

Death 141

Death... and me

Chapter 141: Agreement

Amanda and Ria were taken aback by those words. Sure, their Swords Styles aren't at the top of the Damalu Sect. After all, they are still Outer Sect Disciples. However, it was definitely a high grade one. If you only consider the Outer Sect available ones, then it is definitely at the top. Still, Roan considered that nothing more than a piece of shit.

"You sure talk big, aren't you going to bite your tongue that way?"

Roan simply waved his hand a few times before turning around to leave.

"Whether you believe it or not will not change this fact. Anyway, all you need to do is try my one out. Come back once you have practiced it. If you still have the same opinion after that, I can help you fix the waist meridians' issue. Anyway, off you go."

Roan then began to make his way to the Cultivation Tower. But before he left, Amanda gave him one last piece of information.

"Malaka has already entered the Advanced Stage of the Energy Gathering."

Roan showed a slightly surprised expression.

"Oh! She is doing better than I thought. Perhaps, joining your Blue Orchid District/Faction was indeed a good idea."

Amanda and Ria's mouths twitched a little. Roan simply didn't care about how to use his words at all.

Of course, Roan knew that already. That surprised expression was just a pretense. He and Rean saw it before when they went to see Malaka last time.

Finally, Roan disappeared in the distance.

Roan's manual obviously wasn't the full version of the Death Style. As mentioned before, only Rean and he have fully comprehensive ones. Especially since it was built with Light and Dark Elements as the base. Other elements could also be used, but they wouldn't be as effective.

Amanda and Ria didn't know what to say. If Roan's Sword Style was really that much better, why would he give them such a precious manual so easily? His attitude might be horrible. Still, the fact that he was the type who didn't care about the female disciples of the Blue Orchid Faction was already a plus.

"Let's go back and give it a try. If it doesn't work, we can simply not provide those twins with access to our district."

Ria nodded and then asked something else.

"What if it is really much better? Should we share it with the other sisters?"

Amanda pondered a bit before nodding her head.

"At the moment, our Outer Sect District/Faction has only 7 Drifting Sword Style practitioners. Even if we share with them, there shouldn't be a problem. Besides, Roan never said that we couldn't show the contents. I believe that it was already within his expectations that we would do so. First of all, he doesn't have a way to stop us even if he didn't want it."

She was right. Roan didn't care that others used his Sword Style. First, because this wasn't the perfect version. Second, because anyone who used it against him or Rean would only be courting Roa- cough, cough, courting death. If anything, the more people who used the Death Sword Style, the safer it would be for the twins.

Suddenly, Roan received a message from Rean through their Soul Connection.

'How was it?'

'It was okay. Still, I didn't think they would come looking for me so fast. As for our secret infiltration, I believe I dispelled their doubts or at least most of it. By the way, I got them to agree that we can go see Malaka as long as a disciple of theirs escort us during the process in the Blue Orchid District.'

Rean nodded.

'It's okay. After that Spiritual Rebirth is done with, I believe Malaka will begin to go out on her own, so it won't change much even if we can enter. Still, that's a good thing in case we need to talk with her straight away.'

'Anyway, I took the flying demon beast already, so I'm going to Majorias City.'

Sometime later, Rean's connection with Roan was cut, and they could only tell which direction each other are at the moment.

With a flying demon beast, Rean only took around 2 hours to reach Majorias City. After retrieving the two thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones from Zafa Bank, he headed to Janaris Weapon Store. Folca, obviously, already expected his visit.

"So you came, come with me."

Rean followed Folca, and they soon arrived inside the workshop. In front of Rean, there was a big pile of High-Level ores.

"As I mentioned in the letter, I left two thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones and used the rest to buy those materials. As you can expect, High-Level ones are quite expensive, so I could only acquire this amount. There are 8 kilograms of Rasidia Ore, 7 kilograms of Muta Ore, and the best one, 2 kilograms of Iridkan Ore. You can check it by yourself and check the market price later. I can guarantee that I got quite a fair deal for them."

Rean shook his head.

"That won't be necessary since we have a contract where the Zafa Bank is involved. We both know that only an idiot would try to do something under their watch."

Folca nodded. As the Chief Blacksmith of such a big Weapon Store like Janariz, he knew very well what would be the outcome of messing up with a contract of the Zafa bank.

All the ores were then put inside a backpack for Rean to carry back. Even if he didn't have his Foundation Establishment cultivation, 19 kilograms isn't anything hard to carry. Rean and Folca then talked more about the business of Steel Equipments before Rean left a few hours later.

He couldn't help but feel excited when he thought about them. It would be the first time he would work with High-Level ores. Rean soon took his flying demon beast and made his way back to the Damalu Sect. On the way, he began to make some plans too.

'Roan and I are ready to enter the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment. Once we make the breakthrough, I will check the Blacksmith Hall in the sect. Our Low-Level Swords aren't good enough anymore.'

With his mind set, Rean flew straight back to the sect.

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Chapter 142: Blacksmith Hall

Roan noticed when the Soul Connection was established again.

'I already reserved the slots in the Cultivation Tower.'

Rean, who was still flying back to the Beast Taming Faction, answered.

'That's good. I just need to return the Demon Beast, and I'll be there soon.'

Around thirty minutes later, Rean was already at the Cultivation Tower.

"Did you reserve the room with external gathering formations?"

Roan nodded.

"Yes, we just need to pay now."

Rean and Roan then went to the counter and paid for two rooms close to each other. The external gathering formation is different from the normal ones. It could be charged with external resources like Spirit Stones. Rean got 2000 Rank Two ones back in Majorias City. Don't forget the other 500 they got from the Entrance Exam. Lastly, the 1000 Rean got after enjoying Elder Tiria's boo- cough, cough, after healing Elder Tiria's injuries. In total, they had 3500 Rank Two Spirit Stones! Only the disciples with some background would be able to compare to them.

Rean separated 1500 for himself and another 1500 for Roan. The last 500, he would pass to Malaka later.

The rooms they rented were two average ones, which cost 20 Sect Points/Hour. That wasn't a problem for Rean and Roan since they had 807 and 500 points, respectively. That being said, they decided to rent it for ten hours. They had the points to rent the best ones, but it would be a waste of Sect Points. That's because they have enough Rank Two Spirit Stones to make up for the difference when using the External Energy Gathering Formation.

After putting several Rank Two Spirit Stones in the formations, they immediately began to work at full speed. The concentration of Spiritual Energy was so high that it was as if Rean and Roan were using Rank Three Spirit Stones instead.

'Are you ready?'

Rean nodded.

'I'm fine here, let's go.'

Without wasting any time, Rean and Roan immediately rushed for the breakthrough. Their energy pools are much bigger than an ordinary Initial Stage Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator. That being said, they also needed a lot more Spiritual Energy to make a breakthrough. That's the reason why they

haven't entered the Middle Stage yet. Until now, the concentration of Spiritual Energy wasn't high enough.

Their foundations' ten pillars began to absorb Spiritual Energy like torrents. Rean and Roan's hair immediately changed as they exchanged Light and Dark Elements without stop. Their Spiritual Pool began to overflow as well.

To make sure that they wouldn't run out of Spiritual Energy, Rean and Roan put 500 Rank Two Spirit Stones in each formation. Still, they could hear the Spirit Stones crashing one after another. The sound reminded Rean of popcorn.

