

Death 1321

Death... and me

Chapter 1321: Ancient Beasts' Confront

Following that, an enormous ancient beast that looked like a dinosaur with armor shot out from the ground. Just like the giant snake, it was also completely white. However, that's where the similarities ended. Its back was fully protected with an armor made out of bones, full of spikes. Its head was the same, with a bone helmet that looked even more resistant to attacks.

Even though the two ancient beasts were ridiculously enormous, making Kentucky look like a newborn chick, they were both far faster than Kentucky. The Minokawa could only dream about reaching their speed at its actual cultivation level.

Soon, the two ancient beasts clashed against each other.

Boom!

A heaven-defying explosion of Divine Energy from the two creatures rushed out, destroying everything in their wake. Kentucky flew as fast as he could, but the shockwave between the two ancient beasts still caught up to him. Rean and Roan immediately held tight onto Kentucky and infused their own Divine Soul Power into the Minokawa. In the meantime, Kentucky spun his body, putting himself between the shockwave and the twins. That was because the twins still did not have as much defense as Kentucky.

Sure, they had cultivated their Star Bodies. However, one must remember that Kentucky's defense had always been countless times higher than the twins. What the twins used to defend themselves during battles had always been Rean's weapons and their defensive skills, like the Reversive Arcs from Roan's Death Style. Obviously, neither of the two would be useful against such a thing.

Even if the twins had the correct grade of Star Body for their actual cultivation, which was Third Grade, they would be behind. After all, Kentucky was a Divine Demon Beast. At most, the twins would only have a far stronger body than other cultivators at the same level.

As for Hurio, he didn't have much of a choice as he also held tight onto Kentucky. He had his own way of saving his life if necessary, but he didn't want to bring those out yet.

Bang!

And so, Kentucky felt like he was struck by a heavy hammer as his body was sent flying like a cannonball, at a speed far faster than what he could achieve by flying himself. The twins and Hurio didn't suffer as much as him because Kentucky's body protected them. Nevertheless, it wasn't over. The shockwave was as fast as Kentucky, so after the initial slam, it enveloped Kentucky's group.

Kentucky then hit the ground while Rean's group held him and began to kick nonstop. However, that shockwave wasn't the only one. The giant snake and the dinosaur continued their skirmish, creating even more shockwaves that overlapped over the first one.

In any case, Kentucky closed his wings around Rean, Roan, and Hurio as he kept kicking nonstop. At the same time, Rean's body burst with Light Element as he healed Kentucky's injuries on the spot. Roan also kept pouring his Divine Soul Power into Kentucky to increase the latter's defense.

That situation continued for over a minute until finally, the twins' group had been sent so far away that the shockwaves could finally be resisted at their current level. However, they didn't relax. "Kentucky, let's leave this place, quickly. If their battle heads in our direction, we might really die here."

Kentucky didn't have to hear it twice before he opened his wings and took flight once more. The shockwaves still made his body lose some balance, but he endured it with the help of the twins' power and his own. Eventually, a few minutes later, the twins could only feel small changes in the Divine Energy from the battle between the snake and dinosaur-like ancient beast. They seemed to finally be somewhat far away from that battle. Also, it seemed like the ancient beasts didn't want to leave that place either, so Kentucky landed straight away to recover.

"That... was scary," Rean couldn't help but say.

Kentucky and Hurio nodded in agreement while Roan closed his eyes to recover his energy. Rean then looked at Hurio and said, "You told us how strong the ancient beasts were, but I didn't expect it to be this ridiculous. Even with bodies of that size, they could move so fast. Their power was beyond anything I had ever felt before."

Hurio agreed with Rean, saying, "As I told you before, this is my first time in the Lost Star Realm. What I knew about this place was what I learned through the records. I'm just as impressed as you. Reading about it and seeing it with my own eyes are two different things."

Roan then commented, "Transition Realm cultivators would be the same as ants in front of those two. In fact, I doubt a Void Tempering Realm cultivator would have the gall to get too close to them, either. The fact they moved that fast with how big their bodies is definitely because they have huge control over Spatial Powers. Maybe even the realm above Void Tempering wouldn't be enough to match it."

Hurio and Rean couldn't find Roan's words more true. Rean then looked at Kentucky before sending him a Divine Sense Message, asking, 'How are you? Any grave injury that needs healing?'

Kentucky shook his head. 'I'm fine. I did break a few bones, but both you and I have Light Element healing abilities. We were able to mend them back in just a few seconds after they broke, so I'm fine right now. I just need to recover my Divine Energy. I used a lot to protect myself against the shockwaves.'

After that, the twins' group stayed in that place only for a few more minutes. After all, the ancient beasts were still very close, even if they weren't heading their way. Eventually, they jumped on Kentucky's back and took flight once again. However, it was then that Rean noticed something. "Wait! We shouldn't leave."

Roan and Hurio looked at Rean with puzzled expressions. Can't he see that this place was still too dangerous?

Rean then organized his thoughts before saying, "Hurio, ancient beasts shouldn't fight each other, right?"

Hurio nodded in response. "That's what I found in the records, so I can't guarantee you that. However, that's supposed to be the case."

Rean continued, "In that case, what exactly could make those two fight each other?"

Roan's eyes lit up, understanding where Rean was coming from. "Maybe they were fighting over one of those extremely rare.... Divine Origin Energy areas."

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Chapter 1322: I'll Go Too

As Hurio mentioned before, areas with Divine Origin Energy only last for a few hours before completely disappearing. Perhaps that's why Hurio didn't find any record of ancient beasts battling each other. That's because such areas were extremely rare, and having two ancient beasts close by was even more so.

"But..." Hurio couldn't help but feel a chill on his back as he asked, "Do you really want to get close to those two?"

Rean and Roan bitterly smiled in response. Indeed, just the shockwaves of their battle were already powerful enough to kill them. What if one of those two decide to attack their group? Even if one of the two lost and fled, would the other one let Rean's group get close? They haven't forgotten how much faster either of the two gigantic ancient beasts was in relation to Kentucky. It wasn't even worth putting both in the same conversation.

In any case, Rean thought about something that made sense, telling them, "So far, I haven't felt their Divine Sense at all. Do they use Divine Sense?"

