

Death 1241

Death... and me

Chapter 1241: It was your fault

Suddenly, from inside the Soul Gem Orb, the projection of a man appeared. Rean and Roan obviously recognized him as Soul Gem. After all, they had seen him in the past during the illusion that explained what happened during the Universe's Division. "Soul Gem!"

Rean and Roan were even more shocked now. Wasn't that guy dead? "No, wait! You said it was you who changed the destination for spatial transfer?"

Soul Gem looked back and smiled at the twins. [I guess this is the first time we've properly met each other. I wish I had done it sooner, but I lacked the power to keep my consciousness awake for long, so I had to stay silent. I'll go back to sleep once more once I'm done here.]

The skeleton couldn't care less about that, though. "Friend, you say? Is that the kind of thing you do to a friend? Huh?! Give me a very good reason to not wipe you out, this orb, and the twins behind you!"

Soul Gem scratched the back of his head...or so he pretended to do since he was just a projection. [Come on, Reokkeor. You know I had no other choice. If they had gotten all the fragments, this Universe would have been destroyed already.]

"Hmph!" Reokkeor didn't seem less angry with that answer. "Then look at me right now. I couldn't even try to reincarnate because of this damned fragment. If not because there would be no Universe to reincarnate after, I would have given it to the Wafrol Forces a long time ago."

Soul Gem laughed in response. [Hahaha! See? I was right in the end. You couldn't bring yourself to let everyone die. Don't worry, my friend. You can go and reincarnate now. These twins will take care of the fragment from now on.]

Reokkeor looked at the twins and snorted in response. "Ha! These two brats? I wouldn't be surprised if they died in the very next second."

[It's fine, it's fine! They'll be able to pull it off.]

“How?” Reokkeor asked, not believing Gem’s words very much.

Gem then made a heart sign with his hand as he replied, [With the power of brotherly love!]

Rean and Roan almost vomited blood after hearing that! Now they knew why Sister Orb was so adamant about this brotherly love bullshit. It was all Soul Gem’s fault!

Reokkeor nodded after that. “I see... then that’s fine...”

...

...

...

“You ass! Go to hell with brotherly love! Are you fucking with me?!”

Rean and Roan vigorously nodded in agreement. ‘That’s right, brother! That’s the right reaction!’

[Tch... why can’t people understand the power of love? Oh well, whatever.] Soul Gem then continued, [In any case, you did well to keep the fragment safe. Don’t worry. I’ll make sure the Wafrol Forces won’t be able to detect it. That’s why I created the Soul Gem System, remember?]

The skeleton looked at the twins in surprise. “So they became the first users of that system you created... no, wait! Wasn’t it supposed to have just one user? After all, you needed someone capable of using Dark and Light Element by him or herself. Why are there two of them?”

Soul Gem bitterly smiled as he looked at Rean, saying, [Let’s just say that a certain someone has some problems with passing away...] He was obviously accusing Rean of dragging Death with him into the path of reincarnation. If not for that, the only one to have reincarnated would be Rean, and he would hold the power of Light and Darkness alone.

Roan also looked at Rean, once against, obviously insinuating that it was all Rean's fault. "In the end, I really didn't need to come."

Rean didn't feel the least bit of remorse, though. "Hmph! How the hell would I know that? First of all, it wasn't my fault, but his! My life was pretty much useless before my death because of the system, you know? How could I accept simply losing all my memories and pass away like that?"

Soul Gem pretended to not hear Rean's accusations before continuing, [Anyway, they aren't bad at all. In fact, they turned out better than I expected if only one person had reincarnated, and that was on the very first try. Trust me, they're quite good.]

Reokkeor still had his doubts but decided to leave them aside. "So? What about the rest?"

Soul Gem knew what Reokkeor was talking about. [Don't worry, we'll recover the rest. For good or for worse, the Extinction Sphere is now gone, although it caused the Universe's separation and its actual calamity. Nonetheless, it's still better than if it was still around. At least we have a chance.]

Reokkeor nodded in response. "Fine! I've been waiting to reincarnate all this while. Fortunately, I put myself into hibernation since that period. Otherwise, I would have gone crazy if I had to wait all this time. You can at least help me with that, right?"

Soul Gem nodded in response. Soon after, the Soul Gem Orb shined before a ray of black and white light hit the skeleton's forehead. No, to be more precise, it hit Reokkeor's soul. [This mark will prevent the Wafrol Forces from finding your soul in the path of reincarnation. You can go ahead and reincarnate anytime you want. But before you do, I'll send you and the Foundation Fragment into my Dimensional Realm.]

Reokkeor didn't mind. "Go ahead, bring me over."

Immediately, Reokkeor felt some spatial power pulling him away. He didn't fight it before he was dragged into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Soul Gem wasn't any slower and disappeared from that place as well.

The twins looked at each other and immediately tried to access the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Unfortunately, it was blocked for their entrance. They couldn't even feel what was happening inside. "The hell?!"

They then saw a ray of light coming from the place where the Soul Gem Orb had first appeared. Following that, the light began to fade away until nothing remained. Roan could tell, though. 'It was the skeleton's soul. It has gone to the path of reincarnation.'

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Chapter 1242: New Quest Available

A moment later, the twins received a message from... Sister Orb. [Alright, Master has gone back to sleep. You can go back and explore the catacombs again.]

'What?!' Wasn't that way too ridiculous?

'Fuck you! Explain everything. What happened just now? What was all that about?' the twins simultaneously asked.

[Didn't you hear? Reokkeor had one of the Foundation Fragments. Now that we have it, he went to the path of reincarnation. I thought Roan would have noticed when that happened.]

Roan nodded in response, although he wasn't the least bit happy. 'Of course, I did! However, that doesn't explain anything. You better talk about the rest. What about the Extinction Sphere? He said something about it being gone. Does that mean he got to destroy it in the end?'

Rean agreed with Roan, continuing where he left off. 'That's right! And what about the skeleton? What was he doing in this place until now? First of all, it was Soul Gem who sent us here and had us separated from Calina, Qia, and the others. Doesn't he have anything to say about that? Also, what's this about the Foundation Fragment thing?'

[Oh, that? Soul Gem already left the information behind for you. Now that you saw the Foundation Fragment, there wasn't much of a reason to hide the rest of the story anymore.]

Sister Orb then explained, [Well, if you stopped to think a little about it, you would have figured the rest on your own anyway. First, the Foundation Fragment talks about the foundation on which our Universe is built. That means both halves.]

