

## **Death 171**

Death... and me

Chapter 171: More Doubts Than Answers

Roan then made the next question.

"Who created the Soul Gem System?"

[Authority Level is too low, request denied.]

Rean was next.

"This thing that I was born with. Is it related to the same thing that created the Soul Gem System?"

[Yes.]

Rean narrowed his eyes. If that was the case, it opens a lot more windows than if it was just coincidence.

"I can think about a few possibilities. For example, I might not be related to my previous life parents. Or maybe I am, but the thing that I was born with was put in there during gestation."

Roan added.

"Or maybe, your parents or even your entire family was involved in this, you just didn't know. Soul Gem System, was anything of what we said correct?"

[Authority Level is too low, request denied.]

Suddenly, Roan had a thought.

"Soul Gem System, was my appearance as Rean's Death Spirit during his previous life just a coincidence? Or was I selected to be there at that moment?"

Roan made this question in a tricky way. If the Soul Gem System said that it was a coincidence, then it was okay. However, there was no way to deny it. That's because whether the Soul Gem System said it wasn't a coincidence or if they don't have enough authority level, both would mean that it wasn't. Denying this answer because of the authority level would mean that there was something hidden about Roan's assignment to Rean back then.

[Host Roan was involved by coincidence.]

Roan sighed in disappointment. Unless the system was lying, that means he was just unlucky to get involved in all of this. How sad was that?

"So it was really nightingale's fault for dragging me down with him..."

Rean's mouth twitched, but he decided to ignore it.

"Roan, you were not the only Death Spirit back in our half of the Universe, right?"

Roan nodded.

"Of course, not. I'm not omnipotent. Just how many deaths there are in an entire half of a Universe? There are countless numbers of Death Spirits."

Rean then made another question.

"That means that there was a particular type of organization or something like that which managed everything, no?"

Roan understood where Rean was coming from.

"I see what you want. Soul Gem System, was the Universal Transition Organization involved in all of this?"

[Yes.]

Roan nodded.

"Very well, I have no more questions."

Rean agreed with him.

"Me neither. Although we got a few answers, the real important questions were not resolved. We can only wait for our authority level to increase."

In the end, Rean and Roan exited the Soul Gem System with a lot more doubts than answers. Still, it was good to see some of them cleared.

Roan then looked at Rean before asking.

"So, what now? Do you think the communication system will give enough Destiny Points by the end of the year?"

Rean nodded.

"Should be. This is a massive issue for a medieval place like this world. As long as the system began to be implemented everywhere, we should see a good stream of Destiny Points flowing in. As for what is the cap for this change, that I don't know. Of course, we might gain more missions that give us even more Destiny Points."

Roan agreed with him.

"That's true."

However, Rean seemed somewhat worried.

"The only issue is that I wasn't planning to introduce something this big anytime soon. This put us at quite some risk."

Roan shrugged his shoulders, though.

"If you didn't do something like this, I would. We couldn't rely on the random missions that might appear or not to do so. Whatever happens now, we need to cope with it. However, I believe that the Sect should keep it a secret that it was your idea, no? It would be pretty much idiotic to say that a kid thought about all of this."

Rean nodded.

"Yes. Sect master already informed the others that it will be said that Elder Hulan had this idea."

"Oh, right! Sect Master wanted to reward me for the idea, so I asked her to take Malaka as her disciple. Like this, Malaka will have the best protection possible, allowing us to keep the promise with her parents. Other than that, I got unlimited access to the Cultivation Tower for both of us. There will be no need for Sect points to enter that place anymore."

Roan pondered a bit and admitted that Rean's idea was the best one.

"That's good. We won't stay here forever, so we needed to deal with Malaka's issue. Anyway, I'm going back to Alchemist Hall. I'm almost done reading everything I need from there. If everything goes okay, I should be able to finish the quest given by the system."

Rean nodded.

"Good. I have Sect duty after tomorrow, and it seems like I was invited to the Sect's Doctors building."

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Was it because they found out you can heal Umbral Energy?"

Rean shook his head.

"No. Other than you, only Tiria and Javiu know about it. Of course, I can't rule out that they might have told others. However, I don't think they would want everyone to know that I can cure Umbral Energy. Most likely, it is because of what I did during the Sect Entrance Exam. After all, I healed Lenna and Julio several times. They are probably asking me to help heal those kinds of injuries since it would save a lot of time and material."

Rean continued.

"Still, that's a good thing. I had been thinking about a few new uses for Light Element recently. Having a lot of bodies to test things out will help a lot."

Roan couldn't help but ask.

"What new uses?"

Rean smiled.

"You will know the next time we leave for a mission."

Roan didn't seem to mind that Rean didn't answer. He only asked out of curiosity, but he wasn't so curious that he had to know at any cost.

The twins then talked about a few other things before going separated ways.

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## Chapter 172: Old Worm's Help

Rean still had two days before his Duty time, so he decided to pass by the Beast Taming Faction first. He still had that weird egg that he got during the last mission, so he planned to leave it there for the disciples to take care of.

Surprisingly, he encountered Javiu on his way to treat elder Tiria's Crane.

"Elder Javiu!"

Javiu heard Rean's voice and turned around.

"Oh, Rean! It's been a few weeks. What is it, did you come to borrow another flying beast?"

Rean shook his head.

"No, I came here to see if someone knew something about an egg I acquired during my last mission."

"Egg?"

Rean nodded and took the egg out of his bag. Obviously, he brought it out of the Soul Gem System before coming to this place.

"I got this from one of the bandits, do you know what it is?"

Elder Javiu grabbed the giant egg and looked at it closely. He could feel the spiritual energy inside, but it was very faint, indicating that it was quite an ordinary demon beast. However, he couldn't remember ever seeing an egg like this one before.

"I don't recognize it, but the strength of the bird inside seems very weak. Most likely, it is an egg from some demon beast that I don't know. Still, it shouldn't turn out to be anything impressive."

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

"I thought the same thing too. However, there is a difference between this egg and the other demon beasts' eggs I looked after before. Its life force is too pure."

Elder Javiu knew that Rean used his Light Element to stimulate the body's life force, which healed the injuries.

"Too pure, what you mean?"

"Elder already knows that I can feel life force. That being said, I've never seen such a pure life force before. Even elder Tiria's Crane can't compare to it. No, this egg and all the other demon beasts here are in two completely different leagues."

Javiu was taken aback and looked more attentively at the egg. Still, he didn't have Rean's ability to check the life force.

"Hum... How about this? Leave this egg here, and I will have the disciples take care of it. From what I can see, it won't take too long before it hatches. However, the hatching process usually takes quite some time, so I'll send you a message when that happens. Remember, come back straight away when you receive it. Birds get attached to the first person they see when they are born, so it's best if it is you."

Rean nodded in the end.

"Alright? How much will it cost me?"

Javiu laughed after hearing that.

"Did you forget how much you helped last time? If anything, our faction is still owing you. If you really want to do something, why don't you come with me to see elder Tiria's Crane? It will definitely be happy to see its savior again."

Rean laughed and accepted Javiu's idea. The Crane was indeed happy to see Rean again, so it kept rubbing its enormous head against Rean's chest, much to his contentment. A few hours later, Rean left and went back to his room. He decided to cultivate a little before going to the doctor's building for duty two days later.

Time passed and a week went by. Today, Roan finally closed the last book he needed to read in the alchemy repository. Of course, he didn't read all the books available, only the necessary ones. Otherwise, even another entire year wouldn't be enough.

After that, he went back to the first floor and passed his token to Old Worm. Roan quite liked the man. He never spoke if it was not necessary and kept his sentences short.

