

Death 1691

Death... and me

Chapter 1691: which Army?

Rean would be lying if he said he didn't expect something like that. 'Well, that depends on the condition.'

Libraia continued, 'Since she will try to get accepted by some of the Core Elders of the Jhiod Sect, I want her to go to my Uncle Sam.'

'Uncle Sam? Are you part of the U.S army?' Rean asked somewhat absentmindedly.

Libraia didn't have a clue as to what he meant by that, though. 'U.S Army? What's that?'

Rean quickly shook his head, saying, 'It's just a joke. Ignore my previous words.' Rean then changed the topic before Libraia became interested again. 'So, who is this Uncle Sam?'

'Isn't that obvious?' Libraia asked in response. 'He's part of my clan. The Jhiod Sect is enormous, and it has several factions inside it. Erla's power will definitely be a boon to my clan's influence inside our own faction. Also, my Uncle Sam just so happens to be an aquatic demon beast, so he's the best suited to take her under his wings... or fins now that I think about it...'

Rean shrugged his shoulders, saying, 'Seems good enough for me. I'll talk with Erla later, but I don't see a reason for her to refuse. If anything, it's even better than she can already be accepted by a Core Elder before we even arrive there.'

Libraia was happy to hear that. 'Then, we have a deal.'

Before Libraia could tell Tilde she wouldn't accept his offer, Rean asked something else. 'By the way, what's the name of your clan? Iglet and Govin seem to be very respectful to you because of that.'

'That's obvious,' Libraia answered. 'We are the Yume Clan, one of the top clans inside the Jhiod Sect. Among the sect masters of the past, two of them were part of my Yume Clan. Well, that's not the case at the moment, though. In any case, we have a very strong influence there.'

If anything, Rean became even more joyous after hearing that. 'Good to know. Well, I guess this really is a deal, then.'

With that, Libraia stopped her conversation with Tilte. While Libraia exchanged information with Rean, she was also negotiating a price to take Erla out. However, she had no need for that anymore. "Alright, you can stop already. Something tells me that this Erla girl is quite important. With that said, I'll take a look at her myself later. Though, I can't help her pass the test either, so you can try and stop her with your Sturgeons if you can. Only those who pass the twelve tests in a row can join Jhiod Sect."

"This..." Tilte was taken aback to hear that. The negotiation seemed to be going well, so why would Libraia suddenly stop? Immediately, he thought about something and looked at Rean. However, Rean had his head turned elsewhere as he talked with Roan. It was as if he wasn't even paying attention to the negotiation. 'Fanso confirmed he signed the contract, so he shouldn't be able to help her at all. However, it's still too much of a coincidence.'

Tilte then returned his attention to Libraia, offering, "Lady Libraia, I can truly pay a very good price. I can even put in a Water Element Rank Six Divine Stone in the mix."

All the elders looked at Tilte when they heard that. That was the same Divine Stone that Rean's group found in the mine back in the Pol Continent. In the end, Havek got that for himself since it would be very useful for his cultivation.

Libraia had to admit that Tilte's offer was tempting. She would have a hard time getting such an item in her hands, even with her clan's connections. Of course, she definitely wouldn't accept it if Tilte used that Divine Stone to ask if they could help some of his descendants pass the test. If it was found out that she accepted bribery to get someone in the sect, she would be done for. However, if it was a price to get someone out of the test, that wouldn't be a problem. Jhiod Sect definitely didn't lack talents.

Well, she didn't consider that offer for long as she knew what Erla was capable of once she grew up. A single Rank Six Water Element Divine Stone wouldn't be worth Erla's power. "Now I'm even more interested in that female demon beast called Erla."

Libraia looked at Iglet right after, saying, "Send our guest off. As I said before, if you want to stop her, you can have your Sturgeons attack her during the next tests. There's no rule stopping them from doing so. However, no one here will accept your offer."

Iglet and Govin couldn't help but send Libraia a Divine Sense message after hearing that. 'Are you sure? It's just one demon beast in exchange for the Divine Stone. It's definitely worth it.'

Libraia shook her head, telling them, 'Since I said no, then it's a no. Also, you better not try to accept his offer behind my back. If I find out you did anything to stop the female demon beast from completing the test, I'll have your heads planted outside the Sect Recruitment Building the next day.'

Govin and Iglet felt a chill on their backs after that. They knew that although Libraia was an easy-going woman, she was definitely a woman of her word. No Rank Six Divine Stone would be worth risking their own lives. 'Fine. We still think it's a waste, but we will do as you say.'

As much as Tilte tried, he was still sent out of the sect building. In the end, his attempt to get the Jhiod Sect's recruitment elders' help failed miserably. 'It must have been those twins! Everything was going smoothly, and then suddenly, Libraia changed her mind. I don't know how, but the contract definitely isn't working for them.'

Tilte believed that even more since Fanso's group had not found Erla and Min in any of the previous two tests. With what just happened in the negotiation, Tilte was pretty sure that Rean had helped Erla and Min. 'I can only count on Fanso and the others now.'

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Chapter 1692: Resist the Barrage

Fanso's group received the message from Tilte, telling them that the negotiations had failed. Also, Tilte warned them that Rean was most likely still helping Erla and Min. However, Fanso found it hard to believe. Without being in the Void Tempering Realm, one shouldn't be able to escape the seal. Nevertheless, he wouldn't leave it up to chance. 'There's a problem, though. If Rean is helping them, how am I going to find Erla during the Thunderstorm Breakthrough test?'

Of course, that wasn't the only issue. The Thunderstorm Breakthrough test was especially dangerous for aquatic demon beasts like them. Lightning Element itself was usually bad for most Demon Beasts to start with, let alone those vulnerable to it. They would have to try to keep themselves alive first.

Little did anyone notice, but one of the elders of the Silver Horn Sturgeon race left the hotel after he heard what Tilte said about the negotiation. He just wandered around as if waiting for something.

Time passed, and the next test arrived. As always, the manager gave a very small speech and allowed everyone to enter the Dimensional Realm.

Rean, Erla, Min, and Habac once again appeared near each other and immediately took a look around. However, it was quite hard to see with all the black clouds surrounding them. If not for the Dimensional Realm allowing flight, they would have started falling already since there was no ground to speak of, just gravity pulling them down.

