

Death 1671

Death... and me

Chapter 1671: Do Whatever You Want

Wan tBlansin tried to retaliate, but Rean was obviously much faster. Sure, Blansin was able to fight those above his level with his talent and resources. However, he was still not Rean's match.

'Death Style, Fist Energy Form, Shadow Bind!'

Rean's hair changed into a mix of black and white as Dark Element gathered and restrained Blansin.

Of course, Blansin immediately used his full strength to try and free himself. It's just that such an action was too late. In saying that, Rean appeared right in front of him as his sword came against Blansin's head.

Bang!

However, Rean didn't cut Blansin's head at all. Instead, he hit his head with the side of his Black Star. It's just that with Rean's raw strength, Blansin lost consciousness straight away. And just like that, Rean had Blansin in his hands.

As for Min, he went straight to Erla, who was still too weak to move. "Erla! Are you okay?!"

Erla, who didn't have the strength to even return to her human form, could only glance at Min and use Divine Sense to talk. 'I-I'm... fine... just tired as hell...'

Rean then touched Blansin's body before sealing the guy's demon core. If Rean wished it, he could have Blansin lose his cultivation forever at any moment. Not to mention that Blansin wouldn't have access to it unless Rean allowed him to do so. "Well, I'm done with this one. Let's that a look at the fish out of water."

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Rean's Light Element entered Erla's body, quickly healing any injuries she might have... which there were surprisingly none of. "Hoh? She isn't injured, it seems."

"She isn't?" Min asked in concern.

Rean nodded in response, saying, "Yeap. Her bodily functions are all fine. However, she's still being restrained by this thing. Of course, she's also too exhausted to do anything else, even if she wasn't restrained. Not to mention that the gravity of this Pressure Realm definitely isn't helping." Rean then showed the item Blansin used to lock Erla down. "Do you have any idea what this is?"

Min took it from Rean but shook his head in response. "No. In any case, let's just destroy it." Rean didn't mind as Min used his Divine Energy to crush the item.

Erla immediately felt the energy holding her body in place disappear before she could finally relax. 'Thank you, Rean, Min. I truly thought everything was over.'

Rean laughed in response, telling her, "Hahaha! It's nothing, it's nothing. In fact, you weren't at risk at all. Min and I have been observing you two from afar and were ready to take action at any point. It's just that I had to hold Min down until Blansin spilled the beans as to why he captured you. Otherwise, this guy would have jumped in a long time ago."

Min didn't regret it. "Hmph! He was trying to hurt my Erla. Regardless of the reason, I would definitely step in." However... "However, I admit that waiting was the best thing. Now we have a good picture of the whole situation and have Blansin in our hands."

Rean nodded in agreement. "The time limit for this test is the entire month the spatial gate is open. We have plenty of time here, so let's sit down and wait for Erla to recover her energy and for Blansin to wake up. I believe you two still have a lot more things to ask him."

Erla then glanced at Rean with her eyes, asking, 'Rean, aren't you interested in my powers?'

Min's eyes changed as he immediately looked at Rean.

Surprisingly, Rean nodded straight away. "Of course! A heart that can control an entire sea? How cool is that?! I very much wish to take it and refine it into the treasure Blansin mentioned."

Seeing the dark expression on Min's face, Rean laughed once again as he continued, "Hahaha! Unfortunately, I consider relationships a lot more important than any treasure in the Realm of Gods. Besides, Erla's heart would be 100% useless for me."

Erla pondered over it for a bit before understanding. 'My heart's power can only be used in Clendes Sea. If you don't decide to go to Terces Continent and live there, its power will be pretty much useless.'

Rean nodded in response. "Yep. That's pretty much it. Well, even if I did go to Terces Continent, I still wouldn't take your heart away from you. As to whether you believe my words or not, that's up to you."

Min narrowed his eyes, muttering, "Says the guy who attacked us the first time we met..."

Rean almost fell to the ground after that. "Ahem... I was just showcasing my amazing healing abilities. Yep, that was all. I wasn't doing it for fun at all. Definitely!"

Rean then came up with some excuse and immediately left to set up a simple concealing formation. The area was already well concealed, but there was nothing wrong with extra protection. At the same time, he shared the things he discovered with Roan, who was obviously in the middle of the same test. 'And that's about it.'

Roan couldn't help but sigh in response. 'Sure enough, without Destiny Avoidance Mode active, all kinds of crazy and continent-changing issues fall on our hands. What will be next? Something that will change the entire Realm of Gods? I don't know if I even want to see it.'

'Well, we do have to gather the fragments of the universe's foundation. In a certain way, we're already doing something that will affect the entire Realm of Gods,' Rean mentioned.

'That's true.' Roan had to agree with Rean on that. 'So, what do you intend to do with that White Scaled Carp. Or should I call it a Blue Scaled Carp now?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. 'I'll just wait and ask Blansin a few more questions. In the end, we have no intention of heading to Terces anyway. Not to mention we wouldn't take her heart, so if we wanted to use it somehow, we would have to wait for the day she can truly control it properly.'

Roan nodded, saying, 'It's good that you know. I'm going to focus on passing this test, so you do whatever you want.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1672: Pristine Blue Carp

Around an hour later, Erla finally gathered enough strength to return to her human form. However, her human form also changed slightly. Her hair, which was black before, now had a blue tint to it. The same went for her eyes and other parts of her body that had hair.

"Hey, even the pubic hair is kind of blue now, hahaha," Rean commented and laughed as he pointed it out.

A vein popped on Min's head as he looked at Rean with an angry expression. "Can you not look at the private parts of someone else's wife?" he asked as he quickly passed a set of new clothes to Erla. Since her transformation was involuntary, the clothes on her body earlier were ripped apart since they could never fit her real form's size.

As always, a demon beast wouldn't change into human form already with clothes on. In fact, as a demon beast, Erla truly didn't care whether others saw her with clothes on or not. The majority of demon beasts didn't, actually. It's just that the humanoid races were very adamant about that, so they had to use them when they entered the cities of humanoid races. Kentucky and Celis were very good examples of it, as Rean had to force the two to use clothes when they were in their human form.

Rean nodded in response. "My bad, my bad. Then again, is it just me, or did she become more beautiful now? I kind of like her new appearance."