The old man looked at Roan and asked.

"Did you finish memorizing everything you needed?"

Roan nodded. He then turned around to leave when suddenly, Old Worm's voice came from behind.

"When are you going to start practicing?"

Roan looked back and pondered a bit.

"I intend to start straight away. I'll just buy a few common herbs and the other tools like the cauldron, stove, etc..."

Old Worm then got up and began to walk to the exit. He also looked at Roan while at it.

"Come with me."



Roan was a little puzzled but followed the man nonetheless. As soon as Old Worm left, some kind of puppet appeared out of nowhere and took Old Worm's place in the repository entrance. No one seemed to care, though. From the looks of it, Old Worm would often leave the repository to do his own things.

Roan followed Old Worm, and they soon strayed away from the alchemist hall's main building. After some time wandering, they arrived at what seemed to be an old hut, which was still inside the Alchemist Hall controlled area. Old Worm then used a token to open the door, quickly disappearing inside. Roan, of course, followed him too.

As soon as Roan saw what was inside, he was taken aback. The outside made it like a rundown place. However, the inside of the hut was another story. It was an alchemy room with all the possible tools one could possibly wish: caldrons, stoves, bottles, several rare types of wood used for fire, you name it.

Old Worm then looked at Roan and threw another token to him.

"You can use this room for your practice. Just make sure to bring your own herbs and materials for creating fire. The ones you see around are mine, so don't touch them."

Roan couldn't help but ask.

"What do you want?"

Old Worm shook his head and didn't answer his question. Instead, he said something else.

"If you have any doubts about alchemy, you can ask me in the repository. If not, don't waste my time."

That obviously wasn't what Roan wanted to hear. But before he could ask again, Old Worm disappeared from the alchemy room. Roan was quite surprised to see that. It showed that the old man was a lot more complex than he thought. At the very least, judging by the speed he disappeared, his cultivation was several times higher than his own.

Roan pondered a bit and looked around. He had to admit that this place was perfect for him. In the end, he decided to ignore the mystery behind Old Worm's actions and use it. After all, he already used a

month to read all the books he needed, so he only had two left to become an Earth Low-Level Alchemist.

Roan then looked into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and saw all the Spirit Stones there. He nodded, satisfied, and quickly left the hut. He already had all the tools, but he needed to buy the herbs as well. Roan soon arrived in the Alchemist Hall's main building and went to the counter to buy everything. However, it was at this moment that he received a message from Rean through their Soul Connection.

"Roan, Malaka is back. Let's go there, take a look."

Roan shook his head.

"If there is nothing wrong, then there is no need."

Rean already expected that answer, though.

"There is a need. You still have to talk with the Amanda about the Death Style, remember? They definitely have a lot of questions for you too. This way, we can kill two birds with one shoot."

Roan pondered a bit and had to admit that Rean was right.

"Fine, I'll be right there."

On Rean's side, he asked permission to go out for a few hours. After all, he was on duty in this place. However, due to the great help his Light Element gave, the supervisor there was more than happy to allow him to do so.

Rean quickly went to the Blue Orchid District. A few minutes later, Roan arrived there as well. The two disciples in front were already informed about the twins, so they quickly went inside and called Amanda over.

Amanda also seemed to want to meet them. Therefore she didn't take a long time to come out. Surprisingly, Malaka came out with her as well.

As soon as she saw the two of them, her eyes brightened, and she pounced at them.

"Rean, Roan!"

Rean laughed out loud and patted her head.

"How are you? Have you been cultivating properly?"

Malaka nodded vigorously.

"Yeap! However, don't think I forgot your promise. You have to bring me out to play."

Rean nodded with a smile.

Rean and Roan then checked on her with their Spiritual Sense and confirmed that she was okay. However, for some reason, they felt that something wasn't right.

Rean was just about to ask her if everything was really fine when Roan turned around.

"Rean, Malaka, let's go. Since you are going out to play, I'll go with you too."

Rean was taken aback. Since when Roan likes to play? However, he quickly understood that Roan also noticed something strange.

However, Amanda immediately stopped Roan in his tracks.

"Hey, hey, hey! What about me? Did you forget about our deal? I have a lot of questions about the sword style that you passed me."

Roan nodded at her.

"I'll help you after I come back. I just arrived from a mission not too long ago, so I also need some rest."

Amanda narrowed her eyes after hearing that.

"Hmph! What if you decide to say a lot of bad things to our little sister while I'm not looking? I'm going too."

Roan narrowed his eyes, but just as he was about to refuse, Malaka jumped in.

"Senior Sister is coming to play too? Great! Let's go, Rean, Roan!"

In the end, Rean and Roan looked at each other and sighed. Just like that, the group of four departed from the Blue Orchid District.

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Chapter 173: Real Experience

Although time was short, Roan didn't seem to mind losing a day. Rean also liked to pamper Malaka, so he was even more willing to do so.

Rean then went to the beast taming faction and borrowed four flying demon beasts. He promised to bring Malaka out to play, so it couldn't be in the sect. He decided to go to Majorias City with her. The other two flying demon beasts were obviously for Roan and Amanda.

"Let's go!"

They soon took flight and made their way to the city. The flying beasts they took this time were much better, so they only took two hours to arrive in Majorias. Malaka then began to talk about the things inside the Blue Orchid District. At the same time, Amanda pestered Roan about the Death Sword Style.

Finally, they arrived at the city and left the flying demon beasts with the city guards to take care.

"Alright, Malaka. Where do you want to go?"

Malaka's eyes brightened before saying.

"To buy clothes with my Senior Sister. She and all the other sisters love to use cute clothes when they are not in duty, I want them too!"

Amanda opened her eyes wide!

"Malaka!"

"Ah!"

Only then did Malaka remember that the sisters in the faction told her to keep those things a secret. The female disciples of the Blue Orchid always acted cold and aloof in front of everyone's eyes. That's the image they had built so far. Obviously, others shouldn't know about what they really liked to do when the rest of the sect wasn't looking.

"Sorry, Senior Sister."

Amanda could only sigh in the end. She then looked at Rean and Roan before saying with a cold voice.

"You didn't hear anything, understood? Otherwise, our deal is over."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"Don't worry, we have no reason to go against the Blue Orchid Faction."

As for Roan, he simply didn't care to start with.

Malaka apologized once more, and Amanda couldn't help but give in. Even she had to admit that Malaka was simply too cute to get angry at.

Malaka laughed once more before grabbing Amanda's hand, rushing in the distance. Amanda felt helpless as she was dragged away.

But before they bought anything, Amanda pulled Malaka into a hotel on the way. They got a room and quickly changed. When they came outside, their Sect Robes and Badge were gone, making it look like the two were only two common girls.

Amanda considers the reputation of the Blue Orchid very important, so she couldn't go out there buying clothes like a happy-go-girl with her faction clothes.

Surprisingly, as soon as the two girls left their room, they found out that Rean and Roan had also changed their clothes. Amanda was planning to tell them to do so, but it seemed like they had the same idea. She nodded, satisfied, and they quickly left the hotel. Rean and Roan simply followed after that. At the same time, Roan and Rean talked through their Soul Connection.

'Can you feel it?'

Rean nodded.

'She is acting as lively as always. However, I can tell that she is forcing it. It seems like something happened during her mission.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'I have an idea about what happened, and I believe you do too. Still, I'm not good at these things, so you go and ask Malaka when an opportunity appears.'

Rean looked at Roan and nodded. Roan might be cold, but he wasn't really emotionless, especially when Malaka was involved. He did train her for several years after all. Although he probably wouldn't admit it, Malaka did have a special place in his heart. Of course, that was the same for Rean.