Hurio immediately shook his head, saying, "Seems like you're unaware of what happens when one enters the Void Tempering Realm."

Rean and Roan immediately got curious. "What do you mean?"

Hurio then explained to the twins, "At the Void Tempering Realm, cultivators, demon beasts, and spirits still use Divine Sense. After all, that's the best way to see things afar. However, that's not the thing they rely the most on when it comes to preventing oneself from being ambushed or when looking for someone at the same level or above. Instead, they rely on space itself."

"Space itself? How does it work?"

Hurio continued, "A Void Tempering Realm being will start to grasp the power of space, which causes the space around them to act in a different manner to anyone below that realm. This is something you can't hide at all. It's simply impossible as far as I know."

"The problem is that anyone at that level can detect when the space around them turns out like that. Let's make an analogy. Think of a spherical room that has nothing in it and is very well illuminated on all sides, with no shadows at all. Suddenly, you throw a black ball somewhere in that room, no matter which side. That would be extremely easy to see, don't you think?"

Rean and Roan nodded in response. "So, what you're saying is that anyone at the Void Tempering Realm or above will see anyone at the same levels as a big black point inside their detection range. Concealing abilities simply have no use at all."

Hurio confirmed Roan's words, nodding. "Exactly. Each and every being at those levels will shine brightly as long as they're inside each other's detection range."

Rean couldn't help but ask after that. "But... we aren't Void Tempering Realm cultivators, right? With that in mind, would we also appear inside the detection range of those ancient beasts?"

"This..." Hurio was taken aback for a moment. Indeed, he was thinking about cultivators at the Void Tempering Realm and above. It's just that no one under this level would ever try to get close to those ancient beasts. Because of that, Hurio automatically put his group in the same scenario. "I... don't know? I'm not a Void Tempering Realm cultivator, so I don't know if the spatial detection ability they rely on works on a cultivator at a lower level. You know why, right?"

The twins nodded. "That's because anyone at that level would have very strong Divine Sense. It's hard to think about an ability that can hide people at lower levels from their Divine Sense to start with. With that being said, we can't be sure if their natural spatial detection ability also works on us."

Boom!

Roooooar!

Suddenly, their group heard that same roar again. It's just that it was much further away than the first time, so it had little effect on their cultivations. Following that, the tremble of the ground, which had been constant until now, began to reduce until it finally stopped. "It seems like those two had finally reached a conclusion. Considering the movement of the ground took some time to finally die down, I think it's safe to say that one of them fled, leaving only one behind."

They all looked at each other, wondering if it was worth a shot or not. Hurio had already learned about Rean's Light bending skill, which was incredible. It really made one 100% invisible. Not to mention that the ability itself was undetectable. After all, it only bent light and nothing else. It was useless against Divine Sense, but they knew that ancient beasts didn't use Divine Sense to start with. After all, the stronger the Divine Sense, the easier it was for the twins to see it.

Eventually, the twins nodded at each other before looking at Hurio. "You better come down. Roan and I are heading there to check."

Hurio was taken aback. "Are you crazy?! If the remaining beast finds you and attacks, you're 100% dead for sure. Look at your cultivation level and age. It's obvious that you two have very high talents. You don't need to risk dying like that at all. Don't forget, you're just speculating that there is an area of Divine Origin Energy there. Those ancient beasts might have gotten into a battle for a completely different reason. I did tell you that we shouldn't be seeing so many ancient beasts outside of the depths of the Lost Star Realm, and it might be another one of these strange coincidences."

Rean nodded at Hurio after that, saying in response, "You're absolutely right to tell us that. However, Roan and I are in a hurry to cultivate and gain power as fast as possible. Even if it's just a possibility, we have to try."

Roan also nodded, although he didn't say anything.

Hearing that, Hurio was at a crossroads. Should he go or not? The Soul Binding Contract didn't force him to do anything like this, so he can totally leave the two right now. However, the words the twins spoke lingered in his mind, that they needed to gain power as fast as possible. It just so happened he was in the same situation.. "Fine! I'll go with you two! I would kill myself if I found out later that you two were right, so I might as well risk dying a little earlier."

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Chapter 1323: Too Good

Due to how large the area affected by the two ancient beasts was, some cultivators naturally noticed the commotion. However, none of them dared to get close to that place, making the twins' group the only party crazy enough to do so.

Kentucky, obviously, went as well as he could fly. When Kentucky and Rean were put together, they would be invisible and wouldn't leave any marks on the ground. Not to mention that Kentucky could use his Divine Energy to stop the sound of his wings flapping from spreading.

But even with that, Kentucky flew towards the ancient beasts' battleground slowly, tensioning his muscles to react to the slightest changes ahead. Little by little, they began to see the outline of what seemed to be the ancient beast. The spikes over its bodies were the first sign. Obviously, it was the dinosaur-like ancient beast who won the fight.

A few minutes later, they finally covered half of the distance and were able to see a peculiar view. It looked like the entire area around that ancient beast was becoming warped, making the air in the area move in its direction. Rean's group understood what was happening. "He's absorbing the Divine Energy from the area. Could it really be?"

Their group couldn't help but feel a little excited, but they still approached slowly. The area where the ancient beast was lying was just a few kilometers away from where they first saw the snake, showing that they had passed near it before. It was then that they saw the ancient beast with its eyes closed. It wasn't hard to see due to its size.

'Could it be that it's sleeping?'

'It's absorbing the Divine Energy around it, though.'

'Maybe it's an automatic process for them.'

'It shouldn't have any issues with sleeping. After all, it can feel the presence of other ancient beasts due to the natural spatial detection ability they have.'

'Indeed, if that snake decides to return, this guy will immediately feel its presence when the snake enters its range.'

'It's useless to keep speculating. Let's just get closer. We're almost at the area where it's absorbing the Divine Energy.'

Everyone agreed as Kentucky kept moving forward. Eventually, they reached a point where they could feel the Divine Energy from behind being dragged in the ancient beast's direction. Not too long after, they detected something different. To be more specific, some kind of different energy.

[It's Divine Origin Energy! Quick, get closer to the source!] Sure enough, Sister Orb immediately identified it.

