

## **Death 1481**

Death... and me

Chapter 1481: Hide And Seek

One hour quickly passed by, prompting Latros to give the next order. "Time is up. All of you, go after the kids."

As soon as he gave the order, someone who seemed to be the captain there began to issue orders. Many different groups were made as they separated into different zones. Unfortunately for the kids, it seemed like these people had done this kind of test more than just once. In the first few seconds, a kid was quickly found.

"Candidate number 10456 is disqualified."

At the same time, the captain that commanded the searching teams snorted, saying, "Hmph! There are always a few idiots who think the best place to hide is right in front of the starting point."

He was right. After a minute had gone by, more than 30 kids had been found and disqualified from the test. They were then sent back to the starting point, where their guardians took them back.

Tree barks, holes, top of trees, bushes, any place a person could hide in, they'd search it. The searching party knew exactly what and where to look. There was a reason why Latros didn't give a time limit for the test. That's because he was sure the searching party would find enough kids to leave only one hundred.

"Candidate number 5278 is disqualified."

"Candidate number 7103 is disqualified."

"Candidate number 12896 is disqualified."

"Candidate number 1203 is disqualified."

“Candidate number 100 is disqualified.”

“Candidate number 782 is disqualified...”

More and more voices came out as the elders noted down the kids who had been found. After just twenty minutes into the search, more than half of the kids had been caught and sent back to the starting point.

The speed at which the kids were being found then began to fall after that. That made sense since more than half were gone already. The fewer the kids were, the harder it was to find more. Nevertheless, the rhythm was consistent among the searching groups.

One hour later, 12569 of the 14367 kids had already been disqualified. The captain of the search group seemed quite satisfied with the result once he found that out. “Hehe. It seems like we’ll beat our record.” He then filled his throat with Divine Energy before shouting, “To all the searching members, it seems we can reach the last 100 candidates in less than two hours. Keep up the pace, and I’ll give you a bonus when this search is over.”

\*Wow!\*

Immediately, all the Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators became excited. After all, they weren’t doing this for free. It was because the Mercenary Guild paid well that they were here and kept participating. Since there would be a bonus, they obviously became a lot more motivated.

“Candidate number 4589 is disqualified.”.

“Candidate number 9251 is disqualified.”

“Candidate number 13892 is disqualified.”

“Candidate number 7 is disqualified.”

At the starting point, all the guardians who still had their kids hiding were feeling nervous. Little by little, the encirclement was closing. Naturally, it wouldn't take long for only one hundred kids to be left. Well, there were a few exceptions, with Roan being one of them. Roan had a few Rank One Divine Stones in his hand, which he used to leisurely cultivate.

Seeing that, Falangia couldn't help but ask, "Are you not nervous at all? What if they're the next ones found?"

Roan glanced at her for a moment and shook his head, telling her, "So what? If they get caught, then it's their fault. I helped them as much as I could, so they should be ready for the punishment if they fail. Well, neither of their numbers came up until now, so keep waiting."

Falangia didn't hear what Roan told Luan and Rafatia with his Divine Sense before the start of the test. That's why she was concerned. "They got so far. There isn't really a need for punishment, right? There are less than 1000 kids remaining."

Roan didn't even bother answering as he closed his eyes to cultivate once again.

One hour and fifty-three minutes after the start of the test, the time everyone was waiting for had finally arrived.

"Candidate number 3602 is disqualified."

As soon as the cultivator who found that kid said those words, Latros spread his Divine Sense throughout the entire area before saying, 'Congratulations to the 100 kids who are still hidden, as well as to the kids' guardians. Of the 14367 kids that started the test, 14267 have now been found.'

Naturally, the guardians of those kids were delighted to hear that. Falangia herself couldn't hold her excitement either.

However, Latros didn't finish there. 'All the 100 kids who haven't been found have now passed the test and can join the Mercenary Guild. However, the test isn't over yet, so don't come out of your hiding places just yet. From now on, there will be rewards in Divine Stones. The next kid who is found will get

one Rank Two Divine Stone. The following kid will get two. Then the next will get three and so on. Naturally, the last kid to be found will get a hundred Rank Two Divine Stones!

Be it the guardians or the kids, they all became excited. Pol Continent had more Divine Stones than other continents. However, Rank Two Divine Stones were still very rare. There wasn't a single kid or parent who didn't want their kid to be the very last one to be found.

Latros then looked at the captain of the searching team, telling him, "Kubli, you can continue. Tell the searching party that on top of the bonus they got from leaving only a hundred kids in less than two hours, they will get another bonus for each found kid. However, remember that Divine Sense is prohibited. I will know if any of them used it, even if for a single moment."

Kubli smiled in response. "Yes, Guild Master." Sure enough, Kubli spread the news through the searching groups. If they were motivated before, they could now be pretty much called search dogs.

Ten minutes into the search of the last one hundred kids, fifteen were caught. At twenty minutes, forty-one were gone. Well, none of these kids were really sad. After all, they at least passed the exam.

After another hour of searching, 93 kids were found, leaving only 7 remaining. Roan faintly smiled when he saw that.. That was because Rafatia and Luan were also between these last 7 kids.

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Chapter 1482: Dragon Hippo

With Rafatia and Luan still not being found, Falangia became even more curious now to know just where Roan had the two hide. However, he refused to say anything and just told her to wait.

In the demon beast forest, close to the middle, many Stage Two and quite a few Stage Three Demon Beasts could be found. Just like most demon beast territories, the closer to the center one was, the stronger and more numerous the demon beasts became. Of course, this forest was no exception.

However, just that wasn't enough to stop the searching parties. Everyone was in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, so the Stage Three Demon Beasts were of no concern to the members of the groups. Besides, this would indeed be a good place to hide due to the demon beasts themselves.

Of course, due to the number of demon beasts, not many kids decided to stay here. As for the ones who did have the strength to hide here, the searching groups had already found them. Well, to be more specific, the searching groups found almost all of them. There were still two kids hiding in one of the various demon beast territories.

These two kids were none other than Rafatia and Luan. But then again, how come the few kids who decided to hide here had already been found while Rafatia and Luan were still safe? Surprisingly, it had nothing to do with Luan's eye ability. Instead, it had to do with their hiding place.

Inside a tree opening? Nope!

