Death 1231

Death... and me

Chapter 1231: The Gathering

Liana came back to herself right after, redder than she had ever been. "Yo-you! What have you done?!"

Rean looked back at her with a puzzled expression. "Isn't that obvious? I changed your appearance. Oh, right! You're concerned that your appearance has changed forever. Don't worry. The effect only lasts a few hours. Your body will come back to exactly what it was."

Following that, Rean and Roan did exactly the same thing, and Liana saw how their appearances changed completely. Just like Liana, it wasn't just their faces. Their height was also affected.

Rean then looked back at Liana and said, "See? It's that simple. Here, take this as well." Rean then threw a bottle with an alchemical dye to her. "Because of my ability, your hair has changed to a white color. If you don't like that color, you can dye it with another color. Don't worry. The dye is also temporary."

Liana felt like crying after that. "That's not what I'm talking about!"

Rean obviously knew exactly what she was talking about, but he still pretended not to understand anything. "It's not that? Did you not like the new appearance I gave you? Alright, let me change it once more." Rean extended his hand, trying to touch Liana's shoulder once more.

However, Liana immediately jumped back as if Rean was infected by some plague. She didn't want him to touch her at all. "Don't touch me! This appearance is fine. There's no need to change anymore."

Rean nodded. "Sure... if you say so. Then go ahead. What's the problem? If you don't tell me, I can't possibly help you." Rean was having the time of his life, teasing Liana. It had been a long time since he had been like this. Of course, none of that appeared on his face.

"I..." Seeing that Rean was 'oblivious' to her predicament, Liana couldn't bring herself to tell him that he just made her orgasm right there and then. In fact, even she wasn't very familiar with that feeling since it was a first for her. In the Tenke Kingdom, women valued their virginity a lot. It was very normal for a woman like Liana, even after her thirties, to not have such an experience before. "It's nothing. I was just caught by surprise by your actions... that's all."

Roan didn't seem to have the patience to keep listening to those two. Although he knew what was happening, he decided to end it there. "Alright, enough bullshit." He then took two sets of clothes and passed one to Rean, telling him, "Change your clothes since we can still be identified by our original ones."

He also told Liana, "I have clothes for women as well. If you don't have a spare one, I can give you a set. Your Tenke Kingdom clothes are very easy to recognize, after all."

Liana was taken aback. "Why would you have women's clothes with you?"

Rean sighed in response, saying, "Roan and I were already in a relationship before we got teleported here. The clothes are from our girls."

"This..." Liana felt like she stepped on a landmine and immediately changed the topic. "Oh, right! Since the people are gathering there, there are most likely people from my Tenke Kingdom. We could get their help as they definitely aren't afraid of people of the Blood Path Sect. In fact, we should find many people from our Sacred Land as well."

Rean shrugged his shoulders while shaking his head, obviously finding that a terrible idea.

Roan also snorted in response. "Hmph! You truly are a naive girl. It seems like you have been kept in a bubble all this time because of this Pure Yin Body of yours.

Liana was obviously surprised to hear that. "Why would you say that?"

Roan then explained, "Most of the people who came with us are Evil Path cultivators. They definitely wouldn't risk their lives to help us, even if we're from the same Sacred Land. Let's not even consider that many of them have connections with the Blood Path Sect. Are you sure you want to bring the women and few men of your Tenke Kingdom into this mess? You might even have a whole bunch of Evil Path cultivators attack your Tenke Kingdom's people at once. Are you fine with being the one responsible for their possible death?"

"I..." Liana didn't know what to say. Indeed, after everyone saw her enter the danger zone with Roan and Kentucky, she obviously became a target as well. Her country people would definitely help protect her, but Roan was right that they would most likely die because of that. "I'll think things more thoroughly in the future."

Roan nodded, satisfied. "I said it before. You sure have potential, not only talent. The fact you can recognize that you were wrong and accept it this quickly shows that you are at least better than most of those proud idiots."

Liana felt somewhat embarrassed as she remembered Rean's words. 'That's Roan's way of being gentle... Indeed, there really is a considerate person behind that frozen face.'

Roan didn't know what Liana was thinking, nor did he care. "Alright, let's go."

Rean immediately deactivated his Light and Divine Sense bending skill, revealing their presence. Liana was not taller. She kept her white hair and white eyes. Rean and Roan also changed appearances and even recolored their hair into some other colors. They were totally different people from what others knew back in the entrance of the Demising Catacombs.

It didn't take long for their group to arrive at the place where everyone was gathering. Each group was keeping its distance from the other, obviously on guard in the off chance someone else attacked. Rean's group didn't join any of the others, though. In fact, they could be said to be one of the weakest groups there since all three were Initial Stage Saints.

Roan immediately identified two of the people he had seen on Gille's side. One was Granto, and the other was the same guy they hid from, Kluo. Last but not least, Hedoi was there as well.

Death... and me

Chapter 1232: A Test

Their appearance did attract the attention of all the other groups. After all, Rean's group could be said to be one of the weakest there since they were all in the Initial Stage of the Saint Realm. Naturally, Granto's group saw their arrival as well.

However, unlike the others, Granto narrowed his eyes. He definitely hadn't seen any of those people before. Also, none of them were at the peak of the Soul Transformation Realm, so they weren't his targets. His targets were supposed to be a duo. On top of that, he wasn't even sure if they were the people Gille was looking for. Not only were there three members in that group but the Demon Bird he saw Liana and Roan flying with was nowhere to be seen. Everything told him that this was not the group he and his group were looking for. Nevertheless, his instincts felt that something was off.

Suddenly, he extended his hand before some blood appeared out of nowhere. Right after, that blood shot in Rean's group, spreading like needles. Granto was at the Peak Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm. Even though that was just some trivial thing for him, the attack power behind it was enormous for a group like Rean's.

Rean and Roan were shocked that they were suddenly attacked and immediately took their weapons out to retaliate. However... Roan didn't bring out his scythe. Instead, it was a sword that wasn't his old White Star, but just a normal Water Element Gathering Sword from Rean.

Rean did the same thing, bringing out a Fire Element Gathering Sword.

Water and Fire Elements gathered around them as they counter-attacked Granto's blood needles.

'Water Sword Refraction!'

'Fire Blade Wall!'

Liana wasn't any slower either, but she didn't use a weapon. Instead, she simply used a Water Skill.

