

Death 1641

Death... and me

Chapter 1641: Could Kill

Dipsy nodded, saying, "Oh, I thought that was pretty obvious. Yes, there is. No one above the Void Tempering Realm is allowed to take part. It's simply because the tests were not made with this kind of strength in mind."

"What if someone of that level decided to join Jhiod?" Rean just asked that out of curiosity.

"Hmm... the best way would be to go talk with the representatives of the Jhiod Sect. As to what they will ask that person or demon beast to do in exchange, I don't know. Well, in the case that they allow you to join at all. Whoever is in that situation will have to try by themselves and see what happens," Dipsy explained.

Rean nodded before he looked at the couple of cultivators that arrived. No, Rean quickly noticed that one of them was a demon beast in human form due to its demonic aura. "Sorry for bothering you when you were in the middle of your introduction."

The man shook his head. He was the humanoid race in the duo, although Rean couldn't tell which humanoid race he was from exactly. "There's no problem, my friend. My wife and I have just arrived here as well. We're all new to this."

"Wife?" Rean then looked at the female demon beast by the side. At the moment, all he could tell was that she was some demon beast related to aquatic demon beasts because of the gills that still slightly appeared even in her human form. Then again, he had to pay very close attention to even notice their presence. "That's quite rare. You don't see couples of demon beasts and humanoid races every day."

The man and the woman narrowed their eyes, thinking that Rean was probably judging them. Well, they were used to it anyway. However...

Pa, pa, pa...

Rean patted their shoulders as he laughed. "But who cares? Hahaha! Love goes beyond boundaries, doesn't it? As long as you're happy, anyone else's opinion means jack shit. Besides, she's really beautiful in her human form."

Rean then nodded, suggesting, "Hey, there are quite a few groups forming here to take the tests. How about we go at it together? I'm like very, very, very, very good at healing. By the way, my name is Rean. How should I call you?"

The couple was a little baffled by Rean's sudden reaction. It went totally different than the normal interaction they usually had when they talked about being a couple. "Err... I'm Min..." said the man, absent-minded.

"Y-You can call me Erla." The female demon beast also answered in a slight stupor.

"No, wait!" After that, the man came back to himself. "We haven't decided to try it yet. We only came to this city to check things out first."

Dipsy's eyes lit up after that. His job was to get as many people and demon beasts to take the tests as possible, after all. Whether they were a couple or not couldn't matter less in his eyes. "Oh! Then please, take a look at these jade slips. This is all that awaits you in the Jhiod Continent as part of the Jhiod Sect. It obviously isn't a life without worries. Then again, your chances of growth are much, much better."

Rean agreed with Dipsy. "He's right! Look at everything we can get from it. Can you imagine how good it will be?"

Rean also thought at the same time, 'Well, I haven't even checked the jade slip yet, though... meh! Who cares?' In the end, Rean just had a good feeling about this couple. That was all. Since he was going to join some group already, he might as well create his own.

Meanwhile, Roan also walked around the hall. There were many types of groups. Mixes of demon beasts and humanoid races, only humanoid races, only demon beasts... there were even groups made with only a specific race on both sides. However, Roan suddenly made a stop when he noticed a certain group.

All one could see in that group were one human and one demon beast. However, Roan could see more than that. It was basically the same thing as Rean and Faeries. He could see a conglomeration of Yin Energy standing close to those three... or the effects it caused to the Yin-related elements around it. 'A Spirit? Hmm... well, I'm definitely not the only one who can see it. Void Tempering Realm cultivators and demon beasts can feel them as well with their natural spatial detection.'

In any case, Roan didn't really have a choice in mind, so he decided to give it a try. "Are you looking for more members?"

The human looked at Roan and saw his Middle Stage Transition Realm cultivation. Both he and the demon beast were in the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm, so they obviously thought Roan came to take advantage of their cultivation. "We are, but only those who can be of help. If you want to be carried, go find someone else."

Roan then looked at the conglomeration of Yin Energy after that. "The Spirit Race member over there. Do you also think the same?"

Sure enough, Roan's words caught their attention. However, they quickly understood. Someone in the Void Tempering Realm probably told Roan about the spirit.

The spirit snorted and only let his voice appear. "Hmph! And what could you even do for us?" At the same time, it began to move around Roan.

However, Roan's eyes followed the spirit wherever it went. "First, I would advise you not to fly around me like that since I could kill you straight away."

Death... and me

Chapter 1642: Destiny Brought Me to You

Roan then looked at the human and demon beast in the Void Tempering Realm, saying, "If you two pay very close attention to me with your natural spatial perceptions, you can probably answer this spirit's question."

The human and the demon beast were already surprised Roan could see the spirit. However, what really shocked them was when they did what Roan said. "You!"

It was very, very small. Almost imperceptible even. However, it was definitely there. “You can use Space Power! How?!”

As mentioned before, Void Tempering Realm beings saw each other as if there were black holes in their natural spatial perceptions. They simply couldn’t hide that easily unless they were using some skill capable of doing that. Right now, they could see a very small black point in their perception that was easy to gloss over. Nevertheless, Roan definitely had it in himself. That meant Roan could definitely use Spatial Powers or had natural spatial perception at the very least.

The spirit was also in the Void Tempering Realm, so he was also shocked. “Transition Realm capable of controlling space! Just how the hell did you achieve that?”

Roan shook his head, responding, “Even if you ask me, I have no idea. I just know that ever since I got to the Middle Stage of the Transition Realm, I was able to feel and control a very tiny amount of it. Of course, compared to the three of you, I’m nothing but an ant in this aspect.” Roan then coldly smiled. “However, if we talk about strength alone, then probably even the three of you together wouldn’t be my match.”

