

Death 1501

Death... and me

Chapter 1501: That's Good Then

Rean then took out several Rank One Divine Stones from his spatial ring. "All we need is for them to be able to keep the water away from their bodies. That way, the white powder won't be able to reach them, right? I'll make a formation that will create a space devoid of water. That way, we can leave them here while we check the source of white powder."

Roan nodded, saying, "That should work."

However, Falangia couldn't help but ask, "What if something happens while you two are out? Or what if something happens to the two of you and you don't come back?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders, telling her, "Then there's nothing we can do about it. You can't really expect to rely on us forever, right? We can't simply throw away all our ideas just because you're here."

Falangia couldn't help but sigh after that. "Sorry... I guess I've become too used to it. You two just go ahead and leave us here. We'll be fine on our own."

Rean and Roan were satisfied to hear that. "Good. Well, we'll do everything to stay alive, so we should more or less come back. In any case, I'll leave the inn paid so that you two don't need to go out."

"You two?" Falangia was taken aback. "You're bringing Luan with you?"

Roan nodded, saying, "We might need his eyes. Besides, he will need to get used to these situations."

Rean then shrugged his shoulders as he said, "Well, it won't happen before a year and a half from now, so I guess we can only focus on cultivation during this time. Take this time to increase your level. With our Divine Stones, I believe you should have no issues achieving the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, perhaps Nascent Soul even."

As Rean talked, he built the formation that kept water away in the center of the room. It wasn't anything complicated, so it was done in just an hour.

Shua!

Suddenly, a big empty space opened in the middle of the room, making it impossible for water to enter. Due to how simple the formation was, just a few Rank One Divine Stones was enough to keep it running for several days, which was definitely beneficial for them.

"Alright, this should be enough. We can stay inside and not actively bother keeping the water away from us on our own," Rean said once he was done.

Falangia then brought Rafatia inside, and so did Roan with Luan. A few minutes later, Rafatia finally woke up, not understanding what had happened. However, when she looked at Rean, she felt fear fill her entire body. "No! Stay away! Don't hurt me, big brother Rean!"

Rean looked at Rafatia with a confused expression as he told her, "Hurt you? Why would I do that? I've never hurt you before." Sure enough, he decided to pretend that Rafatia only had a bad dream.

Falangia also thought it was for the better. "Little girl, did you have a nightmare? You were just sleeping, you know?"

"S-Sleeping?" Rafatia then looked at her body and couldn't see anything wrong with it. All the parts Rean cut were all there. "It was all a bad dream?"

Rean couldn't help but pretend he was sad once he heard that. "I can't believe it. My little Rafatia was dreaming bad things about me. I guess she doesn't like me anymore."

"N-No. Tha-that's not it. I..." The poor girl was completely lost there. However, seeing that Rean looked sad, she quickly put those thoughts behind. "Big brother Rean, I was joking. Yes, joking! Big brother Rean would never do such a thing."

"You mean it?" Rean asked with a surprised expression.

Rafatia quickly nodded. "Yes! I mean it."

"Great! I knew my Rafatia would never think something bad about me." Rean then patted the girl's head, who still seemed somewhat hesitant. However, Falangia and Rean convinced her in the end that she just had a bad dream, that's all. A few minutes later, she had already forgotten about it. "So we're going to stay here for over a year?"

"That's correct," Falangia confirmed Rafatia's words. "We decided that this is a very good place to cultivate, so you should focus on your training as well. Understood?"

In the meantime, Luan finally opened his eyes. He had been in the Mental Sea of Stars all this time, traveling further and further away. Just like how it was for Roan, the barrier separating the star was really far away. "How is it?"

Luan then told him, "Dad, I came out because I don't know if I can reach that barrier you talked about. I keep going and going, but I never get there."

Roan shook his head in response, saying, "That's normal. It took weeks for me to arrive at the barrier. Did you really expect to get there in less than a day? Just head back into the Mental Sea of Stars and keep traveling. If you find the barrier and get past it, I will reward you with more pudding."

Luan's eyes lit up after hearing that. "Alright! I will definitely get there."

After Rean finished dealing with Rafatia, he decided to head out of the inn to talk with Kentucky. After all, the Minokawa was still in the middle of the street. It wouldn't be a good idea to keep him there during this entire year. "Kentucky, let's head to the Beast Taming Guild. Their guild is very small in this city since this is a demon beast town. However, they should have a place for you to stay until we can access the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm again."

Kentucky was obviously happy to hear that. "Great!" However, he also remembered something else. "Wait! What if I'm the one who starts to transform?"

Rean shook his head, assuring Kentucky, "Don't worry. The guild is just three kilometers away. I can still see you with my Divine Sense, plus you can check on us. If you truly start to transform into a salt statue, I'll come running. Well, I believe that with your defense, you're probably a lot more resistant to the white powder than us."

Kentucky sighed in relief after that.. "Well, that's good then."

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Chapter 1502: A Place For Kentucky

It didn't take long for Rean and Kentucky to arrive at the Beast Taming Guild. Sure enough, it was just as Rean mentioned. It was very small and had even fewer members now that the Salt Sweep was ongoing. Nevertheless, Rean found one worker there on the counter who seemed to be an aquatic demon beast in human form. It didn't seem to have any work to do, so it was cultivating when Rean arrived and only stopped because of their arrival. "Hi, are you the only one here in the guild at the moment?"

The aquatic demon beast shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "Do you think I'm here because I want to be? During the Salt Sweep, all the humanoid race beings get out of the city, so the guild master pays us to take care of it while they're out. If the payment wasn't good, it wouldn't be a surprise if you didn't find a single soul here. By the way, are you one of those crazy guys who want to absorb the white powder for cultivation?"

Rean nodded since it would be easier if the demon beast thought that way. "That's correct. Of course, I'm being very cautious." Rean could tell that the demon beast looked at him as if he was an idiot. The guy definitely didn't think it was worth the risk. In any case, Rean just ignored that. "By the way, sir. I rented a room in a nearby inn, but I have nowhere to leave my Demon Bird. Is it possible to rent a space for a demon beast here in the guild?"

