

Death 1491

Death... and me

Chapter 1491: How Would I Know?

Who was Havek Sasamil? Back in the Sasamil Empire, Rean participated in a competition on formations that involved the main powers of the entire empire. It was there that he met Qia, as well as Havek. After the events that unfolded, Rean ended up inviting Havek to help with the development of the communication system. Havek, who had seen the Circuitry Runes for the first time, obviously accepted.

Havek was truly a genius in formations, but his genius didn't stop there. He also knew a lot about talismans and was obviously a genius in cultivation. Last but not least, he had access to all the cultivation techniques in Sasamil Empire. When one put it all together, neither Rean nor Roan found it hard to believe that Havek developed that cultivation technique for Magali.

So, when they heard his name, surname, and what kind of person he was, they were at least 99% sure that it was the same Havek they knew. After all, since Rana also became a Spirit, why couldn't the others? Perhaps even their parents were part of the spirit races now.

Roan then asked something that was bothering him. "Then again, Havek wasn't known for being the type who helped everyone he saw. Havek only cared about his own development and things that caught his interest. How come he went out of his way to devise a cultivation technique for your daughter?"

Mavo and Sanga looked at each other before answering, "Mavo happened to stumble into a Sacred Water Gem when he was doing a mission for the Mercenary Guild. We don't know how, but Havek found out about it and came to visit us. From the looks of it, that Sacred Water Gem was very important to him."

Rean nodded after hearing that through Roan. 'Havek wasn't exactly a good samaritan, but he definitely wouldn't steal someone's possession. He was way too proud to resort to such ways.'

Mavo, who obviously couldn't hear Rean, continued, "Magali had just turned six years old at that time. It had been over a year since we found out she couldn't cultivate because of the issue with her meridians. Havek didn't want to take the gem by force and asked me what I wanted in exchange after showing his form in front of me. I knew the chances were low, but I decided to try it anyway, so I asked if he could help Magali cultivate somehow."

Roan didn't need to hear the rest to understand. "It was then that he decided to create a cultivation technique that could be used by someone like Magali."

Roan then went back to his previous question, asking, "Anyways, do you know where I can find him?"

Mavo then explained, "I don't really know where to find him. However, I do know where you can find the Sea Chilling Spirits. As to whether he's there or not, that I don't know."

Roan was more than satisfied with that. "Sure, go ahead. This information is worth a lot more than the Divine Stones in my eyes."

Mavo nodded after that. "I heard you can find them in the Glacial Corals region. However, it's as I mentioned before. Spirits don't appear in front of others unless they have a reason. With your cultivation, you won't be able to see them. On the other hand, since you know the guy, perhaps you have a chance."

Roan didn't really bother about it. Luan was his disciple, so finding the Spirits wouldn't be a problem as long as they were there. Besides, it seemed like those Spirits were related to Yin Energy. Perhaps he would be able to see them, just like how Rean could see the faeries. "It looks like you traveled quite a lot. The Glacial Corals region is three times further away than Salt Canyon Undersea City." Roan found out about this place in the Mercenary Guild as well.

However, Mavo shook his head, saying, "Not really. Quite a lot of cultivators like to go there for training, especially those who use ice-based skills and cultivation techniques. But then again, almost no one's able to see the Sea Chilling Spirits since they're located in the center of that region. Add on the fact that they don't just show themselves to anyone."

Roan had to admit it made sense. His information clearance was the lowest in the Mercenary Guild, so it made sense that the Glacial Corals region wasn't anything secretive. "Alright, that's enough for me. I'll take my leave now."

However, it was then that Sanga thought about something. "Wait! How can we contact you again once Magali gets older? Her meridians might change again as the years pass by. If that happens, the cultivation technique might not suit her anymore."

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "Unfortunately for you, I'm not planning to stay here for long, so I won't be able to help. By the time such a thing happens, I'll be way too far for you to even attempt to contact me. If you really care about her, then force her to study her cultivation technique. No one is born already knowing everything, after all." Well, the twins kinda did that, but that didn't count. "If she wants to survive with that mess in her body, the best thing to do is to understand her own needs. Try to let her join some sect or clan so that she has access to their cultivation techniques for studies. That's the best thing she can do if you don't want to rely on others anymore."

Magali couldn't help but ask, "But would I really be able to create new cultivation techniques? If it was that easy, my parents wouldn't have put up the request in the Mercenary Guild."

Roan narrowed his eyes, telling her, "How would I know? Do you think I can predict the future? No one other than yourself can answer that question. Now, that's all. I'm taking my leave." Roan didn't wait anymore and left straight away.

Mavo, Magali, and Sanga couldn't really do much about it, so they decided it was better to try to do what Roan said. "Well, Magali, you might really have to do what he says."

Magali nodded, not looking very happy.. "I hate studying, but it's definitely better than dying, I guess."

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Chapter 1492: Plans

After that, Rean sent Kentucky back into the Dimensional Realm before Roan brought him out once again. Roan still had a few missions to do, so having Kentucky to help move around was better. This was a very good thing about the system, being the fact that the twins could put and take things from it, even though they were in two different places. It basically acted as a free teleport system.

At the same time, Falangia began to follow the kids around as they did missions for the Mercenary Guild. Of course, she also took the opportunity to cultivate while doing that.

Roan finished the missions he took from the Mercenary Guild three days later, just like he said to the worker. With that, he was once again promoted, now a Three Stars Mercenary. The next level of information in the guild needed three stars, so he got what he wanted. If Roan wanted to be promoted again, the requirements would be a lot harder. First, he couldn't take any mission below his own

cultivation level. The time to finish the missions that led to a Four Stars promotion was also reduced. Well, Roan didn't intend to try it anyway.

The next day, Roan finished looking into all the information he cared about before going back to the hotel. There he started to cultivate, waiting for Rean to finish the teleport formation.

And just like that, an entire month went by.

Back at the exit of the Under Desert Sea, the super long-distance teleport formation was now flashing with Divine Energy. Rean looked at his entire work before matching it with the requirements in the jade slip. "Alright, it should be okay now. Also, it seems like the formation on the other side is also complete, so you can teleport anything."

