

Death 1441

Death... and me

Chapter 1441: Teaching

Falangia couldn't help but get nervous. She did know how to write and read, but it was only the basics. She didn't know just how much better Roan was with it. Then again, she found out that quite quickly.

"You suck!" said Roan without holding back. "When you said you knew at least the basics, I thought it was related to grammar. But even the words you teach... did you really learn the basics? Holy shit, just who the hell taught you how to read and write?"

Falangia looked away before saying with a sad expression, "My dead mother..."

Rean, who was watching it all unfold, looked at Roan in dismay as he thought, 'He just had to step on that land mine. No, wait! If it's Roan...'

Rean was right. Roan was still Roan. "Your mother SUCKS! No, everyone who taught her before also SUCKS!" Unsurprisingly, he couldn't care less about Falangia's dead mother. The dead are dead, that's all.

Bang!

Suddenly, a huge pile of books appeared on the table where Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan were sitting in front. "We are going to learn everything from the very start. Open the first book!" Roan even forgot about the Molten Divine Rock Flowers, the Third Grade Star Body, and the fact that they could go to the Under Desert Sea. He simply couldn't take it anymore.

Roan then looked at Rean and said, "Of course, reading and writing isn't everything. You will teach them math! You better make sure that they're doing everything correctly."

Rean sighed and nodded in response. "Sure, sure... so, how about the punishments?" Well, it turns out that Rean was still the same teacher as the one back in Varen Village. With that being said, he wasn't exactly a very understanding one.

Roan had to admit Rean was right. “Hmm... whatever, let’s just give them a beating every time they make too many mistakes.”

Rean nodded, accepting Roan’s idea. With that, the spartan teaching class soon began.

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Surprisingly, the twins spent three more weeks in the hotel room. During that time, neither the twins nor Falangia nor the kids did anything else other than studying and teaching. Although the twins were fine after all that, Falangia’s group looked to be in a terrible state after those three weeks.

Pah!

Ouch!

Rafatia’s eyes teared up after Rean hit her head with a ruler. “Wrong! How the hell did you get to that result? Try again!” Surprisingly, Rean was completely immersed in his spartan teaching. He didn’t forgive anyone, including Rafatia and Luan.

As for Roan... well, he was even more terrifying. All three students were scared out of their wits when Roan got mad because of their mistakes. Neither Rean nor Roan healed the injuries on the three, though. First of all, those were very superficial injuries that basically applied a lot of pain but dealt no actual damage. Second, they didn’t want them to think that it might be worth enduring the beating since they would be healed straight away.

Rafatia and Luan cried quite a lot at first. However, that only gave them one more reason to receive a beating. The rule was simple. If you cried after the strike, you received another one. If you continued to cry, you would receive two more. It would then double and double without stopping. The two kids quickly understood that tears were okay, but cries were absolutely out of the question. Then again, even Falangia teared up several times during these last three weeks.

Pah!

“Wrong!”

Pah!

“Wrong again!”

Pah!

“Wrong!”

Pah!

“Wrong...”

Even Falangia began to wonder if it was a good idea to follow the twins by now. This wasn't teaching anymore. This was pure torture! However, the twins were both in the Elemental Transformation Realm, so escape was impossible!

Eventually, at the end of the third week, Rean and Roan gave them reading, writing, and math tests based on their age and achievements so far. “Anyone that gets less than 90% of the questions correct will receive the biggest beating they'll ever experience. You'll truly wish you were dead after it.”

None of the three students doubted Rean and Roan's warning, so their focus was unprecedented!

“Don't you try to use Divine Sense to ask the others close to you, understood? You all know that we can detect Divine Senses, so that will simply mean an extra beating and a completely new test with different questions for all three of you.”

In the end, Luan had the lowest score with 97%! Falangia got 97.6%, while Rafatia got an impressive 100%! Sure enough, Rafatia wasn't talented with cultivation, but she was indeed intelligent.

Rean and Roan gave the tests back to the three before Rean finally healed everyone's bruises. "Very good! It seems like all our effort wasn't for naught. I'm pretty sure the three of you are scared of us but know that Roan and I had a lot of students before, and they all received the same treatment. It may be painful, but it's a guaranteed learning method since no one wants to feel more pain."

Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan nodded vigorously. Whatever Rean and Roan said, they would simply agree. No one would dare to refute the twins' teaching methods at all.

Rean then smiled before he took out ten Rank Two Divine Stones from the Dimensional Realm. "Of course, you'll also receive a reward for meeting our expectations."

When the three saw those Divine Stones brimming with Divine Energy, they all felt like crying. "It wasn't all in vain..." Those Divine Stones were something they wouldn't even dream about getting in this continent, so it was more like ten pieces of treasures.

Roan also nodded after Rean did that. "Rewards and punishments are always the best methods of learning. Next time, you should focus so that you can get more."

"N-n-n-next time?!" Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan's happiness immediately disappeared like smoke after hearing that.

Roan snorted as he could tell what they were thinking. "Hmph! Do you really think three weeks is enough to teach you? We didn't do anything else other than cover the basics. You're still far, far from good enough."

'Let us die already....' thought the trio.

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Chapter 1442: Ertos City

Eventually, the twins' group decided to leave Valantior and head to the Under Desert Sea. Roan returned to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm while Rean teleported away with Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan. It would take years to fly there, after all. It was much better to teleport to the closest city first, Ertos.

Rean's group weren't the only ones who thought about passing through the Under Desert Sea, though. Almost everyone who had reached the Elemental Transformation Realm at the very least knew that the concentration of Divine Energy in Treavin was terrible. Those who arrived at the Transition Realm would seriously consider whether it was worth using the Under Desert Sea to pass through the Pol Continent or not.

Of course, the numbers of cultivators who wanted to do it and the number who really tried were heavens apart. Everyone knew the dangers of the Under Sea Desert, after all.

However, even though only an extremely small fraction of such cultivators tried to pass through the Under Desert Sea, they could still be counted in the hundreds of thousands every year when considering the size and number of people in the continent.