Rean, of course, ended paying for Malaka's things on their way. Well, it was just clothes, so he could be thousands of it and still have spirit stones remaining. In fact, Malaka could pay for such simple things on her own already. After all, she also got paid after she finished her first mission.

Time passed as they went everywhere. Obviously, they did more than just buy clothes for her. At some point, they went into a restaurant to eat something. Rean asked for a private room as well where they could eat in peace.

Once inside, their group quickly chose what to eat. From the looks of it, Amanda would really tag along until the end of the day. Rean then shook his head and gave up waiting for Amanda to leave.

He then got up and went to Malaka's side. Malaka, of course, was puzzled by his actions, Amanda even more so. Suddenly, he pushed her to his side and began to pat her head more gently than usual. He seemed to act a lot more intimate than the other times Amanda had seen.

Amanda couldn't help but ask with an unhappy face.

"What you doing to our faction's little sister?"

However, Rean completely ignored her and looked at Malaka with a serious expression.

"There is no need to hide it. Tell your big brother why you are sad. Did something happen?"

Malaka was taken aback by that.

"I..."

Rean continued.

"Don't lie. You might be able to deceive others, but do you really think you can hide it from Roan and me? How many years have you spent with us? We are your big brothers, you know?"

Malaka looked at Rean and then Roan, who nodded at her. Obviously, he also agreed with Rean.

Her expression then changed between her happy face and a teary one a few times. But in the end, tears began to fall uncontrollably. She hugged Rean tightly as she poured her emotions out.

Rean and Roan's eyes darkened as they glanced at Amanda.

Amanda, obviously, didn't know what to say either. She had spent quite some time with Malaka and Oka after they joined their faction. She even went out with these two during their first mission outside the sect as a protector. It's just that she stayed in the shadows without Malaka knowing. Still, she had never seen Malaka like this.

"This... Malaka, what happened?"

Malaka continued to cry while leaving pieces of information here and there.

"He attacked... sniff... Oka. I didn't... sniff, sniff... choice... sniff... Oka was going to... sniff..."

Even though she didn't speak accurately, Rean and Roan immediately understood. In the end, they only sighed.

"As we though..."

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Chapter 174: First Time

Roan then turned to Amanda and asked through a Spiritual Sense Message.



'What was the content of the mission?'

Amanda was taken aback by Roan's question. Still, she answered nonetheless. She also used a Spiritual Sense message to answer Roan, so Malaka didn't know they were talking.

'It was to acquire a Verdant Spring Herb in the Millikan Valey...'

Amanda then recounted what happened during that time. Amanda just acted as the two little girls protector for their first mission out. However, she didn't show herself and followed them in the shadows. With her Peak Foundation Establishment cultivation, there was no way for Malaka and Oka to feel her presence. After all, it would be meaningless if she did it herself. This kind of mission is far below her level.

Malaka and Oka looked for the herb for several days. Finally, they found one. However, it turned out that they had company. Millikan Valley was located in the country's border, so the disciples of another sect of the neighboring country were also there looking for it.

This is the cultivation world, and the Verdant Spring Herb was precious for those at the Energy Gathering Realm like Malaka and Oka. Of course, it was very important for the enemies as well. What else could have happened? A battle immediately broke out after that. Amanda watched from the sides, not showing herself. In her eyes, this was an excellent opportunity to hone Malaka and Oka's wills.

Both sides were close in strength. Although Malaka was much stronger with her Death Staff Style, the enemy had three members instead of two. In the end, Oka committed a mistake, which would cost her life. Malaka couldn't simply let that happen, so she immediately attacked with all her might. However, Malaka never killed anyone. When she fought other humans, she couldn't really bring her full strength out, afraid that she might kill them. But at that moment, that limit was broken due to the desperate situation.

Malaka knew that she wouldn't have time to hold back. If she didn't use her full strength, Oka wouldn't survive. Of course, Amanda was nearby and ready to jump in if that really was about to happen. She could still intervene in the last second with her much higher speed and cultivation, but Malaka didn't know that.

In the end, Malaka killed the guy who was about to kill Oka by smashing his head.

One must remember that Malaka was using Rean's Low-Level Spiritual Staff. A full-power head-on hit definitely couldn't be resisted by a simple Energy Gathering Realm guy if he didn't defend with something else. Not to mention that that staff was made of metal as well. Rean made an alloy that would bend to a certain point, which was perfect for Roan's Death Staff Style.

The other two enemies were enraged by what Malaka did and immediately pounced at her ferociously. However, Malaka was in a state of turmoil at that point, so she didn't hold back either. In the end, she killed another one of the guys. The last one understood that he wouldn't be Malaka's match alone, so he immediately fled. Malaka also didn't follow him and helped Oka with her injuries instead.

Amanda wasn't as naive. To prevent the rising of problems, she killed that last disciple before he could get away without Malaka and Oka noticing.

After that, she followed Malaka and Oka back to the sect without showing her presence. On their way back, Amanda did notice that Malaka didn't seem happy. But that only lasted two or three days. After that, she came back to her usual self. Not only that, but Malaka was the one to comfort Oka all the time after what happened.

Malaka didn't show any sign of emotional unbalance after what happened. That made Amanda believe that Malaka had killed others in the past, so she didn't talk about it either. Amanda knew that Malaka came from a tribe far away, and it was customary for wars and killing to happen in such places. Malaka's behavior in the following days only reinforced that notion.

Of course, the two waterfalls coming from Malaka's eyes proved that she was utterly wrong. Malaka was only putting a strong front while she was, in fact, deeply affected.

Roan then sighed. However, he wasn't sad about it. This is the cultivation world. There is no such thing as a real friendly competition. Sooner or later, Malaka would have to kill something. It was bound to happen. Otherwise, she would be the one to die instead. He was quite please by Amanda's decision since he would have done the same thing.

Malaka continued like that for quite some time. Rean had to even pay for the room once more so that they didn't need to leave. Finally, the weeping ended, and Malaka slowly got away from Rean with her red eyes.

\*Pah!\*

As soon as she did that, Roan gave her a slap on the back of her head, though. Malaka, of course, was taken aback by that. She then looked at Roan with a wronged expression.

"What? If you don't like it, you can try to hit me back."

Malaka sulked while saying.

"I want to, but you are too strong."

Roan agreed with her.

"Exactly. I'm stronger, so I can do it. That time when you killed those guys, you were stronger, so you could kill them. I know you very well. You would never kill them if you had a choice. However, they wanted to kill you first, and they paid the price for it. Or could it be that you preferred to let Oka die instead?"

Malaka immediately shook her head vigorously.

"No!"

Roan nodded.

"Good! There is no need to feel sad for them. You did the right thing. I trained you so that you could protect yourself, didn't I?"

He then put his hand on her shoulder before saying.

"I'm proud of you. Remember, Rean, and I, won't stay by your side forever. This was only the first time you had to deal with things by yourself, and it definitely will happen again. When that time comes, I want you to not hold back."

Malaka was surprised by what Roan said. It was the first time she heard him saying that he was proud of her. After that, her expression couldn't help but brighten. Receiving Roan's commendation was as hard as ascending to the heavens.

"Say it again!"

"Say what?"

"That you are proud of me."

Roan snorted and returned to his seat while saying.

"In your dreams."

Malaka's excited expression quickly disappeared after that. Obviously, she immediately began to complain and nag at him.

"Keep talking, and we will return to the sect to do fighting lessons. Let me see, three days straight should be good enough to shut you up."

Malaka immediately closed her mouth after hearing that.