Gigi's subordinate nodded in response before sending someone into the teleport formation. As mentioned before, Rean's group always teleported from one city to another since it was much cheaper. The further one tried to teleport, the higher the number of Divine Stones one needed to use. At some point, the rank of the Divine Stones increased as well.

Rean then saw Gigi take out a few Rank Three Divine Stones, which meant that the other teleport formation was very, very far away. At the next moment, the formation flashed with silver light as the demon beast disappeared. Obviously, the Rank Three Divine Stones broke apart after their energy was used.

The result didn't take long to appear, though. A few minutes later, the teleport formation activated once again before three demon beasts appeared on it. One of them was the aquatic demon beast that first entered the formation. "Everything is working fine."

Gigi's subordinate nodded before he looked back at Rean, telling him, "Alright, I'll pass the message that you completed your task. You can head back to Utari again. Head straight to the City Lord's mansion. He should have your map prepared for retrieval."

Rean sighed in relief after that. "Phew... it's finally over. Thanks for the job, sir."

The guy nodded before leaving to talk with the two extra aquatic demon beasts that came through the teleport. Rean, of course, had nothing to do with it, so he decided to leave as well. After opening some distance from the area, he took Kentucky out of the Dimensional Realm and flew back to Utari City.

At the inn...

"Alright, I got the map," Rean said.

Roan already knew that. "Indeed. We can finally depart. It seems like our plan of trying to find a way to use Salt Canyon Undersea City's teleport formation will have to wait, though."

Rean agreed with Roan, saying, "We need to try to find Havek, after all. The Glacial Corals region is three times as far as Salt Canyon, so we'll obviously have to pass by it without using their teleport formation."

Falangia was there as well. Of course, the twins didn't tell why and how they knew him, nor did Falangia try to ask. Instead, she thought about how she could help them. "Perhaps it'll be better for the two of us to stay in Salt Canyon Undersea City when we pass there. After all, you do intend to come back to Salt Canyon after you finish looking for this guy called Havek, no?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other after that. "Indeed, should we head back to Salt Canyon after reaching the Glacial Corals region? If that's the case, it would be better to leave Falangia and Rafatia there."

Roan pondered over it for a bit before asking. "Check the map. Which one is closer, the next city or Salt Canyon?"

Rean immediately took the jade slip and checked the map inside, soon responding, "From what I can see here, it would be faster if we continue forward instead of coming back to Salt Canyon Undersea City. Coming back would take us two months, while moving forward to Googh Undersea City would take just one. I'm just not sure if this Googh City has teleport formations or not."

Roan nodded once he heard that. "It's still better to try that one anyway. After all, it's not just the two months to go back to Salt Canyon that we have to think about. There's also the fact that we probably

wouldn't be able to take a teleport formation if we head back. In that case, we would have lost two months traveling back and another two months traveling forward."

Falangia and Rean nodded after that. "That's true."

With that, the group decided that they might as well keep Falangia and Rafatia close and head straight to Googh Undersea City. Well, they still had no clue what would happen in the Glacial Corals region either. "Then it's decided."

Rean then looked at Rafatia and Luan, asking, "By the way, how's their training going?"

Rafatia immediately answered, "We did a lot of mercenary missions. Look, I also got many Stage Two Demon Beast Cores!"

Luan nodded soon after. "Me too. We did get injured many times, but dad helped heal us after every day of work."

"Dad?" Rean looked at Roan and asked, "Did you give up complaining?"

Roan nodded, saying, "It was a waste of time since I simply don't care about how others call me. As long as they aren't trying to provoke me, of course."

Rean shrugged his shoulders after that. After all, he knew that Roan wasn't pretending.. He simply didn't care at all.

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Chapter 1493: Very Beautiful

Rean then patted Luan's head after that, asking him, "Hmm... don't you think you have a bad taste for dads?"

Luan didn't agree, responding, "Dad is scary, but he's good too."

“Well, suit yourself,” Rean answered.

Rafatia couldn't help but ask, “Since Luan can call Roan dad, can I call big brother Rean dad too?”

“This...” Rean wasn't Roan. He did feel like it would add a lot of weight if he said yes. “Better not, okay?” He didn't want to foster any wrong ideas, especially since he would be leaving the two girls when they got closer to the center of the continent.

Rafatia's expression grew sad, and so did Falangia. Nevertheless, Falangia understood their situation. Not to mention the difference between them and Luan. Roan took Luan as a disciple and would bring him up in the future. Rean obviously wasn't going to do the same thing with Rafatia or herself. “Don't bother big brother Rean anymore, okay? He's already helping us a lot.”

Rean nodded at Falangia, satisfied that she understood. “Well then, let's leave this topic aside for now. Roan, I'm ready to leave anytime. How about you and the rest?”

Roan obviously had no issues. “I already got all the information I wanted. We can leave straight away... after eating something.” Sure enough, he started to get used to meals due to the rest of the people in their group.

In the end, they decided to leave the next day. Rean then paid the inn after that, and they soon left the city. Following that, they brought Kentucky out and jumped on his back. “Kentucky, we are going to the Glacial Corals region.”

“Sure. I'm also curious to see if Havek is really the one we're thinking or not.” Kentucky then shot through the skies, disappearing in the distance.

Salt Canyon Undersea City was a month away, while the Glacial Corals region was three. Nevertheless, the twins' group decided to at least pass by it. Along the way, they found a few demon beasts who tried to attack them out of the water. Fortunately, none of them were the twins' or Kentucky's match. Well, not a single Void Tempering Realm appeared, so it made sense.

During this month, everyone except Kentucky cultivated. Things didn't change much for Rean and Roan since they would need at least another two years and a half for the next breakthrough. However, the story was different in Rafatia, Luan, and Falangia.

Falangia had finally achieved the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Well, with the cultivation technique Roan got for her and the Divine Stones, that went without saying.

In Rafatia's case, she got to the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Last but not least, Luan succeeded in his breakthrough into the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Following that, Roan decided to test his strength, so he had Falangia fight Luan. Although Roan was helping Falangia with her cultivation, his main focus was still Luan. He wanted to see if Luan could at least fight Falangia on equal terms.