Roan nodded after hearing that. 'That means when Soul Gem destroyed the Extinction Sphere, it also caused the Universe's separation. When we saw Soul Gem's memories of the past, he said the Control Orb was supposed to heal the Universe after the sphere was destroyed. After all, destroying the sphere also meant damaging the Universe itself. With the information I have right now, I guess the destruction of the Extinction Sphere was successful. Unfortunately, the healing part didn't seem to go according to plan.'

[See? I told you guys you'd figure the rest on your own. That's exactly what happened. Because of the Wafrol Forces, Soul Gem was only successful in destroying the Extinction Orb, but not healing the Universe. The reason he couldn't do it should be very obvious as well.]

Rean was the one to continue it from there. 'He had to run away, right? After all, how could he spend the time to heal the Universe if the Wafrol Forces were there to bother him? That's where he came up with the Soul Gem System plan after fusing his soul with the Control Orb.'

[Correct. However, as you can imagine, doing such a thing put a huge burden on his soul. That's why he has to stay in a constant state of hibernation and let the Soul Gem Orb control everything. That other part you already heard before. Without anyone to heal the Universe after the Extinction Sphere was destroyed, its foundation was severely damaged. That's how both halves of the Universe came to be. The fragment Reokkeor was carrying was one of the Foundation Fragments.]

Sister Orb continued, [You already heard in the past that to fix both halves of the Universe, it was necessary to have someone from the other side. That's why you came.]

Rean and Roan nodded in response. They did know about that indeed. 'So?'

[Before Soul Gem entered his hibernation and sent the Soul Gem System to the other half of the Universe, he entrusted a few of his closest friends with a task. They were to retrieve the Foundation Fragments so that the Wafrol Forces couldn't use it to destroy the Universe once for all.]

[As to why the fragments can do that, it's simple. The fragments carry immense power capable of influencing the Universe's already fragile structure. If you can gather all of them and use their power, the damaged foundation won't be able to hold on. Once that happens...]

'Both halves of the Universe will collapse,' Rean and Roan concluded.

[Yes. Well, you do know most of the story already, so it wasn't like you learned too much. I believe you already had your own theories as well. Anyways, that's all. Happy?]

'Happy, my ass!' Rean immediately rebuked. 'What about Qia, Calina, and the others? He could have changed their direction as well!'

[You're mistaken. Soul Gem is in a constant state of hibernation, so the system's program is what moves it. It only detected you two, Kentucky, and Celis as having any connection with the Soul Gem System, so it only brought the four of you. He said he felt Reokkeor's presence, but only subconsciously. The system did the rest.]

Roan shook his head in response, letting out a sigh as he said, 'What's done is done. However, I thought Soul Gem was gone forever. I've never heard about his soul in hibernation inside the system. With that said, I have to ask. What does he plan to do by being in there? What is his part in all of this?'

[That... I don't know. You will have to ask him the next time he wakes up.]

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that. 'The next time he wakes up? Alright then, when will that be?'

[I also have no idea.]

Rean couldn't help but say once again. 'Sister Orb, you're too useless! You could have asked him at least this bit before he went back to sleep.'

[Ahem... well, I can tell you this much, at least. The stronger the system becomes, the faster Soul Gem's next awakening will be.]

The twins were at a slight loss for words after hearing that, though. 'The stronger it is? Other than the Processing Power upgrade from that old quest, there isn't an option there to increase the Soul Gem System's power.'

[Oh, don't worry. More of these quests will appear eventually. Oh! Speak of the devil...]

Pin!

[New Quest Available: To unite the two halves of the Universe, the hosts have to gather all 14 Universe Foundation Fragments. Progress: 01/14]

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Chapter 1243: Rimari

Surprisingly, the system didn't stop there.

[Congratulations! The hosts have obtained the first Universe Foundation Fragment. A reward of 80000 Destiny Points has been credited. System Processing Power will now be upgraded as a result of the First Fragment's power.]

[Upgrade time: Seven days in the Realm of Gods.]

[Initializing upgrade...]

'80000 Destiny Points! Holy shit!' Rean was surprised to hear that.

However, Roan didn't seem to be that happy. 'This is one of the Universe Foundation Fragments. Isn't 80000 Destiny Points way too little?'

[That's because this is the first one. The more you get, the higher the reward,] Sister Orb quickly responded.

Well, Roan knew that there was no point in complaining. The system never changed things on a whim. 'Alright then.'

With that over, Rean looked at Kentucky, Tiffany, and Liana. "Hmm... Kentucky is one thing. However, what will we do about Tiffany and Liana?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Pretend that we also lost consciousness wouldn't work. After all, you have to keep feeding them your Light Element so that they don't succumb to the Dark Element and Yin Energy in this place. It's obvious that you have to be awake for that. Otherwise, they would be dead."

Rean agreed with Roan on that. "It's not like I can kill them either. The Sacred Land guys outside saw that we came in here with Liana and Tiffany, so they knew we were here. After all, you're the only Dark Element Affinity cultivator everyone knows. Well, I still wouldn't kill them. It would go against my beliefs after I entered the Soul Transformation Realm."

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before a thought popped into his head. "Send Kentucky into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. After that, let's grab the girls and leave this place."

Rean nodded and immediately sent Kentucky away. Soon after, they quickly carried the girls out of the area before they arrived at the gate entrance again. Well, the gate wasn't there anymore, though.

"As I thought," Roan muttered as he looked at the bodies on the ground. The guys they left behind to recover ended up losing their consciousness. At first, Roan only thought it was a possibility. After all, it wasn't like he could see what was happening outside the gate.

"They're dead." Rean couldn't help but sigh as he looked at the forsaken corpses.

Roan nodded. "They lost their conscience while staying in this place. They could have recovered while fighting the super-concentrated Dark Element and Yin Energy if they were awake. However, after losing it, the Dark Element and Yin Energy immediately caused havoc in their bodies. They died without even noticing. That means no one knows that we stayed here other than the Tenke Kingdom people who left earlier."

Rean understood what Roan meant. "That makes things a lot easier. Liana owes us two favors now. We can use it to make her shut up the others' mouths. However, do you think she'll keep her word and succeed in convincing Tiffany and the others?"

Roan shrugged his shoulders in response. "We don't know where the rest went anymore, and some of them were at the Elemental Transformation Realm. We couldn't do anything to them anyway. This is our best choice if we want to keep the secret regarding our entrance into that place. Anyways, let's quickly leave. If another group arrives and sees us here, then it'll become more complicated."

However, it turned out that all groups they found were unconscious as well. Not only that, but they also bumped into more ghosts with complete Yin Ghost Cores on the way out. It's just that those ghosts didn't move at all, as if they had also lost consciousness...if they had any in the first place, that is. How could Rean and Roan let the chance pass up? They immediately attacked and destroyed those ghosts without suffering any retaliation. Two of those ghosts were ghosts at the Transition Realm level as well.