Because of that, the city of Ertos was one of the biggest ones since only high-level cultivators stopped by. Let's not forget the common knowledge that only Transition Realm cultivators should try such a thing. No, to be more specific, not even they should do it due to the danger. In any case, that contributed to this city reaching this size.

Even if one wasn't a Transition Realm cultivator, one could do some business here. So cultivators of lower levels also came to this place. Not to mention that it was used as a hub to acquire items from the Pol Continent that ended up in its markets all the time. This was perhaps the only really big city that wasn't located at the center of the Treavin Continent.

In the Formation Guild, a teleport formation was activated before a flash of silver light came out. Following that, a group of twenty or so cultivators and demon beasts in human form appeared. Transition Realm was the level necessary to venture into the Under Desert Sea, so demon beasts at this level would also come since they acquired intelligence and sentience at that level.

In the middle of the group, a woman and a man came out with a little girl and a little boy. Naturally, they were Rean and the others. Even though they used teleports, some cities didn't activate the teleport formation for just a few people. Sometimes, Rean's group had to wait until enough people and demon beasts gathered to make it worth starting the formations. With that said, their journey here took a lot longer than it initially took to reach the center of the continent.

The workers in the Formation Guild quickly stepped forward to receive the cultivators. After all, those who used the teleport formations were people and demon beasts who could pay for it. They were almost always at a high level, so the guild was a lot more thoughtful of their actions. One of them, a

cultivator at the Soul Transformation Realm called Juan, was the one to attend Rean's group. "Welcome to Ertos City. Are you here to acquire items from the Pol Continent for your family? Our city receives a lot of cultivation-related items as well as other types of merchandise. I'm sure your wife and kids will like it here."

Falangia's face went red when she heard that. The guy totally mistook her for Rean's wife. He couldn't be blamed since Rean also seemed to be in his early twenties due to his cultivation. On the other hand, Falangia herself was nineteen. Then again, Rean didn't help either, saying, "Oh, is that so?! Honey, it seems like you were right. We can get that Profound Sea Collar you wanted so much."

Falangia's heart almost exploded when she heard that. 'Why the hell are you saying that?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders, telling her, 'Isn't that okay? We don't need to think of some random excuse for our visit. Let them think we're a family as it can serve as a good disguise. Wait! Could it be that you despise the idea of being paired with me? Alright, let me fix it. This guy should understand if I tell him I was just joking.'

However, before Rean said anything, Falangia pulled his sleeve and mustered her courage, telling him, 'I-i don't mind. We can pretend to be a fa-fa-fa-fa-family.'

Rean was happy to hear that. 'Then go ahead and do your part. The guy is looking at you.'

"Ah!" Only then did Falangia notice the worker's confused expression since he did talk to her as well but got no answer. "Ahem... sorry, I was thinking about that Profound Sea Collar and completely forgot the world around me."

Falangia then looked at Rean, although she couldn't control the redness of her face. "Hu-hubby... can we go already? I want that collar very much since it will help with my cultivation."

Rean then looked at the worker, waiting for his directions. "Profound Sea Collar, you say? Was there an item with that name? Oh! I believe you're talking about The Pristine Jewel of the Sea, known for helping those with Water Element Affinity in their cultivations. Water Affinity cultivators aren't common in our continent, but they do exist. If your wife has Water Element Affinity, that would indeed be a marvelous gift. Here, take this token and head to the Traverse Pol Store. With this token, you will be attended a lot

faster than usual. However, just a warning. The jewel is quite expensive, so think twice whether you want to buy it or not.”

Rean was surprised that the Formation Guild had even made a few agreements with the local merchants. ‘It seems like they do this for every cultivator who they think is wealthy.’

“Thank you. I’ll be sure to put a good word about you,” said Rean with a smile.

With that, the worker guided them out of the guild and bade them farewell.

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Chapter 1443: Test

“The Pristine Jewel of the Sea, huh?” Surprisingly, Rean became interested in the item. “Oh well, forget it. I don’t have Water Element Affinity.”

After that, Rean went to a relatively empty corner with Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan, taking the chance to call Roan out. Roan, of course, was already waiting for it. “There’s no point in staying here for much longer. Let’s head directly to the Under Desert Sea.”

Rean didn’t mind. “Sure, let’s go.”

However, just as they arrived at the gate, they were stopped by the guards there. “Halt! What do you want outside the city?”

Roan narrowed his eyes, saying, “It’s none of your business. Let us pass.”

The guards obviously didn’t like Roan’s attitude. There were quite a few of them, three at the Transition Realm and one at the Void Tempering Realm. Obviously, such a high level was definitely achievable because this city has many high-level cultivators as well. “No can do. If you want to explore the city outside, you will need to pay for the token at one of the city managing offices.”

“Token?” Rean found it strange. “Since when did cities start to ask for tokens when someone wants to leave? Shouldn’t it be the opposite?”

The guard snorted, saying, “Hmph! In other cities, that’s true. However, Ertos City isn’t the type of city you want to enter from the outside. Instead, it’s a city where many people try to leave. It’s not like your group doesn’t know why either. Since that’s the case, the city management started to charge for leaving instead of entering. If you don’t like the idea, just teleport to another city and travel here on your own. Of course, the second closest city to the Under Desert Sea is at least ten times farther away than us.”

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded. “Very well. We just have to buy it, right? So be it.”

The twins had indeed seen a building board saying City Management Office. They thought that was a very rare sight in a place like Treavin but didn’t care at that time. The twins could try to summon Kentucky and fly to leave through the city walls. However, if one of the guards was already in the Void Tempering Realm, there were bound to be more guards like that, perhaps someone with even higher cultivation. Without much choice, the twins went back to the city center before entering that City Management Office.

They weren’t the only ones there, though. There were several queues as many cultivators, mostly at the Transition Realm, who seemed to be waiting for their turn. Naturally, the twins did the same thing while Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan waited by the side.

“It’s rather peaceful, don’t you think?” Rean said with a confused expression.

Roan understood what he meant. “Indeed. Everywhere we went in Treavin so far has always had its own bullies and those who didn’t want to follow any rules. The people responsible for such cities didn’t do anything about that either. How come everyone is waiting dutifully in the queues without those with higher levels forcing the weaker ones to move?”