It turns out that it didn't happen. Luan still lost to Falangia after quite a heated battle. However, Roan could tell why. Falangia was also a seasoned cultivator who had killed and battled many times to survive. The good thing was that when one took out Falangia's experience, Luan was basically as strong as her even though he was two stages below.

Roan was happy with the outcome, showing that Luan could indeed jump a few stages to fight. Once he grew a little more and got more experience, Falangia wouldn't be able to win anymore. Though there was one thing Roan decided to do, and he would do it in Salt Canyon City. He would make Luan cultivate the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique.

And so, the day they arrived in Salt Canyon Undersea City had eventually arrived.

In the air, Rean and Roan could see many aquatic demon beasts traveling below. They weren't the only ones, though. There were also a few cultivators from different humanoid races. "Sure enough, undersea cities are just like the cities in the islands. They're neutral territories where fighting is prohibited."

Rean was right. Just like Utari City, the Salt Canyon Undersea City had many guards keeping the situation under control. There were quite a few Transition Realm aquatic demon beasts who controlled a lot of low-level demon beasts from their races. One must remember that only at the Transition Realm would a demon beast gain intelligence, so this method where the Transition Realm ones controlled the weaker

aquatic demon beasts was very common in all undersea cities. That way, they could have a very big fighting force while the upkeep would be low.

“Kentucky, the city is under us. Dive into the water.”

Kentucky nodded after that. “Sure!”

With that, Kentucky down shot down from the skies. At the same time, Rean covered Rafatia with his Divine Energy so that she wouldn’t have problems breathing underwater. As for Luan...

“Now that you’re in the Core Formation Realm, you should be able to use Divine Energy to replace air. Unless necessary, we won’t help you with it,” Roan said. Falangia could do it on her own, so Luan definitely could as well.

“Yes, dad!” Luan obviously accepted it.

Splash!

Kentucky hit the water but didn’t stop. He went straight down like an arrow as he wanted to see what an Undersea City looked like.

It didn’t take long for that, though. First of all, most undersea cities weren’t too deep. That’s because the deeper one went, the higher the pressure got. If the cities were too deep, most demon beasts and especially cultivators wouldn’t be able to enter them.

Soon, blue light began to shine from below as the shape of buildings began to enter the twins’ group eyes. Everyone was quite impressed by it because the city only got bigger and bigger. Their architecture was also completely different from the surface, giving it the feel of some ancient ruins that were taken by the water.

Falangia couldn’t help but mutter after seeing that.. “Very beautiful.”

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Chapter 1494: Something Weird In The City

This city did have its walls even though it was underwater. At first, it looked ridiculous since anyone could simply swim and completely ignore the walls. However, Rean quickly noticed that those walls were not just for decoration. "All those walls have formation runes on them. Look at the demon beasts and humanoid races coming and entering the city. They're all passing through the gate. No one is trying to fly over the walls. There's a formation protecting the entire undersea city."

Rean was right. The formation wasn't possible to be seen with the naked eye, but it really was there. Without much choice, Rean's group had to go to the gate as well. Fortunately, there were enough aquatic demon beasts and humanoid race guards to take care of the screening process, so the queue moved very quickly.

Once their group finally arrived at the gate, one of the guards quickly asked, "Reason for the visit?"

"We came here for the Mercenary Guild, as well as to buy a few materials for cultivation," Rean replied.

The guard, an aquatic demon beast in human form, nodded after that. "10 Rank One Divine Stones for each member of the group."

Rean didn't mind and quickly passed the Divine Stones. With that, the guard opened the path for them. "You can go now. Just make sure you finish your business inside and get out as fast as you can. Otherwise, don't complain later."

Rean's group was taken aback. However, the guard wasn't looking at them anymore and was already checking the next one in the queue.

Falangia couldn't help but ask, "Could it be the aquatic demon beasts don't like it when humanoid race beings come into their city?"

Roan nodded after that. "That's most likely the case. Anyway, we don't need to worry since the cities are a neutral space. Let's do what we came here for and then leave later."

Rean and the others nodded.

Roan then took Luan in his arms before saying, "I'm going after the materials for Luan to start the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique. You guys can do whatever you want while it."

Roan quickly left but left a certain curious girl behind. "Body Cultivation Technique?" Falangia asked.

"Yep," Rean nodded. "Since Luan is Roan's disciple, he's going all out on the kid. Too bad Luan will probably hate it."

Falangia found it strange. "Why would he? Roan is the one who wants Luan to use it. Isn't this Starlight Body Cultivation Technique good because of that?"

Rean nodded in response, explaining, "There's no doubt it's very good. Once Luan cultivates the first level, he will probably trash you if you two fight. Your advantage in cultivation won't help anymore. That's how good it is. However, this cultivation technique is really painful."

Falangia obviously became interested, asking, "Would I be able to cultivate it as well?"

"You could," Rean confirmed. "However, it will be very expensive. The very first level of the technique will need Stage Five Demon Beast blood, just for reference."

Falangia was shocked to hear that. "That's... way too much."

Rean laughed in response, saying, "Hahaha! It really is. However, it isn't a problem if you decide to cultivate it in the future." Rean then threw a jade slip at Falangia after that. "Here, that's the Starlight Cultivation Technique. Make sure to commit it to mind and then destroy the jade slip. Also, you better not tell anyone about it. Trust me when I say that you'll probably die if word of this technique comes out."

For Falangia, just the fact Rean didn't want her to say anything was enough. "I won't tell anyone."

Rean then went to find an inn since he didn't have much to do in this city anyway. 'Roan will probably need a few days to help Luan find his own star.'

Falangia and Rafatia, on the other hand, decided to move around the city. Since it was neutral territory, there wasn't a risk of them being attacked. The city was really beautiful in their eyes, so they wanted to see more. Of course, Falangia took Rean's job and began to provide Rafatia with the Divine Energy necessary to live underwater.

Kentucky liked the idea, so he decided to go with the girls. Well, he would most of the time choose to stay with the females anyway. 'I'm going with Falangia and Rafatia. Don't worry. I'll protect them even if someone tries anything in this neutral city,' said Kentucky through a Divine Sense message. 'I'm a little worried about what that guard said, so I better be close just in case.'

Rean pondered over it for a bit and nodded before he separated from them.