Finally, the Spiritual Pool couldn't hold the amount of Spiritual Energy and Light/Dark Elements any more. With an explosion of Spiritual Energy, the Pool increased by three times its original size! Immediately after, an enormous pull of Spiritual Energy began to come from the ten pillars. Rean and Roan's amount of Dark and Light Element exchange also increased. Finally, a few minutes later, the pools were full again.

'Phew... seems like it went without any issues.'

[Of course, it did. What do you think your cultivation manuals are, some shit you can find any store? As long as the conditions are met, you can definitely achieve a perfect breakthrough. It's just that the amount of Spiritual Energy will increase the higher your cultivation becomes.]

Sister Orb seemed very proud of the cultivation technique. Of course, for Rean and Roan, it was a good thing that she was.

'Cough, cough... Anyway, we rented the room for ten hours, so it should be enough to stabilize our foundation. Let's make good use of our time.'

Roan agreed with him.

'Certainly. Also, check the formation. Our breakthrough consumed over 300 Spirit Stones, so we better put some more there as well.'

Just like that, ten hours passed. When the twins were finally out, their foundation had already stabilized.

[Alright. You two should stop here. If you continue to absorb too much Spiritual Energy, even your heaven-defying foundations will get affected. Keep cultivating with the Spiritual Energy of the Heaven and Earth from the time being. Your foundations should be back to normal in a week or so; you can start using Spirit Stones again after that.]

Rean and Roan nodded. Rean then turned in Roan's direction before saying.

"I'm going to the Blacksmith Hall to take a look into these High-Level materials. As you know, our Swords are starting to get obsolete. Let me know if you want any special trait for the new ones I'll make later."

Roan nodded, and he left as well. For Rean, his best way of passing time was forging. As for Roan, he preferred to practice his Death Style. It was then that Roan thought about the arena.

'There are quite a few disciples who like to practice there without using points. I guess that a good place to start.'

Back on Rean's side, he went straight to the Blacksmith Hall. Before even entering the building, he could already see quite some movement at the entrance. Nothing was happening, though. The Blacksmith Hall was always like this to start with. After all, it took care of most of the disciples' weapons.

After arriving at the counter, the outer sect disciples on duty that day asked Rean.

"What kind of weapon you wish?"

Rean shook his head after hearing that.

"I want to join the Blacksmith Hall. What are the procedures for it?"

The disciple was a little surprised that such a young boy have an interest in blacksmithing. Usually, the young ones would only care about the weapon, and not how they were made. However...

"I appreciate your feelings. However, the blacksmiths here are not playing around. You can ask again when you get older."

Rean's mouth twitched.

"I have never played with blacksmithing. I worked as one in my tribe, and I want to continue to practice it here."

The disciples looked deeply at Rean, who seemed to be very serious about it.

"Sigh... If you insist, then so be it. You have two ways to join our Blacksmith Hall. The first one is for the inexperienced disciples. That includes those who decided to enter this path for the first time. They will start from the basics and learn everything necessary at the start. They will be evaluated according to their talents. After they reach a certain threshold, they will be allowed to join the Hall."

"The second way is for the disciples who already have experience as blacksmiths. Depending on your level, you might join straight away or be sent to the proper practice site. After all, if they already have the experience and couldn't join, there is no need for them to begin from the very start either."

Rean didn't even think twice.

"The second option, please."

The disciples then extended three fingers.

"300 Sect Points."

Rean was shocked by that price.

"Isn't that too expensive?"

The disciple shook his head, though.

"Only elders can give an evaluation of the new disciples. However, they are all busy with their own things. 300 points are just proper to have them come out."

Rean sighed and immediately transferred the points with his Sect Badge.

"Very well, follow me, please."

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Chapter 143: Blacksmith Test

There were a few rooms separated for new blacksmiths. Inside, Rean found everything he could possibly want. He couldn't help but feel impressed by their equipment too. Although they follow the same medieval trait with no electronics, Rean could tell with a glance that they were the best ones he has seen since reincarnation.

Soon, an elder entered the room. He didn't seem very please with his task of testing Rean out, though.

"Is it you who wanted to take the Blacksmith Test? A kid who is still wet behind the ears?"

The elder then looked at the disciple who brought Rean.

"Why did you even let him take the test?"

The disciples shrugged his shoulders.

"It's not my fault, Elder Willio. He paid the 300 Sect points, so I can only follow the rules. You know that as well."

Elder Willio narrowed his eyes.

"Hmph! Whatever."

He then pointed at a bunch of metals on the table before saying.

"You can forge a weapon or an armor for me to see. As long as it reaches the standard of the Blacksmith Hall, you will be allowed in. But you better understand that our weapons are much better than the ones outside in weapon stores. So even if you forge a Non-Spiritual Weapon, it has to have some degree Spiritual Energy trait at the very least. Do you understand?"

Rean smiled as he nodded his head. The outer sect disciples left right after since he was still on duty too.

Rean approached the table and could see that the material was separated into non-spiritual materials and low-level spiritual ones. Rean pondered a bit and decided to go for a non-spiritual one. After all, he only wanted access to the resources and facilities, not to reveal his weapon craft secrets.

In the end, he went for his old friend, Kaz Ore. As mentioned before, there are Spiritual Kaz Ore and common ones. Regardless, Rean knew how to work with both. He also took some other simple ores which he intended to use during the process. Obviously, he wouldn't forge a weapon with a single metal but make an alloy instead.

Elder Willio saw that Rean took four types of metal in total. However, only Kaz ore was enough to forge a weapon. The rest could barely be used for anything.

"What are you trying to do? There is no combination possible if you use so little of the other metals. Are you messing with me?"

Rean shook his head as the forger temperature increased.

"Of course, not. All elder has to do is observe. I paid 300 Sect points, and have no intention of losing it."

Willio snorted but didn't say anything else.

Rean began to melt the metals while controlling the fire precisely. Still, the more he worked, the more confused Willio became. What he couldn't understand was why the metal Rean was working with hadn't gone to waste already. From what he knows, it shouldn't be going this well anymore.

'Is he really forging something?'

Suddenly, the Outer Sect disciple returned, accompanied by another disciple. It turned out that it was Julio.

"What is it, can't you see we are in the middle of a test?"

However...

"Pardon me, elder. Rean, I brought the big gallon of oil you asked. Just to be sure, I also got one extra."

Rean smiled as he pointed at a big metal container filled with cold water.

"Good. Take all the water out and put the oil in. Then turn on the fire on the side and heat it up."

After hearing those orders, Willio understood that the oil was also part of the crafting process. However, why would he change the water used to cool weapons for oil? Furthermore, he asked to heat it up? Why?

The outer sect disciple then left once more.

Time continued to pass until finally, Elder Willio saw the shape of the weapon.

"An Axe? That is quite an uncommon choice. Are you an axe user?"

Rean shook his head.

"Not really, I just felt like making an axe this time, that's all."

Elder Willio's mouth twitched. Usually, people would specialize in one type of weapon and some variant, like being good at swords but can make sabers too. But the way Rean put it, it looked like he worked with anything he felt like.

"How's the Oil?"

Julio looked at it before nodding.

"Seems to be hot enough."

Rean then put the Axe Head inside for sometime before taking it out.

There were other Big Water Containers inside, and Elder Willio was waiting for him to eventually use one of them. However, as soon as he took the Axe Head out, Rean began to work on it. As for the cold water, Rean didn't even touch it.

"What are you doing?"

Rean looked at him and answered plainly.

"Tempering."

