

Death 1841

Death... and me

Chapter 1841: Not Two Anymore

However, Crazy Old Man Larks' face quickly returned to normal before he waved his hand once again. The twins' vision blurred for a moment as the space around them changed completely. The old man had obviously used his control over space to send the twins somewhere, although Rean and Roan didn't know where they were sent.

Following that, the Spatial Power that held the twins in place disappeared without a trace. The time around them also resumed to its normal speed, allowing the twins to stand up as they used their Light Element to continue to heal their bodies.

"This..." Rean noticed how he could control his body again. "Where are the demons? And where did that man go?"

Roan shook his head, saying, "I have no idea. Other than the fact that we were teleported away, I don't know anything else." Roan then focused his attention on the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm after that, asking, 'Sister Orb, do you know what happened?'

[I know almost as much as you do,] replied Sister Orb. She saw everything that had happened, after all. [The Spatial Power of that guy is just not something we can touch at the moment. However, I know one thing that's for certain. We're inside the three towers.]

Rean and Roan quickly looked around and saw the walls. Without wasting time, Roan took his White Scythe and attacked the wall. He was still very injured and couldn't show much of his power. Nevertheless, it was at least enough to test the materials that the wall was made of.

Clang!

However, his White Scythe simply bounced back from the wall, not leaving even a single scratch on it. "Clenhest Stone..." Sure enough, he couldn't do anything to the building in this place. "Seems like we're still in the ruins."

Rean asked something else. "What about the Foundation Fragment, Sister Orb?" Rean could tell that their own fragment was still in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. However, he didn't know what had happened to the other two.

Sister Orb immediately checked the resonance before saying. [It's still here. Not only that, it's just a few tens of meters ahead, behind that door.] She then pointed at a metal door among the several ones in the corridor the twins were located.

"It's still here?!" Naturally, the twins were surprised to hear that. After what the old man said, it looked pretty obvious that he was the one who prepared this place. "Could it be that he was lying?"

Roan shook his head, replying, "I don't think so. He was the one who teleported us here, and he could have killed us whenever he wanted. We don't even know if any of the doors around are open. As far as I know, we might very well be trapped in this place." One must remember that the twins simply didn't know who the old man was. Demon, angel, name, race, nothing...

Rean nodded in response. If they couldn't cause any damage to the stone wall, let alone the metal gates that were bound to be even more resistant. "Well, we can only give it a shot." Rean then approached the door Sister Orb mentioned and checked if he could get access to the room where the Foundation Fragment was located.

Brammmm...

A metallic sound came from the door as it slowly opened. It was very heavy without a doubt. Then again, it wasn't anything Rean couldn't force open with his strength. Roan also watched as the door gradually opened until finally, the twins were able to see the Foundation Fragment in the distance. It was attached to another wall and seemed to be connected to some weird metal vines that stretched out on the wall itself. "Is that the fragment?"

[No doubt. That's definitely the Foundation Fragment.] Sister Orb confirmed straight away.

Light Element continued to close the injuries on their bodies as Rean and Roan took two of Roan's pills. There were just too many holes in their bodies, so they needed extra resources to help close them. It was like when Rean healed a lost limb. Just Light Element wasn't enough to get it to grow back.

Rean then stepped forward, obviously trying to get close to the fragment.

[Aren't you afraid that this is a trap?]

Roan also stepped forward and followed Rean, saying, "Trap? Why would that guy need a trap? In front of absolute power, schemes are meaningless. He could have killed us, but he didn't do it."

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Laying a trap for us in this place would just be ridiculous. Even if there's a trap, we're still within his grasp, so who cares?"

With that, Rean and Roan arrived at the fragment's side and tried to pull it out. Yet, the fragment didn't even budge. "Sure enough, it couldn't be this easy..."

[Actually, it is easy,] said Sister Orb. [Just open a small passage between the Dimensional Realm and this fragment.]

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded. Soon after that, a very small passage opened, revealing the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm inside. To be more specific, it revealed the area where their own fragment was located.

Tremble...

As soon as they did that, the wall where the fragment was attached began to shake, forcing the entire room to shake with it. Rean and Roan saw how the fragment was trying to get itself away from the tower and enter the Dimensional Realm.

Bang!