Erla was happy to hear that. "Is that so?"

Min only got angrier, though. "Shut up, you two! This is not the time to be talking about such irrelevant things." Well, he was just annoyed by their sudden intimate interaction.

Rean could only stop there before Min really lost his mind. "Fine, fine..."

Soon after...

Bang!

Rean kicked the 'unconscious' guy by his side, sending him flying against the wall. "Do you think I can't tell that you're awake? Since I'm this good at healing skills, I can obviously tell the difference between someone who's actually unconscious and someone who's awake. If you keep pretending for too long, I don't mind crushing your demon core right here right now."

Blansin's eyes immediately opened after hearing that. "Sorry! Please spare me! I'll do anything. Just don't destroy my cultivation!" He obviously found out about Rean's seal around his demon core since he couldn't use any Divine Energy at all at the moment. He also didn't doubt that Rean had the ability to really destroy his demon core if he wished.

Erla's expression changed before she approached Blansin.

Pah!

It was then that a resounding slap sound echoed through the entire area. Not that Blansin couldn't use Divine Energy, one can be sure that it hurt a lot. "You disappointed me, Blansin. I thought our friendship was better than that."

Rean then held Erla's hand before she slapped the guy again. "There's no doubt that what he did was wrong. However, during the entire time, he had a pained expression. At the very least, I can guarantee that he wasn't doing it because he wanted to. There's a lot more to this story, so let's listen. Of course, you can't forgive him either."

Blansin then looked at Erla after that. He didn't feel the least bit angry with what just happened. If anything, he felt relieved since he believed he deserved it. "I'm sorry. Rean's right. I was forced to do it."

Erla took a deep breath and nodded in response. "We can talk about our friendship later. First, I have a lot of questions since I'm as lost as anyone else. The first one, what happened to me? Am I not a White Scaled Carp anymore? My real form and even my human one are completely different."

Erla's words reminded Rean of something. "Min, you did tell me that the Clendes Heart was created by the Clendes Sea God, right? Could it be that Erla isn't a White Scaled Carp but from this god's race?"

Min obviously thought the same thing. "If that's the case, could it be that Erla is Elder Tuwencio's daughter?" Tuwencio was the name of Erla's father.

Erla was obviously shocked by that. "Blansin, is that true?"

Blansin shook his head, though. "Since we already got to this point, I might as well not hide anything anymore. Don't worry. You're definitely Elder Tuwencio's daughter. Not only that, but you were indeed born as a White Scaled Carp."

Erla sighed in relief after that. "So I'm not something else. I'm still a White Scaled Carp."

"No." Blansin shook his head, clarifying, "It's wrong to call you a White Scaled Carp now. Your true bloodline has just appeared after the Clendes Sea Heart was awakened. You have gone back to the origin of the White Scaled Carp race. Or better yet, you've gone back to the starting point. You're now what we believe to be a Pristine Blue Carp, a Divine Demon Beast of the highest rank."

"Pristine Blue Carp?" None of them had ever heard about it before.

Blansin continued, "It's normal that you haven't heard about it. Only the higher-ups of our Silver Horn Sturgeon race and your White Scaled Carp race know about it. Believe it or not, we are all descendants of this one god. It's just that our bloodlines have diluted so much these countless years that we lost the status of Divine Fishes. That's also why both our races have been on friendly terms for so long. We share the same origins."

Rean immediately thought, 'If Kentucky or Celis were here, they would have definitely felt the change in her bloodline.'

Erla was obviously even more shocked now.

However, it was Rean that asked the next question. "What do you mean by the highest rank of Divine Demon Beasts? Could it be that demon beasts are like spirits? There are higher-ranked ones and lower-ranked ones?"

Blansin nodded in response. "That's correct. I don't know much about other Divine Demon Beasts, but I definitely know that the Pristine Blue Carp is among the top ones."

Erla couldn't help but look at herself. "Me, one of the highest-ranked Divine Demon Beasts?" That was obviously hard to believe.

Death... and me

Chapter 1673: The events leading to that point

"Was it the heart that changed her constitution?" Rean asked.

Blansin nodded, answering, "That's correct. Like I said, both our races are very far descendants of the Clendes Sea God. It's just that our bloodline was diluted with other types of fish demon beast races. Ultimately, we're still part of the same family."

Rean was confused. "Yeah, but how can she suddenly change like this? I mean, she had a White Scaled Carp bloodline."

Blansin shook his head, replying, "I don't know much about this part either. All that I know is that before the god departed from our Terces Continent's Clendes Sea, he told his descendants that one day, another Pristine Blue Carp would appear. When that happened, their own descendants would be able to use his bloodline to take control of Clendes Continent. It was his departing gift, or so I was told."

"That's weird," said Min. "If this god was that powerful, why didn't he conquer the continent? He could have simply given the continent to his descendants before leaving."

Blansin shrugged his shoulders in response. "You're asking the wrong demon beast. I believe only the god himself knows the answer to that question. At the very least, I don't know."

Erla sighed, saying, "Perhaps he was testing whether his descendants would be able to last long enough without his help. If they did, the next Pristine Blue Carp would appear. If not, then that was it."

Everyone agreed that Erla's thoughts were possible.

"So, that's to say Erla is now of the same race as your Clendes Sea God. The Clendes Sea God was also a Pristine Blue Carp," Rean concluded.

"That's correct," Blansin confirmed as he nodded.

Rean then continued, "Alright, that has a connection to something way too far in the past. We won't be able to find much about it. Next, how did you find out about Erla? Also, why did it take so long for you guys to appear?"

Blansin shook his head, saying, "The reason we took this long to come after her was that we didn't know about her birth. As far as we were concerned, the legend about a new Clendes Sea Heart appearing was just that, a legend. We knew it could be born in one of the descendants' races, but few even believed that. Even if we didn't, how would we be able to tell the difference? No one really knew."

Blansin didn't stop there, adding, "Of course, we eventually found a few clues that the next Pristine Blue Carp had appeared. From what I heard, we at least knew it was not in our race that it happened."

"Clues?" Rean and the others were confused. "What kind of clues?"

Blansin shrugged his shoulders, replying, "The Clendes Sea itself. It began to show signs of unrest and turmoil everywhere. It didn't take long before someone considered the option that the Clendes Sea Heart had appeared. Min and Erla probably know about these events as well."