"Habac, does this place have some safer zones like the Deep Sea Monster Assault test?" Rean asked.

Habac shook his head, saying, "Not as far as I know. I can use Lighting and Fire, so I'm quite resistant to this environment. However, I couldn't find anything that looked like a safe zone the last time I was here. However, there are always upsides. This was one of the tests that I succeeded on my own before." Habac then shrugged his shoulders as he continued, "Then again, I failed the next test and went back to stage zero. Hahaha!"

Rean and the others were happy to hear that. "Then this isn't that difficult, right?"

"Wrong!" Habac shook his head, explaining, "I passed the test because I was lucky enough to not be targeted by most of the lightning bolts. As the name implies, we need to break through the storm. That means we all have a finish line to reach. I don't know if the lightning bolts will focus on us now that we're a bigger group. The good part I mentioned is that I know the distance between the entrance and the finish line. If we use Rean's Enhancement skill and our battle formation, I believe we can break through the storm in just five hours."

Erla sighed in relief after hearing that. "That's good. I'm very susceptible to Lighting Element. The lower the time I have to spend here, the better."

"Alright, let's get in formation. I'll be using my Light and Divine Sense bending skill to make sure that no one can see us. The lightning storm will probably start once everyone is inside, so focus on the defense."

Roan's group wasn't much different. "I have a good defensive skill, so I'll keep it active during the entire journey." Roan was talking about Reversive Arcs, which could indeed protect the group from all sides. "I'll leave the movement up to you, so just pull me along."

Krikei, Vrie, and Lita nodded in response. "Leave it to us."

In Kentucky and Celis' group, neither Celis nor Kentucky seemed to be concerned with this test, though. Celis was a Wood Element expert, which was obviously one of the best affinities to fight against lightning. His resistance against it was enormous.

As for Kentucky, even though his affinities weren't especially good against lightning, they weren't bad either. For Kentucky, what mattered was his own body defense. Once he activated his blade feathers and hardened the scales under it, the lightning in this test would have a hard time breaking through.

Fanso's group didn't waste time either. The moment they appeared in the Thunderstorm Breakthrough Dimensional Realm, they separated and looked for Rean's group. They still had some time before the test started, which meant no one could move ahead yet.

In fact, that's why Rean used his Light and Divine Sense bending skill from the start. Rather than having to fight Fanso's mob, he would definitely prefer to hide.

Suddenly, Rean smiled as he felt a Divine Sense touch his bending skill. 'They really don't know when to give up.' The Divine Sense was too far away, so it wouldn't break through the bending skill. All Rean had to do was guide his group out of the pursuers' path, and that would do the trick. Well, the dark clouds everywhere didn't help Fanso's group either.

Sure enough, Rean passed by a few of Fanso's group members. Not only that, but he also found other groups that had nothing to do with Fanso. Regardless, he avoided every single one of them until all the participants finally appeared in the Thunderstorm Breakthrough test.

Kabrummmmm!

Immediately, the clouds of the Dimensional Realm seemed to come back to life. What was only dark before transformed into a sea of blue and purple lighting shining through the clouds. Each discharge seemed to make the entire Dimensional Realm tremble.

"Let's go!" Rean didn't care, though.

'Life Style, Firm Form, Enhancement!'

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

'Sword Intent!'

As Rean took care of the defense, Erla, Min, and Habac concentrated on the movement. They had the support of Rean's skill, so the three used the battle formation and their own Divine Energy to shoot into the distance. Obviously, Habac was the one guiding them.

Kabrommmm!

Immediately, bolts of blue and purple lightning started to fall against Rean's Reversive Arcs.

'Holy shit! The guys who created this test weren't kidding!' Rean was fully focused on his defense. But even with that, he felt that he could just barely resist the lightning. That was already considering he was using all his skills at once. 'No wonder they say this is one of the places with the highest number of deaths. Can I even resist such a barrage for five hours?'

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Chapter 1693: No One Will

"Ouch! Gah! Argh! Fuck!!!" Then again, Rean wasn't the only one having a hard time. Kentucky, who thought he would have a relaxed time, had his feather blades burnt into charred bits. "What the hell is this?! My defense is even higher than most Peak Stage Void Tempering Realm demon beasts! How can I get injured so easily?!"

Celis, who was also defending himself together with the other demon beasts, immediately replied, "Stop complaining and use Instant Recovery. There's no lack of Peak Stage Void Tempering Realm demon beasts trying to join Jhiod every year. Obviously, they made this test so that even they would have a hard time. As for those below that level, it's up to them to resist, give up, or die here."

Kentucky wasn't happy, but he did it anyway. "Hmph! Fine! I'll admit that my defense is still not on par."

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Kentucky's Light Element then burst out as he quickly healed the injuries caused by the bolts of lightning on his body. They might have broken through his feather blades and scales, but that was basically it. None of them could penetrate into Kentucky's body. As for the electric current over the body, that only barely made Kentucky itch.

If Kentucky was already like that, then the demon beasts in his group fared even worse. Unlike the previous tests, those demon beasts could not help Kentucky and Celis at all. In the end, if they wanted to pass this test, they would have to rely on Kentucky's healing skill, which wasn't anything impressive if compared to Rean or Roan. He took a lot longer to heal others, and he had to do it to himself first.

Roan's side was the most relaxed one of the three groups. After all, Roan was the creator of the Reversive Arcs. As it relied a lot more on Dark Element than Light, Roan was also better suited for it. "That's good enough. Let's keep up this pace. Keep sending me Divine Energy so that I can fend off the bolts of lightning."

Hearing that, Krikei and the others had no reason to refuse. "On it!"

It went without saying that most of the participants were having a hard time. Many were hit by the lightning bolts and were too injured to continue, being forced to crush their badges. Those were already the lucky ones, as quite a lot of participants with lower cultivations died straight away.

Of course, there were the cultivators, demon beasts, and spirits who had Lightning Elemental Affinities. With that being said, the ones best off were the demon beasts. Usually, demon beasts were more susceptible to lightning. However, if it was a demon beast with Lightning Affinity, like the Thunder Hawk or the Lightning Viper, they had the best of both worlds. A stronger body and the right element.

They were definitely the type of participants that had the least amount of give-ups or deaths. It was so good that even though Rean and Roan's group were doing very well, they were still slower than those demon beasts, especially if they had high-level cultivation.