Elder Willio showed a puzzled expression, though.

"Temper-what?"

"Tempering. It's a heat-treating process, which is used to increase the toughness and elasticity of alloys."

"Tempering? Heat Treating? Alloys?"

It was the first time Elder Willio heard those techniques. He didn't know if Rean was making fun of him or if they really meant something. Still, since Rean paid for the test, he had to observe to the end.

During the work, Rean infused his Spiritual Energy in the alloy, further increasing its toughness and elasticity. In fact, there were many more things Rean could have done to improve his work. Here in the cultivation world, there are spiritual energy reactive materials that he found during his self-studies. One good example would be the hot oil used for heat treating. At this moment, Rean was using just a standard oil that can be found anywhere.

If he worked in a piece of equipment for himself, it definitely wouldn't be just simple oil. A few materials could be added, increasing the Spiritual Energy flow that he infused during the tempering process. This is just one example of the uses of Spiritual Energy that Rean found in this new world. This was also one of the secrets behind his Element Gathering Weapons.

Time passed. Rean returned the Axe Head to the forger and took it out several times. Never to use the cold water that all blacksmiths were used to in the Blacksmith Hall.

Elder Willio is a blacksmith himself, so he already could see the Rean's Axe was several times better than the ones he himself could make. Not only that, but it reached such a level using common elements that anyone could use, like the hot oil. It's just that no one had tried it before.

Finally, Rean finished crafting a good handle to attach it. As mentioned before, he wasn't going all out. Still, due to the level of the facility, his work ended better than Rean expected. The only reason it wasn't at the level of his Steelworks was that he didn't want to show the secret behind it.

"Elder Willio, I'm finished."

Rean then tossed the Axe to Willio before asking.

"Please try it out and give me an evaluation."

Elder Willio touched it and used his Spiritual Energy and Sense to check it out. In the end, he sighed and just put it away.

"There is no need. I don't know where you learned such advanced Blacksmith Techniques that even I hadn't seen before. Still, I can at least tell you that your work was excellent. If I test this axe against some of ours, the result will be obvious."

"Seems like I was too shortsighted. You are more than good enough to join our Blacksmith Hall. In fact, I would like to know if you could share those steps you took with the rest of the blacksmiths."

Rean nodded and shook his head right after.

"I don't mind sharing a few things. But I also have my secret, which I can't tell anyone that easily. I'm sure Elder Willio understands that."

Willio nodded, not finding it the least bit annoying. Just like alchemists, blacksmiths also have their own secrets that they didn't show anyone while crafting. The fact that Rean was willing to offer some of it was already excellent.

"Very good, take this token and go talk with the disciple who brought you here. He will prepare the badge that represents your standing in our Blacksmith Hall."

Rean nodded.

'The level of blacksmithing in the sect is definitely higher than outside, but it is still far from the knowledge of a metallurgist from earth. I have to make good use of it.'

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Chapter 144: Categorizations

Rean passed the next hours with the elders explaining a few things that they always did wrong. Like the fact that submerging equipment in cold water would make it easier to break. So the tempering process had to be done while controlling the temperature. Oil was quite useful for such a thing.

Of course, he didn't say anything that could lead them to find out the process of creating Element Gathering Weapons or Armors. That is his secret, which he will only reveal after becoming strong enough to defend himself.

All the Outer Sect Elders and even the Inner Elder, Odeni Fuker, were enlightened by such reveals. When asked where he learned it, he simply brushed everything to a hidden master that didn't want to be known. Whether it was true or not, there was no way to confirm it. However, considering Rean's age, that could be the only possible explanation. Even an inheritance wouldn't make him so proficient at his age.

After all, usually, inheritances would need one to learn the things inside by themselves. They refuse to believe that a kid would be able to achieve it alone even if he had the full information. The presence of a master was definitely highly necessary.

Thanks to those insights, Rean was rewarded by the Odeni. He gave Rean two choices, Sect Points or forging materials. Due to how much his methods would help the Blacksmith Hall, it would give him at least 10000 points, which would be great. On the other side, he could opt for a lot of High-Level Materials or even a few Peak-Level ones!

But before he could decide, the disciple taking care of his badge appeared.

"Here's your Blacksmith Badge, Junior Rean. As per the demands in your token, you are now an Earth Low-Level Blacksmith."

"Earth Blacksmith?"

Willio, who was also there, understood that Rean didn't have much knowledge about Blacksmith Levels.

"There are several levels of Blacksmith in the world. As far as our Dalamu Sect is concerned, these are the ones we know."

"Mortal Level Blacksmiths; they can forge non-spiritual equipments. Basically, all blacksmiths in the world who can at least forge a weapon are at this level."

"Earth Level Blacksmiths; they can forge Low/High/Peak Earth Level Equipments. Simply put, those are the Spiritual Equipments that most cultivators between Foundation Establishment, Core Formation, and Core and Soul Fusion Realms use."

"Heaven Level Blacksmiths; they can forge Low/High/Peak Level Divine Equipments. Those weapons can only be used by Nascent Soul/Soul Transformation/Saint Realm cultivators."

"As for what comes after it, we don't know since it is a realm far above what we can grasp."

"You can divide each of those levels by the Blacksmith capabilities too. That's why you are considered an Earth Low-Level Blacksmith. Because you can forge Low-Level Spiritual Equipments. After all, you said that you forged yours and your brother's Spiritual Swords."

Willio also added.

"The other side occupations can be separated in the same way. Alchemy, Formations, Talismans, etc., all of them follow this categorization."

Rean nodded. It was the first time he heard such a thing. Still, it was an excellent way to separate them and find the right Blacksmith when you needed some work done. Rean then pinned the badge on his Sect Robe as well. After that, he made his request.

"Instead of Sect Points, I would rather have High-Level materials to practice. I intend to become an Earth High-Level Blacksmith. As for Peak-Level Materials, I don't think my cultivation is high enough to work with them at the moment."

Odeni nodded, satisfied.

"Indeed. To forge Peak-Level ones, the quality of your Spiritual Energy has to improve. Not to mention that the amount of Spiritual Energy necessary increases several times compared to High-Level ones. If you get Peak-Level materials, they will be stuck in your bag for a long time. To be honest, with your cultivation only at the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment, I'm not sure if you will succeed forging a High-Level Equipment to start with."

Rean agreed with Odeni. He is very aware of how much Spiritual Energy he needed to for the Low-Level Ones. So it was already within his expectations that he wouldn't be able to touch Peak-Level Materials so soon.

Rean was then brought to the Blacksmith Hall Deposit, where he could select the High-Level Materials he wanted to work with. All in all, he got five times more High-Level Ores than what he got from Folca back in Majorias City. Of course, Folca's Materials would flow in for a very long time. Different from now where he wouldn't get such an opportunity any time soon.

The Blacksmith Hall had several well-known Core Formation and Core and Soul Fusion Realm Blacksmiths. They had their own ways of doing things and their own forging secrets too. That being said, the Blacksmith Hall had long since prepared rooms with Isolation Formations that prevented others from peaking inside.

At this moment, Rean was inside of one of these rooms exactly.

"Sister Orb, did you finish analyzing the formation?"

[Yes. They were not lying. As long as a Soul Transformation Realm doesn't intervene, no one will be able to see what you are doing inside. There are no loopholes.]

Rean also took this chance to ask something else.

"Sister orb, since you can analyze formations, can you also draw them?"