Min and Erla nodded. "That's true. We did hear about weird events happening in the Clendes Sea itself in the past 300 or so years. It was becoming quite an annoying thing to deal with for the White Scaled Carp race."

"I see..." Rean immediately understood. "The time which the problems started was what allowed you to narrow down the possible candidates. Am I correct?"

"This..." How could Erla not understand? "The turmoils started when I was born!"

Blansin agreed with them. "That's correct. However, the White Scaled Carp race really hid your existence very well. Where? Right out in the open! You frequently visited our race, never had more protection than any of the other elders' children, your talent wasn't anything that impressive... all that together made it extremely difficult to find you."

"When we asked if the White Scaled Carp race knew about the possible birth of the next Pristine Blue Carp, they showed ignorance. First of all, we ourselves found it hard to believe, so it wasn't surprising that the White Scaled Carp race led us to believe they thought the same thing," Blansin explained.

"However, because the events in the Clendes Sea became more and more apparent, we grew more and more certain that the Clendes Sea Heart was definitely within us. The elders even conducted a search in the entire Silver Horn Sturgeon race to see if we hadn't missed it ourselves."

"It was when we decided to go to the White Scaled Carp race to ask the same question that things became rather weird. They didn't stop us from going through the search, but it felt like something was being hidden. Eventually, we did what Rean said. We narrowed down the timing of the events and the White Scaled Carps that were born around the same time they started."

Min sighed as he said, "We're talking about more than 300 years here. In the world of demon beasts, dying for such a long time is a very common thing. We could say that less than 10% make it through this whole time. After that, you only had to take the White Scaled Carps that were closely related to the elders as the main targets."

"Why the elders?" Rean asked. "It could be anyone from the entire White Scaled Carp race, right?"

Min nodded, replying, "It could. However, the elders are the elders for a reason."

Blansin confirmed Min's words. "He is right. Most of the elders got to their position by using their strength. Usually, that strength surpassing others came from a thicker bloodline. If the next Pristine Blue

Carp was going to appear, there was a good chance that they would come from the elders' offspring. Of course, we didn't neglect the other White Scaled Carps, but they weren't our main targets."

"The rest is easy to imagine," Rean said. "When the investigation got close to Erla and the other White Scaled Carps born around her time, Tuwencio and the other elders decided to send her away. However, it became the main reason for suspicions. Now, lo and behold, here's Blansin and his elders."

Blansin bitterly smiled but didn't deny Rean's words.

It was then that Erla remembered something. "Wait! If that's the case, my father and the elders would never talk about me or my destination. How come you guys knew about it? What happened in the White Scaled Carp race for them to open their mouths?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1674: The Worst Elder And The Ideal Father

Min narrowed his eyes in response. "I'm not sure. In the end, the scale of this problem is way beyond our cultivation level. If we go back, you'll definitely be killed and have your heart taken."

Rean agreed with Min, saying, "That's their only option now. Whatever the outcome is, your death is a must. After all, if you grow strong enough to head back and use the power of your Clendes Sea Heart, the races that attacked your White Scaled Carp race will be done for. Even if you say you won't take revenge, not a single soul there will trust you."

Erla's expression turned worse after that. "That means I can't go back?"

Rean nodded. "That's correct." He then pondered a bit before saying, "In fact, you can't leave the Jhiod Sect building either. Blansin did say that he came with a few elders of his race. I'm pretty sure they're all high-level ones with cultivations that will make you feel despair whatever you do against them."

Blansin didn't deny that. "Yes. They're all top elders of my race." His expression seemed terrible now that he realized Erla's race would be wiped out regardless of the outcome.

Rean continued, "With that being said, you only have one choice. You must complete the twelve tests of the Jhiod Sect and join them. That's the only way you can guarantee your race's survival."

"Why?" Erla asked straight away.

"Because once you join the Jhiod Sect, the Silver Horn Sturgeon race won't be able to touch you. Terces is nothing in the eyes of the Jhiod Sect that controls this region. They have control of all continents around in their hands, you know?" Rean explained. "Keeping your race alive will be the only way to prevent themselves from being wiped out the day you resolve to go back to Terces Continent. They will use them as leverage."

Min agreed with Rean on that point. "He's right, Erla. This is our only choice. Well, I have no use here. The only one who must pass this test is you."

Erla immediately embraced Min. "I don't want to be in this alone! You have to pass the test as well! I don't think I can hold myself in Jhiod Continent without you there to stop me."

Min sighed before patting her head, replying, "You do know that now that you've become a real Pristine Blue Carp, our talents and future are in completely different leagues, right? First of all, you always cultivated slightly faster than me. I have no chance of keeping up with your cultivation at all. Are you sure I'm still good enough? I'm pretty sure you can find someone a hundred times better. In fact, with your future prospects, you can have someone important in the Jhiod Sect marry you and guarantee a much better future for your race in Terces. Not only that, but it would be one of the fastest ways of helping your race in getting out of this situation."

Erla's expression became sad when she heard that. "I..." Still, she knew that Min was thinking about her future and her race for her. Even after all the prejudice, he thought about her future above all else.

Bang!

Suddenly, Min was sent flying out of Erla's arms. Erla then looked at the perpetrator on the side. "R-Rean, what you doing?"

Rean had a terrible expression as he exclaimed, "What kind of bullshit is that? Do you know how it feels to love someone while not being able to be with them? To not know how they're doing? To not know even if they're alive or not? Man up, you fucking piece of shit! Don't talk about what you don't know if you haven't even experienced it."

The kick was so strong that Min broke several of his rib bones. That showed how Rean didn't care about holding his strength back at all. "Rean, you..." However, seeing Rean's expression, even an idiot would know that Rean definitely had some experience with it.

Erla, obviously, noticed that as well. "Is it really so painful?"

Rean then calmed down after that. "Sigh... you have no idea." He was on this journey to the center of the Realm of Gods to try and find information about Qia. He might not show it on the surface, but he obviously missed her. When he heard Min's words just now, he couldn't hold his anger back.

Rean then came closer to Min and touched his shoulder.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Naturally, Min's injuries disappeared in a moment. "Trust me. Not only will your departure make her sad, but it will also make things worse. If you truly love her, you should never leave her side. Don't turn out like me."