The aquatic demon beast simply nodded in response. "I didn't really expect to get any customers since demon beasts don't become beast tamers. Anyway, that also means the entire guild is pretty much empty. Any non-aquatic demon beast that had been tamed had been brought away with the other guild members, so there's a lot of space available. However, only beast tamers can leave their demon beasts there."

Rean immediately brought out his Beast Tamer badge in response, which he hadn't used in quite a while. "Here you go, sir."

The demon beast in human form checked the badge and was surprised to see it was from another continent. "Huring Continent? That's a crazy far away continent. Why would you come all the way here?"

Rean laughed in response, saying, "I'm just passing by. Hahaha! However, when I heard you could cultivate with the white powder during the Salt Sweep, I immediately decided to stay. After all, this powder seems to be equivalent to Rank Three Divine Stones. How great do you think is that?"

The demon beast didn't share the same enthusiasm as Rean, though. "Well, if you're crazy enough to try and cultivate with it, I'm not the one stopping you. Just be aware that if you end up becoming a salt statue, your demon beast will be taken away by the guild."

"No problem," said Rean after that. "So, can I leave him here?"

The demon beast nodded before he left the counter. "Come with me. Other than me, there are only two more Transition Realm aquatic demon beasts taking care of this place. They take care of the few tamed aquatic demon beasts left behind. I can have them take care of your Demon Bird while it stays here if you want."

Kentucky had intelligence but pretended to be a common demon beast. With that said, Rean didn't think there was a need for anyone to take care of it. "That's not necessary. I'll come by every now and then during the Salt Sweep to see how he's faring. You can just make sure he stays alone."

"If you say so." A few moments later, they arrived at the place Kentucky would stay. "Here you go. We obviously don't have a specific area for Demon Birds, but this should suffice. It has a formation to keep water away as well since not all demon beasts that come to Salt Canyon City are aquatic."

Kentucky and Rean were more than satisfied. It was a lot better than staying in the middle of the street. "That's good enough. How much it is to keep my Demon Bird here?"

"Ten Rank One Divine Stones per week," the aquatic demon beast answered.

Rean immediately took a hundred in response and passed it to the guy. "I'll be staying in the city during the Salt Sweep, obviously. I'll come back to pay more later."

Kentucky then entered the area and quickly found a corner for himself. Rean was then guided out of the guild by the aquatic demon beast after receiving the payment. Of course, Rean and Kentucky could see

each other with their Divine Senses, so it wasn't as if Kentucky would stay alone anyway. 'Let me know if you need something. Also, I left a lot of Divine Stones with you, so make sure you cultivate with them as well. We can use this year and a half to get closer to the Transition Realm.'

Kentucky agreed with Rean before he took out a few Rank Two Divine Stones. The twins had Rank Three Divine Stones, but they were being used by Celis in the Dimensional Realm. Naturally, they couldn't get them now since the Dimensional Realm is closed. 'Since the Dimensional Realm is still closed, it might mean that there's still some other danger than the Salt Transformation, so be careful.'

Rean smiled in response after that. 'I know. With you, Roan, and me paying attention, we should be fine.'

With that, Rean returned to the inn and went up to the room once more. There, he saw that Falangia and Rafatia had already taken the Divine Stones and started to cultivate. The same could be said for Roan, who cultivated beside Luan. As for Luan, he would probably take a few weeks until he got his own Star Body.

"Well, I guess all I can do now is cultivate as well." And so, Rean took a few more Rank Two Divine Stones from his spatial ring before sitting on his bed.

And just like that, everyone began to cultivate once more.

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Chapter 1503: One Year And Nine Months

It went without saying that once another Star Body appeared, the experts throughout the Realm of Gods with the same thing immediately noticed it. Unfortunately, they had no way of finding out who got it and where it happened.

Back in Salt Canyon City, the weeks of travel in the Mental Sea of Stars had paid off. Luan finally found the barrier and passed through it. After that, it wasn't hard to feel where his star was located. Seeing that Luan succeeded, Roan nodded in satisfaction. "Very good. Now, you can feel the Starlight Energy, right?"

Luan nodded, saying, "Yes, dad."

"From now on, you will cultivate with Starlight Energy as well. Once you reach the door of the First Grade Star Body, you will need those items we bought back when we arrived. Now pay attention to the schedule you will follow." Roan then shared the training that he and Rean followed. After all, they also cultivated the Starlight Body Cultivation Technique. It's just that the twins cultivated the Yin Yang Starlight Body Cultivation Technique, which was even better.

Luan couldn't help but feel somewhat confused at everything that Roan said. He was still a kid, after all. "Seems complicated..."

Roan didn't deny that. "It is, but this is for your future. Now, let's go back and cultivate. Understood?"

"Yes, dad." Luan then got a few Rank One Divine Stones after that and sat down to cultivate as well.

Time began to pass in a flash as everyone cultivated. Every now and then, the twins' group would exchange a few words just to make sure none of them were being affected by the white powder. The same happened between Rean and Kentucky.

In the end, it seemed like it was the best thing to simply not let water get close. The salt statue transformation that happened to Rafatia didn't affect anyone in their group anymore.

Rean and Roan did consider using the white powder to cultivate as well. However, they decided it wasn't worth the risk in the end, so they only used the Rank Two Divine Stones.

One year and a half was the time necessary for the Salt Sweep to start reducing in intensity. However, the twins had agreed to only go out two to three months after that. Because of that, their group cultivated nonstop for an entire year and nine months.

Rean and Roan's cultivation didn't change this time. After all, Celis had told them they would need around three years of cultivation to reach the door of the Transition Realm. However, the same wasn't the case for Falangia, Rafatia, and especially Luan.

Before they started cultivating in Salt Canyon City, Falangia was in the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. With that said, Falangia had no issues entering the Core and Soul Fusion Realm after following

Roan's training. Let alone the fact Roan prepared a cultivation technique for everyone. With all the Divine Stones available, Falangia was able to reach the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. However, Roan was quite disappointed. He thought she would at least enter the Nascent Soul Realm. In the end, aptitude made too much of a difference.

Rafatia was already eight and some months old when they arrived. After one year and nine months, she had already become ten years old. Little by little, she was growing to become a lady. She was at the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm when they started to cultivate. Now, she was able to reach the Initial Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Her talent was similar to Falangia, so it made sense that their cultivation speed was similar.