Underground? Nope!

In the middle of some bushes? Nope!

Inside a demon beast's lair? Even less!

Rafatia and Luan were, in fact, inside of a demon beast's mouth! To be more specific, they were inside the mouth of a demon beast called a Dragon Hippo. It was called that due to the several scales on its body and its aggressive nature. Of course, the hippo had nothing to do with real dragons. Nothing in its bloodline carried any semblance to one. It was just a name.

This was one of the most aggressive demon beasts, and it would have attacked any cultivator who got close, including stronger ones. Without a doubt, that was definitely not a place someone would think kids would try to hide in. Surprisingly though, it went about its business in a pond of mud as if Luan and Rafatia had never been in its mouth.

The question was why it wasn't trying to swallow or chew the two kids in its mouth. To answer that, one would need to go back in time. When the twins' group arrived on Utari Island, they spread their Divine Senses to check it. It was during that time that Latros found them and had their group leave the forest since there was a test happening there. During that time, Roan had found these Dragon Hippos when he spread his Divine Sense.

Going back to the time when the Latros explained the test, Roan remembered the Dragon Hippo. He knew that the searching groups wouldn't consider looking into the Dragon Hippo's mouths for sure. Another reason why he selected this demon beast was that it was the only one with a mouth big enough to fit the kids inside it.

Luan and Rafatia's job was very simple. They had to force one of those hippos to swallow the pill. As long as they did that, the hippo would fall into a trance. Of course, it didn't change the fact that it was quite dangerous since Dragon Hippos lived in groups. Besides, only Stage Three ones would be big enough for the task.

Roan didn't mind, though. He simply considered forcing one hippo to swallow the pill as a test for Luan and Rafatia. Sure enough, in the hour available for them, Luan and Rafatia succeeded in luring one of the Dragon Hippos away from the group. The two then waited for the right moment the Dragon Hippo opened its mouth to attack and threw Roan's pill inside. Since Luan wasn't as exhausted as he was yesterday, he totally could fight a demon beast at Stage Three. With Rafatia's help, it became even easier.

A few seconds after the Dragon Hippo swallowed the pill, it stopped attacking and began to look around. It was as if it couldn't see Luan and Rafatia anymore. After that, the real test of courage came. Roan told them to enter the Dragon Hippo's mouth and wait there. What if the hippo wasn't affected by the pill? The two kids were obviously scared of that. However, after thinking about what Roan would do to them if they failed, they reached the conclusion that the Dragon Hippo's mouth seemed a lot safer.

The hippo didn't react at all when its mouth was open. It just kept walking back to its mud pond so that it could relax. The two kids then entered its mouth and only left an opening big enough so they could breathe.

Now here were two kids inside a demon beast's mouth, waiting for time to pass. According to Roan's words, the pill's effect would take at least two days to disappear, so the kids shouldn't be worried. Well, that was easier said than done.

Time passed, and another hour went by. Of the 7 remaining kids, another two were found. Naturally, they were heavily praised by their guardians due to the Divine Stones they would receive as rewards.

The test continued, and two more kids were found after three hours of search. In the end, only three kids were left. Luan, Rafatia, and another kid called Brao.

Latros couldn't help but smile after that. Because he and the elders were overseeing the test with their Divine Senses, they obviously knew where these last three kids were. Of course, they wouldn't tell the searching teams about it.

Latros then said, "Kubli, I'll give you one extra hour. If you can't find the last three kids, we'll finish the test here today."

Kubli couldn't help but sigh after that. He was used to this test. Usually, he would have found all the kids by now. However, it was obvious that those last three kids were just way too well hidden. "Yes, Guild Master.." Of course, he would still try during the time given.

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Chapter 1483: Where Can I Meet Him?

Unfortunately for Kubli, that one hour was gone without the searching groups ever being able to find Rafatia and Luan. However, they weren't the only ones. There was one other kid that wasn't found either, candidate 1854. His name was Brao, a Late Stage Foundation Establishment kid at seven years of age.

"Time is up, Kubli. You can tell your searching part to return. Tell them to bring the kids back on the way. Two of them are in the center of the forest, in the territory of the Dragon Hippos. There is one Dragon Hippo who's alone in a separated mud pond. The two kids are inside its mouth," Latros told him.

"Inside a Dragon Hippo's mouth?! " Kubli was taken aback to hear that. "They killed it?"

However, Kublin immediately understood it shouldn't be the case. "No, that wouldn't make sense. We did get some bold kids in the past who killed demon beasts and hid inside their bodies. If there was any dead demon beast, my searching groups would have found them already."

Latros nodded, saying, "Indeed, the hippo is very alive and has no injuries whatsoever. Anyways, it was forced to swallow some weird pill, so it became very docile. No, to be more specific, it became absent-minded. In any case, it's there. Just bring the kids back."

Latros continued, "As for the last kid, he's underground, inside a hole he dug and covered himself."

That only made Kubli more confused. If that was the case, this kid should have been one of the first ones his team found. How come he avoided it? Of course, he would find out soon.

Sometime later, Luan and Rafatia appeared in the arm of the mercenaries. From the looks of it, they didn't like their stay inside the Dragon Hippo's mouth at all.

"Mommy!" Rafatia quickly ran to Falangia and hugged her.

Falangia was happy about that at first. However, as soon as she took a whiff, she pushed Rafatia away. "Holy shit! Rafatia, you stink!"

"It's big brother Roan's fault! That Dragon Hippo's mouth smelled terrible! Mommy, I wanna take a bath!"

Luan obviously didn't like the smell on him, but as a boy, he didn't put much thought into it. "Dad, I did it."

Roan nodded before he waved his hand. Soon after, a sphere of warm water appeared in the air, which he used to throw Luan inside. Yep, Roan gave the boy a wash right there and then. He might not care about the smell, but that didn't mean he liked it. Well, Luan was also satisfied to get rid of the smell.

Falangia and Rafatia looked at Luan and obviously had the same idea. "Ahem... big brother Roan, can you give Rafatia a quick wash too?"

Roan nodded and threw Rafatia inside another sphere of warm water. He didn't remove the kids' clothes, though. "Once we're back at the inn, you two should take a proper bath."

Rafatia and Luan nodded in response.