Roan’s words obviously didn’t ring very well in the group’s ears. “Are you trying to pick a fight?”

Roan denied it, though. “I just want to join some group, and the fact this spirit is with you caught my attention. I have no intention of having you carry me. It will be enough for me as long as I don’t have to carry you instead. With this Kipos and me there, the four of us will have a much higher chance of concluding the Deep Sea Monster Assault test.”

The spirit couldn’t help but ask, “You seem pretty confident, no?”

Roan nodded, replying, “I’m strong. Simple as that. So, how is it? We still have several days until the Deep Sea Monster Assault test starts. If you want, I don’t mind entering an arena and fighting you to prove my words.”

The human narrowed his eyes in response. “Have you even fought a Void Tempering Realm enemy before?”

Roan nodded, saying, "I fought two of them a few days ago, and I can even sign a Soul Binding Contract stating that I'm telling the truth."

The demon beast snorted in response. "Hmph! What use is there for a Soul Binding Contract in your case? It's the spatial powers that allow others to get rid of the Soul Binding Contract's seal. Since you can use a little bit of it, you probably can get rid of them as well."

Roan had to admit the guy was correct. "Then we can simply fight in an arena."

"There's no need," Suddenly, the spirit intervened. "Let him join the group."

The human and demon beast were taken aback. "Why? Just because he said so? The amount of spatial power he can control is ridiculously low. Sure, we're impressed he can do that at his level, but that's about it."

The spirit then explained, "Have I ever made a bad judgment before ever since we got together?"

Immediately, the other two went quiet. From the looks of it, the spirit was the leader in their group. At the very least, the human and demon beast trusted it quite a lot. "If you say so, then we won't complain."

Roan faintly smiled in response. "That's good."

The spirit then changed the topic. "First, what about our names? I'm Krikei, a member of the Kipos Spirit Race. As far as spirits go, we're quite behind in the Spirit Races' rank and could be said to be fairly common in between."

Roan nodded, saying, "Roan Larks. I'm on a journey to Jhiod, and I found this method to enter it."

The human was the next one. "I'm Lita Subao. Obviously, I'm a human, just like you."

The demon beast in human form was the last one. "Just call me Vrie. I'm a Silver-eyed Black Tarantula."

Krikei immediately took the chance to ask about something that was bothering him after the introductions. "Something tells me that you aren't joking about your strength. If that's the case, why did you come to us? There are several bigger groups around with Transition and Void Tempering Realm members among them. You wouldn't have had so much trouble joining their forces. Not to mention you could prove your strength during the test, so no one would use you like a cannon fodder to scout the front either."

Roan agreed with Krikei. "You are correct. However, there isn't much of a reason for me to approach you. I just so happened to see a spirit, which is a very rare occurrence. Let alone a spirit that's trying to join some power of another continent. So, let's just say that destiny brought me to you."

Death... and me

Chapter 1643: Who Are You?

Lita's mouth twitched after that. "You were talking like you're some hot shit, and you don't know anything?"

Vrie didn't mind it, though. "Forget it. All tests are carried inside Dimensional Realms."

Roan's attention was immediately piqued after that. Roan had been inside Dimensional Realms before. The Upside Down World was a good example. However, it was very rare to hear about some power that could use them. All the Dimensional Realms from before were usually something left behind by some experts. The Jhiod Sect was the first power Roan knew where they were located that could do it.

Vrie continued, "This build has twelve different giant rooms used to teleport the groups for the tests and bring them back. When the time comes, we will step on a teleport formation and will be sent into the Dimensional Realm. For the Deep Sea Monster Assault, we can be teleported together as long as we register our badges as being part of the same group."

Roan then asked something else after that. "Are you perhaps trying to find more experts to join this group? Otherwise, I can't see why you're waiting here."

Lita nodded, saying, "That's correct. I have a battle formation that can be used by seven beings at the same time. As long as they have similar strengths, this battle formation can increase our survivability by a lot."

Roan knew about battle formations. It was different from the formations that Rean and Havek created. Instead, it was a lot more like the formations that he used in an army. The difference was that it wasn't just about positioning and strategy. Battle formations really had the power of controlling the Divine Energy of everyone to achieve greater strength. Depending on the formation, they could also have several other uses. Battle formations would bring much better results than letting each being in the group act independently. 'It's been a long time since I used one of those,' Roan thought.

Roan then extended his hand, saying, "Let me see this battle formation."

Lita didn't like Roan's attitude. "Why? Do you doubt the efficacy of my battle formation?"

Roan shook his head in response. "No. I just want to get familiar with it as soon as possible."

Lita couldn't really go against Roan's words. "Fine. However, you better keep it between ourselves. I don't want to see others doing the same thing." She immediately threw a jade slip at Roan after saying that.

Roan then began to analyze the battle formation while he registered his badge into the same group as those three. Krikei and the others, obviously, continued to look around to see if they could bring more members into their group.

However, Roan called their attention a few minutes later. "There's no need to look for anyone else. Only the four of us is enough for this formation."

Lita looked back at Roan with a dark expression. "Did you hear what I said? We need seven members for the battle formation to work. It can still be used with less, but seven is the optimal number. Trust me. My clan used and upgraded this formation for several generations. Seven members are what we need."

Roan shook his head, clarifying, "Only if we use your version of the battle formation. If we use mine, we can do it with four. It will be a lot more mobile, so it's better like this."