Talking about aptitude, one must remember that Luan was a Red Color Talent. That meant he was far above Falangia and Rafatia in terms of cultivation speed. Thanks to the cultivation technique that Roan gave him, his dantian had become a lot bigger than normal cultivators would have. Then again, that meant he needed more Divine Energy to make a breakthrough. Of course, as a result, Luan became much stronger than those at his level. Of course, his dantian still didn't reach a size as big as the twins when they were at his level. So, that meant he still cultivated faster than the twins if the twins were at his level. After that much time had passed, Luan had reached the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm!

One must remember that Luan was only eight years old at the moment, and he had barely gotten to this age. In fact, if not for the fact that Roan told him to focus part of his cultivation time on his Star Body, Luan would probably have reached the Nascent Soul Realm already.

Rean and Roan constantly fought those three, and Roan had them fight each other as well. After all, that was the best way to get used to combat at the moment. As one could imagine, Luan could now defeat Falangia without problem as he got more experienced. It wasn't just in terms of his advantage in cultivation. In fact, he would even win if his cultivation was lower at his current state.

Another good thing for Luan was the fact that he had accumulated enough Starlight Energy to get his First Grade Star Body. As mentioned before, Luan could have entered the Nascent Soul Realm if he didn't focus on absorbing Starlight Energy. However, the First Grade Star Body more than made up for the delay in cultivation. He was much stronger with that.

On the other hand, Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Celis didn't accumulate enough Divine Energy to enter the Transition Realm. However, the twins were not as bad in terms of their Star Bodies. Thanks to the fragment's remaining Starlight Energy, the twins were left quite close to the Third Grade Star Body back when they got the Second Grade Star Body. It's just that the fragment had run out of Starlight Energy

before the twins had enough Starlight to attempt to get the Third Grade. Now that they had one year and nine months to train, they finally accumulated the rest of the Starlight Energy necessary.

'Alright, we'll upgrade to the Third Grade Star Body. After that, we'll leave the city and try to find the source of the white powder!'

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Chapter 1504: Third Grade Star Body

Sister Orb was happy to hear that. [Good! Let's start then. Fortunately, you kept the Molten Divine Rock Flowers outside the Dimensional Realm. Anyways, take ten flowers each.]

The twins nodded in response before taking the flowers out.

[Now, you will use your Divine Soul Power to crush the flowers. Other than the fact that they're rare, they're also very delicate, so it shouldn't be a problem. After that, you will use your meridians to absorb the flower's properties into your bodies while following the Yin Yang Starlight Body Cultivation Technique. That way, you should be able to get your Third Grade Star Body.]

The twins followed Sister Orb's instructions even though they already knew all the steps. Sometimes, Sister Orb would tell them to fix some imperfections during the process. In fact, there were times when they would be moving too slow or too fast. In any case, the process itself went quite smoothly.

Suddenly, Luan felt like a huge burst of Starlight Energy washed over the twins. Since he also had a Star Body, he could feel it, unlike Falangia and Rafatia. 'They look so strong now... I have to keep cultivating to get as strong as dad.'

Rean then took a deep breath and stretched their bodies, saying soon after, "This feels quite good."

Roan nodded in agreement. "I can feel the difference in power between the two stages. If we were to fight that guy at the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm now, we would easily win."

Rean shook his head, though. "Only if he didn't flee. We can't even fly, while a Void Tempering Realm cultivator can use some spatial powers, even if a little. Of course, if they don't flee, then we can win with certain ease."

Rean then punched the air a few times, forming strong gusts of wind inside the bubble. "Where do you think our real strength stands at the moment?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "It's hard to tell. However, I believe we wouldn't have any issues fighting a Middle Stage Void Tempering cultivator. If we fight together, maybe we can put up a fight against someone at the Late Stage. Of course, that's only as long as they don't try to flee. If that happens, then we'll be powerless to stop the opponent."

Back then, the twins had to fight together to match someone at the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm. After achieving Third Grade Star Body, they could now fight someone at the Middle Stage in the same realm alone. That showed just how much the body cultivation technique increased their strengths.

Rean nodded in response to that and thought about the next level. "We also have the Freezing Star Liquid, which could be said to be the opposite of the Molten Divine Rock Flower. The problem is that it'll take a very long time to accumulate enough Starlight Energy."

Then again, there was no helping it. They only reached the Third Grade this quickly because they used the fragment's Starlight Energy. Now that it was spent up, they had to accumulate it on their own. Thinking about it, Roan contacted Sister Orb in the Dimensional Realm, asking, 'Sister Orb, can you predict how long it will take for us to get enough Starlight Energy for the Fourth Grade? We already have the materials for it, after all.'

[Hmm... first of all, you can only get the Fourth Grade Star Body once you reach the Transition Realm. Well, that won't take long as you probably need just another year or so of cultivation. However, you just broke through your body cultivation techniques. I will need to see you two cultivate it for a few days to be certain. Though, from what I can see at the moment, it will take no less than fifteen years to accumulate enough energy.]

'That sure is a very long time,' Rean couldn't help but say in response.

Sister Orb didn't agree with that, though. [That's not a lot if you think about it. The Fifth Grade Star Body can only be acquired by cultivators at the Space Bending Realm. You two aren't even at the Transition Realm yet. Do you think you can reach the Space Bending Realm in less than fifteen years? First of all, after you get the Fourth Grade Star Body, you will still need to accumulate enough Starlight Energy to get to Fifth Grade. I can't even think which one will take longer, Space Bending or enough Starlight Energy for Fifth Grade.]

The twins had to admit Sister Orb's words made sense. The twins already needed over three years just to go from the Peak Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm to the Transition Realm. Once they entered the Transition Realm, the time necessary to break through between stages was bound to become even higher.

The twins then spent a few extra days getting used to their bodies. They even went to see Kentucky and test if their bodies were stronger than the Minokawa. Unfortunately for them, Kentucky was still much more resistant than the twins. If anything, Kentucky's body only got stronger and stronger the more he consumed high-level metals. Then again, the twins were still satisfied since, compared to normal cultivators, their bodies were definitely many times better.

"Alright, it's time for us to leave," Rean said in the room.