Meanwhile, the last kid took a few extra minutes to arrive, as he had moved to the other side of the demon beast forest. When Kubli saw the kid, he immediately understood why he didn't find him. "No wonder. A member of the Rock Dweller Race."



The Rock Dwellers were quite similar to the Cosgles Race. Their entire race was inclined towards the Earth Element. However, they wouldn't die if they ran out of Earth Element, unlike the Cosgles. Also, they had a very special ability. They could change their bodies to match the ground around them. It's not that their bodies would turn into dirt and stones, but it definitely looked like the case for others seeing it. Even Divine Sense was hard to detect them, let alone when Divine Sense wasn't allowed. It's just as Latros mentioned. Luck was part of one's strength. Brao just so happened to be part of the right race for this test.

With the last kid given back to its guardians, Latros finally ended the exam. "Congratulations to the kids who passed the test. Since the last three were not found in the end, all of them will get one hundred Rank Two Divine Stones." Soon after, Latros threw several spatial rings in several directions, which fell into the kids who passed the test hands. "Be sure to come to the Mercenary Guild later so that your badges can be crafted."

There wasn't much else to be said after that. Latros and the elders simply thanked everyone who participated in the test, and the people dispersed right after. The majority, of course, headed straight to the Mercenary Guild to have their badges crafted. Roan's group was no exception.

Meanwhile, Rean finally found a chance to meet with Tuvuru, who was quite busy after the appearance of the Sacred Undersea Kingdom's expert. "Oh, Rean. Sorry for making you wait so long even though I was the one who called you."

Rean didn't really mind it. "It's fine. It's fine. Say, Senior Tuvuru. Do you think I can talk with that expert from the Undersea Kingdom?"

Tuvuru nodded, much to Rean's surprise. "In fact, you just so happen to fulfill the requirements stated by him."

"Requirements?" Rean was confused. "What are you talking about?"

Tuvuru then explained, "The Sacred Undersea Kingdom's expert is a Pristine Jade Dolphin who was put in charge to verify the issue in the Under Desert Sea. He said he needed a Formation Master at the Golden Peak-level to help him with it. As to how a Formation Master can help, that I don't know." He then added, "I have four Formation Masters in Utari island at this level, and you are one of them. If you decide that you don't want to do it, I'll simply call some of the others. It's just that you said you wanted

to try to talk with them, so I thought about you first. It could also be said to be my thank you for the new runes you taught me about.”

Rean was obviously happy to hear that. “Definitely! Where can I meet him?”

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#### Chapter 1484: Request

The Pristine Jade Dolphin was actually the aquatic demon beast called Gigi, the same one who was at the Under Desert Sea’s exit. Rean was told that he could find the dolphin in the City Lord’s mansion, so that’s where he went.

“Halt! State your reason for the visit,” said the guards at the front.

Rean looked around and could see many more guards, all in matching uniforms and positions. That showed how well the security was around this place. “My name is Rean. The Formation Guild sent me to meet Senior Gigi.” Rean then showed his badge to the guard.

“Very well. We have been waiting for you.” The guards then opened the way and let Rean through. Inside, one of the servants guided Rean to the City Lord’s office, where the Pristine Jade Dolphin could also be found.

Outside the room, Rean could hear the voices of the City Lord and the dolphin speaking.

“So the Flash Beast is now running rampant in Treavin Continent?”

“That’s correct. From now on, it won’t be so easy to find people from other continents entering the Pol Continent through this side.”

“Well, that’s a good thing, no?”

“Not really. We’ve done many trades with the people of the Treavin Continent for resources that you could only find in the desert. Since the Under Desert Sea’s exit was being watched all the time, there wasn’t really a risk of invasion without anyone noticing.”

“That’s true. Our Utari City usually traded quite a few items with Ertos City on the other side. Our Pol Continent is especially lacking in Fire Element materials, so we’ll definitely feel a pinch over time.”

Suddenly, the two heard a knock on the office’s door. “City Lord, Senior Gigi, I’ve brought the Formation Master from the Formation Guild.”

The City Lord nodded in response. “Good. Let the person enter.”

The City Lord was obviously part of one of the humanoid races. As for the dolphin, he was in his human form, so only a few features of his race could be seen. Nevertheless, it was impossible to mistake the demonic aura. “Hello, seniors. My name is Rean. Senior Tuvuru mentioned that Senior Gigi was in need of a Golden Peak-level Formation Master.”

Gigi immediately nodded with a surprised expression, saying, “That’s correct. Are you really a Formation Master? You’re quite young to be at Golden Peak-level. No, wait, your cultivation is also very high.” The dolphin then looked at the City Lord after that. “Abriu, is he part of one of the local powers?”

The City Lord, Abriu, immediately shook his head. He knew very well the geniuses of the city as he kept a close tie with the local powers. If there was a genius like Rean around, Abriu would have already known. “He isn’t. Did you come from some other Island?”

Rean shook his head as he replied, “No, sir. I’m one of the travelers who used the Under Desert Sea to enter the Pol Continent. I’ve heard from Senior Tuvuru that the Continental Barrier suddenly changed, so he thought I would be interested in taking this job since it’s probably related to this issue.”

Gigi wasn’t surprised to hear that Rean came from another continent. As mentioned before, quite a few people and demon beasts used the Under Desert Sea to cross over. After all, Pol Continent did have better conditions for cultivation. It was an open secret. “With that being said, aren’t you afraid I’ll connect you with what happened to the continental barrier? Since you’re new here, you probably passed through the Under Desert Sea during the time things changed.”

Rean didn't deny that, saying, "Indeed. Not only was I in the Under Desert Sea when the continental barrier began to change, but I was also almost killed by it. Can you imagine how scary it was for an Elemental Transformation Realm ant like me to suddenly see himself inside a gradually strengthening barrier? I was lucky that I was close to the end of the Under Desert Sea at that time." Roan had mentioned that their cultivation was the main reason they would be fine. At their level, they simply couldn't do anything to the Flash Beast, and Gigi knew that. Of course, Rean also added one more guarantee. "If senior doubts my words, this little one is willing to sign a Soul Binding Contract stating that my words were true and I have nothing to do with what happened in the barrier." Rean then took a Soul Binding Contract out and passed it to Gigi.

Gigi, of course, could tell that the contract was genuine. However, he simply threw it back at Rean. "Whatever. Someone as weak as you could never force that thing to come out of its confinement."