[No. Analyzing is totally different from learning. You can think about it as a person driving a car. You know how to operate it, but can you build a car yourself?]

Rean shook his head. Other than the general concept of explosions that moved the pistons, Rean didn't know anything else.

[That's what I can do basically. I can learn how to use the formations, but I can't draw them. It is far above what the Soul Gem System can do.]

Rean couldn't hide the little bit of disappointment in his face.

"I see. Well, I guess I was being too greedy. Anyway, just the fact that you can learn how to use them can be of big help in the future."

Rean then looked at the pile of materials in front of him and licked his lips as a smile returned to his face.

"Well, time to work."

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Chapter 145: Not Enough Materials

The main difference between making a Low-Level and a High-Level Equipment was the amount of Spiritual Energy used. The procedures were basically the same. Of course, due to the materials' toughness and elasticity, different timings and temperatures were necessary.

That being said, Rean took a lot longer to figure out the best combinations. Other than going back to sleep and the morning training of the Iron and Blood District/Facion, Rean spent most of his time in the Blacksmith Hall.

During the years that he and Roan used the Light Sab-cough, cough... Spiritual Kaz Swords, Rean noticed a big difference. His Sword was much better on Roan's hands than his own. However, it had nothing to do with higher proficiency in weapons or combat. That difference was in the elements that they control.

First, we need to talk about the Light and Dark Elements they use. It is through the combination of the two that they can show their highest combat ability. It is really a Yin and Yang balance that couldn't be copied.

That being said, Rean's Spiritual Kaz Swords absorbed Light Element from the surroundings when you injected Spiritual Energy on them. However, Rean himself is already a Light Element user. At most, he could increase the Light Element power in the Sword. However, the main point of the Sword was its combination of Light and Dark Elements.

Because of that, Rean fell quite behind Roan in raw power when using his Swords. After all, it doesn't matter how much Elements the twins change with each other, Rean will never be able to use as much Dark Element as Roan. That is not his affinity.

Since that was the case, Rean had only one choice. He has to create a Sword of the Dark Element to complement his own Light one. In a certain way, Rean would receive the most significant boost of combat power after the new Swords are forged. Of course, just the fact that the twins are swapping Low-Level Equipments for High-Level ones is already a massive boost for both. It's just that Rean will get more from it.

Nonetheless, that is only raw power. Even after the Swords are ready, Roan will still be stronger than Rean due to his higher understanding of combat.

Unfortunately, Rean underestimated the fine control that he needed for forging a High-Level Equipment.

Crack!

A familiar sound that Rean had been hearing quite a few times during the past nine days came out again. Seeing the crack over the Sword made Rean sigh.

"Although my pool of Spiritual Energy can now be compared to a Peak Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator, I'm still not used to control it. I will probably need another two weeks or so before I can make this work."

Rean then looked at his remaining High-Levels materials and shook his head. He had already used 90% of all of them. There was simply not enough for him to train anymore.

"Should I reveal a few more secrets in exchange for more materials?"

However, Rean immediately got rid of that idea. A few simple procedures are okay, but anything else could lead to unwanted problems.

"The selling of Steel Weapons is increasing by the day as it makes a name in the market. However, considering the rate of High-Level Materials that Folca provides, it will take at least four to six months for me to get enough."

Rean pondered a bit before contacting Roan through their Soul Connection.

'Roan, do you know if there are any missions for our level that provide High-Level Materials?'

Roan was practicing in the arena against a disciple at the Late Stage of the Foundation Stablishment when he heard Rean's voice.

'Give me a second.'

Suddenly, Roan's hair changed into black and white as his combat prowess increased. His opponent was already at a disadvantage, let alone now that he began to use Light Element as well.

In the days that Rean stayed in the Blacksmith Hall, Roan became quite famous in the arenas. He accepted any challenges without asking for any Sect Points as long as the opponent was below the Core Formation Realm. As one can imagine, he was able to experience several different weapons styles, which proved beneficial for his own comprehension.

Others also loved to challenge him since he never severely injured anyone. Considering how strong he was, it proved to be of great help for their own training too. Everyone could see just how excellent his Swords Arts were too.

"Argh!"

The guy who was against Roan was then sent flying by a kick. Roan knew how to use his body in a way that no one could believe. That made facing him even more complicated.

After exiting the arena, he answered Rean's question.

'There are indeed a few missions that provide them, but they are Rank 4 ones. Of course, thanks to Elder Guliva's token, we can apply for a rank above our cultivation. The only thing you need to pay attention to is the difficulty of each one. The more materials, the harder the mission.'

Rean nodded, satisfied.

'I'm reaching a breakthrough in my Blacksmith Skills, but I'm running out of materials. If we wait in the sect for four to six months, I will get enough. However, I really don't want to postpone something that can be done earlier. Besides, it is related to our new weapons too.'

Roan didn't seem to mind.

'Then let's just take a mission. We have been in the sect for a month and a half. The last time we did real life and death battle was during the Entrance Exam. This is a good opportunity to hone your skills. Besides, there are a few new things I wish to test and pass to you as well regarding combat.'

In the end, both sides wanted to go out. Although their reasons were different, they complemented each other too.

Sometime later inside the Mission Hall, Rean and Roan were looking at the board of Rank 4 Missions.

"Which material are you lacking at the moment?"

Rean looked at the information before saying.

"Let me see... There are three good ones that provide a fair amount of high enough level materials. The first one is acting as a scout. The second is to acquire the blood of a demon beast called Qellaw Tiger.

The third one is to subjugate a group of bandits that is causing problems around Cinquel City. You can choose the one you think is better for our combat training; the materials in all of them are enough."

Roan nodded and said.

"The first one is out of the question. Changes are that we won't fight anyone. That's not what I want. The second one looks good, but I'm tired of demon beasts already. That being said, the best one is the Bandit Group subjugation. A large number of opportunities to enter in combat against other cultivators. According to the information, the Leader is an Initial Stage Core Formation Realm while his two strongest subordinates are at the Peak and Late Stages of the Foundation Establishment. In my opinion, this is just perfect."

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded.

"The bandits' subjugation it is, then."

Death... and me

Chapter 146: Test

The twins took the notice from the board and passed it to the disciple on the counter. After checking the rank of the mission and their cultivation, he narrowed his eyes, though.

"You are not allowed to take this mission with your cultivation. Select a Rank 3 one or lower."

Rean smiled as he took a token from his bag. Sure enough, as soon as the disciple looked at that, he was taken aback. He couldn't help but reassess the twins in front of him. For an Elder to give special permission for higher rank missions, they must be far above the average disciples.

He quickly marked down the twins' mission and passed the command order forward. Rean and Roan then got the detail of their employer, as well as the Sect identification. With those two, they would convince their employer that they were really there for the mission.

They had to also pass by the Iron and Blood District to tell that they would be leaving for a mission. That being said, they would be exempt from doing the morning practices.

Thanks to Rean's prestige in the Demon Beast Taming Faction, he could once more borrow a flying demon beast. It's just that this time it would take a lot longer for him to come back, so they had to pay for it as well. However, the payment could be made with Spirit Stones, so the twins simply didn't care.

The demon beast they got was a Stage Two Mountain eagle. Quite a common type that all sects liked to use for travels. Rean had also learned how to use the taming flute, which he could use to command the eagle. With everything prepared, Rean and Roan immediately departed.

They thought for a moment if they should bring Malaka to experience the outside world too. However, they recognized that she was probably in the Spiritual Rebirth Formation still. That being said, there wasn't much of a point in waiting here.