As for Rean, he laughed out loud after seeing all of that. He then patted Malak's head once more before saying.

"Don't worry, your big brother Rean will protect you. But just for today, after that, you need to put your efforts into training again, just like your big sister Amanda."

Amanda was taken aback after hearing her name being mentioned.

"Cough, cough... your brothers are right."

She then got up and grabbed Malaka's hand.

"But that can wait. We still have an entire day to play, so your big sister will be the one to show the fun places now."

Malaka's eyes brightened, and she quickly got up as well.

"Great! Rean, Roan, let's go together!"

Roan immediately shook his head, though.

"I'm going back to the sect. I have a lot of things to do. If you need anything, let me know later."

Amanda was just about to stop Roan to ask about the Death Sword Style when suddenly, a book came flying in her direction.

"You already told me the things you were in doubt on our way here. I can also guess the other parts where you will probably get stuck. Just follow the instructions I put in there. It should be able to clarify most of your and your sisters' doubts."

He then turned around and began making his way to where they left the flying demon beasts.

Rean did the same thing.

"Me too. I only asked for a few hours free, but I need to return. I'm on sect duty at the moment. Amanda, I hope you can bring her back later."

Malaka got sad again, but Rean quickly patted her head once more.

"Don't worry, there will be plenty of time for us to play again in the future."

Malaka nodded.

"Okay."

Rean then turned around and quickly caught up to Roan in the distance.

Amanda saw those two running away and then at Malaka, who followed the twins with her eyes. Deep down, Amanda couldn't help but feel a little jealous of their relationship. As if she wanted to have big brothers like those two too.

However, she immediately shook her head.

"What I'm thinking?! A proud member of the Blue Orchid Faction like me doesn't need any man's help!"

Although she said that, her voice's resolution wasn't as strong as it would usually be.

Malaka, of course, got confused.

"What you talking about, Senior Sister?"

"Ah!"

Only now did Amanda notice that she said that aloud.

"Cough, cough... It's nothing. So, shall we go? We still have half a day free."

Malaka's eyes shinned again.

"Great!"

Just like that, the two girls disappeared in the middle of the crowd.

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#### Chapter 175: Old Worm's Concoction

Back in the Dalamu Sect, Roan began his practice with Alchemy. There are two ways to make pills in this world, Neutral and Elemental concoctions. The first one is obvious, Neutral Pills that one has no need to care about the user's elemental affinity. The other is Elemental Pills. Each cultivation technique is based on the cultivator's elemental affinity. As a cultivator's realm improves, he gets more and more attached to that specific element. Obviously, elemental pills have to be compatible with them.

Neutral pills are the most sold ones by alchemists all around. After all, they are easier to be made. However, their effects are not as good as the ones made for the specific elements.

The problem is that pills made for a specific element usually needs many more materials compatible with it. As for neutral neutral pills, such a limitation is not applied. Of course, what Roan needed was not neutral pills, but elemental ones.

Because Rean and Roan's foundation are several times stronger than others at the same level, the pills' levels have to be on pair with them. Neutral pills would work, but far from the best result. Unfortunately, there are no alchemists with the power of controlling the Light or Dark Elements. Because of that, none of them could create Light and Dark Elemental Pills. Thus, Roan had to learn how to do it himself.

Roan was trying to concoct his first pill, a simple energy gathering one. That is one of the most basic types and used by a lot of Energy Gathering Realm disciples. This pills' effectiveness drops the higher

your realm becomes, though. For Rean and Roan, such a pill would have minimal effect at their cultivation level. Especially since their Spiritual Energy pool is so much bigger than those at the same level.

Suddenly...

\*Puf...\*

The smell of burnt herbs began to spread in the alchemy room. Roan then lifted the lead of the cauldron, just to see a black liquid inside. All the Spiritual Energy of the herbs quickly disappeared after that too. Sure enough, he failed his first attempt.

'No wonder the system gave three months to reach Earth Low-Level Alchemist Rank. Controlling the Elements to enter the medicinal liquid is really hard. My Elemental Control is definitely much better than those at my level, but I'm still having difficulties grasping it. Now I know why I haven't seen a single alchemist around my age. It simply takes too long before one can get used to it. Anyone else would probably need a few years. Talented ones no less than several months.'

Roan pondered a bit and decided.

'I'm jumping steps here. I better start with a neutral Energy Gathering Pill first. Once I can concoct it with a good success rate, I can begin making Dark or Light Elemental ones.'

Elemental Energy Gathering Pills' materials change according to the Element one wants to create it. Roan had an idea about which herbs he could use to match his element, but he was still not ready for it. Thus, he simply switched to neutral pills that use basically the same herbs.

However, he still failed several times in a row in the next few days of trials.

'Weird... I'm following the instructions described in the alchemy books correctly. Why can't I harmonize the properties of the herbs?'



In the end, Roan could only leave the room and go back to the alchemy repository. As always, Old Worm was sat behind the counter reading his alchemy books. Soon, Old Worm noticed Roan's presence and put his book down.

"You came faster than expected. I thought you would keep trying for another week before coming to make your first questions."

Roan was surprised to hear that.

"Do you know why I came here?"

Old Worm shrugged his shoulders.

"What else could it be if not your constant fails to make your first pill?"

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that.

"Were you spying on me?"

However, Old Worm just chuckled.

"Do I need to spy on you for such an obvious outcome? Anyway, let's not waste each others' time. Say it, what do you want to ask?"

Roan nodded.

"I can't harmonize the herbs' properties even though I'm following the concoction process correctly. I tried several times, but I always get stuck at the same point."

Old Worm was surprised to hear that.

"You already reached the harmonization process? I thought you would fail in the medicinal extraction instead."

Roan didn't find the medicinal extraction that hard. Although he failed in his first tries, it only took him around a day to grasp its gist. That's because the only difference between doing this in this world and his previous life was the fact that the herbs have spiritual energy. He simply merged both experiences and came up with his own way of extracting them.

Old Worm then got up and began to make his way out of the Alchemy Repository.

"Come, let me see what you are doing during your concoction process."

Roan nodded and quickly followed Old Worm. He still doesn't know why Old Worm is helping him, but he only had a month and a half to become an Earth Low-Level Alchemist. That being said, he won't refuse anything that could help.

The two quickly arrived at Old Worm's hut and got inside. Neither side said anything. Roan simply began his concoction process as Old Worm paid close attention.

Old Worm was quite surprised about Roan's way of extracting the medicinal liquid. Roan showed a level of proficiency that was hard to imagine for a kid to do. Not to mention that he seemed to do it a little different than what was explained in the Alchemy Repository's books. Still, it seemed to work pretty well for him, so Old Worm didn't say anything.

The concoction continued, and around an hour later, the same burnt smell began to come out of the cauldron. Sure enough, Roan failed once again.

"I see what is happening here. You are making a neutral pill, so you gave up any elemental attempt. However, even neutral pills aren't entirely void of elemental properties. You need to use your own element fused with Spiritual Energy to subjugate those elements. Of course, you won't add your own element since it wouldn't be compatible with the herbs inside. Still, it is possible and a must to take care of the herbs' own elemental properties."

Old Worm stepped in front of the cauldron and began a new concoction process. Roan, of course, watched that closely. Soon, Roan got bewitched by Old Worm's movement. From the extraction of medicinal herb, the fire's control, the addition of the medicinal liquid, etc. Old Worm's hands seemed to act like magic. Roan couldn't help but recognize the enormous chasm between him and the old man's skills.

Old Worm ignored Roan's surprise, though.

"Can you see it? At the harmonization process, you can't just follow the books. You need to use your own perception to take care of the herbs elemental properties."