Rean nodded and didn't say anything.

Gigi, obviously, decided to enter the main topic after that. "The reason I called you here is that we need to build a teleport formation in front of the Under Desert Sea on our side. Since it will be a super long-distance teleport formation, it has to be at least at the Golden Peak-level. Are you capable of doing such a thing?"

Rean was taken aback to hear that. He came here so that he could have a chance to ask for a similar thing. It's just that he was planning to use the Salt Canyon Undersea City's teleport formation instead. "Absolutely, sir. However, a super long-distance teleport formation will require quite a few expensive materials. Also, I need someone to tell me the formations' specifics so that the person who's building the other end of the teleport formation can match my own."

Gigi immediately threw Rean a spatial ring in response. "You seem very confident in your skills, so there you go. Inside, you have a few jade slips with the specifics about the formation and all the materials you need to build it. What I need from you is speed, so you must depart immediately. Don't worry. You'll be well rewarded for your efforts."

Rean naturally didn't find a problem with it. "Definitely, sir. However, I already have something I want to ask Senior."

Gigi narrowed his eyes in response as he replied, "What is it?"

"I would like to use the teleport formation to travel further into Pol Continent.. Would that be possible?" Rean asked.

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Chapter 1485: Map

Gigi immediately shook his head, telling Rean, "If you're not an idiot, you should have inquired about it in the city already. Although there are a few exceptions, the humanoid races are prohibited from using teleport formations."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "What if I pay for all the materials of the teleport formation?"

"Hahaha!" Gigi laughed out loud in response. "Sure, the teleport formation is expensive. However, do you think the Sacred Undersea Kingdom lacks resources for it? Paying for it won't make any difference. That's why we're even paying for the construction of the formation."

Rean sighed in resignation. "Is there really no way to use the teleport formations?"

"Why do you even need it?" Gigi asked. "Do you want a better life in the center of the continent? Just so you know, there are barely any islands in the center of the continent. Although the concentration of Divine Energy is higher, things there aren't much different for the humanoid races than they're here. Just enjoy the fact you were able to leave Treavin and cultivate quietly here."

Rean wanted to say that he wasn't going to stay in the Pol Continent. However, he decided it was better to not tell that much. Instead, he used his Soul Connection with Roan to see if he had any idea. 'I don't know. Just tell Gigi you want to meet a family member or whatever.'

'There's no way such an excuse would work.' Rean obviously didn't like the idea.

Then again, it wasn't as if he had any better one. "Ahem... my father came to this continent a long time ago. From what my brother and I know, he definitely traveled to the center of the continent. We wanted to go meet him."

Gigi shook his head, adamant in his decision. "Then you better cultivate to the Transition Realm and fly there by yourself. There will be no teleport formation for you and your brother. However, if you have some other requests, I can listen to them. I was planning to pay you with Divine Stones for the teleport formation, but I can make an exception and provide you something else."

Rean pondered over it for a bit when an idea popped into his mind. "Oh! Since that's the case, would Senior at least provide me with a map to get to the center of the continent? I looked around, but they don't have such maps here."

Abriu, the City Lord, shook his head, saying, "It's not that we don't have them, but only a few have access to it. I'm one of those people who have such maps. Sir Gigi, I wouldn't mind providing a copy of my map if you're okay with it."

Gigi didn't seem to care. "Sure. No one will stop you from traveling there on your own." Well, the main reason was that Gigi knew Abriu's maps didn't have anything of concern marked. It was basically a map of the known undersea cities and the inhabited islands. If it was his own map, then he would have to refuse or at least modify the copy he would make for Rean.

Roan was obviously listening to everything through the twins' soul connection. 'That's definitely a good idea. If teleport formations are really impossible, at least we know the path we should take. Besides, nothing stops us from trying to get a teleport formation in other undersea cities.'

Rean agreed with Roan before looking back at Gigi, saying, "Thank you, sir. Should I depart now? I would like to build the formation as fast as possible."

In fact, Rean wanted to furtively use that teleport formation he was going to build. However, the risk was way too big. After all, even if he wasn't stopped, he didn't know what to expect on the other side. Not to mention he had to take Falangia and Rafatia as well.

Gigi nodded in response. "Go. You should already know where the Under Desert Sea is located since you came from there. After that, Gigi passed Rean a token, telling him, "If any aquatic demon beast in the Transition Realm or above tries to stop you, just show it to them. That'll be enough for them to leave you alone. By the way, do you have any means of transportation, or do you need me to arrange one for you?"

Rean was surprised to hear that, asking, "Senior isn't coming with me?"

"I have other things to take care of. Don't worry. There will be someone else waiting for you at the Under Desert Sea's exit," Gigi explained. Naturally, it was one of his subordinates. As for Gigi himself, he had to go back to the Sacred Undersea Kingdom first. One must remember that Gigi had decided with the others that they would go back to tell the Undersea God as to what happened. He only stopped at Utari to have the construction of the teleport formation started.

Rean nodded in the end. "Don't worry, sir. I came to Pol Continent with my own Demon Bird. I can use him to fly back to the entrance."

"Very well." Gigi was satisfied. He then looked back at Abriu and said, "I'm not sure if I'll be back by the time he finishes the teleport formation. If he happens to complete it before then, just give him the map as his reward."

Abriu obviously wouldn't defy Gigi's orders. "As you wish."

Gigi didn't stay to talk any longer, though. "Alright, I'm leaving. You better not try to escape with the items in the spatial ring. I can guarantee you we can find you if we really need to." Without waiting for Rean to answer, Gigi disappeared from the room.

Only Rean and Abriu remained after that. "Rean, right? To be honest, you should stay and cultivate first. Someone with your talent has a bright future ahead. I wouldn't recommend venturing across the Pol Continent's seas at your level."

Rean smiled in response. The city lord wasn't half bad. "The Guild Master of the Formation Guild told me the same thing. Still, I need to go." Rean then turned around after that. "I'm going ahead too. If senior needs anything, let me know.." With that, Rean left the City Lord's mansion and met up with Kentucky before flying away from Utari City.