They didn't notice that when they left the Sect, a certain woman at the top of the Dalamu Mountain was observing them. Suddenly, her face showed some surprise as if she heard something unexpected. For a second, a cold light flashed in her eyes as she disappeared from her spot.

Cinquel City was quite far from the Dalamu Sect. Even with the Mountain Eagle's help, Rean and Roan took an entire week to arrive there. Obviously, they had to stop several times on the way to let the eagle rest and eat too. The same could be said for themselves.

Finally, they spotted the city in the distance. Although it wasn't as big as Majorias City, it was definitely several times their Home City, Astreg. From the information they got, the lord of this city is a Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator called Palan Jialin. As anyone can guess, he is a descendent of the royal family.

There wasn't anything strange about it. After centuries of development, the royal blood spread a lot due to several marriages and offsprings. Many of the bigger cities in the country were managed by the royal family blood, thanks to that. The cities that weren't would have city lords with some connection with the sects that commanded that region.

Still, Rean and Roan's employer wasn't the city lord, but the Leader of the city guards. It was common practice in big cities to invite the sects' experts to deal with bandits around. That would preserve the cities' forces and help build good relations with the sects, a win-win situation.

Thanks to their Damalu Sect Robes, no one stopped them from entering the city with their Mountain Eagle. Still, Rean and Roan stopped by the gate to ask where they could leave the Demon Bird. The guards respectfully told them that there is a place in the City Guards Hall, especially for these beasts.

Conveniently, that was also where they had to meet their employer. They told the city guards employee in that place that they came to talk with their Leader as they passed the Sect's command order and information. The man who received it was quite surprised to hear that those two kids came for this mission. Still, it wasn't his place to judge them. Rean and Roan were then guided to the City Guard Leader Office.

Knock, Knock.

"Enter!"

The guard entered the room, followed by the twins.

"Sir, these are Rean and Roan. They were sent by the Dalamu Sect. Please inspect the command order."

The City Guard's Leader's name was Uive Olanmine, a Late-Stage Core Formation Realm cultivator. Uive narrowed his eyes when he saw the kids as he grabbed the paper. After reading which mission they were assigned to, his expression turned even worse.

"Are you elders messing with me? This is a Rank 4 Mission. How come the Dalamu Sect sent you? Go back and tell your Sect to send me Peak Foundation Establishment Disciples at the very least."

Rean smiled, already expecting this kind of reaction.

"There is no need for that, Sir Uive. Although our cultivation is at the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, our real combat power is definitely at least at the Late Stage. We had even killed a Stage Three Inferno Wolf when we were still in the Initial Stage of the same Realm with only the two of us. We can guarantee that we are suited to this job."

Uive opened his eyes wide. Even if they worked together to bring down the wolf, the fact that they did it in the Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm was terrifying.

Rean then brought Elder Guliva's Token, which allowed them to take higher missions.

Uive, as the Leader of the City Guards, obviously knew how to recognize the identifications of the sects. He could tell with a glance that Rean's Token was genuine. Of course, even after hearing all of that, he still harbored doubts in his heart.

"This mission will be conducted by members of the Dalamu and Lagan Sect. From the information I received, the Lagan Sect's disciples should arrive by the end of the day. If you can defeat one of their disciples in a spar, then I'll acknowledge that you have the means to carry off this mission."

Rean and Roan nodded, not caring too much about that. Roan wanted to experience combat, so the chance to fight other Sect's disciples was more than welcome to him.

Death... and me

Chapter 147: What Was That Shit?

As Uive said, the Lagan Sect Disciples arrived at the end of the noon. Their group had three members, Two Men and one Woman. From the looks of it, the woman was the leader of their group. Her cultivation was at the peak stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. As for the two men, they were both at the Peak Stage as well. However, Roan could tell that the woman would be much more of a challenge than the two men beside her if they fought.

The woman's name was Luina Falan. As for the two men, they were Orist Cradi and Rolim Daedove. As it seems, the Luina was a member of the Inner Lagan Sect, while the two men were members of the Outer Lagan Sect.

Uive then talked with those members of the Lagan Sect about the arrangements of the mission. After they concluded, he mentioned the test he wanted to give Rean and Roan as he brought Luina's group to one of their Headquarters' training fields. Obviously, Rean and Roan were already there.

Luina's group was surprised to see Rean and Roan. In their eyes, those two were obviously just 11 to 12 years old. Luina was already 17 while the other two men were 18 each. They are much older. Sure enough, they also thought that Dalamu Sect was messing up with this mission.

"Kids, there is no need to do this challenge. Just go back to Dalamu and tell them that we need support, not more burden."

Roan snorted as he stepped into the training field. He then went up to one of the combat platforms that the City Guards liked to use to spar as he pointed at Luina.

"Cut the crap, I don't have all day."

Rean couldn't help but sigh. Roan didn't know how to hold back his words. However, since it already came to this, he also stepped inside the training field and on another platform.

"Oh well, so be it. Anyone of you should suffice."

Obviously, Luina's group expressions turned dark. It was evident that those kids think that they won already. Luina then ordered through a Divine Sense.

'Orist, Rolim, go and take those kids down. There is no need to hold back either. Since they dared to look down on us, they need to be ready for the consequences. Just don't kill them.'

The two guys nodded, and they immediately jumped on the platform as well. Uive was also there to observe and judge the situation. After all, those are disciples of the Five Big Sects. He can't let Rean and Roan die here, or it would bring unnecessary trouble for him.

"This is just a test. So be sure to hold back. Once a winner is determined, the fight should stop immediately. Are you ready?"

Both sides on both platforms nodded.

"Begin!"

Orist and Rolim would never forget this day.

The moment Uive announced the start of the battle, Rean and Roan's hair changed instantly. They both used Rean's Light Element on their bodies and sprung forward at a speed that far surpassed those two men. Orist and Rolim were alarmed as they immediately took a defensive instance. Orist was a Saber user while Rolim was a Sword one. However, it didn't matter for Rean and Roan.

The twins arrived in front of the Lagan Sect's disciples in a flash as they raised their swords. The moment they slashed down, Orist and Rolim moved to block it, however...

'Death Style, Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

What was supposed to be a single sword, transformed into three! Not only that, but the twins' opponents couldn't tell which one was real. Orist and Rolim shouted, trying to block the attacks as they jumped back. Still, it was too late.

At first, they were delighted because they felt that their Saber and Sword had blocked something. Obviously, they thought that they stopped the real swords from Rean and Roan, and the other two each were fake. Too bad, though. All three swords were real!

Swish, swish.

Both Orist and Rolim were cut twice by the other two swords. Let alone Orist and Rolim, even Uive and Luina opened their eyes wide!

Luina couldn't help but exclaim.

"How come all the swords were real?!"

Uive, however, was a lot more composed.

"The fight is over! Rean and Roan win!"

Orist and Rolim fell on the ground while sweating rivers. When they first felt the two fake swords cutting their bodies, they thought they would die right there and then. However, the twins showed mercy, so their injuries were nothing serious. As long as they took some healing pills and rest for the night, they will be back to peak condition the next morning.

Rean and Roan's hairs then turned back to normal as they stepped out of the arena. On the way, Roan rebuked Rean.

"What was that shit? It was evident that you missed the points by at least three centimeters with each attack. Also, you have the Light Element Main Source, so how come you were slower to arrive in front of your opponent? Are you messing with me?"