Falangia and Rafatia, obviously, already expected that. "Big brother Rean, don't worry, we will be fine. My mom and I got a lot stronger after all this time cultivating." As she got older, Rafatia stopped calling Falangia mommy. She was really maturing quickly.

In response to those words, Falangia patted Rafatia's head and nodded at Rean, saying, "She's right. Even if we don't have this formation to keep the water away, we can still use our Divine Energy to do it. By now, Rafatia and I already understand how the white powder affects our bodies, so we can prevent it from affecting us."

Rean was satisfied to hear that. "Good. In any case, I left you quite a few Divine Stones. Just make sure you don't show them to others, or you'll definitely be robbed, if not killed."

Roan wasn't in the mood for farewells, though. "That's enough. Luan, Rean, let's go. We need to find the source of the white powder."

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Chapter 1505: Second Time

Naturally, Rean, Roan, and Luan passed by the Beast Taming Guild to fetch Kentucky before heading to the exit of the undersea city.

Unsurprisingly, the guards at the gates of Salt Canyon City were surprised to see Rean's group there. After all, any humanoid race being that missed the exit or that decided to stay wouldn't come out before the Salt Sweep was over. "What did you come here for?"

Rean smiled in response, saying, "We need to go out, sir. The gates shouldn't be closed, right?"

"They're not. However, even though the intensity of the Salt Sweep has reduced these past three months, there's still too much white powder out there. You guys shouldn't go out now if you know what's good for you." The aquatic demon beast said in response, trying to warn them.

Rean nodded after hearing that. "It's fine. We know what we're doing. In any case, thank you for the warning, sir." Without waiting for the aquatic demon beast to say anything, Kentucky flapped his wings under water and rushed to the exit.

'Hmph! Don't complain later if you all turn into salt statues,' thought the guard before putting the matter behind. His job wasn't to stop people from killing themselves, after all.

Outside, Rean's group immediately noticed the difference in the concentration of the white powder. Even though they kept the water away with the bubble, the white powder began to fall inside. It's just that there wasn't as much as there was outside the bubble.

Then again, their group already expected that, though. Kentucky and Roan immediately used their Divine Energy to gather Dark Element around them. It didn't matter what that white powder was. Dark Element could destroy anything. Of course, there was a limit on how much could be destroyed at once, so the bubble still had to be up.

With the combination of Dark Element and the bubble that kept the water away, their group was barely able to keep themselves clear of the white powder. At the same time, Roan took several Rank Two Divine Stones out of his spatial ring for him and Kentucky to use. "To keep this amount of Dark Element,

we will need quite some Divine Energy. Kentucky, use the Divine Stones to keep your energy topped up. I'll do the same."

Kentucky obviously wouldn't go against that. "No problem. Now, where should we go?"

Rean and Roan then looked at Luan after that. Although they could more or less see the direction of the Salt Sweep's origin, Luan was definitely better at doing that. After all, he could see energy itself with his eyes, plus the Salt Sweep was expected to be made with the dust from high-level Divine Stones. "It's coming from that direction, dad. The golden lights coming from the white powder are slightly more concentrated over there."

Kentucky didn't think twice and immediately dove down in the direction Luan mentioned. It also happened to be the direction the Salt Canyon continued.

Suushh!

Rean's group then moved at a relatively safe speed to keep the white powder away from their bodies. After all, if Kentucky moved too quickly, more white powder would barge into the bubble. It was better to be safe than sorry. Of course, that was still a very high speed to someone like Luan.

Of course, Roan made sure Luan paid attention to his task as they moved forward. "There are three different paths ahead, dad, uncle Rean. Two of them have the white powder's Divine Energy, but they're not emitting the white powder out. Instead, they're receiving the white powder from the third path on the left."

"Good!" Rean was satisfied to hear that. Bringing Luan was really the best choice as Rean and Roan couldn't see any difference between the paths at all. All they could tell was that they had white powder within their waters. "Kentucky, you heard him."

Kentucky wasn't an exception, even with his improved vision. "Oh! The third path it is."

That wasn't the only place with different paths to follow. The further Rean's group moved after the white powder, the more the canyon looked like a maze.

With Luan's cultivation improving, there were more things that improved. One of those improvements was his eyes becoming a lot more effective. When Roan found him, he could only see Elements and Divine Energy up to a hundred or so meters. Now that he reached the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, that distance increased to over four hundred!

Suddenly, Luan noticed something. "Kentucky, stop here."

Kentucky immediately followed Luan's words as the twins looked around. "What is it, Luan?"

Luan narrowed his eyes as he looked ahead, saying, "It seems like the white powder... is coming from the ground itself. In fact, the ground is shining with golden light. There's a lot of Divine Energy escaping from it. Also..." Luan then looked at Rean and asked, "Uncle Rean, it looks a lot like the formations that you build, but it also looks very different at the same time."

Rean was taken aback to hear that. "You can see a formation below?" Following that, Rean contacted Sister Orb in the Dimensional Realm. 'Sister Orb, didn't you notice it?'

[Hmm... I don't really feel anything. Perhaps it has something to do with the Divine Energy coming from below. It's probably jamming the system's sensors.] Although the Dimensional Realm was closed, Sister Orb could still talk with the twins. Naturally, she could still feel if there were formations around or not.

Rean and Roan nodded after that. Following that, Rean asked Luan, "Back when you saw my formations, you saw the shape that the runes took in your vision when Divine Energy passed through them, right? Are you able to tell me what shape the runes below have?"

Luan nodded, saying, "Yes, uncle Rean. That's why I said they look similar and very different at the same time." Luan then concentrated on the runes before he sent a picture of what he could see through Divine Sense.

In an instant, Rean recognized what those runes were. "Well, well, well.... this is the second time I bumped into one of these."

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Chapter 1506: Down We Go

Roan immediately noticed something off when Rean mentioned the phrase 'second time.' "Formation? Second time? Are you saying..."

Rean nodded, saying, "There is no doubt. What we have under us is definitely a natural formation. The runes are obviously unlike the runes we saw in that formation back in Sunkan Planet. However, there are a few points in the runes of a natural formation that are unmistakable. This is absolutely a natural formation."

Kentucky couldn't help but ask after that, "Does that mean it also affects time? The one we entered back then accelerated time ten times, after all."