"Your version?" Krikei, Lita, and Vrie looked at each other after that. "You also have a battle formation?"

"I don't. I just modified the formation she gave me," Roan answered nonchalantly.

Lita became angrier once she heard that. "To hell with you. Do you think a battle formation can be changed just like that? Do you know what the backlash would be like if anything goes wrong? We could really die, idiot."

Roan didn't try to explain. Instead, he made a copy of the new version he created with jade slips and threw them to the rest of the members of the group. "Take a look before you say anything else."

Lita snorted but decided to look anyway. She totally wanted to show Roan everything he did wrong and why he shouldn't meddle in topics that he had nothing to do with. Of course, Krikei and Vrie looked at it as well.

However, the more they looked at it, the more shocked they became. Let alone point out errors in Roan's revised battle formation. It felt like... it was stronger? Yes, it was stronger even though it only had four members. "This..."

They continued to look at it for over half an hour, trying to find something wrong. Yet, it didn't have anything like that. They wanted to say that Roan gave them something he already had before. That he was just trying to look smart, saying that it was the same battle formation. It wasn't possible, though. Lita, above all, was absolutely sure that the formation Roan provided was her own battle formation, just a lot more effective.

Eventually, Lita looked at Roan from a completely different perspective from before. "Just how did you do that?"

Roan shook his head, replying, "The battle formation itself was indeed very good. You weren't wrong. Seven members were optimal for your version. All I did was change the requirements and match the Divine Energy flow in the meridians accordingly. However, there's a catch."

Krikei was the first one to understand that. "Indeed. This four-member battle formation is stronger than Lita's seven-member one, even though they're the same. However, your new version uses a lot more Divine Energy. To be more specific, it uses twice as much."

Lita didn't care. "Still, just twice the amount of Divine Energy to achieve such power..." Lita couldn't take her eyes away from Roan, asking, "Just who are you?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1644: Awaits

Soon after, Vrie sighed. "Still, the Divine Energy requirement... we probably won't be able to use it during the test."

Roan narrowed his eyes in response. "Why?"

Sure enough, Roan didn't know much about the test itself. It's just that this time, no one doubted his proficiency, especially Lita, who explained the reason calmly. "The Deep Sea Monster Assault is basically as the name suggests. We will be sent into an environment filled with water where we will have to survive. That's all. The problem is that we have to last an entire week. With my seven-member battle formation, I calculated that we would barely hold on for enough time. But with only four members and using twice the amount of energy..."

Roan understood. "So that's the issue, huh? Very well, we will use my version, and I'll provide you with Divine Stones to last until the end of the week."

Krikei didn't seem very convinced, though. "Roan, the assault of the monsters is relentless. Even though I'll be the core of the battle formation, there's a limit to how much Divine Energy I can help you all save. Divine Stones alone aren't enough. We also have our own share of Rank One and Two Divine Stones, so you don't need to give them to us. Pretty much everyone who comes to this place has the necessary resources. We were already considering using them with the seven-member formation to start with."

Roan shook his head after that. "You won't be the core. I will. I'm the one who created it, so I can definitely use it to the optimal level."

Seeing the doubt in Krikei's group faces, Roan added, "Just take your positions, then. As long as you follow the formation, you will see."

Krikei and the others didn't mind. They still had several days before the test anyway. Immediately, they took their positions and started to operate their Divine Energy accordingly to Roan's new battle formation.

Roan, feeling the Divine Energy of his members, began to conduct the formation right there. "The thing about spending twice the Divine Energy is only when we're fighting enemies. My version has another advantage. If we're not fighting, the formation uses just a third of the energy of the original formation. If we use Divine Stones during downtime, we can definitely replenish ourselves."

Krikei and the others were surprised to see how little the battle formation was making them use in idle mode. Then again, there was a problem. "What if we don't get a chance to take a rest? Wouldn't we run out of Divine Energy regardless? The assault of monsters can truly continue for days nonstop."

Roan faintly smiled, saying, "If that happens, just leave it to me. I have my ways of finding us some free time."

Krikei, as the leader of the group, pondered over their chances with both versions. "In the end, both Lita and Roan's versions have their ups and downs. However, I would rather lose because we ran out of Divine Energy than because we weren't strong enough to hold the assault. Lita's version is definitely the weaker one in this regard, so I prefer Roan's."

Lita sighed but agreed with Krikei. "My version could indeed last seven days with the support of Divine Stones, but that's considering we can resist the assault in the first place. I'll use Roan's version." Lita then looked at Roan after that. "However, since this was my clan's formation, I will definitely bring it back to them later."

Roan nodded, telling her, "I had no intention of asking you to keep this version a secret. This battle formation is still yours, so you can do whatever you want."

Vrie obviously had no issues with it. "Roan's version it is then."

After that, they dissolved the formation. Roan also took that chance to ask. "I'm the type who prefers smaller groups. However, I also recognize the strength in numbers. How come the groups around us don't have more than ten members? Wouldn't it be easier to pass the test if a huge group is formed?"

Krikei shook his head, explaining, "That would be akin to suicide. Ten is the absolute limit that anyone would enter the test. That's because the monsters' assault will always target the area with the highest number of prey first. In the end, more than ten members will only turn you into a huge target. If anything, you would simply help other groups by taking off the monsters' attention from them and bringing them to your own."

Roan wasn't surprised to hear that. "I see..." Soon after, he began to circulate his Divine Energy accordingly to the battle formation. "In that case, let's practice. I made this version to be as easy to remember as possible. However, nothing can beat experience. The better we get at it, the higher our chances."

That was the sole point no one there complained about. "Let's practice then."