Min dropped his head before he looked up again. This time, however, determination appeared in his eyes. "Right! I'll definitely stay by her side."

Erla couldn't help but tear up a little after that. "Idiot. You should have said that from the very start. Why do you need to receive a beating to understand that?"

Blansin, who was watching everything, finally called their attention back to the main topic. "Ahem... I'm happy for you two. However, we have some more pressing matters to talk about, no?"

Rean nodded before he looked at Erla. "He's right. By the way, aren't you forgetting to ask about a certain someone, Erla?"

"Ah!" Only then did Erla notice who it was. "My father! What happened to my father! Is he dead?"

Blansin nodded, answering, "Don't worry. He did receive many severe injuries, but he won't die from them. It's just that he refused to cooperate until the very end. Tuwencio was willing to see the entire White Scaled Carp race disappear rather than utter a single word about you."

Rean couldn't help but laugh after that. "Hahaha! He's definitely a terrible elder to have in your race, but you have to admit he's the ideal father."

Erla sighed in relief. "Right. He definitely is."

Rean also mentioned, "Don't worry, he won't be killed. He's definitely the main carp that can't be killed at all costs. Obviously, that's because he's your father."

Death... and me

Chapter 1675: Decisions

Rean then touched Blansin's shoulder, sending a stream of Light Element inside his body. Not long after, the seal he put in Blansin's demon core disappeared. Blansin could now use his full strength again.

"This..." Blansin was taken aback.

Not only him but Erla and Min as well. "Why did you let him free?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "This idiot only wanted her heart so that he could prevent a bigger calamity for the White Scaled Carp race. Now that he knows that taking her heart will only complicate things, I doubt he'll come after you anymore."

Blansin had to ask, "And why would you believe me? I could be totally lying, you know?"

Rean smiled in response. "I got this thing that detects lies from a certain emotionless stone. I can't say it's 100% accurate, but it isn't that far off. For a naive guy like you, it's quite easy to see through."

Blansin scratched the back of his head in response. He didn't hear about himself being naive all the time, especially with his status in the Silver Horn Sturgeon race. "Fine! I admit that I lacked thought about the situation. I was doing it so that I could stop the fight against the White Scaled Carp race, but if it can bring their elimination, I obviously won't try it anymore."

Blansin then looked at Erla after that. "Sorry, Erla. You can do anything you want to me. If you wish to kill me, I won't resist."

Erla clenched her fists, thinking about what Blansin's race did. However, in the end, she relaxed. "Sigh... whatever. We have known each other for way too long already. However, that doesn't mean I forgive you."

Erla then looked at Rean and asked, "You said that the only way to keep my race alive is to join Jhiod, right? But in that case, doesn't that mean my race will be under arrest and in a very precarious situation until the day I become strong enough to go back?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders, replying, "Unfortunately, I can't think of any other way. If you have a better idea, then, by all means, I'm all ears."

Erla immediately shut up her mouth after that. It was obvious she didn't have any better idea.

However, Blansin was different. "Min had mentioned that Erla should marry someone important in the Jhiod Sect to get their help. Since she's a top-ranked Divine Demon Beast, there would definitely be high-level demon beasts there who would be willing to have her."

Min's expression turned dark, but Blansin didn't stop there. "Of course, Min and Erla are together, so this idea is out of the question. But then again, it doesn't mean Erla can't use her race to acquire the favor of some high-level elder. As long as she shows her talent and bloodline, it shouldn't be too hard to become the legacy disciple of one of those demon beasts. With such a backing, you could come back to the Terces Continent and make a deal with my race. As long as the Jhiod Sect's name is on the table, my Silver Horn Sturgeon race will definitely consider it."

Erla's eyes lit up after hearing that. "That's it! It's a lot faster than waiting for my cultivation to reach an acceptable realm."

Min nodded in agreement. "I'll help you with that as much as I can."

Rean then patted Blansin's shoulders after that. "Aren't you quite bright? Hahaha! No wonder you're considered such a huge talent."

Blansin's mouth twitched as he looked at Rean. 'Me? A huge talent? Then, what are you? A god? I couldn't hold a candle to your strength, and you're still far below me in cultivation.' In the end, the encounter with Rean wiped Blansin's thoughts about him being a genius. He was far from that when compared to the young white-haired man.

Rean then turned his attention back to Erla and Min. "Well, I'll help you pass the test since our battle formation is also helping me. However, once we get into the Jhiod Sect, it will be up to you to get your objectives completed. My brother and I have a lot more things to do, and we probably won't stay in Jhiod Continent for long before leaving and never coming back."

"What?!" Everyone was taken aback to hear that. "Then why are you taking this test?"

"It's the fastest way to enter Jhiod Continent. It's that simple." Rean answered truthfully.

'Would anyone take such a dangerous number of tests just to get a free pass? Are you serious?' they all thought at the same time.

Erla then shook her head and put those thoughts behind her mind. "Whatever. The fact is that we will indeed help you to get into Jhiod Sect as well. I don't know if I can really become one of the Legacy Disciples of those demon beast elders in Jhiod Sect. However, even if I can't, I can always return to the original plan and train hard until I get strong enough to head back on my own."

Min nodded, saying, "With the Jhiod Sect's resources and your recently awakened bloodline, you can definitely reach the Inner or even the Core Sect. Of course, I'll obviously do everything I can."

Rean looked at Blansin and asked, "What about you? What are you going to do? To be honest, you should give up on the tests. We can't fit you inside our battle formation, so your presence would be more of a burden than a help."

Blansin took his badge, the one that would teleport the participants outside if it was crushed. "I have no need to be here anymore." Blansin warned Erla and Min after that. "I'll go out and talk with the elders. They already know that you're inside the Jhiod Sect building, after all. It's just that they can't enter with their cultivation. Remember, if you come out without being a member of the Jhiod Sect, they'll definitely capture you. With their cultivation, as long as they're not in the Jhiod Sect building, no one will really intervene if they do that."

Erla and Min nodded in response. "Thank you, Blansin."

Death... and me

Chapter 1676: The Outside Elders

Blansin then talked a bit more with Erla and the others before finally crushing his badge. Obviously, he got teleported outside of the test straight away. "Sigh... I hope you can pass the twelve exams, Erla. At the very least, you have a strong ally to help you do so." With that dealt with, Blansin exited the Jhiod Sect's building.