As Rean made his way to an inn, he noticed something different, though. 'Weird, how come everyone seems to be in a hurry.' Rean wasn't wrong. In his Divine Sense, Rean could see the aquatic demon beast and humanoid race beings going back and forth as if they didn't have time to waste. A lot of businesses were being concluded with almost no words. 'Once Roan's back, I'll check with him.'

Rean then shook his head and entered the inn. However, when he asked for a room for a few days, the worker there looked at him with a weird expression, asking, "Are you sure?"

Rean narrowed his eyes in response. "Of course I am. Could it be you guys don't accept humanoid race beings in this inn?"

The worker shook his head, saying, "Of course not. 20 Rank One Divine Stones per day. There's a discount if you pay for a whole week in advance."

Rean nodded, satisfied. "That's more like it."

He then paid for the room and went up. He didn't need to tell Falangia's group where he was since Kentucky could feel the twins' presence. If they decided to come back later, Kentucky would be able to guide them.

A few hours later, Roan finally arrived at the inn, following his connection with Rean. "Did you notice that things look weird in the city?" Roan asked Rean.

"You noticed it too, huh?" Naturally, it was just like Rean.

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Chapter 1495: White Powder

Roan then continued, "Something's going on. I'm pretty sure a lot of the cultivators and demon beasts are waiting for something to happen. Then again, I don't know what that may be."

"Haven't you tried to ask?" Rean asked.

However, Roan shook his head, telling him, "I just thought it had nothing to do with me. Besides, I was more interested in getting the materials for Luan to start cultivating the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique."

Rean then got up after that. "Well, we can decide as to whether we should head to the Sea Chilling Spirits' territory or investigate further. Do you want to leave now?"

Roan shook his head once again, saying, "No, Luan's too young, so I will need to watch him closely while he looks for his compatible star. It'll be better if we stay in a single position during that. Whatever might happen, it shouldn't be a problem since this is a neutral city."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Alright then. I'm going out to see if I can find more information about this commotion. You and Luan can just start the body cultivation technique."

Roan agreed with Rean after that. "Sure, I'll be watching you through the connection. Keep sharing the memories." Rean nodded in response and left. After that, Roan passed all the information to Luan and explained what he should do. "Did you understand? You will enter the sea of stars in your mind and travel forward nonstop. You're able to select the free stars you pass by, but you must not do that. There's one specific star that's out there, only for you. You must find that star. Just use the method I taught you."

Luan nodded in response. "Yes, dad. I just need to keep traveling until I find the barrier and then use the method you told me to pass through it. Only then will I be able to feel my own star with the other technique."

Roan was satisfied, nodding in agreement. "That's correct. Now, start your cultivation. Don't worry. The part that hurts comes only once you have accumulated enough Starlight Energy in your body for the breakthrough. Before that, accumulating Starlight or connecting to your star won't cause any pain."

Meanwhile, Rean left the hotel and looked around with his Divine Sense. Soon, he saw one of the aquatic demon beast guards in human form. That demon beast looked at the sky nonstop, ignoring what was happening around him. Well, this city was underwater, so he couldn't see the sky. 'He should be enough.' However, Rean also noticed another point. 'Hmm... the city looks a lot emptier now than it was when we arrived.'

Rean quickly arrived in front of the guard, asking, "Hello, sir. May I ask a question?"

The aquatic demon beast's attention shifted to Rean after that. "Hmm? A member of the humanoid races? Why are you still here? I thought you were supposed to be gone already."

Rean sighed as he replied, "Sir, even if you don't like the humanoid races, there's no need to treat us this badly, right?"

The aquatic demon beast looked at Rean as if he was looking at an idiot, saying in response, "Who the hell is treating you badly? I couldn't care less whether you're from the humanoid races or not."

Rean got confused after that. "Then, why does everyone keep asking me to leave the city? I thought the aquatic demon beasts simply didn't want us to be here because we aren't like them."

The guard couldn't help but sigh as he replied, "You're wrong. I won't say we love the humanoid races, but we at least don't have a reason to pick on them. Anyway, it's pretty obvious that you don't know what's going on. The reason I asked why you haven't left is that the city's formation will close."

"Close?" Rean was taken aback. "Why would you guys close the formation?"

"You really don't know anything, do you?" The guard then explained, "As you most likely know, this city is called Salt Canyon City. The reason is that it is built inside the Salt Canyon. You did notice that you entered the canyon while you were making your way to our city, didn't you?"

Rean nodded in response. The city was indeed located inside a canyon underwater.

The guard continued, "Well, the canyon is just a canyon. And there isn't really any salt other than seawater. Though, that isn't the reason why it got the name Salt Canyon. Instead, it was due to the phenomenon that happens once every ten years, the Salt Sweep."

"Salt Sweep? What's that?" Rean obviously was unaware of it.

"That's the reason why I asked why you stayed behind. The Salt Sweep isn't really related to salt. It's just that when it passes through the canyon, it looks like you threw salt everywhere. I guess it would be more correct to say that it's some kind of white powder."

"Cocaine?" Rean muttered out of the blue.

Roan, who was watching it, almost vomited blood in response. 'How the hell did you even get to that? There's no way it's cocaine. First of all, no one would know what it is to start with.'

'My bad, my bad.' Rean scratched the back of his head as he apologized.

Sure enough, the aquatic demon beast in human form became confused when he heard that. "What's cocaine?"

"It's not. It's nothing. Don't worry about it. So, what is this white powder?"

The demon beast narrowed his eyes in response but didn't insist. "That's the thing. We don't know. All we know is that anyone who comes in contact with it will have their bodies turned into a salt statue. Well, to be more specific, a statue made of the same white powder. It's just that it still looks like salt."

Rean finally understood after that. "I see... that's why everyone keeps asking why we're still here. In that case, I guess I'll take my leave before this thing appears."

The aquatic demon beast shook his head as he said, "What are you talking about? Look above you. It is starting."

Rean then looked up, and sure enough, the roof of the formation that covered the entire city was full of cocaï- cough, cough, white powder.

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Chapter 1496: Salt Statue

Rean's mouth twitched after that. "No wonder the city seemed too empty compared to several hours ago. Everyone left before it appeared. Then again, how come I can't hear anything?"

