the Transition Realm can be found there? Concealment techniques are useless as they can feel living beings' life force."

Roan nodded in response, saying, "We know. However, it'll be a lot more dangerous if I wait until I reach the peak of the Saint Realm. You saw how Gille wanted me so badly in the Sacred Land Recruitment, right? I'm going there right now exactly because he wouldn't think that I'm going into that place with this cultivation of mine."

"That's... a very bold move," Liana could not help but say.

Rean didn't seem too worried, though. "It's fine, it's fine! Although ghosts can also fly, they can't see us at the moment. They don't stay high in the skies if there's nothing there for them either. We can simply keep flying at a high altitude until we get to the core region. Then we can use the second detection method to find the Life's Nemesis Rocks before going down to gather them."

"Fly there?" Liana couldn't help but ask, "You do know that the Life's Nemesis Rocks can only be found inside the catacombs itself, right? You won't find a single one outside."

Rean's smile disappeared almost instantly. "Is that true?!"

Roan answered in Liana's place. "It is. So you're going there with me, and you didn't even know this much? We brought Kentucky so that we could reach the catacombs ahead of anyone else. However, we will have to press forward by foot once we're there."

Roan then looked at Liana one last time, warning her once more, "This is your last chance. You should give up right now while the ghosts below are weak. You can definitely make your way back to your country members on your own from here."

Liana shook her head after hearing that. She was too worried that Kentucky might die there. "I'm going. I'm still not giving up on getting Kentucky for myself. Who knows? Perhaps the two of you will die, and I can get him for myself." Liana then faintly smiled. "Perhaps I'll kill you two myself to guarantee that's going to happen."

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky immediately shook their heads in unison.

"You won't do it."

"You definitely won't do it."

"You definitely won't do it for sure."

Liana was taken aback by their words. Where exactly did all their confidence in her character come from? 'Is it truly just because I like this Demon Bird?'

"Ahem... by the way, how come you can talk, Kentucky? Don't worry, I won't tell anyone."

Kentucky didn't answer, though. He left it for Rean and Roan to come up with some excuse.

Well, Rean simply used the same excuse he had been using up till now. "This thing about demon beasts not talking until the Transition Realm is not the same from where we came. We came from a place

called Turin Region after being caught by a teleport formation trap. There, all demon beasts are able to talk after they reach Stage Six. However, we don't know where it's located from here."

That was general knowledge, and it was also used by Etherian since people in Lukimira Sect, and Cosec City had already accepted that. No one could confirm whether it was true or not since no one could tell which were all the regions in existence in the Realm of Gods. At the very least, no one in Huring Continent and the continents around could.

"Is there such a thing?" Liana couldn't tell if it was true or not, but she did hear something like that from her elders, who investigated the twins. "This is really annoying. I wish I was born there if I could have a demon beast like Kentucky at Stage Six."

Kentucky then asked something else, "By the way, I'm basically flying forward, following the flow of Yin Energy. I can only tell from which side Yin Energy concentration is higher. Am I heading in the right direction?"

Liana and Roan nodded simultaneously. They both had researched this place through the records in the Sacred Land. "You are. Just keep flying in this direction, and we will eventually arrive there. However..."

"However what?" Rean could not help but ask.

"The catacombs were created in a way that they change shape every time. Getting there is the easy part. However, once inside, we won't be able to tell right from left," Roan explained.

Liana agreed with Roan. "That's what I heard as well."

Kentucky then asked Liana something else. "It seems like you weren't heading there at first, right? Why did you come to the Demising Catacombs?"

Liana didn't see anything wrong in telling the truth. "Mission Hall tasks. There were many tasks there that involved the Demising Catacombs. In my case, I came to look for Yin Flowers. They're both good for my cultivation and to exchange for Merit Points in the Mission Hall, as I mentioned. It's just that you don't need to head to the catacombs to get them."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Well, if we find any there, you can have them."