

## Death 151

Death... and me

### Chapter 151: Sixth Bandit Group

Only after Luina calmed herself a bit did she finally thought about what just happened. Didn't Rean just heal her injury easily? What was the Light Energy? She had never seen anything like that before. So far, she only thought that Rean's White Energy color was because of some cultivation arts variation. She didn't pay much attention to it. However, now she understood that it wasn't his cultivation art, but the type of element he has an affinity with.

'What kind of element was that? Light? Is that one of those super rare element affinities my master talked about? Such a pity... Even though his healing ability is impressive, the lack of a cultivation technique for his element will eventually halt his cultivation path. As time passes, he will only fall behind.'

Still, she couldn't help but remember how good Light Element felt. Her last moan was more than enough to prove how arousing and pleasurable it was. Of course, as soon as she thought that, she immediately shook her head vigorously.

'What the hell am I thinking?!'

She quickly put those thoughts on the back of her head and focused on the task ahead.

Rean and the others were circling around the small Gold Hands Bandits' groups. From what they heard from each bandit leader of those camps, they were separated into thirteen groups at the moment. Three of them were big ones, led by the three bandit leaders. As for the ten small ones, they had at least two or Foundation Establishment cultivators in their midst.

By the end of the night, Roan's group had already sent the bandits in five campsites to the next world. However, one thing caught Luina's attention. Those bandits confessed that they had captured women during their attacks, but they hadn't found a single one of them until now.

"Is that really weird? These small groups were made to be fully mobile. If they were found by the City Guard's or the Country's Army, they must flee straight away and warn the main groups. If they bring

those women with them, they would only hold themselves back. If things go wrong, these women, who definitely hate them to the bones, might even reveal their locations with their screams."

"This bandit group has continued to act for years already. They aren't your run of the mill organization. Their leader knows very well the situation they are operating in. That being said, it goes without saying that he won't allow women to be carried to those small groups. Without a doubt, they are being held in the main nest."

Rean and the others nodded. That indeed made a lot of sense. Still, Luina couldn't help but feel more and more impressed with Roan's knowledge. It's not that it was something hard to guess. She would come into this conclusion sooner or later. However, Roan seemed to be only 11 to 12, but he was obviously much more intelligent than anyone in their group. It was as if she was talking with one of the Divine Soul Realm Core Elders of her sect. No, even they didn't give such an air. She felt that she would be well off believing Roan's ideas than anyone else.

Of course, she wouldn't say that out loud.

"In that case, we are going to find them once we began to attack the three main groups, right?"

Roan shook his head.

"No. Even if the three main groups have them, it will only be one or two at most. Also, they are probably their leaders' exclusive property. The main nest that I'm talking about is the place where the group will retreat when they are not out attacking the merchants' caravans."

Luina nodded.

"I see. Then there isn't much to worry about."

However, Roan looked at her with a puzzled expression.

"What you talking about? There had never been a reason to worry about to start with. Even if the women were there, so what? We would not change our plans anyway."

Luina was taken aback.

"Are we going to abandon them?"

Rean sighed helplessly after hearing that.

"Don't worry, Roan is just terrible with his choice of words. We are not abandoning them. Once we kill all the bandits, we will definitely release those women. It's just that before we can guarantee our victory, we will not risk our lives for them either."

Luina couldn't help but ask.

"What if they take one as a hostage?"

Roan snorted at that idea.

"That's even better. The bandit's hands will be occupied while holding a hostage. That will be the best opportunity to strike. Just use your weapon and pierce right through her body, talking down the bandit on her back. I couldn't ask for a better chance."

Luina and her two companions' expressions changed. That was really ruthless. Obviously, as a woman herself, Luina's was furious at such thought. What if she was the hostage then?

"I understand that we cultivators don't care too much about ordinary people. Still, could you really kill those girls as if they are just tools to hold your enemy back?"

Once again, Rean could only helplessly step forward and explain what that 'block of ice' really meant.

"That's not what this idiot of a brother meant. Did you hear he saying to kill the hostage together with the bandit?"

Luina, Oritis, and Rolim were taken aback once again. Indeed, Roan had never said that they should kill the hostage and the bandit together.

"Could it be..."

Rean nodded as he raised his hand. Immediately, they saw a burst of white light coming from it.

"The lower the cultivators' level, the easier it is for me to heal them. We are talking here about ordinary people who probably haven't even reached the Energy Gathering Realm. If I can heal an injury like yours before, do you think I would have problems healing an ordinary person?"

Luina and the others shook their heads. Rean smiled at that and continued.

"That being said, what that 'block of ice' meant is that you can pierce right through those women without worry. Just avoid their heart, neck, or head. As long as they don't die straight away and can stay alive for a few minutes, that will be more than enough for me to completely heal them up. That's why he said. The bandits taking hostages would only give us advantages. Even better than that. The moment we kill a bandit holding a hostage, they will think that we don't care about the hostages' lives at all. Obviously, any bandit holding a hostage will immediately release them and flee or attack. After all, to hold those extra bodies would only put the bandits at an even more risky situation."

Rean then pointed his finger at Roan.

"If just the gloomy guy there knew how to express himself, things would be much easier. But he has to make his words easy to be misunderstood. I wonder if it is on purpose or if he is just as dumb as that."

Obviously, Roan heard those insults.

"Hmph!"

Roan then looked away and pretended he didn't care. Luina, on the other hand, giggled a little. For some reason, this Roan just now was quite cute.

As they moved, the sky began to turn into blue color.

Seeing that, Roan smiled.

"Alright, one last small camp, and we are done for today."

Oritis looked at the sky as well and asked.

"Isn't it too risky? It isn't that dark anymore."

Roan shrugged his shoulder and answered that question with another one.

"Do you think bandits are like an army? Would they wake up early, assume their posts in an orderly manner, and efficiently prepare for the day?"

Oritis and the others understood what Roan meant. If the bandits were that organized, they would be better off entering the army straight away instead of being here.

"They will first wake up, then spread around to pee, poop, eat, wash their bodies, etc. I can guarantee that none of them will pay attention to anything important before the sun is completely out. Even better, this is the best opportunity to take them down one by one since quite a few will move out of their camp to relieve themselves."

Roan then looked at Luina.

"The girl over there won't step back just because you see them while they were peeing or pooping, right?"

Luina's heart skipped a bit. It was what she was thinking exactly! She was still a girl, after all.

"Hm-Hmph! Of course not! Why would an Inner Sect Disciple like me care about such ordinary things."

Roan nodded, pretending that he didn't notice her hesitation at all.

"It's good that it is so."

Roan had chosen this camp to be the sixth one for a reason. Even though it is considered one of the ten smaller ones, it was still bigger than the other nine. That meant they would have more targets to get rid of. But thanks to what Roan said about the bandits' habits during the morning, it proved to be even easier than the previous ones. Most of the bandits went out to relieve themselves in the forest and died there silently. By the time the others noticed something amiss, it was already too late. Rean's group quickly got rid of them and took all the spoils for themselves, leaving just the leader of the group alive for interrogation.

However, while Roan was making questions to the bandit, Rean felt a faint Life Energy reaction from one of the tents.

"Hey, there is still someone there."

They quickly surrounded the tent. Rean then opened it carefully. However, what they found there took everyone aback.

Death... and me

Chapter 152: Finishing the Rest

They thought they would find a bandit hiding or something like that. However, there was nothing inside apart from a giant egg. It was packed in the middle of few chests that seemed to have been the spoils of the bandits' attacks at the merchant caravans. The faint life force that Rean felt was coming from inside it.

"An egg? Judging by the size, it's probably a demon beast's one."

Luina and the others also got close to take a look. But it was quite unimpressive, so none of them showed much interest.

He then brought it where the bandit leader was being interrogated by Roan. The guy only said that he got it from one of their victims, who was a foundation establishment cultivator. He confessed he found it during a training session in the middle of a mountain range before dying. The bandits didn't ask where that mountain range was located, though. The guy thought that if he nurtured it well, he would have a loyal helper in the future. Without any better choice, the bandits simply took it together with the rest of the stolen items. Perhaps, they could sell it for a good price or nurture it themselves later.