Fanso's group, however, was in a very sorry state. Even Fanso himself, who was in the Peak Stage of the Void Tempering Realm, would scream in pain when a lightning bolt hit his body. He did keep up a Divine

Energy Barrier and used his own defensive skills to fend off or dodge the bolts of lightning. Unfortunately, the bolts of lightning in the Thunderstorm Breakthrough Dimensional Realm couldn't be avoided. In the end, he could only try to defend. But since his race was weak against that, he couldn't completely stop the strikes. His lower-level race members were worse off, with some already crushing their badges to flee or dying for not reacting fast enough.

'Fuck! How can we look for Erla in this kind of place?! If we find her, we'll have no chance to attack. Harvesting her heart will be even more impossible!'

Fanso and his group only continued the search for thirty minutes or so. By that time, most of them were already out of the Dimensional Realm or had died. "Fuck it! Crush your badges. We will only die if we continue here. Let's hope this isn't the last test Erla has to take. Our best chance will be in the next test, the Deep Sea Monster Assault. If we lose everyone here, then Erla would definitely escape for sure. If Elder Tilte asks, I'll take responsibility."

The others felt like they had been pardoned as they instantly crushed their badges. This place was nothing more than hell for the Silver Horn Sturgeon race. Fanso, of course, didn't waste time and did the same thing.

Then again, they couldn't be blamed. After all, they had been dancing on Rean's hands ever since they appeared. First of all, coming to the Thunderstorm Breakthrough Dimensional Realm to look for Erla wasn't a good idea. Erla herself knew that she would be dead by now if not for Rean's Reversive Arcs.

At some point, Habac, Erla, and Min had to reduce their speed and take out their Divine Stones. Rean's Reversive Arcs were barely standing up against the flashes of lightning, and he was starting to run out of Divine Energy. If they didn't provide more Divine Energy, Rean wouldn't last until the end.

Rean was also certain about another thing. If it was him alone, he would most likely not be able to pass this test. Sure, he might have gotten lucky and attracted very few lightning bolts as Habac did in the past. However, with the system on his side, he was pretty sure he wouldn't be that lucky.

The first of the three groups to pass was obviously Roan. They reached the end of the Thunderstorm Breakthrough Dimensional Realm with quite some ease. Though, that didn't mean it was effortless. It's just that Roan's advantages played a big role in this test.

Kentucky's group was next. However, Kentucky didn't seem to have any more white feathers. He looked more like a crow now as all his blade feathers were completely charred. Celis, on the other hand, seemed to be faring somewhat better.

Last but not least, Rean's group arrived at the end and passed through the spatial gate.

"We did it!"

Erla, Min, and Habac couldn't help but jump for joy. They had finally passed all twelve tests in a roll. With that, Erla would finally be safe against the Silver Horn Sturgeon race... or so she thought.

Suddenly, space itself contracted around Erla, preventing her from moving a single muscle. Soon after, the figure of an old man appeared as he delivered a deadly strike!

"If we can't have it, then no one will!"

That was none other than the elder of the Silver Horn Sturgeon race. It wasn't Tilte, though, but someone else. Tilte couldn't be sacrificed. Not that he wouldn't, but that he had one of the highest cultivation in his race, so the race couldn't lose him. Nevertheless, the Clendes Sea Heart was too dangerous to their race. If they couldn't have it, they absolutely couldn't allow someone else to use it against them. That's why this elder decided to sacrifice himself. Once he attacked someone in the Jhiod Sect's building, he knew he would die as a result. But that was fine. As long as Erla died first, their race would be fine.

Boom!

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Chapter 1694: Libraia's Power

Hundreds of cultivators, demon beasts and the few spirits in the main hall were sent flying by the shockwave of Spatial Powers and Elements. Considering the power of the strike alone, it was easy to tell that this elder was definitely far above the Void Tempering or Space Bending Realm. Quite a few who were caught by his strike's shockwave ended up dying straight away. Their low Transition and Void Tempering Realm cultivation were of no use against such force.

However, the elder didn't look the least bit happy. If anything, only a bitter smile appeared on his face. Right in front of him, a woman stood tall, unshakable. Even though everything in the area got destroyed, the area around her, which included Erla and her team, was completely unaffected.

As Rean looked at it, he could see that space itself rippled. Not only that, there seemed to be several runes, but they weren't anything like the ones used in formations created by cultivators. To be more specific, they looked more like the natural formation runes. Those runes shimmered, completely nullifying the Spatial Powers coming from the elder of the Silver Horn Sturgeon race.

That woman was none other than Libraia, who just smiled back at the elder and said, "That's a no-no, you know? No one can harm the participants of the Jhiod Sect's recruitment while in the main hall. If you want to do something, wait for this female demon beast to head out or have someone else in the Void Tempering Realm or below deal with her during the tests."

The elder couldn't help but let out cold sweat after that. He knew that he had no chance of doing anything to Erla anymore, so he immediately tried to flee. Yes, he tried... unfortunately, his body couldn't even move a single step.

Libraia's runes weren't only protecting the area around Rean's group. Other than that, they were all around the elder of the Silver Horn Sturgeon race. Usually, those at his level would rely on their spatial power to do everything. Sadly, it was impossible for him at the moment. "Spatial Revoke!"

Libraia's eyes shone when she heard that. "Oh! So a little guy from a small race like you know about it. Oh well, I believe that leader of yours in the hotel a few kilometers from here is barely able to do the same. Well, that's correct. You won't be able to use Spatial Powers as long as I'm your opponent."

Libraia then looked around and sighed, saying, "You will never have the chance to reach this level, though. Not only did you break the rules and entered this place with that cultivation of yours, but you also killed many of the participants here. Unfortunately for you, I have to send you to accompany them to the underworld."

Libraia then simply turned her hand. Suddenly, those runes around the elder shot in his direction while emanating the power of space. The elder tried to summon all his Divine Energy, Elements, and even his Spatial Powers. Unfortunately, none of them worked. It was as if his own demon core was completely under Libraia's control.

Crack, crack, crack...

Shatter!

It was then that something incredible happened. Space itself broke apart within the elder's body. It was as if the elder's body was shattering like glass. That continued for a few seconds until the runes and Spatial Power disappeared. The moment they disappeared, the elder's body fell to the ground in a pool of crimson liquid. It was impossible to tell what were organs, bones, or just blood.