When the twins finally arrived at the counter, they finally found why that happened through the worker’s explanation. “Oh! The city management can’t afford to let the cultivators act rampantly in their territory. That’s because this city has an unusually large number of high-level cultivators. If everyone acted as they wished, as they do in other cities, this city would turn into rubble in no time. With that said, the City Lord’s forces place a lot of effort into hiring high-level cultivators to keep peace and order. If someone tries to rebel, they would have to deal with many cultivators at their level or even higher.”

The twins had to admit it made sense. Since this place did have a lot of Transition Realm cultivators and above, and if battles arose all the time, the city would cease to exist at some point. "I see... anyways, forget about that. Can you give us a token to leave the city?"

The worker shook his head, saying, "I can't. The tokens aren't for sale. Those who want the tokens have to pass the test, and the payment you give is for the test itself, not the token. If you fail, you have to try again."

"Test?" The twins were confused. "What kind of test?"

"Strength, obviously," answered the worker. "It's no secret to anyone that over 90% of the high-level cultivators who come to this city want to enter the Under Desert Sea. However, only the strong have a minimal chance of surviving there. As for the rest, it's better if they don't try it at all."

The worker then looked at the twins and said, "You two, for example, should just give up. The Peak Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm is good, but it's far from enough in the Under Desert Sea. Don't try to rely on luck, as it most likely won't help you. First of all, you won't be able to pass the test with your cultivation anyway."

The twins shook their heads. "Just tell us the price for the test. By the way, can we bring our disciples with us if we get the token?"

The worker shrugged his shoulders, telling them, "That depends on their level. They must be below the Saint Realm if you want to use the token with them. Anyone above that level would be considered to just be someone trying to weasel their way out."

"That's good enough." Rean and Roan nodded. "So, how much is the test?"

Seeing that the twins didn't intend to give up, the worker could only continue. "It's 300 Rank One Divine Stones for each try. You can try as many times as you want. Do you still want to take the test?"

Rean immediately took out 600 Rank One Divine Stones and passed them to the guy. "Just let us take the test already."

The worker sighed in response. "Very well.. Don't come complaining later that you lost your Divine Stones in vain."

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Chapter 1444: Only Elemental Transformation Realm Cultivators

With that, the twins were guided to another room, where they joined many other cultivators. Though, the twins weren't the only ones at the Elemental Transformation Realm wanting to leave the city. Although not as common, there were also those who didn't want to go to the Under Desert Sea but needed to leave the city. Of course, there were those at the twins' level or even lower who still wanted to risk entering the Under Desert Sea regardless of the dangers it had.

The twins quickly noticed quite a few Soul Transformation and Saint Realm cultivators in the mix as well. Those at the Elemental Transformation Realm made up quite a few. However, half of the people in the room were at the Transition Realm at the very least.

Once again, the twins had to enter a queue and wait for their chance to take the test. The test was very simple, though. Based on one's cultivation, a formation would fortify a dummy that was placed inside. The cultivators had one chance to strike the puppet with whatever skill they had. The only rule was that the dummy should be destroyed within three seconds. That's all.

There was a limit to how much damage the dummy could resist when its settings were at max defense level. That was a limit where Transition Realm cultivators should be able to pass. Simply put, this was a test made to stop those with low cultivation, not the high-level ones.

However, what caught the twins' attention was that the cultivators who seemed to pass the test all gathered in an empty space of the room. Rean then called the guy in front of him and asked, "Sorry for disturbing you, friend. Would you mind telling me what they're doing there? Is there another test after this one?"

The guy didn't seem very willing to talk. But since Rean was quite polite, he decided to answer in the end. "Everyone who passes the test will try to form a group to enter the Under Desert Sea. After all, there's strength in numbers. That happens mostly with cultivators at the Elemental Transformation Realm and below, though."

Rean nodded. "I see... does that mean they know the route through the Under Desert Sea?"

“Who knows? Some of them say they do, but in fact, they just don’t want to enter alone. Once far inside the Under Desert Sea, their companions won’t think about dealing with the liar since they need his strength. Of course, there are those who genuinely got information about paths in the Under Desert Sea. Whether you can find someone like that or not, that’s up to your luck,” the guy explained.

Rean then thanked him before looking at Roan. “What do you think? It would be better if we at least know where we’re going, no?”

Roan narrowed his eyes, saying, “The guy ahead didn’t tell everything. There are those who know the real routes, and there are those who pretend to. However, there are also those who want to rob others and use their knowledge of the ‘Under Desert Sea’ to lure their victims. In fact, the third type is probably most likely.”

Rean had to admit Roan was right. “That’s true. However, we have you, so our chances of falling for a trap are smaller.”

“Next!” Suddenly, Rean heard the worker calling his attention. It was his time to try to destroy the dummy.

As Rean walked forward, he continued to talk, asking, “You’re basically a lie detector, don’t you think?”

Bang!

Shatter!

Rean simply threw a punch covered in Light Element, which obliterated the dummy into countless pieces. Some people even had to use their Divine Energy barrier to stop the shrapnel from injuring them. Rean didn’t seem concerned with that as he made his way back. “Let’s give it a try.”

Roan was obviously behind Rean, so he was the next one. “We’ll see. Let’s talk with the groups there. Perhaps we can find someone genuine.”

Bang!

Shatter!

Just like Rean, Roan tore the dummy apart with one punch. “The only doubt is whether someone who really knows the routes would accept people at our cultivation level. Don’t forget about the Transition Realm limit that we heard about.”

Little did they know, but all eyes were focused on them as many shocked expressions came out. Everyone had to use their best skills to barely destroy their dummies. However, Rean and Roan made it look so easy that some wondered if the dummies were broken. Of course, no such thing happened. The twins’ real power was at the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm. A dummy made to test the strength of an average Transition Realm cultivator was obviously fated to be pulverized.

The worker’s shocked expression didn’t last long before he quickly passed the tokens to Rean and Roan. “Here you go. You can leave the city anytime you want.”

The twins nodded and made their way to the area where the people were trying to form groups.