At the same time, Rean received a message from Roan through their Soul Connection. 'Use this battle formation. It's surprisingly useful.' Roan then shared his memories of the formations' procedures.

Rean took a look at it and had to admit it was quite good. 'That's impressive. Where did you find this thing?'

'Who cares? Just use it if you want to.' That's all Roan said in response.

That only made Rean sigh, though. 'You know, you didn't need to sell your body to get it. We could have worked things out.'

Suddenly, Roan almost lost control over the battle formation, much to Krikei and the other's surprise. "Are you okay, Roan?"

Roan nodded with a dark expression. "I'm fine." He didn't even want to talk about it.

Rean brightly smiled and stopped bothering Roan. Instead, he looked at the couple in front of him. "So, how is it? Let's join forces and conquer this test! Jhiod Sect awaits us!"

Of course, Min and Erla didn't know what to say to Rean.

Death... and me

Chapter 1645: So That's How It Is...

"Ahh!" Erla and Min tried to jump away while using their skills, but they simply weren't a match for Rean. Before they knew it, he had already appeared on their backs while pointing the sword at their hearts.

Fighting in the city was prohibited, so Rean had to be crazy to suddenly start a fight right there.

Dipsy was just about to call the Jhiod Sect's guards when suddenly, Rean continued to talk as if nothing had happened. "I'm very good at healing."

With Erla and Min unable to move due to the danger of being killed, Rean touched their shoulders.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Right in front of everyone's eyes, the deep cut on Erla and Min's shoulders closed in just a few seconds. It was extremely fast.

Rean then put his Black Star away before coming out of their backs. "So, what do you think? Are my healing skills good enough for us to become a group? I'm not that confident in my combat power, but I definitely won't lose to anyone in healing skills."

Erla and Min felt like crying already after that. 'Bro, if that's what you mean by not being confident with your combat skills, then just what are we?'

However, Min suddenly felt a fit of anger after that. "Is that how you ask others? We thought you were going to kill us!"

Erla nodded, even angrier than Min. "We should just tell the guards of Jhiod Sect to take you away for breaking the rules!"

"They're correct, brother Rean." Dipsy had to stand on Erla and Min's side. "It's against the rules to attack anyone in our Jhiod Sect's building. If they don't forgive your stubbornness, I'm afraid you will have to pay for your mistake here."

Rean sighed in dejection after that. "Come on! Isn't it obvious that I had no intention of killing anyone? I just wanted to showcase my healing skills, that's all. I truly like them. The union of a demon beast and a Zasta humanoid race member who goes against the odds because of their love for each other. I'm truly, truly moved by their relationship and want to create a group to pass the test."

Erla and Min were still angry even after that. However, they didn't have time to say much before Rean was suddenly swarmed by other cultivators and demon beasts.

"Brother, brother! Join us! We can definitely make good use of your healing skills!"

"What? Who the hell would join a measly group like yours? Brother Rean, join us. We have two Void Tempering Realm cultivators in the Middle Stage!"

"It's not about strength! Coordination is also key. Brother, we have a simple battle formation, and your strength is exactly what we need for the core."

"No, forget all of them. I'm a Peak Stage Void Tempering Realm demon beast and an aquatic one at that. I'm sure you will find our group the best choice for the Deep Sea test."

Suddenly, Min and Erla pulled Rean to their side, shouting, "He already said he was going to make a group with us!"

"Yeah, all of you can find someone else!"

Rean almost burst into laughter right then and there. Seeing the confusion caused by him, Erla and Min immediately understood. They might be losing out on a great, great chance right here. Obviously, the result was as Rean expected. They quickly put their anger away and grabbed the chance. "Oh! So you aren't angry with me anymore?"

Min couldn't help but bitterly smile in response. "Ahem... well, that was a bit too over the top, no?"

Erla nodded in agreement. "Indeed. However, you only wanted to display your abilities, so we forgive you."

Rean didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Those two were terrible at lying. It was obvious that they still held some grudge for the earlier event, but they simply kept it in. "That's great."

Rean then looked at everyone around them. "Then again, we need one more member for our group. I have a four-member battle formation that can most likely guarantee our success. With my healing skills and everyone's cooperation, we can definitely clear the Deep Sea Monsters Assault Test!"

Rean didn't need to ask twice before havoc started once more. Some even said that they didn't mind leaving their own group to join them. In the end, it wasn't just Rean's strength. It was his healing skill combined with his own strength that made him so valuable. A healer would have little use if they couldn't defend themselves. Also... the mention of a battle formation definitely attracted even more attention.

Roan's group just so happened to see the same thing from afar. "Roan, that guy over there looks a lot like you."

Roan snorted. "Just some idiot displaying his strength in front of others. Just pretend you have never seen him."

Rean then looked at Min and Erla before using a Divine Sense message. 'You can choose anyone you want. However, I advise you to grab someone with low cultivation.'

Erla and Min were puzzled to hear that. 'Why would we get someone weak?'

'Because the monsters in the Deep Sea Monster Assault test will always target the biggest groups. The groups forming here never go above ten members due to that.' Obviously, he heard it from the explanation Roan received. 'Doesn't that mean they kind of look for the groups with the highest amount of Divine Energy?'

Naturally, Erla and Min were taken aback once they found that out. 'So that's how it is...'

Death... and me

Chapter 1646: Into the Deep Sea Test

There were still Celis and Kentucky. However, it was a lot easier for those two to find a group. Unlike the humanoid races, the other high-level demon beasts could feel the Divine Bloodline in them. Thanks to that, getting into a random group wasn't a problem. Of course, their group ended up being composed of all demon beasts.

