

Death 1711

Death... and me

Chapter 1711: About the Minokawa of the Past

Naturally, Rean had to ask. "So, how long until the teleport opens the next time around?"

"Eleven years," Philip answered straight away.

That was indeed a very long time. However, neither Rean nor Roan complained. It didn't matter how they looked at it. Any other method to head to the center of the Realm of Gods would take much longer, maybe hundreds, if not thousands of years. Of course, they still had to ask nonetheless. "Is there any other way to get there faster?"

Philip shook his head, telling them, "Unless you have Rank Seven Divine Stones to open the teleport formation, I can't think of any other reason. Our Jhiod Sect does have some Rank Seven Divine Stones, but they won't use it just to send you there. First of all, I'm not sure if the amount we have is enough to even open the teleport formation due to the distance."

Rean and Roan immediately nodded after hearing that. Let alone the fact that the sect might not have enough Rank Seven Divine Stones. Those Divine Stones were definitely in the hands of several of the important members of the sect. It wouldn't be a problem to get those stones from one person, but getting them from many people was another thing. In short, it was way too unrealistic. "We understand. Eleven years it is, then."

Govin smiled after that. "Do you understand why I said I had a few things to explain? Your view of the Realm of Gods was just too different from the real one. I could tell after you joined the Jhiod Sect. Your strength was not something made to be used in a place like this."

Sam added something else. "However, if you do wish to stay in the Jhiod Sect, you have pretty much a guaranteed future. It's just as Roan mentioned. At least here, you can be the head of a chicken." Sam looked at Erla right after, telling her, "The same goes for you. With your bloodline, the center of the Realm of Gods would indeed be more suitable. It's just that you will be far from being the only high-ranked Divine Demon Beast there."

Erla didn't even need to think twice, saying in response, "I wish to stay. Terces Continent is my home, and I want to help my race in the Clendes Sea. Since the previous Clendes Sea God left this gift to me, I

will use it. Sure, not everyone there was kind to me, but there were those who sacrificed themselves for me to get here, like my father. I won't abandon them."

Sam was happy to hear that. "Then, as your new master, I shall give you the necessary guidance." After all, this meant that the Yume Clan of the Jhiod Sect would have someone capable of exerting power on an entire continent.

Philip didn't have anything else to say anymore. "If you guys have any questions, you better ask them now. Otherwise, this meeting will be over."

Kentucky immediately raised his wing after hearing that. "Me, me! Senior Philip, on our way here, we heard that another Minokawa was heading in the direction of the Jhiod Sect. I'm the only Minokawa I've seen so far. Could it be that the Minokawa we heard about came to your Jhiod Sect?"

Philip was surprised to hear that. "It has been a very long time since that happened. I wasn't the Yume Clan's leader back when we were visited by this Minokawa you talked about."

Kentucky's eyes lit up in response. "Do you know if this Minokawa is still around? I'm also on a journey to find my race. I was born in the Mortal Realm, but I did not have the chance to meet my parents at all."

Rean nodded, explaining, "He's right. We were still in the Foundation Establishment Realm back when we found Kentucky's egg. We attacked a bandits' outpost, and we found his egg amidst the spoils. Considering the strength of a Minokawa, I find it hard that that group of bandits could have stolen the Minokawa egg from under his parents' nose."

Philip agreed with Rean on that point. "Most Divine Demon Bird can't even lay eggs before they reach the Transition Realm. Well, that's the case in the Realm of Gods, at least. I'm not sure if it's the same thing in the Mortal Realm. Nonetheless, a Minokawa that laid an egg back there would still be countless times stronger than anything Foundation Establishment Realm bandits could deal with."

He then looked back at Kentucky and told him, "Anyway, the Minokawa that visited us back then was called Ume. He came to our Jhiod Sect since this was the only place he could use the teleport formation leading to the center of the Realm of Gods. Well, not the only place, but it was the closest one he could

find. There were other powers in this region of the Realm of Gods that had teleport formations capable of doing the same thing, but they're very far away."

"I'm not sure what his cultivation level was, but even the sect master and the ancestors of that time treated him very well. I'm sure he wasn't weak at all. At the very least, he was stronger than I am at the moment. Just so you know, he paid for the teleport formation out of his own pocket. Rank Seven Divine Stones. He had quite a lot of it."

"Do you know where he went?" Kentucky asked back.

"No idea," Philip answered in response. "All I know is that he already teleported away a long time ago. However, I do know a little about the place he came from. Since you're a Minokawa, perhaps it would be worth checking on your own."

It went without saying that Kentucky would like to try that. "Definitely! Since it will take eleven years for the teleport to be activated on the other side, I might as well go take a look."

Rean quickly raised his hand, saying, "I'm curious too! I want to see it!"

Celis obviously would prefer to stay with Kentucky. "I'll follow you there so that we can keep our connection. Otherwise, my cultivation speed will decrease." Obviously, that meant all four of them would cultivate slower since they were all connected.

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Chapter 1712: I only know this much

Philip looked at Rean and Roan after that, telling them, "As you know, no one knows about your weapon intents other than our clan. If possible, I would like you two to stay here and spar with our older and younger generations to see if someone can awaken their own weapon intent. Libraia has surprisingly done it, but she won't be back just yet, as she mentioned to you."

Philip also added, "Of course, I have no intention of forcing you to do it. But then again, I don't mind paying Divine Stones for your time. It's just that... well... Libraia was paying a little too much, so I will need to reduce the amount. That girl doesn't know how to save money."

"Does that mean that the travel to the place where that Minokawa came from would take a long time?" Rean asked in response.

Philip nodded, saying, "Yes. Even if you use our Jhiod Sect's badge to get to use all the teleport formations along the way, I reckon it will take at least three to four years for a round trip. That's not considering the time you will lose once you're there since you might really find something."

Suddenly, Sam decided to speak up after that. "Philip, since there's nothing else for Erla to know, I will take my leave. I want to get her up to speed with her abilities and work on her training."