'Reverse Torrent!'

Clang, clang, clang, clang...

Blob, blob, blob...

The blood needles hit their skills one after another. The power of Granto's cultivation, however, forced Rean's group back several times, and they even got a few light injuries from it. In the end, the difference in cultivation was just too high. Fortunately, they were able to defend against Granto's attack.

Soon after, Rean, Roan, and Liana put their hand over their spatial rings as they looked at Granto. Their expressions obviously showed that they wouldn't just die for nothing.

However, Granto snorted and looked away. He knew very well that many people here had some life-saving treasures, so even he had to be careful. Besides, what he did now was simply a test. 'It seems like I'm imagining things,' he thought. 'Sect Master said that the target uses Dark Element and is at the Peak Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. Obviously, none of those three match the description in any way.'

That wasn't the only reason Granto stopped his attack, though. He didn't think he was the only strong person in this place. There were a few people from other countries in this place that could match his strength, including those from Huring Sacred Land itself. Until now, everyone was minding their own business. However, when he made his move, he also put the others in a bad mood. It was obvious that he had messed up the untold rule of remaining silent. If he continued to attack Rean's group, it might cause an unnecessary battle to break out.

Seeing that Granto and his group didn't seem to want to make more moves, Rean, Roan, and Liana sighed in relief. They didn't ask why Granto attacked them, though, as Roan had already expected such a thing to happen. No, to be more specific, Roan thought that it was just a possibility. That's why they didn't use their real weapons. Roan was very good with Water Element, and Rean wasn't any worse with Fire. They had learned a lot of attacks with those elements, although they rarely ever needed to use them. In Rean's case, he used a combination of Light and Fire skills, but he only used Fire this time. That was all so that their identities wouldn't be found.

'Phew... in the end, we were really tested,' Rean could not help but say.

Roan nodded in response. 'That was just a possibility, but we had to be careful. Fortunately, those guys from the Blood Path Sect shouldn't have any doubts about us anymore now that they saw our reactions.'

Liana was still somewhat nervous. 'Even though that could have happened, feeling the cultivation difference really frightened me.'

Rean then looked ahead and finally understood why everyone was waiting in this place. 'What's that gate?'

Roan and Liana also saw the same thing. The gate was enormous and was obviously sealed by some kind of Dark Energy. Roan tried to sense the gate and was surprised by what he found. 'Oh-ho... that gate is

made of Life's Nemesis Rock.'

'What?!' Rean and Liana were shocked to hear that. 'How many breakthroughs would you be able to

attempt with that many Life's Nemesis Rocks?'

Roan had the same question. There were definitely enough stones for him to use as a catalyst many

times over. 'I thought Life's Nemesis Rocks were a lot rarer than that. At least that's what the jade slips I got access to told me. I don't remember reading anything in the records of the Sacred Land, talking

about an enormous gate of Life's Nemesis Rocks.'

Liana agreed with Roan. 'Same here. I did read everything I could about the Demising Catacombs before

coming over, but there was no information about it.'

Sister Orb's voice then echoed in Rean and Roan's minds. [Forget about taking the gate away with you.

That thing is protected by a formation of a very high level. That's also why no one here seems to be

making a move.]

Rean and Roan nodded before they looked at the groups around them. Although most of the cultivators

were from the Evil Path, there were cultivators of the Righteous Path too. Liana then took the opportunity to act. 'There is a group of my Tenke Kingdom here as well. I'll ask my friend about what's

happening here. Don't worry, I'll make sure she won't reveal who I am.'

Rean and Roan nodded after hearing that. That was a very convenient thing.

Death... and me

Chapter 1233: Better Be Good

Liana then used her Divine Sense to send a message to an older woman called Tiffany. She was also someone who joined the Sacred Land, but she preferred to gather with her Tenke Kingdom people during this excursion instead of the Sacred Land's people. 'Tiffany, it's me. Liana.'

Tiffany's expression changed for a moment, but she quickly recovered before she glanced at Liana in the distance. 'Liana! Where the hell have you been?! Do you know how crazy Elder Gamala turned when she saw you jump on that Demon Bird?! She basically ordered all of us to come after you, trying to find where you went. Quick, come here. I'll protect you until we leave this place.'

Liana shook her head, though. 'Sorry, Tiffany. I can't do that. If I join your group right now, you will most likely become a target for those people from the Blood Path Sect. They seemed to be looking for me.'

'What?!' Tiffany's expression went cold after hearing that. 'They dare?! Don't worry, you can come with us. Hmph! I just want to see how they will catch you!'

Liana shook her head and then explained what had happened so far. Only then did Tiffany understand why Liana was better off staying away from her group. 'I see... Indeed, if the Evil Path cultivators suddenly ally to take us out, that will be very troublesome. I want nothing more than to break Roan's neck right now. However, it wasn't his fault that you got into his mess, so I guess I can't blame him. We'll need to fix your weakness to cute things later, so you better be prepared.'

'Yes. Sorry, Tiffany.' Liana couldn't help but drop her head after hearing that. In any case, she contacted Tiffany for a reason. 'Tiffany, what's happening here? Why is everyone gathering in front of this gate? I haven't heard anything about a gate made of Life's Nemesis Rocks before.'

Tiffany shook her head in response. 'We don't know. Just like everyone else, we were unable to pass through this gate. We want to know what's on the other side, but it's impossible to get through.'

'Then why are you waiting here? Shouldn't you explore other places to finish your tasks from the Mission Hall?' Liana asked soon after.

Tiffany shook her head again. 'Can't you see this is an opportunity? I've gathered some information with the other Righteous Path cultivators here. However, they also have no idea as to what this place is. It doesn't seem to be different for the Evil Path cultivators either. No one here wants to give this up, even if we fail in our objectives.'

Tiffany then warned Liana, 'You should not stay here. Since no one knows who you are, take those twins with you and leave this place. You three are just too weak, you see? There are very few groups here that don't have Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators. If things turn awry, you three will be the first ones to be dealt with. In case the twins don't want to leave, you should go alone. You have the Frigid Pearl with you, so you shouldn't have any trouble getting away on your own.'

Liana answered Tiffany's request with a question. 'Tiffany, if you were me, would you retreat?'

'This...' Tiffany was speechless. 'Sigh... fine! But if things get out of control, don't hesitate in using the Frigid Pearl. I will also support you as much as I can. You're too important for our Tenke Kingdom, after all.'