It didn't last long, though. With another wave of her hand, what was before the elder's body immediately disappeared without leaving a single trace behind. "Sigh... how many do they think tried to cause trouble in the Jhiod Sect's recruitment buildings around the continents? It's obvious that we would be ready for it. Well, I guess I did quite a poor job since I couldn't stop a few of the participants from dying. I shall take it as a lesson and do a better job next time."

Most of the participants and even the workers looked at Libraia with fear in their eyes. Others, on the other hand, couldn't help but dream about reaching her level. As for Rean and Roan, they were just relieved Rean wasn't killed by that elder as a side effect. They didn't think much about Libraia's power, though. After all, they did see an attack countless times more powerful, capable of destroying an entire planet before.

Erla then looked at Libraia and immediately spoke, "Thank you for saving my friends and me, senior."

Libraia shook her head in response, saying, "Now that you completed the twelve tests, you are officially a member of the Jhiod Sect. I couldn't just stand by and watch you be killed right in front of me. If I did, the sect would definitely complain later."

At the same time, Libraia sent Erla a Divine Sense message. 'Besides, you will become my Uncle Sam's disciple. I already contacted him, so he knows what you're capable of and that you're coming. Make sure to train hard.'

Erla nodded. Rean had already told her about the deal they made when Tilte visited the Jhiod Sect's building. He also told her that he hadn't mentioned that it was her heart that was the reason, so she had to be careful. 'Don't worry, senior. Being accepted by a Core Elder as a direct disciple was my aim from the very start. Knowing that I got it before even entering the Jhiod Continent only fills me with pride.'

Naturally, Libraia was satisfied with the answer. 'Well said. Now then, I'll take my leave since it's not my job to arrange things. We will see each other again in the sect.'

Right after, Libraia looked at the worker in the building, telling him, "Clean up everything and continue the preparation for the next test."

"Yes, Lady Libraia!" Of course, no one would dare to go against her words.

Libraia nodded before she suddenly disappeared.

As for Rean and Roan... "Seems like we can finally enter Jhiod Continent."

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Chapter 1695: We Might Just Have What YouNeed

Celis, Kentucky, Rean, Roan... in the end, the four of them made it through the twelve tests. There had been dangerous times for each of them, but they were all valuable experiences. After all, they used it to get used to their own power.

One of the Jhiod Sect members then approached the twins and the others who succeeded in the tests, giving them the same badge as before. It was the badge they saw back then, which was given to those that completed twelve tests in a row. "This is just a temporary thing. Once you arrive at the Jhiod Sect in Jhiod Continent, you will have to go to the sect's office to have your real sect badges made."

Naturally, Rean accepted the badge. "Thank you, sir. When will we be entering Jhiod Continent?"

"Tomorrow," the guy answered. "You can just stay here and or go and prepare anything you want. We always send the new disciples to Jhiod Sect the next day after the test, as we have a passage that's kept open year-round."

After the worker left, Rean looked back at Erla, Habac, and Min and said, "Well, I guess this is it. From here onwards, you will have to rely on yourselves. This group of ours was very beneficial for me. There

were tests that I would have probably failed if I didn't have you guys in the battle formation. But then again, everything has to come to an end."

Erla couldn't help but say in response, "We're still going to the same sect, so there's no need to separate from each other."

Rean shook his head after hearing that. "Did you forget what I mentioned before? Joining Jhiod Sect has never been my group's goal. We only want to get there to gather some information. Once my brother and I get what we want, we'll leave."

Habac couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. "That's too bad. I was hoping I could use your power once again to grow in the Jhiod Sect. Then again, don't you think it's a waste to leave? I don't believe you can find a better place to grow than there."

Rean laughed in response, telling him, "Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. Believe it or not, my group got to this level mostly on our own. We don't need a sect to grow. Of course, depending on what happens in Jhiod Continent, we might stick around for a while. If that happens, then we might help each other again at some point."

Roan was in the middle of a similar conversation with Krikei, Vrie, and Lita. "Our team was nothing more than a way to achieve our objectives. Since we got what we wanted, we will now go our own ways."

Krikei sighed in response, asking him, "Why are you always this cold? I mean... we had gone through a lot together. Shouldn't you at least consider us friends?"

Roan pondered a bit before nodding. "Very well, then we can be considered friends. You won't get anything from me just because of that, though."

Lita and Vrie shrugged their shoulders in response. An entire year and twelve tests later gave them a good grasp of Roan's personality. "It's probably the highest kind of commitment we can get from this guy."

Krikei agreed with them. "True..."

On the other hand, Kentucky and Celis' demon beast group were a lot more straightforward. Demon beasts weren't the emotional type to start with. "We passed the test. Now we have no more uses for each other. Do your best in Jhiod Sect."

The demon beasts agreed with Kentucky. "Alright. However, we should help each other as demon beasts. You and Celis were the main reason we got this far, so we owe you. Let us know if you need something from us."

Celis nodded after hearing that. "Will definitely do."

Before the next day arrived, Rean and Roan were once again called into the elders' room. "Do you still need anything from us?"

Libraia went straight to the point, telling the two, "I couldn't let you enter the sect straight away even though you had your weapon intents. It's due to the new sect master that we can't make exceptions. Now that you passed twelve tests in a row, I can finally extend an invitation. Do you wish to join my Yume Clan?"

Roan narrowed his eyes, asking in response, "A clan is a family and blood thing, no?"

Libraia shook her head, saying, "We're a lot broader than that. Did you forget my Uncle Sam is a demon beast? We're not really connected by blood, but we're still part of the same clan. That's because he's married to my aunt, who isn't a demon beast. Jhiod Sect is all about power, so marriage between different races is very common there as long as the strength is there. You two are young and weak, but your futures are dazzling. I'm sure the elders of our Yume Clan's faction would pour many resources into you if you stick with us."

Rean shook his head in response, telling her, "Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept your offer."

Libraia was taken aback to hear that. "My Yume Clan is one of the top clans there, you know? I don't think you can get a better deal than that, only similar."

"That's not it," Rean mentioned. "We aren't really joining Jhiod Sect because we want to be a part of it. We're only going there to gather information. I'm sure Jhiod Sect is an incredible sect as it's the most

powerful of the continents around. However, neither of us intends to stay there more than necessary. If we get the information we seek tomorrow, we'll leave tomorrow."