The guard shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "This isn't a loud phenomenon, not to mention that the city's formation is keeping the white powder outside. If you didn't pay attention, you definitely wouldn't notice it."

Rean sighed after that and looked in a certain direction. That's where he could see Kentucky's presence, who was flying in his direction. 'Seems like Kentucky and Falangia noticed it as well.'

Rean then looked back at the guard before asking, "How do I leave the city now? Is there no way?"

"Of course, there is!" the demon beast answered. "You just need to wait for the Salt Sweep to pass. Once the phenomenon is over, the white powder will disappear in a few days. After that, you can simply leave the city."

Rean narrowed his eyes, saying in response, "That's good and all. However, if it was so easy, the city wouldn't be this empty as people and demon beasts would just wait for it to be over. Say, how long will it take for the phenomenon to finish?"

“Hehe, so you noticed.” The guard couldn’t help but look at Rean with a smile. “You better be ready to spend your next two years here. Well, that’s considering you won’t die until then.”

Rean obviously didn’t like to hear that, let alone Roan. ‘Two years?! Holy shit! That’s way too long!’

Roan had a dark expression after that. ‘There is a way to head out, though. We can use the Dimensional Realm’s Circuitry Teleport Formation to teleport randomly in the surface’s direction. That way, we can avoid this Salt Sweep.’

Rean shook his head, though. ‘But what about Luan, Falangia, and Rafatia? We can’t put them in the Dimensional Realm.’

However, it was then that Rean noticed one thing as he looked at the aquatic demon beast, asking, “Wait, did you say something about dying?”

The aquatic demon beast nodded, explaining, “That’s exactly what I said. Why do you think we told all members of the humanoid races to get out? This Salt Sweep affects people like you much easier than it affects aquatic demon beasts.”

“How come?” Rean asked.

The guard then explained, “Haven’t you noticed yet? Oh well, it has just started, so the white powder hasn’t accumulated that much. Pay very close attention to the water around it.”

Rean did what the demon beast said. At first, it was just the same saltwater as always. Even his Divine Sense told him the same thing. However, it didn’t take long for Rean to notice very tiny specs of white powder within the water. There were almost none of them, but they were definitely falling from the formation’s ceiling. “This... the formation can’t stop it?”

“Exactly,” answered the guard. “However, the amount of white powder that passes through the formation is very, very small. Because of that, it has little effect on us demon beasts. The same won’t happen to you, though. Although it’ll be slow, this white powder will eventually transform anyone who isn’t an aquatic demon beast into a salt statue. My condolences.”

As soon as the guard finished saying it, Kentucky appeared in the distance, moving as fast as he could in Rean's direction. Even before he arrived, he had already used his Divine Sense to communicate with Rean. 'Rean, there's something strange with Rafatia. You need to help her!'

Rean then left the guard behind and shot in Kentucky's direction. As soon as he met with Kentucky, he jumped on his back and took a look at the little girl. "This..."

Falangia, obviously, had a desperate expression. "Rean, you need to do something! What's happening to her?!"

"Mommy..."

Rafatia's body was slowly turning into the white powder or salt statue that the demon beast had mentioned. At the moment, only a few parts of her skin were affected. The weird thing was that the white power seemed to affect Rafatia's behavior, who looked to be absent-minded even with what was happening to her body.

Rean then looked at the Minokawa and said, "Kentucky, bring us back to the inn where Roan is."

"Right away!" Kentucky immediately flapped his wings, using them like oars to swim in the water.

In just a few minutes, Kentucky landed on the outside. Rean tried to send Kentucky into the Dimensional Realm after that, but he also found that the Dimensional Realm was blocked. 'Sister Orb, what's happening?'

[What else could it be? The system considers this situation to be dangerous to you and Roan. Naturally, you won't be able to access anything in here until the system deems the situation to be safe.] Sister Orb explained.

Rean then ignored it. 'Kentucky, try to protect your body against the white powder in the air. The entrance to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm is blocked.'

Kentucky, obviously, knew what it meant for the Dimensional Realm to be closed. 'Shit! Just head to the room. I know what to do.'

Kentucky then moved to the center of the street, where there wasn't anyone. Following that, his body burst into white and black flames, creating a protective layer around it. It basically separated the water on the surroundings from his body. No water, no white powder, as it seemed like the white powder needed water to move.

Rean nodded, satisfied. Kentucky did really have a good idea. Following that, Rean used his Divine Soul Power to create a bubble that separated the water from him, Falangia, and Rafatia. Only then did he enter the inn.

The employee at the counter looked as Rean passed by him and shrugged his shoulder, the meaning on his face obvious. 'That's why I asked if you were sure you wanted to stay. Now, look at you...'

Rean ignored the guy and arrived in the room quickly. Sure enough, Roan did the same thing as Rean and Kentucky, creating a barrier that shielded him and Luan from the water.

With that, Rean finally had the time to look at Rafatia.

Death... and me

Chapter 1497: Can We Leave?

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Light and Dark Element immediately entered Rafatia's body before spreading to the parts where she was turning into a salt statue. However, Rean quickly noticed that his Purification skill had little effect on the transformed parts. "This isn't good."

Roan noticed the problem. "It's because this isn't some poison that's entering her body. It's something that's transforming her from the inside out. It makes sense that your Purification skill is slow."

Rean agreed with Roan after hearing that. "That's exactly the issue."

“T-Then, can’t you save her, Rean?” Falangia obviously grew even more worried.

Rean then explained, “The issue is now that Rafatia’s body is beginning to transform, the speed I can heal her is slower than the transformation.” Then again, Rean wasn’t worried. He quickly took his Black Star from his spatial ring before pointing at Rafatia. “Well, Plan B.”

swish, swish, swish, swish...

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Even though Rafatia was absent-minded, it didn’t mean she didn’t feel pain. Rean used his Black Star to literally chop off all the parts that were transforming into the salt statue. Well, that only made the pain increase. After all, the moment Rean cut off all the affected parts of Rafatia’s body, she came back to herself. One could already imagine how much of a sorry state she looked.

Falangia almost passed out after that. The moment Rean did the first slash, she tried to intervene. However, Roan held her back with his Divine Soul Power, not letting her move nor letting her talk. All she could do was let her tears fall from her face as Rean cut Rafatia everywhere.