And just like that, the days passed as the twins practiced the battle formation in their own corners. Because Rean and Roan were quite far from each other, none of the two groups saw they were using the same formation. Otherwise, Lita would have definitely complained about it. Well, Roan would simply say that he didn't share the battle formation she told him not to. What he shared was his own new version.

Suddenly, the date leading to the teleport formations of the Deep Sea Monster Assault test began to shine, catching everyone's attention. Following that, one of the managers of the Jhiod Sect building came forward to talk.

"The Deep Sea Monster Assault Test shall start in a few minutes. Once you enter, you will immediately become targets and have to survive there for an entire week. However, don't forget about your own participant badges. As long as you crush it, you will be teleported to this hall straight away. This is not an easy test, so don't complain later that we didn't warn you. Joining Jhiod Sect isn't easy."

The tests happened all year round, so the manager didn't dwell on his words any longer. Everyone already had an idea of how things worked, especially those who were trying it for the second, third, or nth time. "Now, enter the gate."

The gate quickly opened, not showing a room but a spatial gate behind it instead. The cultivators and demon beasts who already knew that didn't waste time and entered the gate straight away. Those who were going there for the first time were a little more cautious but got in there anyway. Rean, Roan,

Kentucky, and Celis also entered a few minutes later. The gate would only stay open for one hour, so they had to go.

Vup, vup, vup, vup...

Somewhere in a Dimensional Realm, three cultivators and one demon beast suddenly appeared. As soon as that happened, the demon beast began to change, transforming into a White Scaled Carp. That group was obviously Rean and his companions.

Sure enough, everywhere around them was filled with water, water, and more water. It wasn't even possible to say which side was up or down since there was no gravity pulling from anywhere. Visibility wasn't that great either, although they would rely mostly on their Divine Senses.

Rean quickly took a look around them, ready to start a battle. "So this is the Deep Sea Monster Assault Test? I can't see any monsters in my Divine Sense, though."

Habac, the guy who was recruited to form the fourth element of the battle formation, then explained in response, "This is my second time here. The spatial gate that led us here stays open for one hour. To make this test fair, the monsters will not be summoned until the spatial gate outside closes. Only when it is closed will the test start. That's also why those with experience didn't mind entering straight away since there was nothing to be afraid of during this first hour."

Rean and the others nodded after hearing that. "So that's how it is..."

Rean then took the opportunity to ask, "Do you know what these monsters are? Are they demon beasts? Spirits? Perhaps humanoids?"

Habac shook his head, replying, "None of the three. They're similar to puppets, controlled by some formation in this place. Don't underestimate them, though. One or two won't be an issue. However, they never come alone. If you're unlucky, you might be surrounded by hundreds or even thousands of them."

Rean pondered over it for a bit before asking, "At some point, we won't be able to avoid it anyway, no?"

Habac nodded, saying, "That's true. The longer into the week-long test we get, the higher the number of monsters. The number of groups also reduces, which means that more monsters will be free to come after us."

"By the way, Rean," Erla called Rean's attention. "You're sure that you have a way to recover Divine Energy even during the assaults, right?"

Rean nodded in response. "Don't worry. It's definitely not something to be worried about."

Min couldn't help but get nervous after that. "Shouldn't we start the battle formation straight away? I don't want to get caught by surprise. After all, we're supposed to be in this Dimensional Realm with other cultivators and demon beasts. It would be bad if some group appeared and tried to kill us before the test starts."

Rean, Erla, and Rean agreed with Min. "Alright, let's do that."

Meanwhile...

Boom, boom, boom..

Swish, swish, swish...

Arrrgh!

Blood began to spread around the deep sea as Roan held his scythe over his shoulder. "Hmph! We might be only four people, but even ten of you wouldn't be able to touch us."

Roan's group then looked at the corpses of two demon beasts and one cultivator. In the end, what Min said happened to Roan's group. They were targeted before the test started as the assailants tried to rob them of their items, especially their Divine Stones.

Death... and me

Chapter 1647: The Real Monster

Well, it went without saying that once Roan's group killed those three with relative ease, they gave up all ideas of continuing the assault and immediately dispersed.

Krikei thought about that for a moment before saying, "Let them go. It'll be a waste of Divine Energy to go after them, especially the Void Tempering Realm ones."

Roan agreed with him, saying, "They thought that their advantage in numbers would be enough to quickly get rid of us. At the very least, kill one or two of us while the rest run away. That would have been enough to be worth the attack since they could get our Divine Stones. Now they're going to suffer without their strongest members. There's no need for us to do anything."

On the other hand, Lita couldn't help but show great glee. "Who cares? Did you see what we did?! That's the strength of my clan's battle formation for you! They could barely resist us."

Vrie looked in Roan's direction, though. "Then again, the main reason was definitely you. I'm truly impressed with your proficiency in controlling the flow of Divine Energy in our battle formation. It obviously costs us a lot of Divine Energy, but you definitely made it a lot easier."

Roan nodded, replying, "I did create this revised version, after all. Now, grab a few Divine Stones and recover your Divine Energy. We should still have a few minutes until the start of the test. I will use my method to help recover Divine Energy later."

Everyone nodded as they took out their own Divine Stones... well, not really theirs. Instead, they got it from the guys who attacked them at first. However, there was one thing that Lita and Vrie didn't mention, but they still thought, 'How can someone at the Middle Stage of the Transition Realm be that strong?! He definitely doesn't lose out to Krikei in combat power at all!'