'Blansin, come over.' As soon as he did that, he received a Divine Sense message from one of his elders.

Blansin looked in a certain direction and saw his elders across the street through a window, leisurely waiting inside a restaurant. Blansin quickly headed over before entering the restaurant and sitting at the same table. "Elders, I'm back."

The one who seemed to be the leader nodded in response to his words. "How was it? Did you get the item?"

Blansin shook his head, saying, "Elder Tilte, I have failed your expectations. Erla already knew what was happening in the White Scaled Carp race, so she didn't let me get close at all. She didn't allow me to enter her group either. I tried to enter the Pressure Realm test to look for her, but the environment was too dangerous to travel alone. Also, as you know, you can't attack anyone in the building. We have to come up with some other plan."

Tilte narrowed his eyes in response, replying, "You're one of the greatest talents of your generation. If you can't do it, then no one else we know can. We also can't get in there ourselves. I can feel it. The Divine Senses of the protectors of the Jhiod Sect in that building looked at us. It was as if they were observing us from the moment we appeared in this city."

The other elder shook his head, saying, "It's fine. As long as we don't do anything with the participants while they're inside, those guys won't do anything to us either."

Tilte agreed with him. However, his expression didn't turn any better. "The problem is the risks. The tests there are too dangerous. So far, she's still alive. But if she dies there, we'll never be able to recover her heart. It will simply rot somewhere."

"Indeed," Blansin pretended to agree. "However, what can we do? She definitely won't come out of there. Also, I tried to threaten her with the lives of the White Scaled Carp race, but it seems like she already had a conversation with her dad before she headed out. Everything that was happening was within her and her dad's expectations in case things went south. She won't come out even if you bring her dad as a hostage right in front of the Jhiod Sect's building. At the very least, that's the feeling I got from her."

Tilte found the description Blansin gave about her a bit different from what he had heard. But then again, Erla had been kept as a secret for so long, so what he knew might have all been a lie as well. "Don't worry. We predicted that such a thing would happen, so we called for extra help."

"Extra help?" Blansin was taken aback to hear that. "What does elder mean?"

"We recruited mercenaries in the Mercenary Guild to do this job for us, and they will join you in the tests," Tilte explained. Soon after, he looked in another table's direction, where nine customers were eating.

When Blansin checked their cultivation, he immediately noticed that they were all at the Initial Stage of the Void Tempering Realm or above. Two of them were even at the Peak Stage. "Are they going to enter the tests of the Jhiod Sect?"

Tilte nodded in response. "Correct. The one in the middle is called Hume. He will be the leader of this group. Naturally, you will be there as well to harvest Erla's heart."

Blansin found it strange, though. "That doesn't make sense. Everyone knows how dangerous the tests are. If those guys could take part in the tests to start with, why would they be outside?"

"You're wrong," another elder added. "They're not going to try to pass the tests. The tests are obviously dangerous, but the majority of deaths come from people who refuse to give up. After all, they would need to start everything again. These guys are different. They know how dangerous it is and aren't willing to risk their lives to pass the tests. If they see they'll die, they will immediately crush their badges and get out of the tests."

Tilte nodded, continuing, "That's the agreement we had with them. Of course, the tests can still have you killed if you don't pay attention all the time. You might not even have the chance to crush the badges. With that said, Blansin, you must be careful as well. You and the others are the future of our race, after all."

"I'll definitely take care, elder. However, can I trust them?" Blansin asked in doubt.

"You can," Tilte confirmed with a nod. "All you need to know is that as long as they aren't at imminent risk of death, they won't crush their badges and will help you get Erla. You already have the tools and know-how to harvest her heart. The agreement, payment, and everything else related to those mercenaries is something for us to care about."

Blansin nodded after hearing that. "If elder says so, this Blansin shall carry your orders."

Tilte couldn't help but sigh as he looked at the Jhiod Sect building. "I just hope Erla doesn't die in the Pressure Realm test."

Blansin then asked something else. "Elder, isn't it possible to ask for the cooperation of the elders of the Jhiod Sect?" Of course, Blansin knew it wouldn't work, but he had to keep pretending he wanted to have Erla's heart as well. That's why he asked this question.

Tilte shook his head, saying, "It won't work. First of all, they won't be convinced by some random excuse to get Erla's heart. If we really show this much interest in her, they will know something is up. We can't risk losing Erla's heart to Jhiod Sect. Our Terces Continent might be nothing compared to Jhiod, but it's

still an entire continent. The Jhiod Sect would definitely love to have an item that could have the entire continent walking on the palm of their hands.”

“Very well.” Blansin stopped asking questions there.

Death... and me

Chapter 1677: Bad Luck, L Guess?

Then again, Tilte was right about one thing. Erla had to pass the Pressure Realm test or fail by crushing her badge and get teleported out. She couldn't die in the Pressure Realm.

Back in that same Pressure Realm, Erla had finally recovered her energy after what happened. “I think we can go again. However, I'm having a hard time figuring out the changes my body went through. My flow of Divine Energy in the battle formation will probably be all over the place.”

Rean nodded in response. “That's to be expected. Don't worry. Let's go back to Kentucky and Celis' group first. We need to fetch Habac since he's the one with experience in these tests.”

Min couldn't help but ask, “But how will you even find him? We went our separate ways quite some time ago. I doubt they're still in the same place.”

Rean smiled in response, saying, “Don't worry, I know where to find them. We just need to be careful on our way there.”

Sure enough, around two hours later, Rean's group saw Kentucky and the others again. Well, Rean had the connection with Kentucky, Celis, and Roan, so it was obvious that they found the other party.

“Phew... finally caught up to you guys. Hey, Habac. How have you been?”

Habac didn't look very well, though. It was as if he had been under a huge amount of stress since Rean and Min left. “I-I'm... I'm fine...” During the last few hours, Habac felt the eyes of the demon beasts all over his body. It was as if they would attack him at the very first opportunity. Not to mention that a lot of them had higher cultivations than his own.

Rean smiled in response. "Oh, is that so? Then I guess we don't need to keep going together. I'll leave you with Kentucky and the others."

"No! Wait! I don't wanna stay here!" Habac immediately panicked.