“Phew... it’s over,” said Rean as he looked at the girl who fainted due to the intense pain. Though, Rean could now work on her. With that, he took one of Roan’s medicinal pills and forced it down Rafatia’s throat. Following that, he began the healing.

‘Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!’

As mentioned in the past, Rean’s Instant Recovery had improved a lot since the time he first used it. It could even regrow limbs as long as the body had enough nutrients for it. And that’s where Roan’s pill helped. Instant Recovery grew the slashed parts while Roan’s pill provided the nutrients for it to happen.

Rafatia was only a cultivator at the Peak Stage of Foundation Establishment. With the difference in power between her and Rean, the rest of the work was very easy. Everything regrew in a matter of minutes. By the time Rean was over, Rafatia seemed to have never received a single injury in her life. Well, that’s if one ignored the cut clothes and the blood everywhere.

With that, Roan let Falangia go, who quickly jumped at Rafatia and hugged the girl. “What have you done?!”

Rean then used his Divine Soul Power to get rid of all the blood on Rafatia’s body. Only then did Falangia see that Rafatia looked just fine. Following that, Rean smiled and said, “Don’t worry. Other than this method being somewhat gruesome, it’s at least effective. When Rafatia wakes up, just tell her that what happened was a nightmare or something like that. The important thing was that I was able to get rid of the salt statue effect.”

Falangia’s tears still fell down, but this time out of happiness after knowing that Rafatia was fine. “Thank you.”

Rean nodded but didn’t look at Falangia and Rafatia. Instead, he used his Divine Soul Power to grab the cut parts of Rafatia’s body, the ones that were transforming into salt pieces. “Look at this. The transformation stopped.”

Roan got close while still keeping that bubble that separated the water from him and Luan. “Weird. I thought the part you cut would transform completely. How come they stopped as soon as you cut them out?”

Rean pondered in silence for a bit before saying, “I can think about three options. One, it needs blood flow over the area for the transformation to continue. Two, it needs life force for it to transform. Or three, it needs the host’s Divine Energy to continue the transformation.”

Roan shrugged his shoulders in response. “Maybe it needs all three.”

As the twins discussed the issue, Falangia finally calmed down a little. However, something began to irritate her. “Can you two not talk about it while holding the cut parts of my daughter’s body?”

Rean then looked at those pieces that were half bloodied and half transformed. “Oh, my bad, my bad.” Rean then summoned a ball of fire that burnt everything to nothingness. “I already analyzed everything I needed anyway.”

Falangia couldn’t help but say after that, “You two are weird.”

Rean then looked at Roan and used their Soul Connection to talk. 'The problem is the Dimensional Realm. It decided that the situation was too dangerous for us to access it. I just don't know if it's because of these tiny specs of white powder or if there's something more dangerous about to happen.'

Roan shook his head, saying, 'I don't know either. Fortunately, we keep the Rank One and Two Divine Stones in our spatial rings. Only the Rank Three ones are in the Dimensional Realm. We don't need to worry about running out of Divine Soul Energy even if we keep using it to keep the water away from us.'

Rean also added, 'Well, we don't even need Divine Stones to keep this bubble running permanently. It uses very little Divine Energy, so we can recover much more than we use just by absorbing the Divine Energy in the environment.'

However, Roan shook his head. 'This is just the start, according to that aquatic demon beast. Perhaps the specs of white powder will increase from now on. Haven't you noticed? These things are also able to pass through walls, not only the formation. I can't even tell if they're some kind of energy or element. At the very least, they definitely aren't solid.'

Rean nodded. 'That explains why going underground wouldn't help either. Perhaps the concentration there is even higher.'

In the end, the twins reached the same conclusion.. 'The problem now is how we can leave this place or if we can even do that.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1498: Thanks For The Information

Kentucky then contacted the twins with his Divine Sense. 'Hey, how's Rafatia?'

'She's fine,' Rean answered. 'Kentucky, does that white powder have any effect on you?'

Kentucky shook his head, replying, 'I'm not sure. When Rafatia began to transform, she didn't seem to be in pain or anything like that. I wonder if she even noticed what was happening to her until it was that late.'

Roan, who was also listening in, added, 'Let's just keep these bubbles for a while as the Salt Sweep continues. As I said, I don't know if things will get worse or not since it's just the start of the event. However, at the very least, it doesn't seem like the white powder can exist without water.'

Indeed, the twins could only see those tiny specs of the white powder in the saltwater around them. However, once they created those bubbles around them, it seemed like the white powder couldn't get close.

Falangia didn't hear their conversation, so she was somewhat concerned by the silence. "Could it be that we don't have a way to leave this place?"

Rean shrugged his shoulder in response. "None that I can think of. At the very least, we have a way of dealing with the salt transformation. I just need to cut off the parts that begin to transform and heal them. Fortunately, this transformation seems to start from the outside before going deeper inward, so we will see if someone gets affected and have the means to deal with it. We can prevent the transformation before it reaches an important part of the body."

Falangia sighed in relief and added another point. "That's good. Another thing this salt transformation seems to do is that it makes the target absent-minded. Rafatia simply seemed to not be herself anymore when the transformation began to happen on her body. If we have some code of awareness between us, we can identify ahead of time if this transformation starts on any of our bodies."

Rean and Roan had to admit Falangia's idea was good. Of course, there was an even better method to add to the pile. "Let's do as Falangia says. Also, keep your Divine Sense focused on everyone's bodies. If you see the salt transformation happening to anyone, let Rean or I know."

Everyone there nodded in response. It was then that Sister Orb contacted the twins. [Well, if something really happens to you two, I'll be the very first one to notice. You don't have access to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and its perks at the moment, but at the very least, I'm still here.]

'Thanks, Sister Orb.' Rean was happy that they had another layer of assurance.

"Well then, what should we do now?" Falangia asked.

Roan included Rafatia and Falangia into his bubble. At the same time, Rean headed to the door as he said, "Well, I'm heading back to talk with that guard. The city seems pretty quiet now that the Salt Sweep is ongoing, so I guess he won't mind answering a few questions."