Roan observed Old Worm's work.

"I guess I understand the basics."

Old Worm nodded.

"Alright, try yourself."

Just like that, Roan and Old Worm spent the rest of the day in the old hut.

Death... and me

Chapter 176: Rean Doesn't Want to Fall Behind

Rean had been healing cultivators who came back from missions or got injured because of other reasons. The elder who took care of the building was very pleased too. After all, Rean's Light Element control helped save a lot of pills and expenses. Rean didn't mind either since it was his duty days, not to mention that he will get 300 sect points when it finishes in two weeks.

In fact, Rean was quite happy with this chance. That's because he had been thinking about his own control of Light Element and how to use it recently.

Rean was inside a room, healing another disciple. However, he wasn't simply sending Light Element inside that disciple's body as always. Instead, he was controlling it in a different way to achieve another effect. If that disciple tried to run now, he would definitely be much faster due to the Light Element running through his body.

There was a big difference, though. This disciple wasn't Rean or Roan, so he couldn't use it as well as them. Still, Rean didn't care. That was only a test to see if he could use his Light Element to improve the body's strength of other people other than him and Roan. Of course, being able to increase someone else other than him and Roan's strength was very good too. Nevertheless, the real meaning of these tests was utterly different.

However, this is only something that Rean was working on the side. After all, Rean and Roan can directly use the Light Element.

Rean then quickly finished healing that disciple before asking.

"Try to move now, see if there is any pain."

The disciple was surprised to hear it as he looked at his injury. Sure enough, not even a scar was left behind. The disciples quickly got up and began to run around. He couldn't help but feel shocked after that. For the next ten or so seconds, his body strength increased a lot. Of course, the Light Element effect quickly ran out, and he returned to his normal condition.

"What was that? Not only my injury is gone, I felt like I was so much stronger for a few moments, but then it disappeared."

Rean smiled before saying.

"It's just a side effect of my Light Element. Since I'm not injecting any Light Element in your body anymore, the effects quickly disappeared. Anyway, you are fine now, so you can go."

The disciples felt a little sad that the increase in his strength wasn't permanent. Still, he bowed to thank Rean and left right after.

Rean then looked at his hand and accumulated Light Element on it.

'There has always been a massive issue with my Light Element manipulation. So far, Roan and I couldn't use it in more than a single part of our bodies at the same time unless we wanted to milder effect. Not only that, but as soon as we stopped using Light Element, our body would revert back to their normal condition. Obviously, we always had to keep using Light Element our bodies without stop during battles.'

Suddenly, the Light Element on Rean's hand fluctuated a little and spread around his entire body. After that, it began to disappear little by little. However, the impressive thing was that Rean was not using his Spiritual Energy to keep the Light Element there anymore. The remaining Light Element on his body stayed there on its own, and only after a minute did it disappear completely.

'It's still far from perfect. It only stayed in my body because I kept still doing nothing. If I moved and executed attacks that needed fast and strong movements, it would have disappeared in less than half of a minute. However, now I can make my entire body receive the benefit of my Light Element instead of only a single part like my legs or arms.'

Rean was able to do this in the past as well. However, to improve the whole body condition, the overall strength had to be equally shared. That being said, he would be slower than when he focused the Light Element only on his leg. Or his attack power with his sword would be weaker than when he used Light Element on his arms alone.

'So far, Roan and I have been controlling the Light Element to be used in the right places at the right moment. I also taught Roan how to do that so that he wouldn't lag too much behind in Light Element manipulation during battles. However, such a fighting style was bound to show openings sooner or later.'

Rean wanted to increase the whole body's strength with his Light Element to the best result possible, not only specific parts at the right times. However, there was a huge problem.

'Light Element wastage. The Light Element infused in our bodies constantly escaped everywhere. That's why we couldn't make a full-body improvement without losing power and had to do that at specific parts. However...'

Rean looked at the place where the disciple from a moment ago ran around and smiled.

'I finally succeed in locking the Light Element inside the body. Of course, there is still a lot of waste. However, it won't be long before my entire body can be strengthened to the max during battles without selecting specific parts. Still, I'm quite impressed that I was able to develop these skills.'

Rean then took a deep breath. However, one could easily see the excitement in his eyes. As mentioned a moment ago, Rean and Roan had to keep the flux of Light Energy running at all times. If they stopped, the effects would disappear immediately. Because of that, other people simply couldn't use his Light Element improvement since they couldn't provide more of it. The moment Rean stopped touching them, the effects would disappear straight away.

However, now that his new skill can stop the Light Element from dissipating straight away, his Light Element body strengthening can also be used in others! Not only was it of paramount importance for the twins during battles, but it would also be extremely useful for possible group battles in the future.

Rean smiled and exited his room. Soon, he returned with another disciple. This one had got himself injured in the arena while training with a friend. Rean quickly started to heal his injuries, and at the same time, he practiced his new skill.

"Hmph! Who said that only the ice block knows how to create skills? Since I'm not good at offensive ones, I might as well try another field."

Somewhere else, inside of an old hut...

\*Achoo!\*

Right after...

\*Puf!\*

Roan's concoction failed once more. His expression darkened as he looked at that. He was doing very well until, out of nowhere, he felt an intense urge to sneeze.

"Fuck!"

Back on Rean's side, he continued to practice during the entire duration of his sect duties. He ended becoming quite famous during this time. That's because he stayed in there, treating others for far longer than he was obligated every day. The elder who took care of the healers, of course, was delighted with him. In the end, he even decided to give Rean a bonus in Sect Points due to all the work and resources he saved for them.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 177: New Ability

It has been almost three months since Roan began to study alchemy. Three weeks earlier, Roan finally concocted his first Energy Gathering Pill. However, that was not enough for someone to become an Earth Low-Level Alchemist. Neutral pills are always easier, so the alchemist guild couldn't take those as a sign of ability unless they were hard pills to start with.

As one can imagine, a simple Energy Gathering Pill was simply too far from being considered hard in the alchemists' eyes. However, if the alchemist makes an Elemental Type Energy Gathering Pill, the story will be totally different. Elemental Pills don't just give better results. They are also much harder to concoct.

After all, the material used is different. They need to be compatible with the element that the pill is being made for. Roan is trying to make a Dark Element Energy Gathering Pill, which is even harder. One must remember that there are no other Dark Element cultivators anywhere. Obviously, there are no records of how to create such pills and which herbs to use.

Fortunately, Roan had Old Worm's help during all this time. Old Worm's knowledge was really vast, and he helped Roan think about the possible combinations necessary for that pill. Roan had thought about it before when he first tried to create a pill, but it turned out that Old Worm's ideas were much better.

Today, Old Worm was overseeing his practice once more.

"Good, keep that flux of Dark Element. In the end, the hardest part of creating a pill of your element is the decaying effect of it. It's the only element that I know that has such a strong power against the life force. Herbs are alive, so I can imagine how hard it is to create a pill with their medicinal liquids and your element without destroying everything."

Roan, who was in the middle of concocting, nodded his head.

"But that is good. I found out that any herb's unwanted properties can be easily eliminated with my Dark Energy. That's why you are so interested in me, right? After all, such an elemental power is both a blessing and a curse. However, as long as I can deal with the curse, my blessing will make my concoction several times easier than others."

Old Worm faintly smiled.

"I won't deny that. Too bad that you can only make Dark Element pills and maybe Light Element ones. Anyway, pay attention. You are almost there."

Roan nodded. Old Worm was right. As long as Roan can prevent the decaying effect from destroying the medicinal properties, his alchemy life will be much easier. One of the hardest parts of a concoction is to eliminate the impurities during it. Turns out that Roan's Dark Element can achieve this effect much easier than any other element!