Govin agreed with him, saying, "The same goes for me, Clan Head. I'm still on duty back in the Jhiod Sect's recruitment building in Lebgram. Now that I have delivered the new disciples, I need to go back before the Gileria Clan complains that I'm breaking the rules."

Philip didn't mind. "Very well. You four can leave now."

With that, Sam, Govin, Erla, and Min left the room, leaving only Philip and the twins' group.

"Alright, let's continue. If you decide to help, you will only spar with members of my clan, in which we have absolute trust. However, I reckon that your ability to use weapon intents will be found sooner or later."

Roan believed that as well. "This Jhiod Sect of yours is just too big. Well, the Jamai Sect and the other powers in the center of the Realm of Gods should be even bigger. Nonetheless, there should be no lack of spies running around from the other factions and even other continental powers similar to Jhiod."

"In that case, what do you want us to do if our weapon intents are found out?" Rean asked.

Philip shook his head, replying, "As Jhiod Sect members and especially the fact that you're part of my Yume Clan faction, no one will try anything with you. However, that's only when we consider harm. Instead, they will make a petition with the other factions of the sect, asking to let you guys spar with their own members."

Roan could already see that. "They will simply say that weapon intents are a type of ability that should be shared with all trustworthy sect members. That also includes their own subordinates and families. Even though you're part of one of the factions of the Jhiod Sect, you can't simply refuse the request of all factions once they ally for this specific issue."

"You're quite smart, aren't you?" Philip couldn't help but say in response. "Anyways, you're correct. It's all a question of how long it will take until you're found out or not. Of course, it's exactly because you have weapon intents that no one will complain when I appoint you two as my Yume Clan's representatives for the Jamai Sect's selection."

"So you were already intending to reveal our power regardless," Rean mentioned.

Philip shrugged his shoulders in response. "Isn't that obvious? You are four outsiders. Do you think we send outsiders to participate in the Jamai Sect selection every hundred years? Of course not! We always use those born in our Jhiod Continent and usually right here in our Jhiod Sect. You would literally be the first two outsiders to take part in the Jamai Sect selection that's carrying the name of the Jhiod Sect. Without a compelling reason, there's no way the others would accept it as the slots are limited."

"That makes sense." Rean, Roan, Celis, and Kentucky agreed with him.

Philip continued again, "Alright, now about Kentucky's case. From Ume's words himself, he came from Astonkay Country. It is located in the Vurasic Continent, Wesglo Region. We did send people there in the past, but we didn't find anything. With that being said, I can't guarantee you will find anything either. However, one thing's for sure. Ume was definitely not born there, so there might really have been a reason for his presence in that place."

Kentucky was satisfied enough with that. "Great! I'll definitely take a look." It was then that he remembered something else. "Oh! Right! Do you know where I can find the territory of the Minokawas in the Realm of Gods? I'm trying to go there."

Philip waved his hand away, answering, "As if I would know such a thing, come on. A territory with many demon beasts of the same race is definitely something you can only find in the demon beast territories in the center of the Realm of Gods or beyond their side. You will have to go there and check it yourself."

Rean and Roan wanted to know exactly that. "And where can we find these demon beast territories?" After all, that's the place where Qia, Calina, and company should have gone to. Well, not exactly. All that the twins knew was that they would be sent to the demon beast territories, but they had no idea if it was in the center or some other corner of the Realm of Gods like themselves.

"Hmm?" Philip wasn't an idiot. "The place you guys are trying to go is the demon beast territories?"

Rean's group had no need to deny it. "Exactly."

Philip pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Well, I only know this much..."

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Chapter 1713: Just you wait and see!

"Then again, be aware that my knowledge about the Realm of Gods is very shallow," Philip added.

Rean shook his head, saying, "Just the fact that you know something about it is already much better than any other continental powers. Please, tell us what you know."

Since Philip already didn't care if the twins left after the selection, he saw no reason to hide the little he knew. "Alright. From what I know, and I might be wrong, the center of the Realm of Gods is separated into four main continental regions. Think about it as a huge circle with who knows how many continents inside."

Philip continued, "This circle is separated into four territories. One territory is taken by our humanoid races, and it's the southeast region. The southwest is in the hands of the spirits. The one you want to head to can be found in the northwest, which is the demon beasts' territory. As for the last one, northeast, I have no idea. Well, I've never tried to investigate anyway."

"By the way, the Jamai Sect is close to the center of the Realm of Gods but is not really located there. In any case, it can be found if you continue going southeast once you leave the center of the Realm of Gods. Don't misunderstand, though. When I say close, I mean it when you take the Realm of Gods as a whole. Otherwise, I can guarantee that the Jamai Sect is several times further away from the center of the Realm of Gods than our Jhiod Continent is from Huring, for example."

The twins' group had already gotten used to the scales of things in the Realm of Gods, so they were surprised by that distance. "Compared to the distance from here to Jamai Sect, that's nothing. We just need to wait eleven years, and we'll be able to cross this entire distance. That's more than enough already."

Philip nodded in agreement. "Indeed." Soon after, he changed the topic. "Well, that's as much as I know about that topic. The rest is up to you. Now, let's talk about the sparring schedule you will have with our trusted Yume Clan members."

In the end, Philip really wasn't willing to pay much for the days that the twins would fight. He used his offer to get to Jamai Sect to reach an agreement where Rean and Roan would only get 100 Rank Two Divine Stones for each day of work.

Of course, the twins didn't really care about that. They didn't lack Rank Two Divine Stones at the moment anyway. The teleport was all they needed. With that resolved, Philip finally left the twins' group alone for them to discuss their own issues.

Well, the only problem at the moment was the journey Kentucky had to do to head to the Minokawa's country. "Kentucky, it seems like you will have to go alone."

Kentucky didn't seem to mind, though. "It's fine. I can take care of myself. You said it, didn't you? I could leave anytime I wanted. Now I want to go alone."

Celis narrowed his eyes in response. "What do you mean alone? Didn't I say I would go with you?"