Roan wanted to go himself, however... "Good. Luan is in the Mental Sea of Stars at the moment, so I can't leave him alone. I'll be watching you anyway. See what you can find."

When Rean passed by the inn's entrance, the worker at the counter obviously noticed him. "How did the girl end up? That's why I asked if you really wanted to stay before. Humanoid race beings never stay in the city during the Salt Sweep."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "I was able to get rid of the transformation, so she's fine."

The worker was taken aback. "You got rid of the salt transformation?!" It was as if he had heard something impossible. "H-How?"

Rean smiled in response. "Simple, I cut off all the parts that began to transform. It was quite a bloody event."

The worker couldn't help but feel a chill on his back. He didn't expect Rean would go that far. However, it at least made some sense in his mind, even though it was quite brutal. "That's quite cold."

Rean shook his head as he said soon after, "It's still better than becoming a salt statue. Though, you could at least have told me about the Salt Sweep."

The worker was taken aback again. "Wait! You didn't know about that? No one would come to Salt Canyon City without knowing that, at least. I thought you wanted to test your resistance or something. We always have some crazy people like that."

Rean sighed after hearing that. "So that's why no one tried to warn us. I guess my group was really lacking in knowledge." Though, it was then that Rean noticed something. "Wait, did you say that there are always people who stay here during the Salt Sweep on purpose?"

The worker nodded in response. "Yep."

"Why would they do that?" Rean asked. "I want nothing more than get out of this place already."

The worker then explained, "As you probably know by now, that white powder isn't really salt, but something else. Suppose you let the white powder enter your body and refine it. In that case, you can eliminate the transformation and take the energy the powder is made of for yourself. However, it's very hard, and you'll be facing the threat of being transformed all the time."

Rean was surprised to hear such a thing. "Is there such a thing? If so, what is this energy that the white powder is made of? Divine Origin Energy?"

The worker laughed out loud after that. "Hahaha! Divine Origin Energy? If that was the case, our Salt Canyon City would be flooding with cultivators and demon beasts during every sweep. No, it's just normal Divine Energy. However, it is more or less equivalent to a Rank Three Divine Stone. Not bad, right?"

Rean found it strange, though. "Rank Three Divine Stone? Then why don't I see more aquatic demon beasts here? The white powder doesn't affect you as much as it does other races, right?"

The worker shook his head as he clarified, "Only if we don't try to absorb it."

Rean understood after that. "I see.... thanks for the information."

Death... and me

Chapter 1499: Higher Rank Divine Stones

The worker then warned Rean, "You better think twice before trying something like that out. Usually, the transformation starts from the outside. That's why that method of cutting that girl's transformed body parts worked to save her life. However, if you try to cultivate through this method, you need to first absorb the white powder into your body. If you fail to refine it, the transformation into a salt statue will start from the inside instead of the outside. I don't think you can cut parts of your body off like that."

Rean had to admit the guy was right... if it wasn't Rean they were talking about. Regrowing a few missing body parts wasn't a problem as long as the person was still alive. Then again, Rean could see the risk involved. For example, if the transformation from the inside started in the brain, Rean couldn't simply cut a part of it off. After all, the power of Light Element had its limits.

After that, Rean left the inn to see how Kentucky was faring. It's just that Kentucky seemed to be catching his breath while releasing the black and white flames that kept the water away. Of course, seeing that, he used Divine Sense and asked, 'Are you fine?'

Kentucky nodded in response. 'Pretty much. The white powder can't get close to me if there isn't any water. Look at the roof of the protection formation of this city.'

Rean looked up and understood why Kentucky asked that. 'The white powder is accumulating even more. It seems like even more of it is passing through the formation as well.'

Kentucky nodded, saying, 'Indeed. Nevertheless, at least 99% of it is kept outside, thanks to the formation. We could risk leaving the city and keep these bubbles that protect us from the water. However, I don't think it's a good idea due to how much white powder you can find outside.'

Roan, who was watching everything, agreed with Kentucky on that with his Divine Sense. 'I feel like Kentucky is right. By the way, Kentucky, did you hear Rean's conversation with the guy at the inn with your Divine Sense?'

Kentucky nodded once more. 'About absorbing the white powder and refining it in our bodies? I heard that. However, I don't think it's worth the risk. Besides, we do have quite a few Rank Three Divine Stones in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, don't we? We have no need to risk that.'

Rean then shook his head, saying, 'To be honest, what I'm thinking about is not the cultivation side of the issue. Instead, I'm more interested in the origin of this white powder. What could give birth to this thing, and why does it have so much Divine Energy inside.'

Kentucky and Roan knew Rean very well, so they couldn't help but ask, 'You noticed something, didn't you?'

Rean confirmed their words before extending his hand into the water beyond his bubble. Soon after, Rean brought inside his bubble a tiny speck of white powder, covered in a drop of water so that it wouldn't disappear. 'The reason why it has so much Divine Energy is that this thing is made of Divine Stones to start with.'

Kentucky and Roan's attention were piqued after that. 'How come?'

'Do you remember what happens to the Divine Stones once we absorb all the Divine Energy inside?' Rean asked in response.

'They become dust!' Roan and Kentucky immediately understood what Rean was trying to say. 'However, they only become dust when there isn't any more Divine Energy. These specks of white powder still have a lot of Divine Energy in them, don't they?'

Rean shook his head, saying, 'Have you heard of a rule that says you can only transform Divine Stones into dust once they have no more energy?'

Kentucky and Roan shook their heads in response. Following that, Rean took out a Rank One Divine Stone and used his hand to press it.

Crack...

Shatter!

With his Second Grade Star Body, Rean didn't even need to use Divine Soul Power to crush that Divine Stone into dust. With that, a lot of the Divine Energy contained in that Divine Stone disappeared, but some still remained.

Seeing that, Kentucky couldn't help but say, 'That doesn't make sense. After you broke the Divine Stone, not even a tenth of its energy remained in the dust.'

Roan, on the other hand, knew where Rean was coming from. 'I understand. This white powder has Divine Energy equivalent to Rank Three Divine Stones, right? If the dust of a crushed Divine Stone only has a tenth or so of the Divine Stone's initial energy...'