However, that wasn't the thing that delighted Rean and Roan the most. Instead, it was the fact that they found two more members of the Blood Path Sect and their companions unconscious as well. Without a doubt, they were also looking for Roan in the Demising Catacombs. With that said, Roan showed no mercy and immediately cut their heads. 'Blame your own luck.' After taking what was inside their spatial rings, he threw the rings back at the corpses and left.

However, that didn't change the fact that they had gone really far into the Demising Catacombs. It took more than two hours to make their way back close to the entrance, where they found more groups. It would be okay if they were all sleeping as well. However, Rean's group noticed that some of their members had already awakened and protected their knocked-out companions. Fortunately, Rean and Roan had been using the Light and Divine Sense bending skill all this time, so those few awakened cultivators didn't notice them.

'It seems like the further away you are from that skeleton, the lower the effect of its Divine Energy pressure. The people here are starting to get up already.'

Roan agreed with Rean. 'That's most likely the case. Just ignore them, and let's head out. We're almost at the entrance. Also, we have nothing else to do in this place, so let's leave the Demising Catacombs altogether. There's no need to spend the whole month here.'

Rean didn't see anything wrong with that. 'Agreed.'

Eventually, the twins came out of the underground catacombs. However...

‘Careful!’

Roan suddenly felt Dark Element converging and coming their way from somewhere outside.

Rean and Roan immediately jumped to the side, dodging what could have been a fatal strike. The power behind the attack was definitely at the Elemental Transformation Realm.

“Oh! How did you dodge that?” a voice asked from outside the entrance. Suddenly, a female cultivator made her way inside as she looked at Rean and Roan. Following her, there were other cultivators that were under her command, just like Granto and the others. One of them was at the Initial Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm, while the other was at the Peak Stage of the Saint Realm. As for the female, she was at the Late Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm.

As she asked, the twins quickly recognized her. She was Rimari, the last member Roan saw standing by Gille’s side before the Demising Catacombs were opened.

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Chapter 1244: Roan Went All Out

The twins understood that she could feel their presence, so they turned off the Light and Divine Sense bending skill.

Rean, Roan, and the unconscious Liana still had their modified appearances, so Rean had to ask. “Why did you attack us?” After all, she shouldn’t have a reason to do so.

Rimari snorted as she pointed at Roan’s scythe. “Your weapon. You hit Granto’s Blood Shield, right? It’s quite unlucky for you that that specific life-saving treasure leaves behind a tracker on whatever forced it to activate. Once you entered my range, I immediately felt it. Though, where is Granto?”

Rean and Roan were surprised to hear that. Soon after, Roan immersed his Divine Sense and Soul Power Scan into his scythe. Sure enough, there was a tiny bit of blood power hidden there. 'I was careless.' Obviously, he used his Dark Element to get rid of the marker.

Rean then looked at Rimari before saying, "Granto is dead. Are you sure you want to stop us here, knowing that we killed him?"

Rimari was taken aback for a moment. However, she burst out in laughter after that. "Hahahahahaha! He died?! From two Initial Stage Saint Realm cultivators? Hahahahaha! Great! That means I'm the new top disciple of the Blood Path Sect of our generation. All the resources allocated to him back then will now be mine! Hahahaha!"

She was part of an Evil Path sect and one of the strongest ones at that. There, the competition for resources was far fiercer and brutal. If she had the chance, she would kill Granto herself, just so that she could take his resources. The Blood Path Sect didn't care about that either. For them, those who come out on top were the ones who mattered. As for the process, that didn't matter to them.

Jax, the Elemental Transformation Realm beside her, then noticed one thing. "I recognize that scythe of yours. You're that so-called Dark Element user, right? Sect Master Gille told us that you used a scythe. I have to admit, that's a very funny weapon."

Rimari was delighted to hear that. After all, she knew there was a reward waiting for her if she brought Roan back to Gille. With that said, she gave up killing Roan and gave him an offer. "Surrender yourself willingly, and I'll spare your unconscious friends there." Rimari obviously noticed Liana and Tiffany sleeping behind their backs.

Roan narrowed his eyes as the situation wasn't very good for them. Even if he used the Glittering Crystal, he would only be able to fight Rimari. There's still one more Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator, Jax. The guy was just too much for Rean to fight alone due to the difference in cultivation level. Rean would at most be able to fight the guy at the Peak Stage of the Saint Realm.

However, Rean smiled in response to that. 'Use the Glittering Crystal. Don't worry. You just need to focus on Rimari. The other two guys are of no concern.'

Roan was surprised to hear that when he suddenly noticed Rean's back shining amidst the gap between him and Tiffany on his back. Rean could have used his Light Element to heal the two girls so that they would wake up faster. It's just that they preferred to bring them outside first before focusing on it since they didn't want to be found close to the place where the skeleton appeared.

Now, however, the moment Rean saw the problem, he immediately worked on Tiffany behind his back without Rimari noticing. Not to mention that it had been more than two hours since they left the skeleton's mausoleum, which helped Tiffany recover quite a bit by herself.

Roan then looked at Rimari and snorted in response. "Surrender? Why should I surrender to a dead person?" Immediately, Roan took out the Glittering Crystal from his spatial ring and threw it in his mouth.

Boom!

A powerful wave of Divine Energy soon came out of his body as his strength soared. Rimari, obviously, noticed that and didn't wait anymore. "Jax, Trifas, capture the others. He might stop if we capture them." She then launched herself at Roan, hoping to stop the process that was increasing his strength.

Divine Energy and Soul Power accumulated as Yin Energy and Dark Element gathered around her. Suddenly, hundreds of needles covered in Dark Element came out of her back. Not only that, but they also carried the same blood power as Granto's attack did.

'Blood Path!'

'Myriad Blood Needles, immobilize!'

As she attacked, she didn't aim at Roan's dantian or head. She had to capture him alive, so she held back a little.

Roan snorted in response after seeing that. His hair then changed into a mix of white and black as his scythe moved at a much higher speed than he had ever used it.

‘Death Style, First Defensive From, Reversive Arcs.’

Roan’s Reversive Arcs were many times more powerful and numerous, showing the difference the Glittering Crystal brought to his power. ‘Impressive. No wonder this is such a rare item, according to Tulipa. I don’t feel any rejection or overbearing power. Sure enough, it makes sense why Tulipa said this thing was wanted so much.’ It was the first time Roan experienced the power of being at the Initial Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang...