Liana couldn't help but smile after that. 'Thank you, Tiffany.' Right after, she continued to ask, 'Then again, why would all of you keep waiting here instead of trying to find another path?' Sure enough, that was the main question. 'Do you have a way to get inside that door?'

Tiffany shook her head in response. 'It's you guys that are somewhat late. We all tried to find other paths, but the shape of the Demising Catacombs made it so that no different path was available. Believe me, our group tried to find another path some time ago. The same goes for everyone here.'

'Then, what about the gate itself? Are you waiting for something to see if it can open, or are you all gathered here, not knowing what to do?' Liana asked.

Tiffany shook her head once again. 'Look above the gate. Can you see those five dark spheres?'

Liana looked above the gate, and sure enough, there were five dark spheres. It's just that they were so small that she missed it at first. Liana also took the chance to tell Rean and Roan about that before asking Tiffany back. 'What about them?'

Tiffany then explained, 'Before, there were six of them, but one of the spheres simply lost its power. From what I found here, the first group to arrive said that there were ten. Naturally, the other spheres lost their power as well. Everyone believes that something will happen once all the dark spheres lose their powers.'

Liana understood after that. 'I see... so all we can do is wait, huh?'

'Pretty much,' Tiffany answered straight away.

Liana then looked at the twins and explained the rest.

However, Roan narrowed his eyes. For some reason, he didn't think the spheres losing their power was a good sign. 'You two, come back with me. We're going to stay close to the entrance of this room. Also, grab your life-saving items. You will probably need them.'

Rean and Liana were taken aback. However, they knew that Roan wasn't the type to joke around. Roan also added. 'Liana, don't tell your friend anything. It's one thing if our group steps back, looking like we want to flee. After all, we're very weak in the eyes of the majority here. However, if your Tenke Kingdom people do the same thing as us, they will definitely gather everyone else's attention.'

Liana didn't like that, though. 'I can't let my friend simply act as bait. I'll tell them as well!'

Roan narrowed his eyes. 'Then at least tell them to create some excuse. And it better be good.'

Liana nodded after that. 'Alright.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1234: The Danger Behind the Gate

A few moments later, Tiffany and the other members of the Tenke Kingdom went closer to Roan's group while smiling. "You guys are quite good. You were able to hold Granto's strike with such low cultivation. How about you start following us for now?" In the end, Tiffany's group decided to use the event between Granto and Rean's team to strike up a conversation. Not only that, but it also served as a way for the Tenke Kingdom to make fun of Granto's inability in getting rid of some Initial Stage Saint Realm cultivators.

The other Righteous Path cultivator groups there immediately started to laugh after hearing that. Well, at least the ones who didn't fear the Blood Path Sect's group. Granto just narrowed his eyes but didn't say anything. He just recorded that even in his mind for later.

Rean saw the chance there and continued the conversation, "You must be joking. There's no way he was being serious when he attacked us. It's just that we don't know why we were attacked in the first place."

Tiffany laughed in response. "Hahaha! Isn't that obvious? He's part of the Evil Path, so he enjoys bullying the weak. He doesn't have the courage to do that against people of his level. Don't worry, I won't let him touch your group, so just stay close to us."

Well, Tiffany could have stopped after the first sentence. However, it's no secret that Righteous and Evil Path cultivators had never been on good terms, so she took the chance to twist the knife deeper into Granto's wound.

Rean and Liana immediately bowed to Tiffany, pretending to be grateful. "Thank you, lady. Would you mind telling us your name?"

"You can call me Tiffany. What about you guys?" Tiffany also kept up the act.

"I'm Salazar, and this is my girlfriend, July." Rean then brought Liana close, which made the girl somewhat flustered. However, she couldn't go back now that they were deep into the conversation.

Roan smiled at Tiffany as well since he also had to keep up the act. Otherwise, there was no way he would have done so. "I'm from the same sect as them. My name's Victe."

Tiffany nodded with a satisfied expression. "Great! Just stay close from now on."

And just like that, Tiffany's group also positioned themselves close to the exit, which attracted some attention. However, because she said she would protect Rean's group, those who found it suspicious couldn't really say if it was on purpose or not. After all, since she told Rean's group to stay close to them, they could have returned to their previous position, but they didn't. Nevertheless, that was enough to not cause a move to arise from the other groups.

Tiffany then took the chance to ask Roan, 'Liana told me about you. The Dark Element Affinity guy from the Sacred Land. Don't worry, she made me promise I wouldn't tell anyone else until we're out of the Demising Catacombs. However, why would you tell her to stay far away from the gate? If the gate really opens, we should be in the front in case there are some valuable treasures.'

Roan shook his head, replying, 'Trust me, you won't want to stay close to it. This is just my theory, though.'

'What theory?' Tiffany asked in response.

Roan then explained, 'It seems like no one found this gate in the past, right? At the very least, most of you don't know or didn't tell others about it. However, let's go with the idea that this is something new or that hasn't happened in a very long time.'

Tiffany and the others nodded in response, waiting for Roan to continue his explanation. 'Now then, we have a gate here, and everyone can tell that it is made of Life's Nemesis Rocks, right? However, from what I know, no one wants to work with Life's Nemesis Rocks since their Dark Element will affect your body. But lo and behold, there's an entire gate made out of it. Don't you think it's strange? Pay very close attention to it. Not only is the gate made of Life's Nemesis Rocks, but the gate's surrounding walls are also the same.'

Everyone had to admit that Roan's words made sense. 'That's true. However, the fact is that someone did make the walls and the gate out of Life's Nemesis rocks. You can see it right in front of, so it's possible.'

Roan shook his head, clarifying, 'No, you're all missing the point here. Let me ask you a very simple question. What if the walls and the gate were not made of Life's Nemesis Rocks at first?'

Bang!

Everyone felt like they were struck by lightning. Some of Tiffany's group members even took a few steps closer to the exit, looking at the gate with a frightened expression. Sure enough, most of them understood what Roan meant.

Nevertheless, Roan continued to explain for the rest. 'You need to think how the Life's Nemesis Rocks are made. When materials are kept under the influence of Dark Element and Yin Energy for a long time, they have a chance to turn into Life's Nemesis Rocks. It often happens in places where the concentration of both forces are the highest.'