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Chapter 1486: Should Be Very Fast

At the Mercenary Guild, Luan and Rafatia received their badges. Just as the worker explained to Roan, kids who got their badges wouldn't do the same mission as the adults. They had simpler tasks tailored for their own age and level. Roan knew that Rean would need some time to finish that teleport

formation, so these easier missions should be good for the kids. "Alright, we'll be staying in Utari City for a while. You two, go ahead and select a few missions in the kids' mission board. Use this time to train."

Roan then looked at Falangia and told her, "I obviously can't let the two kids move around on their own, so you'll be responsible for them."

Hearing that, Falangia nodded, not minding it. In fact, she would have followed her daughter even if Roan hadn't asked her to. Since Luan would be together with her, she might as well look after him. "Sure, no problem. By the way, Roan, how long will we stay in Utari?"

Roan shook his head as he replied, "I'm not sure. Though, it shouldn't be less than a week at least."

"Mommy! Mommy!" Rafatia suddenly called Falangia's attention, telling her, "Look! Luan and I decided to take this task."

Falangia read the task, and it had something to do with looking for a certain demon beast in the sea. The area of search was quite safe, with just the rare Rank Three Demon Beast every now and then. After reading through it, Falangia understood why they took this task. "So cute..." That's correct. They had to capture an aquatic demon beast that wasn't any bigger than a palm. However, it was fully white, with the exception of two big black ears that made it look like a bunny.

Roan nodded after seeing that. In any case, the mission suited their level. "Go ahead. I'll do some other things. I'll meet you all at the inn later."

Falangia shook her head after that. "It's already dark, so I'll bring Falangia and Luan back to the inn first. They haven't rested yet."

Hearing that, Roan had to admit Falangia was right. "Sure. You can do this mission tomorrow. Anyways, I'll leave them in your care."

With that, Falangia nodded and left with Luan and Rafatia after registering that mission under their names. As for Roan, he obviously went to the counter so that he could deliver materials and inform the worker there about his other completed tasks. "Here you go. All the materials asked in these missions are inside this spatial ring. As for this jade slip, it has the information requested by the other missions."



The worker was surprised to see how fast Roan completed all those tasks. After all, they had the records as to when Roan took the missions. "All of that in a single day? That's crazy fast!"

Roan shook his head as he replied, "It's basically the cultivation difference. At my level, these are very simple tasks. I only got them so that I could be promoted to a Two Stars Mercenary."

"I see..." The worker still found it surprising to have finished those missions very quickly, but he wouldn't complain about it. "Everything matches up to the missions' objectives. Please, lend me your badge for a moment."

Roan passed his badge over in response before waiting as the worker left to upgrade it. Around thirty minutes later, the worker came back and gave the badge to Roan. "Thank you for waiting, sir. Your Two Stars Mercenary badge is now completed. Please, check it."

Roan took the badge back and could see it was basically the same one. The only difference was the added star placed on the right side of the first one. "I can now take Two Stars Mercenary jobs, right? I want to upgrade my badge to Three Stars as fast as possible."

The worker nodded after hearing that. "You can, sir. However, the rules of upgrading the badge change a little after you acquire the first promotion. First, you'll have to complete ten instead of five tasks. Second, these tasks must not be more than one entire realm in difficulty lower than your cultivation. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense to have ranks."

Roan agreed with the worker, saying, "Indeed. If I could get a Three Stars badge by simply completing missions targeted for Foundation Establishment kids, then there shouldn't be a use for ranks to start with." Well, Roan didn't really mind. Even if the missions were at his level, it was only considering the cultivators' average strength at that point. Roan was obviously much stronger than those at his stage.

Roan didn't waste time and headed straight to the mission board. He didn't care whether it was dark or not. After looking at the board for a while, he quickly took ten contracts that had the right specifications. They were restricted to Two Stars Mercenaries and had a minimum cultivation level of at least Saint Realm Peak Stage. Roan then brought the contracts back to the counter and had the worker there register them under his name. The worker asked if those weren't too many things to do at once. After all, the contracts had time limits. However, Roan didn't mind, telling the worker, "All will be done in three days at most." Without waiting to hear the worker's answer, Roan left the guild.

“Let’s see... Rean is using Kentucky to fly to the exit of the Under Sea Desert, so I can’t borrow the Minokawa for now. I guess I’ll take this mission, then.” Roan then opened one of the contracts.

-Looking for an experienced Yin Energy cultivator to help eliminate a few flaws in a cultivation technique. The one who gets this contract must be willing to spend the time necessary to work it out. The contract will be deemed a failure if the result is not up to standard. Cultivators at the Elemental Transformation Realm can be accepted, but the customer would like to have someone at the Transition Realm, if possible.-

-Time: Two weeks from the contract acquisition.-

-Reward: Ten Rank Two Divine Stones.-

-Minimal cultivation level: Elemental Transformation Realm, Initial Stage.-

Roan then looked at the address in Utari City before he moved out, thinking to himself, ‘This one should be very fast.’

Death... and me

Chapter 1487: Coming Right Up

The house where Roan would meet the person wasn’t that big, showing that the customer wasn’t that wealthy. Of course, the house was still quite nice since the customer was able to offer ten Rank Two Divine Stones. Not that Roan cared about the Divine Stones, of course.

Soon, Roan approached the door and knocked on it.

A maid quickly appeared to attend the door. “Oh, hi. Can I help you?”

Roan nodded, saying, “I’m from the Mercenary Guild. I got the contract where someone needs a Yin Energy cultivator to help find and fix flaws in a cultivation technique.”

“That’s the right place, then,” the maid responded. “Please, come with me.”

The maid was one of the only three workers in that house. Other than them, the house only had a couple living there with their daughter. After being brought inside, Roan was brought to the living room before the maid left to call the person who posted the contract. A few minutes later, a middle-aged woman came out to talk with Roan.

“Hmm?” However, she didn’t like what she saw very much. “Are you the one the Mercenary Guild sent to help me? That can’t be right. Did you perhaps come here to pass a message?”

Roan shook his head as he replied, “I’m the one that will help with the technique’s analysis. Can I see the cultivation technique?”

The woman narrowed her eyes in response. “You? Looking at your appearance, you look to be anything but experienced.” However, only then did she check Roan’s cultivation. “Peak Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm? How old are you?”

Roan pondered about the difference in time between the planets he had been and the Realm of Gods before answering, “I’m 65 years old at the moment.”