"Information?" Libraia was somewhat confused. "What kind of information?"

"Information about the center of the continent." Rean didn't try to hide it since he and Roan would have to ask about it there nonetheless. "We're trying to find a way to get to the center of the continent. Whether it's through teleportation or by foot, we have to go there."

Libraia found it weird that the twins would think about it since they live so far away from there. However, she also didn't want to lose those two geniuses. "The center of the continent, huh? If so, you should really entertain my offer. My Yume Clan might just have what you need to get there."

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Chapter 1696: Is He Not Coming With You?

Naturally, the twins' interests were piqued. "Oh-ho... well then. We're listening."

Libraia shook her head after hearing that, though. "Not here. You'll have to ask in the Yume Clan to get your answer. However, you definitely won't get anything if you're not part of it."

Rean found it strange, though. "Why would you want us to join if we're going to leave once we get the information?"

Libraia smiled after hearing that, telling them, "You will understand if you decide to join us. Besides, isn't that female demon beast called Erla also joining us? Since you're friends, it wouldn't be a bad idea for you."

Roan immediately asked, "Are there any commitments to be made? If you need us to be stuck there for some reason, we might as well try to get what we need somewhere else."

Libraia shook her head, replying, "What commitments could be there? Do you think I didn't notice? Rean signed a Soul Binding Contract but was not affected by it at all. Since that's the case, how can we force you to do anything?"

Rean was taken aback to hear that. "You were watching?! No, wait! You don't seem that impressed that we could do that while we're still in the Transition Realm."

Libraia shrugged her shoulders in response. "Well, getting rid of the seal without being in the Void Tempering Realm might be unthinkable in other continents. However, in Jhiod Sect, such methods do exist. It's just that they're usually quite expensive. Anyway, you aren't the only ones with this capability. Besides, you're already close to the Void Tempering Realm, and only an idiot would doubt you can get there. Even if a Soul Binding Contract worked on you, it would only be temporary."

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

Libraia then continued, "Anyway, I'm asking you to join our Yume Clan in the sect because I do think both you and us have a lot to gain from this. Remember, with my strength, I could simply capture you if I wanted. Once you're in Jhiod Sect, I could ask anyone from my clan to take you two. No one would complain about two new disciples disappearing if my Yume Clan was the culprit. However, I'm not doing anything like that. Even if you refuse, I won't force you either. It has to come from you."

Roan pondered over it for a bit and nodded. "Very well. As we mentioned, we won't be staying for long unless necessary. If you truly don't care about it, then we might as well enter your clan. I'm quite curious about why you don't mind the fact we'll leave later."

Libraia was obviously happy to hear that. "Great! Also, it's not like we won't see each other anymore. My duty to the Recruitment Building is due to be over in two months, so I'll be returning to the sect after that. We'll see each other again, so you can count on me later." Soon after, she brought out her sword.

Seeing that, Rean smiled and asked, "You still want to spend your last day trying to figure out sword intent?"

However, it was at that moment that Libraia's sword began to switch between its original form and its ethereal form. Of course, that made the twins quite impressed. Though not only were they impressed, all the elders that the twins fought until now were also just as shocked. They still couldn't figure out how the weapon intents worked. But now, Libraia showed it right in front of them. How come even they didn't know?

"Libraia, this..." Govin couldn't help but open his mouth.

Libraia laughed out loud after that. "Hahaha! What? Surprised? Did you forget who I am? When it comes to the geniuses of the entire Jhiod Sect from my generation, I'm definitely ranked at the very top. Only that lobe guy and Singa girl were my matches during my time. Now that I've had the chance to see sword intent so many times for an entire year, it goes without saying that I had a huge chance of understanding it."

Rean was still impressed, though. "It seems like all the Divine Stones you paid were worth it in the end." Libraia wasn't as fast as Ophilia, who learned it in just a few days. Nonetheless, she was the second person the twins had seen to learn an Intent. After an entire year in the Recruitment Building, no one other than Ophilia had understood a weapon intent in the System Sect.

Libraia was obviously delighted to hear that. "That's how much you two are worth. We know what weapon intents are, but we only had one chance to see them when a visitor from the center of the continent came to us. Believe it or not, weapon intents are also extremely rare in the center of the continent... or so I heard, at least. In a certain way, you two are more important than Erla herself."

Roan's opinion of Libraia improved a bit after that. "Still, you aren't intending to capture us or anything. Well, now that you have awakened your Sword Intent Seed, we aren't as important as we were a year ago. In any case, I can tell you aren't lying about making a sincere offer. Very well, I'm looking forward to seeing the Jhiod Sect."

Libraia and the twins then spoke for a while. They did the same thing with Govin, Iglet, and the other elders there. When they were finally done, they were sent to another hall, separated from the participants of the recruitment tests.

Erla, Min, Habac, and everyone else who would be joining the Jhiod Sect were there as well. Not only Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Celis's groups. There were also a few other participants that completed the twelve tests in a row after the Thunderstorm Breakthrough test.

Eventually, the day arrived for the departure. The one who would bring everyone just so happened to be Govin. He was also part of the Yume Clan, so Libraia had him take care of the twins and Erla on the way. "It's time. I'll grab all of you with my Divine Energy, so don't resist it." However, he noticed something as he looked at the twins, asking, "Where is that boy with three pupils? Is he not coming with you?"

"That's a secret," Rean replied with a smile.

Death... and me

Chapter 1697: we will do that

Govin narrowed his eyes in response but decided to not ask any further. The important ones, Rean, Roan, and Erla, were already coming to join the Jhiod Sect anyway.

Govin then grabbed everyone with his Divine Energy and took flight. Not only that, his very high control over space made the space itself bend around him and his group. The front would be pulled back before being returned to its position after Govin flew into it. There was barely any wind, and Govin wasn't flying fast at all. But with that space movement, he was faster than the twins or any of the successful participants could ever dream of being at this moment.

Thousands of kilometers passed in that manner until finally, they arrived at the continental barrier between Lebgram and Jhiod Continents. Only then did the twins see the portal that connected to the other side.

However, Rean and Roan bitterly smiled after that. It was more correct to say that it was a huge tunnel. They didn't know how, but this tunnel was keeping the continental barrier's power away, making traversing it an effortless job. Of course, there was no lack of protection from the Jhiod Sect's experts.