That being said, Rean looked around and asked.

"Does anyone want it?"

He didn't have much interest either. After all, Dalamu Sect already had a beast taming hall. If he needs a demon beast, he can simply borrow one there. Besides, he doesn't feel like he would have time to take care of it. Roan, of course, would be even more unwilling to do so.

Luina's group also had little interest in it for the same reasons. It would be quite annoying to carry it around too. In the end, they just decided to leave it here. If it is luck, it might come out at some point and survive.

However...

[You should bring it with you.]

Rean and Roan were taken aback by those words. Obviously, it was Sister Orb who said that.

Rean then examined it with his Spiritual Sense and used his Light Element to take a deeper look inside. Still, aside from the fact that it would be born soon, there was nothing impressive about the egg. Rean had seen other eggs back in the Beast Taming Hall, and they had much stronger Life Energies. So he couldn't help feel like this demon beast is a very common and weak one.

'I can't see anything good about it. Is there something wrong with the egg, Sister Orb?'

[Hum... It does indeed seem very weak compared to the eggs of the other beasts you saw in the Beast Taming Hall. The amount of power I can feel from it is quite below average too. But what caught my attention was not its strength, but the purity of its energy. If you compare it with the other eggs we saw, this guy is like a crystalline lake, while the others are just mud water.]

Roan didn't understand much about demon beasts, so he only looked at Rean.

Rean then took a deep breath and checked this guy's life force once more. However, he didn't pay attention to the amount of energy, but the quality of it.

'Sister Orb is right. His life force is weak but very pure. The other eggs can't compare at all.'

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

'Oh well, let's bring it back with us. It might give us a surprise later. If not, we can set it free or leave it with the Beast Taming Hall if they want it.'

Rean then looked at the others.

"Since no one wants it, I'll take with me."

Roan and Luina's group didn't object. None of them wanted that anyway, so they might as well leave it for Rean.

With that out of the way, they finished their business in this last camp and departed before demon beasts appeared. At some point, they stopped and set up camp to rest. After all, it was already too bright, and the rest of the small bandit groups would have fully woken up by now. If they were found, they might let someone escape.

As always, Rean and Roan threw all the spoils into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm when Luina's group wasn't looking. Half of the day had passed after that, and the sun began to set down again.



Somewhere else, a man in leather clothes looked at the subordinates in front of him with a dark expression.

"What do you mean we haven't received any reports from the other six groups? Are you messing with me? I would understand if one of them was caught off guard and was wiped out, but I refuse to believe it happened with all six of them. Send someone to take a look. I want to know what they are doing or what happened. Also, send a few others to alert the remaining small groups. Tell them to immediately pack everything and join us. Another thing, double the number of scouts around our camp."

This man's name was Lovak Cenkrol, an Initial Stage Core Formation Realm cultivator. He was also the leader of the Gold Hands Bandit Group. Just as Roan predicted, he was quite a careful person. He made a rule where the other camps must send daily reports of their activities. However, six of the ten outer camps didn't send anyone today. Obviously, he thought that something big was happening.

His subordinates quickly left after receiving the order. After that, he took out a map and looked at it.

'All six camps were selected at random, so I can't see a pattern of attack. Whoever is doing this knows how to not leave clues behind. By now, the other side should already know that I usually receive daily reports from those camps. However, if they were really wiped out without leaving anyone alive, I have to say that it's very impressive. Should I go out and wait at one of the remaining small groups?'

However, Lovak immediately shook his head.

'No. I know nothing about the enemy's numbers. There is a chance that there is a spy in my camp too. If I disappear, the other side might attack the ones who remained. If that happens, my bandit group will really take a massive blow. The best to do is to consolidate my forces and retreat for the time being. We already got quite a harvest during the weeks we stayed here. It won't matter if we retreat a few days earlier than scheduled.'

Without Lovak knowing, Roan's group had already moved out. However, they didn't move to the next target. Instead, Roan gave everyone some specific orders before they all went into separated directions.

At this moment, Roan was hidden somewhere between the main bandit camp and one of the small bandit groups. It wasn't dark yet, so he had a good view of his surroundings. Suddenly, he noticed three shadows in the distance, moving at full speed.

'Hehe! There they come.'

Those shadows were none other than the bandits tasked to warn the small bandit group in Roan's direction. Too bad, though. They wouldn't get there anymore.

At the same time, in another three different places, the same scene was playing out. That was Roan's orders. Intercept the scouts before they warned the remaining four small bandit groups of what was happening. Roan, Rean, and Luina waited in a place on the way between three small bandit groups and the main one. The last one was taken by Oritis and Rolim together. Those two were the weakest ones of their group, so Roan left them together to make sure they would kill all scouts. Rean and Luina were much stronger, so they should have no problem doing it alone. After all, there shouldn't be more than two or three scouts at once.

It was also Roan who pointed in the map where they should stay. Sure enough, those scouts appeared where he told precisely. Luina's group couldn't help but feel even more admiration for those kids. No, they already gave up treating Rean and Roan as kids a long time ago.

Poor Lovak didn't know that he had been playing on Roan's hands all this time. It was as if Roan was reading his mind.

After getting rid of the scouts, their group once again gathered at a previously arranged spot.

Roan then looked at Rean and the rest before giving a faint smile.

"Alright. With this, we can finish off the rest of the small groups with easy. Let's go."

Everyone nodded and departed. By the end of this second night, there would be only the three main groups remaining.

Death... and me

Chapter 153: The Fort

Lovak began to get concerned. He received the reports of the scouts he sent to the groups that disappeared. Sure enough, they had all been wiped out. However, the scouts he sent to warn the remaining slave small groups didn't return.

Not only him, but all the bandits in his main camp also noticed the problem. Later, Lovak sent more scouts to check the conditions of the other four small camps. Sure enough, those camps were also cleaned. Not only did the things that were stolen taken away, but not a single survivor was found.

"Boss, could it be the Jailin Country Army? Otherwise, how could they wipe out 10 small camps without alarming anyone?"

Lovak shook his head.

"That's not possible. I'm more inclined to think that an expert is behind this. Perhaps, a Late Core Formation Realm or even a Core and Soul Fusion one. If it was an army, we definitely would have noticed their movement. They have way too many people to conceal their presence from us. Not to mention that we know these roads and forest better than anyone else."

The mood in the camp got even heavier. It would be hard to deal with such an expert with just their main group. However...

\*Whistle\*

Everyone heard a whistle. Immediately, Lovak's face showed a smile when he heard that.

"Good, Laxin and Reabar are here. Seems like their camps didn't get assaulted last night, either."

Laxin and Reabar are the two other leaders, being only under Lovak in the chain of command. They were the ones commanding the other two big groups of bandits. Both of them are at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm as well.

The two of them organized their groups and then joined in the meeting with Lovak.

"Boss, we received your message. How's the situation?"

Lovak nodded.

"All the 10 small camps that we use as outer scouts have been wiped out, no survivors remained. The enemy is several times harder to deal with this time. Fortunately, I had made the rule that the small camps must report once every day. Otherwise, we would still be in the dark about their fate."

Reabar and Laxin nodded.

"In that case, what do we do now? Should we close ourselves and wait for the enemy to appear?"

Lovak shook his head.

"The defenses in this place are a lot laxer than back in our nest. If we stay here, I'm afraid that we will be eaten little by little. We have many brothers with us at the moment, so it is way too many mouths to feed. Sooner or later, we will run out of water too. We should take this chance to return to our fort and stay out of sight for a few months to a year. We have enough provisions there to stay put during this time without worrying too."

Reabar couldn't help but ask.

"What if our fort has been attacked?"

Lovak snorted after hearing that.

"Unless the enemy is a Core and Soul Fusion Realm or higher, I refuse to believe they can pass through our fort's protection formation. After all, it can both defend and attack at the same time. Don't forget that I paid a very high price for that. However, if it really is such an expert that is acting, he won't allow us to reach our fort to start with."

Reabar and Laxin felt a chill on their backs.