But then again, that same effect was preventing him from going further. It was then that Roan had an idea. He heard from Rean how he used his Dark Element to destroy the Umbral Energy from the Crane's internal injury. At the same time, Rean's Light Element protected the Crane's organs.

Since that was the case, Roan decided to use Rean's Light Element to protect his herbs while destroying whatever impurity or undesired component with his Dark one. At the moment, Roan's hair was a mix of black and white, which showed that he was exchanging elements with Rean through their Soul Connection.

Ever since he started to use this method, his concoction skills improved by leaps and bounds day after day. Today, he was trying to finally finish his first Dark Element Energy Gathering Pill.

"Good, you passed the harmonization process. Now, use your Spiritual Energy to form the pills. As long as you succeed in this process, you will be considered an Earth Low-Level Alchemist."

Roan took a deep breath and controlled his Spiritual Energy carefully. It was the first time he passed the harmonization process, so he knew he was close. However, forming the pill was also a challenging



process. After all, you had to compact all the medicinal power into a single point. Chances are that he would destroy it before being able to form the pills. There was nothing wrong with that, though. All alchemists had to pass through the same arduous path every time they make a pill. Even if Roan fails now, Old Worm is sure that he will succeed very soon.

However, Roan wasn't willing to wait. He only had three more days to become an Earth Low-Level Alchemist, so he couldn't afford to waste time. That being said, Roan was putting his all during the pill formation.

"Gather!"

The medicinal liquid was gathered into three single points. After that, Roan decreased the fire intensity slowly, making sure to keep the medicinal liquid together. Little by little, the Pills began to take form. Roan could see with his Spiritual Sense that the outer layer was already completed. He was only waiting for the rest of the liquid inside to solidify as well.

However, Roan began to lose control at that point. The pills' inner layers' pressure increased as time passed, trying to break the outer layers.

Suddenly...

\*Crack! Shatter!\*

The first pill broke. Roan narrowed his eyes but continued to concentrate on the other two pills.

\*Crack! Shatter!\*

Just like that, the second one was gone too. Old Worm looked at that and smiled. This was unavoidable, a process that you will pass through with all the other pills you will make in your life. He didn't find anything wrong with Roan failing the first two.

Roan, on the other hand, relaxed a bit after the first two were lost. That's because he could keep his full attention in the last one.

Sure enough, his work became a lot easier after that. In the end, the last pill finished solidifying. Roan's cauldron's lead opened with a boom of spiritual energy, and a Pill shot out. Roan's eyes lit up, and he immediately caught it before the pill fell on the ground.

Roan then looked at his first Dark Element Energy Gathering Pill and let out a sigh of relief. As far as he could see, it seemed like the pill held his Dark Element as expected. The pill was dark to the point that it looked like to be burnt, but he knew that it was because of his Dark Element instead. However, the pill wasn't completely dark. It was also possible to see a few lines of white color on it.

Roan didn't need to think much to know that it was due to Rean's Light Element. It was also thanks to it that the pill's medicinal properties were not destroyed by his Dark Element.

In the end, he looked at Old Worm and threw the pill at him.

Old Worm smiled and caught the pill. Right after, he sent both his Spiritual Sense and Energy inside, checking everything from top to bottom. A few minutes later, he nodded.

"Congratulations. It's really an Elemental Energy Gathering Pill of the Dark Element."

\*Pin!\*

[Congratulations to the hosts.]

[Host Roan has become an Earth Low-Level Alchemist.]

[Destiny Points Reward: 300]

[Authority Level Increased by Two.]

[Title Acquired: Destiny Strugglers.]

[A new ability has been unlocked for the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.]

Rean and Roan received the message at the same time. Obviously, the last part caught their attention more than anything else.

"New ability?"

Death... and me

Chapter 178: Announcement

Rean and Roan weren't expecting it, but it was good news nonetheless.

Old Worm noticed that Roan wasn't paying attention to him, though.

"Are you okay?"

Roan came back to himself before looking at Old Worm.

"I'm fine. So I can be considered an Earth Low-Level alchemist now, yea?"

Old Worm nodded.

"Correct. I'll pass your results to the Alchemist Guild. You will get your badge done by the end end of the day. By the way, what are you going to do now?"

Roan pondered a bit.

"I'm going back to rest a little. Tomorrow I'll be back to practice alchemy again. I need to learn how to make Foundation Stabilizing Pills for my cultivation, so I'll bother you in the repository again if I get any doubts."

Old Worm faintly smiled and began to make his way out.

"As long as you keep practicing alchemy, that's good enough."

Roan then slightly bowed to Old Worm to thank him and left as well. After that, he went straight back to his room. However, Rean still had a few more duty hours before coming back, though. Rean already finished his obligatory duty days there, but he insisted on continuing it. Since he wouldn't have to do any other duty anytime soon, the elder supervising the place allowed him to continue happily.

Roan decided to wait for Rean to come back when suddenly, the sound of a bell began to echo in the entire sect. Obviously, something important happened.

Roan exited his room and asked an older disciple on his way out.

"What was this bell about?"

The disciple was in a hurry to leave, though.

"Since you don't know, come with me. I'll explain on the way."

Roan was puzzled by that but followed the guy nonetheless.

"This bell only appears when the Sect Master has an announcement to make. Everyone who is free has to gather in the main field to hear what she has to say. Even those on Duty or in closed cultivation would try to come out to see what is happening. After all, the sect master only calls everyone out when something important happened."

Roan nodded and kept following that disciple. Soon, he saw several more disciples coming out from their rooms and running in the same direction as him. Sure enough, the entire sect wanted to see what was happening. On the way, Roan encountered with Rean. Of course, it wasn't a coincidence. The two of them arranged it through their soul connection.

"What do you think it is about?"

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

"There are only two possibilities, but I believe you already know both of them."

Roan couldn't help but nod. He already had an idea about what it is.

Outer, Inner, and Core disciples and elders gathered in the field one after another. The field for this kind of announcement was enormous, so it could hold several tens of thousands of disciples. That was to be expected since the sect really did have this amount living inside.

In the distance, everyone could see the elders in the privileged areas for them. The further ahead it was, the higher their position in the sect. Finally, there was the Sect Master and the core elders on her sides.

The gathering only took ten or so minutes. That shows how important the bell sound was for the sect disciples.

Mia Orzute, the Sect Master, then came forward on the stage. She gathered Spiritual Energy on her throat so that her voice could be augmented too.

"The sect has three things to announce today. First, thanks to elder Hulian's efforts, the sect has discovered a new way of communication. We will be implementing this communication system between all the cities in our territory in the next few months. Several missions for the disciples will be issues to finish building this as fast as possible, and there will be good rewards for it."

Mia continued.

"Second, as the majority here knows, the Jialin Country is part of the Sasamil Empire. Our elders went to the capital of the empire and presented this new system to the imperial family. Thanks to that, our sect will be highly rewarded for its service to the empire. It's not a secret that our Jialin country is a small one at the empire's border. That being said, I believe you understand how incredible it is for the Imperial

Family to reward us. In the future, expect the conditions of our sect to improve significantly. This will be a new era for our Dalamu Sect."

"Third, Inna Malaka, step forward."

Rean and Roan immediately paid attention to the petite figure walking up the stage. As she went up, she tripped quite a few times as her legs trembled. Rean couldn't help but laugh out loud at that scene. It was apparent how nervous Malaka was feeling at the moment. Even Roan showed a faint but sincere smile on his frozen face.

"Hurry up!"