The reason the twins bitterly smiled was that they didn't need to take the twelve tests at all to complete the system's mission. Since there was a tunnel free of any interference between the two continents, the twins could have gotten a few tens of kilometers away from it before entering the Dimensional Realm. There, they could have pointed the Circuitry Teleport Formation in the direction of that tunnel and teleported up to a thousand kilometers away to the other side. They couldn't select their destination properly, but they could at least set the teleport direction. At most, they would appear a few tens of kilometers up high in the skies or deep into the ground. Regardless of the outcome, it would have been easy to return to the surface.

The reason they didn't do that before was that the Circuitry Teleport Formation didn't work through the continental barrier. After all, the barrier's power affected the spatial connection of the Circuitry Teleport Formation. If they tried to use it, they would simply throw themselves into the continental barrier without any protection since the teleport would have been cut short. That was guaranteed death at their level. The tunnel they saw, on the other hand, was completely devoid of that danger. The best thing was that no one would notice that teleport since it originated from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. 'We could have saved so much time...'

Roan nodded, saying, 'Indeed. In any case, we didn't know that the Jhiod Sect would keep something this big open all the time. Let alone that the tunnel would not be affected by the continental barrier. Their methods are definitely a lot more developed than any other continent's power we've seen so far.'

When Govin arrived at the tunnel's front, a few cultivators and demon beasts blocked his pass. However, all Govin had to do was show them some strange item, and all those guys opened the way for him. Soon after, he used his space control to fly through the tunnel the same way he had been doing so far. In just a few seconds, the twins and everyone that had completed the twelve tests in a row arrived in Jhiod Continent.

Pin!

[Congratulation, Hosts! You have arrived at Jhiod Continent without relying on the Top Five Powers' Influence.]

[Quest Completion Time: Eleven Months and Two Weeks]

[Quest Reward: 300000 Destiny Points.]

The twins sighed in relief after that. It was finally done. They participated in twelve tests, and each test happened a month after the previous one. However, they only had to wait a week to participate in the first test. Considering the time to gather information and other things, the total time from the start to the finish of the quest was less than one year.

As Govin flew with everyone, Rean took the opportunity to ask Sister Orb, 'How many Destiny Points do we have now? With everything that happened because of us in the Jhiod Sect's recruitment building, we must have obtained quite a few extra Destiny Points through the normal way, right?'

Sister Orb agreed with Rean. [You did. However, the effects of your doings can only be felt up to a million kilometers, as you both know. If the repercussion of whatever you accomplished happened outside that range, the system doesn't detect it.]

Sister Orb continued. [Nonetheless, the Jhiod Sect's recruitment building was full of geniuses from several places, so their interactions with you had already generated changes. Anyway, you had 31453 Destiny Points before. After this year of tests, that amount has grown to 74983. Well, you got this many exactly because of the influence the participants themselves had. After all, they were within the system's range while taking part in the test. After this system's reward, you now have 374983 Destiny Points available.]

Rean couldn't help but sigh again after that. 'It seems like we're still quite far away from our objective.'

As mentioned before by Celis, the Dimensional Realm already lacked the space for more demon beasts in the Demon Beast Forest. That's why the twins didn't recruit anyone else after that. They had decided to put the other rewards aside for the moment and wait until they got 500000 Destiny Points. That was the cost of the Dimensional Realm Upgrade.

Roan didn't seem to mind. 'As our cultivation grows, the more our actions are affecting influential beings around us. It only took us a year and something to get another 42k Destiny Points. That's already fast enough. We can use these extra years we need to accumulate Destiny Points to consolidate the System's Sect power.'

Rean agreed with Roan, saying in response, 'True. Because we couldn't leave the Jhiod Sect's building, we hadn't had a chance to check the disciples in the Dimensional Realm. All we could do was observe. We should do that once we establish ourselves somewhere safe.'

Roan agreed with him, replying, 'We will do that.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1698: Jhiod Sect

Govin wasn't heading to Jhiod Sect by flying, though. Even with his control over space, it would take several weeks for him to arrive like that. Instead, he went straight to the nearest city to the tunnel between Jhiod and Lebgram, Kikas.

Kikas was a big city exactly because of the tunnel between the continents. Other than the recruits passing through it, that was also a hub for goods coming from outside to inside and goods going from inside to outside. As the main power in the entire continental region, it had a lot of deals with many continents. It wasn't just the Jhiod Sect, but many of the smaller powers inside Jhiod as well.

Govin didn't stay for long there, though. He went to the Jhiod Sect's private teleport formations and left Kikas straight away. Of course, Jhiod wouldn't just waste Divine Stones if they could help it. With that being said, Govin used many teleport formations in many cities to teleport to the Jhiod Sect in the center of the continent.

Lihan Region's Jhiod Country. That's the name of one of the central regions of the Jhiod Continent. That's also where the country of Jhiod and obviously its sect was located. Well, to be more specific, it was where its headquarters was located. Jhiod Sect had many branches around the continent and even outside it. The Jhiod Sect's recruitment building that the twins used to pass the twelve tests could be said to be one of those branches.

There was no such thing as a city near Jhiod Sect. The Jhiod Sect alone already covered an area of over a thousand square kilometers in range. It's just that most of it was not occupied. Nonetheless, no one would dare to build anything inside that area. The Jhiod Sect itself occupied just a hundred kilometers of that total. Well, a hundred kilometers was still a very huge place since it was just a single entity.

Just outside the protection barrier that covered the Jhiod Sect, there were a few buildings used for dealing with outside things. For example, receiving visitors and new disciples that haven't entered the sect yet.

A teleport formation within a building with hundreds of them suddenly flashed with silver light. Soon after, an elder and quite a few Transition and Void Tempering Realm beings appeared. Naturally, it was Govin and the recruits from the last test. Govin could have teleported straight into the Jhiod Sect itself, but he had to follow the procedures.

As everyone looked around, they could see teleport formations activating everywhere, sending and receiving people and demon beasts. The majority of them were not related to Jhiod, though. Instead, they were other powers that had some partnership with the Jhiod Sect. In any case, it looked several times busier than the teleport formations in the Formation Guilds inside big cities.

"You guys have a lot of things to deal with, don't you?" Rean couldn't help but say.