However, Kentucky shook his head. "Our Divine Demon Bird and Tree pact does really help our cultivation a lot. However, during the time you're with me, you won't have access to the Soul Gem Realm and the high-level Divine Stones there. Don't forget that the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm gathers more Divine Energy on its own as well. Once your ability to spread your roots and absorb the entire area's Divine Energy is used to the max there, our cultivation speeds reach their maximum speed."

Kentucky continued, "I believe our pact is not as effective as being in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Of course, the best would be for us to be close to each other while staying in the Dimensional Realm,

but I have to go to that country. Unfortunately, Rean and Roan have to do their business here in the Jhiod Sect during these next eleven years."

"Anyways, the cultivation connection between me, Rean, Roan, and you will allow me to receive my part of the Divine Energy even if I'm very far away. It's just that it won't be as effective compared to staying around with all of you."

Roan gave Kentucky a rare nod of approval. "It seems like you already thought about everything."

Kentucky was happy to hear that. "Hehe! But of course! It's already time for me to venture outside on my own as well. I'll take it as an opportunity."

"That's good and all," Rean intervened. "But I hope you won't stop at every city to start a new Minokawa Reverence Cult with the women there."

Kentucky looked away after that. "I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Five years," Rean told him. "The round trip should take two years less than that, so I'm giving you five years to go there and come back. If you don't, I'm heading there myself to check what's happening."

Kentucky thought it to be more than enough. "Sure, I'll be back in five years." At the same time, he thought, 'Hehe! I'm going to use three years for the round trip and enjoy myself during the last two.'

It wasn't like Rean, Roan, and Celis couldn't tell what the idiot bird was thinking. However, they decided not to intervene this time. "By the way, when are you intending to depart?"

Kentucky pondered over it for a bit before answering, "In a month or so. I want to wait and see if everything goes well on your side. After all, you might get worried about me, and so do I about you. What will you do when the great Kentucky isn't around? You need to get used to that."

"The great Kentucky, huh?" Rean smiled in response. "Well, let's hope the great Kentucky won't get himself in a dire situation because we aren't there to cover his ass."

"Hmph! Just you wait and see!" Kentucky rebuked back.

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Chapter 1714: She Is Doing Just Fine

Later, Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Celis were given their own residences to stay in. In fact, Kentucky and Celis' residences even had two different parts. One for them to use in their human form and another much bigger part for them to stay in their real form. Then again, they were free to choose whichever.

Philip worked very quickly and swiftly gathered the members of his clan that he could trust. That included both the young and older generations. With that, he called the twins back, expecting them to start the work with their weapon intents.

"Sorry, Roan. Can you take care of it? I'm going back to the Dimensional Realm to take a look at the System Sect," Rean asked.

"Fine. You will be the next one, though." Roan accepted and left straight away.

With that resolved, Rean entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Obviously, Celis had already settled once again at the center, using the realm's and the Divine Stones' energy to cultivate nonstop. Rean ignored that, though, as he went to look for Ophilia, the girl who learned sword intent before he started to take the twelve tests.

"Oh! Hage, it's been some time."

Hage, one of the first people to be recruited to the System Sect and the one responsible for the kids, immediately looked at Rean. "Ah! You finally decided to show your face again! If not because you could use your connection to this Dimensional Realm to talk to us, we would have thought you had abandoned us here."

The twelve tests plus the other arrangements prevented both the twins from entering the Dimensional Realm during the last year and something. Naturally, the sect members would notice that long time of absence. "I explained to everyone about what was happening, didn't I? That's why I couldn't let any of you come out either. Don't forget that all of you agreed to it until we could finally establish the sect somewhere."

Hage sighed in response. "Fine, I won't complain about that. After all, this year has been very good for most of the sect members. Several things very sect-like happened during this time as well."

"Oh?" Rean became interested as he didn't pay attention to the System Sect's affairs since a year ago. He only provided the Divine Stones for it to keep running. "Tell me more."

Hage nodded and began to walk with Rean. He could tell where he was going. "Well, first is Ophilia. You're going to see her now, so let me give you the rundown. We followed Roan's training schedule strictly and also gave her the necessary resting time. We made sure that all the Divine Stones she used to cultivate were earned through her own efforts during the missions given by the sect."

Roan didn't want anyone in the sect to grow lazy. If they wanted Divine Stones, then they had to work. Mostly, it involved the sect's constructions or the demon beast forest outside the sect's territory. The cultivators of the sect had to take turns between the sect's improvement and battling so that everyone would grow.

Of course, Roan wasn't an idiot. He told Celis that the demon beasts there shouldn't hold back at all. Anyone taking missions inside the demon beasts' territory would truly be at the risk of death, just like any other demon beast area outside the Dimensional Realm. That was how the sect members, although a few deaths occurred, were able to improve a lot during the last year.

Rean and Roan also set the rules for many internal competitions carried out by the elders. Divine Energy, Soul Power, and physical strength, there were often competitions happening regarding these three. Not only that, but Rean also told the side occupation masters to hold their own side occupation competitions. Blacksmithing, Talismans, Formations, it was there.

As for the one overseeing all of that? It was obviously Sister Orb. As long as it was happening in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, she would see it. There was no way anyone could cheat. However, she was also told that her intervention could only be limited. Why? Because Roan wanted the sect to have its own internal struggles. Otherwise, why would he have recruited many cunning and evil members?

That and many other measures were taken to make sure the sect would grow as a whole. Even the elders' positions were part of the competitions, theirs happening once every six months. The sect had quite a few substitutions regarding who would be the elders already. In Hage's case, he hadn't lost a single one so far. After all, the knowledge and leadership tests were the ones that gave the most points

for it. Hage might not have the highest talent, but he was definitely intelligent and experienced. If anything, he was getting better at it each day.

Let's not forget that taking part in the classes to learn several subjects was mandatory for every single sect member. There were even formations connected to each classroom, which were connected directly to Sister Orb so she could teach everyone at once. Sure enough, being an AI had its advantages in this kind of scenario. A single person would never be able to do that. At least, the twins definitely couldn't at their current level.

"Ophilia had to fight hard during the missions in the demon beast forest to get her Divine Stones. The same happened during the younger generation's competitions and sect duties. That girl seems to be living for the sword now."