Krikei was more interested in another thing, though. 'Just what was that energy in his weapon? It wasn't Space Power, that's for sure. It was something completely different but powerful. It doesn't lose to Space Power at all. No, if I compare it to the amount of Space Power I can use, I'll probably be at the losing end.' However, Krikei put those thoughts behind his mind. He could ask about it once they get out of this place.

Roan had practiced the battle formation with those guys. However, they just practiced. It was the first time he showed his real strength. Of course, it was a great thing that Roan was that strong. It meant that they had an even higher chance of passing this test. That was all that mattered at the moment.

Brinnnnnnnn...

Suddenly, a sound echoed throughout the water, reaching everyone's ears in the entire Dimensional Realm.

Back on Rean's group side, except for Habac, their group was quite surprised by what they were seeing. Divine Energy, different elements, and Yin Energy congregated in several locations around them. It was as if they were all being controlled by something.

Habac, of course, called their attention, saying, "The test has started. Let's leave this place before those monsters take form. They usually take a few minutes to appear, so it'll be better to preserve our energy."

No one was against his words as they quickly used their battle formation to provide a boost in Divine Energy and move away faster. However, it didn't matter where they looked. The same thing was happening everywhere. "Is there even a place that can be called safe?" Rean could not help but ask.

Habac nodded, clarifying, "Not exactly. What we can find are some places where there's a fewer number of monsters being born. Unfortunately, there's no place where it's completely devoid of monsters. Well, not that I've seen any the last time I was here, though."

Rean's Divine Sense could now reach up to 13 kilometers after his breakthrough into the Middle Stage of the Transition Realm. His Divine Sense could go even further than Erla, who was in the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm. "There!"

Immediately, Rean changed direction, bringing everyone with him. At first, Erla was confused since she didn't see anything with her Divine Sense. Yet, it didn't take long for her to see the same thing Rean did. "This... how did you know this place had a lower number of monsters being born?"

Rean looked at Erla, confused, as he replied, "Isn't that obvious? I used my Divine Sense. Could it be that you can't see the location where monsters are born with your Divine Sense?"

Erla was taken aback as she replied, "Of course I can! However, if you used Divine Sense, then how much bigger is your Divine Sense compared to mine?"

Rean shook his head, saying, "That I don't know. All I can tell is that my Divine Sense can spread up to 13 kilometers."

"13?!!!" Erla felt completely defeated. "My Divine Sense can't go any further than 7 kilometers."

Min and Habac were also shocked by Rean's words. They were in the same Transition Realm but were at higher stages. However, their Divine Senses couldn't compare to Rean's Divine Sense at all.

Habac couldn't help but mention after that. "I wonder which one here is the real monster..."

Death... and me

Chapter 1648: I have it covered

In various locations at the same time, Kentucky, Rean, and Roan activated the same skill. One must remember that Kentucky could also use Light Element.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

They quickly touched their group members, increasing their strength straight away. Roan's group wasn't surprised since they received this help from Roan in the first battle. However, Kentucky and Rean's group were experiencing it for the first time. Well, they were definitely happy that such a skill existed, and it was helping them.

On Rean's side, he used the formation to feed Erla with most of the Divine Energy. "Erla, you're an aquatic demon beast, so use your speed underwater to keep the monsters a few meters away from us. It shouldn't be too hard with my Enhancement skill and the battle formation's Divine Energy flow. Just be careful to not leave this area since other areas have a lot more of them."

Erla nodded in response. “No problem. Everyone, on my back!”

Immediately, she activated her own movement skill.

‘Way of the Sea Currents!’

Water Element gathered around Erla’s body before it blended with the water and her fins. Something that looked like a current of water was soon created in front of her, allowing her body to move much faster than she already was in that environment. Let alone the fact she was in the Void Tempering Realm. Although she was only in the Initial Stage, she could still use a small bit of Space Power to support her effort. The currents created by her only worked on her body. As soon as she passed through it, the current disappeared, making it impossible for the monsters behind them to use it to their advantage.

Rean was very satisfied with the result. Those monsters had multiple forms, but they were all aquatic types. It was really good that he had someone suited for the same environment to carry him around.

Habac then warned Erla, “Don’t let your guard down. These monsters don’t just attack physically. They also use simple Water Element skills. They’ll definitely start to rely on it if they stay too long on our tail.” Habac was excited. Unlike the first time he came here, his group really seemed to have a chance to succeed.

Sure enough, having someone with experience helped a lot.

Suddenly, some of the monsters following Rean’s group began to gather Divine Energy around themselves.

“Just defend!” Rean ordered. “Trying to defeat them will consume a lot more Divine Energy than simply stalling them behind. I can defend against the attacks that get close to us. You two focus on stopping the attacks with your ranged skills at their origin.”

‘Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!’

Rean's hair then changed into a black and white color as his sword danced in the water. Countless strands of Dark and Light Element then came from the tip of his Black Star, enveloping the entire group.

'Death Style, Sword Intent!'

Sword Intent was another type of energy. It had no end and had no use for Divine Energy. With that said, it wouldn't make Rean feel tired. Above all, the Reversive Arcs were created through the movements of his sword, so their defensive power increased even more. It killed two birds with one stone, reducing his reliance on Divine Energy while increasing his defensive power.

On the other hand, Min and Habac weren't any slower. With their surroundings protected, they could focus entirely on the long-range offensive.

'Thunder Line!'

Min had Lightning Affinity, which he usually used with Water Element as support. Then again, there was no lack of water here. With his Divine Energy, he was able to redirect his lightning attack in a straight line. It went without saying that Min aimed straight at the monsters who were preparing to launch their skills at their group.