In the end, this building couldn't stop something like a fragment of the universe's foundation. The wall broke apart as the fragment disappeared inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Not long after, it slammed against the fragment the twins had in the Dimensional Realm with such strength that the Dimensional Realm itself shook a little.

The twins and Sister Orb saw how the fragments fit with each other perfectly, creating a completely new fragment. There wasn't even a mark where the two were broken apart before. There weren't two fragments anymore, just one.

Pin!

As soon as that happened, the sound of the Soul Gem System resounded.

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Chapter 1842: Do We Know Him?

[Congratulations, hosts! You have successfully recovered the second Foundation Fragment!]

[Destiny Points Reward: 300000]

[The Soul Gem System will undergo an upgrade in its processing power. The upgrade will start in three days' time. The time necessary to finish the upgrade is 168 hours.]

Rean and Roan didn't know what to say. They were expecting something to happen when they tried to grab the fragment for themselves. Perhaps the old man was waiting for an opportunity to invade their Dimensional Realm and take their own fragment. Or maybe he was making fun of them as he seemed to have enjoyed their battle earlier. In any case, they were waiting for something! But nothing happened so far, and their Soul Gem Dimensional Realm was completely out of reach for others now.

"Just what is happening here? How come he allowed us to take the fragment as if it was nothing?" Rean asked.

Roan shook his head, clarifying something. "No, he didn't allow us to take it. Rather, he simply gave it to us. He wanted us to take it. As for why, I don't know."

Rean narrowed his eyes in response and couldn't help but comment, "Roan... don't you think he looked somewhat familiar?"

Roan glanced at Rean before saying, "I do... however, I'm sure I had never seen his face before. I know what you're thinking, though. That's someone from Sunkan Planet. However, why would he send us away if he recognized us? He didn't want to talk to us, but he gave us his fragment. Well, we don't know if this fragment was really his or not. Perhaps he couldn't enter this room, and as soon as we leave, he will attack us and demand both fragments."

Rean had to admit Roan was right. "If he really gave us the fragment, then he should be someone we trusted back in Sunkan. Of course, that's considering he really is someone from back in Sunkan. Who knows, he might have been someone from Zasfin Planet as well. Or perhaps someone we met in the Realm of Gods. What do you think? Should we use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to get out of here?"

[I wouldn't do that. Remember what I said about a scrambled space that makes teleportation impossible? That just happens to be the case at the moment. Well, it's not like you two haven't noticed it.]

Rean and Roan could already use Spatial Powers, so they did feel the problem with the space around them. "Well, it's still a last resort."

Rean then sat on the ground and continued to focus on his injuries. Roan, of course, did the same. If there really was some trap waiting for them outside the room, it would be better to at least be fully healed. "At least we didn't have to burn our Nascent Souls again."

Rean nodded in agreement. Back when they were just about to be killed by Fratekla and Rlakux, Rean and Roan had already touched their Nascent Souls. Doing that would give them a huge burst in power for a limited time, which would be enough to at least save themselves. But then again, once that was over, they would need to spend Destiny Points to revive the Nascent Soul, and it would have taken them years.

While the twins recovered, Rean took the chance to ask Sister Orb something else. "Sister Orb, how many Destiny Points do we have right now?"

[783215 Destiny Points. Other than the 300000 that you just earned, you also got quite a few from the wars you two had been commanding. It wouldn't have taken too long for you to gather the 500000 you wanted even if you hadn't completed the quest.]

"I see..." Rean nodded after hearing that. "Should we buy any upgrade before leaving this room?"

[You won't be able to,] Sister Orb answered in response. [The System is preparing itself for the upgrade of its processing power. You can use what you've unlocked so far. However, you can't do anything that requires a change in the system. With that being said, no rewards list.]

Roan's last few injuries finally closed up with the help of his pill and Rean's Instant Recovery. He then got up and looked at the exit after that. "Waiting here won't be of any use. Let's go."

Rean quickly got up. "Well, we don't have much choice, it seems."

The two then walked to the room's exit and finally stepped out. As soon as they did that, the world around them blurred, showing that they were teleported once again. The old man's control over space was so good that even the scrambled space didn't affect him. No, it might be because he was the one scrambling the space to start with.

The next time the twins' vision returned to normal, they were in a living room. There was a fireplace on the side, keeping the room quite warm. The old man was sitting close to it while he sipped some tea from his cup. Well, for the twins, he looked more like someone in his early twenties, maybe not even close to that.