However, Rean and Roan wouldn't tell Kentucky to speed up at all. They had to be careful of the ancient beast first. Everything was going fine until a few kilometers later, the ancient beast moved its head. Kentucky immediately stopped moving as he felt a chill on his back. The twins and Hurio were no different.

However, it seemed like the ancient beast was simply uncomfortable with its previous position, so it moved its head to a better one and continued to sleep. The twins' group saw that the ancient beast didn't move anymore after that and sighed in relief before Kentucky advanced some more.

Eventually, they stopped just fifteen kilometers away from the ancient beast. It might look like a big distance. However, due to the ancient beast's size spanning several kilometers, it didn't feel like that at all.

Roan then looked at Rean, Hurio, and Kentucky and said, 'Let's stop here. The Divine Origin Energy should be higher if we go where the ancient beast is located. However, once we start absorbing Divine Origin Energy, it might feel the fluctuations and notice our presence. We aren't even sure if it won't notice us right now.'

Rean and Hurio immediately nodded in response. Kentucky then gently landed on the ground, trying to not make any noise. After that, Rean and Roan wondered if they should bring Celis out as well. If anything, they could just invent some excuse or whatever. However, they had a better idea in the end. Not long after, they had Sister Orb open a passage to the Dimensional Realm, and Rean covered it with his Light and Divine Sense bending skill.

Thanks to that, Hurio wasn't able to see or feel it. Even if he did, it wouldn't be a problem as Rean and Roan could come up with some excuse. Due to the contract, Hurio couldn't do anything. Not to mention that no one could enter the Dimensional Realm without obtaining the twins' permission. The twins would need to spend 10000 Destiny Points for a free pass, after all.

Celis, obviously, was ready for it when the spatial passage between the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and the Lost Star Realm opened. Above that, the twins were even more secure now. After all, the Dimensional Realm wouldn't open if the system considered they were in danger. Since it did open, it concluded that the ancient beast indeed didn't pose any threat at the moment. If it changed, the passage would close straight away.

All of Celis' roots concentrated around the large passage. As soon as he felt that energy, Celis felt like he was raking in gold. "Holy shit! This thing is amazing!" Without wasting any time, Celis immediately began to absorb the Divine Origin Energy in the surroundings nonstop.

Because the passage was open between the twins, another vortex of Divine Origin Energy formed, rushing in their direction like torrents. Naturally, that was the ability of Celis, the World Swallowing Cedar. Of course, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky absorbed Divine Origin Energy as fast as possible as well. It's just that Rean had to divert some of his attention to keep the Light and Divine Sense bending skill activated around his group, so he was quite slower than the others. Well, Kentucky and Roan wouldn't complain about it at all. The last thing they needed was for that ancient beast to notice their presence.

Hurio couldn't help but feel shocked at the absorption rate of the twins and Kentucky.. Compared to them, he felt like he wasn't cultivating at all. 'Just how good is their cultivation technique?'

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Chapter 1324: Eventually Find Out

There were two doubts in their minds once they started cultivating. The first one was the duration as to how long the Divine Origin Energy area would last. As mentioned before, these areas rarely appeared, and when they did, they only lasted for a few hours. How long has it been since it converged at this point?

The second doubt was in relation to the ancient beast. Would it wake up while they were cultivating? If so, would it attack them? They couldn't be sure. First of all, just because its eyes were closed, there was no guarantee that it was really sleeping. Perhaps it knew that Rean's group was there from the start but considered them as mere ants, so it didn't bother with them.

Besides, it was obviously badly injured after its battle with the snake, so there was a chance it didn't want to make unnecessary movements at the moment. Regardless of which option it was, their group still kept an eye on the beast for any changes in its behavior.

In any case, they still couldn't help but feel ecstatic. After fifteen minutes of cultivation, Rean and Roan felt like at least 10% of the energy necessary to break through into the Peak Stage of the Saint Realm was filled. And that was considering they had their shared cultivation with Celis and Kentucky. As amazing as Celis might be at absorbing Divine Energy, it still had to make up for the twins' dantians, which were thrice as large as normal cultivators.

As for Hurio, it was even better. He was definitely much stronger than normal cultivators of his level. Roan hadn't seen it yet, but he believed Hurio was definitely not any weaker than any genius from the Huring Sacred Land. With that being said, he was sure to have an amazing cultivation technique and a dantian that also needed more energy to reach higher realms. It's just that it wouldn't compare to the twins' size. In any case, Hurio had already filled around 15% of the energy he needed for the breakthrough.

However, another thing happened as they cultivated. Nothing that put them in danger, though. The more Divine Origin Energy they consumed, the slower their cultivation became. That's because the Divine Origin Energy areas had a limited amount of Divine Origin Energy in them. Not to mention that the ancient beast was absorbing so much that it made even Celis look like he wasn't doing anything at all.

By the time two hours had passed, 50% of the twins and 70% of Hurio's necessary energy for the next breakthrough was filled. That showed just how fast the Divine Origin Energy in the area was disappearing. Then again, they just saved a huge amount of time. How long would it have taken if they cultivated normally? Even the twins, with their Rank Three Divine Stones, would have needed at least six months to accumulate that much energy.

Another hour passed, and finally, the twins and Hurio felt like the Divine Origin Energy in the surroundings was so thin that they would need several days just to accumulate a substantial amount. Sometime later, Roan looked at the sleeping ancient beast before saying, 'That's enough. This big guy might wake up as soon as the Divine Origin Energy completely disappears. That's not far from happening right now, so we should leave.'

Naturally, Rean and Hurio had no complaints about that. In that last hour, Hurio got another 10%, filling his dantian to 80% of the energy he needed for the breakthrough. As for the twins, they stopped at around 55%. While Rean kept his Light and Divine Sense bending skill active, the group jumped on Kentucky's back as the Minokawa slowly took flight once more. It wasn't before they were several tens of kilometers away, and the ancient beast could barely be seen, that they sighed in relief.

Right after, Rean burst into laughter, saying, "Hahaha! See? See?! I told you that there was Divine Origin Energy there. No wonder even those ancient beasts attacked each other while they usually stayed away from one another. There's no doubt that Divine Origin Energy is also extremely important for them."

Hurio smiled in response. "I can only thank you two for bringing me together. I'm very close to a breakthrough now. Even if we don't find the Fallen Light Star Fragments, this trip was already well worth it."