'I'm pretty sure that the gate and the walls on its sides weren't made out of Life's Nemesis rocks before. With that said, can you imagine just how thick and concentrated the Dark Element and Yin Energy behind that gate is? Once that gate is open, it'll burst out like a balloon. All of that energy will rush out in a single go. Do you think you can resist the power of Dark Element and Yin Energy capable of transforming an entire gate and the walls on its side? Let me be honest here. Chances are that we will all be dead in a matter of seconds!'

Those who hadn't understood at first began to let out a lot of cold sweat. Roan's words made total sense. No, they had to admit that he was most likely right. Who the hell would make walls and a huge gate out of Life's Nemesis Rocks? It's just too improbable!

Ziu...

Suddenly, another dark sphere above the gate lost its power. There were only four spheres left.

Death... and me

Chapter 1235: Tenke Leaves

"Tiffany..." Some of the people from the Tenke Kingdom's group wanted to leave straight away. Most of them might be geniuses at controlling Yin Energy. However, they didn't think they could survive such a huge burst of Yin Energy and Dark Element at the same time.

Tiffany had to admit she didn't have much of a wish to stay here anymore as well. 'Do you think we should leave?' Tiffany asked Roan.

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, 'The problem here is that all I've said so far is nothing but a theory. I do believe I'm right. However, if I'm not, then you guys might be losing out on a great opportunity. Do you think it's worth the wait? Perhaps you can leave fast enough since you're ready to get out of here. Perhaps even if you react fast enough, you won't be able to outrun the danger. Or perhaps there's no danger to start with. First of all, even if there's no such thing as a burst of Yin Energy and Dark Element, you don't know what dangers could be waiting for you on the other side. Last but not

least... those dark spheres above the gate might not mean anything, and this gate won't open at all. In the end, the decision's up to you guys.'

Tiffany nodded in response. However, she wanted to hear Roan's own choice. 'What about you and your brother? Are you guys staying?'

Roan understood why she asked that, so he immediately corrected Tiffany. 'You're getting the wrong idea here. I'm staying, but that's not because I think I'm wrong. On the contrary, I'm pretty sure I'm right. The difference is that my Elemental Affinity is Darkness. It doesn't matter how much Dark Element is present in an environment. It simply has no effect on my body whatsoever.'

Rean also added, 'In my case, I have Light Element Affinity, which is the bane of Dark Element and vice versa. I can totally resist Dark Element without any issues.' Well, Rean was connected with Roan and could use Elemental Exchange, so he didn't even need his Light Element to resist Dark Element.

Rean then looked at Liana after that, telling her, 'With that said, you should really consider leaving this place together with your kingdom's people. The final decision is up to you, but it's not like you guys can't do anything without seeing what's behind that door.'

In the end, Liana, Tiffany, and the rest of the members of the Tenke Kingdom decided to vote through Divine Sense messages. Of course, they still pretended that nothing was wrong as they didn't want to alert the rest of the groups. Sure enough, the risk was too big without any guarantee of a reward, so the majority decided to leave.

Rean and Roan didn't mind, though. 'Have a safe trip.'

Tiffany narrowed her eyes. 'You do know that if I leave, Granto might try something against you, right?'

Roan shook his head, saying, 'He won't. When he attacked a moment ago, it became very obvious that the rest of the groups didn't like it. No one wants to start a fight before finding out what's behind the gate. Besides, he saw us reaching for our spatial rings, so he definitely thinks we have some life-saving treasures that might give him more trouble than he wants. In the end, he doesn't know we're his target. He and his group have to wait.

Liana then asked something else. 'What about after the gate opens? Would he take that opportunity to get rid of you because of the humiliation?'

Rean was the one to answer that question, telling her, 'No. If it opens and nothing happens, all the groups will rush inside, aiming to grab the treasures for themselves. The last thing in his mind will be to stay behind to deal with us. He definitely wants to be at the forefront of what will happen there.'

Liana and the others had to admit Rean's words made sense.

The Tenke Kingdom then finally decided to turn around and leave the room. They left in a calm manner, not caring about what the rest of the groups would think about it. However... Liana didn't leave.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he looked at her. 'I have nothing to do with it if you die later.'

Liana nodded, telling him, 'I don't expect you to.'

Unsurprisingly, Liana wasn't the only one. Tiffany was also going to leave. However, after seeing that Liana decided to stay behind, she gritted her teeth and did the same thing. 'I can't possibly let you out here alone, so I'm staying as well.' That obviously made Liana very happy.

However, the problem was the other groups. In the end, some of them couldn't help but ask Tiffany why most of her team left. "Oh! Do you want to know? Then why don't you follow them? Of course, that's only if you want to leave this gate behind."

Everyone didn't know what to do. Some felt that something wasn't right. But then again, Tiffany herself stayed. Was that a trap? Maybe the Tenke Kingdom was trying to lure some of their competitors away from the door so that they would have less competition when it opened later. Or maybe they knew some other route that the others hadn't found yet. It was hard to tell which one was the right decision. Well, no one wanted to give up the possible treasures behind the gate, so not a single group moved in the end. But that was mainly because Tiffany herself stayed behind.

Granto, on the other hand, narrowed his eyes as he looked at Liana. Obviously, Liana looked completely different from the Liana he knew. 'Could that girl be her? In that case, would one of the guys on her side be that Roan that Sect Master talked about?' He had no way of confirming it, especially with Tiffany

there. Also, he did see the elements that Rean and Roan used to defend against his attack, and it wasn't Dark Element. 'Forget it. I won't act unless I'm certain.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1236: Well, Roan Could

Naturally, Rean's group wasn't the last one to arrive. The news spread between the cultivators who had the power to wander the Demising Catacombs. Because of that, there were more than fifty different groups in the enormous room, waiting for the dark spheres to lose their powers.

Tiffany's group, who had already left, didn't release the information that Roan told them, though. Tiffany, Roan, Rean, and Liana were the only ones at the gate who knew what could happen after it opened.

There was one thing that Tiffany had to ask, though. 'What about your fellow members from the Sacred Land? Are you sure you don't want to at least warn them?'

Roan snorted in response. 'We don't know them, so why should we?'

Rean agreed with Roan on that one. 'Besides, it's mostly Evil Path cultivators from the Sacred Land who came. Not to mention that everyone knows the risks of entering this place, so they can't blame anyone else.'