“Hey, wanna join my group?” Suddenly, a man who looked to be in his early thirties called the twins’ attention.

However, he wasn’t the only one.

“No, come join us. Our leader knows the path to Pol Continent.”

“Bullshit! Don’t believe these guys. They’re only trying to lure you into a trap. Come with my group. I can guarantee that the path my clan researched will deliver us close to one of the blind spots on the Pol Continent.”

“Your ass! I’ve never entered the Under Desert Sea before. How come you know if I’m preparing a trap or not? Why aren’t we so sure that perhaps it is your group who want to deal with these guys?”

“What did you say?!”

“Hey, brothers. Forget those two idiots. Join my group. We even have one Void Tempering Realm cultivator at the Initial Stage.”

Rean and Roan looked at each other, confused.. How come so many groups with high cultivation decided to take them in? “We’re only Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators, though.”

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Chapter 1445: The Weakest

It was then that one of the guys intervened, saying, “Who cares? Judging by how easily you destroyed the dummy, it’s obvious that your cultivation doesn’t reflect your real strength.”

Everyone else nodded at the man’s words in agreement. It turns out that even the Transition Realm cultivators couldn’t destroy the dummy as easily as the twins did, so they all thought the twins were part of some big power. In other words, that meant they must have quite some treasures on them.

Thanks to that, the people calling the twins to join were divided into three groups. Those who didn’t know the path for real but wanted to use the twins’ strength to complement their own. The second were the ones who thought the twins were full of treasures and wanted to lure them into a trap. And the last ones were the real groups with someone who really knew something about the Under Desert Sea and wanted their journey to be smoother with the twins’ help.

However, how would the twins know who was telling the truth or not? Obviously, it was Roan’s time to shine. ‘None of the groups with reasonable strength are telling the truth, at least not fully. Another problem is that the ones who seemed to have some idea are groups with at least one Void Tempering Realm cultivator.’

Rean nodded, saying, ‘Indeed. Even though they might not be lying about knowing some of the routes through that labyrinth, it would be complicated if the Void Tempering Realm cultivators suddenly decide to attack us. If it’s only you and me, we probably can escape. However, we have to carry Luan, Falangia, and Rafatia as well.’

‘It was supposed to be only Luan, but you had to bring the others,’ Roan could not help but say.

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he told him, 'Come on! Consider it training for the day you travel the world with your kids. I'm sure you want to spread your seeds with Calina, right? This is a great opportunity to get used to protecting people much weaker than you.'

Roan pondered over Rean's words a bit and nodded. 'Makes sense.' Sure enough, Roan always took the most logical thought process, not feeling any hint of emotion about the topic. 'Protecting one's offspring is crucial for the development of a group as a whole. Very well, then. I will take it more seriously.'

Rean didn't get the effect he wanted, but he was already happy that Roan came to terms with Falangia and Rafatia. 'Now then, since all the groups with high-level cultivators seem to be hiding something...'

Rean and Roan's eyes suddenly turned in a certain direction. There, they saw a couple who looked pretty much alike, although one was obviously younger. They didn't try to invite Rean and Roan. However, when the twins arrived at the area where groups were being formed, they seemed to want to call them that but gave up when many other much stronger groups tried the same.

The difference was that Rean and Roan didn't feel the greed, disdain, or opportunistic looks that the rest of the groups did. If anything, they had very serious expressions.

While the people seemed to fight for having the twins in their group, Rean sent a Divine Sense Message to the couple. 'Hey there! Do you perhaps know anything about the routes in the Under Desert Sea?'

The two were taken aback and immediately looked in Rean's direction. However, they also understood the opportunity, so the man immediately nodded slightly. 'I do. It has something to do with my father, who traversed the Under Desert Sea before.' He didn't know if Rean would believe him, so he decided to tell the truth straight away.

Rean then looked at Roan and said, 'It doesn't feel like he's lying. However, you're better at detecting lies than I am. What do you think?'

Roan agreed with Rean. 'Not only is he not lying, but he's also probably terrible at it. I have seen his type quite a few times in my past life, but I have to admit they're quite rare. Of course, he might just be like that guy we met in the Lost Star Realm and have a lot of experience in fooling others. I'm good at detecting lies, but I'm not omnipotent.'

That was good enough for Rean. 'Well, that works for me.'

Rean looked back at the couple and continued his Divine Sense messages. 'Very well, then. We can go together. We have some people we want to bring with us, though. Will that be a problem?'

'What kind of people?' the man immediately asked. He didn't want to be at a disadvantage in this journey since he never knew if the twins would suddenly attack.

'One woman at the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm and two kids at the Foundation Establishment Realm.'

The man and the woman were even more surprised now. 'Are you really bringing such low-level people with you?'

Rean nodded, telling them, 'Yes. However, there's no need for you to worry. My brother and I will be responsible for their protection. If something goes wrong, you can abandon us straight away if you want.'

The couple looked at each other and discussed for a bit before they decided to accept. At the very least, those cultivators wouldn't cause trouble for them as they were just too weak. 'Very well.'

Eventually, Rean looked at everyone before saying, "I'm thankful that you all asked us to join your group. Just so you know, many of you sent Divine Sense messages during your arguments, but that shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone here. My brother and I have already decided which group we'll join, and we will meet them somewhere else, so please excuse us."

Immediately, the area went silent as everyone wondered which of the strong groups being formed took the twins with them. It made sense that they didn't want to be discovered as to not generate more problems for themselves.. Well, little did they know that the twins chose one of the weakest teams there.

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Chapter 1446: Which Direction?

Unsurprisingly, the twins preferred to trust their own strength instead of risking pairing with a bunch of high-level cultivators that might betray them later. Outside, Rean told Falangia about what happened and that they got the tokens. Nevertheless, Falangia was confused. “Why do we get a free pass with your token just because our cultivation is low?”

Rean shrugged his shoulders, telling her, “Because, unlike the high-level cultivators, you won’t be able to help with anything. But above all, it’s the fact that losing a Core Formation and two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators won’t cause any impact to the city.”

Falangia bitterly smiled, being made aware once again just how useless she was. “I see... well, forget it. When can we go?”