All of Rimari’s needles hit Roan’s defense. When they touched, Roan’s Dark Element, which was far purer, destroyed the power behind Rimari’s needles while Rean’s Light Element fueled his own attacks.

Naturally, Rimari was surprised to see that. After all, she could tell that Roan’s cultivation only went up to the Initial Stage. He was still two stages below her. Nevertheless, he defended against her weapon so easily. ‘Is this what a real Dark Element Affinity Cultivator looks like?’

Of course, she quickly recovered and gave up on her idea of capturing Roan for now. She had enough experience to tell that this wouldn’t be an easy battle.

Her needles then retreated before taking on another form soon after. Right now, they looked like several spears of Dark Element and blood.

‘Myriad Blood Needles, Demon Spears!’

Naturally, Roan wasn’t any slower. He only defended at first because he was still in the process of processing the Glittering Crystal. Now he went on the offensive.

‘Death World!’

‘Life Style, Enhancement!’

'Death Style, Shadow Steps!'

'Death Style, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

With that said, Roan went all out!

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Chapter 1245: Three Fronts

Three Claws of the Dragon quickly hit the three closest Needle Spears, deflecting them against another three, much to Rimari's surprise. Such a movement needed a huge amount of control and experience. However, Roan made it look simple.

Roan continued forward as his Death World covered Rimari's body. Because of the first six spears that he took care of, a gap appeared between them for Roan to pass through.

However, Rimari wasn't afraid of that.

'Needle Field!'

Many of her needles began to spin around her body, creating a field of needles that acted as detectors.

Plin, plin, plin, plin...

They were so sensitive that Roan didn't even need to touch them. As long he got a little close, the needle would tremble, showing the position he was coming from.

'Myriad Blood Needle, Needle Spikes!'

Roan, who was just about to use Crescent Moon, felt Dark Element accumulating on the ground before many needles shot out of it. He immediately jumped and brandished his scythe several times, trying to deflect them all. However, a few of the needles passed through his defense, hitting his body.

Rimari smiled as she saw that, only for the smile to disappear completely. That's because Roan's body started to disappear soon after.

'Death Style, Mirage Assault!'

Plin, plin, plin, plin...

Right after, her Needle Field received reactions from three different sides at the same time. Well, her needles were a type of weapon that was especially good against several opponents, so she controlled them to attack the positions Roan was coming from.

'Myriad Blood Needles, Spreading Shot!'

Half of her Needle Field suddenly turned in the directions she felt the reactions from before bursting out like a balloon. While that happened, the needles that she first used to attack Roan took their place, forming Needle Field once more. Just like Roan, Rimari also had a very good defense.

However, Rimari wasn't feeling the least bit happy. Her mind was somewhere else while she fought Roan. 'Where the hell are Jax and Trifas? They should have captured the others by now, those idiots.'

Of course, they wanted to. Unfortunately, the plans didn't go according to plan. After Roan and Rimari's fight started, the two of them shot at Rean, Tiffany, and Liana. However, just as they were about to reach them, Tiffany's eyes opened behind Rean before she retaliated against Jax while Rean did the same with Trifas.

'Life Style, Enhancement!'

'Life Style, Light Aura Burst!'

Rean increased both his own and Tiffany's physical power as they started the battle.

Tiffany took out two swords from her spatial ring as her body gathered Lightning and Wind Element.

‘Energized Body!’

‘Wind Path!’

Energized Body increased her overall body’s reaction time while Wind Path increased her movement speed. With Light Aura Burst, she became even faster!

‘What?!’

Jax, the enemy Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator, was surprised to see Tiffany’s current speed. It was far above his own.

In fact, Tiffany herself was left aghast by her current speed. ‘This Light Aura Burst is way too good!’ Of course, she was still angry that she was awakened in such a situation. ‘Those twins better give a very good explanation as to what happened back there. At least, it doesn’t seem like they touched my or Liana’s body.’

She then put those thoughts behind as she attacked Jax.

‘Lightning Blades!’

She was surprisingly a close-range fighter, so she arrived in front of Jax in an instant!

Of course, Jax was still an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator from the Blood Path Sect. ‘Hmph! Do you think speed is enough to deal with me?’

He wasn’t going to use a weapon at first as he just wanted to capture Rean’s group. But seeing that an opponent as strong as himself appeared, he immediately changed his plans. Not long after, a big red and dark chain appeared around his body before it spread around him, creating a defensive area in the shape of a cocoon.

Clang, clang!

Bzzzzzzzzzz!

The two blades of lightning hit the chains but had little effect on them. Tiffany narrowed her eyes when she saw that and immediately changed her stance.

‘Dual Lightning Tornado!’

Her body began to rotate at high speeds, even higher than she usually did, creating a lightning tornado around herself as she pushed forward.

Jax was confident in his chains at first. Usually, these kinds of weapons had little effect on them. However, Tiffany’s Dual Lightning Tornado began to seriously dismantle his chains, forcing him to retreat. He immediately gave up on that approach, thinking that he could still capture Rean and Tiffany. His chains soon took on another form as he began to attack Tiffany as well.

‘Blood Path Chains! Enclosure!’

His chains made an arc around Tiffany’s Dual Lightning Tornado, trying to contain the tornados with it. It’s just that his chains didn’t have much of an advantage against Tiffany.

Meanwhile, Trifas tried to help Jax by trying to capture Rean and Liana. After all, the only one remaining was at the Initial Stage of the Saint Realm. Unfortunately for him, the moment he tried to capture Rean, Rean also retaliated just as fast.

‘Death Style, Stellar Piercer!’

Rean’s body burst forward, showing a speed that Trifas had never seen from an Initial Stage Saint before. Without much choice, he could only bring his own weapon, a huge hammer, out to fight Rean as well.

‘Bone Crashing Charge!’

Blood Power and Dark Element covered his body, trying to reduce the power behind Rean’s Stellar Piercer by corroding it. Once they clashed, Rean’s Stellar Piercer would be practically gone...or so he thought. Little did he know that Dark Element was useless against Rean as well. Only Dark Element as good as Roan could match Rean’s assault. Nevertheless, the blood power of the Blood Path Sect was still there.

Clang!

The hammer quickly hit Rean’s Stellar Piercer, destroying it with brute force. Then again, Stellar Piercer was a ranged attack, so it made sense that the hammer won against that piercing energy alone.

‘How can it have so much power?!’ In any case, Trifas was shocked by how much his hammer trembled when he collided against Rean’s attack.

Clack!

It was then that Trifas saw a small chip fall off his hammer.

‘Impossible!’