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Time and space are related. If you want to accelerate time, you must meddle with space." He then looked at Luan and asked, "Your affinity is space. Can you feel the presence of spatial powers in the formation below?"

Luan immediately shook his head, telling Roan, "Sorry, dad. I can't. Was I supposed to?"

Roan shook his head as well. "No. Also, there's no need to apologize if you didn't do anything wrong. Anyways, you're certain you can't feel any space powers, right?"

Luan nodded, saying, "Yes. I really can't feel anything like that... but I'm not really sure what I should feel."

Roan was satisfied with that. "No problem. Even if you're wrong, it's not your fault." Following that, Roan looked at Rean and Kentucky, saying, "Alright, so there's probably no time acceleration or something in there."

Rean agreed with Roan, nodding as he told Kentucky, "Kentucky, go down slowly."

Kentucky nodded in response, but he couldn't help but ask, "Don't you feel like this is a bit weird?"

"What do you mean?" Rean and Roan asked at the same time.

Kentucky then explained, "I mean... has no one found this place before? Our Divine Sense bending skill can't capture any Divine Sense. However, even though we moved into several different paths and took a few hours to arrive, it's not like this is that hard to find. Considering how long this place has existed, I wonder why there isn't anyone else here. Is it really just the white powder? Surely we aren't the only ones who can just fend it off, right?"

Rean and Roan had to admit Kentucky's words made sense. "Could it be that it's because of the natural formation that no one found this place?"

Kentucky couldn't move too quickly because this was the source of the white powder. The concentration here was almost as high as the time the intensity of the Salt Sweep was at its highest. Even the bubble and the Dark Element around them could only barely keep up with the white powder passing through them.

Eventually, Kentucky landed on the ground, which gave Rean the chance to take a look at the natural formation's runes. "I see..." Seeing the runes by himself was several times better than just hearing the description from Luan.

At the same time, Sister Orb's words resounded in his ears. [I can finally feel this formation.]

Rean nodded, saying, 'I know. Look at these runes. The formation was being concealed. It's not the work of a cultivator but part of the natural formation itself. I have to admit that even for something natural, the arrangements are really an eye-opener.'

Rean then looked at Luan, Roan, and Kentucky. "This formation has a concealment effect. Not only that but there's also an illusory effect, which is far more powerful. Let alone us, I doubt even cultivators much stronger than us would find it extremely hard to find this place. That's most likely the reason no one found it before."

Roan was surprised to hear that, asking, "Are you saying this natural formation is at the Divine level?"

Rean nodded, replying, "There is no doubt. Not only did it reach the Divine level, but it's probably at a very high stage too. I'll be honest, it shouldn't be far from a God-level formation as it reminds me of the formation in the Huring Sacred Floating Land. This formation doesn't lose out to that."

Back when the twins arrived at the Huring Sacred Land, Sister Orb told them that the formation that kept the Sacred Land floating was at the God-level. That's why Rean was able to make a comparison. "If I'm not wrong, I would put this formation to be at the Divine Peak-level or somewhere very close to it."

Naturally, Kentucky could also tell why they were able to do it. "So it's because we followed Luan's eyes that we got to get here."

Roan nodded, saying, "Luan's eyes simply see Energy and Elements other than normal vision."

Luan confirmed Roan's words. "Dad is right. I didn't pay attention to the surroundings with the normal pupils in my eyes. Instead, I used only my Divine Energy Pupils to follow the current of white powder, just like dad asked."

Rean sighed in wonder. "I'm becoming quite jealous of your eyes. This formation not only conceals itself, but its illusory power also affects one's senses. Roan, Kentucky, and I didn't pay attention to anything as we simply let you guide our way. But even until now, our Divine Sense can't detect anything."

Kentucky and Roan agreed with Rean. Their Divine Senses were fully spread, but the land didn't seem to have anything different.

Roan then asked the part he was most concerned about. "Rean, is the formation the one responsible for the white powder?" He had to ask that. After all, if the natural formation didn't create the white powder, there was still a chance that this place was being protected by someone.

Rean began to walk around in the formation as Kentucky and Roan followed him to keep the Dark Element protecting the group. After a few hours of investigation, Rean finally reached a conclusion. "I don't think this formation is responsible for the white powder. Something deep below this ground is creating it instead. I just don't know if it's a natural phenomenon or if it's someone else doing it."

Roan and Kentucky nodded after that. That meant they still might find some enemy. Then again, they came to this place aware that they might not be the only ones here.. "Well, down we go."

Death... and me

Chapter 1507: White River

With that, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky began to gather Earth Element and open the ground below them. Thankfully, they were below water, so all the earth and sand around was wet, making it quite easy to start the job.

Fortunately, the natural formation didn't do anything against the twins' group either. It continued to work as if nothing was happening at all. Because it was connected to the sea above, the hole the twins' group was opening filled with water behind them, leaving only the inside of the bubble devoid of it. In any case, the twins had no intention of closing the hole behind them since they might have to escape later.

Ten meters, twenty meters, fifty meters. With the three working together, the excavation went slowly but smoothly. Of course, they couldn't beat someone with Earth Element Affinity, but they weren't doing half bad.

Soon, seconds became minutes, and minutes became hours. Divine Energy wasn't too much of a problem since the twins had a lot of Divine Stones. However, the white powder was still coming from below, so that reduced their speed considerably.

Nevertheless, they eventually went beyond two kilometers into the ground. It was then that they heard the sound of earth breaking apart.

Rumble...

Soon after, the ground below them caved in as the twins' group fell inside... for a few meters. That's because Kentucky immediately flapped his wings and stopped their descent.

The cave they fell in wasn't filled with water, though. Because of that, the saltwater from above began to enter like a waterfall, but not for long. Divine Energy seemed to automatically gather around the hole the twins created as earth converged on that point. In a matter of seconds, the hole from where the saltwater came was closed up.

Though, Kentucky and Roan couldn't deactivate the Dark Element around them. That's because the entire space was filled with white powder that floated upwards and entered the earth above. With that, they had to keep the Dark Element around them to eliminate it before the powder entered their bodies.