"That's not good." Rean immediately shook his head after hearing that. "A kid must also be a kid. I hope you made sure she understood that she should take breaks while training. Play with the other kids, create relationships, and interact with the older ones. All of that and more is also important." Back in the Varen Tribe, the twins made Malaka go through hellish training, but they never neglected those issues either. They gave her the time she needed to be a kid as well. That's how she stayed cheerful as she grew into an adult.

Hage, who had his hand on his back, smiled in response, telling him, "Hehe! There's no need to worry. She's doing just fine."

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Chapter 1715: Back into the System Sect

"Hahaha! See?! I'm the best!" Suddenly, Rean heard a young female's voice coming from the distance.

From afar, he could see that several kids around Ophilia's age were playing with the wooden weapons of the sect. Obviously, one of them was Ophilia, who had now turned eight years old during the year Rean and the others spent outside.

The boy she defeated just now seemed to be also at the age of eight or nine. However, he had an angry expression on his face, saying, "Not fair! You're using a sword! There's no way we can win!"

"Don't complain!" Ophilia said in response. "I was the one using a weapon I didn't know, and I lost as well."

"Tch... I wish we always used our bodies," another kid mentioned.

Although they were arguing, they also seemed to have fun together, which made Rean smile after seeing that. "You're doing a very good job, Hage."

Hage nodded, telling Rean, "There's no way in hell I'll let someone take my position as an elder, especially this one where I'm responsible for the kids. Not only does it help my cultivation, but it also puts my mind at ease."

Rean then looked at Hage after that. The last time Rean had been in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Hage was in the Middle Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. "I can see that from your cultivation. You've improved a lot since the last time I saw you."

Hage had already cultivated up to the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. That was definitely a great speed, considering that Hage's talent wasn't that high. Of course, compared to someone like Luan, he was definitely lacking, but how many can do that? Hage was already doing good enough.

Rean then called Ophilia from afar. "Hey, Ophilia. How you are doing?"

Ophilia and the other kids obviously heard Rean's words. "S-Sect Master Rean!"

They quickly assembled in an orderly manner, much to Rean's surprise. "Err... there wasn't really a need for you guys to do that. I just came to check how Ophilia is doing. You guys can continue playing."

"Thank you, Sect Master." Hearing that, the other kids relaxed and returned to playing, except Ophilia, of course. Rean came to see her, after all.

"Sect Master, I haven't seen you for a long time." She still remembers the sword intent from Rean, so she deeply admired him even though she was that young.

Rean nodded, telling her, "I had a lot of things to do. Anyways, I should stop by more often from now on. I can see you have been putting a lot of effort into your training. The last time I saw you, you were still in the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. But look at you, a great Initial Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator. I'm very proud of you."

Ophilia was happy to hear that. "Hehe! The demon beasts I fought to get the Divine Stones for my cultivation were very scary. However, the sword intent Master taught me helped a lot."

Rean shook his head, clarifying, "Sword intents can't be taught. One has to learn it on their own. The most I did was let you share the feeling of fighting me while I was using my intent. It was your credit that you came to understand it."

Ophilia then looked down as if she wanted to ask something. "S-Sect Master... Can we spar again? I wish to see your sword intent again. I-I feel like I'm close to understanding something."

Rean didn't mind. "Alright." After that, he used his Divine Energy to grab a wooden sword that was nearby on the ground. "Is this enough?"

Hage couldn't help but ask, "Don't you want to go to the arenas?"

Rean shook his head in response. "Don't worry. With me here, no one will get injured or anything like that."

Ophilia's eyes lit up in response, and she immediately raised her own wooden sword. Following that, her wooden sword began to flicker between its ethereal state and the normal state.

Though, with just one glance, Rean immediately recognized her improvement. Back when she awakened her sword intent, it flickered slowly, barely achieving any ethereality at all when it did. Now, on the other hand, her wooden sword flickered so fast that it was even hard to count. There's no doubt she was very close to the second stage of sword intent, Stable Ethereality. 'This is going to be fun.'

Rean then positioned himself in an open space before calling Ophilia out. "Come. I won't move from this place, so you can go all out."

Ophilia didn't need to hear that twice before her fighting spirit burst out. She was a completely different girl when she was with her sword in her hands.

For the next two hours, Rean entertained Ophilia nonstop. At some points, Ophilia's sword seemed to stabilize in the ethereal form for a few seconds before it started to flicker at high speeds again. The more she fought against Rean's sword intent, the more she understood her own.

However, Rean stopped sparring her once two hours were up. "Alright, that's enough for now."

Thud!

As soon as Rean said that, Ophilia fell to the ground. Even though the little girl didn't notice it, she had truly spent herself completely.

Gasp, gasp, gasp...

Wow!

The other kids obviously watched the action and were cheering Ophilia on.

"Hahaha!" Rean then got close to her after that.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

In a matter of a second, all the injuries on Ophilia's body disappeared. Only her ragged clothes served as proof of the battle she took against Rean. Well, she was still tired nonetheless.

Rean then patted the girl's head as he helped her get up. "Very good. You know that there's no need to fight me anymore, right?"

Ophilia seemed a little embarrassed as she nodded. "I finally felt it. I know how to get my sword intent to achieve the Stabel Etherelili-lyby-litgy..." The poor girl had some difficulty saying that word, though.

"Stable Ethereality. Indeed, you can definitely achieve that on your own now. I'm looking forward to the next time we spar." Rean was happy for her as he got up.

It was then that Rean looked around. Being able to see weapon intent in action was a very precious thing. Naturally, the few cultivators who were nearby came running to watch the battle.

It was then that another elder of the sect approached Rean before pointing at some cultivators that followed him. "Sect Master, these are the ones you asked for."

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Chapter 1716: Come With Me

Rean looked behind him and smiled in response. The one who brought the cultivators was Marcela, the old woman who also was one of the first elders to pass the tests. As for the cultivators, there were three of them, two men and one woman.