"Hahaha!" Rean laughed out loud after hearing that. "I'm joking, I'm joking. My group also needs your experience. Plus, we need a fourth member for the battle formation."

Kentucky didn't like it, though. "What do you mean you don't wanna stay here? Didn't I treat you very well?"

Since Kentucky, the Divine Demon Beast, got angry, all the other demon beasts got angry at him as well. Because of that, they all looked at Habac with murderous eyes. As long as Kentucky gave the order, they would ignore everything and attack Habac.

Habac sweated buckets as he tried to explain himself. "T-That's not what I meant. I... I just want to pass the test with my own group. I don't want to be carried by others like what you're doing. It's not the objective of the test... yes, that's definitely it!"

Kentucky's expression finally got better after that. "Oh! So that's how it is." He then patted Habac's back with his wing. "That's a good mindset. Seems like you learned a lot while you stayed with my group. Well done, well done. I'll let you go with Rean."

Rean didn't know whether to laugh or cry after hearing that. He could totally tell that Kentucky was messing around with Habac. How could he not tell Habac's feelings? "Alright, thank you, Celis, Kentucky. We finished everything we needed to do."

Celis looked at Rean and said, "So, how did this woman suddenly turn into a Divine Demon Beast?"

Sure enough, Celis and Kentucky noticed the power of Erla's bloodline. They recognized her, but they were sure she wasn't a Divine Demon Beast the last time they met.

Rean then organized his thoughts and sent the explanation to those two through a Divine Sense message.

Naturally, Celis and Kentucky were surprised by what they heard. "So Divine Demon Beasts also have rankings, huh?"

Rean nodded, saying, "Indeed. Where in the ranking do you guys think you're in at the moment?"

Kentucky pondered a bit as he felt Erla's bloodline. "Hmm... we haven't seen many Divine Demon Beasts, so we can't make a comparison. However, the power of her bloodline is just slightly, very slightly below Celis and me. Perhaps it's because she has just become a Divine Demon Beast. Or perhaps this is the true power of her bloodline already. Now that I think about it, the bloodline power of the Divine Demon Beast back in the Huring Sacred Land was much lower than mine."

Celis agreed with Kentucky, continuing, "Kentucky is right. However, it's possible to make a better comparison. For example, the Divine Demon Beasts back on the Zasfins' planet had different bloodline powers. The Phoenix and the Black Tortoise were on par with Kentucky and me. As for the Basilisk and the Silver Fenrir, they were definitely below. The Basilisk had the lowest bloodline power between the Divine Demon Beasts I felt so far."

Celis then looked at Erla, who felt a little nervous. After all, she could tell with a glance that Celis and Kentucky were also Divine Demon Beasts. It's just that they had been that for a very long time already. "This girl's bloodline power is above the Silver Fenrir and obviously the Basilisk as well. She is also above the Divine Demon Beast from Huring Sacred Land. But she's still below Kentucky, the Phoenix, the Blue Luan, the Black Tortoise and me, of course."

Min was surprised to hear that. "Shouldn't Erla be a high-ranked Divine Demon Beast?"

Rean shook his head in response, replying, "It could just be that the Divine Demon Beasts we saw so far were all high-ranked ones too." At the same time, Rean thought. 'Well, the Phoenix and the Black Tortoise were very famous back on Earth, now that I think about it. The Basilisk and Fenrir... not so much. Could it be correlated?' Rean wondered.

Erla looked at Rean and asked, "How did you get to meet so many high-ranked Divine Demon Beasts like that, then?"

Rean felt like a spear pierced his heart when he heard that question. 'That's because of this fucking system and its Destiny Attraction bullshit! Do you think I want to get in this kind of situation all the time?! Even with you, I just asked to form a group with you because I liked the fact you and Min were a couple! How the hell did it turn into a situation where a continent is at stake?!' Or so he wanted to say... unfortunately, he couldn't talk about the system. "Ahem... bad luck, I guess?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1678: Black Hole Trap

Erla and the others didn't understand why Rean seemed to be affected, but they didn't ask about it either. "Well, I guess we already understand most of the necessary things. Should we keep going? We haven't finished this test yet."

Rean nodded before they separated from Kentucky and Celis's group.

Meanwhile, Roan's group had finally arrived at the goal of the Pressure Realm test, being one of the first ones to be teleported outside.

Krikei couldn't help but feel extremely excited after that. "Great! Great! Great! Great! That was by far the worst test for a spirit like me. I'm finally over with it! Hahaha!" The test was quite hard in his case.

Vrie didn't seem that excited as he said, "As a demon beast, that was the easiest. But then again, the Soul Land before that was the opposite, so I guess I'm also happy to have passed that one."

Roan ignored them, though. Instead, he checked Rean's group through their connection... or so he tried. Unfortunately, being in another dimension meant to be separated from the Realm of Gods. Then again, Roan could ask Sister Orb about that, at least. 'How are they doing?'

[They're fine. That girl called Erla has really received a huge upgrade. The Pressure Realm can't make her feel bad at all with her awakened bloodline. Rean, obviously, has the Third Grade Star Body and the Enhancement skill, so he's faring even better. As for the others in his group, the Enhancement skill is enough for them to resist the gravity there.]

Roan nodded in response. 'I just need to wait for them to finish the test.'

However, Rean's group got into quite a tricky situation a few hours later. "Hold on! Don't let go!"

At the moment, they entered an area where gravity suddenly spiked several times. Yet, it wasn't pulling them down. Instead, gravity was pulling them ahead. Rean could see a 'black hole' taking form several kilometers in the distance. Of course, he knew that thing wasn't a real black hole. Otherwise, the entire Dimensional Realm would have disappeared already. It just had a similar function of having extremely high gravity. "If you fall into that thing, you will be dead for sure."

Nonetheless, it was strong enough to even kill himself, let alone the others. The only reason they were able to fight against the black hole's pulling force was that Rean noticed the moment a formation trap activated. With his reaction, he immediately controlled their battle formation to flee as fast as possible while pulling everyone with him. Only when they were already quite far did the black hole appear.

Yet, it still had the power to pull Min and Habac towards it. Only Rean and Erla had enough strength to fight the pulling power coming from that thing. The problem was that pulling Min and Habac had increased their burden twice. "Rean, we're being pulled by that thing. We won't resist much longer."