Zi...zi...zi...

Eventually, the last sphere seemed to be losing its power. As it happened, the formation protecting the gate also began to wane, losing its protection very fast. Everyone's eyes lit up, as it looked like the gate was really going to open. They all got closer to it, ready to act once the path appeared...except for Rean's group. They got closer to the exit instead. Rean and Roan said that they wouldn't be harmed by the burst of Dark Element and Yin Energy from inside, but that didn't mean that was the only danger behind it.

Clack, clack, clack, clack...

The sound of locks coming off could be heard, which made the bystanders even more excited. However, they failed to notice something. From the gaps of the gate, Dark Element began to rush out, even if just a little. Well, one person didn't fail to notice it, Roan. 'I was right!'

Hearing that, Tiffany immediately grabbed Liana's arm, ready to dash away as fast as possible. However, Roan stopped them. 'I praise your courage for staying regardless of the danger. Stay by our side. Rean and I can protect you.'

Rean smiled as he heard that. 'You do want to see what's on the other side, right? It seems like you'll be able to do so without anyone there to bother you.'

Soon enough, the last sphere lost its power completely as the gate's last lock was released.

B00000M!

The moment the lock turned loose, the gate burst open with such strength that it even created a shockwave on its own. Though, that meant very little compared to the unprecedented amount of Dark Element and Yin Energy spreading throughout the area.

Ahhhhhh!

Arrrgh!

Nooooo!

That wave of Yin Energy and Dark Element immediately assaulted everyone in the room, reaching Rean and Roan's position in a fraction of a second. Fortunately for the twins' group, they were already expecting it, so they had braced themselves not to be blasted away.

The bodies of everyone in front of the wave immediately began to rot as their life forces were wiped out in a moment. No one was spared. Even if Roan released all his power to create Dark Element, he wouldn't even get close to the amount of Dark Element that exited that gate.

'Death World!'

Roan's Death World immediately enveloped Tiffany and Liana, which made the burst of Dark Element and Yin Energy lose most of its power when it collided with Roan's own Dark Element. However, it was still way too much Dark Element for anyone other than Rean and Roan to bear. At least, too much for anyone at the Elemental Transformation Realm and below.

'Light Burst!'

'However, Rean also acted, touching the two girls' shoulders and sending a huge burst of Light Element into their bodies. This time, the Light Element had an objective, which was to keep the Dark Element out of the girl's bodies, so the usual wave of pleasure didn't happen.

Tiffany and Liana looked at what was happening with frightened expressions. They were able to see with their Divine Senses how everyone around the gate began to fall dead like flies. It didn't matter what cultivation level they had or if they were from the righteous or evil path.

But then again, the real top disciples of each power had their own life-saving treasures, which they brought out. Several barriers, far above the level of what an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator could use, appeared one after another. Granto was obviously one of them.

Crack, crack, crack...

However, they truly underestimated the amount of Yin Energy and Dark Element trapped behind the gate.

Shatter, shatter, shatter...

The barriers broke apart one after another as well. Those who had more than one life-saving treasure didn't hesitate before bringing them out. As for those who didn't, they died not long after. Everything happened in a matter of four to five seconds. Eventually, the burst of Dark Element and Yin Energy started to die out. Of course, the concentration in the air was still incredulously dense compared to what it was before.

It was at that moment that Rean smiled before contacting Roan through their Soul Connection. 'Roan, I'm fine on my own. Leave these girls to me. You can go.'

Roan coldly smiled as well before White Scythe appeared in his hand. Dark Element? Yin Energy? Such things only boosted his power.

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

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

Roan immediately disappeared like a ghost, blending in with the darkness that covered the room. With so much Dark Element, he didn't even need Rean's Divine Sense bending skill. He was truly invisible, even if for a small amount of time.

Hedoi, Granto, and Kluo. Those three were still defending against the Dark Element and Yin Energy but were having a hard time doing it. It was obvious that they were seriously affected by it. Besides, none of them had time to think about a sneak attack. If even them, Evil Path cultivators who use Dark Element were suffering like this, let alone the others. How could someone spend the effort to attack in this situation?

Well, Roan could...

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

Death... and me

Chapter 1237: No Need To Dodge

Swish, swish, swish!

Roan used his Death Scythe three times in a row, aiming at those three without a shred of mercy.

Immediately, two heads flew off as the shock on their faces was obvious. As their heads began to fall to the ground, they also happened to catch a glimpse of the perpetrator. 'Dark Element user... It's him!'

Kluo and Hedoi! They were Roan's victims. Two Elemental Transformation Realm geniuses of the Evil Path had fallen to an Initial Stage Saint, just like that.

However, Granto was different. Just as Roan's scythe was about to take his head as well, a blob of blood suddenly appeared along the White Scythe's path. It immediately expanded, creating a blood shield that blocked Roan's scythe.

Bang!

Nevertheless, the force behind Roan's Death Scythe sent Granto flying!

Crash!

He hit the wall while showing a shocked expression. From the looks of it, Granto couldn't believe he was attacked during such a situation. How could someone move in an environment like that? Granto then saw how the blood shield lost its power and fell to the ground. This was another life-saving treasure. However, it was one that activated on its own. Unless Granto was definitely going to die from an attack, it definitely wouldn't appear as it used a lot of Granto's own blood in a short amount of time to take shape. Not to mention that it was an extremely expensive and rare item for others to have. It was easy to see how expensive and rare it was since Kluo and Hedoi didn't have one. Why? Because of the self-activation ability. That's what made it hard to make.

There was a problem, though. The blood used to save Granto's life also weakened him. The Dark Element and Yin Energy concentration in the environment was still too much for him to bear as he held another treasure that protected him against it. Let's not forget that the previous two life-saving treasures weren't even able to protect him completely. He was still severely affected by the burst of Yin Energy and Dark Element.

Granto knew that things were not over as he looked at the attacker. 'It's him!' Immediately, everything made sense. How could someone move at the moment? The answer was simple. One just had to have the same elemental affinity as the environment. Naturally, Granto also understood that the guy he had attacked at the entrance before was the person Gille was looking for. The one and only Dark Element Affinity cultivator to have ever appeared in their continent as far as the Blood Path Sect knew.