Kentucky was shocked to hear that. 'Doesn't that mean if this white powder was really made of Divine Stones, then it's made from a higher-ranked one?'

Rean nodded with a smile. 'I'm happy you understood.' He then threw the speck of white powder back into the water. 'Of course, this is just all speculation. Can you see how not even the aquatic demon beasts don't leave the formation's confinement? Even though their resistance against it is higher, they can't resist all that white powder outside. Even those at the Void Tempering Realm and above seem to be no exception to it.'

Roan agreed with Rean. Both the twins could feel the Divine Senses of those at the Void Tempering Realm and above inside the city thanks to Rean's Divine Sense bending skill. None of those Divine Senses came from outside. They were all inside the city's protection formation.

Kentucky sighed after that. 'If even those monsters can't fight the white powder, we're obviously in an even worse shape to go out. Unless this white powder can be countered with Roan and my Dark Element.'

Indeed, Dark Element destroyed everything. Most likely, the white powder wouldn't be an exception. Rean thought about a problem, though. 'The only doubt is whether your Dark Elements would be enough to fight all the white powder. Also, even if we can resist the white powder outside the city's protection formation, the concentration will be even higher once we get closer to the source. Would you be able to deal with that? Last but not least, who will take care of Falangia, Luan, and Rafatia in the meantime?'

Surprisingly, those weren't the only problems.. Rean still had more to add to the equation.

Death... and me

Chapter 1500: I Have An Idea

Roan, of course, understood what the other problems would be. 'If there are higher rank Divine Stones, perhaps there are aquatic demon beasts involved in it. There has to be some Rank Four or maybe even Rank Five Divine Stone Mines for this white powder to be created from their dust. Let's forget the fact as

to whether we can resolve the other problems. We might be poking a hornet's nest if we go after the source.'

It was then that Kentucky noticed something. 'Wait! What if this white powder that can transform others into salt statues is some defense mechanism? A mine with Rank Four Divine Stone or higher would be considered a continent's treasure. The Sacred Undersea Kingdom would see it as one of the most important things in the entire Pol Continent. Maybe this white powder was created to conceal this mine.'

Rean and Roan were surprised by Kentucky's words when they heard that. After all, it was rare for him to say something that profound. 'Are you really Kentucky? Since when did you become so intelligent?'

'Fuck you! Your grandfather, the great Kentucky, has always been a very intelligent Divine Demon Bird!' Kentucky obviously didn't like those words.

Rean laughed in response before shaking his head. 'Hahaha! Alright, alright. However, let me ask you two. Do you really want to let the chance of possibly finding Rank Four or maybe even Rank Five Divine Stones slip past us? So far, everything we have been talking about is purely assumption. In any case, I truly don't wish to leave without giving it a shot. Worst case scenario, we can at least test it out whether we can use Dark Element to leave this city or not.'

Those words indeed affected Roan and Kentucky. By far, that would be the best discovery they've come across since they arrived in the Realm of Gods.

'It's worth a try.'

'It's definitely worth a shot.'

Rean nodded after hearing that. 'Good! Then, how should we approach this?'

Roan told Rean after hearing that, 'First, go find more about this Salt Sweep. It takes over two years for it to be over, right? We should keep in mind that if Kentucky is right about it being used as a way to conceal the mine, we need to go out before it's over. I doubt we can find this mine, considering it exists, once the Salt Sweep is gone.'

Rean nodded once he heard that. 'Very well, leave it to me. In fact, I think I know what I want to ask first.' Rean then jumped on Kentucky's back before asking Kentucky to bring them to the guard Rean talked before.

Sure enough, it hadn't been long since Rean left, so that same guard was still on duty. He obviously noticed when Rean and Kentucky arrived as well. "Oh, so you're back. I saw that little girl in your group before. Did she become a statue already?"

Rean shook his head before he explained the same thing he did to the worker in the hotel.

"This..." The aquatic demon beast was also shocked by what it heard. "That was quite brutal. However, I do have to admit it's indeed a way of saving someone against the transformation. Is she even alive after what you did?"

Rean nodded, replying, "Don't worry. I'm very good at healing, so she'll survive. At the very least, it's better than becoming a statue."

"That's true." The demon beast agreed with Rean.

Rean then changed the topic. "By the way, sir. I haven't asked your name yet even though you gave me so much information."

The aquatic demon beast didn't seem to mind. "I didn't think you would survive for long anyway, and I still don't. In any case, you can just call me Flan."

Rean nodded after that. "Thank you, Flan. Also, I came here to ask you something else."

"If you want to know when you can escape the city, I already told you. The Salt Sweep usually lasts around two years or something like that. Your best shot is to stay in the formation. Just keep these bubbles that separate you from the water and hope for the best."

Rean shook his head, saying, "That's not it. What I want to know is if the concentration of white powder that passes through the Salt Canyon reduces after some time."

Flan confirmed Rean's words, nodding as he replied, "It does. During the first year and a half, the concentration of the white powder will continue just like you're seeing it outside. However, it reduces little by little after that. Obviously, it takes something around six months for it to be completely gone, sometimes more, sometimes less."

Roan, who was listening to everything through the twins' connection, understood what Rean wanted. 'So you want to stay in the city until the concentration of white powder sweeping through the canyon reduces.'

Rean nodded but kept his attention on Flan. "Sir Flan, do you know where's the source of this white powder?"

Flan shook his head. "Why would I know something like that? No one wants to get close to it, afraid of being transformed into a salt statue. You probably heard about the Divine Energy that you can get from it. However, take my advice. It's not worth it."

Rean smiled in response. "I understand. Thank you, sir."

Soon after, Rean commanded Kentucky to go back to the inn before he went up to their room. Of course, Kentucky could only stay outside on his own since he was too big and couldn't take on a human form. "You heard everything, right?"

Roan nodded, saying, "Our best bet is to go out two to three months before the Salt Sweep is over. The concentration won't be too high, but we can still follow it to its source."

Rean was happy that they understood. "Good. That's definitely the best choice. Our plans to travel to the Glacial Corals region has been interrupted, but we might get some bonus from it."

Roan then looked at Falangia, Rafatia, and Luan. "The only question is what we will do with them."

Rean smiled in response, replying, "I have an idea."