Min, who held Rean's hand, immediately asked, "What if we use long-range attacks to destroy that black thing? Perhaps it'll at least stop pulling us over."

Rean shook his head in response. "That thing is being controlled by a formation below the ground. That thing you're seeing is nothing more than the result of the formation. You can attack as many times as you want. It will have little to no effect at all."

Habac then got an idea, suggesting, "All we need to do is to generate a counteracting force strong enough to help us move away from that. Let's attack the area behind us. As powerful as this pull may be, the shockwave from a combined energy attack of us four while using the battle formation should definitely be stronger. After all, it'll happen right by our side."

"Ahhhh!"

"Heeeeeelp!"

Suddenly, Rean's group noticed another group of cultivators and demon beasts being pulled into the black hole from another direction. They struggled as much as possible, but it was all useless.

Rean, Erla, and Min immediately threw caution to the wind and agreed with Habac's option. Well, the truth was that Rean could escape on his own if necessary. It's just that he would wait until there was no other choice but to let Min go. "Alright. Focus on your strongest energy-type attack. It doesn't matter what it is as long as it can create a huge shockwave."

With that said, they all shared the location they would focus their attacks on with their Divine Senses and went all out.

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

'Thunderfire Descent!'

'Water Form Compress, Release!'

'Myriad Lightning Barrage!'

Boom!

Their bodies had just started being pulled by the black hole when suddenly, a huge shockwave hit their bodies. As the attack landed right behind them, as well as between their group and the black hole, the shockwave immediately shot them in the opposite direction of the black hole. Rean also used his Light Element to instantly heal any injuries due to the explosion before the force of the shockwave disappeared.

The shockwave was only enough to send them a hundred or so meters away before the black hole's gravity began to pull on everyone once again.

"One more time!"

No one saved any Divine Energy as they repeated the same action.

Boom!

As they were a little further away from the black hole now, the shockwave was also able to throw them even further.

“Again!”

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Only after the fourth explosion’s shockwave did Rean’s group manage to steady themselves against the black hole’s force. “Let’s get out of here. That thing’s power is increasing. I believe this is a test to separate those who took too long to reach the end of the test. The longer you take, the worse it’ll become.”

Rean was right. That wasn’t the only black hole formation trap that appeared. At the moment, it was still possible to pass through while ignoring the black holes. However, the longer it took, the harder it would become. At some point, completing the test would be impossible. Fortunately, Rean’s group had made it through this problem and completed the test.

Death... and me

Chapter 1679: Null Senses

Outside the main hall, where the spatial gates were located, Rean’s group finally appeared after crossing the goal in the Pressure Realm. Immediately, Min and Habac fell to the ground as they gasped for air. “Fuck! That was really close!”

Rean laughed in response, saying, “Hahaha! Not really that close if you think about it. We still had our badges, right? I hope none of you think dying is better than failing the test. If you’re going to die, make sure to crush your badge straight away.”

Unsurprisingly, Min and Habac nodded to that.

Erla, on the other hand, seemed to be faring a lot better. “Rean, if it was only you, you would have fled easily, no?”

Rean nodded, replying, “I could. Fortunately, Habac came up with the idea, and it worked. Otherwise, I would really need to let Min go and complete the test on my own. As important as completing the test is for you guys, I can’t put it above my own objectives.”

Min shook his head, saying, “If that really happened, I would have crushed my badge. There’s no need for you to fail for us. If push comes to shove, Erla and I will stay here in the Jhiod Sect’s building until the day we pass all twelve tests on our own or die trying.”

Erla agreed with Min, telling Rean, “You’re already helping us a lot. Of course, we’re happy that the battle formation makes it possible for us to help you as well.”

Habac sighed after hearing that. “The important thing is that we made it through. I’ve never reached that far through the Pressure Realm before, so I didn’t know about that black hole thing. You guys should always be vigilant since my knowledge isn’t complete. I can only talk about what I saw during my previous attempts.”

Rean didn’t mind. “That’s already a lot. Let’s rest and wait for the next test. Then again, it’ll take over three weeks until it starts.” Rean was right. Even after everything that happened, they still completed the Pressure Realm in a couple of days. Each test only started after a month, so they now had a lot of time on their hands.

Suddenly, a big Minokawa approached Rean’s group. “Oh! So you guys were the last ones to pass the test, huh?” Obviously, it was Kentucky.

“Did you see those black hole traps as well?” Rean asked back. He obviously knew Kentucky and Celis had finished the test since his connection with them told him about their presence in the hall.

Kentucky nodded, saying, “We did see one of them. However, another group activated it, so we were quite far. In any case, that thing really had a strong pulling force. We had to go around it to be safe.”

Roan was the second one to arrive with his group. “You better not die since I might die as well.”

Rean shrugged his shoulders, telling him, “My life is a lot more important than this test. If I see I’ll die, I’ll crush the badge. In any case, as long as only one of us passes the test, all of us can enter Jhiod Continent.”

Erla and the others were confused by Rean’s words. Naturally, they didn’t know Rean and Roan could carry everyone in the Dimensional Realm. That’s why only one was necessary to pass the twelve tests.

Suddenly, Erla noticed Blansin’s presence in another corner of the main hall. Not only him, but he seemed to be together with a few other cultivators and demon beasts. All of them were looking in their direction as well. ‘Blansin came back already?’

Blansin also noticed Erla’s eyes, so he avoided them right after. However, he also used his Divine Sense to send Erla, Min, and Rean a message. ‘Things changed.’

Rean’s group immediately paid attention to what Blansin had to say. ‘All of these guys just to capture Erla?’

Blansin confirmed, saying, ‘Yes. Their plan is not to pass the test. They will crush their badges if they get into a situation where death is highly possible. However, they will use the time the next tests start to go after Erla before she can go further into dangerous areas. I can’t stop them since it’ll be obvious that I don’t want to capture Erla anymore. My elders are still outside, waiting for the outcome.’

Erla nodded in response. ‘So that’s how it is.’ She and the others then used their Divine Sense to feel the cultivation of the mercenaries. Sure enough, they saw how all of them were in the Void Tempering Realm, with two of them even being at the Peak Stage.