Of course, Rean recognized them. They did pretty well during the first time the tests were done in the System Sect. Fosxin was one of them, the cunning cultivator that Roan looked forward to in terms of development. After this year, while they were gone, his cultivation went up an entire realm. He was now in the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. Well, the reason for that was due to his high talent.

The second one was the guy with a similar ability to Roan's first disciple, Leonardo Abril. He was the cultivator with Iron Element Affinity. Of course, Leonardo wasn't taken in as a disciple by Roan. He hadn't even heard anything about the possibilities his affinity held.

As for the last one, it was Tatiana. In her case, she scored very high on the cultivation tests. She was the girl who found a cultivation technique that suited herself.

"So, it was the three of you who came to understand the weapon intents," Rean mentioned. "From what I heard, you kept watching Ophilia as many times as possible after I left, which eventually led to you guys understanding them."

Fosxin nodded, saying in response, "Obviously. There's no way I wouldn't get to use it." Fosxin was full of confidence as always."

Leonardo was also there, telling Rean, "Well, I was the first to awaken my Saber Intent Seed, though."

"Hmph!" Fosxin snorted after hearing that. "That's because of your affinity. You have a metal affinity, so you obviously had an easier time understanding it."

Rean shrugged his shoulders, asking him, "And where did you get this idea from?"

Fosxin looked back at Rean, replying, "That's what I believe. It's simple as that."

"Then what about Ophilia?" Tatiana asked in response. "She only has Wind Element Affinity."

Fosxin narrowed his eyes as he replied, "I still haven't understood how that happened. However, the times I was allowed to spar with her made me certain of one thing. That girl was born to use the sword. Tatiana, you also awakened your sword intent, but your sword intent simply doesn't give me the same dread that I feel when this kid is using hers."

Rean nodded, explaining, "That's the point, Fosxin. As Roan and I mentioned before, weapon intents can't be taught. At most, we can talk about our experiences and let you feel what it's like to fight against them. Each person will understand their own weapon intent in their own way."

Rean looked at Tatiana and continued, "Ophilia's sword intent is sharp like a blade, made for the battlefield. As for yours, it's a lot more gentle. Although I didn't come into the Dimensional Realm during this past year, I could still see what was happening every now and then. It's obvious to me that you aren't exactly in love with fights. Your sword intent gives me the feeling of avoidance and self-protection. Of course, there's nothing wrong with that."

Rean then raised his own sword against those three, asking them, "Now, how about you guys show me what you can do? Just like Ophilia, you might benefit a lot from fighting against my sword intent, which is already at the third level."

Rean didn't need to ask twice for all three to take out their weapons.

Fosxin used a spear and learned his own spear intent. Surprisingly, his spear intent was just like his personality. For Rean, it felt like he was fighting a snake, trying to catch him off guard nonstop.

Leonardo's saber intent was also like his personality. It was pure overbearingness. It tried to push through all obstacles with absolute strength. Once he learned what his Iron Affinity could do with his opponent's blood, then it was certain that he would become even more dangerous.

As for Tatiana, she kind of acted as the middle ground. The moment Rean was supposed to land a hit, her sword intent shined the most, appearing at the right moment to reflect the danger away. As Rean mentioned, there was nothing wrong with the kind of sword intent she awakened.

Then again, even though Rean reduced his output of Divine Soul Power to match their Nascent Soul Realm strength, they were still not his match at all. The reason the fight wasn't over in an instant was that Rean held back to give them the chance to learn.

Thud, thud, thud...

One might think that with higher cultivation, the battle would last longer. However, Rean pushed those three to use even more Divine Energy proportionally than Ophilia did. With that said, the three-on-one fight only lasted an hour instead of two before the last one fell to the ground, exhausted.

Rean then put the wooden sword back on the ground from where he took it earlier. Yes, while Fosxin, Tatiana, and Leonardo were using their real weapons, Rean never let go of the wooden sword. "Very good progress, you three. You're still far from reaching the second level of your weapon intents. However, your Weapon Intent Seeds have already taken a solid foundation. You did the most difficult part, which was to awaken them. You can only improve from now on."

Fosxin then tried to get up as he punched the ground. "Fuck! His suppressed cultivation was definitely on par with ours. Neither his speed nor his strength was better than ours either. But even with that, we haven't hit him a single time!"

Leonardo sighed in response. "That's what experience means. Sect Master Rean has been fighting and training with Sect Master Roan all this time. I'm already impressed we lasted this long."

Tatiana didn't really care that much. As Rean mentioned, she wasn't exactly fond of fights to start with. If she could choose, she would select cultivation over battles. "It's fine. I think I comprehended a lot about my own sword intent. I'll go back to my house and think about it... once I gather enough energy to get up, that is."

Rean was satisfied with them. "Well, that's all for now. Oh, right! Leonardo, I need to talk with you, so come with me."

Death... and me

Chapter 1717: Give Up

Leonardo was quite nervous as he followed Rean. That's because he could already guess what Rean wanted to talk about.

Sure enough, Rean entered the main topic straight away, telling him, "It's very good that you awakened saber intent. However, when you joined the sect, you were already at the Peak Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. After this entire year and the sect's resources, I'm sure you didn't lack the Divine Energy for the breakthrough. Could it be that you don't know what path to take?"

Leonardo nodded, replying, "Yes, Sect Master Rean. Even before joining the System Sect, I already had enough Divine Energy to go through my breakthrough. However, I simply had no clue as to what my path was. I'm afraid that I'll stay stuck in this realm until the end of my life."

Rean shook his head, saying in response, "Let's not be that pessimistic. Your path is something you have to realize, and it could happen in the next second. Of course, it could also happen when you're nearing the end of your lifespan. Were you expecting to find the key to your breakthrough when you accepted to join our System Sect?"

Leonardo didn't deny that, responding, "Yes. My life wasn't anything good, but I wasn't in a situation as bad as the other people you invited to the sect. Then again, I had the hope that this weird moving sect would hold the answer to this question. Just what is my path?"

Rean pondered over it for a bit before telling him, "Have you ever tried to think out of the box?"