All those thoughts passed through Granto's head in a flash. However, none of them mattered anymore. He was in an extremely passive position. Capturing Roan? Ha! He couldn't give himself such a luxurious thought anymore. If he didn't kill Roan right now, he would be the one dying.

'Blood Field!'

The blood from his injuries suddenly transformed into a red mist that covered the area around Granto. Just like Roan's Death World, the Blood Field increased Granto's abilities in manipulating blood. However, it was very small. Not that he couldn't do better, but because he lacked both the power and the blood to use it as he normally did. Nevertheless, he wasn't afraid. 'I'm still a Peak Stage Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator. Let's see how you kill me with your Initial Stage Saint Realm cultivation.'

Granto immediately changed his stance and attacked Roan instead. He knew that doing such a thing would only increase the speed that the Dark Element invaded on his body. However, he definitely couldn't stay still and wait.

'Blood Breath!'

Blood gathered in his mouth before it shot in Roan's direction. It then spread like a cloud, carrying a high destructive power.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he saw this. 'You can't underestimate someone at the peak of the Elemental Transformation Realm, after all.'

'Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

Dark threads, fuelled by Rean's Light Element, created a protective barrier around Roan. The Blood Breath soon hit it, forcing Roan back several meters. Some of the Blood Breath still passed through it, hitting Roan's body and causing the affected parts to burst into fountains of blood. Even though only some vestiges of the attack reached Roan, the painful difference in cultivation showed how dangerous it was.

Granto didn't stop there, though. While Roan defended against his Blood Breath, he had already prepared the next attack.

'Blood Vortex!'

Even more blood came out of Granto's body, forming a whirlpool of blood around Roan's position. Because Roan had to focus on Blood Breath a moment ago, he didn't have time to use Shadow Steps and leave the area.

However, Roan didn't seem to panic at all. He simply increased the momentum of his White Scythe, creating even more arcs to defend against it. He could feel that every attack Granto used diminished in power.

Granto felt his condition worsening. To add insult to injury, Roan's defense seemed a lot more robust during the second attack. His Blood Vortex couldn't break through it. Of course, that was also because he was far from his peak. Granto didn't have even one-third of his power at the moment. The power of his life-saving treasure, which was being used to keep the Dark Element at bay, was quickly disappearing as well. He already used one for it, and he didn't have a third one.

However, that only increased his killing intent. Suddenly, Granto raised his hand as more blood gathered above it. Roan was trapped inside his Blood Vortex, so that was his chance to give a finishing blow. He could think about the rest later.

Eventually, the blood took the form of a spear, which Granto aimed straight at Roan. He also increased the power of his Blood Vortex to make sure Roan wouldn't be able to escape. 'This attack has at least 80% of my real power. Let's see your defense hold it back!'

Kshush!

The spear shot forward at extreme speed! Roan definitely couldn't dodge it. However, unexpectedly, Roan faintly smiled as he didn't feel the need to dodge in the first place.

Death... and me

Chapter 1238: Free Gate

The reason was very simple, the Blood Spear suddenly came to a stop right in front of Roan! Roan didn't
do anything.

Sphhhlt!

Suddenly, a black sword pierced through Granto's heart, full of Light and Fire Element.

Roan only snorted when he saw that, though. He then looked at the shocked expression on Granto's face before telling him through a Divine Sense message. 'Idiot. Did you forget I'm not alone?'

'Life Fire, Fourth Forth, Light Piercing Bomb!'

Boom!

Rean's attack caught Granto by surprise, who held his destroyed torso. Granto could only turn his head before seeing a white-haired man look at him with pity. He bitterly smiled before his world went dark forever, just like Hedoi and Kluo.

Rean then looked at Roan and said, 'See? I told you he would forget I existed.'

It turns out that the twins had always considered the chance that Granto, Hedoi, or Kluo could defend against Roan's sneak attack somehow. With that said, Rean offered a plan where he would be the one to act if something happened. Roan had to admit it was a good idea since the situation was promising for that. When Roan caught Granto's full attention was when Rean moved out. His proficiency with Shadow Steps wasn't as perfect as Roan's, but considering Granto's situation, the last thing he could care about was someone else entering the fray. No, to be more specific, Granto believed no one else other than Roan would dare fight in this situation. He didn't know that Rean was also immune to the Yin Energy and Dark Element in the area.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Roan began to heal the injuries caused by Granto's Blood Breath as he nodded. 'It's good that you can at least seize an opportunity. I didn't train you so much for nothing.'

Well, Rean would never expect Roan to praise him anyway. 'Yeah, yeah, yeah. Now, let me head back since I left Tiffany and Liana alone. I poured as much Light Element into their bodies as I could in this short time, so they should be fine. However, it won't last long, so I have to continue pouring Light Element into them.'

Roan nodded before he prepared his scythe for action. 'Alright. I'll take this opportunity to get rid of the rest of the flies. The rest definitely aren't as prepared as Granto was.'

Roan then really played Death's role. He took the life of one Evil Path cultivator after another. Well, truth be told, there were no more than twenty cultivators who survived the Dark ELement, and Yin Energy burst from inside the gate. However, Roan didn't kill them all, only the Evil Path ones from the Blood Path Sect and other similar powers. He left the cultivators from the Sacred Land and the Righteous Path alive, although there were only four of them. The rest died as well.

Liana and Tiffany were relieved when Rean came back. The Light Element he left behind was on the verge of running out. They felt a scare when he told them he was also leaving for a bit, but they couldn't do anything as Rean disappeared. Of course, they had their life-saving treasured as well. Rean and Roan already helped them pass through the worst part of the door's opening without suffering any injuries. If they used those items, they could totally leave this place before those treasures lost their powers. It's just that the two girls didn't want to leave after coming this far.

'Hey, are you two alright?' Rean asked.

Liana nodded as she let out a sigh of relief. 'We're good. So, how was it? Did you succeed in whatever you and your brother wanted to do?'

Tiffany couldn't help but say, 'For a moment, I thought you two left us behind because you wanted to pass through the gate first. I've never thought you would try to attack Granto and the others. Of course, I couldn't be happier to see those wicked pieces of trash dying here.'

Rean nodded with a smile, replying, 'Fortunately, everything went well. Granto and the others are dead. However, they weren't with their entire group from the Blood Path Sect. Roan said there were three more dangerous ones who didn't appear in the end.'