Seeing that the ancient beast completely disappeared from his vision, Kentucky finally increased his speed back to normal. Rean and Roan, obviously, sat down on his back and started to cultivate again. After all, that didn't change the fact that they were several months away from the border to the depths of the Lost Star Realm.

Nevertheless, Roan had to ask, "Hurio, do you have any idea why there are so many ancient beasts outside the depths of the Lost Star Realm? It seems like such a thing shouldn't have happened, right?"

Hurio shook his head, responding, "I have no idea, but it's obvious that something changed. Unless we're the most unlucky... no, perhaps I should say the luckiest group of all times. Thanks to these ancient beasts, we ended up in a Divine Origin Energy area."

"Could it be those ancient beasts came out because of the Divine Origin Energy areas?" Rean could not help but ask in response.

Hurio shook his head, though. "I won't say it's impossible, but that shouldn't be the case. After all, although extremely rare, the Divine Origin Energy areas are more common in the depths of the Lost Star Realm. Of course, you might spend decades there and never find one regardless. I feel like them coming to the outskirts of the Lost Star Realm has some other reason."

Roan agreed with Hurio, nodding. "True. However, it might not be a bad thing. More ancient beasts in the outskirts mean fewer ancient beasts in the depths. These ridiculously powerful beings can't simply appear all the time."

Rean shrugged in response. "On the other hand, whatever forced these beasts out might be even more dangerous."

In the end, they couldn't tell which one it was. "Forget it.. We'll eventually find that out when we get there."

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Chapter 1325: Rainbow Pearl

It took a while for the twins' group to start seeing other cultivators again. From the looks of it, the news that an ancient beast had been seen where they previously were had been spread. Everyone who was somewhat nearby immediately opened as much distance from that place as possible.

However, the fact that more ancient beasts than normal were appearing in the Lost Star Realm's outskirts made the cultivators very apprehensive. Many of them that had been here for just a few days, weeks, or months decided to leave it and return another time. Of course, there were those who thought something was happening and came to the conclusion that they might get some rewards from it. Last but not least, there were those who didn't have much choice other than to proceed forward, like those old cultivators who needed Divine Origin Energy at all costs to achieve their breakthroughs.

One thing began to increase, though. The number of cultivators attacking their group. The further they went into the Lost Star Realm, the higher the cultivation of the people they came across were. Seeing that Rean's group only had Saint Realm experts among them, they instinctively thought that they were easy targets. All of them had the same idea as Caras, which was to force Rean to drive Kentucky wherever they were planning to go. Of course, there were also those who simply wanted to steal whatever the twins' group had found so far. After all, robbery was a lucrative business in any place.

The only exceptions to those were cultivators at the Transition Realm and above. For them, Saint Realm cultivators wouldn't have anything worth their time. Kentucky was also useless since they could fly themselves. That explained why around half of the cultivators who entered the Lost Star Realm wouldn't come back alive. It should be even worse now with the ancient beasts strolling around in the outskirts.

With that being said, Rean's group didn't really find anyone who could force them into dire straights. They were also able to watch Hurio's power for once. Hurio didn't feel the least bit comfortable with only Roan or Rean acting against those who underestimated them. So, at some point, he also came out and defended their group. The attacker was a Middle Stage Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator, with four other cultivators at the Saint Realm following him.

Surprisingly, Hurio didn't use any weapons. He was just like Calina, someone who specialized in Divine Energy skills. Of course, his Soul Power was very high, so his skills were even more powerful. However, the thing that shocked the twins the most was the fact that Hurio also had an odd elemental affinity, Energy.

Energy was a weird elemental affinity. In a certain way, saying that Hurio had Energy Elemental Affinity wasn't right, as Energy usually wasn't considered an element to start with. Nevertheless, it was truly impressive. It increased the power of basically any skill that utilized any type of energy. Divine Energy, Soul Power, Yin and Yang Energy, Divine Origin Energy. As long as it was a type of energy, Hurio's elemental affinity would boost the skills used with them.

However, there was also a downside to it. Hurio wasn't innately efficient with any specific element. Hurio knew that trying to reach the same level of proficiency in a certain element as a cultivator with that elemental affinity was useless. Because of that, he didn't attain 100% efficiency with any of the five mainstream elements. Instead, he stopped at around 90%... on all five elements!

Lightning, Water, Earth, Fire, Wind. Their variants, Ice, Metal, Wood, Lava, Storm... As long as one could think of it, Hurio could use it to near the same efficiency as a cultivator with that specific elemental affinity. Now, when combined with his Energy Elemental Affinity, his skills easily reached the same level as cultivators with the same specific Elemental Affinity.

Of course, that wasn't all. Although Hurio didn't use any weapons per se, he did have a strange piece of equipment to help him. At first glance, it looked like a necklace with a Demon Core connected to it. However, Rean and Roan's Divine Sense didn't feel any demonic power from it.

The necklace itself had many inscriptions, from which Rean had difficulty recognizing at least half. It was definitely a very high-level item. That puzzled Rean even more, as one's cultivator would act as a barrier when one tried to operate a piece of equipment too high for their cultivation. In any case, that necklace also increased the power of the elements in Hurio's attacks. It shone with a rainbow color every time Hurio poured Divine Energy into it. One didn't need to be a genius to tell that it was specially made for someone like Hurio, as it worked for any of the mainstream five elements.

Last but not least, due to Hurio's Energy Elemental Affinity, if it could be called elemental affinity at all, his pool of Divine Energy was enormous. From Roan's calculation, it wasn't as big as his and Rean's, but it was definitely at least twice as big as an average cultivator's dantian at Hurio's level. Until now, he was the person with the largest amount of Divine Energy reserves the twins have found so far.

The result of the battles that Hurio involved himself in was easy to guess. He always had the right element to counterattack whatever the enemies threw at him. Not only that, he was extremely proficient with all of them, even though their efficiency was only at 90% or so. On top of that, Hurio's movement techniques were even more impressive, as he was basically fast in any environment one could think of. Underground? Earth Movement! Land? Wind and Lightning Movements. He would probably be fast in midair as well. However, he didn't have the minimum cultivation to fly yet.