"Y-Yes, Sect Master!"

Malaka then ran forward and quickly stopped beside Mia. The poor girl was sweating rivers in the presence of such a powerful person. Malaka heard from her senior sisters several times how strong the sect master probably was. That she could kill their Faction Leader, Elder Zaia, with just a finger. That and several other stories were told inside between the sisters. Malaka learned that she should never disrespect the Sect Master, least she gets killed on the spot.

"Pa-Paying respects to Sect Master."

In fact, Malaka didn't know what was happening. At some point, Elder Zaia came forward and brought her to the side of the stage. Then she simply said to wait for when the Sect Master called her up. As one can expect, Malaka was as lost as she could be.

Mia looked at the girl in front of her with a cold expression and simply nodded slightly.

"Inna Malaka, from today onwards, you are my direct disciple. Kneel down and accept me as your master."

Instantly, the entire sect went in an uproar! Mia had never taken a disciple before, so everyone was shocked after hearing the news.

Malaka froze at that moment. She, too, never expected that she would hear such a thing. However...

"Bu-but... M-My big brothers had always been the ones teaching me. I-I don't know if they will be happy if I become your disciple. I-I can't accept it."

Everyone's eyes opened wide! That was the Dalamu Sect Sect Master! Was there even a need to compare which one would be better for her future? Who would ever be reluctant in front of such a great fortune? If it was anyone else, they would probably even disregard their own parents for the opportunity!

Rean and Roan, obviously, were just as stunned. Roan wanted to knock her head for thinking about such an idiot reason to hesitate. Rean felt like Malaka didn't really know how to measure the pros and cons of life.

However, it would be a lie if they said they weren't at least a little happy that she considered their feelings more important than the sect master's offer.

Surprisingly, Mia Orzute smiled after hearing that. She didn't have much of an impression of Malaka. Mia was only taking Malaka as a direct disciple because of the favor she owed to Rean. But now, she had to admit that she was quite pleased by Malaka's reaction. She then sent Malaka a Divine Sense message.

'Don't worry, child. I already asked for their permission. If you don't believe me, turn around and look over there.'

"Ah!"

Malaka was taken aback and quickly looked in the direction that the Sect Master pointed. There, she found Rean and Roan, looking back at her. The twins also received a Divine Sense message from Mia at the same time as Malaka, so they understood what that meant. When Malaka looked at them, they nodded at her expressing their approval. Only then did Malaka stop to hesitate. She quickly kneeled in front of Mia before saying.

"Inna Malaka pays respect to Master."

Mia nodded, satisfied.

"Very good."

Then, she returned her attention back to the rest of the disciples and elders and said.

"This concludes the three announcements I had to make today. More details about the new communication system construction will be released in the next few days. Everyone is dismissed."

The Sect Master left with Malaka right after. But at the same time, she sent a Divine Sense Message to Rean and Roan.

"Come see me at the peak. Hulian will bring you there."

Death... and me

Chapter 179: Reasons

Rean and Roan went to see elder Hulian right after the announcement. As soon as Hulian saw them, he immediately brought them up to the mountain. There, they entered the main building and made their way to the Sect Master's office. Finally, Hulian left those two in front of the door and left straight away.

Rean then knocked on the door.

"Enter."

The twins opened the door and saw Mia working on a few documents. Surprisingly, Elder Tiria was there as well. Mia continued to write on the papers for a few more minutes before she put everything down and looked at the twins.

"Do you know about the Shadow Reapers?"



Rean and Roan looked at each other and then back at Mia.

"We never heard about them."

Mia nodded, already expecting this answer.

"During the last time you left for your mission, Tiria followed you two. The reason was that my Master detected that someone was spying on you. After that, I had Tiria follow you two on your journey. Sure enough, she found and killed one of them on the way."

Obviously, Rean and Roan were taken aback.

"Why were they following us?"

Mia shook her head.

"No idea. I called you over so that I could try to figure it out. However, after that guy was caught, we didn't detect the presence of any other member of this organization anymore."

Roan pondered a bit and asked.

"Then, what are those Shadow Reapers? From what you are telling me, it seems like they are some kind of assassin organization."

Tiria was the one to answer this time.

"You are correct. The Shadow Reapers are indeed an assassin organization. This group only moves for money, which means that someone put a bounty on your heads. However, the fact that we didn't detect anyone after we killed the first assassin is strange. Once they take a job, they would keep trying until they succeed. Even if they can't enter our sect, sure there would be someone observing you. However, so far, we didn't find anyone like that."

Roan then asked a few questions.

"What was the cultivation level of the guy you killed?"

"Core and Soul Fusion Realm."

"Did you battle, causing some damage and catching the attention of others?"

"No."

"Did you leave any clues behind after he died?"

"No."

Roan nodded.

"I don't think there is anything strange about it. The first one to come was a Core and Soul Fusion Realm expert. However, he died without being able to get even close to complete the mission. It's true that they would keep trying, but that is only in case the money is worth it. You said it, they move for money. That means when the first one died that easy, the mission turned into something much more difficult. That also means that the initial payment was not worth the risks anymore."

"Think with me. That guy died so easily that no clue was left behind. Could another Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator have done it? Not likely. The guy was an assassin, so he knows how to protect himself against assassinations. That means someone much stronger than him that he couldn't detect with his Spiritual Sense instantly killed him. Simply put, the organization behind him should be at least 90% sure that a Nascent Soul cultivator was involved."

"That being said, they would not move anymore unless a higher price is offered. That is also considering that they have someone stronger enough to deal with both the target and a possible Nascent Soul protector."

There is only one possibility here at the moment. The client is not willing to pay for the extra costs of having us killed."

"Of course, there are other possibilities. They might be biding their time and waiting for when we come out. There might be spies in the sect that are keeping an eye on us. Or perhaps they don't have or don't want to risk sending anyone stronger. However, I believe these other possibilities are very improbable."

Tiria couldn't help but ask.

"Why is that?"

Roan then explained.

"The answer is related to you two. You seem to consider those Shadow Reapers very dangerous. That means they definitely have some people capable of completing the job. Since they didn't send anyone, it means the client simply can't or don't want to pay for higher service. Or perhaps the client himself decided to try it. Last but not least, the client might have given up."

Mia and Tiria looked at Roan with weird expressions.

"Are you really a kid?"

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that.

"Why does everyone ask this same question so many times? Is it really that unbelievable that I have a brain?"

Mia sighed and shook her head.

"Forget it. Do you have any idea why someone would want you dead?"

Rean answered that question with another one.

"It depends. How much would it cost to have us killed?"

Tiria pondered a bit and answered.

"Considering your cultivation and background, I would say something around ten thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones. After all, it was supposed to be an easy job."

Rean shook his head.

"That's a lot of Spirit Stones. I can't think about a reason to employ an assassin by such value. I do have my steelwork going around, and it is definitely worth more than ten thousand. However, even if Roan and I die, the metal wouldn't disappear."

Mia knew about Rean's business. After all, she had been keeping an eye on the twins ever since they arrived at the sect. Rean and Roan also considered this possibility.

Roan then shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, then we are doing or did something that made some rich guy very angry. But what could it be?"

It was at this moment that Rean looked at Tiria.

"Umbral Energy!"

Tiria nodded her head.

"You and Roan left our Dalamu Sect to do your mission after you healed the Umbral Energy assaulting my body. Suppose the Umbral Sect found about your ability somehow. In that case, it is definitely possible that they paid to get you killed."

Mia heard from Tiria about Rean's capability of healing Umbral Energy before.