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Chapter 1246: Quickly Fading

There was nothing wrong with that, though. Rean and Trifas were both in the Saint Realm, even if one was in the Initial Stage and the other was at the Peak Stage. In the end, the level of weapons they could use was the same, Golden Initial-level, Middle-level if they had one. More than that, and their cultivation wouldn’t be enough to use it correctly. However, Rean’s Black Star was as strong as a piece of Golden High-level equipment.

Of course, that wasn’t all. Rean’s Black Star was made with World Essence from the system, just like Roan’s scythe. While the Special Edition Weapons he sold were barely at the High-level in power, the

White Scythe and the Black Star were at the very peak of what a High-level weapon could do. All of that while still being Golden Initial-level equipment. Let alone the fact that they could gather elements on their own.

Rean didn't give Trifas time to feel sad for his slightly damaged hammer as he continued his assault. He took the moment Trifas was surprised by the power of his attack to the fullest.

'Life Fire, Flame Emperor Sword!'

Light and Fire Element gathered around Rean's Black Star as he came crashing down at Trifas. The fusion of both elements created an even more powerful attack!

Trifas quickly recovered, though. This time, he filled his hammer with a lot more Divine Energy in order to protect it before retaliating.

'Red Mountain Strike!'

Once again, Dark Element quickly gathered with the use of Yin Energy, which combined with Blood Power from the Blood Path Sect's cultivation technique. Earth Element also took place there, showing that Trifas could use more than just Dark Element.

Boom!

The two weapons clashed against each other before a stalemate was created for a small moment. It's just that a hammer and a sword clashing was never a good thing for the sword. It would always have a smaller force behind it. With that said, Rean's body was sent flying back due to the impact. Then again, Rean was very behind in cultivation, so it made sense.

However, Trifas' hammer once again suffered the same fate. A big chunk of it came out as if his Divine Energy protecting it was of no use. He couldn't understand why.

Rean knew, though. It was because Trifas didn't know that the Dark Element he was using on it was of no use against Rean. If anything, Rean could harmonize Light and Dark, Yin and Yang, thanks to his connection with Roan. It was as if Trifas was helping Rean's attack get stronger the closer he got.

Nevertheless, he looked at Rean, who he sent flying. 'He should have broken a few bones with the impact just now.' Trifas was right. Rean did break one of his arms and two ribs from the clash. The difference in weapon and cultivation was that big. However, he also saw Light Element enveloping Rean's body.

'Life Style, Instant Recovery!'

In just a moment, Rean's bones were mended together as he got up. It looked like nothing had happened at all.

'What kind of power is that?!' Sure enough, Trifas was shocked by that sight. Yet, he understood that the longer this battle took, the worse it would become for him. 'I can't give him enough time to heal himself.' He put his concerns behind his mind and immediately attacked Rean once more.

However, Rean just smiled in response. "Are you sure you want to pay attention to me?"

Rean's words fell like a bucket of ice water on Trifas' head. He immediately focused on his Divine Sense, just in time to see hundreds of icicles coming from his side. No, he should have noticed it a moment earlier. But because Rean called his attention with his voice, his reaction time was a little slower than it should have. He immediately tried to rotate his hammer, but that slight delay made it too late to cover everything.

Prak, prak, prak, prak...

Sphhhlt, sphhhlt, sphhhlt, sphhhlt...

He was able to block several of the icicles, but quite a few of them passed through his defense as well, hitting his body. 'Who?!' He knew that Jax was fighting Tiffany and Roan was fighting Rimari, so who was it that attacked him?

It turned out that it was Liana! Not only that, but Rean was also standing by her side. No, to be more precise, where Rean's clone was. Rean had used Roan's Death World to hide one of his clones and send him to heal Liana. He then explained to her the current situation with a Divine Sense message and told her to wait for a chance to appear. In the end, Rean's cultivation was just too far away from Trifas. If they really fought to the end, Rean would most likely lose. And that's where Liana came in.

Then again, Trifas had a strong body, so the icicles were not fatal, especially since he prioritized protecting the important points of his body. He used his Divine Energy to get rid of the icicles straight away as well. It's just that he knew that he was at a disadvantage now.

Trifas wasn't the only one at a disadvantage, though. Rimari wasn't faring any better either. The reason was the same as when he started to fight Rean, the weapon. Her needles were all at the Golden High-level, having a level similar to Roan's White Scythe. However, Roan's scythe was still a huge weapon against many small needles.

Rimari was used to having several of her needles broken during fights. That's why she had so many of them to use. However, every single time the real Roan attacked her, he would crush several tens of them, making Rimari lose more and more of it. After this long, Roan had already gotten rid of at least 50% of her needles.

Rimari couldn't help but curse inwardly, 'Just how long will his treasure last? It has been five minutes since he started to fight at my level!'

Sure enough, she was right. The power of the Glittering Crystal fueling Roan was quickly fading, but Rimari's defense was still too tight!

Death... and me

Chapter 1247: Tree Bark and Protection Treasure

Roan didn't think this fight would be easy. First of all, he wasn't a real Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator. He was just borrowing power to reach that level, so he definitely wasn't as strong as if he had reached that level on his own. Besides, Rimari was one of the top disciples of the Blood Path Sect.

'It's not like I can't reach her, but she probably has some life-saving treasure as well. I would need to use a lot of energy. If I can't cut her down, I'll run out of power from the Glittering Crystal first.'

Roan pondered in silence for a bit and looked at the situation of Tiffany, Rean, and Liana. Tiffany and Jax were pretty much evenly matched in their battle, so it wouldn't end anytime soon. As for Rean and Liana, they obviously had the upper hand. Trifas had quite a few injuries on his body due to Liana's icicles. If it continued on like that, Rean and Liana would definitely be victorious in the end. Of course, it would be useless if Roan couldn't deal with Rimari.

Roan then sent Rean a message through their Soul Connection. 'Do you think Liana can hold that guy on her own?'

For Roan to ask that, that meant things weren't going very well in his battle. 'She can. I already used my Light Aura Burst, so she should be able to hold on on her own for a while.'

Roan nodded, telling him, 'Alright, I'll need you to do a thing for me.'

Suddenly, Roan's attack stopped, much to Rimari's delight. 'Has the effect of his treasure finally wore off?'

However, she felt her Needle Field detecting Roan's presence a moment later.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

Roan attacked with his strongest individual skill. The Death Scythe soon came down, cutting many of Rimari's needles along its path.

Rimari immediately reacted and increased its defense.

'Myriad Blod Needles, Needle Shield!'

Eventually, the needles were able to stop Roan's attack. However, that was only the first one. A second Death Scythe arrived at the very next moment.