Roan looked at her before saying, “Now. Our guides will encounter us outside the city at a point we previously decided on.”

The twins’ group then left the City Management Office and went to the city’s gate once again. This time, with the tokens, the guards didn’t take much of their time and allowed Rean’s group to pass through.

The couple only appeared around an hour later. That’s because they didn’t want to be seen as the ones who got the twins’ help after all that confusion, so they stayed there longer.

153 kilometers away, on top of a hill covered with fine sand, the twins finally got to meet their guides. Both the man and the woman came flying on a demon beast, showing that they were indeed below the Transition Realm. Rean obviously did the talking, as always. The man was at the Late Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm, while the woman was at the Initial Stage of the same realm. “Hello, friends. I can see we finally have some time to talk.”

The fact that they got the tokens even though they weren’t in the Transition Realm also showed they could fight stages above their own cultivation. Otherwise, they wouldn’t have destroyed the dummy.

The man nodded, saying, “Indeed. Thanks for selecting us as your group. My name is Carion, and this is my sister, Briget. We are also in the Elemental Transformation Realm, just like you.”

Briget quickly nodded to the twins' group. "Nice to meet you."

Rean did the same. "I'm Rean, and this guy who looks like me is my brother, Roan. This teenager here is called Falangia. The kids are Rafatia and Luan."

"Hey, don't forget about me," said Kentucky, quickly coming down from the skies. "I'm Kentucky. I'll be the one carrying Rean's group this time around."

"He can talk?!" Briget and Carion were shocked to see that. After all, they could tell with their Divine Senses that Kentucky was still a Peak Stage Eight Demon Beast.

Rean sighed and explained, "He's just an anomaly. Don't focus too much on it. All you need to know is that we will use him to fly." Rean then looked at the purple Demon Bird below Briget and Carion before asking, "A Late Stage Seven Purple Lightning Eagle, huh? Are you going to bring him with us?"

Carion nodded, saying, "Yes. He's quite fast, even for his level. Besides, if we succeed in traversing the Under Desert Sea, we need a ride to go away instead of swimming in the water, don't you think? Pol Continent is mostly a huge sea, after all."

Rean had to admit he was right. "That's good. Then you need to do the same as we'll do. You don't need to worry about Falangia's group as they're our responsibility. As for this Stage Seven Demon Bird, it's up to you to keep it safe. Are we fine with that?"

Briget and Carion nodded. "That's a given."

Rea was happy to hear that. "Now, about our cooperation. Will there be a need for a Soul Binding Contract?"

Briget and Carion's expressions immediately turned terrible as one of them replied, "We don't have good experiences with Soul Binding Contracts, so we won't sign anything. If you think it's a must, then we can end our partnership right now."

Rean shook his head in response. "No need. It's just that some people would definitely want one in place, so we usually do sign them." Rean and Roan could tell that there was some story behind their refusal, but they didn't ask.

The siblings sighed in relief after hearing that. "That's good. Shall we go?"

The twins' group agreed. "Sure, let's go." They quickly jumped on Kentucky's back and departed from that location.

Along the way, Carion and Briget noticed that something wasn't right with their Purple Lightning Eagle. They wanted to fly side by side with Rean's group, and their Demon Bird definitely had the speed to do that. However, it simply didn't want to get too close to Kentucky. It was as if it feared Kentucky very much.

Kentucky, obviously, easily noticed that as he knew the pressure that his Divine Demon Bird bloodline put on another Demon Bird without it. "Don't worry, little one. You can come closer. It's not every day I have the chance to fly with other Demon Birds."

The Purple Lightning Eagle seemed to understand Kentucky somehow and happily got close to Kentucky. Well, that made things quite obvious to Carion and Briget. "Kentucky... right? Do you perhaps have some traces of Divine Demon Bird bloodline?"

Kentucky laughed out loud when he heard that. "Hahaha! Traces? No, I don't have some traces."

The siblings became confused. "Then... why is our Demon Eagle so obedient to you? It usually doesn't care about other demon beasts, even if they're at a higher cultivation level."

Rean didn't intervene and simply let Kentucky talk as he wished.

Kentucky, of course, loved to show off, so... "I don't have traces of Divine Demon bird Bloodline. I am a Divine Demon Bird. My entire bloodline is divine. Hey, now that I say that, it really sounded quite nice. I. Am. Divine! Sounds cool, right?"

Everyone's mouths twitched a little in response. Isn't that a little too much?

"Ahem..." Carion then recovered his thoughts. "So you're a Divine Demon Bird. No wonder, no wonder."

Roan didn't seem to care, though.. "Enough of that. Tell us, which direction should we head to?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1447: Impressive

Carion then explained, "The Under Desert Sea is located several kilometers underground. There's no such thing as a direct passage there, except for the ones where you'll find guards protecting. However, that doesn't mean we have to take one of those passages. We can literally dig our way down and connect to the Under Desert Sea."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "If it's that easy, wouldn't anyone from Pol Continent also be able to enter Treavin?"

Carion nodded, saying, "And why do you think there are so many items from the Pol Continent for sale in Artos City? People from our Treavin Continent who can head to Pol Continent most likely will never come back. With that being said, it has to be the people and demon beasts from the Pol Continent that brought them here. Treavin and Pol constantly do trades, exchanging materials that can only be found in each other's continent. However, the ones who bring the good stuff are the Pol Continent's forces. Our Treavin Continent doesn't go to their side at all."

Roan nodded after hearing that. "That makes sense. The Under Desert Sea is supposed to be very dangerous due to the demon beasts and what else may lurk there. However, if the aquatic demon beasts at the Transition Realm and above are the ones coming here, then they don't need to worry about the demon beasts in the Under Desert Sea. On the other hand, any cultivator or demon beast from Treavin would definitely be attacked if they bump into any aggressive demon beast in that place."

Carion was surprised Roan understood it so quickly. "He is correct."

Rean still found it suspicious. "But if the Pol Continent's aquatic demon beasts can head to our side this easily, isn't it a bad thing for Treavin?" However, Rean immediately understood the problem. "Oh! Forget it. To invade the continent, billions of aquatic demon beasts would be necessary, maybe trillions

even. There's no way a force of this size would pass undetected. Since it's just small forces bringing items to trade, then the Treavin Continent's experts overseeing the under Desert Sea don't pay much attention."