After Rean saw a few of Hurio's fights, he couldn't help but ask, "What level is this necklace of yours? I can't really tell since many of the runes in the inscriptions are foreign to me. Though, I'm especially curious about the bead attached to it, to be honest."

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Chapter 1326: No Problem

Hurio smiled in response, telling Rean, "Don't worry. The necklace itself is only a piece of Golden Middle-level Equipment. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to use. As for the runes, you won't find them anywhere else as only the people in my background can use them. Of course, I won't tell you about it either. However, the piece that really matters is not the necklace itself but the bead. You'll be able to find out what it is if you put in the effort, so I have no need to hide it. It's called a Rainbow Pearl. It's a very rare item that can only be found inside the Continental Walls."

"Rainbow Pearl?" That was the first time Rean heard of such an item. "The Continental Walls have all elements running through them, so I guess it makes sense that something like that can be obtained from there. It sure must be very expensive."

Hurio didn't deny that, nodding as he replied, "It is. In fact, I don't even think you can put a value on it. However, few would want to buy it anyway, as it's only good for those who specialize in more than just one or two elements. Cultivators like me that specialize in the five mainstream elements are very rare."

Rean and Roan agreed with Hurio. It was the first time they had found someone who used more than two elements during battles. As mentioned before, everyone could use all elements, but they weren't as proficient as their own affinity. That's why those who learned more than one element would usually

learn just one more. Obviously, it would be an element that complemented their affinity, but that was where it ended.

With those answers, everything was over, and the twins' group continued forward. In the end, that rainbow pearl was useless for Rean and Roan as it didn't have Light and Dark Elements in it. Of course, the Continental Walls also had Light and Dark Elements inside them, so perhaps they could find something as good as the pearl there someday.

Seven and a half months after entering the Lost Star Realm, the twins, Kentucky, and Celis, had finally accumulated the necessary energy for the breakthrough. At first, it was supposed to take at least a year. But because they found the Divine Origin Energy area, they were able to fill up their dantians with a lot of Divine Energy. That cut their time by more than a half. In fact, it was supposed to be much faster. After all, they had Rank Three Divine Stones. However, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky were staying in the outside world, so only Celis was using them.

Hurio didn't find the twins' request to stop to break through that strange. He simply thought the twins were already very close to a breakthrough after the Divine Origin Energy event. Little did he know that they were below himself in percentage after that occasion. It was all thanks to Celis and the Rank Three Divine Stones that they caught up to Hurio and even reached the point of breakthrough far earlier than him.

Hurio then acted as a guard for them after stopping in some concealed place. "Alright, I'll keep an eye out together with your demon beast. You can go and do your breakthroughs."

Rean shook his head, saying, "In fact, Kentucky has also reached the threshold to enter Peak Stage Seven. He was just waiting for my order to proceed forward. Since we've already stopped, I might as well let him have his breakthrough."

Hurio was surprised to hear that. "Is that so? All three of you are breaking through at the same time, then? Such a coincidence." However, he also warned the twins. "Nevertheless, I think you should breakthrough one after another, and not together. What if someone appears and I can't defend? As you know, I won't risk my life for you. It's not part of the clauses in the Soul Binding Contract we signed."

"It's fine, it's fine," Rean assured Hurio. "The breakthrough won't take long anyway. We should be done in a few minutes."

"F-f-few... minutes?" Hurio found it hard to believe. Breakthroughs should take hours, and some people even took days to do so. "Are you serious?"

Rean just smiled in response and didn't answer. Instead, he sat close to Roan and Kentucky before taking a few Rank Two Divine Stones out. In the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Celis had the Rank Three Stones. Soon, they started their breakthrough.

Hurio still didn't believe it, so he prepared himself to wait for a long time. Even if the twins somehow managed to finish first, the demon beast would take much longer... then again, a chance for that to happen wasn't given.

Boom!

A few minutes later, a huge burst of Spiritual Energy came from the twins and Kentucky. Soon, their cultivation began to rise very quickly. The Divine Stones around them also broke apart nonstop, being absorbed completely dry due to the breakthrough.

'Unbelievable...' That was all Hurio could think about.

Eventually, the twins and Kentucky's cultivations stabilized at the Peak Stage of the Saint Realm and the Peak Stage Seven level, respectively.

Rean then looked at Hurio with a smile, saying, "Thanks for keeping guard during our breakthrough. We're fine to go now."

Hurio's mouth twitched after that. "Are you really part of the humanoid races? And what's wrong with that demon beast? You broke through way too fast!"

"Hahaha!" Rean laughed in response. "We do have a few tricks up our sleeves. However, just like you said for yourself, it's also a secret."

Hurio could only sigh in resignation. He even pondered whether it was okay to talk about his own secrets, just to see if the twins would tell theirs. However, he quickly shook his head right after. "Alright,

I won't bother with it. However, you also have to protect me when I try to breakthrough. Thanks to the Divine Origin Energy and the energy I had accumulated before that, I'm very close to entering the Peak Stage as well."

Rean and Roan nodded in response.. "No problem."

Death... and me

Chapter 1327: Ten Powers

Hurio wasn't lying. First of all, he was able to fill his dantian up to 80% of the necessary energy needed for him to breakthrough. It made sense that an Energy Elemental Affinity cultivator like him could also cultivate quickly. That being said, Hurio was able to break through three weeks later. It's just that his breakthrough took almost an entire hour to conclude. Then again, don't look down on this time. Not taking the twins' group into consideration, such a breakthrough was already incredibly fast.

Of course, from now on, he would start to fall behind the twins as long as they had Rank Three Divine Stones and Celis. On top of that, he also needed more energy than normal cultivators and didn't have the twins' perks.

Back to the journey, the twins barely found any low-level Saint Realm cultivators anymore. They were all either Late Stage or above, with many of them being old Peak Stage Saints. That showed that they were nearing the border between the outskirts and the depths.

Nine and a half months after the twins' group entered the Lost Star Realm... Hurio began to notice something off. "Weird... How come we haven't found a single one of those ancient formations yet? We didn't even find a single group trapped in them or anything like that."

"Perhaps we're just lucky," Rean said in response.