In Habac's case, the perk of his race showed its efficacy straight away. He was able to gather more Divine Energy than Min, even though he was one stage below in cultivation.

'Makeshift Whirlwind!'

Following that, he used his Wind Affinity to create a whirlpool underwater right in the middle of another pack of monsters. He didn't aim at any of them in specific. In fact, his Makeshift Whirlwind wasn't that strong either, not being able to kill any of the monsters. However, that was more than enough to disrupt the monsters that were focusing on launching attacks in the direction of Rean's group.

Zap, zap, zap, zap...

Shuaaaaaaaaaa.

Bang, bang, bang, bang...

Just like that, their group began to circulate around the same area as the monsters followed them from behind. It was obvious that those monsters didn't have intelligence. Otherwise, they could have just divided into two groups and had one of the groups block Erla's path. Erla wasn't leaving that location, after all.

Rean couldn't help but smile with a satisfied expression, saying, "Min, Habac, it seems like you two understand the plan very well."

Min laughed in response. "Hahaha! Of course! I'm using one of my most basic attacks, Thunder Line. Its consumption of Divine Energy is rather low. I can keep at it for a very long time."

Habac nodded, saying, "The same goes for my Makeshift Whirlwind. It can be a strong attack if I wish it to be. However, I can control the power behind it so it only disrupts those monsters. I did a similar thing the last time I was here, so I'm thoroughly prepared this time around. I can also stay like this for quite a while."

Erla was the most satisfied one. "Well, I'm counting on you three. Although this is my environment, my Way of the Sea Currents does use quite a bit of Divine Energy, especially when I have to keep a specific distance from the monsters."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "That's why I'm redirecting most of our Divine Energy to you. You're the key to this resistance plan. We can't go too far away since it would attract even more of them, so keep it that way."

However, even though everything was going smoothly, Min couldn't help but ask, "Rean, this is good and all. However, our Divine Energy definitely won't last a week."

Rean smiled in response. "Don't worry. I have it covered."

Death... and me

Chapter 1649: What Really Mattered

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

Swish, swish, swish!

Immediately, three more monsters got their cores cut in half by Roan's scythe.

Krikei agreed with Roan, saying, "That's true. However, to make sure we can kill them, we have to use some powerful skills."

'Fluid Spike Pressure!'

The water around three more monsters suddenly became as hard as metal before they pierced the monsters from their blind spots. Their cores were destroyed straight away before they could even launch an attack.

"Roan, I'm holding a few Divine Stones in my hand to recover Divine Energy while I attack," said Lita.

'Earth Crystals!'

Crystals of Earth Element grew on the body of the monsters before they exploded, breaking the monsters' bodies. It was only possible to use this method because the monsters weren't trying to protect themselves.

Then again, Lita had Earth Element Affinity, so she wasn't having a very good time. After all, it was hard to gather any Earth Element in this place. Fortunately, she could make up for it with her spatial powers, conserving as much Divine Energy as possible.

She continued, "Your position as the core of the battle formation is definitely helping us not waste any of the extra Divine Energy. However, this isn't enough. We can at most hold on for two or three days like this."

Vrie, who was in his real form as a Silver-eyed Black Tarantula, agreed with Lita. “She’s right. Perhaps we will need to take a more conservative approach. Besides, this is just the start. The number of monsters being born will definitely increase the closer we get to the one-week mark.”

Roan shook his head in response. “There’s no need. Our Divine Energy Source should start working anytime now.”

Back on Rean’s side, Erla was confused, asking him, “Divine Energy Source? Where is it?”

Somewhere else in the Deep Sea Dimensional Realm, Celis looked at his group as they seemed to be running out of Divine Energy. They could still last a day or two, but he decided that it was better to be safe. “Well, I guess it’s about time.”

Celis then returned to his World Swallowing Cedar form before he took hundreds of Rank Two Divine Stones from his spatial ring! It wasn’t just one or two like Lita and the others on Rean and Roan’s groups were using. He was going to use hundreds at once!

Kentucky, who had been fighting the monsters in the same group as Celis, couldn’t help but laugh once he saw that. “Hahaha! It’s about time. I don’t like to conserve Divine Energy at all.”

The other demon beasts in their groups were also excited as Celis had already explained what he could do.

“Go, Celis!”

“We’re counting on you!”

“For the victory!”

“Protect Celis’ roots!”

“Leave them to me! None shall pass my Poison Web Prison!”

Celis's roots then spread all around. Normally, he would spread his roots in the outside world for several hundreds of kilometers. He could go even further now that he was back in the Transition Realm. However, he only covered the surrounding few hundred meters instead. Soon after, Divine Stones flew in all directions as Celis used his hundreds of roots to catch every Divine Stone.

Celis used this method to absorb and gather all the Divine Energy in the environment. However, it wasn't possible this time since there wouldn't be anyone to protect his roots if they spread too far. With that being said, he simply decided to keep them close and use the Divine Stones instead.

Immediately, a huge amount of Divine Energy covered the area around Celis' group, revitalizing all the demon beasts there. It felt like they had Rank Three Divine Stones or even higher for their personal use!

Celis couldn't help but sigh, though. 'It's quite unfortunate that I can't absorb this amount of Divine Energy as cultivation. If I could, just how fast would my cultivation be?' He was right. His Demon Core definitely wouldn't be able to absorb all of that at once. If they were Rank Three Divine Stones, he would be able to use more, but Rean definitely wouldn't let Celis waste the Divine Stones like that. Rank Two was the limit for this method. In the end, this method didn't serve for cultivation as it really wasted a huge amount of Divine Energy. It was only good for replenishing lost Divine Energy Pools for everyone's attacks.