"That's also correct," Carion said. "Now then, our point of digging will be 2459 kilometers from here, on the top side of the extension of the Under Desert Sea. The Under Desert Sea in that area has very few demon beasts, and they're mostly at Stage Six or Seven if we are unlucky. This can already help us save some time since such demon beasts won't be a treat to our group."

Kentucky didn't need to hear it twice. "Well then, let's go."

"Wait." Briget stopped Kentucky. "What Carion said is true, but we aren't the only ones who know that. You must understand that Treavin Continent doesn't want to keep losing its fighting power, even if the numbers are extremely small. Over time, it can become an issue. With that said, the area my brother told you about is constantly under the watch of cultivators at the Void Tempering Realm and above who patrol the area."

Roan narrowed his eyes. "Would that make it worse than digging another point, then? If we do meet stronger aquatic demon beasts, they will be mostly unintelligent ones. If we fall into the hands of those at the Void Tempering Realm and above, then things will be a lot worse."

Well, Roan knew that Rean could use his Light and Divine Sense bending skill. The range of spatial detection was many, many times smaller than Divine Senses, after all. Those guys at the Void Tempering Realm and above would definitely be relying a lot more on Divine Sense. As long as Kentucky flew very high and Rean kept the skills active, there shouldn't be much of a problem unless they were very unlucky. However, Carion didn't know about Rean's abilities, so Roan wanted to hear what was his plans first.

Carion nodded. "That would be the case if we didn't know the patrolling routes. Trust me when I say this piece of information had cost me a huge sum. However, I can guarantee that it's genuine. With this, we can avoid the Divine Senses of the cultivators watching that region and start our digging."

Roan obviously wouldn't just trust it because Carion said that. However, it was still better than nothing. "Very well, just show the way. Also, Rean will board your Purple Lightning Eagle."

Rean nodded as he knew what Roan wanted. "Indeed, that would be the best."

Rean then jumped on Carion and Briget's Demon Bird, much to their surprise and suspicion. They had just met each other, so the siblings also didn't trust the twins that much. "What are you trying to do?"

Rean smiled and pointed in Kentucky's direction. "Just watch."

Suddenly, Kentucky's form began to disappear until, finally, only the sound of Kentucky's flapping wings remained. "This... what kind of ability is that?" Briget asked. If not because she could still see Kentucky's group with her Divine Sense, she wouldn't believe they were there at all. In fact, her Divine Sense wouldn't see anything either if she was much further away. But since Carion and Briget were flying beside Kentucky, their Divine Sense was too strong for the Divine Sense bending skill to work.

"It's a concealment ability. The reason I came here was to do the same thing." As soon as Rean finished his words, Light Element gathered around him before it spread around the group on the Purple Lightning Eagle.

The strange thing was that Carion and Briget didn't see anything changing. "We're still visible. Did you do something?"

Rean laughed in response. "Hahaha! You're wrong. You can see each other because you're within my skill range. Anyone outside won't see even a trace of your existence nor the eagle. If you don't believe me, one of you can jump on Kentucky and try to look back."

Briget couldn't hold her curiosity and did what Rean mentioned. Sure enough, as soon as she left Rean's range, the Purple Lightning Eagle and her brother disappeared from her sight.. "Impressive."

Death... and me

Chapter 1448: Digging Point

Briget then jumped back to the eagle and was received with her brother's expression of disapproval. 'You're too reckless. What if it was a trap?'

Briget couldn't help but scratch the back of her head when she heard that. 'Sorry. However, it's true. I can't see anything at all with my eyes.'

Carion sighed and didn't dwell on the topic. 'It's fine. It works, so it's good.' With that, he looked back at Rean. "This hiding skill is indeed impressive. However, Divine Senses from Void Transformation Realm cultivators can reach further than their own vision. What's the point?"

Rean shook his head as he replied, "The only reason your Divine Senses can see us is that you're very close to Kentucky, Roan, and me. If you go twenty or so meters away, you won't be able to see us with your Divine Senses anymore. Again, you are invited to give it a try."

Carion shook his head. He already understood that Rean wasn't joking around. "No need. Since you can do that, it's obviously much better for us. Tell me, would you be willing to use this skill in the Under Desert Sea?"

Rean nodded, telling him, "I would do it even if you didn't want to. Since I can avoid most of the trouble by doing that, why should I not use this skill?"

"That's good, then." Carion had nothing to complain about, obviously. "It's good that you can keep us hidden with it. Though, with my information about the patrol routes and times, I hope we don't even need them before starting digging."

After that, Carion shared the information about the route they would take and had Kentucky follow his eagle from close behind. Just like that, their group headed to the top side of the Under Desert Sea, close to the continental barrier.

However, not long after the twins entered the protected area, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky narrowed their eyes, asking, "Didn't you say you knew the routes without the patrolling cultivators? How come we can feel some Divine Senses scanning our location?"

Carion was taken aback. "What?! I can't sense anything."

"That's because you're in the range of my Anti-Divine Sense skill. The cultivators' Divine Senses can't reach you and your sister since I'm stopping it. However, since I'm the one redirecting their Divine

Senses, I can feel their presence. There are at least five Divine Senses touching my barrier, which is most likely a patrol team,” Rean told them.

Carion and Briget looked at each other and said, “We can only think about one possibility. The patrolling routes and times have been changed.”

Roan snorted in response. “Or perhaps your information had never been genuine as you said.”

Carion didn’t blame Roan for thinking like that. If he was Roan, he would think the same. “I understand what you mean. However, I insist on what I said earlier. The information we got was genuine. Although I can’t explain how we did it, you must know that the way we got this information leaves room for no mistake.”

Unfortunately for them, Carion didn’t expect that Rean and Roan would pick up on some clues with just those words. ‘Oh! Look, Roan, they stole the information!’ Rean said through their Soul Connection.