Govin nodded, replying, "We're in control of the strongest power of our continental region, after all. Unlike other continents, we do have to meddle with other continents all the time. Can you see those guys with blue clothes on the right?"

Rean nodded and waited for Govin to continue. "Those are a few elders of one of the Sutura Continent's main powers, the Uvolste Clan. To get there, you need to pass through five other continents. But even with that, here they are, doing some business with our Jhiod Sect. And that's only considering the things that can only be resolved in our main sect. If we count the branches of our Jhiod Sect spread out in other continents, then the number of deals we do is several times higher than what you see here."

Govin shrugged his shoulders as he added, "Believe it or not, you will find more people, demon beasts, and spirits that aren't part of the Jhiod Sect here than those actually related to the Jhiod Sect. After all, we need a lot of manpower to run everything... or demon beast power... or is it spirit power? Well, you get the point."

Govin then led everyone outside the teleport formations building, bringing them to another one sometime later. "Here we are, the registration office. It's here where you'll make your badges. They will be bound to your blood, so only you will be able to use them. Without those badges, you can't enter the sect's restricted areas."

"Oh! Isn't that Govin?" Suddenly, a voice came from the side as another group appeared from another teleport formations building.

Govin looked over to the voice, and his eyes immediately narrowed. "Tch, and here I thought I was going to have a good day. What do you want, Timao?"

Timao laughed in response, saying, "Hahaha! As always, your Yume Clan doesn't know how to treat others. Are just two sect leaders really that big of a deal?" Libraia mentioned that her Yume Clan was also the birthplace of two of the previous Jhiod Sect leaders of the past.

"Hmph!" Govin didn't seem to like the guy at all, saying back, "Aren't you doing the same? Ever since your Truman became the sect master, your Gileria Clan has been acting quite overbearing. You even prohibited the exceptions for Jhiod Sect entrances, making everyone who joined from the outside need to pass the twelve tests regardless of their future. Isn't that the same as saying you're afraid of losing control over the power you have at the moment?"

Timao's smile disappeared after hearing that. "So what? You talk as if your Yume Clan hasn't done anything similar in the past. We still remember how Hantis stopped the easy access to the mines of the

eastern continents. Those were the places where our Gileria Clan and quite a few other factions took most of their resources. We had quite a hard time during his reign."

Govin shrugged his shoulders in response. "Do you think we're idiots? Even if previous Sect Master Hantis had continued to be the master ten times longer, all your pockets wouldn't even shake after all the wealth you had accumulated."

Govin and Timao then went silent for a moment. It was obvious that their conversation wouldn't go anywhere like that.

Death... and me

Chapter 1699: My Gold Mine

It was then that Timao looked at Rean and the others. "So, are these the disciples who passed the twelve tests this time around? They look quite... frail. There are even quite a few of them in the Transition Realm... no, wait! Some of them aren't even at the Peak Stage. Instead, they're in the Middle Stage of the Transition Realm!"

Timao then looked at Govin with an angry expression, continuing, "Is your Yume Clan reducing the difficulty of the twelve tests in Lebgram? It has to be the case, or you wouldn't have so many low-level disciples that successfully pass through it. Govin, is this your Yume Clan's way of going against Sect Master Truman? If we find out that you did it, your Yume Clan will have a lot of things to explain!"

Govin looked at Timao as if he was looking at an idiot, saying in response, "Is that so? Then why don't you take the teleport formations and head to Lebgram's recruitment building to check it yourself? Sigh... such an idiot. You can't even see that it was due to their amazing talents that they passed the tests with their cultivation level. Well, I won't be the one who'll have to answer to the punishment hall elders for false accusations. If you want to denounce my Yume Clan's job in Lebgram, then be my guest."

However, it was then that Timao smiled. "So they're highly talented new disciples, huh? Very well. How about a little bet?"

"A bet?" Govin's interest was instantly piqued. "What kind of bet?"

Timao continued, "Nothing much. If these new low-level disciples are really as good as you say, they shouldn't have any trouble fighting the new disciples I brought along. How about it? Such highly talented disciples should be able to fight at least one or two stages above their cultivation level, no? I'll send one of my new Initial Stage Void Tempering Realm disciples from Trikas Continent against one of them. If these disciples are as good as you say they are, they should be able to resist for at least a minute."

Rean and Roan weren't idiots. Simply put, the twins, Kentucky and Celis, were the only new disciples at the Middle Stage of the Transition Realm. Everyone else was at the Late Stage or above. Min, for example, was in the Peak Stage while Habac was in the Late Stage. That Timao guy obviously wanted one of them to fight. Then again, he wasn't specifically targetting the twins' group. It's just that the twins' group happened to have the lowest cultivation.

Govin showed a dark expression after hearing that. However, that was only on the surface. After all, he had seen the twins, Kentucky, and Celis's power during the tests. Any one of them could totally fight and completely trash a normal Initial Void Tempering Realm cultivator or demon beast.

Govin then looked at the Kentucky, Celis, and the twins. 'What do you think? We might be able to get something very good from this bet. Timao is one of the elders that take care of the Trikas Continent's recruitment building. He's also a member of the Gileria Clan, one of the opposing factions in our Jhiod Sect. As part of the Gileria Clan, he does have quite a few nice items on him. But then again, that would mean you'll have to show your real power.'

When Rean heard that, his eyes immediately lit up. 'What kind of items? I hope it's not more Divine Stones but something nicer than that.'

Roan, Kentucky, and Celis could only sigh after hearing that. The System Sect's finance guy was at it again.

Of course, Govin was happy to hear that answer. 'Let me check.'

Right after, Govin looked at Timao once again as he replied, "The last thing I want to happen is to be underestimated by some lowly life from the Gileria Clan. Very well. However, it has to be only a minute. If any of these Middle Stage Transition Realm disciples resist a fight for an entire minute, then it will be my victory."

Timao's smile became wider after hearing that. "Of course! However, they can only rely on their own strength. At most, both sides can use their weapons, but that's it. I won't allow any treasure that can aid them in combat. There's no lack of life-saving treasures to protect someone against a higher-level opponent, after all. Naturally, the same goes for my new disciples. Are you fine with that?"

Govin pretended to struggle to make a decision as if that was his plan at first. However, he gritted his teeth and nodded in the end. "Fine! However, you better put a very good item for betting."