"What if it really is someone so strong?"

Lovak calmed everyone.

"You are thinking too highly of our enemy. Even though I'm in the Initial Stage, I'm also a Core Formation Expert. Besides, we have many brothers here at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Although there is a possibility of it being someone at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, I highly doubt it. An expert of this caliber wouldn't waste his time hunting bandits in the middle of a forest."

"Also, the fact that we haven't been attacked so far is another reason for me to believe that Core Formation Realm is the highest power that our enemy can muster. Otherwise, our opponent would only need to carry a King's Head Decapitation strategy on his own, and I would be powerless against him."

"That being said, as long as I hold whoever it is back, and our Foundation Establishment brothers support me, we can totally defeat this opponent. Who knows, we might even find a few high-value treasures from this guy."

Everyone's expression eased a little after hearing that.

Lovak then raised his hand and delivered an order.

"All Foundation Establishment Realm brothers will stay together with me from now on. The rest will immediately start to dismantle the encampment. I want everyone ready to depart in two hours."

"Yes, Boss!"

At the same time, somewhere far away from where Lovak's group was staying, Rean's group was looking at a place that looked like a fort. As one can imagine, this is none other than the Gold Hands Bandit Group's main base, their nest!

Luina also looked at that from a distance and couldn't help but feel a hint of fear.

"I don't know much about formations, but I'm sure that it isn't something we can fight against. Shouldn't we go back and attack Lovak's group while he and the bandits are out? Once they arrive in this place, we will be powerless to do anything to them. Wasn't that our initial plan?"

Roan shook his head.

"At first, I was planning to wipe out the small camps and then shift to the big ones. However, Lovak left behind a rule where the ten small camps must do daily reports. After we wiped out the first six camps on the first day, there was no one alive to report it back to him. Without another choice, I could only use this information to intercept the scouts he sent to warn the remaining four small camps. Fortunately, it went well, and we got one more day to finish them."

Roan continued.

"However, considering this Lovak guy's character, he definitely gathered the other two Big Camps together with his one. Their total number now should be around the same as all the ten small camps together. Not to mention that they have a Core Formation Realm expert, Lovak himself. We simply have no chance of taking them down like that. At most, we could get rid of a few flies who wander away from their group, but we wouldn't be able to stop him from coming to this place."

Luina couldn't help but ask.

"In that case, what will we do? We need at least one of the three leaders' heads, Lovak, Reabar, or Laxin. Otherwise, our mission will be considered a failure."

Roan smiled as he looked behind him. There, one could see Rean, Oritis, and Rolim holding down three Stage One Demon Beasts. At their Foundation Establishment Realm, those beasts simply had no way of escaping.

Luina's group was obviously confused as to why Roan asked them to capture those. The only one who seemed to know what was happening was Rean.

Ignoring Luina's group confusion, Roan came behind the demon beasts and touched them. Dark Element immediately began to enter their body, which obviously caused excruciating pain to the demon beasts.

"Release them."

Rean and the others did as he asked. Sure enough, the demon beast fled as fast as they could. Anywhere would be better than this place. It's just that they charged directly in the bandit's fort direction.

The Gold Hands' Nest definitely had a few bandits taking care of it. Soon, they noticed those three demon beasts charging at the fort. However, they only snorted at that sight and didn't move a single muscle. Suddenly, the formation under the fort activated. After that, several Spiritual Energy Swords appeared in mid-air and slashed at those demon beasts.

Those Spiritual Energy Swords weren't too strong. Anyone in Rean's group would definitely be able to fend a few off. However, the formation flashed once more, and a weak, faint gray light appeared around the Demon Beasts. That was a suppression formation. The demon beasts lost speed and couldn't move very well.

Sure enough, the Spiritual Energy Swords hit the demon beasts all at once, and they fell on the group, dead.

From afar, Luina's group felt a chill on their back. Let alone Stage One Demon Beasts, even Stage Two would be powerless against it. Stage Two demon beasts are equivalent to Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators. Sure enough, that formation would make them helpless too. Even a Core Formation Realm cultivator would have a hard time inside it. Escaping would be his or her only option.

'With that, even these twins should have understood that it will be pointless to stay here any further. We will need to think about another way to attack Lovak's group on their way back.'

Luina then sighed and looked at Roan, expecting to finally see a dejected expression on the 'ice block' face. However, what she saw went against her expectations. Roan was showing a faint, cold smile. Not only him, but it also seemed that Rean was quite happy with what he saw too.

Roan then turned to Luina's group and Rean before saying.

"I reckon that Lovak's group will take at least two days to move their entire group back to this place, so we need to act during this time."

Roan continued.

"I know this place doesn't have many demon beasts since we are in human territory. However, I still need you all to capture as many demon beasts as possible and bring them here for me. Of course, I will also help."

Luina's group obviously got confused at that. Nevertheless, they had seen what Roan was capable of doing, so this time, they didn't ask why. It was evident that he had a plan. Besides, it's not like they had another choice anyway.

"Alright, let's go!"

Death... and me

Chapter 154: It's time

As the day passed, the bandits guarding the main fort began to feel confused. Several Stage One demon beasts appeared now and then, just to be killed by the fort's formation. This region has a minimal number of demon beasts since it is inside the human territory. Still, they had seen more demon beasts than they would for several months.

Of course, no one was really worried about it. After all, even Peak Stage Two Demon Beasts would be powerless inside their formation. If anything, they felt annoyed that they had to clean up the beasts' corpses. After one entire day, almost a hundred Stage One demon beasts died for the formation.

But then, it stopped. During the next day, not a single demon beast charged into their formation anymore. As weird as the event looked, the bandits keeping guard of the fort soon forgot about it.

Somewhere close to the fort, Rean and Roan looked at the fort from a distance without doing anything. Luina, Oritis, and Rolim were obviously confused by that, though.



"Is that all? Won't you need more demon beasts?"

Roan shook his head.

"There is no need for more. This was more than enough already."

Luina looked at the fort's direction and saw how the corpses had already been cleaned. She thought that perhaps Roan poisoned the demon beasts, and the bandits inside the fort would die to it. However, such a thing would probably kill any hostages inside as well.

Still, the guards around the fort didn't seem concerned. That could only mean that nothing happened to the bandits inside the fort at all. Also, the corpses had been disposed of somewhere else. Not a single one was brought inside. Simply put, even after all their work, nothing changed at all.

"Then what do you plan to do? Lovak's bandit group should arrive in at most a few hours. Perhaps they sped up and will appear at any moment too. So far, we didn't do anything at all."

It was then that she thought about a possibility.

"Could it be that you were trying to spend the entire protection formation's energy?"

Roan's mouth twitched after hearing that.

"Are you dumb? With the number of Spirit Stones these bandits accumulated during these last years, do you really think we could make them run out of it? Ha! What a joke! We can spend an entire year sending demon beasts against it, and I still doubt we would be able to achieve it."

"Also, let's suppose that we could really make the formation run out of energy, what difference would it make? Lovak's group is still whole, and we wouldn't be able to attack them regardless. In fact, we would only make them even warier. Think a little before opening your mouth, will you?"

Luina's really felt like giving this guy a kick.

"Isn't there a better way to say those things? Why must you try to buy a fight every single time?"

Roan didn't care, though.

"Hmph!"

Rean, on the other hand, just sighed as he shrugged his shoulders.

"Ignore the ice block. That's just how Roan is. Still, he was right about his points. You should think a little more about the situation before offering your opinions. Those were quite easy to guess points."

Rean then patted her shoulder before continuing.

"Don't worry. We already have a plan, and it is working perfectly. You will see when the time comes."

Luina then took a deep breath and nodded.

Rean smiled and then went back to the others to continue waiting.

Around four hours and a half later, Lovak's group finally appeared. As they approached the fort, the bandits inside opened the gate and came out to greet him. Lovak nodded, satisfied.

'It seems like the fort wasn't attacked until now.'

He then took a plate from his bosom, which had a hexagonal format. After pouring Spiritual Energy inside, the plate shined, and a passage was opened in the formation. Another bandit inside who had the same kind of plate then came out.