Unfortunately, Divine Sense didn't help at all as the twins couldn't see anything with it. Well, Rean already expected that anyway. "It's the natural formation. Divine Sense is useless in this place and anywhere close to it."

The twins then looked at Luan, asking him, "What can you see?"

Luan then looked down and couldn't help but feel surprised. "Dad, there's a lot of golden light below. I can't even differentiate the white powder from the rest." Through Luan's Divine Energy Pupils, Divine Energy had a golden color. "There's a huge concentration of Divine Energy below. I can't tell anything else other than that."

The twins nodded after hearing that. "Kentucky, let's go down. That's probably the Divine Stone Mine."

Kentucky nodded and reduced his flapping as their group descended. One good thing, at least, was that since there was no water anymore, Kentucky could use the wind to blow the white powder away from his body. That greatly helped out with the work his and Roan's Dark Element had to do to destroy it.

"Then again, white powder seems to have no issues existing without water in this place," Roan could not help but say. Before, the white powder could indeed exist out of the water, but for a very limited amount of time. For example, in Salt Canyon City, the little white powder that passed by the protection formation would disappear in less than a second after it entered the bubble protecting the twins' group at the inn. However, even though there wasn't water in this place, the concentration of white powder was high and didn't seem to be affected.

Rean then noticed something, saying, "I think I know why. That's because we're close to the source. The Divine Energy below is feeding the white powder's form, so it doesn't disappear even though it's out of the water."

Roan, Kentucky, and Luan nodded once they heard that.

The problem with this place was that even though there was a lot of white powder, the place was shrouded in darkness. Now that Divine Sense didn't work, it made it very hard to see anything. With that, Rean gathered Light Element ahead of their group and created a sphere of light that illuminated the surroundings.

A few minutes later, their group was finally able to make out something of the situation below.

"Is that a river?" Kentucky could not help but ask.

The twins and Luan took a little longer to be able to see it since their eyes weren't as good as Kentucky when it came to seeing things far away. Nevertheless, it didn't take long for them to notice it. "It does look like a river."

"A white river, to be more specific," Roan said.

Luan also added, "It's full of Divine Energy, dad."

Once they got even closer, they were finally able to see the white powder coming out of it. Countless specks of it detached from the white river, floating upward to the ceiling of the cave.

Roan then asked something else, "Luan, can you tell which elements are inside this river with your Element Pupils?"

Luan paid attention before nodding. "It's a mix of a few different elements. It's hard to tell which one is which."

Rean and Roan nodded after that. "That's basically the result of the creation of the white powder. Several elements were used in the process as it seems."

Suddenly, Kentucky stopped his descent and immediately flew up again. "What is it, Kentucky?"

Kentucky narrowed his eyes, saying, "I think I saw something moving inside, so I moved away. Did you see that?"

Rean, Roan, and Luan shook their heads. "Our long-distance vision isn't as good as yours."

Of course, they couldn't just stay there forever. "Kentucky, try to land on the side of the river."

Kentucky nodded and changed direction. It's just that the side of the river also had a lot of white powder. The difference was that the white powder there didn't float up. It stayed on the ground, unmoving.

Kentucky then used his wind to blow away the white powder before landing on the ground. However...

Zush!

It was then that something jumped out of the white powder and attacked!

Death... and me

Chapter 1508: White Powder Creatures

Kentucky was alarmed and immediately hardened his feathers, transforming them into blades.

Bang!

Argghh!

The attack power was so high that Kentucky's entire body was launched like a cannonball. One must remember that as a Stage Eight Demon Beast, Kentucky's body and weight was enormous. Not to mention that his defense was even higher than the twins and their Third Grade Star Body. If the attack could do that, then the enemy was definitely at the Void Tempering Realm at the very least.

Seeing that, Rean and Roan used their Divine Soul Power to grab Luan while they held on Kentucky's back. However, they didn't have time to think much. As soon as the first attack came, several more enemies appeared, jumping out of the white powder below as they quickly attacked Kentucky.

"Fuck!"

The very first attack had already broken several of Kentucky's blade feathers and the scales under them, leaving quite the injury. At this moment, one could only imagine how Kentucky would end up if he was hit by all of that at once.

Without thinking twice, Kentucky's body burst into black and white flames before he flapped his wings with as much strength as possible. That forcefully changed Kentucky and the group in his back's direction. However, some of the creatures that were coming for Kentucky were even faster and adapted to Kentucky's reaction.

'Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

Of course, Rean and Roan wouldn't just idly watch as Kentucky was attacked. Their sword and scythe danced in the air, creating hundreds of black and white threads surrounding all sides. Surprisingly though, the creatures' attacks also broke through the threads, hitting Kentucky's body once again.

Bang, bang, bang, bang...

Fortunately, the Reversive Arcs reduced their strength by a lot before they hit Kentucky. With Kentucky's own defense, he was able to withstand the attacks with just a few of his blade feathers being broken. No injuries were inflicted whatsoever.

Crack... shatter!

Shatter!

Shatter!

After those attacks, the twins' group could finally make sense of what was hitting them. The creatures were made of white powder and had taken on the shapes of various animals. However, as soon as they hit the target, they would break down into white powder again before falling to the ground. It was as if all they knew were suicide attacks.

Rean then yelled, "Kentucky, fly up. I don't think these things can fly."

Kentucky didn't think twice and shot in the ceiling's direction. However, they were too naive. The creatures quickly took the shape of flying demon beasts, with some even copying Kentucky's form, and immediately gave chase.

Creeeeee!

In response to the abrupt change, Kentucky released his black and white flames on them, hindering their attacks. The twins, of course, helped Kentucky.

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

'Life Fire, Third Form, Flaming Blade Arc!'

Swish, swish, swish...

Boom, boom, boom...

Broken white powder birds fell from the air as even more began to take the form of birds below before taking flight. There was one good thing, though.

"They get weaker the further away they get from the river," Roan said.

Rean and Kentucky agreed with him. They also noticed the difference in attack power now that Kentucky was several tens of meters away from the river. However, there was a problem. Because they were moving all around, it was becoming more and more difficult to keep the floating white powder away. If it continued like that, they would eventually be affected by it and start to transform into salt statues.

"Should we fly away from this place first?" Kentucky asked while he dodged and attacked the flying white powder creatures.