Timao didn't waste time as he suggested, "How about a vial of Half True Dragon Blood?"

Govin's expression changed instantly after that. "Are you crazy? Do you know how much such a thing costs? We can only get such an item when we get visitors from the center of the continent. First of all, how do you know I have this item?"

Timao laughed in response, saying, "Hahaha! Don't underestimate my Gileria Clan's information network. Anyways, does that mean you aren't confident in the talent of your new disciples? If you're still confident, then you shouldn't be afraid of losing it."

Rean, obviously, immediately asked Govin. 'Half True Dragon Blood? What's that?'

Govin used his Divine Sense to give an explanation. 'It's what the name implies. It's a vial with the blood of a Half True Dragon. It can be used in forging, alchemy, and many other things. The blood alone can increase the effects of whatever it's used on by at least 50%.'

Rean couldn't help but look at Kentucky with greed in his eyes. Dragons were Divine Demon Beasts, and so was Kentucky. 'Doesn't that mean Kentucky's blood is quite useful as well? How much would his blood be worth?' he thought.

Kentucky felt a chill on his back, prompting him to reply, 'Stop looking at me. This grandfather won't even give you a single drop of his blood!'

'Tch...' Rean stalled his tongue. 'Well, there goes my gold mine...'

Death... and me

Chapter 1700: Bet Placed

However, Govin shook his head as he knew what Rean was thinking, telling him, 'Kentucky's blood, even as a Divine Demon Beast, would be useless. The main point about this Half True Dragon Blood is the cultivation of its owner. To put it in a way you can easily understand, lady Libraia wouldn't be more than an ant in front of this blood's owner. That's what makes it so powerful and great.'

Kentucky sighed in relief after that. 'I'm safe...'

'Then, does that mean the blood of the other Divine Demon Beasts is useless?' Rean couldn't help but ask in response.

'That's not it,' Govin corrected Rean. 'How can I say this... Kentucky's blood would be good for alchemy, forging, and things like that if you consider cultivators, demon beasts, and spirits at the Elemental Transformation Realm and below. Adding Kentucky's blood in pills, weapons, and things like that for Transition Realm beings would barely make any difference. Also, the only reason Kentucky's blood would be good for lower-level beings is that he's a Divine Demon Beast. Common demon beast blood wouldn't even have a tenth of his potential.'

Rean nodded after hearing that. 'I see... since this is Half True Dragon Blood, as the cultivator isn't a complete Divine Demon Beast, their cultivation makes up for it, is that right?'

Govin confirmed Rean's words. 'That's correct. This Half True Dragon Blood is still partially from a Divine Demon Beast. It isn't as effective as a True Dragon's, but it isn't too far from it. Even a trace of True Dragon Blood can change a demon beast's strength by a lot. Kentucky and Celis should know it more than anyone else.'

Celis and Kentucky nodded after hearing that. They've seen other Divine Demon Beasts before and knew the difference it made compared to normal demon beasts.

With that said, Rean entered the main topic, asking, 'So, if we win this challenge, what's in it for us? Since that guy offered up Half True Dragon Blood, that means he also has a vial of it, right?'

Govin nodded in response, saying, 'That's what surprised me. I went to great lengths to get that vial, and I haven't used it so far. I'm keeping it for my body cultivation technique's next breakthrough. Even Libraia would have a hard time getting a vial. To think he's betting such an extremely expensive item like that.'

Roan could tell what Govin was thinking. 'You believe he doesn't really have the blood. He just found out that you have it and is trying to use this method to get the blood from you. He gave you such a disadvantageous condition to make sure he would win. But then again, you're not sure and don't want to pass up on this opportunity. After all, you know our real strength.'

'That's correct,' Govin nodded in agreement.

Rean could only sigh after that. 'Then you should confirm it with him.'

Sure enough, Govin did exactly that. "Timao, I don't mind betting my vial of Half True Dragon Blood. However, can you even afford this kind of bet? I doubt you have the same item."

Timao shrugged his shoulders in response. "If I couldn't cover this bet, I wouldn't do it. Why don't you try it out? Are you that afraid to lose?"

Of course, Govin could only narrow his eyes in response to that. It became a lot more suspicious as it seemed like Timao was trying to brush the question off. It's just that he couldn't simply refuse the opportunity either. 'Rean, Roan, Kentucky, or Celis, would any of you like to give it a try?'

Rean repeated his question after hearing that. 'Once again, what's in it for us?'

Govin immediately made an agreement. 'If he does have the blood, we'll share it 50-50. Don't say that I'm being greedy or that you're the one to fight, blah, blah, blah... if I wasn't here, such an opportunity wouldn't appear for you anyway. Just so you know, I paid 1790 Rank Three Divine Stones for that vial.'

Rean finally nodded after that. From the initial 4951 Rank Three Divine Stones they got from the mine, they still had 4394. After all, the twins' group had been busy doing a lot of things recently. They were saving up the high-level Divine Stones for the moments they could cultivate together. They had been quite busy even before the twelve tests, so such moments were quite rare. Celis was basically the only

one who cultivated without stop, but it was better to let him use Rank Two stones in that case. Rank Two could be used in the outside world as well since the environment of the Jhiod Sect's recruitment building was full of geniuses who also had access to such a rank of Divine Stones. They only used that much in the years after leaving the mine.

'It's basically worth almost 900 Rank Three Divine Stones. That's a huge amount. Even if I don't use it, I can trade it for something else. The best part is that everyone would know how I got that 50% of the Half True Dragon Blood vial. There would be no reason for excuses as I could openly use it,' Rean thought to himself.

With Rean's confirmation, Govin finally accepted the bet. It's just that he kept pretending to look nervous. "Alright, but if you can't pay for the value of the vial of Half True Dragon Blood, I'll bring this issue directly to your Gileria Clan. I'm sure the other elders and the clan leader would be very interested in what I have to say. To make sure you won't run away from your debt, we'll have this fight at the sect's arenas. The disciples often use them, so you won't be able to get rid of witnesses either."

"Hmph!" Timao snorted in response. "Those are my words. After all, I wouldn't have this fight happen in a place where no one could see. The last thing I want to happen is to hear from you that I lied about our bet."

Govin then turned to the sect's office after that. "Alright, we need to first register you all as disciples, or you won't be able to enter the sect. Let's go."