“So young!” The woman was really surprised to hear that. She was already at the Initial Stage of the Transition Realm, but she was over 400 years old already. It went without saying that Roan was several times faster than her. “Then again, your speed doesn’t mean you have the experience. Can you really help in analyzing a cultivation technique?”

Roan nodded, telling her, “I’ve made several cultivation techniques in the past, even some that aren’t related to Yin Energy. I can prove it to you if you want.”

The woman nodded after hearing that. “It doesn’t matter. I will find out whether you’re a scam or not once you start to work.” The woman then looked at the maid that had attended Roan. “Hantia, go call Magali over.”

“Yes, madam.” The maid quickly accepted the order and left the room. Sometime later, she returned, followed by a young girl who seemed to be around Falangia’s age. Roan immediately saw that she was in the Middle Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm, which wasn’t bad.

“This is my daughter, Magali. The cultivation technique I want you to help analyze and fix any issues is hers. Due to a certain issue, she couldn’t cultivate other techniques than the one she’s using right now. However, the one she’s using has too many problems, so it’ll hinder her cultivation more than it has so far. That’s why I need someone good at cultivation techniques to try and improve her manual,” the mother explained.

Roan nodded once he heard that. “Very well. Is there a place where we can work it out? I will need to check your daughter’s body and her cultivation technique. Perhaps she’ll need to go through a quick spar against me.”

Magali, who was listening to everything, immediately nodded, telling Roan, “Yes. We have a room with a spatial formation to increase its size. However, the formation is only at the Silver Middle-level, so it isn’t any bigger than a few dozen meters. Would that suffice?”

“That’s more than enough,” Roan said in response.

In the meantime, Rean had finally arrived at the exit of the Under Desert Sea. Well, it was only a way of saying it, though. The Under Desert Sea was enormous, so everything several thousands of kilometers in this place could be said to be its exit. Fortunately, Rean knew exactly where he should be, thanks to the jade slips in the spatial ring.

Suddenly, two aquatic demon beasts appeared where Rean arrived. “Who are you?” They weren’t the only ones, though. Rean could tell with his Divine Sense that there were at least another ten. The majority was in the Transition Realm, with three of them being at the Void Tempering Realm.

“Hi. Senior Gigi sent me over. He wanted me to build a teleport formation here at the exit of the Under Desert Sea.” Rean then took the token that Gigi passed over to him.

“Oh, so it’s you. That’s correct. We were waiting for a Formation Master to do this job.” Hearing that, the demon beasts opened the way while their leader said, “Come with me.”

A few kilometers later, Rean finally arrived at the area where he was supposed to build the formation. However, what caught his attention was the other aquatic demon beast that was waiting there. Unlike the others, that demon beast was in its human form as it looked at the continental barrier. 'The strength of his Divine Sense is as strong as Latros. He's definitely at the Space Bending Realm,' Rean thought.

The demon beast in human form then looked at Rean and especially the token on his hand. "You arrived quite quickly here. Good. You can start your work in this place. If there's anything you need, just let me know. I'll keep guard of this place until Master Gigi comes back."

Rean had no issues with that, saying, "You can leave it up to me, senior. Is there anything else I should know?"

The demon beast shook his head in response. "No, that's all."

Rean nodded and immediately took out the materials from the spatial ring, which fell all to the ground. Following that, Rean looked into the jade slip to see exactly how he should build it. After all, there had to be another formation capable of interacting with this one, so he had to follow the blueprint.. "A Golden Peak-level teleport formation, coming right up."

Death... and me

Chapter 1488: That's What I Think

Back at Roan's side, he took out a wooden sword from the Dimensional Realm. If one looked closely, one would be able to see that it was none other than the sword he used back in the Varen Tribe. Then again, he never had a reason to throw them away. Plus, he did use them now and then. A good example was Rafatia and Luan, who used them before Rean forged real swords. Since the girl in front of him was only at the Middle Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm, he didn't need anything better than that. "First, let me see your skills so that I can feel how you control your Yin Energy."

Magali looked at Roan's wooden sword and couldn't help but get angry. "I know your cultivation is much higher than mine, but you don't need to try and humiliate me with that."

Roan then looked at his wooden sword before looking back at Magali, saying in response, "I don't see any problem with this sword, though. Could it be that you want one as well?"

Magali immediately shook her head after that. “Forget it!” She then took her own weapon out. Her hand reached behind her head before a hairpin that held her hair came out. Naturally, her hair fell as a result.

Roan wasn’t surprised by that since he could tell that the hairpin wasn’t normal from the very start.

Suddenly, the hairpin began to float in front of Magali before Water Element and Yin Energy gathered. Of course, Magali was the one gathering Water Element and Yin Energy, not the hairpin. It’s just that the hairpin seemed to help Magali in controlling those two.

Magali knew she couldn’t possibly win against an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator like Roan. However, it was then that Roan did something she didn’t expect. “Y-Your cultivation! It’s dropping!”

She was right. Roan suppressed his cultivation all the way down to the realm she was at, Middle Stage Nascent Soul Realm. “What’s the point in overwhelming you with pure raw strength? I told you I want to get a feel of your control over Yin Energy. Fighting you at the same level is the best way to do so.”

“B-But... what about the wooden sword? It will be useless if you don’t use your cultivation advantage,” Magali could not help but ask in response.

Well, those words only made Roan snort. “Hmph! You’re thinking too highly of yourself. I took this wooden sword exactly because it’s perfect. Now, stop wasting time and let’s begin.”

Magali only became furious when he heard that. Now that Roan was fighting at the same level, didn’t that mean he completely underestimated her with that wooden sword? “I won’t hold back.”

\*Pah!\*

\*Pow!\*

\*Bang!\*

\*Boom!\*

\*Crash!\*

Well... let's just say that a wooden sword was indeed more than enough to deal with Magali.

Seeing the girl full of bruises by the corner, Roan put his wooden sword away before looking at Magali's mother. The woman thought about stopping Roan at some point. However, she could also tell that Roan wasn't trying to cause any lasting damage to her. Well, except the damage to her pride, that is. "You're right. Her cultivation technique must be in a pretty bad state for her control over Yin Energy and Water Element to be this ridiculously flawed. I refuse to believe she's that weak on her own. By the way, I forgot to ask. What's your name?"