Tiffany confirmed Roan's words. 'Yes, I know them. That would be Clincks, Erbasxe, and Rimari. Our Tenke Kingdom kept tabs on most cultivators worth our attention in this opening of the Demising Catacombs. However, they're far from being as dangerous as Granto was.'

Rean smiled in response to that statement. 'That's good to hear.'

A moment later, Roan came back to where Tiffany and Liana were. It was also possible to see several spatial rings in his hand, which attracted Rean's attention. 'How is it? Was there anything good there?'

Roan shook his head, saying, 'They're just like the Sacred Land's Core and Legacy Disciples. Any Rank Three Divine Stones they got, they used straight away. Other than that, there are a few Golden Initial, Middle, and High-level weapons. Well, only Granto had a Golden High-level weapon. The rest was all Middle and Initial-level. They should still be worth some Divine Stones, though.'

Rean took the spatial rings and checked the contents before nodding in agreement. 'Yea, they should be worth around a thousand Rank Two Divine Stones. They aren't as good as my Element Gathering Weapons, so it makes sense they aren't worth that much. As for Rank Two Divine Stones alone, there are another 1500 or so, I guess that'll do.'

Liana and Tiffany bitterly smiled when they heard that. Since when was a thousand Rank Two Divine Stones not much? That's a lot for people like us, okay?! Not everyone can forge weapons worth 300 Rank Two Divine Stones each, idiot!

The Dark Element and Yin Energy continued to escape from the gate. However, the concentration continued to fall as they spread all around the Demising Catacombs. Surprisingly, though, there were no ghosts on the other side of the gate. That was something the twins expected to see, but nothing appeared in the end.

Rean then looked at the Sacred Land and Righteous Path survivors who Roan spared. "What about them?"

Roan shrugged his shoulders, saying, "Leave them. They're too weak to cause trouble for us. Since we have the same background, we might as well let them live."

Roan then focused on the gate path. No, to be more specific, he focused on the gate itself. "Well then. Now that the formation protecting the gate is gone, I don't think anyone will complain if I take it for myself."

Death... and me

Chapter 1239: Power of the Underworld

And Roan did exactly that. Sister Orb confirmed that the formation was gone for good, which allowed Roan to send it straight into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Well, at least the formation protecting the gate was, that is. The gate fell on the ground of the Dimensional Realm before Sister Orb sealed the Dark Element emanating from it. Its Dark Element wouldn't cause any problem as long as it was in the Dimensional Realm.

The other Sacred Land members couldn't help but look at Roan, moving as if nothing was happening at all. They all saw how he got rid of all Evil Path cultivators, leaving only the righteous ones alive. But it was just as Roan mentioned. They didn't have the strength to fight anymore. They already had a hard time keeping the super-concentrated Dark Element and Yin Energy out.

One of them couldn't help but ask as the twins' group moved past them, "Can't you give us a hand? I can see you only aimed at the Evil Path cultivators, so you might as well give us some help."

Roan snorted when he heard that. "Help you? How? Do you want me to carry you on my back from here on out?"

"Of course not! Just do whatever you did to keep the Dark Element and Yin Energy away from your friends. You're that Dark Element Affinity guy from the last recruitment, right?" one of the survivors asked. "Once we recover enough, you can just do whatever you want. Just help a fellow Sacred Land member."

Rean then gave Roan an idea through their Soul Connection. 'Well, I can at least drive the Dark Element in their bodies out. Of the four survivors, two of them are from our Sacred Land. That means they have some background behind them since they had the treasures to survive the exposure from Dark Element and Yin Energy. It wouldn't be bad to have them owing us a favor.'

Roan pondered about it and nodded after a while. 'Alright, we usually never use such favors, but it's not a bad thing having such a card as a backup either.'

Rean nodded and approached the two cultivators of the Sacred Land. "What I can do is drive the Dark Element out of your bodies. However, you will have to recover by yourself after that. Besides, we can't wait too long since we want to check what's inside the gate."

The two guys were delighted to hear that. The thing that bothered them the most was the Dark Element that entered their bodies when the gate opened. If that could be dealt with, they could recover much faster. Perhaps they can even recover fast enough to enter the gate as well. After all, they don't want to give up on it either. "Thank you. That's already a huge help."

Rean then did exactly that. He didn't heal their injuries or help them recover their depleted Divine Energy, though. "Alright, how do you feel?"

"Much better!" Those two sat down and immediately took some Divine Stones out of their spatial rings. Soon after, they took some healing pills and began to recover.

Rean nodded before he looked at the two other guys who weren't part of the Sacred Land. "Well, since I've gone this far, I might as well help you two as well."

Obviously, they were delighted to hear that as well. "Thank you."

Rean nodded and completed the job very quickly. Only then did he get up and join Roan, Tiffany, and Liana that were waiting by the gate. "See, it was very fast. There's no need to worry either. With their injuries, I don't think they will get up for the next hour at the very least."

Everyone nodded after hearing that. "Alright, let's take a look inside."

Rean's group then passed through the gate and followed the path. Dark Element and Yin Energy continued to rush out, and it increased the further they went. However, it wasn't a problem with the twins there.

To remind those that have forgotten, this place was called the Demising Catacombs. Rean's group found quite a few of those on the way back and were finding even more now. Once Rean got far enough from the gate, he took the opportunity to bring Kentucky out of the Dimensional Realm. However, Tiffany

didn't know Kentucky could talk, so he used Divine Sense to communicate with Rean and Roan. 'I've seen everything with Sister Orb's help. However, only now that I'm outside can I feel the situation. Roan, look around. The entire place seems to be made of Life's Nemesis Rocks.'

Roan nodded in agreement. 'It definitely wasn't like this before. The materials became like this for the same reason as the gate. It was the long exposure to the super-concentrated Yin Energy and Dark Element. However, just that gate alone is more than enough for my needs, so I don't need to take more of these things.'

Rean couldn't help but ask, 'Now that I think about it, do we really need to go further? We already got what we wanted, no?'

Roan agreed with Rean, saying in response, 'That's true. However, would you actually leave without checking what we have here?'

Rean smiled in response. 'Well, I do have to admit I'm curious.'

Suddenly, Kentucky pointed forward. 'Rean, Roan, there are Golden Peak-level materials ahead. I can feel them now. I just can't tell if they're ores of refined metals. Perhaps they're weapons.'

Rean already liked what he heard. 'Great! That helps out a lot.'