"That makes sense. Also, if it wasn't too difficult, they wouldn't do it themselves. After all, the tension between our sects after that last battle is quite high. If we found out that they killed more of our disciples, then a war might have started between us. However, if they employ the Shadow Reapers, there would be no clue left behind."

Roan immediately found an issue in this theory.

"There is a problem. If it is really the Umbral Sect, I don't think they lack Spirit Stones to pay for a better assassin to get rid of us, right?"

Mia shook her head.

"It's not that they don't have it. It's just that they are too proud to pay so much just to have two Foundation Establishment Kids killed. I know their Sect master personality. He definitely wouldn't spend more than it. Chances are that he didn't even want to pay for it in the first place, but his elders changed his mind. However, now that they failed and the price increased, their Sect Master definitely won't pay for it again. Which means..."

Rean and Roan understood what Mia meant.

"They are coming for us by themselves."

Death... and me

Chapter 180: Yin Yang Essence

Still, there was one thing that Rean didn't understand.

"How exactly did they find that I had something to do with the Umbral Energy thing?"

Tiria pondered a bit, and an idea popped into her mind.

"Now that Nana is healed, elder Javiu let her free to fly around. Nana is a quasi Stage Five Demon Beast, so the sect's territory is too small for her. When she goes, she travels several thousand kilometers before she comes back again."

Rean understood where Tiria was coming from.

"I see. Nana had also been hit by the Umbral Energy attacks. Also, the pills necessary to heal such a severe Umbral Energy Injury was too expensive. It wasn't worth it using it on Nana, a Demon Beast. That being said, Nana shouldn't be flying around anytime soon. I'm sure our sect has a few eyes on the other sects. In the same way, the other sects have eyes on us."

"A Stage Four Snow Crane that should be lying on her nest without being able to fly was now as lively as ever. Obviously, the Umbral Sect would notice it if we let her out, which we did. If the Umbral Sect wasn't made of idiots, they would reach the conclusion that we healed the Umbral Energy somehow. However, they know their Umbral Energy very well and how expensive it is to heal with pills. They didn't believe we paid so much to put Nana back on her feet."

"After that, they only had to investigate what happened in the Beast Taming Faction. After matching the fact that I was on duty there, that I have my Light Element power, and that the Crane was healed around the same time, they reached the conclusion that I was somehow involved in it."

Roan agreed with Rean in that conjecture.

"Rean is most likely right. Now we know the underlying cause. The question is, what will we do now? Rean and I can't simply stay inside the sect for the rest of our lives. Our cultivation would definitely stagnate like that."

Mia didn't seem very concerned about it, though.

"That isn't too hard to resolve. People just don't need to know that you two left. If you decide to take a mission, talk with Hulian. I'll have him fetch the mission in secret for you two. After that, you just need to leave the sect without anyone noticing. Our sect has several different exits that no one knows about. You can simply use it to both come and go. I can guarantee that as long as you don't reveal yourselves on purpose, others won't know about it."

Rean and Roan nodded, satisfied.

"That's good then."

Mia then smiled coldly.

"However, we can't possibly lose this chance to give those idiots a lesson, now can we? We have the ultimate baits on our side at the moment, so we should use them. It will also make them think twice before put more people after your two."

Roan couldn't help but look at the sect master with a new light. If Mia hadn't offered it herself, he would definitely have brought this option to the table. However, he was satisfied that she also thought the same thing.

"Alright, next time you decide to go out on a mission, make sure to tell Hulian in advance. He will inform us right after. You two are dismissed."

The twins nodded before turning around to leave. However, just as they were about to go through the door, Mia said a few more words.

"Oh, right. Malaka, that girl, she's quite good."

Rean and Roan didn't stop for even a second, nor did they turn around. They simply kept moving forward while saying.

"We know."

After they left, Tiria looked back at the Sect Master.

"Sorry, Sect Master. I should have thought about Nana's issue. If I didn't let her free to fly around, no one would have noticed Rean's Light Element ability."

Mia shook his head.

"It's okay. Fortunately, Rean is a Light Element user. That is something we probably won't see again in our lives. That's also why the Umbral Sect isn't being too bold. It's only one Rean, there is no other, nor there will be. Besides, I'm looking forward to the bait plan."

Tiria was taken aback.

"Is Sect Master coming too?"

Mia nodded.

"If I kill a few people that shouldn't have been around, no one will have anything to say, right?"

Mia then got up.

"Call Malaka over. I have a few things to teach her now that I'm her Master."

Tiria nodded, and the two girls left the room right after.

Rean and Roan made their way back to their room after that.

"What do you think?"

Roan pondered a bit before saying.

"It seems like we are fine now. The worst problem would be an enemy in the shadows. As long as we know who they are, we have the advantage. Anyway, we can bother about this next time we go on a mission. For now, let's enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and check what happened inside."



Rean nodded, and the twins focused. Right after, the two of them disappeared from their rooms.

As soon as they entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, they noticed a big difference.

"This..."

[Oh! You are here! What do you think?]

Rean and Roan mouths twitched. Right in front of them, there was a building. However, what really caught their attention was the words on the entrance board.

-Bathhouse.-

"Sister Orb, was the upgrade related to this... thing?"

[Yes. Now you can take a bath anytime you want. Amazing, right?!]

Rean and Roan didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Amazing your head! What kind of useless upgrade is it?! Are you messing with us?!"

[Hmph! Idiots! Do you really think that a Bathhouse created by the Soul Gem System would be useless? Why don't you enter it first before jumping to conclusions?]

Rean and Roan were taken aback. Still, they looked at each other and nodded.

"Alright, let's see what is so good about it."

They entered the building, and sure enough, there was a bath in there. However, the water inside shined with semi-transparent white and dark colors. Rean and Roan didn't need to be geniuses to understand that it had something to do with their Elemental Affinity.

The two quickly took off their clothes and only left the underwear. After that, they entered it to test the benefits.

"I can't feel anything."

"Me neither."

However, it didn't last for long. Rean then began to feel somewhat uncomfortable.

"Isn't this way too hot?"

Roan, on the other hand, shook his head.

"Hot? Are you crazy? This thing is freezing!"

Only then did they notice what was happening. Their bodies were absorbing the white and dark 'colors' in the water!

[Hahaha! Did you notice? That's the special ability of the bathhouse.]

However, Rean and Roan felt like they wanted to leave straight away!

"This is too hot!"

"This is too cold!"

[There go the two babies complaining about a little bit of pain again. Stop nagging and stay inside. Your bodies are absorbing the Yin Yang essence in the water, so make sure to not waste it.]

Rean then asked while gritting his teeth.

"What is this about?"

[The essence can strengthen your bodies. Think about it as the Bone Upgrades of the Reward System. However, it is created for your flesh instead. The best thing is that it is not a reward. This bathhouse can be accessed anytime you want!]

Rean felt helpless already.

"Sure enough, it can only be good if there is pain. No, wait, these words don't seem right."

[I didn't expect that you two were masochists.]

"Shut up! I didn't mean it like that!"

Roan also complained, but for another reason, though.

"Can't you two be quiet? I need to concentrate on absorbing this thing before I freeze to death!"

Rean couldn't help but say.

"Death is freezing to death? I didn't know such a thing was possible..."

Roan almost vomited blood. If the two of them were not passing through this, he would have definitely sent Rean flying with a kick.

Sister Orb, on the other hand, laughed out loud.

[Hahaha!]

Obviously, that didn't make Roan feel any better.

The process took around ten minutes to finish. After that, the Yin Yang essence in the water finally disappeared. Because of that, the water became utterly transparent too. Seeing that everything was over, Rean and Roan exited the water.

"Phew... well, let's see what changed."