"Boss, how come you came back so earlier? We were expecting you a few days later. Also, why are there so few people in the group? Where is the other half?"

Lovak shook his head and used a Spiritual Sense message to tell everything at once. The guy, obviously, was taken aback by what he heard.

Lovak ignored his expression and asked something else.

"How was it? Where you attacked in the past few days?"

The guy pondered a bit, and they explained.

"I can't say that we didn't get attacked. However, but it was quite weird."

He then explained how a day ago, many Stage One demon beasts charged at the fort, just to get killed by the formation. However, they didn't cause any damage whatsoever.

"Did you check the formation?"

The guy nodded.

"I thought it was weird, so I gave a quick check. The protection formation is fine and working 100%."

Lovak narrowed his eyes.

'Could it be that the enemy sent those demon beasts to test the prowess of the formation? Since he stopped sending those demon beasts, most likely, he finished his probing. In the end, did he give up?'

Lovak then looked at his subordinates and ordered.

"Let's go inside. Reabar, Laxin, take Kalan and go check the formation one more time. This time, do a proper check to guarantee that there is nothing wrong. Also, lock all the women in prison, no one is to leave or use them without second order. Lastly, check the entire fort to see if anyone sneaked inside."

Kalan was the name of the bandit who also had the Formation Plate.

"Yes, Boss!"

As Reabar and Laxin left, the rest of the group entered the fort with Lovak. Around two hours later, Reabar, Kalan, and Laxin returned to Lovak's side.

"Boss, we checked the entire formation. It is working perfectly fine."

Lovak narrowed his eyes. His group didn't get attacked on their way here. However, someone tried to test the defenses of his fort while at it. Still, no damage was found. Nevertheless, he couldn't help but feel that he was missing something vital.

"Did you check the entire fort? Was there really no one hiding or anything out of place?"

The other subordinates around Lovak all shook their heads.

"We did, Boss. There was really no one hidden anywhere."

"What about the women we captured, was there anything between them?"

"No, Boss. We locked all of them, as you instructed. Unless they are gods, they won't be able to leave."

Lovak's guts kept telling him that something was wrong. It was just a feeling, but he couldn't where the problem was. Still, he was already back into his fort, and he even retrieved all the formations' plates, so only he could control it now. If anything, this was the safest place he could be at the moment.

Time passed, and the night time arrived. Because of Lovak's orders, the fort had several guards standing by in several places. It was evident that he was concerned that they might get attacked at any moment. However, the next day arrived, and nothing happened at all. Then came the second, third, fourth...

A week later, the guards around the fortress began to disappear. Their alertness dropped, and even Lovak began to relax.

One day, Roan looked at the sky and then the fort before showing a faint smile during the night time.

"It's time."

Death... and me

Chapter 155: Driving a Car

It was quite hard to hold Luina and the other two during this time. Roan explained that the bandits' awareness was too high, so they had to wait for them to drop their guard first. Still, a mission that was supposed to only last at most one week had been going for eleven days already.

"So we are going to act? Finally!"

Roan sighed and warned them.

"Don't drop your guard, there is a lot of them inside that fortress, and one is even at the Core Formation Realm."

Luina and the others nodded. After that, Roan began to move silently to the fort while the rest followed him. It was night time, and the number of guards had decreased quite a lot. Thanks to that, they were able to approach the fort without being detected.

Luina was expecting Roan to do something to the formation when they arrived in front of it. But who would think that Roan would step inside of it without doing anything? Luina, Oritis, and Rolim's hearts almost stopped after seeing that.

However, nothing happened at all. The formation that was supposed to activate didn't even ripple. It was as if Roan wasn't there at all!

"How's that possible?!"

Roan frowned as he cast a cold glare at Luina. Right after, he sent her a Spiritual Sense message.

"Didn't I say to be quiet? Are you trying to call everyone out?"

Luina immediately shut her mouth and looked in the direction of the fort. Fortunately, she didn't talk too loud. It seemed like no one heard her, either. With a heart full of doubts and some embarrassment, she stepped inside the formation with Rean and the others too. Her group was ready to flee at any moment, but their worries proved unnecessary. The formation also didn't notice their presence.

Roan then entered the fort with the others without anyone noticing. He went up to an advantageous location and took a deep look down. After confirming all the bandits' positions, he retreated.

"Alright. If I'm not wrong, all the hostages must be in the building in the northwest. Oritis and Rolim will be responsible for them. Once I give the signal, run there as fast as you can. You don't need to worry about the others; the three of us will take care of them."

Oritis and Rolim looked at the building in the distance felt a chill on their back. There were really quite a lot of enemies on the way. It didn't matter how they looked at the idea. It seemed suicide.

Roan understood what they were thinking but didn't say anything. At this point, they should have understood that they could at least trust his commands.

"Now!"

Oritis and Rolim greeted their teeth and began to run. They were already expecting that the moment they appeared, all the enemies would pounce on them. However, none of them did such a thing. It wasn't that they didn't see those two, but that they didn't have time to deal with them.

At this very moment, the fort's formation activated, and attacked all the bandits at once!

Rean couldn't help but smile at that scene. At the same time, he sent a message to someone else.

'Sister Orb, it seems like you have no problem driving this car.'

[Hahaha! It took some time for me to finish analyzing this formation. But now that I know, no one will be able to take control over it anymore.]

That's right. Sister Orb had said it before. She can't learn how to build the formations, but it isn't a problem for her to know how to use them. All she had to do was to seize the control away after seeing how it worked. That's also why they sent Demon Beasts to activate it several times.

The bandits that weren't sleeping were already very lucky. They were able to react and still try to fend the Spiritual Energy Swords summoned by the formation. However, the majority was still sleeping, especially after so many days of an intense watch.

Roan didn't wait eleven days just so that the bandits would drop their guard. Above all, he knew that the bandits would continuously watch and feel the pressure from Lovak's orders. Now that so many days passed and no one attacked them, their nerves finally relaxed, and they fell to their fatigue. In the end, the majority began to sleep due to their exhaustion.

Too bad, though. Sister Orb could see every single one of them with her ability to control the formation. She didn't miss that chance and focused most of the formation's power on those sleeping dummies. Sure enough, almost all of them died after being pierced by the formation's Spiritual Energy Swords. In one instant, over 70% of the bandits were sent to the next world.

Of course, those who survived such a sudden assault had high combat ability and awareness. So, other than those who were already awakened, the remaining ones were the cream of the crop in the Gold Hands Bandit Group.

Oritis and Rolim felt excited about what they saw. They rushed forward while slaughtering everyone in their way. It would be one thing if the enemy was only paying attention at them, but they were all too

busy trying to survive the power of the formation. Once those two Peak Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators appeared close to them, their fate was sealed.

In just a few seconds, the two reached the building that Roan appointed. That should be the one with the hostages. But just as they were about to enter, the door of one of the buildings behind them exploded in hundreds of pieces!

From inside, Lovak, Reabar, and Laxin came out. When Lovak saw the situation, his expression went dark! He immediately took his formation plate and tried to use it, but there was simply no response. Only now he understood the enemy's plan. The formation that he relied for so long upon turned out to be his fort's weak point!

He noticed Oritis and Rolim in the distance. Immediately, found out that they were just Foundation Establishment Cultivators. Obviously, he felt enraged.

"I'll kill you!"

Spiritual Energy exploded from his body as he immediately pounced at those two. However, it was at this moment that he felt immense danger. It was nothing but his instincts, but he was sure that he had to do something, or he would die. Suddenly, six Swords of Dark and Light came at him from both his sides.

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

Sure enough, Rean and Roan didn't lose the chance to make a sneak attack!

Death... and me

Chapter 156: Fifth Form!

In that moment of life and death, Lovak didn't panic. After being a bandit for so long, he definitely had had his own near-death experiences. Still, he came out on top and even cultivated all the way up to the Core Formation Realm. He was really a rarity considering his background.