Kentucky was right. They traveled in the direction he pointed for another thirty minutes or so. It was then that they arrived in a big mausoleum. Inside, there was only one single red sarcophagus in the center instead of several like on the outside. On the walls, Rean could see several weapons, which were obviously the Golden Peak-level metals Kentucky talked about.

"Are all of these Golden Peak-level weapons?" Liana and Tiffany asked.

"No, those weapons aren't only at the Golden Peak-level," Rean answered as he pointed at the back. "Can you see the spear, shield, and armor? Those three pieces are one level above that. They're Divine Initial-level equipment. It's quite unfortunate that our cultivation is too low to wield such things."

Roan didn't care about any of that, though. Once Rean reached the level to use that equipment, he would be able to create much better ones. Instead, he was interested in the sarcophagus itself. 'It's very small, but I can feel the power of the Underworld from within... No, that's not right. If I were to guess, it's more similar to my own Dark Element. It's just that that's not correct either.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1240: Reokkeor

Rean then sent Roan a message through their Soul Connection. 'Roan, I can feel some kind of power similar to my own Light Element inside, albeit very small. However, it feels somewhat different...'

Roan was surprised to hear that, so he told Rean what he felt as well. 'Seems like something different is inside this sarcophagus.'

'Should we open it?' Rean asked.

Roan nodded in response. 'Obviously. We did come all the way here, did we?'

Rean then looked at Tiffany and Liana, telling them, "We'll open the sarcophagus, so be on your guard. We don't know if there are traps or anything like that in this place."

Liana and Tiffany nodded and prepared themselves. With that, Rean and Roan opened the sarcophagus...or so they tried. "This thing is tight as hell."

It didn't matter how much strength they put. The lid simply didn't budge.

"Let me give it a try," Tiffany said. She was at the Elemental Transformation Realm, after all. Unfortunately... "Just raw strength alone will not work." She failed as well.

[Rean, Roan, why don't you try to pour your Light and Dark Element into it?] Sister Orb asked, much to the twins' surprise.

'Why?'

[You two said it had powers similar to your own, didn't you? Then it might react to it if you do so.]

The twins had to admit Sister Orb's words made sense. It was not like they had a better idea anyway. With that said, they immediately put their hands on the sarcophagus and poured their Light and Dark Element inside.

Rumble...

As soon as they did that, the sarcophagus began to tremble. No, it wasn't only the sarcophagus. The mausoleum, the catacombs, the danger zone outside...everything trembled as if an earthquake was happening.

Rean and Roan immediately jumped back and prepared for anything. It's just that the rumble ended a few moments later. However, the lid of the sarcophagus then began to move, opening its interior for the twins, the girls, and Kentucky to see.

Suddenly, a skeleton began to rise from inside as a huge Divine Energy pressure assaulted the twins' group. Even Kentucky, with his enormous defense, couldn't help but be pressed against the group. He was completely powerless against it.

'This thing is far, far more powerful than anyone in this danger zone.'

Roan immediately understood that even if he used the Glittering Crystal, it would still be useless. At most, he would become a slightly bigger ant in front of the same elephant. He simply didn't stand a chance. Escaping was also out of the question as they couldn't even move. Let alone the fact that the system would never allow entrance into the Dimensional Realm in that situation.

They looked at the skeleton and could see something that looked like a dark and white crystal on the skeleton's chest. The power it emanated spread through the skeleton, obviously giving it the ability to move. From the sarcophagus, the skeleton began to make its way in Rean and Roan's direction, still keeping the pressure on them.

Eventually, when it arrived in front of the twins, it stopped. It kept 'looking' at them for a while before its attention turned in Tiffany, Liana, and Kentucky's direction. The Divine Energy pressure on them suddenly increased even more as if a mountain was pressing them down. They weren't the only ones, though. All the beings with souls in the entire Demising Catacombs fell to the ground due to the same pressure. It even included the ghosts, including the ghosts with complete Yin Ghost Cores.

Arrrgh!

At some point, Liana lost her consciousness, and so did Tiffany and Kentucky. The cultivators outside were no better, with some even trying to use treasures to protect themselves, all in vain. The ghosts, surprisingly, were not spared either. They were still made of soul matter, so they were affected the same. The weakest ones completely disappeared, while the stronger ones lost their 'consciousness,' if they had any in the first place. What was sure was that those stronger ghosts completely stopped moving. There was no reaction whatsoever anymore.

Eventually, a pin-drop silence spread throughout the entire Demising Catacombs. Other than the occasional sound of the wind, one couldn't hear anything. Neither ghosts nor cultivators were moving anymore.

However, there were two exceptions... or three, if one counted Sister Orb in the Dimensional Realm. Sure enough, the twins were spared from that event. Well, it's not like they knew that everyone in the catacombs succumbed to the skeleton. They could only see Tiffany, Liana, and Kentucky, after all.

Rean and Roan were already prepared for the worst when suddenly, the skeleton sat down in front of the twins. At the same time, the Divine Energy pressure keeping them locked disappeared completely.

"This..." Rean and Roan didn't know what to say. Of course, they didn't try to run either as they knew it would be futile. "What do you want?"

The skeleton then looked at Rean and Roan and sighed...or so it tried. Too bad it didn't have lungs anymore. It also tried to talk, but without a tongue, it became useless. In the end, it could only use Divine Energy to manipulate the air and create sound.

"For fuck's sake, why are there two brats?! Gem, come out! I know you're there!" The skeleton seemed to rage as he 'spoke' with the twins. No, to be more precise, it was trying to speak with Soul Gem.

Rean and Roan were obviously shocked to hear the skeleton say those words. "Do you know Soul Gem?!"

The skeleton continued to look at the twins, but he completely ignored their question. It was as if the twins didn't even exist in his eyes. "Gem, come out now! If you don't, don't blame me for destroying this Foundation Fragment!"

Rean and Roan didn't know what the skeleton was talking about, just that it knew Soul Gem somehow. However, just as they were about to say something, a black and white orb appeared in front of the twins. "Sister Orb?"

However, the voice that came from the orb wasn't Sister Orb's voice. Instead, it was a man's voice, Soul Gem's voice!

[I see you succeeded in acquiring one of the fragments, Reokkeor, my friend. Good thing I felt your presence during the spatial transfer to the Realm of Gods and brought the twins here instead.]