"Think out of the box?" Leonardo had never heard that expression before. After all, it was something Rean learned back on Earth. "What do you mean by that?"

Rean then explained, "You have been actively looking for your path, trying new things all the time. It's gone so far to the point that you tried to awaken your saber intent and succeeded in doing so. We have thousands of disciples in the sect, but you're one of the only four who have achieved that. Of course, that's not counting Roan and me. Let me ask you, does your path really have to be a single one?"

Leonardo was taken aback to hear that. "Not a single path? Is there such a thing?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "How would I know? However, everyone has their own paths. Was there any rule stating that you must follow a single one? I've checked your scores on the several types of tests we hold in the System Sect. You can't be said to be the best at anything, but you always score high on all of them. Battle, cultivation, judgment, leadership, knowledge, side occupations... although you aren't close to the top ten in any of those, you're definitely within the top 5% of the entire sect."

Rean patted Leonardo's shoulder after that. "This is just an idea I got after analyzing you for a while. After all, I can't help but want to help one of the very few weapon intent users in our sect."

After that, Rean turned around and began to leave. However, he left Leonardo a few words behind. "Leonardo, perhaps, it would be a good idea to give up. I'm leaving now, so you don't need to follow me anymore." Rean began to walk away, leaving Leonardo to ponder over his words. Whether they could be of help or not, Rean didn't know.

Leonardo was taken aback after hearing that. Rean's words seemed to contradict themselves. First, he told him he was good at everything and that he didn't need to choose just one path. But soon after, he changed his stance and told him that it would be better to give up. Should he try various paths or not? Of course, he felt like Rean's words had a more profound meaning, and they somehow deeply reverberated in his mind. 'Give up... give up...'

Leonardo raised his hand and looked at it, thinking to himself, 'Give... up... I don't need to follow a single path, but that doesn't mean I need to follow various ones either. I can pretty much do most of the things to a good level.'

Suddenly, a burst of Divine Energy came from inside Leonardo's body. At the same time, he felt like his soul had transformed. 'Give up! That's right! Why should I even try? Who said I need to be the best at something? Is it not enough to be good at a lot of them? I don't need to try harder in every field. I can just give up and be satisfied with what I can do. To think it was this simple!'

Rean glanced at his back for a moment and smiled after seeing what had happened. However, he didn't stop walking as he had a lot of things to do. Leonardo could organize his own thoughts by himself. Sure enough, Leonardo entered the Soul Transformation Realm sometime later that day.

After parting with Leonardo, Rean arrived at the Formation Hall. But before he could say anything, a Sea Chilling Spirit came out of one of the rooms in a rage. "Fuck! How long were you going to make this grandfather wait? Come, we have a lot of things to work on regarding Circuitry Formations. I need your opinions."

Rean was then dragged into the area where Havek conducted the experiments with Circuitry Formations with Rean. "Alright, don't think you'll be able to leave this room for the next month at the very least! All the Formation Masters here have been waiting for you as well."

Rean shook his head in response, telling him, "Roan and I will have to take turns in the outside world as part of teaching weapon intents to the Yume Clan. I can at most come here once every two days. Not to mention I also have to cultivate as I want to try something on the forging side of things."

"Once every two days?" Havek didn't like to hear that. "After an entire year, you're still that busy?"

Rean nodded in response. "It can't be helped. It's part of the agreement to use the teleport formation. You'll just have to make do."

"Fine!" Havek could only accept it in the end. "Then I'll make sure to make the most of your time."

Death... and me

Chapter 1718: The Second Spar

The next day, Rean left the Dimensional Realm and took the job of sparring with the Yume Clan members while using his sword intent.

Roan, obviously, was the next one to head back to the Dimensional Realm. In his case, he went there to check the overall training of all members of the sect. Well, to be more exact, he didn't go talk with each of them but instead verified their progress report from the various elders of the sect. "Alright, I've got a general idea of how it is. Here, take this list and call all these sect members here."

Tian Bao, one of the elders, looked at the list, only to say soon after, "Even my name is on it, though?"

Roan nodded, replying, "Exactly. You and the people on this list seem to be the only ones who need some work on their cultivation techniques. As for the rest, they're improving within the boundaries of my expectations, so it's fine. I was planning to help Leonardo, but Rean seemed to have found the reason he was stuck already. Go ahead and call all of them."

Hearing the reason, Tian Bao was happy to hear that. He knew how good Roan was at creating and improving cultivation techniques. That meant he would receive an upgrade himself. "Leave it to me."

Roan spent half of his day working on that specific point. After he was done, he revised the general training methods, as well as the missions the sect was giving to the members. A year away meant a lot of cultivation breakthroughs, which meant that the top-level cultivation of the sect had increased. "This should be enough for now. Include the new changes into the system of the Mission Hall," Roan said to another elder of the sect.

"Yes, Sect Master Roan." The elder quickly took all the jade slips and left straight away.

Roan then looked in a certain direction, saying, "Luan, I know you're there."

Luan quickly entered the door after hearing that. "Sorry, father. I was curious about when you would be free, so I was waiting."

Roan didn't mind. "Let's go to the arenas. I want to check your improvement. It seems like you broke through a single stage, after all."

Luan was happy to hear that and quickly followed Roan to the arenas. Naturally, that was where most of the sect members practiced their skills and fought each other for whatever reason, so it was always lively. Seeing that Sect Master Roan appeared there, they all took out their communication badges and spread the news to everyone in the sect.

In just a few minutes, the surroundings of the arena Luan and Roan were in became crowded. There were humanoid race people everywhere.

Roan didn't mind since it was a good chance for them to see his weapon intent again. "Alright, I'll be using this weapon this time." Right after, Roan took his old White Star Sword. He had been using his scythe for a while, so the White Star wasn't the right level for his cultivation anymore. However, to fight Luan, who was in the Middle Stage of the Saint Realm, the sword was enough. "Let me see what you've been working on for your cultivation to grow so little since last year."

Luan took a deep breath and took out his sword as well. Last time, Roan used a wooden sword to fight him. The fact Roan was using a real sword now showed how much expectation he had. "You won't regret it, father."