Lovak didn't try to block any of the swords. Instead, he concentrated his entire Spiritual Energy on his legs and accelerated! It looked like a suicide answer, but surprisingly, it worked. It wasn't that Rean or Roan didn't react in time, but that their speed wasn't fast enough to cover for that. Thanks to that, the twins' attacks only left small cuts on his body. Nonetheless, Lovak was alarmed. That's because he understood there all six swords were real! He thought that from the six, four of them would be fake. Obviously, the six cuts around his body proved that he was wrong.

Even though Lovak escaped, Roan's mind was as clear as ever, and it also affected Rean, who was connected to him by the Light and Dark Thread in their souls.

'Turn!'

Almost with impeccable coordination, the twins made a turn and rushed at him. Lovak was taken aback by their movement, but when he noticed the twins' Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment, he snorted. He felt that those two wouldn't be able to reach him in time, so he was preparing to counter-attack.

Too bad, though. Lovak was still within their range!

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Two rays of dark and white were shot against his head and heart at a frightening speed. Lovak's heart couldn't help but skip a bit, seeing it. The inertia of his last acceleration was still acting on his body, so he wouldn't be able to turn to the sides in time.

"Ahhhh!"

Lovak let out a shout, and his legs exploded with Spiritual Energy once more. Instead of trying to dodge to the sides, he stomped the ground with all his might, which immediately made his body soar in the air. Rean and Roan's Stellar Pierce missed the targets by a hair, but still hit his body, leaving two small blood holes. However, Lovak was relieved. The places he got hit weren't that serious.

He had used his full strength to jump, but he isn't a Core and Fusion Realm cultivator. That being said, he can't use his Spiritual Energy to fly yet. Nonetheless, he could still use it to control his descent... or so he planned at first.

Before his body even reached half of the way into the air, Rean and Roan stopped right bellow him. If one looked closely, they would see an explosion of Light Element on Rean and Roan's Legs. Still, their instances made Lovak have a foreboding feeling. All his disdain for these young twins with mixed Black and White hair had already disappeared completely. In his eyes, they could totally fight at his levels and potentially kill him. Sure enough...

'Death Style, Fourth Form, Soaring Dragon!'

Rean and Roan soared in the skies at a speed that far surpassed Lovak's jump. Their swords were sheathed, but Lovak's Spiritual Sense could tell the amount of Spiritual Energy inside their sheaths. The moment they bring their swords out, it would be a fearsome strike. Lovak was already feeling helpless.

'Just how many techniques those two know?'

Everything happened in a blink of an eye. Lovak then used his Spiritual Energy to adjust his position as he brought his saber forth. Even though Rean and Roan acted in unison, there was a small difference in their ascension. Rean would reach him just a split of a second earlier than Roan. Lovak used the breath moment to parry Rean's attack with his saber.

\*Bang! Crack!\*

At that very moment, Lovak was shocked. He has a High-Level Spiritual Saber, but a small section of it was still damaged with that first parry. Yet, he didn't have time to think. He used the first strike force to maneuver his saber faster just in time to block Roan's one.

\*Bang! Crack, Crack!\*

Lovak was sent flying as Rean and Roan continued to soar for a while. However, Lovak didn't lose his concentration. He knows that the formation in his fort is in the enemy's hands, so he had to be ready to

fend off any of the Spiritual Energy Swords of the formation. However, contrary to his expectations, not a single Spiritual Energy Sword appeared until now.

He finally landed on the ground and quickly looked around. All the Foundation Establishment Bandits were busy dealing with the formation. Reabar and Laxin were busy fighting Luina, who had the support of the formation. The only reason they were still holding Luina back was that the formation was also dealing with all the other bandits around. That being said, Sister Orb couldn't use more power to help Luina. Instead, she had to keep the rest of the bandits at bay, and it would take some time for her to get rid of them.

As for Oritis and Rolim, they had already entered the building where the hostages were being held. They would probably take some time before getting rid of all the enemies inside too.

Finally, Lovak understood, the formation was impressive, but it couldn't against him at the moment.

\*Thud, thud.\*

Lovak looked a few tens of meters away and saw that Rean and Roan had finally landed on the ground as well. More impressively was that the two of them began to walk in his direction with their sword in hands. Lovak then took a deep breath. He finally got rid of his passive instance, where he could only defend. Now, he can finally initiate his attacks as well.

"From your robes, it seems like you are from Dalamu and Lagan Sects. I have sent to the next world quite a few of your members, but it seems like your sects finally decided to take us seriously. Although you two are just kids, you are still the most fearsome enemies I ever battled. However, as long as I get rid of you two, I can win this battle. I will then leave this country and start a new group elsewhere. But first, you need to die."

Roan smiled before saying.

"As expected of a Core Formation Realm. Even though you are just in the Initial Stage, you are still alive after this many attacks. You said it right. As long as you take us down, our group will lose. But do you think it will be this easy?"

Lovak shook his head.

"It won't, but I'm confident in my strength."

Roan nodded.

"Good! Then you are worthy of being the first one to see this technique."

Lovak looked at them and understood that things were not good for his side. He raised his saber as Spiritual Energy began to run around his body at high speeds. One could hear the cracking of his bones and tighten the flesh, showing that he was using Spiritual Energy beyond what his body could handle.

'Rumbling Core!'

That was a skill that he developed himself during one of his moments of life and death. It increased his overall strength by almost 50%! However, he could only keep it for at most a minute. If he doesn't finish his enemy before that, his body will definitely collapse to the backlash.

As Lovak activated his technique, Rean and Roan did the same with theirs. They raised their swords against each other as they kept looking at Lovak. Light and Dark Element began to flow through both swords without stop. However, those elements weren't being exchanged through their Soul Connection alone. The Light and Dark elements also started to flow through the air, entering each other's swords. At that moment, their limit of Elemental Exchange was broken, raising to another level altogether. Both Exchanged Elements then ran through their swords and entered their bodies as well. At this moment, Rean and Roan had never used so much of each other's Dark and Light Element.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Death... and me

Chapter 157: Lovak's Decision

Without wasting any time with words, they attacked.

Rean and Roan shot forward with a speed that far surpassed what they had used until now. But that wasn't all. The moment they left their position, there wasn't only two, but six of them! Three Reans and three Roans at the same time!

Lovak was taken aback by that. The worst thing was that his Spiritual Sense couldn't tell which one was real and which one was false. But then he remembered the first attack he received during that ambush. At that moment, all six swords coming at him were real. He still could feel the pain of the cuts left behind by all six slashes. That being said, he didn't dare think that there would be fake images. He treated every single one as real!

Lovak didn't stay still. Instead, he began to retreat so that he wouldn't be surrounded by the twins. At the same time, he released waves of Spiritual Energy released through his Saber one after another.

Still, Rean and Roan were moving too fast! Because of a small mistake, four of the six mirages came surrounded him and launched attacks together!

Lovak didn't panic, though. Spiritual Energy burst out of his Saber as he struck the ground with it.

\*Boom!\*

The ground broke as dirt and stones splashed everywhere around him. As fast as Rean and Roan could be, they couldn't dodge those things if there was no space to do so. Without any other choice, they could only defend themselves.

Lovak noticed that two of the copies slowed down and took that opportunity to charge out of the encirclement. Of course, he didn't stop there. He now understood where Rean and Roan were located and immediately launched his attacks against the two.

Fortunately, Lovak's proficiency with his Saber was far behind Rean and especially Roan's ability with Swords. However, that wasn't all. Lovak's Rumbling Core technique made his attacks reach the power of a Middle Stage Core Formation Realm. Even though Rean and Roan had more skill, they would suffer from holding back Lovak's sheer raw power.

Too bad, though. Lovak just had to fight these twins. Just like they did with the Stage 3 Inferno Wolf, Rean and Roan once again joined hands to fend the enemy's attacks together!

\*Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang!\*

In just a few seconds, both sides exchanged several attacks. Lovak, of course, couldn't believe what he saw. He attacked them because he was sure they wouldn't resist the difference in power. But Rean and Roan combined their strengths to fight him together. Both Swords moved as if they were being controlled by the same person. The combination was so perfect that even Lovak wouldn't believe if he wasn't seeing it with his own eyes.