Rean scratched the back of his head as he said.

"I'm not as proficient as you, you know that. I'll never be able to match you in combat. I had to hold back too. Not to mention I just recently had a breakthrough, so I'm not used to my increase of Spiritual Energy either. You should be happy that I was able to do this much."

Roan didn't care, though.

"Hmph! It seems I was right to take this mission; you are lacking combat experience. You better put your heart into it this time. I don't want to be dragged down with you."

Uive and Luina were taken aback as they heard the twins conversation.

'They held back? You can't be serious! If that's what you do while holding back, then how much stronger can you be?'

Rean then looked at Uive before bowing.

"I hope this was enough to prove our capability."

Uive's mouth twitched. If that wasn't enough, then he doesn't know what was.

"That's... more than enough..."

Uive then quickly composed himself before saying.

"Cough, cough... We already prepared the provisions and the Spirit Horses. You can leave the next morning. The Gold Hands Bandit Group usually acts on the passage between Cinquel and Avato Cities. After all, lots of trades happen between both cities. Whatever method you use is fine as long as you get rid of them. We have portraits of this group's leaders, so we need at least the head of one of them for this mission to be considered successful, understood?"

Rean and Roan nodded without much care. Luina also did the same, but her head wasn't in the matter at the moment. She then looked at her sect disciples, who had returned with their heads down.

"Good. I already prepared your rooms. I'll see you again after you finish the mission, good luck."

Uive then turned around and left. Rean then smiled at them before saying.

"Sorry for my brother's behavior. He is quite impatient. Let's give our best on the mission tomorrow. Good night, my friends."

Luina could only awkwardly nod as she left with Orist and Rolim. Rean and Roan did the same and returned to their room to rest.

Death... and me

Chapter 148: Sects Pride

In the next morning, Rean's group left through the north gate of Cinquel City. This time, they removed their Sect Robes since it would only scare the bandits away. Whether Rean and Roan are stronger than

Luina or not, the fact is that they still look like kids. So it would be quite convenient for them. After all, they would be considered easy targets.

According to the information delivered for them, the Gold Hands Bandit Group wasn't all in the same place. The paths to Avato City take at least two days to be traversed, so the area of coverage was enormous. Because of that, this bandit group was separated in at least 10 to 15 smaller groups that surveyed the several routes available between the cities.

Rean's group plan was quite simple. Bait one of those groups out and use them to find the rest. But for that to work, they can't let any of them escape. Otherwise, chances were that the escapees would inform the other groups, which would turn things harder for them.

With that in mind, Rean's group was divided into two. Roan and Luina would follow them from the shadows, while Oritis and Rolim would pretend to be escorting Rean as if he was some kind of Young Master. Rean was even using some expensive clothes, while the two guys on his sides used a guardian's attire.

There were several roads that lead them to Avato City, but there was obviously a Main One. However, Rean's group purposely avoided this to not be caught by a big group. They wanted to first capture one of the smallest ones to gather the necessary information.

At first, Luina was against this arrangement. Why should a proud member of the Lagan Sect like her hide her identity? That wasn't any different than the bandit groups themselves. She seemed to be overflowing with confidence that they wouldn't need such low-level tricks. A head-on attack would be enough with their strength.

Roan, however, immediately denied such an idea.

"Are you really a Lagan Sect Inner Disciple? What a joke, to think that is the level of their minds."

Luina narrowed her eyes. She felt anger because of those words, but she knew better to not find a problem with Roan.

"What you talking about?"

Roan sighed, and Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"After you got the information from the City Guards Headquarters, did you make any other inquiries?"

Luina immediately shook her head. All the information necessary was already there, after all.

Roan then continued.

"That's why you can't see the big picture. Rean and I went around, making a few questions to the low-level guards. It seems like our group wasn't the first to try to eliminate the Gold Hands Bandit Group. Do you know what happened to the rest who came before?"

Luina was taken aback.

"Could it be that they died? No, that's doesn't make sense. If they had died, our sect would definitely have found about it. Wait, why is it not in the information provided to us beforehand?"

Roan ignored her surprise and simply answered the question.

"For the sake of this mission, I'll tell you a few things. It's not that no one died. From what we found, there had been one or another fatality. However, since there was always a group of at least 4 to 10 sects members, the loss of a single one or two wasn't that important. But this was not where the main issue relies upon."

Roan then pointed to his and Luina's Sects Badges.

"The issue is the sects' pride. Do you really think that our sects would admit that they couldn't get rid of a few bandits? Ha! What a joke. The City Guards can't spread the news to not offend the sects, and the sects can't reveal the information to not be looked down upon. So, only after talking with the low-level city guards that don't have any influence that we found out the truth. We just gave a few spirit stones to them, and they immediately bent."

Luina's complexion began to get worse. That meant that this bandit group was a lot more troublesome than she thought.

Roan continued.

"At this very moment, you are about to follow into the same steps as your predecessors. This useless pride of yours will eventually bring your ruin. If you want to fail this mission, that's fine, but don't drag us down with you. There are a few people in the world who have brains."

Roan then turned around and was just about to leave when Luina stopped him. Doesn't matter how prideful Luina is; after hearing to this point, even she had to admit that simply charging into the bandits' nest would lead to a disaster.

"I... accept your idea."

Still, the main reason for her change of mind was Rean and Roan's strength! If they didn't completely trash Oritis and Rolim the day prior, she wouldn't take a single word of theirs to mind.

Roan looked behind and nodded.

"You won't regret it. I might as well tell you this. How do you think the ones who failed before will feel after they find out you completed this mission successfully? Or better, the elders of your Lagan Sect Mission Hall definitely know the truth. So their impression of you would be much more important. However, if they see an Inner Sect Disciple failing against a few bandits... hehe."

Luina couldn't help but feel a chill on her back. In just a few words, Roan made her visualize both glory and scorn. She even began to think that perhaps this mission is a test given by the sect, not just a simple task. Oritis and Rolim also had severe expressions. Although they are from the Outer Sect, they are still proud members of the Lagan Sect, after all.

Back at one of the secondary roads to Avato City, Rean's group continued moving forward. Roan and Luina kept following them by foot in the shadows. Four hours after they departed, the prey finally ate the bait. Suddenly, a group of fifteen mounted cultivators appeared in their front. The majority was

Energy Gathering Realm ones, but they still had three Foundation Establishment members. But that wasn't all. In places where they couldn't see, a few more bandits were ready to charge at Rean's group in case they tried to escape.

This hidden group was what Roan planned to strike exactly. Without getting rid of this group first, there would be no way to prevent someone from escaping their net. The difficulty of this mission would be directly related to this very first combat.

Rean's group immediately entered in a battle against the fifteen mounted bandits. However, they hid their real strength and pretended to be barely holding back. Without any of them notice. One head after another was being sent flying in the hidden places around the main battle.

Luina went to the right side while Roan went to the left. Roan had to give Luina a mental nod. She was a dual daggers user, and her dagger style was quite good. Although she couldn't be compared to himself, she was definitely stronger than Ria and Amanda from the Blue Orchid Outer Sect District.

'As expected of an inner sect member, I guess?'

They eliminated all the scouts cleanly, and only then did they charge out of the forest.

Suddenly, a whistle came out of the trees around. As soon as that happened, Rean's group smiled and revealed their real cultivation. The bandits were taken aback by their sudden display of strength. In just a few seconds, almost all Energy Gathering Realm bandits fell.