Magali's mother sighed as she said, "Just call me Sanga." She then took the cultivation technique out of her spatial ring. "Take a look for yourself, and you'll understand."

With that, Roan caught the technique that was written inside a jade slip and began to read. Yes, he didn't even bother to help Magali get up or anything like that. In the end, it was Sanga that helped her daughter get up again. At the same time, Sanga looked at Roan, thinking to herself, 'Impressive. Even though Magali's cultivation technique is flawed, he still won against her with that. Not only that, but it looked like it was just a one-sided fight. Technique alone can't make up for it.'

Magali, feeling pain all over her body, finally got up with Sanga's help. Well, one could imagine her angry she was. Roan cared so little about her that he didn't pay attention to the places he hit at all. The bruises were literally located everywhere in her body. She then looked at her mother before using Divine Sense, telling her, 'Mom, why didn't you stop him? Look at me. Even my breasts are all purple. And my face! My face!'

'Stop complaining already,' Sanga didn't seem to care that much. 'You're a cultivator, and he didn't use any technique whatsoever. As long as you focus your Divine Energy, you can heal yourself pretty quickly. You have Water Element Affinity, after all. What matters at the moment is whether he can help fix your technique or not.'

Sanga was right. As soon as Magali got up, she began to use her Water Element healing skills to recover from all the bruises. It's just that during their battle, Roan had never given her even one opportunity to do it.

The injuries were indeed nothing serious, all superficial. Even though she couldn't handle a candle to Rean's healing skills, she was still able to heal those bruises in a few minutes. That showed how light they were. It was all pain, basically.

Suddenly, Roan's expression turned dark once he was finished reading. "No wonder her control is this bad. No, in fact, with this shit, even the flow of Divine Energy is pretty messed up. Then again, I can also tell why she can't use another cultivation technique. This thing... it was made for her special constitution, right?"

Sanga was surprised that Roan noticed it that quickly. "You can tell?"

Roan nodded, saying, "I would kill myself if I couldn't notice that much. Though, can you tell me more about this constitution of hers? It feels like her meridians aren't where they should be. No, forget it. Let me check it myself."

After that, he touched Magali's shoulder, not giving the girl a chance to refuse at all. At the same time, Roan shared his vision of her insides with Rean through their Soul Connection, asking Rean, 'You're better at constitutions than I am. What do you think?'

Rean was surprised by what he saw. 'What do I think? I'm surprised she's even alive.. That's what I think.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1489: Give It A Try

In Rean's eyes, the distribution of the girl's meridians was a complete mess. 'If I'll be honest, she better stops cultivating. Otherwise, she'll definitely explode at some point.'

Hearing that, Roan shared the cultivation technique she was using so far, telling him, 'That would be the case if she was using a normal cultivation technique. However, take a look at this one.'

Rean then stopped what he was doing for a bit to pay attention to the memories Roan sent his way. 'That's... quite impressive. Whoever came up with this thing knew very well what he was doing. Then again, if I can tell this much, there's no way you missed that, right?'



Roan nodded, replying, 'Correct. In any case, my job is to improve it and eliminate the flaws so that Magali can cultivate further. However, due to how her meridians are messed up, I'll need your help in that regard. You have a better idea of how the changes I have in mind would affect her.'

'Sure,' Rean answered. 'Just write the new technique and show it to me. Or better yet, tell her to cultivate the technique with the modifications you made and use your Divine Sense and Energy to check her body. After that, send your memories about it to me.'

Magali was obviously getting impatient since Roan had been holding her shoulder for a while already. "Are you done already?"

Roan opened his eyes after hearing that. "I already have an idea of the changes that must be made on the technique. Give me a few minutes."

With that, he sat down and began to write on a jade slip the new changes to the technique. Every now and then, he would ask Rean's opinion to make sure it wouldn't bring Magali to kill herself.

Sanga and Magali looked at each other and didn't say anything. It was then that the door of the room opened, and a man with a middle-aged appearance entered. "Oh, you two are here. I heard that the cultivator who'll work on Magali's technique is already here."

"Dad, you're back quite early," Magali said after hearing the man's words.

Sanga also nodded. "Mavo, you arrived at a good time. Help me take a look at the technique once this brat is done with it."

Mavo was obviously the man's name. "Who? This youngster? Are you kidding?"

Roan completely ignored the man, though. Sanga understood Mavo's concern, so she used her Divine Sense to tell everything that had happened so far.

It's just that Mavo still had doubts, just like everyone else. "He's impressive, I'll give you that. But Sanga's cultivation technique is very important. Are you sure you want him to do it?"

Sanga shrugged her shoulders as she replied, "It's not like we have much choice. We aren't rich, remember? Besides, we'll be able to check the technique before Magali tries it out."

"I'm finished," Roan said soon after, much to their surprise.

"Already?" Naturally, just a few minutes passed, so they couldn't believe Roan had changed the thing at all. "We want something good, not just some tweaks. How many changes would you be able to do in such a short time?"

Roan then threw the jade slip at Sanga and Mavo after that. "Just check it for yourself. After that, I need Magali to give it a try since I have to check the results."

Sanga and Mavo obviously took a look at it together with Magali. A few moments later, the doubts in their faces disappeared. Instead, astonishment could be seen there. "This..."

Magali then looked at Roan and asked, "How did you think of all the modifications so fast?"

Roan shook his head in response as he replied, "It just looks like I did a lot, but that isn't really the case. The impressive one was the person who first created it for you. I just worked on the technique that person developed. Anyways, forget about that. Did you three find any problems?"

Mavo and Sanga had no choice other than to shake their heads in response. In fact, the cultivation technique seemed many times better now. Of course, they had to check the results with Magali, who was also eager to try it out. "Magali, see how it goes."

Roan then gave her a warning, saying, "If you feel any discomfort, even if just slightly, stop cultivating immediately. Your meridians are a mess, so you might even explode from it."

Magali couldn't help but sweat a little after hearing that. "And you want me to give it a try?!"

Naturally, Mavo and Sanga also looked with dark expressions at Roan after that.

Well, it wasn't like Roan couldn't understand what they were thinking. "Hmph! Just so you know, the chances of you dying while cultivating the older version were even higher. Seriously, how the hell are you still alive? That's the real question I should be asking. Anyways, if you stop cultivating as soon as you feel anything wrong, nothing will happen to you, so give it a try already."