[Lucky your ass!] Sister Orb complained. [I found seven of those things on our way here, and I believe two of them were slaughtering formations due to the type of energy they emitted. If I didn't tell you three far in advance about them, you might have fallen inside one. Obviously, since Kentucky changed direction way before getting close to them, you guys haven't seen them at all.]

Rean then calmed Sister Orb down after that. 'I know, I know. However, I can't simply tell him that it was you who helped us with it, right? Come on.'

[Sigh... it feels so lonely to be hidden.]

Hurio obviously had his own suspicions. But then again, he had never heard about someone being able to detect the ancient formations from far away. Usually, one would hear about it from cultivators who saw others being trapped or killed inside. Or maybe one would see those cultivators who lost their entire cultivation. However, even then, they didn't find a single one of those along their journey. 'Well... I guess they can be as mysterious as I can, I guess?'

Suddenly, their group sighted a faint white wall tens of kilometers away. As they got closer, it became more distinct until finally, they noticed that it was some kind of barrier. "Was there supposed to be a barrier here?" Rean asked.

Hurio seemed surprised to see it, saying, "Not that I know of. I found nothing in the records, nor did any of my elders mention this thing."

Rean and Roan looked at each other before saying, "Maybe this is the reason why we found so many ancient beasts."

They were right. Cultivators were not the only beings they found in the outskirts of the Lost Star Realm. They still found four more ancient beasts on their way here, which was definitely a lot. Well, to be more precise, they only saw one extra ancient beast. They didn't have a chance to see the other three because they were warned by other cultivators of their existence.

They asked the cultivators whether they knew if those ancient beasts were fighting some other ancient beasts. However, they couldn't confirm it. They obviously thought that they could find another Divine Origin Energy area from it. It's just that they quickly gave up on the idea. Those areas only lasted a few hours regardless of whether the Divine Origin Energy was totally absorbed or not. Since they couldn't confirm if there were more ancient beasts nearby, chances were that there were no Divine Origin Energy areas in those places. Even if there were some recently, it was definitely gone by the time they arrived.

Because of the size of the Lost Star Realm, the barrier obviously occupied a vast distance. With that being said, Rean and Roan couldn't see any other cultivator nearby. "We don't know what this thing is, so we better leave it alone. Let's move around the perimeter of the barrier and see if we can find some entrance."

Rean and Hurio agreed with Roan before Kentucky changed direction and began to follow the barrier's side. Nevertheless, three days went by, and they couldn't even find a single thing that looked like an entrance. They weren't sure, but it truly did look like the barrier was covering the entire Lost Star Realm's depths.

They had time, though, so they continued to travel alongside the barrier. Eventually, the twins' group ended up on the base of a mountain that was as high as they could see with their eyes. That wasn't the only one, though. There was another mountain on its side, pretty similar to the one they were looking at.

However, that's not what caught their attention. They had passed by several mountains on their way here, after all. What caught their attention was the number of cultivators stationed between the two mountains in front of the white barrier. There were also cultivators on the other side of the barrier, who didn't seem to be going forward but not coming back either.

Hurio immediately identified many of those cultivators. "Croste Clan, Jix Organization, Vanus Sect, Forse Guild, Ditatido Guild, Forse Guild, Krui Clan, Dragon Tail Brotherhood, Earth Nova Sect... above all, the Lanqueas Sect... what are all the top ten powers doing here?"

Rean and Roan looked at Hurio after he said that. "How do you know they're part of the top ten powers?"

"Their clothes and badges," Hurio replied, surprised that the twins didn't know of it. Well, he already suspected that the twins didn't come from Lanqueas Continent, and this just reinforced his belief.

"They're definitely disciples of the top ten powers. However, they have an agreement on when each power would enter the Lost Star Realm. It's to prevent meaningless struggles between the experts of each power. That's why I find it weird that all ten powers are here at the same time."

Death... and me

Chapter 1328: The Ragdoll

Rean couldn't help but comment, "Is there such a rule? Why would the Lanqueas Sect even bother to follow that? Aren't they the controlling power of the Lanqueas Continent?"

Hurio nodded, saying, "They are, but they aren't as omnipotent as you think. If the other nine powers suddenly decide to band together, they could totally contend against the Lanqueas Sect. Whether the Lanqueas Sect wishes it or not, they also have to consider the others' opinions. This isn't the only place where such rules exist."

After that, Rean and Roan now had a better understanding of the Lanqueas Continent with that. Back in the Huring Continent, the Huring Sacred Land had to hear the other powers a little. However, they absolutely made all the rules. If something didn't go as the other major powers wanted, the Huring Sacred Land wouldn't care that much as they were still stronger than all others together. In a certain way, they only listened to the others somewhat to keep a modicum of harmony among them.

Rean then looked at those who didn't have the clothing or the badges of the top ten powers. "Are they part of the big powers as well?"

Hurio shook his head, saying, "I do recognize some of them as they have some influence. However, the majority down there are most likely common cultivators, not being part of any of the big powers at all."

The twins nodded after that. "Well, this is a good opportunity for us to head down and check just what's happening in the Lost Star Realm."

However, Hurio didn't seem very willing to do so, saying after an awkward chuckle, "Errr... leave me somewhere nearby, and I'll watch you from a distance. Some people there would recognize me, and I would rather not have them know I'm here."

Well, Rean and Roan didn't really have a reason to pry into Hurio's secrets, so they asked Kentucky to do what Hurio said. However, just as Kentucky was about to go down, an angry voice echoed throughout their surroundings. "Hurio, you fucking idiot. Didn't the elders tell you not to come here?!"

"Shit!" Hurio's complexion immediately changed before he jumped from Kentucky's back and tried to run away. One must remember that no one could fly more than twenty meters in the air. That being said, it was an easy feat for Hurio to descend with his cultivation. Such an altitude wouldn't hurt him at all.

As soon as he touched the ground, he activated his elemental movement skills and dashed into the distance. However, a flash of blue light passed by the place he had just been a second ago, several times faster than Hurio could hope to be.

Rean and Roan didn't try to help him at all. Just from the speed of the person who passed by them, they knew they weren't that person's match at all. Instead, they just curiously looked in the distance as that flash of blue light caught up to Hurio.

"Wait, sister! I can explain!"

"Explain your head!"

Boom!

Bang!

Crash!

Arrrgh!