The Foundation Establishment ones noticed that they fell into a trap and immediately turned around to flee. However, Rean was already expecting it. Light Element covered his body as he shot forward.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Two rays of Light Element and Spiritual Energy pierced right through two of the Foundation Establishment enemies. The last one, with cultivation in the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment, felt terrified with what he saw. He also couldn't tell why the scouts that he left around hadn't appeared yet. However, considering that this was a trap, he could at least imagine what happened to them. He urged his horse, even more, trying to leave this place at all costs.

Too bad, though. Roan had already positioned himself, waiting for that chance. With another Stellar Pierce, he killed the bandit's horse with a single strike in the head. The bandit, obviously, fell on the ground straight away. Of course, with his Foundation Establishment, he quickly recovered. It's just that when he tried to run, a black shadow appeared on his side. What shocked him, even more, is that the enemy looked to be only a kid too!

'Since when are kids this strong?!'

He tried to use his sword to fend the enemy off. But that was useless. If even Peak Foundation Establishments aren't a match for Roan, then let alone a Middle Stage one.

Switch!

The next instant, the bandit already lost one of his legs. He immediately fell on the ground in pain, but his expression changed in the next second.

Roan pointed his sword at the guy while showing an evil smile. He looked me like the reincarnation of a demon. Well, this bandit wasn't totally wrong.

"Hey there, I wonder if you would be willing to answer a few questions."

In the bandit's eyes, that wasn't a kid anymore, but a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Death... and me

Chapter 149: Wake up, girl!

The bandit didn't waste time before saying.

"I'll say anything, please don't kill me!"

Luina, Oritis, and Rolim nodded, satisfied. That's what they wanted to hear. However, Rean just shook his head. Luina's group got puzzled by that, but they just waited to listen to what Roan had to say.

Roan smiled after hearing that too. However, he shook his head as well in the end. He then put his hand on one of the man's injuries and channeled his Dark Element. Immediately, the bandit's expression changed.

"Ahhhrgh!"

Dark Element destroys Life Energy, and Roan was making it circulate the guy's body. Because Roan had already destroyed his dantian, he is nothing more than an ordinary person now. He simply had no way of resisting it. Having one's own Life Energy attacked like that was more painful than any injury Roan could ever afflict him.

Roan then used his Spiritual Energy to Seal the man's mouth. So even though it was open, no one could hear anything. Roan didn't care about his suffering, though.

"I guess you misunderstood my intentions here. Doesn't matter what you say, you will die. How many innocent people have you killed because of your greed before? There is no way I could let you go after that. At the moment, you only have two options. Die a swift death, which I strongly recommend, or a long and torturous one, I wouldn't go for that, though. Tell me what we want, and I can give you the first option. Otherwise, well, I guess you know what will happen."

Luina's group were frightened by what they saw. The way the man was contorting and his expression showed that he is having the most painful experience in his life. Luina had killed quite a few of the bandits, her companions too. However, even they couldn't look at what Roan was doing and turned their head away. Cruelty was far from being enough to describe that Roan's actions.

In the end, Luina couldn't help but ask.

"Ar-Are you going too far?"

Roan stopped his actions and looked at Luina, puzzled.

"How many people do you think he killed in these roads so far? No, I guess this is not enough to convince you. Let me change my question. How many women had he raped and then killed in these

roads before? Chances are that some of them are still in their nest, being treated like sex dolls. Do you really think I'm going too far?"

Luina's expression changed after hearing what Roan said.

"Are you sure he did such things, though?"

Roan smiled as he channeled his Dark Elements into the man again.

"Tell me how many girls have your group raped since you joined them. There is no need for real numbers. Just an estimative is enough."

The man couldn't even think straight as his inaudible scream came out. Finally, he seemed to start moving his mouth as if trying to say something. Roan dispelled the Spiritual Energy on the man's mouth after that.

"Ahhhh! Hundreds, maybe over a thousand. Kill me! Kill meeee! Ahhhh!"

Roan then sealed his mouth again as he looked at Luina with the same smile.

"If you want, I can ask him how they did each time."

Luina's expression changed completely. It was apparent she wanted to cut the bandit in a thousand pieces right now. Still, she took a deep breath before saying.

"Do what you have to."

She then turned around and left.

Rean's expression didn't change even a bit. He already knew what type of person Roan is. He wouldn't go this far unless he was sure about his actions.

Finally, Roan changed his questions and began to inquire about the other bandit groups. Obviously, he did that while channeling his Dark Element into the man's body. He showed no mercy whatsoever, nor did the smile on his face disappear. That only made the man feel even more dread, though.

In the end, he confessed everything as fast as he could. He just wanted to die already. After Roan committed everything to mind, he swiftly cut the man's head.

Orits, who didn't leave, couldn't help but ask.

"Are you sure he didn't lie?"

Roan, now back to his deadpan expression, just nodded, not bothering to answer. How many tortures had he seen in his previous life (or death?) as death? He could tell with a glance that the man wasn't lying. The simple idea that lying could extend his pain even longer wiped out any thoughts of doing so from the bandit's head.

He then joined Luina, who was waiting in the distance. In the end, he decided to give her and the other two Lagan Sect Disciples a piece of advice. After all, they did a good job during the attack, in his opinion.

"First, throw away your overproud self. If not for Rean and me, your group would have charged directly inside the bandits' net. Second, stop being naive. Although I won't say that all bandits are rotten like that last one, I won't stop to think whether they are good or not. Wake up, girl. You aren't a kid anymore."

Luina narrowed her eyes, but she couldn't bring herself to refuse Roan's words. His actions proved that he was right, that's all that mattered.

Roan's question showed all the other group's locations. From what he found out, they only have two days to get rid of all the bandits. That's because the bandits' group should reunite after that. Once they notice that other groups didn't return, they will immediately understand what happened. After that, they will promptly cease their activities and spread. It won't be before a few months before they join together again. They have to finish everyone before that.

Roan then pointed in the map. He showed the location of the big groups and the small ones. From the groups' division, it was evident that their leader wasn't just brawn and no brains. He made it so that the small groups would act as scouts for the big ones. The small group they annihilated was one of the small ones.

The small groups were located in advantage positions where they had a fair vision of the roads. If the City Guards came passing in, they would immediately retreat and inform the big groups to withdraw into the forest. That's also why the City Guards couldn't get rid of them by themselves. They couldn't hide their numbers. Also, if a merchant caravan passed by the small groups and it was too hard to deal with, they would be able to inform the big ones and then organize a joint attack.

The location where the big groups were located also showed that they knew how to operate. It would give them the most significant terrain advantage, which proved beneficial even when many enemies were present.

Everyone nodded after Roan finished his words. Luina then looked at the sun high in the sky before saying.

"We only have two days, so we should move out now before we run out of time."

Roan smiled before shaking his head.

"No, we will wait for the night time."

Rean didn't say anything. As they had agreed before, any combat-related strategy was up to Roan. However, Luina and the other two narrowed their eyes.

"I understand that you want to take them while sleeping. However, it will be hard for our side to act during night time too. Besides, they know the land better than us and will definitely set up several traps after they retreat to their nest to rest."

Roan shrugged his shoulders.

"That's something for me to worry about. You just need to follow my words."

Death... and me

Chapter 150: At Least She Likes It...

Luina narrowed her eyes after hearing that. However, after Everything Roan showed so far, she decided to believe him again. As proud as she might be, she could at least tell the difference between the two of them.