Lovak didn't continue for long, though. Not that he didn't want, but because he couldn't. Lovak only fended off four enemies with his ground attack. There were still two of them free.

Still, those last two were a little further, so they could only use their ranged attacks.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Another two rays of Light and Dark Energy came flying at Lovak's body, which greatly alarmed him.

'The copies can use the techniques too?!'

Without another choice, he could only give up his assault and dodge. Of course, Rean and Roan wouldn't miss such a chance. Much less the other two copies that finished passing through the rubbles. They knew that Lovak wouldn't expect that they could defend against his attacks, which would create an aperture.

'Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

'Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

'First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Right where Lovak dodged, another three waves of sword attacks came at him. Lovak felt his heart skip. He immediately brandished his Saber, sending a powerful wave of Spiritual Energy sweeping all the swords coming at him. At the same time, he jumped away. Of course, he couldn't possibly eliminate all attacks. Only a third of their power was blocked. Still, that just gave him enough time to escape death or being severely injured.

At this moment, Lovak was in a dilemma. There were way too many enemies for him to deal alone. If things continued like this, he would definitely lose. However, he understood that just like his Rumbling Core Technique, the twins' technique definitely put a great burden on their Spiritual Energy too. In theory, as a Core Formation Realm cultivator, he should be able to battle for longer.

However, what if he was wrong? Every second that his Rumbling Core was active, the worse became his situation.

Lovak then spread his Spiritual Sense around once more. As soon as he did that, he felt a cold chill on his back. His companions were falling one after another. Soon, the power of the formation will be redirected at him. Even if he wins this battle, he might not have enough power to revert the situation and retake control of the formation. Chances were he would die trying.

\*swish, swish!\*

Once again, Lovak dodged two Stellar Piercers from Rean and Roan. At the same time, he finally began to feel the backlash of his Rumbling Core Technique. In the end, Lovak gritted his teeth and made a decision.

'Run!'

Spiritual Energy gathered around his legs as he jumped in a different direction from Rean and Roan. In a moment, he was already on top of the Fort Walls. There was nothing wrong with that decision. One must remember, Lovak is a bandit, not an upright person. He definitely wouldn't give up his life just to keep his honor, that's for sure.

Rean and Roan noticed what he was trying to do, and so did Sister Orb. She then deviated some of the formation's power and tried to block Lovak's escaping route. Rean and Roan also rushed at him.

Unfortunately, Lovak was still using his Rumbling Core. Not to mention that the formation's power wasn't all focused on him. Using brute force, he broke through the Spiritual Energy Swords, quickly leaving the formation's range.

Roan looked at that and raised his hand.

"Let him go."

Rean stopped as well and didn't say anything. Immediately after, their copies turned into specs of Light and Dark Energies, quickly disappearing. Rean's knees then fell on the floor while he used his Sword to maintain equilibrium. Although Roan didn't fall, he was very close to do that as well. In the end, Lovak was right. Rean and Roan's Fifth Form of the Death Style was extremely burdensome to the body. One would wonder which side would fall first.

Rean then took a deep breath and channeled his Spiritual Energy, promptly gathering the Light Element on the surroundings. He used it to alleviate the pressure in his body after they canceled the technique. He also sent a wave of Light Energy into Roan's body through their Soul Connection to help him recover. Roan, of course, didn't complain.

"In the end, he was too much for both of us."

Roan shook his head.

"What I didn't expect was that he had a technique that could increase his power so much. There was nothing we could do about that. Also, don't look down at what we did. Different from the Inferno Wolf, we were fighting a real human being. Someone who had intelligence! Not to mention that he definitely went through several life and death situations in his life. If we battled that Inferno Wolf again while using the fifth form, that demon beast would have died 10 times over already."

Roan wasn't discouraged by the result. His objective during this mission was very simple, acquiring combat experience! This last battle against Lovak left nothing for him to complain about.

Rean nodded and didn't say anything else. Around a minute later, he got up and looked around with Roan. At the same time, they saw Oritis and Rolim returning from the building that they thought the



hostages were locked inside. From the looks of it, they finished their job too. Luina was still battling the sub-leaders of the group, but it was evident that her enemies wouldn't last much longer. Not to mention that Sister Orb began to shift more and more of the formation's power towards them.

Roan's expression didn't change, though.

"Let's finish cleaning."

By the end of the assault at the Gold Hands Bandit Group's Nest, only their Leader escaped. The rest was utterly wiped out.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 158: Shadow Reapers

The cleaning didn't take long to finish. With Lovak's escapade, the rest of the bandits simply had no chance to resist. Without any other choice, they all spread and tried to flee as well. Too bad, though. Cultivators at the level of Reabar and Laxin were few. Rean and Roan only had to pay attention to those. As for the weaker ones, Sister Orb was more than enough to get rid of them with the formation.

After the last one of them fall, Luina and the rest gathered together once more.

"Well, although Lovak escaped, we still concluded our mission. In fact, any other group would probably have failed, so we should feel satisfied. Oritis, Rolim, what about the hostages?"

The two Lagan Sect guys nodded.

"They were all locked up. Although the hostages' conditions were not that good, the fact they were behind bars made things a lot easier. We were even able to prevent anyone from trying to use them as shields or anything like that."

Luina sighed in relief. She knew that there would loads of women there, so she was happy that they didn't get involved during the assault.

"Nice, let's go take a look at them."

Oritis and Rolim looked at each other and then back at Luina.

"Senior Luina should stay here while we treat them. You definitely won't like to see how they look at the moment."

Luina was taken aback.

Roan, on the other hand, couldn't care less.

"Stop wasting time with sentimentalism. Dr. Wilson is here, so he can take care of their injuries, let's go there."

Oritis and Rolin didn't know what Roan meant with Dr. Wilson, but they guided everyone into the cells anyway. Sure enough, Luina's expression went extremely dark. Most of the women weren't too bad. Some were even clean, showing that the bandits that got them liked their appearance. But there were a few exceptions. Their conditions were too gruesome for her to even look at. Not to mention the ones who were clearly dead. Not having any clothes was the least of their problems.

Of course, they could also see a few kids here and there, which were probably children of the bandits themselves. A few of the women were pregnant too.

Roan looked at all of that as well before commenting.

"Well, that's to be expected. When you gather a high number of scums, there is bound to be one or another that is far worse than the rest. That's the world we live in. Regardless, they are already lucky enough that we have Rean in this group. Otherwise, I believe that some might even die before we could bring any help."

Luina then took a deep breath and immediately began to release all these women. Of course, there weren't only women. They found a few men who most likely had good backgrounds, which could be used for ransom. Nonetheless, they didn't make up for even 1/10 of the total of the hostages.

Oritis and Rolim quickly left to look for a few clothes to cover those without. Rean also stepped forward and began to heal the women who were in the worst condition. Just as he had mentioned before, the majority wasn't even at the Energy Gathering Realm, so it was relatively easy for him to heal them with his actual cultivation. Too bad that some had already lost limbs, so he couldn't do anything about that.

Of course, Rean wasn't able to heal everyone at once. He had just finished a tough battle and had little Spiritual Energy left. He only stabilized them and sat down to recover his Spiritual Energy. Fortunately, Spirit Stones were the least of his problems.

Several kilometers away, Lovak was still running without stop. Although he turned off his Rumbling Core ability, he was still an Initial Stage Core Formation Realm cultivator. No one in Rean's group would be able to catch him anymore. Around one hour later, he finally stopped to rest. He sat down and regulated his breath, thinking about his next step after here. However...

"You don't really think you can escape after what you did to all those women, do you?"

Lovak's heart skipped a bit. He promptly spread his Spiritual Sense, but he couldn't find anyone. Suddenly, he noticed a shadow of a person coming walking in his direction. Immediately, he began to sweat cold. The person was definitely inside his Spiritual Sense range, but he couldn't feel at all. That could only mean one thing, that person's cultivation far surpassed his own.

Finally, he was able to see who it was. It was a woman using a black robe, long black hair, and eyes. She looked to be in her late twenties or so, but Lovak was sure that that appearance didn't represent her real age at all.