Swish!

Rimari's Needle Shield was soon broken, opening a path to her. It turned out that the first attack was made by one of Roan's clones. Roan used the entire clone's energy in the attack, which made it disappear as soon as the attack was over.

The second clone arrived right after, executing the same thing.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

This time, the clone was able to cut through the Needle Shield. In any case, Rimari was quite satisfied with that outcome. Roan was using much, much more energy than he had been so far. She was sure he was doing that right now because he didn't have much choice. It was his last struggle.

Well, Rimari wasn't wrong. That was indeed Roan's last struggle.

With the second clone gone and the path open, Roan's real body finally made a move. This time, he used all the remaining energy of the Glittering Crystal at once. Once the attack was over, he would return to his Initial Stage Saint Realm cultivation.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

This Death Scythe was much stronger, though, as the clones only had 80% of the original body's power and didn't really have real weapons. Let alone when Roan put everything into this attack. Roan broke through all the remaining needles along the way, much to Rimari's shock. She had been battling Roan for so long. However, none of his attacks were as strong as that.

Without much choice, she immediately jumped back while using the rest of her needles to stop Roan's assault.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang...

Roan's momentum didn't stop, though. With Rean's Enhancement Skill and his Shadow Steps, Rimari could forget about being faster than he was in such an environment.

Rimari saw how her needles continued to be broken before the scythe arrived right in front of her face. In the end, she gritted her teeth and accessed her spatial ring. What came out was something that looked like a piece of tree bark. It pulsed with Dark Element and Divine Energy.

The bark then seemed to gain life right after, as many dark roots came out of it and tried to entangle Roan's scythe and his body. Roan's scythe was definitely strong, but the bark seemed to contain power far above the Elemental Transformation Realm. Roan's scythe simply wouldn't be able to cut through it at all. Not only that, he would be completely immobilized at that point.

However, Roan faintly smiled before he lowered his head a little. From behind him, Rean suddenly jumped out and threw an item from his hand. Rimari didn't notice Rean's approach at all. She couldn't be blamed as she was inside Roan's Death World and Rean used his Light and Divine Sense bending skill. Besides, her concentration was purely on Roan.

As for the item, it was a token. One must remember when Rean got a protection treasure as a reward back in Cosec City. According to the elders back then, it could resist an attack at the Transition Realm or below. Rean hadn't used that treasure until now as he hadn't had the chance.

However, never did he think he would use it in this way. He didn't try to protect Roan with that treasure. No, that would be useless. It could definitely stop the dark tree bark's vines from capturing Roan. Unfortunately, that would mean Roan's attack would be over, and his power would return to the Initial Stage of the Saint Realm. Instead, Rean threw it at the dark tree bark itself!

The token suddenly activated and tried to 'protect' the tree bark, creating a barrier that wouldn't let anything with the power of Transition Realm or below pass through for a short moment. That also included things from inside not being able to come out. To be honest, the tree bark was much stronger than Rean's protection treasure. After all, he got this thing from the powers in Cosec City. How could they have something better than the Blood Path Sect?

Crack, crack, crack...

Shatter!

Sure enough, the dark tree bark's vines broke through the barrier almost instantly.

However, that gave Roan all the time he needed. His Death Scythe finally reached Rimari, who was already slower than him to start with.

Swish!

The few remaining Blood Needles were cut down, together with Rimari herself. At this point, she was dead as she could be.

Death... and me

Chapter 1248: What Happened

As soon as Rimari died, the dark tree bark lost its connection to her and stopped just before catching Rean and Roan. Its dark vines then wilted before the tree bark itself crumbled. Obviously, it was just like Rean's token. It was a one-time use item.

Rean couldn't help but sigh after looking at the aftermath of the battle. 'Our two treasures for emergencies are now gone, just like that.'

Roan didn't seem to mind. 'They served their purpose, which was to save our lives. Besides, we're very lucky. Thanks to Rimari, we found out that there was a tracker in my scythe. Besides, we still have the system's Nascent Soul Revival. That means we can burn our Nascent Soul for more power if necessary. Good thing we didn't have to use it, though.'

'That's true,' Rean agreed with him. 'Let's make sure there isn't anything else after this battle is over.'

The twins then changed direction and immediately provided support for Tiffany and Liana. Roan's Death World then covered Jax, turning the stalemate between himself and Tiffany into something that was not.

As for Rean and Liana, Liana did suffer a little when she was paired against Trifas alone. Nevertheless, she held to the end until Rean came back. With Trifas's own injuries and Rean's healing abilities, they quickly recovered the upper hand before he decided to give up and flee. It was quite unfortunate that Rean wouldn't let that happen. When it came to speed alone, Rean was definitely faster. Liana also gave support from the sides until they finally got rid of Trifas.

The battle between Tiffany and Jax wasn't much different, surprisingly. With Tiffany being at the same level as Jax while using two elements focused on speed, she was faster than him. Roan's Death World made it harder for him to guess which side he should flee to. Let alone when Rean and Liana appeared to surround him and end his life as well.

The Blood Path Sect trio relied mainly on Rimari's power. With her dead, the others didn't have much of a chance.

Roan then turned around without even caring about the Blood Path Sect's belongings. "Alright, let's get out of here as the people in the danger zone are slowly waking up. I would rather not be seen beside the corpses of the Blood Path Sect's disciples."

Tiffany and Liana were still somewhat confused regarding the current situation but still followed Rean and Roan. Kentucky was still unconscious in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, so he couldn't help them with the travel.

Their group continued forward for an hour before they finally stopped in a concealed area. Only then did Tiffany and Liana ask what happened back in the catacombs.

Rean finally explained, "You were all knocked out by that skeleton, remember? At some point, the skeleton simply got up and... left. We couldn't move a single finger until then, so we don't know where it went.

"It left?" Tiffany and Liana found it hard to believe.

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "Why are you looking at me like that? Does it look like we could do anything to stop that skeleton? Fuck you! I'm already extremely happy that it didn't kill us."

Tiffany then took out a Soul Binding Contract from her spatial ring. She didn't believe that the skeleton simply left and didn't do anything with the twins, who were awake. "Can you swear on your words with a Soul Binding Contract?"

Rean and Roan nodded in response. Tiffany simply wrote down that they couldn't lie about the events in the mausoleum, or they would die. She thought that they would definitely not sign it as she believed something happened there. She even put the punishment for breaking the contract to be instant death! However, to her surprise, they signed it.

The contract then burned and disappeared, which meant that it took effect. After that, Rean and Roan repeated exactly the same words, and nothing happened at all.