Their group then moved somewhere near to the first small group and hid in the forest. After that, Roan looked up in the sky and could see that they still have a few hours of daylight. He turned and looked at Luina and her Lagan Sect group.

"Rean and I are going to take a look, you guys wait here."

"Wait! I'll go as well. I can give cover if you are found out."

Rean smiled at her before saying.

"Don't worry, no one there will ever be able to find us out."

Luina was taken aback for a second. But just as she was about to say something, the two dashed into the forest. She felt quite helpless. It wasn't this kind of role that she envisioned when she applied to the mission.

Oritis and Rolim looked at each other as well, not knowing what to do.

"Should we go there as well? If we continue like this, we will fall into a passive position."

Luina pondered a bit before shaking her head.

"Everything went as Roan said precisely. Besides, we do owe one to them since we would really have fallen into a predicament because of our lack of investigation. Let's see how things will go this night. If it turns out that his plans go wrong, then we will move on our own too."

Oritis and Rolim nodded, and they concealed themselves once more.

Back on the twins' side, Rean already leaped on Roan's back and used his Light Element and Spiritual Sense concealment skill. Roan was more than experienced enough to move around without making any noise or leaving any clues that he had been there.

However, they didn't go to the places where the bandit groups were guarding. Instead, he looked for the places where they would go to rest. He wanted to take a good look at all traps and positions of advantage that they could use.

It was almost night, and Luina's group was starting to get worried. Until now, Rean and Roan didn't give them any sign. But just as the sun was about to completely disappear, they heard Roan's voice coming from their sides.

"Alright, we can move now. Follow me and make sure to only step where I do."

Luina's group's eyes lit up as they nodded. It was finally time for action. They followed Roan deep into the forest until they stopped in a place where there wasn't anything. Luina looked at Roan, puzzled. However, the later only told her to get down and not show herself.

Around two hours later, their group heard the sound of laughter as a group passed by their position. For a second, Luina got nervous. Those were definitely the bandits, and they were passing close to them. Still, not a single one noticed their presence there. They soon mounted encampment and began to chat, eat, and drink.

It didn't take long until the majority feel asleep while just a few kept guard outside. From there on, Roan used Spiritual Sense to communicate with the group.

"Luina, Rean, and I will take the guards at south first. Oritis and Rolim will keep a look to make sure the others won't notice anything. Luina, there are three traps between you and your target. There is one

close to the tree 20 meters in front of him, another just 12 meters on the right side of that one. Lastly, a pit trap which is well concealed just two meters on the target's left."

Luina was surprised to hear that last one. She could more or less notice the first two traps even in the dark environment. However, she looked attentively at where her target was staying, but she couldn't see anything wrong with the terrain 2 meters on his left side.

"Don't look down on those bandits. They had been in this business way too long. I told you before, being overproud might kill you earlier than expected."

Luina took a deep breath and nodded.

"We will move at my sign."

Through their Soul Connection, Roan had already told Rean about everything he needed to pay attention to.

"Now!"

The three of them moved like ghosts, quickly reaching their target without a noise. Roan was pretty satisfied with Luina's style. It seemed like she had practiced furtive skills.

In a matter of just three seconds, the three scouts of the south side were already dead. They made sure to hold their bodies so that they wouldn't make any noise when they fell.

Just like that, Roan passed more strings of orders, and they quickly cleaned up all the scouts. All the action didn't take more than three minutes and didn't alert anyone. What remained was only the drunk sleeping bandits who didn't know that their time had come.

The entire operation took only ten minutes, and the campsite was utterly wiped out. Neither Rean nor Luina's groups showed any remorse or pity. After what they heard from the first group's bandit leader, they only felt that they took too long to dispatch the party.

"Take whatever you can, those will be your spoils from this mission."

Luina, Orits, Rolim, and Rean nodded, quickly grabbing whatever they felt to be worth bringing back. Without Luina's group noticing, Rean and Roan threw their spoils inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. If they asked later, the twins would simply say that they hid it to take them back later.

"Alright, let's go to the next camp. Although this place has few demon beasts, they will still come after they feel the scent of blood."

Everyone nodded as they swiftly left. Sure enough, demon beasts appeared a few hours later.

By then, Rean's group was already cleaning the third campsite. However, this time, their group alerted the bandits' group after killing around half of their numbers. Immediately, a battle started between them. Nevertheless, the bandits understood that they weren't a match for their opponents, and they tried to flee.

Too bad, though. Roan had left Orits and Rolim at the right positions, just waiting for those possible escapees. Although the third attack didn't go as good as they thought, they still prevented any bandits from escaping.

drip, drip

However, Rean noticed that Luina was injured. To prevent one of the Foundation Establishment guys from escaping, she threw herself at the front. Because of their difference in cultivation, she didn't put him in her eyes. Unfortunately, she underestimated him and fell for a trick which almost cost her life.

Looking at Luina's injury, Orits and Rolim's expressions changed.

"We won't be able to continue like this. Even with the healing pills, Luina will need a few hours to recover sufficiently."

Luina refused, though.

"There is no need; I can continue."

Suddenly...

Jump! Pah!

Roan's slapped the back of her head. But because he was smaller than her, he had to give a small jump to reach it first.

Obviously, Luina felt enraged by that. However...

"What do you want, drag us down?"

Luina was fuming!

"You!"

"You what? How do you expect to battle like this? You will only become a burden. Not only might you die, but we might also die as well because of you."

Luina gritted her teeth but gave up in the end. She knew that her injury was quite bad.

"Fine! I'll stay and heal myself. But you don't need to go wait for me. Take Oritis and Rolim and continue the mission."

Finally, Roan nodded his head.

"That's more like it. However, you are coming with us anyway."

Luina's group felt puzzled. Didn't you just say that she shouldn't continue?

Roan ignored their doubts and looked at Rean.

"What you waiting for? Go ahead, nurse Nightingale."

Rean's mouth twitched.

"Fuck you! Who is Nightingale? ... At least call me Dr. House."

Roan shrugged his shoulder.

"That would be me, but I can't heal people."

Rean looked at Roan and had to admit that he was right. Their personalities match quite well.

"I will stick with Dr. Wilson then."

Luina and the other two couldn't understand anything that they were talking about. But they didn't have time to ponder. That's because Rean already grabbed Luina's shoulder, much for her amazement. Just as she was about to try to shake him off, a burst of white light came from Rean's hand, which illuminated everything around them in this dark night.

Light Element quickly rushed into her body. A very warm feeling ran through her meridians as her injury began to heal so fast that they could see it with their naked eyes.

Suddenly...

Ahw!

Luina let out an involuntary moan, which startled her companions. Luina was also taken aback by that as her cheeks immediately turned as red as a tomato! Even she couldn't believe what she just did.

Rean just sighed as if he was already expecting this to happen.

"Well, at least she likes it..."

Even though Luina was extremely embarrassed by what happened, she could tell that her wound would be healed entirely in just a few minutes. Still, she had to control her urges to not let out more moans, which was quite hard, to be honest. Rean's Light Element felt too damn good!

Finally, Rean finished his treatment.

Luina then quickly got up with an awkward expression. She also felt wronged, but couldn't muster the courage to blame Rean, who just healed her.

Roan couldn't care less, though.

"Are you finished? Then let's go."

Without waiting for their answer, he left straight away. Luina felt somewhat relieved that Roan didn't seem to care about her moan a few moments ago and quickly followed him as well. Rean and the others obviously did the same.