Blansin then ceased his communication with Erla's group to not attract the attention of the mercenaries beside him.

Rean pondered over it for a bit. "They won't touch us here in the main hall. It's like Blansin mentioned. They will have to take action inside the tests. Of course, only if the test allows the participants to attack each other. We did have a test where attacking other candidates was prohibited."

Habac immediately shook his head, saying, "The majority of the tests allow the participants to attack others. Only the Soul Land and the Mirror Dimensional Realm tests have the prohibition. The next test is not the Mirror Realm, though."

"Which one is the next?" Rean and the others immediately asked.

"The Null Senses Realm," Habac answered.

Naturally, Rean's group had no clue what that was. "Null Senses Realm? What's the test about?"

Habac immediately began to explain. "It's as the name implies. The realm affects our senses. We can't rely on our hearing, sight, touch, taste, and smell. Under these circumstances, we will need to collect items called Sense Seeds. Once we get one of them, one of our senses will come back. We will need to collect five in total to recover all senses. Of course, Divine Sense and Soul Power Scan will be prohibited during the entire test. Otherwise, the test would be useless."

"What a weird test," Rean could not help but say. "How can we even look for these items if we can't even tell up from down?"

Habac already expected that question. "Don't worry. We can rely on the zones."

Death... and me

Chapter 1680: Joining All Groups

"Zones?" Rean asked, slightly confused.

Habac nodded, explaining, "That Dimensional Realm is divided into thousands of zones. Each zone will allow the use of one of the five senses."

Min understood the concept. "Since it's a test, I'm pretty sure that zones that allow sight to be used are the rarest."

Habac smiled in response. "Correct. The last time when I entered it, I hadn't found a single zone that allowed me to use my sight. It went without saying that I failed that test since I didn't find a single Sense Seed. The zones are the only other way to get your senses back without the Sense Seeds."

Rean then looked in the direction of the mercenaries in Blansin's group. "Could it be that this test has no dangers itself?"

Habac nodded once again, replying, "That's correct. This test is all about finding the Sense Seeds before others. The realm itself will not try to kill you in any way. The main danger is definitely the other participants. That's because it takes ten minutes for a participant to absorb a Sense Seed. It can not be absorbed faster than that. Can you imagine? Battles where you can't tell right from left happening around you? You might get yourself killed, and you won't even feel the pain if your sense of touch isn't working."

Rean bitterly smiled as he looked at his badge. "The badges aren't very helpful in this next realm, it seems." Rean then thought about something else. "Right! How can you tell who your group members are from the others?"

Habac pointed at the badge, saying, "The badge themselves. You will feel a link to the other badges in your group as long as you pour Divine Energy into it."

Erla and Min sighed in relief after that. At least they would know who their friends were.

Rean then looked at Roan, who was just listening to everything. 'Are you thinking the same thing as I am?'

Roan glanced at Rean before nodding. 'That's the perfect place to make use of him.'

Celis and Kentucky could also tell what Rean and Roan were planning. 'In that case, we'll also join you. Sense Seeds are hard to obtain for others, but it won't be the case for us.'

Rean and Roan didn't mind. 'You're right. Although a bigger group means a lot more Sense Seeds, we can get to the seeds faster than anyone else.'

However, Rean looked at Kentucky and Celis' group of demon beasts. 'Just be aware that your group is way too big. We don't mind letting them take advantage of our plan. However, they'll be the last ones. After all, your group is twice as big compared to Roan's group or mine.'

'That's not a problem,' Kentucky and Celis didn't mind.

Soon after, Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Celis told their own group members that they would all join together for the next test. Naturally, everyone was taken aback. "Are you guys crazy?! It will take too long to find Sense Seeds for everyone. Look around you. The larger groups are all breaking down into smaller groups because they know that speed is important here." Sure enough, everyone thought that.

Roan snorted in response. "Hah! I'm not forcing anyone to follow Rean, Kentucky, Celis, and me. If you guys want to separate into smaller groups to try to find more Sense Seeds, by all means, be my guest. Just don't come complaining to us later."

Erla looked at Rean. "For you guys to decide to join together, it's because you have something in mind, right?"

Rean smiled after hearing that. "Hehe! We do have an idea indeed." Rean then looked at everyone. "Be aware that Roan, Kentucky, Celis, and I will be the first ones to take the Sense Seeds. The question is whether you guys trust us or not. If not, the four of us will head inside on our own."

Erla, Min, and Habac didn't even think twice. "We trust you." It's not like they had much choice anyway. Besides, they saw what Rean was capable of, so they thought it was better to stick with him. Especially after they heard from Habac how hard the test was with everyone looking for the seeds while attacking each other.

The demon beasts in Kentucky and Celis group didn't even need to talk. They didn't really trust Kentucky and Celis. What they trusted were their Divine Bloodlines. It was simple as that. Not to mention that Erla being in this big group also helped. She was a Divine Demon Beast as well, after all.

Krikei looked at Lita and Vrie after that. "What do you think?"

Vrie shrugged his shoulders, saying, "Why not? I don't think Roan would pull us into a hopeless situation. This is one of the most random tests, after all. Since they seem to have a plan, I'm all for it."

Lita nodded, saying, "It's not like we have a plan of action for this weird test anyway. It has always been a white elephant."

Krikei agreed with them. "Alright, Roan. We will also join this group and let the four of you take the seeds first."

Rean then looked at the mercenaries in Blansin's group before sending Roan a Divine Sense message. 'After the four of us take the seeds, I'll give the next ones to Erla, Min, and Habac, okay? I want to take this chance to attack those guys while they're confused.'

Roan didn't mind. 'Alright. Do you need help?'

Rean shook his head in response. 'No. If things go south, I'll leave on my own. This is more related to Erla's own revenge. I'm just giving her a bit of help.'

With that decided, the groups separated and waited for the next few weeks to pass. Eventually, the spatial gate to the Null Senses Realm opened, and one of the managers allowed everyone entrance.

"Remember, you need to recover all your five senses to be able to use the spatial gate at the center of the Dimensional Realm. Only then will you conclude the test. You can all enter now."

Everyone entered the gate together. Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Celis' groups also registered their badges as being part of the same team so that they could feel each other.

However, little did others notice, but a new member also joined their huge group. A young man at the Saint Realm called Luan.