The twins nodded without thinking twice. "Yes, let's head back to the sea. Even though the hole before us closed, it shouldn't be as hard to open it again."

Kentucky then changed direction and flew to the part of the ceiling from where they first entered the cave. This time, the twins' group didn't try to slowly open a hole with Earth Element. Instead, they directly attacked it, trying to open a hole by force.

'Death Style, Sixth Form, Destroyer!'

'Life Fire, Second Form, White Stellar Explosion!'

Boom!

The ceiling trembled as the power of Divine Energy swept everything around, even the white powder birds that were flying in their direction. However...

"That's not good."

The ceiling that they found quite easy to pass through when they came in now didn't have a single scratch on it. Instead, Rean saw the natural formation's runes shining on it as Divine Energy fortified them. "This is pure bullshit. These runes weren't even present outside. Can a natural formation really take on the form of a trap?"

Flap, flap, flap...

"Forget it. The white powder birds are coming back." Roan immediately gave up trying to flee through the ceiling. Since it wasn't possible, they had to do something else. "Kentucky, follow the river. We'll focus on defending against the creatures."

"On it!" The white river continued as far as the light of Rean's light sphere could reach. Everything else was covered in white powder.

Suddenly, Luan's voice appeared, telling them, "Kentucky, fly close to the ground by the river's side."

"What?!" Kentucky was taken aback. The creatures were taking form on the ground, plus they were more powerful there.

However, Rean and Roan thought Luan had a reason to say that. "Just do as he says."

With that, Kentucky steeled his mind and immediately dove down before he started to follow the river's side, flying close to the ground. Sure enough, not only did the white powder creatures become stronger, but the other creatures could also attack from below.

Swish, swish, swish...

Bang, bang, bang...

Naturally, it became harder for them to defend against the creatures' attacks. However, it didn't take long for the twins to understand why Luan said that. "The concentration of white powder in the air is a lot smaller closer to the ground."

That meant the twins and Kentucky had a much easier time keeping the white powder in the air away from their bodies. At the very least, they wouldn't need to be afraid of being transformed into salt statues even though the creatures got stronger.. Without a doubt, it was a worthwhile trade-off since the twins could at least defend against the creatures, unlike with the white powder in the air.

Death... and me

Chapter 1509: Bad To Worse

"Nicely done, Luan." Rean praised the boy as they moved along the river's side. Well, Luan didn't really have time to feel happy with all the attacks coming from everywhere. At his level, he couldn't even see them coming before they were already intercepted by the twins and Kentucky. Perhaps they had already dodged it.

Kentucky couldn't help but mention, though. "Even so, we won't be able to keep this up for long. Each of these creatures has an attack power similar to a Void Tempering Realm enemy. The only difference is

that it seems like they don't have any intelligence. Sure, we may be using the Divine Stones to replenish our energy, but it won't last for long."

Rean, who had just defended against a snake-like white powder creature, shook his head, saying, "It's not like we have a choice in this. Just keep flying upstream, and let's see what we can find."

The reason they were going upstream was quite simple. Its origin was supposed to be in that direction. They would find the river's source there and probably understand the reason why this white powder came to be. Of course, that also had its risks. First, the concentration of white powder might be even higher there. However, since the same might apply in the other direction, they decided to head upstream first.

Surprisingly, the cave extended almost endlessly. Even after flying at full speed upstream for over three hours, the twins' group still hadn't found where it started. Then again, Rean's group wasn't surprised by that. To be able to cover the entire Salt Canyon with white powder, its source had to be large. The only problem was that their Divine Energy was starting to run low at this point. Sure, they were using the Rank Two Divine Stones nonstop to replenish their Divine Energy, but their expenditure surpassed how much they could recover. Well, to be more specific, the white powder creatures didn't even give them the time necessary to properly absorb the Divine Energy from the Divine Stones.

However, it was then that Luan called their attention. "Dad, uncle Rean, the concentration of Divine Energy in the white powder is increasing a lot."

Rean and Roan were taken aback to hear that. Even though Luan said that to them, the power of the white powder creatures didn't change at all. Weren't they supposed to get stronger in that case? "Are you sure? We can't feel any difference in the creatures' attack power."

Luan then focused his eyes on the creatures that were still taking form. "That's because the Divine Energy in them hasn't changed. When they take on those demon beast forms, they only absorb the same amount of Divine Energy as the previous ones."

Rean pondered in silence for a bit, eventually saying, "There are two possibilities. They're doing it to wait for the right moment to attack with full power. Or they just can't take more than that exact amount of Divine Energy when they take form. If it's the first one, then things aren't looking good for us."

Kentucky asked back in response. "Should we turn around, then?"

Roan immediately denied that idea, telling him, "We can't. Our Divine Energy won't last that long to reach where we came from. Let alone go further than that. We can only continue forward at this point."

With that, the twins and Kentucky could only keep fighting as they flew further and further upstream. Unfortunately, it didn't seem like the scenery changed at all. The river continued on their side as the creatures continued to attack relentlessly. All of the creatures always used suicide attacks and shattered as soon as they hit. If they missed, they still crumbled soon after. It was as if they couldn't live for more than a few seconds.

The twins finally began to get a bad feeling, and so did Kentucky. Their Divine Energy reserves were running really low, and they couldn't see any change that could help their situation. Going up wouldn't help either. Along the way here, Kentucky had left the riverside and flew to the ceiling to try and break it several times. However, the natural formation protected the entire thing even up to this point. They also tried to break through the sides of the cave and even excavated downwards, ignoring the white powder on the ground. However, everything seemed to be protected by the natural formation as well.

Luan obviously tried to see if he could find any escape route with his eyes. Unfortunately, the huge amount of Divine Energy and mixed elements made it impossible to see beyond the walls of the cave or the river.

Eventually, the situation turned even more critical when suddenly, one of the creatures broke through their defenses as if it was nothing.

Bang!

Kentucky was once again hit head-on. His blade feathers and scales broke instantly before the white powder creature shattered, leaving a huge hole behind.

Arrrrgh!

At that moment, the twins were struck by a foreboding feeling. Just now, the creature passed through their Reversive Arcs way too easily. It wasn't that the Reversive Arcs didn't reduce its power, but that the creature itself was much stronger than any of the others that attacked them so far.