'Rumbling Core!'

Lovak didn't even care about the side effects of reusing this skill so early again. All he knew was that he would die if he didn't run straight away. Unfortunately, the very moment he tried to give the first step forward, his body froze in place.

Lovak's expression showed horror. That woman was holding him in place with the power of her Spiritual Energy alone!

"Na-Nascent Soul Realm!"

The woman smiled after hearing that.

"Aren't you a smart kid?"

Lovak felt like the pressure was crushing his bones, but he still did his best to squeeze a few words.

"Se-Senior, spare... me! I'll do... anything!"

The woman showed some surprise on her face.

"Anything?"

"Y-Yes!"

She approached him before touching his heart with her finger. It was nothing more than a light touch, but Lovak's expression showed despair at that moment. His body began to freeze from that point onwards. The woman then whispered in his ear.

"Then die for me."

Lovak's body completely froze up after that. The woman then retreated her hand and snapped her fingers.

\*Crack, crack...\*

Lovak's frozen body cracked all over before crumbling down. Right after, it began to turn into specs of frozen dust that drifted away with the wind. It didn't take long for his body to completely disappear.

Suddenly, another voice appeared in the surroundings.

"So scary... As expected of one of the Core Elders of the Dalamu Sect."

A man then appeared on a nearby tree as he looked at the woman.

"Long time no see, Tiria."

Sure enough, that woman was the same one that Rean healed back then, Tiria Yinsan. She didn't seem surprised seeing that man. She just smiled back at him before saying.

"Long time indeed. How have you been, Galios?"

"Not too bad. Still, I didn't expect the Dalamu Sect to sent someone like you to watch over those kids."

Tiria laughed a little before answering back in the same coin.

"Are you the one to talk? How come you are watching over a few kids? Is there someone special in your Lagan Sect's group?"

Galios shrugged his shoulders.

"You could say that. Well, I guess we both have our reasons to not let anything happen to our kids. By the way, I heard you had been hit by elder Furen's Umbral Energy attack a while ago. How come you are fine already? "

Tiria's expression turned dark after hearing that name.

"Hmph! As if he could really do that with me."

Galios laughed after that.

"Alright, alright. Let's leave that aside. My sect doesn't want anyone to know that our little girl is going out to train. After all, it would make things complicated if certain people were to know about it. I believe that Dalamu also doesn't want anyone to look into those twins either. How about we pretend that neither of us saw anything?"

Tiria took a deep breath and nodded.

"That sounds good for me."

The two Nascent Soul experts seemed to have an agreement. There was nothing else to be said after that, so they both left.

Tiria's eyes flashed with a cold light on her way back. She reached her pocket and took off a small black token. This token had nothing to do with her talk with Galios. Instead, she found it on the body of a Middle Stage Core and Fusion Realm assassin that followed Rean and Roan after they left the sect. She had killed that guy way before the twins met with Luina's group.

That token had a scythe picture being held by a shadow. Other than that, there was only a number, nothing more.

'The Shadow Reapers... Sect Master was right.'

She then put the token away before disappearing into the night.

Death... and me

Chapter 159: Conclusion

Time passed, and Rean eventually healed every one. Oritis and Rolim already brought back clothes for those women to use. Luina, as the only woman in their group, was responsible for talking with them. Some teared up straight away and wept for hours. Others had bleak expressions, showing that they already had a mental breakdown a long time ago. Nonetheless, Luina treated all of them carefully.

Sometime later, Rean and Roan went inside the Fort and began to look for their spoils. Sure enough, the place was packed with Spirit Stones, Treasures, Medicines, Art Pieces, etc. However, what really called Rean's attention was a large number of High-Quality Materials for forging. Not only that, but there were even a few Peak Quality ones. That's was the main reason they took this job to start with, so Rean was obviously ecstatic.

Luina noticed Rean's happy face and couldn't help but ask.

"Did you find something you like?"

Rean nodded and then looked at Luina's group.

"Yes. You might not know this, but I'm a blacksmith myself. These metals are essential to me. How about it? I will take all the materials, and you can have the rest. Does it sound fair?"

Luina, Oritis, and Rolin were taken aback. They could see a large amount of metal available. But above that, there were many other things, specially Rank Two Spirit Stones. Would he really trade everything just for those ores?

"No can do, it was the two of you who made most of the job. You should take a few more things than just the ores available."

Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry, this is very fair. You can't identify those ores and materials, but I can. Believe me when I say that I won't be losing. If anything, it would be a lot harder to acquire all of this with Spirit Stones alone."

Luina looked at the two behind her, and they nodded their heads at her. None of them were blacksmiths, so the other treasures were a lot more useful to them.

"Alright. Then let's do like you said."

With everything resolved, they separated everything. Later, they went back to rest as well.

However, before that, Luina had to ask something else that was puzzling her.

"How exactly did you take control of the formation?"

Roan smiled and took a hexagonal plate from his robe.

"Simple, I had a similar formation plate. All I had to do was see how the formation worked, and the change it to control the formation myself. However, don't ask where I got it. Don't ask how I did it either. That's all a secret."

Luina's group was surprised to hear that, but at least they had an answer now. Of course, Rean and Roan knew that it was just a lie, but it was better than tell her about Sister Orb.

At some point, Roan disappeared from the Fort. Rean then quickly explained that he went back to Cinquel City to call for help. They wouldn't be able to move all these ordinary people on their own, after all. They didn't need to feel afraid of anything while in this place. The formation was in Sister Orb's hand, and she didn't need to sleep, so she could protect everyone even if they were resting. Besides, the bandits left more than enough provisions for them to use.

Three days later, a group with a hundred or so City Guards from Cinquel City arrived. The formation opened and let everyone inside. They were surprised to see this Fort in the middle of nowhere. But above all, they confirmed that Roan wasn't lying in his report. Rean, Roan, and Luina then talked with the captain of those guards. They also passed back the plate that could control the formation for them to use.

"Alright. The mission is concluded, let's go back to Cinquel City. We need to report back to Uive and deliver the heads of the two sub-leaders."

Luina couldn't help but ask.



"What about our prizes in the fort?"

Rean shrugged his shoulder before saying.

"I already had my metals sent back to my sect. It's up to you what you will do with your part."

Oritis, Rolin, and Luina were shocked to hear that. Just when was it that they moved all those metals away? They didn't see anything at all! In the end, Luina's group decided to give up understanding these twins.

"Give me a second."

Luina left her group and went to talk with the captain of the city guards' group. After passing her token as a Lagan Sect Disciple, she instructed that those were their rewards of the assault. Later, her sect members would come to help bring everything away. She wasn't afraid of anyone stealing anything. Very few would be idiot enough to buy a fight against one of the five Major Sects.

"Alright. Shall we go?"

Everyone nodded and departed.

Back in Cinquel City, Uive was already expecting their return. After all, Roan had come to ask for a group to move the hostages in the Fort. As mentioned before, they brought Reabar and Laxin's heads, which was enough to prove their success.

"So, Lovak escaped in the end."

Roan nodded.

"There wasn't much we could do since he was stronger than I predicted. I was quite surprised by that ability that increased his combat power by an entire stage. I don't know if he was lying or not, but before

we went through our last clash, he said he would leave the country if he survived. You might try to ask the border patrols to keep a look around. As for if you will find him or not, that I don't know."

Uive nodded, still finding it hard to believe that Rean and Roan really fought Lovak in that state to a standstill. Talented cultivators being found in the five Major Sects is normal. But the twins far surpassed those other talents he saw in the past. Not to mention that he still felt bewildered with how mature Rean and Roan seemed every time they talked.

"Very well, I'll pass this order over to the border. It will be almost impossible to find Lovak, but at least he won't be our problem anymore. I doubt he will begin another group after what he experienced here."

Uive continued.

"Leaving that aside. Here are the tokens that represent the accomplishment of the mission. Also, you can go to the treasure room and take what was agreed before."