"So, it was true..." Tiffany didn't want to believe it, but she knew that no one could go against a Soul Binding Contract's terms. If they had lied, they would be dead now. Of course, she didn't know about the Soul Gem System making the twins immune to Soul Binding Contracts.

Liana patted Tiffany's shoulder after that, saying, "Perhaps, it was for the best that nothing happened. Everything is still too much of a mystery."

Tiffany nodded in agreement. "Maybe you're right."

She then asked Rean. "Why didn't you help us wake up earlier?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he told them, "Do you think I didn't try? Whatever the skeleton did, it affected your souls. I can heal your body, but the soul has to recover on its own. My Light Element makes my soul a lot more resistant, and the same goes for my brother as he shares elements with me. I believe it's because of that we didn't go unconscious."

Rean continued, "To be honest, I got a scare when we found Rimari and her group. I wasn't sure if I would be able to make you two wake up to help out with the battle. Fortunately, the two hours we kept carrying you two seemed to have been enough time for your souls to recover somewhat. I just had to act on your bodies to awaken you at that point."

Tiffany then tried to confirm something else. "You didn't touch our bodies in an improper way while we were unconscious, right?"

Roan snorted in response. "Hmph! Don't be full of yourself."

Tiffany's mouth twitched after hearing that. "Are you saying I'm not worthy?"

Rean smiled and asked a question in response to Tiffany's own. "Does that mean you wanted us to touch you?"

Tiffany's expression went slightly red when she noticed that it truly looked like she was asking it. "Don't be ridiculous!"

Liana was a victim of Rean's teasing before, so she just patted Tiffany's shoulder once more. "Let it go. The more you insist, the worse it will become. Don't worry, I don't think they're that kind of people."

Rean was happy to hear that. "It's good that you know. We do have our own girls, so we have no interest in you two. It has nothing to do with whether it's worth it or not. It's a question of principles."

Tiffany finally let it go. "Fine, I'll believe you for now. I can't feel anything wrong with my body anyway. So, what happened after you left the skeleton mausoleum?"

"Everyone we passed by was unconscious, including the ghosts, believe it or not. We even took the opportunity to grab five Yin Ghost Cores as the ghosts themselves didn't try to retaliate," Rean replied.

"Five cores?!" The cores were worth a lot of Merit Points, so Liana and Tiffany were obviously shocked to hear that.

Rean nodded before he entered the main topic. "By the way, Tiffany, Liana, do you think you can keep those people from Tenke Country quiet? I don't think it's a good idea if others find out that it was us who went into that mausoleum first. We would probably become targets."

"This..." Tiffany and Liana were taken aback. "Indeed... that would be bad for Liana and me as well. However, what about the cultivators Roan left alive outside the mausoleum? They saw that we went in first. Won't they open their mouths?"

Rean shook his head, saying, "They also passed out because of the skeleton. What do you think happened to them when they didn't try to protect themselves against the Dark Element of the mausoleum anymore?"

"I see..." Liana and Tiffany weren't idiots. If it was them, they would be dead as well in that circumstance. They were only alive because Rean was with them.

Death... and me

Chapter 1249: Who Killed Them?

In the end, Liana and Tiffany nodded in agreement. "Don't worry. As long as we ask them, they won't say anything. Consider it as payment for helping us."

"Are you sure?" Roan asked. "It would be better if you make them sign a Soul Binding Contract as well. After all, not only did we enter the mausoleum first, but we were also the only ones to come out alive of that place."

Liana shook her head in response. "You don't understand the connections that the Tenke Country cultivators have with each other. We trust each other, simple as that. I can guarantee you that nothing will happen."

Roan couldn't pick a lie in Liana or Tiffany's words, so he only nodded in response. "Alright then."

"Should we make our way out?" Rean asked.

Roan nodded but warned everyone. "Yes. However, first, check your bodies with your Divine Senses and Soul Power. Rimari found us because of that, so Gille might do the same thing."

"Hmph!" Tiffany didn't seem to care. "His Blood Path Sect isn't any stronger than our Tenke Country. I want to see him try something when we come out."

Rean could not help but say in response to her words, "It's not about power, but about becoming targets. They might connect us to what happened to the mausoleum, so it's better to prevent mishaps. Just check your body, okay?"

“Fine.” Fortunately, Tiffany relented.

This time, however, there wasn’t any mark on their group that they could find. They even checked the Divine Stones they took from Granto and the others, but nothing could be found. Sister Orb also said that she couldn’t feel any formation in them.

“Good. Let’s head out.” Roan then accessed the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and took out a certain sleeping bird.

Seeing that, Rean shook his head. Kentucky definitely wasn’t unconscious anymore. Well, he was... it’s just that his unconsciousness wasn’t caused by the skeleton’s Divine Energy pressure but because... he fell asleep.

Bang!

Roan then kicked the Demon Bird, who woke up in a flash. “What?! What?! Who’s attacking?!”

Rean patted the Minokawa, saying, “No one’s attacking. Everything was over while you slept. Now then, make yourself useful and bring us out of the Demising Catacombs.”

“Oh... Okay...” Kentucky nodded and called everyone to jump on his back before taking flight once again. Rean also gave him a full explanation of everything that happened through Divine Sense. At the same time, he spread his Light and Divine Sense bending skill, making his group disappear in the air.

The Demising Catacombs were supposed to last an entire month. However, the huge earthquake caused by the skeleton’s awakening turned everything upside down. Outside, many cultivators began to come out, afraid that they might fall unconscious again. The Demising Catacombs definitely wasn’t a place for a cultivator to ‘sleep.’

Naturally, they told the elders outside about what happened. Unfortunately, there was a problem. The formation sealing the Demising Catacombs prevented anyone above the Elemental Transformation Realm from entering. With that said, Tiramisu sent a message back to the Sacred Land, requesting the access token to pass through the seal.

It was during his time waiting for it that Roan's group finally came out of the Demising Catacombs. Obviously, they kept their appearances the same as they entered it. Liana exited the place with her original appearance, while Roan changed his back to the fake face.

Rean, on the other hand, wasn't with their group when they entered the catacombs, so he separated from the group, telling them he would do something else. The truth was that after Roan, Liana, and Tiffany disappeared in the distance, he entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. After all, he wasn't within the groups that entered it at first, so it would be weird if he suddenly left.

Tiffany didn't mind it as Liana was part of her Tenke Kingdom. She remained on Kentucky's back when they left the danger zone.

They weren't the only ones coming out, but the elders of the Sacred Land still asked them if they knew something. Obviously, they pretended to be oblivious to it.