Roan nodded, saying, ‘Indeed. There shouldn’t be many ways cultivators at their level could acquire this information. They simply don’t have the authority nor the background for it. In the end, only stealing is left. I’m not 100% sure, but it’s still quite impressive that they acquired the information without being caught.’

Rean agreed with Roan. ‘Yes. Then again, it’s quite unfortunate that the cultivators protecting this area probably noticed that the information was stolen. After all, it would be too much of a coincidence if they simply decided to change their routes and times just as we were coming. This might even be connected to why Carion and Briget wanted to leave the continent.’

‘Clearly,’ Roan thought the same. ‘At the very least, I can’t pick up any signs of lies from them. Of course, there’s one more option. The information they thought to be genuine was wrong from the very start. It’s just that they don’t know about it.’

Rean then smiled at Carion after that, saying, “Don’t worry. We trust that you aren’t lying. It’s just that I find it too risky to steal information, so you better be more careful next time. It’s obvious that the enemy noticed it and changed their routes.”

Carion looked at Rean with a surprised expression. "How..."

Rean cut him there. "Let's just say you worded your response wrongly. Anyway, that makes me curious. Is the information about the Under Desert Sea the real deal? Because if it was stolen from the same place, we might be in for a huge ambush."

Carion and Briget immediately nodded. "The information about the Under Desert Sea is related to our father. It has nothing to do with the stealing of the patrolling routes and times."

Rean didn't insist. "Since you say that, let's believe it for now." Though, Rean and Roan kept the Divine Sense bending skill active to detect more of the guards. If there was an ambush waiting for them at the digging point, they would find it straight away.

Rean then had the Eagle and Kentucky fly much higher than before, trying to avoid any possible Void Tempering Realm cultivator close to the ground. That also allowed them to pick up a point with relatively no surveillance, thanks to the Divine Sense bending skill. In the end, they had to land around 50 kilometers away from the point Carion wanted to dig, but it wasn't considered a big difference when one took the Under Desert Sea's size into consideration.

Carion then took a jade slip out of his spatial ring and took a look inside before nodding. "This is good enough. Leave the excavation to me. Don't worry, I'll cover the area behind us." He then looked at Kentucky, who was much bigger than the Purple Eagle. "However, it might take some time to bring Kentucky as well, so be patient."

"Oh, is that an issue?" Rean asked with a smile. Suddenly, Kentucky vanished from their sight. "Done.. Now you don't need to care about him anymore."

Death... and me

Chapter 1449: A Great Asset

Once again, Carion and Briget were shocked. Naturally, one of them asked, "Where the hell did he go?"

Rean laughed in response, saying, "Hahaha! There are a lot of things you don't know about us. In any case, all you need to understand is that Kentucky is with us, and we can bring him out once we get down there."

The siblings couldn't help but become a little nervous after that. Nevertheless, that also showed that the twins' group might really be a good choice of people to have on this journey. "Very well, we won't ask anything."

Following that, Earth Element began to gather around Carion, which was his elemental affinity. Following that, the sand in the desert under him began to revolve before a hole started to appear. The more Carion did that, the faster it became. Eventually, the hole increased to a size that could accommodate even the Purple Lightning Eagle. "Let's go."

Everyone jumped inside, and Carion used his Earth Element to cover the entrance. For those who looked from the outside, there didn't seem to be any difference. Rean then used his Light Element to create a sphere of light that illuminated their surroundings. "It's quite nice to have an Earth Element cultivator."

Carion smiled as he continued to work. At his level, even with the lack of Divine Energy in Treavin, he could still dig down around half a meter per second. When one considered he was creating a hole that even the Purple Lightning Eagle could fit in, it was quite impressive. Not to mention that he was covering the ceiling once his group finished passing through.

However, the Under Desert Sea was several kilometers below the ground, so his Divine Energy quickly ran out. "Phew... 310 meters, huh? Not bad for the first step," Carion said. Well, in fact, he still had at least half of his Divine Energy remaining. But since he was traveling with the twins and didn't totally trust them, he didn't use everything at once.

In Roan's eyes, that was definitely the right thing to do as he nodded in approval. "Being ready for all possibilities is never a bad thing. Though, if we wait for you to recover your Divine Energy every time, we might take days to reach the Under Desert Sea. Here, just use them." Roan then threw a hundred Rank One Divine Stones to Carion.

"This..." Feeling the rich Divine Energy filling the surroundings, Carion and Briget didn't know what to say anymore. "Is it really okay to give me this many Divine Stones?"

Roan nodded, saying, "Just some pocket change. Just use it already and keep excavating. Even though everyone can use Earth Element to some extent, we won't match a real Earth Element Affinity cultivator in that regard."

“Po-pocket change...” Hearing that, Briget and Carion finally accepted it. The twins were basically two tycoons. It was then that Carion noticed something when he started to use the Divine Stones. Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan were cultivating on his eagle’s back and were using Divine Stones as well. ‘Alright, perhaps it’s just us who are poor...’ Well, they weren’t. The twins were just out of the norm.

With the Divine Stones, it didn’t take long for Carion to recover his Divine Energy. He also held several of them in his hand as he continued to open the space below everyone. It was a constant cycle of spending and recharging. What could have taken several days only took several hours.

Suddenly, the earth below everyone began to get wet. That was the sign that they were getting close to the Under Desert Sea. That also helped Carion as wet ground was much easier to move than a dry one. “Everyone, be prepared. Once we connect to the Under Desert Sea, the entire place will fill up with saltwater. The pressure will also increase many times.”

Rean then looked at Falangia, Luan, and Rafatia and could tell that they had already begun to feel the difference in the pressure. He quickly spread his Divine Soul Power, which covered the three, making that pressure disappear completely. “I stored a little of my energy in your bodies, so even if you get far from me, you won’t run out of protection instantly. It should be enough for at least thirty or so minutes.”

Falangia couldn’t help but get nervous, asking, “What about air? How will we breathe?”

“Breathe?” Rean asked with a smile. “We already used all the oxygen in the air a long time ago. There’s nothing for you to breathe here. You were being supported by my Divine Energy instead. It’s just that you didn’t notice. In any case, the same will happen once the water covers everything.”