'Void Style, Void Steps!'

Immediately, Luan controlled his Space Power to charge at Roan. He was taught by the ice block, so his style was the same. Attack and finish the fight as fast as possible, as deadly as possible!

Roan faintly smiled after seeing that. With Luan's movement ability alone, he could tell that Luan's control over spatial power had increased a lot since the last time they sparred. 'Not too bad.'

'Sword Intent!'

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

Of course, Luan wasn't any slower.

'Void Style, Second Form, Void Mirage Blades!'

This was a skill that Luan created based on Roan's Three Claws of the Dragon. It's just that Luan didn't have either Dark or Light Element, so he used his own. He bent and forced the Space Power around his own sword to take the same shape as the real one, creating two silver-colored copies.

However, just as the two attacks were about to nullify each other, Roan narrowed his eyes. 'Something's weird...'

Sure enough, that wasn't everything Luan did. The moment both attacks connected to each other, Luan's sword became ethereal!

"Second Stage Sword Intent!"

Roan was surprised to see that happening. After all, Luan didn't even know how to use sword intent a year ago. If one counted progress alone, he was only slower at understanding it than Rean and Roan. He was even faster than Ophilia!

"Great!"

Roan unlocked a little more of his own potential, using the strength of his Third Grade Star Body!

Clang, clang, clang!

The Three Claws of the Dragon and the Void Mirage Blades soon connected to each other. At first, Roan believed his attack would win against Luan's. Yet, both were canceled. 'Sword intent and Space Power at the Saint Realm, what a fearful combination. Luan can definitely fight more than a realm above his cultivation with it. He's probably at the level that Philip talked about, the average level at the center of the Realm of Gods!'

It was then that Luan's body flickered through the remnant of energy from both attacks. In the end, he wasn't using his Void Step at its full potential at first. However, now he was!

'Void Style, First Form, Space-Cutting Blade!'

Roan was right in front of him, completely open to receive Luan's attack.

However...

'Death Style, Fist Movement Form, Shadow Steps!'

Dark Element spread as his body turned one with the shadows. Because of Luan's sudden charge through the remnants of energy and his usage of Space-Cutting Blade, his body wasn't in a position capable of moving straight away.

Then again, Roan didn't move much. His Shadow Steps were only used to trick Luan's sense, making him think that he would move far away from the attack. That was the opposite of what Roan did. That single step was enough to avoid Luan's attack as his White Star stopped right under Luan's neck. "You lost!"

Death... and me

Chapter 1719: Don't Die

Luan dropped his sword as an angry expression appeared on his face. "Fuck! Why do things never go as planned?"

Roan took his White Star back and shook his head, telling him, "You did catch me off guard there. I didn't expect you to be able to use your Space Powers to open a space in the aftermath of our own attacks. Normally, the remnant energy would only cause injuries and wouldn't let you pass through. That was a very good idea, actually."

Roan continued, "In any case, the difference that made you lose is that I'm a lot more experienced than you. Doesn't matter when or how. I'm always alert for any possibilities, as unlikely as they might be. With that said, what you need to work on is your follow-ups. In a battle at the same level, you have to think about your moves ten, twenty, and thirty moves in the future, as well as countermeasures for everything. If you don't do that, you won't beat me."

Lian then got up once again and looked at Roan before laughing. "Hahaha! In any case, today, I was able to make father move. I guess that's already a victory."

Roan looked at his position and was taken aback for a moment. "Oh! Indeed... I wasn't planning to leave my position at all, but your move had forced me to do that. I guess I should consider that a great achievement already."

Roan then looked at Luan's sword. "Stable Ethereality... To think that you would awake your own sword intent and even push it to the next level. From what I could feel, your sword intent interacts with the space itself. It really has huge potential."

Lian scratched the back of his head, embarrassed as he replied, "After Father and Uncle Rean left to take the twelve tests, I stopped by to spar with Ophilia quite a few times. To be honest, I already felt like I was on the verge of grasping something when Uncle Rean first sparred with the sect disciples, so I had to just work on that feeling. I awakened my own Sword Intent three weeks later. This thing is really impressive. It's a kind of energy that doesn't appear in any of my three views. It's not an element, nor is it Divine Energy."

"When I first noticed that I succeeded with my sword intent, I felt like the Space Power I could control matched that very well. Surprisingly, they did work together without any problems," Luan explained.

Roan could understand now why Luan's sword intent increased so fast in just a year to the point he reached the second level. Since his control over space interacted with his sword intent, he could use his pupils to see what was happening. If anything new didn't work as expected, it would definitely show through the Space Power being used together with the intent. "So you spent most of the previous year on your sword intent and your new skill."

Luan nodded in response. "Yes. I felt like my cultivation improved too quickly in the past few years. I simply couldn't tell exactly where my strength would reach a limit or if I could reach the limit at all. With that being said, I decided to spend the last year getting used to my cultivation and abilities while following father's training schedule and cultivation technique. I barely cultivated at all, so I obviously only had a single breakthrough."

Luan looked back at Roan and asked, "Does father think I was wrong?"

Roan shook his head in response. "No. Rean and I had done similar things many times during our cultivation. It's just that we usually didn't need so much time since we could share our experiences through our Soul Connection. I was planning to ask you to do the same once you reached the Elemental Transformation Realm, but that doesn't seem necessary anymore."

Luan was happy to hear that. "Then that's great! Father, can we spar again? I want to test myself against you a few more times. The rest of the members of the sect aren't at my level, so I only have you and Uncle Rean."

Roan didn't mind. "Very well, go back to your position, and let's start again. Besides, a lot of people are very interested in seeing more," replied Roan. It was obvious how many disciples were watching the action at the moment, so it was a good thing.

With that, Roan and Luan fought for another three hours, sparring over a hundred times. In the end, Luan wasn't able to beat Roan even once. However, Roan couldn't just stay put in the arena like he did in the past. He had to move, or he might have really lost once or twice.

Following that, Roan and Luan went somewhere else where they worked on Luan's cultivation technique and abilities. Luan and Roan learned a lot more about Luan's power, so there were a few things they could improve.