Sanga and Mavo had their concerns, asking, "What do you mean she had a higher chance of dying?"

"I meant what I said. The technique was indeed quite good when Magali started cultivating. However, due to her meridians' problems, her body developed in a way no one could predict. Even the person who created this technique for her could not predict that. The old technique simply isn't suitable anymore. It's also why she isn't able to progress in her cultivation."

Roan then looked at Magali and asked, "You probably felt it, didn't you? You felt that if you had forced your way with the old technique, something bad would happen."

Magali was taken aback. "I..."

Sanga and Mavo were shocked to hear that. "Is that true, Magali?"

Magali could only nod in the end. Roan saw right through her. "I... didn't want to worry you two, so I simply stopped cultivating."

"I have no time for family issues." Sure enough, Roan wasn't in the mood to wait for them. "Just try it out already."

Magali and her parents obviously didn't like how Roan behaved. Then again, his knowledge did give them some confidence. "Alright, we will discuss this later.. Give it a try, Magali."

Death... and me

Chapter 1490: Havek

Well, it turns out that there were still a few flaws in it. In fact, Roan didn't think he could eliminate all of them. Sure, he had made many cultivation techniques in the past. However, he had never been able to create something as perfect as the system's Yin Yang Cultivation Technique. Let alone in Magali's case, where her meridians were all over the place.

While Magali tried the technique, Roan used his Divine Sense and Energy to verify her body. At the same time, he sent what he saw to Rean as the twins worked together to improve the technique. Of course, using Rean's knowledge of the body and Roan's knowledge of techniques as always.

Correcting the technique took a few minutes, but every try also took time. It wasn't before several hours later that Magali felt no side effects with it. "This is great! It's so smooth now!"

Roan sighed in relief after that. "That's good, then. It's quite unfortunate this job took way longer than I wished."

Sanga and Mavo's mouths twitched after hearing that. They were expecting such a thing to take weeks to be finished, and Roan was complaining he finished in a few hours. Of course, the important thing here was that he succeeded.

"Thank you, Roan. Here, this is your payment." "Sanga then passed the Divine Stones to Roan. In fact, she gave him fifteen Rank Two Divine Stones instead of ten.

Roan looked at that and said, "This is more than the agreement."

"Just take it," Mavo also agreed with Sanga. "You did an amazing job, so this is just a little bonus. I'm just sad we don't have much more to pay."

Of course, Roan didn't refuse. This amount might make no difference for the twins, but it was better than nothing. "By the way, who devised this cultivation technique for her? I'm sure I can create something similar. Then again, even I would take a very long time to come up with it. The person who created it is definitely knowledgeable. If possible, I would like to exchange a few ideas with them."

"This..." Mavo and Sanga looked at each other as if there were some issues with it.

Seeing that, Roan shook his head, saying, "If you can't talk, then just don't. Anyway, my job here is done, so I'm taking my leave."

"Wait!" Suddenly, Magali stopped Roan.

"Magali!" Mavo and Sanga immediately called her attention.

However, Magali just shook her head, telling them, "Mom, dad, He did much more than we thought anyone else could. He deserves at least this much."

Mavo and Sanga couldn't help but sigh after that, but they followed Magali's wish in the end. "Very well. The person who created this technique is not really a person but a Sea Chilling Spirit. Well, that will be of no use for you since no one can see a spirit without high enough cultivation or if they don't show themselves."

"A Spirit?" Roan was surprised to hear that. 'I'll better ask the small Kibin later.'

Magali confirmed, telling Roan, "Yes, it went by the name of Havek. He was part of the Chilling Water Spirit Race."

"Havek?" Roan did remember a certain person with that name, although it was Rean who had interacted with that person the most in the past. Of course, Roan thought that their names being the same was nothing but a coincidence. This was the Realm of Gods, where countless intelligent beings lived. Just how many Haveks would be found in Pol Continent Alone? Though, just to make sure... "He didn't have a surname, right?" Spirits had no surnames, just like the demon beasts. Well, to be more specific, there might be a few who had surnames, but they were quite rare since most of them didn't care about it.

"How did you know?" Magali asked in surprise. "Wait! Could it be that you know him? That would explain how you know so much about cultivation techniques."

Roan shook his head, saying, "I probably don't. It's just that I met someone called Havek Sasamil many years ago. I doubt the Spirit you saw has the same surname, though."

Magali, Sanga, and Mavo looked at Roan with weird expressions after that. "That's... his name."

Roan's eyes couldn't help but twitch a little after that. 'That's too much of a coincidence, isn't it?' Roan then asked another thing. "Did he look full of himself, like he was the best Spirit in the entire Realm of Gods or something like that?"

Once again, the three of them nodded in unison.

"That's definitely him."

"That basically sums up that spirit."

"You couldn't have described him any better."

Roan nodded before saying, "Alright, let's just pretend I didn't hear anything, and you didn't say anything either. I'll take my leave now." Whether it was a coincidence or not, Roan didn't want to meet that person at all.

Of course, Rean, who was listening to everything through their Soul Connection, wouldn't leave it at that. 'Cut the bullshit. It's obviously Havek. First of all, it was I who had to deal with him most of the time, so why would you care?'

'I just find him annoying,' said Roan in response.

'Alright, he was a little annoying, but he wasn't a bad person.' Rean tried to cover for Havek, saying, 'He was just a little overconfident. Anyways, he might know something about mom and dad. He might know a lot about everyone from Sasamil!'

'A little?' Roan asked back. 'Even I, who barely interacted with him, don't want to see his face.' Nevertheless, he knew that it was their best shot so far. They did find Rana, who happened to be a Fairy Spirit. It made sense that another person from the destroyed Sunkan Planet also turned into a Spirit. 'Fine, let me see.'

“Alright, do you know how I can meet him?” Roan asked the group.

“Didn’t you say you wanted to pretend you didn’t hear anything?” they asked back.

“Just forget what I said, alright?” Roan did not have much choice already.

Of course, they could tell why he didn’t seem to want to meet that specific Spirit. “Well, we agreed that we wouldn’t say anything about him.. However, since it seems like you know each other, we will tell you what we know.”