Falangia was surprised to hear that. Sure enough, she quickly noticed that although she was performing the action of ‘breathing,’ she wasn’t really inhaling any air at all. “I truly wish to reach your level one day...”

Roan wasn’t paying attention to that, though. He kept the Divine Sense bending skill active, trying to see if there would be any ambush below or not. However, it truly seemed that there was nothing ahead of them. ‘At least the information they got from their father seems to be correct. Well, at least in this part of the journey, at least.’

With that, Carion called their attention. “There it comes. Shield yourself as the earth below will burst at us because of the pressure of the water below.”

Carion was right. A few seconds after he said that, the ground seemed to inflate like a balloon before it burst with water. Naturally, everyone used their Divine Energy to protect themselves or others. In the next second, they were all under dirty water. Carion immediately sent everyone a Divine Sense message after that. ‘Let’s go down so that we can leave the dirty water behind. Be careful. There might be aquatic demon beasts at the exit.’

They weren’t using their Divine Sense to not alert the demon beasts, so it was hard to tell... or so Darion thought.

Roan looked at Luan and asked, ‘How is it? Can you see anything?’

Luan shook his head as his three pupils seemed to revolve. ‘There are no concentrated Divine Energy spheres below.’

Roan nodded, satisfied.. ‘Your eyes are indeed a great asset.’

Death... and me

Chapter 1450: Counting On You

As mentioned before, the concentrated Divine Energy spheres were the dantians and cores from cultivators, demon beasts, and spirits. Luan’s three pupils had different fields of vision. One was to see the same thing as everyone. The second went for Elements. As for the last, it could see Divine Energy. That meant that barriers and things like that were of no use as Luan could see through it all with the Elemental and Divine Energy Pupils.

Then again, that didn’t mean Roan felt safe. He already tested Luan’s abilities and knew it couldn’t see more than 153 meters. More than that and he would miss a lot. That wasn’t a distance that could really make a cultivator feel safe in a situation like this. In any case, it was much better than nothing since no one wanted to use Divine Sense.

Eventually, they left the dirty water and fell into a huge underwater tunnel. Rean then conjured a light sphere to illuminate the surroundings. After all, if they couldn't use Divine Sense, there was no way to tell which direction they would go. At least light wouldn't get as far as Divine Sense, reducing the chances of attracting hordes of aquatic demon beasts.

There was nothing in that tunnel, though. Other than several algae that had adapted to the dark, the tunnel was pretty much devoid of life. Rean didn't waste time and immediately tried to access the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. If it was blocked, then there was definitely danger. Fortunately, Rean had no problem with it as he was able to bring Kentucky out straight away. 'Seems like we're safe for now.'

Carion and Briget didn't even want to ask about Kentucky's sudden disappearance and appearance anymore. It was obvious that the twins had some kind of spatial item that could store life. With that in mind, Carion took a jade slip from his spatial ring and checked the contents inside. Briget did the same thing as him. After a few minutes, the two seemed to reach a decision. "Alright, we aren't much further from the point I first wanted to fall into. I'll start guiding us through the tunnels until we get into the Under Desert Sea."

"Aren't we in the Under Desert Sea yet?" Rean asked, somewhat confused.

Briget shook her head, telling him, "Does it look like a sea? This is just one of the countless tunnels at the border of the real sea. Once we reach the Under Desert Sea, you will notice that it's a gigantic space completely filled with water."

The twins' group nodded as Carion and Briget began to bring them away. Rean and Roan covered Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan with their Divine Soul Power, and Kentucky dragged everyone along, following the Purple Lightning Eagle. Rean also kept illuminating the passage to see where they were going.

Well, it turned out that Carion and Briget were right. They only stayed in the tunnels for a little over an hour. Along the way, they found a few aquatic demon beasts at Stage Six and below. However, with Rean's Light and Divine Sense bending skill, the majority didn't notice their presence.

However, Rean also noticed a problem. Some of those demon beasts still detected their presence and attacked, even though his skills were up. It didn't take long for his group to understand that the turmoil in the currents that their bodies caused caught the demon beasts' attention. Unfortunately, that was something that Divine Soul Power and Light Element could do nothing about.

On the other hand, those demon beasts were very weak. Carion, Briget, Rean, and Roan were able to dispatch them almost instantly. They also moved away from the scenes straight away as the blood would definitely attract more.

Suddenly, the passage ahead began to expand. Rean's light also became unnecessary as there was light up ahead. Soon, the twins' group was able to see the Under Desert Sea. "That's quite impressive."

It was like Briget and Carion mentioned. Sure, there seemed to be some entrances in their field of vision, but they all led to this massive sea. When they looked down, they noticed the seafloor several kilometers below. As for the ceiling, it was just a few tens of meters above. That was to be expected since they came from the surface.

The entire area was illuminated by countless glowing blue algae as far as they could see. There were many cave pillars connecting the ground to the ceiling. Obviously, it was those uncountable pillars that prevented the desert and the ground under it from caving in.

Carion then pointed in several directions, saying, "Look. There's no lack of aquatic demon beasts here." He was right. Although the majority were very weak Stage One Aquatic Demon Beasts, a few of their leaders were at Stage Three or Four. "This is the side of the Under Desert Sea where you'll find the least number of high-level demon beasts. However, that doesn't mean it's devoid of life. Try not to catch their attention. Some of these low-level demon beasts may look weak, but they can swarm a cultivator with tens of thousands of them from all sides."

Roan understood what Carion meant, saying, "Even if tens of thousands swarm us, it wouldn't be much of an issue. However, the chaos would definitely attract a lot of strong demon beasts."

"Correct." Carion nodded in agreement. "Anyways, they aren't as sensitive to the change in the current like demon beasts at Stage Five and above. I'll try to guide us through the water as far away from the demon beasts as possible. There are definitely much stronger aquatic demon beasts ahead, but most of them stay in those tunnels, as you saw before. I'll try to avoid them as well."

Rean then jumped on the Purple Lightning Eagle's back after that. "It will be better if I use my skill here while Kentucky and Roan do the same on their side."

Carion and Briget already saw that, so they just nodded in response. "Alright.. We're counting on you."