Rean's eyes lit up after hearing that. After all, he had some extra High-Level material to take as the reward for completing the mission. Roan didn't say anything since he only came for the combat experience. Luina's group was also ecstatic. From the looks of it, the rewards agreement between Cinquel City and the Lagan Sect was different from Dalamu Sect.

Rean couldn't use the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm in front of everyone, so he simply selected the things he wanted and told the guards to deliver it in Dalamu Sect. It would take a few days for them to arrive, but he didn't care since he got a lot from the bandit's Fort.

In fact, the number of High-Level Ores and other materials for forging in the bandit's lair was higher than the payment for accomplishing the mission. One could imagine how happy Rean was at the moment. Rean and Roan then talked with Uive once more before bidding their farewells.

On their way out, they met with Luina's group once more.

"Thanks for the help in the mission. Without the two of you, we definitely wouldn't have succeeded. Chances are that someone would have even died in the end."

Roan just waved his hand and continued on his way. Rean, of course, could only sigh helplessly.

"Well, I guess you already expected this kind of reaction of him."

Luina, Oritis, and Rolin couldn't help but laugh. Indeed, after so many days together, they already understood that it would be meaningless to ask Roan to act like any other person.

"Anyway, I'll be leaving too. See you around."

"Wait!"

Rean stopped and looked back at Luina. She then took a token from her bag and passed it to him.

"If you need help in the future, you can send this token to our Lagan Sect. I will know that it was you. Just attach a message to it, and I will know where to go as well."

Rean took the token and smiled back at her.

"Alright."

After that, he ran to catch up with Roan.

Luina then sighed as she looked at Roan's black hair and his back in the distance.

'If just he wasn't a kid...'

She then turned around and left with her subordinates.

Rean and Roan quickly arrived where they left their flying Demon Beast. The people working there seemed to already be used to it, so their Mountain Eagle was well treated. They quickly mounted it and left, going back to the Dalamu Sect.

Death... and me

Chapter 160: Back to Dalamu

On their way back, Rean and Roan passed by Majorias City. There were a lot of Spirit Stones for Rean to retrieve and a few more High-Quality materials to get from Folca. Sure enough, Rean heard from Folca that his Steel Equipments got very popular among the low-level cultivators. Cheaper than a Low-Level Spiritual Equipment, but at the same time better than them. How could it not make a success?

After they left the Janariz Workshop, Rean decided to ask Sister Orb something.

'Sister orb, my Steel Weapons are spreading even more. Did we get a lot of Destiny points?'

Roan also got interested in that question.

[You did get a few Destiny Points. At the moment, you have 341. As you can see, you didn't get that many. Also, the number that you will gain from now on will decrease even more.]

Rean was taken aback. Steel weapons would probably get more and more popular. They will spread much further, and the number of users much higher. How could the point gained from it decrease?

Roan pondered a bit and then thought about a possibility.

'If I'm not wrong, that's because there is a limit of how many Destiny Points we can gain doing the same thing. Am I correct?'

[You are. You can say that this is a limitation gave by the Soul Gem System itself to prevent you from getting stuck. If you kept doing the same thing to get illimited Destiny Points, you wouldn't try to do anything anymore. From what I can see here, your Steel Equipments won't give more than a hundred points or so. After that, you can forget about getting any Destiny Points from it.]

Rean couldn't help but sigh. Still, if he was the one who developed the system, he would definitely have done the same. Since that was the case, he has no right to complain.

'Well, at least we got over 300 points. We should take this chance to buy the Soul Connection Range Upgrade.'

Roan agreed with Rean. Once they get back to the sect and become free, they will do it straight away. After that, they took the Mountain Eagle once more and departed.

Finally, Rean and Roan came back to the Dalamu Sect. First, they went to report to the Mission Hall the conclusion of their task. After all, they would also get sect points for that. Rank Four Missions give 400 to 800 points depending on their difficulty. The twins would definitely not let it pass.

However, when the disciple got the report of the mission conclusion, he was taken aback.

"What?! You killed two of the leaders and wiped out their nest?"

Rean and Roan got puzzled. They were only reporting the mission conclusion, was there a need to be that impressed?

However, the other disciples working at that moment also came to take a look. A minute later, even the elder in charge appeared. He checked the report and confirmed that it was the real deal. He couldn't help but look at Rean and Roan with shock in his eyes.

"I didn't expect that someone would be successful in this mission anytime soon. Let alone two brats at the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment Realm. However, the seal in the report can't be faked, so I can only accept it. Congratulations, considering the level of the mission and your cultivation, there will be a bonus for its conclusion."

Roan finally understood what was happening. He then used the Soul Connection to explain it to Rean.

'Do you remember when we found out that quite a few disciples tried this mission before and failed?'

Rean nodded and waited for Roan to continue.

'Well, it seems like the number of fails was a lot higher than I thought. For them to act like this, it looks like quite a few teams had a bad time fighting the Gold Hands Bandit Group. So it is understandable that they can't believe we succeed.'

Rean couldn't help but nod. Otherwise, there would be no reason to be this shocked just because they concluded a mission. After all, mission conclusions are reported several times per day.

A disciple quickly processed the results and then asked Rean and Roan's Sect badge.

"This mission had an initial reward of 620 Sect Points. It was quite a big reward for this rank. However, it was allocated for Peak Stage Foundation Establishment Realm Disciples or Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm ones. Since you could complete it while not being carried by the others, you will get a 20% bonus due to your cultivation levels. Each of you got 744 Sect Points."

Rean smiled and took his badge back. Roan's expression didn't change much, though. After that, they put their badges back and left. The disciples and the Mission Hall couldn't help but take one last look at those twins. The other disciples of the sect might not know that mission very well. Still, because they are the ones working here, they knew how annoying that mission was becoming after so many fails. Recently, they had even considered whether they should increase this mission's level to rank 5 instead.

The elder then looked at the seal used when the twins took the mission. That was Elder Hulian's token, which allowed talented disciples to take higher-level assignments than their cultivation allowed.

'Hulian really found quite good seeds. I can already see him bragging with the other inner sect elders when he finds out about this. Oh well, I'm just an outer sect elder, that has nothing to do with me.'

Rean and Roan didn't do anything else after that. Instead, the twins just went back to their rooms so that they could enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and take their time buying the Soul Connection Range Upgrade.

Surprisingly, they just happened to bump into Julio and Lenna on their way in.

"Oh, there you are. How was your mission?"

Rean smiled before saying.

"It went quite well. What about you, have you decided to take a mission already?"

Julio and Lenna laughed after that.

"We already did. Lenna and I went to the Mission Hall with Mizan. The three of us took a demon beast subjugation task in Lanoy Village after that. Yet, I didn't think we would conclude our mission before you. It's been over a week since we came back."

Rean nodded after hearing that.

"Well, our mission was quite far away, and it did take some time to wrap everything up. But it's good to see that you went out to train."

After that, the four of them talked a little more. Well, Roan didn't say much in the end. The only time he spoke was when Julio and Lenna asked him about their progress with the Death Style and their doubts about it. Other than that, he kept silent.

"Alright! Lenna and I still have something to do. See you two later."

Rean and Roan nodded and were just about to leave when Julio remembered something else.

"Oh, right! Malaka came here a week ago looking for the two of you."

The twins stopped and looked back to hear the rest.

"Did she need something?"

Julio nodded.

"She said something about a promise Rean made with her, but she didn't talk about the details."

Rean immediately remembered that promise. He told her back in the Blue Orchid District that he would take her out to play as long as she finished the Spiritual Rebirth.

"Also, she said that her Senior Sisters would take her out for a mission, so she would come to visit you once she was done with it."

Rean and Roan were surprised to see that Malaka didn't complain about taking a mission. Nevertheless, they thanked Julio and Lenna for delivering the message and went back to their rooms.

'What do you think her mission is about? Should we go to the Mission Hall to check?'

Roan shooked his head.

'That's something she needs, so leave it. We might have promised her parents to take care of her, but we can't be by her side all the time. A mission with other disciples is a good thing for her own independence.'

Rean nodded and then focused on the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Roan did the same thing as him. Right after, the two disappeared from their rooms.