Poor Hurio was beaten black and blue without mercy, much to Rean and Kentucky's amusement. They knew that the woman wasn't trying to kill Hurio or anything like that. However, she was making the punishment as painful as possible for Hurio.

Eventually, Hurio lost all ability to defend before the woman grabbed him by the collar, beginning to fly back to the place where the cultivators were gathered.

But even then, Rean and Roan couldn't recognize her. She didn't wear any of the top ten powers' uniforms or badges. If anything, she was dressed in slightly casual clothes. Well, they also couldn't tell which power Hurio was from either, so it made sense nevertheless.

Rean and Roan didn't do anything while the woman passed by them. However, she suddenly stopped and looked at the twins, asking, "Was it you who brought this idiot here?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other, and Roan just left it for Rean to explain. "Well, we did form a group to explore the depths of the Lost Star Realm. However, the first time we met was in Grinha City, so we know nothing about you or him. Was it a problem for him to come to this place? He has the same cultivation as us, so I don't see the issue."

"Hmph!" The woman snorted in response. "It doesn't seem like you're lying, so I won't say anything. Did he tell you two what he was here for?"

Rean nodded in response, deciding to tell the truth as he replied, "He's looking for the same thing as us, Fallen Light Star Fragments. Since we both have detection methods for these fragments, we decided to join forces to increase our chances of finding them. We signed Soul Binding Contracts stating that we would share it 50/50."

The woman was surprised to hear that. However, her expression went dark right after. "Who are you? How come you can detect Fallen Light Star Fragments? As far as I know, you were sent here to deal with our people, so you better be careful with your answer."

Rean kept calm as he explained, "My name is Rean, a vagrant cultivator." He then used his ability to gather Light Element before continuing, "As you can see, I have Light Element Affinity, so these Fallen Light Star Fragments are very important to me. You definitely can feel my cultivation with your Divine Sense. With that said, it should be no surprise that I need Light Element Materials to enter the Elemental Transformation Realm. A lot of things happened, and eventually, we arrived in this situation." Odd elements had never been that rare in the Realm of Gods. Hurio was a very good example, so Rean didn't mind telling the truth.

Hearing that, the woman's complexion eased a bit. Indeed, with Rean's Peak Stage Saint Realm cultivation and the need for Light Element Materials, it totally made sense for him to be here. "So that's how it is."

Hurio, who still looked like a dead corpse, also confirmed Rean's words, saying, "We signed the Soul Binding Contract, sister, so they're fine."

"Shut up!" The woman was still enraged to see that Hurio appeared in this place. After that, she looked back at the twins before saying, "Come with me for now. I'm sure you're curious as to what's happening here anyway."

Sure enough, the twins nodded in response and asked Kentucky to follow the woman and the ragdoll around her arms.

Death... and me

Chapter 1329: More Complicated

The twins were then brought to an inconspicuous corner where a few other cultivators could be seen. Like Hurio and his sister, they all had the same brown hair and brown eyes. Of course, they also looked at Hurio with multiple expressions once they saw him. Some seemed angry, others looked felt he was an idiot, while some simply sighed. However, one thing was sure, none of them liked the fact that Hurio was here.

It was then that a younger woman came forward to ask, "Why did you come? You know how important you are to us. What if you had died?" From how she spoke, she seemed to have a closer relationship with Hurio, just like his sister.

Hurio rubbed the back of his head in response, saying, "I couldn't resist, Lilia. While everyone is here, trying to find Fallen Light Star Fragments, I'm the only one left behind. I'm not even sure why that is, so it didn't feel right."

Smack

Ouch!

Hurio's sister once again hit him after that, saying, "Didn't feel right? And you think it's right for you to risk your life like this? Remember, if you're gone, we're done for. You know that, but you still came. If killing you was an option, I would cut your head off right now."

Suddenly, an older voice intervened. "That's enough, Mira. Since he's here already, there's nothing we can do anymore. In a certain way, it's our fault for hiding our reason to come here from him. If it were you, would you stay still?"

"But Elder Lamanto..." Mira still found that he was being too lenient to Hurio. "Sigh... fine, I won't say anything anymore."

Rean and Roan looked at each other after that, having no idea what was happening. It didn't seem like it was an issue with Hurio's strength. After all, they could tell with their Divine Senses that some of the people there had lower cultivation than Hurio. That girl called Lilia was only a Middle Stage Saint, for example.

There were also three more people below in cultivation than Hurio himself. Of course, just like Hurio's sister, there were others who were above him. It was obvious that the reason they didn't want Hurio to come was something else.

Lamanto then looked at the twins and the big black and white bird behind them. "So... who are you two exactly?"

Mira then proceeded to explain about them. Naturally, Lamanto and the others were surprised to hear of Rean's Elemental Affinity. "Light Element Affinity? That's the first time I've seen one. But then again, there are many other odd elemental affinities out there I have never seen before as well."

Lilia agreed with the elder, saying, "No wonder they can detect Fallen Light Star Fragments as well. Everyone is always more sensitive to the same element as their affinity. His senses might be even better than our tablets."

Rean and Roan were still confused. "That's good and all, but can someone explain what's happening here? We don't need to know anything about your family or whatever. We just want to know about that barrier. From what we can see, it's possible to head to the other side, but the opposite is different."

Lamanto pondered in silence for a bit before saying, "I can't tell you much about us. All you need to know is the part that Hurio told you already. We're also looking for Fallen Light Star Fragments. Now that we got ahold of him, there's no need for you to follow Hurio or Hurio to follow you anymore."

Lamanto then looked at the barrier, continuing, "As for the barrier, we're as clueless as you are. We have never heard of such a phenomenon before. Perhaps the top ten powers don't know of it either. Otherwise, they would have acted already after all these months."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "Are you telling me that you guys have been stationed here for several months?"

Lamanto nodded in response. "Exactly. Although we don't know if the top ten powers' disciples know something, the fact is that they haven't entered the barrier at all. If even they don't dare to head to the other side, then almost no one else dares to either. Most of those who did, which you can see on the other side, are not able to come back. A few of them decided to explore the depths, so we don't know whether they're still alive or not."

Roan found it strange. "That doesn't make sense. This kind of situation would usually be followed by the thought that some treasures might have appeared or something like that. How come almost no one wants to risk it?"