It didn't take long for the access token to be teleported there, though. Not only that, but many more elders of the Sacred Land also came out to investigate. They used the special token, which allowed those above the Elemental Transformation Realm to finally get inside. Together with them, many elders from other countries followed. After all, the Demising Catacombs was sustained with their combined efforts. They had the right to it. The elders took the opportunity to find the rest of the participants and send them out of the catacombs as well.

Roan's group wanted to return to the Sacred Land, but the elders who stayed outside kept them waiting there. They wanted to account for all cultivators to see if they found anything.

Naturally, Gille was there as well. Roan's reappearance had caught his interest, although he couldn't confirm if that one was Roan or not. Even if he was sure, he couldn't act in this place, so it was useless.

However, what truly bothered him was how his top disciples from this generation didn't appear. There were still many participants inside, but he still found it too much of a coincidence. As time passed, the participants continued to appear until finally, one of his subordinates came out of the Demising Catacombs. "Sect Master, we found some of their corpses. It seems like Granto's team is totally dead. Not only them, but many top disciples from all powers died inside."

“What?!” Gille was shocked to hear that. Granto’s group was very strong. Not to mention the life-saving treasures some of them had in their possession, like Granto and Rimari. “How could that be...?”

The subordinate then told him about the mausoleum. Sure enough, the elders found that place, which wasn’t marked in any of the records of the Sacred Land before. It was a complete surprise that it appeared right now. Unfortunately, everyone close to that place died... or so they thought after seeing the corrupted bodies at the mausoleum’s entrance. Nevertheless, the impressive part was the next piece of news. “From what I saw, Granto, Clincks, Erbasxe, Hedoi, and Kluo were all killed during the time they were unconscious. They didn’t look like they were killed by the Dark Element there, but rather they died before then.”

Gille gritted his teeth after hearing that. Wasn’t that just blatant humiliation? Then again, who killed them?

Death... and me

Chapter 1250: Does It Have Any Use?

Surprisingly, Gille noticed something. “What about Rimari?”

The guy nodded before saying, “We found her corpse at the entrance of the Demising Catacombs. Jax and Trifas were there as well. However, no one saw who killed them as a lot of the cultivators were still unconscious, it seems.”

“Everyone killed... doesn’t that mean we lost the best disciples we have from this generation?” Gille felt like shit. Not that he was sad for the disciples, but because of the potential they had for the sect. All powers considered a generation to be recognized every 100 years. To be more specific, each generation corresponded to each Sacred Land Recruitment cycle.

Gille then looked at the targets he set down for his disciples. Naturally, he saw Roan as one of the few who survived. ‘He broke through to the Initial Stage of the Saint Realm in there?’ That was surprising, but Gille didn’t think much about it. With that kind of cultivation, Roan had little to no chance of having done anything to Granto’s group. Little did he know that this thought of his was exactly the case.

The investigation in the Demising Catacombs and the sudden appearance of the mausoleum soon continued. All the elders could tell was that something came out of the coffin, but they didn’t know what. The leaders then gave a search order in the area, but no one was found in the end.

A few days later, Tiramisu, the one responsible for this opening of the Demising Catacombs, finally talked with the waiting disciples of all powers. "We couldn't find what caused the mass loss of consciousness. However, we can't let you go back inside until we assess everything has returned to normal. Everyone, you can head back to your countries. The event is now over."

With that said, everyone began to take the teleport formations to leave the area. Naturally, Roan's group did the same and returned to the Sacred Land. As for Gille, he couldn't do anything else other than leave a few elders of his sect behind to help with the investigation. Most of the powers there did the same thing, just in case.

Of course, Liana and Tiffany talked with the Tenke Country disciples from their group before leaving. They guaranteed that no one would say anything about them being near the mausoleum's entrance.

In the Sacred Land, Rean and Roan returned to their residences once more. The only problem was that Rean had to pass through a crowd of people to get inside. Sure enough, his weapons were still big hits, and everyone wanted more of them.

Roan had a few guests waiting for him as well, but he didn't want to become anyone's helper for the time being. He and Rean had a lot of things to do at the moment.

Soon, they got inside their residences and used Sister Orb to guarantee that no one was able to watch inside. Only then did they disappear and reappear inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. At the center of the realm, they now could see a huge black and white fragment. "So that's the Foundation Fragment, uh?"

Sister Orb confirmed. [That's the one. Oh, right! During the time you had to wait outside the Demising Catacombs, the system also finished upgrading its Processing Power. Now, I can analyze and take control over formations much faster.]

Rean pondered over it for a bit before asking, "We haven't used your power in a long time because of the difficulty of the formations. Now that the system's processing power has been upgraded, how long would it take you to analyze and control a Golden Initial-level formation?"

Sister Orb immediately answered, [You're a Formation Master yourself, so you know it depends on the formation. For example, a very big formation would take much longer. It's not that the difficulty is greater, but that there would be a lot more to take into account.]

Rean nodded, clarifying, "I know, but you should be able to give me an average answer, no?"

[Well... let me see...] Sister Orb then concentrated on the system's Processing Power before saying, [If it's nothing too big, I believe I would be able to analyze a Golden Initial-level formation in one or two days. Taking control over it would take five to ten days.]

Rean was very happy to hear that. "So fast!"

[Indeed, I have become very fast. But this is only for Golden Initial-level formations. If the difficulty increases, the time required increases as well. An average time for a Golden Middle-level formation would be around a month or two to analyze and ten to twenty months to take control over. A Golden High-level formation would increase that time by ten times.]

Rean wasn't disappointed to hear that. Considering a cultivator's lifespan, that was still very fast, in his opinion. Besides, she would evolve more as the fragments were recovered.

Roan was in doubt about one thing, though. "Forget about the formations for now. Why did the fragment gather so much Dark Element in the mausoleum? Isn't its body Light and Dark Element in nature? Perhaps Yin and Yang?"

[That's because you're not looking closely. Pay attention to the Foundation Fragment. Does it seem to be more Yin or more Yang?] Sister Orb asked them in response.

Roan immediately did that and used his Divine Sense to check the fragment. His Divine Sense couldn't tell much about it. However, he was able to feel a lot more Yin Energy coming from it than Yang Energy. "I understand. The fragments aren't exactly equal in power. Some are more Yin while others are more Yang. I guess only the Foundation itself is in equilibrium."

Sister Orb was happy that he quickly understood. [Exactly! It has to do with the moment the Foundation was cracked. Yin and Yang move inside the Foundation nonstop, so it makes sense that a fragment would be inclined more to one side than the other the moment it's broken.]

Rean then asked something else. "By the way, Sister Orb. Does it have any use for us while it's staying here?"