Luan was alarmed as he looked at one of the white powder creatures taking form below. "Dad, uncle Rean, the Divine Energy inside the creatures increased! They have more than double the Divine Energy from before!"

Rean immediately understood. "So they really were biding their time to attack us at full power."

Realizing that, things just got even worse. That's because the injury on Kentucky's body wasn't just hindering. The white powder that made the creature who damaged Kentucky immediately began to transform Kentucky's body. Just like it happened to Rafatia before, that transformation also muddled Kentucky's mind as a result.

"Wake up, Kentucky!" Rean could only aim at the injury and forcefully cut the transformed part... or so he tried. Unfortunately, Kentucky's body was too sturdy! In short, Rean failed to cut it off.

Bang!

Ahhhh!

Suddenly, Roan and Rean looked in Luan's direction. The shattered parts of one of the creatures hit him, lodging themselves deep into his body. After all, Luan was just too weak to defend against something like that. Immediately after, he also began to transform into a salt statue, and it was from inside out.

With that, the situation had just gone from bad to worse.

Death... and me

Chapter 1510: Burning Nascent Souls

Kentucky couldn't keep flying anymore as his mind started to become muddled. Obviously, their group immediately plummeted to the ground after that. Seeing what would inevitably happen, Roan used his

Divine Soul Power to grab Luan, but it was just too hard to control it with the energy remaining in his body.

Zush!

Clang!

Rean immediately tried to defend against a wolf-like white powder creature, but since he was too close to the white powder, the wolf's power wasn't something he could counter anymore. The wolf hit Rean's sword, forcing both weapon and man against the ground.

Crack, crack, crack...

Several of Rean's bones broke in an instant after that. The worst part was that Rean was also running out of Divine Soul Power, so he couldn't even heal himself from that.

As for Roan, his situation wasn't any better. Two other demon beast-like creatures attacked him while he tried to protect Luan. Unfortunately, he was also hit by the attacks and was sent kicking through the ground and white powder. Obviously, a lot of the white powder started to enter his body, which made him start to transform as well. Even his Dark Element couldn't counter so much of it.

The only good thing was that neither the twins' minds were muddled by the salt transformation that was taking over their bodies. That's because the system countered anything that could affect their soul, so they were very much awake. Then again, that didn't help their situation at all.

Luan, as the weakest member of the group, was the first one to completely turn into a salt statue. For some reason, the Kibin in his forehead didn't seem to appear after that either. Most likely, it was also affected by the salt transformation. Following that, it was Kentucky who had met the same fate. It just took longer because of the size of his body and his resistance. Otherwise, he would have transformed before Luan.

The twins, who were almost out of Divine Soul Power, were left with only one option at this point. 'Let's burn our Nascent Souls!'

Yes, that was the one thing the twins did their utmost to avoid, burning their Nascent Souls. That's because once the power was spent, the twins' strength would drop back to the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. However, they didn't have any other choice.

Immediately, the twins' power swelled as they far surpassed their actual limits. Both their injuries healed in almost an instant as they fought back the creatures that were launching themselves against them. If they could only fight a Middle Stage Void Tempering Realm cultivator alone before, then it was no surprise they could fight even stronger ones at their current state.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

Both twins used Crescent moon, sending waves of mixed Dark and Light Element against the white powder creatures.

Swish, swish, swish, swish...

All the creatures were easily cleaved into halves, falling to the ground way before they could reach the twins. The power of the creatures' attacks was at the Space Bending Realm, but the burning of the twins' Nascent Souls far surpassed that. However, more and more demon beast-like creatures began to take form in the white powder. Obviously, the situation didn't improve that much at all. If anything, it was still terrible as Luan and Kentucky had already transformed while the twins were in the middle of the same transformation.

Fortunately, the burning of their Nascent Souls added enough power for their Dark Element to halt the transformation. It was even enough to slowly fight it back.

Rean then looked at Kentucky and Luan before asking Roan, 'What do we do? We'll run out of energy in a few minutes. Should we try to take them with us?'

Roan immediately shook his head, saying, 'They already transformed. Besides, haven't you noticed? As soon as they finished transforming, the creatures ignored their existence. I'm not sure if they can be saved or if they're gone for good. However, I'm sure we won't survive if we try to help them, especially Kentucky. After all, he's too big.'

Roan then looked in the direction they were heading in a moment ago. 'Let's continue to head up the river. We have no other choice anymore.'

Rean immediately nodded even though it pained him to leave Kentucky and Luan behind. 'Alright.'

They talked through their Soul Connection, so their conversation didn't last even a second.

'Death Style, Shadow Steps!'

If there was one thing one didn't lack in this place, it was darkness. Only Rean's light sphere created any light at all. Thanks to that, it was the perfect environment for the use of Shadow Steps. Now that their Nascent Souls were being consumed, their speed was far greater than before.

Zush, zush!

The creatures simply couldn't keep up with the twins' speed as they blended with the shadows, moving even faster than Kentucky at top speed. The problem was that the creatures would continue to take form further ahead and attack them from their opposite direction.

'Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

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

'Death Style...'

The twins dodged, attacked, and parried the incoming attacks while keeping their speed at maximum. Thankfully, they had attained Third Grade Star Bodies. Otherwise, their bodies would be screaming in pain due to the overflowing power.

A few seconds passed, then tens of seconds, a minute, two minutes... the twins' Nascent Souls gradually disappeared as they forced their way through the enemies.

Unfortunately, there was no end to the river or the white powder creatures. Worse than that, it looked like the power of the creatures was also increasing as they moved forward. What was before an easy task to destroy the creatures ahead of them now became harder and harder.

At some point, the twins completely gave up on attacking the creatures and used their higher speed to move around them. But even that was hard to accomplish as the creatures were also getting faster.

'Roan, I'm almost spent!' Rean exclaimed through their Soul Connection.

'Same here. My Nascent Soul won't last more than a minute now,' Roan said in response.

Roarrrrrr!

Suddenly, a defying roar entered the twins' ears. Rean immediately increased the power of his light sphere, illuminating even further ahead.

Though, Rean and Roan's expression turned ugly as soon as they saw the origin of that roar.

'Is that a dragon?'