Lilia answered that question, saying, "It seems like you're really not from here. For us, the top ten powers have a big influence on the rest. If they don't act, then the others won't. In a certain way, everyone else is waiting to move behind the top ten powers' tails and hope to get some scraps."

Roan then pondered over it for a bit before telling Rean through their Soul Connection, 'It seems our time with Hurio is over, so we should cross it ourselves. Whether we can come back from beyond the barrier or not doesn't matter. We need the Fallen Light Star Fragments since we're very close to the Elemental Transformation Realm already. Not to mention the Freezing Star Liquid from the auction.'

Rean knew what Roan was thinking. 'The Circuitry Teleport Formation, right? It has never found any barrier that it couldn't go past through, so we could come back using it.'

Roan was satisfied that Rean understood. However, it was then that Sister Orb told them. [You can forget about using the Circuitry Teleport Formation to come back from beyond the barrier. That thing is scrambling the spatial laws around it. With that being said, the teleport that was supposed to send you two through will fall short and will only make you appear right in front of it.]

The twins were taken aback after hearing that. 'Well, that makes things a little more complicated....'

Death... and me

Chapter 1330: After Effects

Roan then asked something else. 'Even if we use a save point?'

It had been a long time since the twins placed a save point somewhere. After all, placing one cost Destiny Points. Then again, if it could be used, then it would be worth it as a safety precaution.

However, Sister Orb crushed their hopes as she replied. [Even if you leave a save point outside, the fact is that you will use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to get to it. The barrier will still stop you either way.]

Rean pondered over it for a bit before asking something else. 'What about our Soul Connection Range? As you know, I can enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm at one location and leave it in another area as long as Roan is there. This kind of movement doesn't need the Circuitry Teleport Formation.'

[Oh, that would work, yes. However, you must remember that you can't be more than 10000 kilometers away from each other. If you do, all you will be able to do is talk to me. All the other system's perks won't be accessible. Obviously, neither of you will be able to enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm through that.]

Indeed, just like what Sister Orb said, the problem was exactly that. 10000 kilometers was simply nothing compared to the Lost Star Realm's vastness. The twins' group traveled at least a hundred times further than that during the last nine and a half months. There's no doubt that the depths would go over 10000 kilometers. Perhaps even a million or a billion kilometers wouldn't be farfetched. 'That wouldn't be very useful...'

Roan then looked at Hurio's group before asking, "Is everyone really going to just stay here and do nothing as long as the top ten don't move?"

Lamanto nodded in response. "No wants to be the guinea pig to test the waters, after all."

Hearing that, Roan lost his patience before turning around and jumping back on Kentucky. "Let's go. We don't have that much time."

Rean agreed with Roan and jumped on Kentucky's back as well. "Now then, Hurio. Since you're staying with your family, let us part ways here. We don't want to wait here forever, so we're going ahead."

Everyone was taken aback as they looked at Kentucky taking flight. Soon after, Kentucky turned in the direction of the barrier and flew straight at it. It was obvious that the twins didn't care about the barrier. As for the Croste Clan, Rean and Roan were using a different appearance, so they obviously wouldn't recognize them. However, just as they were about to traverse across, a flash of light moved in their direction and stopped right in front of their group. "Where do you think you're going?"

Rean and Roan recognized the badge on the guy's clothes. Hurio had told them about each of the top ten powers' distinct features, after all. Surprisingly, it was a middle-aged man from the Forse Guild. "Errr... traverse the barrier to explore the depths?"

The man narrowed his eyes before saying, "No can do. Go back and wait until we decide to enter as well."

Rean and Roan were confused. Why would he try to stop them? "You don't make any sense. We can simply head back and enter the barrier from another point, you know? What's the point in stopping us here?"

The man snorted when he heard that. "Seems like you haven't tried to traverse the barrier before. This valley between these two specific mountains is the only place where you can do that. The barrier will repel you if you try to traverse it in any other place. Believe me, we tried."

The twins were taken aback to heart. They then looked at Hurio's group far in the back and saw the elder nodding at them, confirming that it was true. Of course, they were still confused. "So, why would you stop us anyway? We can see a few people on the other side who aren't moving forward."

The man snorted once more when he heard that. "That's because they were there already when we arrived and are too afraid to continue forward."

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes in response. Nevertheless, they could see that the other members from the other ten powers were looking at them with dark expressions. Between them, there were many Elemental Transformation and quite a few Transition Realm cultivators. At least one of them in each group was beyond that level, at the Void Tempering Realm.

Rean then smiled at the middle-aged man ahead of them, dispelling the tense atmosphere as he said, "Sorry, my friend. We are vagrant cultivators, so we didn't know such a rule existed. We will obviously wait with everyone else behind."

The man's expression eased a bit after that. "That's for your own good."

However, before he left, Rean took the opportunity to ask, "Sir, would you mind telling us what's happening here? We're here just for the normal things like Divine Origin Energy, medicines, and treasures."

The middle-aged man snorted yet one more time in response. "Hmph! Just focus on that, and you'll be fine. Now, go back." The man didn't wait for Rean and Roan to respond before returning to his group.

The twins could only sigh and move back, as said by the elder. Of course, they couldn't use Light and Divine Sense bending as the ten big powers were too packed at the entrance between the mountains. The twins would be way too close, making it impossible to bend their Divine Senses. Besides, the twins still weren't that sure whether the Void Tempering Cultivators there could feel their presence through their spatial detection abilities.

Rean then looked at the guys before saying, "You could have told us they weren't letting anyone inside."

Lilia shrugged her shoulders after hearing that. "No one knew they would do that, so how could we know? We told you before, no one wanted to move ahead after the top ten powers gathered here."

Rean then took the chance to ask, "By the way, Hurio didn't want to say anything. But now that we're here, what do you need Fallen Light Star Fragments for?"

Lamanto shook his head in response. "That's not something for you to know."

Well, Rean already expected that. "I see... we'll wait for the time those guys move inside somewhere else then. No point in bothering you anymore."

However, Hurio immediately grabbed Rean's arm and murmured in his ears. "Ahem... would you mind healing me first? My sister was quite brutal a moment ago.." Unsurprisingly, poor Hurio was still suffering the after-effects.