Celis and Kentucky's group weren't the only ones to benefit from it. As soon as Celis started his wanton use of Divine Stones, Rean and Roan also felt part of it reaching their bodies through the connection between the four of them.

'It's here!' Rean and Roan thought at the same time.

Immediately, the Divine Energy in the two battle formations increased, which shocked the members of their groups. "This..."

Krikei looked at Roan, asking, "How can you gather so much Divine Energy like this? We don't even need to use our own Divine Energy and simply use yours to keep the attacks."

Back on Rean's side, Erla and the others asked the same thing.

Rean smiled after hearing that, telling them, “Hehe! This is a little secret of mine. Now, make use of the Divine Energy I’m providing to the battle formation to attack and move. Let your dantians and demon cores recover to their peak while I’m doing it.”

Rean and Roan’s groups received similar answers and didn’t press any further. If Rean and Roan didn’t want to talk, they wouldn’t force it. What mattered was that they fulfilled their part of the deal. They really had a way of letting them recover their Divine Energy in the middle of the battle.

Death... and me

Chapter 1650: Checking the talents

On Rean and Roan’s sides, they obviously got themselves back to their peaks. “Alright, everyone. We just need to keep this pace until the week is over. If we start to run out of Divine Energy, I’ll use our method once again.”

And just like that, time passed in a flash. Monsters continued to be born as each group dealt with them in their own way. Rean’s group and their avoidance plan, Roan’s group and their all-out offensive plan, Kentucky’s group with their defensive plan. They did what was best for their own situations and average cultivation level.

Of course, the monsters’ quantity also increased as time passed. That’s because the other groups in the Deep Sea were being eliminated, making the monsters go after them and change targets. Nevertheless, it simply increased the amount of Divine Energy that they had to consume to keep the status quo.

Rean had given Celis quite a few Rank Two Divine Stones for this test, so Divine Energy expenditure wasn’t a problem at all.

Outside, a woman looked at the test together with a few other cultivators and demon beasts. They were located deeper inside the Jhiod Sect’s building and were responsible for all the tests. One could say that they were there to scout talents who would enter the Jhiod Continent.

Suddenly, someone pulled over the image of the twins’ groups. “Libraia, look at these three groups. Don’t you think it’s too much of a coincidence?”

Libraia was the woman's name. She was also the highest authority in this place. "I've been watching them for a while as well. Every time that World Swallowing Cedar starts to absorb Divine Energy from the Divine Stones, the three groups start to receive a huge amount of Divine Energy. It's normal for the Cedar's group to get that since they're in the same group. However, I don't understand how those twins can benefit from it as well. They're in three completely different locations."

Libraia then looked at the man on her side, asking, "Govin, have you found out if those three have some relation with one another?"

Govin immediately nodded, explaining, "I checked with the worker who attended them when they arrived. They were indeed all in the same group. In fact, that Minokawa over there was also within the same group."

Libraia was satisfied with the answer. "It is obvious that these guys have some connection between themselves that allows them to share Divine Energy. It looks quite similar to our sect's Astral Divine Energy Revolution skill."

Another man, someone called Iglet, agreed with Libraia. "I thought the same." Astral Divine Energy Revolution was a technique that also allowed the sharing of Divine Energy from afar. Of course, it wasn't as good as the twins' group connection since the Astral Divine Energy Revolution technique had a distance limit. The twins' group, on the other hand, could literally be anywhere in the Realm of Gods and still share Divine Energy. It's just that the people and demon beasts watching the test didn't know that.

Iglet continued, "Well, techniques capable of sharing Divine Energy from great distances are rare but not impossible to find. We have one ourselves, after all. The fact that they have one and especially use it that well proves their proficiency. They happened to join forces with a World Swallowing Cedar, which makes it even more efficient."

Libraia nodded with a smile. "That's good for our Jhiod Sect. The only thing I don't understand is why they separated before the test started. If they had stayed together, they would have been having an even easier time. This test is definitely extremely dangerous for most demon beasts, humanoids, and spirits. However, I don't think it will be a challenge for them with such an unlimited supply of Divine Energy."

Libraia wasn't surprised with Celis's Rank Two Divine Stones appearing every now and then. As Dipsy mentioned before, most of the groups that came to take the test were wealthy. Having Rank Two Divine

Stones to spend in the tests was something very common in this place since candidates came from several different continents.

Govin pondered over it for a bit before saying, "They're probably testing their own limits. They predicted that the test wouldn't be much of a challenge since they knew they didn't have the Divine Energy expenditure issue. That's by far the main reason for most disqualifications and deaths since the monsters themselves aren't that powerful. After all, the monsters are simply never-ending. It's not like we don't see some candidates who like to make things more difficult for themselves here. They're all geniuses from their own areas, thinking that they can rise above all odds."

Libraia and Iglet found Govin's words reasonable. "Indeed."

"Anyways, they aren't the only groups doing well." Libraia then pulled out a few other images with her Divine Sense through the formation used to monitor the test. Sure enough, several other groups of different sizes appeared right in front of everyone. "This batch is doing better than I thought. How many will succeed? Probably more than a thousand."

Govin and Iglet didn't doubt that. "According to the information of the previous tests, 70% of the participants have passed at least one test already."

Libraia smiled in response before asking, "How many of them are taking this test as the last one?"

Govin checked straight away. "4.3% of the remaining cultivators of this test have this one as the last test."