It wasn't before an entire day had gone by and Rean called Roan that the two finally stopped talking about training.

'Hey, come out and entertain these people here. It's my time to rest,' Rean complained.

Roan then took Luan and left the Dimensional Realm. Soon after, he arranged to have a message sent to Philip. Simply put, Roan wanted to have Luan as part of the Yume Clan and the Jhiod Sect for the time being. That way, Luan would be able to improve much more.

Because Luan was already in the Jhiod Continent, the rules of tests in the other continents' recruitment buildings didn't apply here. Philip had also heard from Libraia about Luan's ability, so he was more than happy to accept Luan.

Rean, on the other hand, was dragged into the Formation Hall by Havek straight away.

And just like that, an entire month went by. It was finally time for Kentucky to leave the Jhiod Sect to check the country where the Minokawa came from. "Well, I'm going now. I'll be back as soon as possible."

Rean and Celis nodded after hearing that. They were there to see Kentucky off. As for Roan, he had never cared about such things to start with. "Just make sure to not die."

Death... and me

Chapter 1720: Start of Kentucky's Journey

As he was part of the Jhiod Sect now, Kentucky could use the sect's badge to take any teleport formation he wanted. It's just that he had to pay for them. Then again, that wasn't really a problem. Rean had given a lot of Rank Two and Rank One Divine Stones for Kentucky to use during his journey.

'Well, Vurasic Continent is located near Huring Continent. I guess that makes sense since we got information about the Minokawa on our way here,' Kentucky thought to himself.

"The teleport will activate now. Anyone else?" Suddenly, a worker of a city's Formation Guild asked.

"Me! Me!" Kentucky quickly paid the Divine Stones and stepped on the formation. Usually, the roundtrip would take much longer than just three years. However, Kentucky didn't use city-to-city teleport formations like the twins did. Instead, he took long-distance ones that could be paid with Rank Two Divine Stones. With that, he was able to cross many regions inside the continents at once.

Back then, Rean didn't want to spend that much on teleport formations. However, there was no way Kentucky would travel so many continents if he used the same method. If he wanted Kentucky to come back before eleven years had passed, he would have to spend much more.

In any case, Kentucky already knew most of the continents he passed by. The Jhiod Sect's badge allowed Kentucky to even ask for the continental barriers to be opened by the experts of each continent. Indeed, there wasn't a need for him to wait for official openings.

Thanks to that, Kentucky made his way back to Huring in a time record of just one year! Compared to the time it took to arrive in Jhiod, it was ridiculously short.

Of course, Kentucky didn't stop there. He passed by the Huring Sacred Land to talk with Erithean. After all, Erithean knew about the twins. The best thing was that he didn't need to alert the others about his presence as Erithean left a way to send a message to him.

Surprisingly, the Huring Continent was quite in a tense state. That's because after Rean shared his forging method, his Element Absorbing Weapons quickly became the hottest topic. The Huring Sacred Land tried its best to hide this information, but there were just too many spies for them to suppress. It went without saying that the continents on the borders of Huring grew very concerned about this.

"So, is Huring Continent heading into a war against the other continents nearby?" Kentucky couldn't help but ask him.

Erithean sighed in response, telling Kentucky, "That I don't know. However, it's obvious that things can't continue like this for long. The only reason war hasn't started yet is that quite a few of Rean's Element Absorbing Weapons ended up in the hands of the neighboring continents. They're trying to find the secrets of the Element Absorbing Weapons on their own first. As you probably remember, just a scant few in the Sacred Land were taught by Rean about his method. Thanks to that, the forging secret hasn't been found yet. The Sacred Land Master has put those who know the method under strong protection. Not even a fly would be able to get close to them."

Kentucky could imagine what those blacksmiths were doing at the moment, saying, "Now they should be forging Element Absorbing Weapons nonstop to arm the experts of the Huring Sacred Land, correct?"

Erithean nodded in response. "Correct. However, that's also one more reason for things to get this restless. After all, the longer it takes for the other continents to invade, the more of Rean's Element Absorbing Weapons will be given to the Huring Sacred Land's experts. In fact, I already have one myself."

Kentucky couldn't help but think to himself after hearing that, 'If the twins were here, I wonder just how many Destiny Points they would get from all the ruckus Rean's weapons created. A continental war is going to happen exactly because of them.' Unfortunately, the monitoring distance was only a million kilometers. On top of that, the system couldn't check things beyond the continental barriers.

Erithean then decided to change the topic after that. "Let's not dwell on boring topics anymore. Tell me, how are the twins doing? Looking at the Jhiod Sect badge you have in your hands, it seems like you finally made it there. Have you found more about the demon beast territories and the Minokawa?"

Kentucky smiled and began to recount the story of everything they had done so far. Of course, he left out anything related to the system. "As for the Minokawa, it seemed like his name was Ume. He did go to Jhiod Continent in the end. The reason I'm here is that I'm looking for the place where he first appeared. I'm only passing by Huring in my journey there."

Erithean was surprised to hear that. "So many things happened, huh? I wish I could use these weapon intents you talked about. However, I don't even know where to start."

Kentucky shook his head, saying, "Don't ask me. I know nothing about intents. After all, I fight with my body. Well, perhaps I'll awake a beak intent in the future. Hahaha! Anyway, there's little I can help you with this topic."

Erithean didn't mind. "It's fine. I guess just knowing it exists already gives me a place to start. Now then, I won't delay you for long. Come with me. I'll teleport to the border of the next continent with you and open the continental barrier myself."

Kentucky was happy to hear that. "That's good. Let's go." Kentucky could have used the Jhiod Sect's badge to ask Huring Sacred Land to do that for him, but since Erithean already volunteered himself, it would be much better.

The rest of Kentucky's journey made him pass through three more continents, all of which he used the sect's badge and the Rank One and Two Divine Stones from Rean to teleport nonstop. Unexpectedly, Philip was right about the time necessary for him to get there. It really took Kentucky one year and a half to get to Vurasic Continent. "Phew... finally here."