He wasn't the only one in the room, though. Rean and Roan also saw Fratekla and Rlakux on the other end. Their expressions weren't very good, but it didn't seem like they were injured either.

"Oh, so you're back. You sure took your time, didn't you?" The old man put his cup down as he said those words.

Rean went straight to the point, though. "Are you someone from Sunkan Planet? Do we know each other? Or could it be that it was you who destroyed the planet?"

The old man was taken aback for a moment before he laughed out loud in response. "Hahaha! Me? Destroy a planet? That's quite crazy, even for me."

The old man then looked at Fratekla and Rlakux and told them, "You two can go back to your rooms. I'll talk to you later. For now, I have a few things to talk about with these youngsters here."

Fratekla slammed the table in front of her, snarling in response, "What do you intend to do with me?!"

The old man smiled in response. "That will depend on your grandfather's answer. Now go, or I'll send you myself."

Fratekla could only grit her teeth and look at the twins after hearing that. However, she did get up with Rlakux and left the room, leaving only the twins and Crazy Old Man Larks behind.

Right after, the old man brought out something that looked like a crystal ball. Inside, the twins saw another Foundation Fragment!

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Chapter 1843: Avatar

The old man then gathered Divine Energy around his hand, which he used to crush the crystal ball. Naturally, the Foundation Fragment fell once the crystal ball it was enveloped in broke apart. Following that, the old man threw the fragment at the twins, which Roan caught in midair.

The twins looked at each other and back at the old man. "What's the meaning of this? You should know just how important this thing is. Demons and angels, as well as experts of the Realm of Gods, would wipe out entire continents for this fragment."

The old man nodded in agreement. "True. In fact, I wouldn't mind destroying a few continents to get this fragment either. However, the reason I'm trying to gather them was so that I could meet you two again. Since you're already here, there's no need for that anymore. Whatever you want to do with it, whether you give the fragment to the demons, angels, or anyone else, I don't care. If you want it for yourselves, then that would be even better."

Rean and Roan were truly puzzled, but they also understood that the key to all these events was linked to the old man's identity. "Just who are you?"

The old man smiled before answering, "Both demons and angels call me Crazy Old Man Larks."

"Dad!" How could the twins not understand after hearing that name? No wonder they felt that the man was familiar. "But... how?!"

Sure enough, the old man nodded in response to their exclamation. He was Turen Larks, the twins' father. He then got up and patted the twins' shoulders, telling them, "That's my question, you know? How did you survive that? Everyone died after we were attacked by the Vruve Organization."

"Vruve Organization?" Rean and Roan obviously remembered that name. It was the name of the organization from where Soul Gem came from. However, they didn't expect that his organization would be the one to attack in the end.

Turen was surprised by the twins' reaction, showing that they knew something about it. "Have you heard of them before?"

"They were the ones who tried to stop the Extinction Sphere, and the formations used for that were partially developed in this place," Rean answered. That part was probably common knowledge in the high ranks of the Realm of Gods as well as for those among the demons and angels.

"So you found out about it, huh? Say, do you have any connection with Soul Gem?" Turen asked back.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he replied, "Before that, how about you explain your situation first? Also, can you prove that you're Turen?"

Turen was taken aback for a moment before laughing out loud. "Hahaha! Sure enough, Roan hasn't changed a bit. Very well, let's start with my identity. Ask me anything that only me, your father, could only answer. Other than that, I can't think about any other way of proving it to you."

The twins nodded and started a few rounds of questioning. Naturally, Turen did the same thing to confirm that the twins were really his twins. In the end, both sides could answer everything, showing that they were who they said.

"It really brings back memories..." Turen couldn't help but sigh after all of that. "Anyways, let me start with my side. To be more specific, I did not die in the explosion of Sunkan Planet."

"What?!" Rean and Roan were taken aback. They thought that their father in front of them was a reincarnation, just like Rana and Havek. How could he have escaped without something like the Soul Gem System?

Turen saw the confusion in the twins' faces and continued, "Well, the body I used back in Sunkan, the vessel for a part of my soul, was definitely destroyed for sure. It's just that the real me, the one you see in front of you at the moment, had never left the Temporal Gap."

"A... clone? Are you saying that you were just a clone back in Sunkan?" Roan asked straight away.

"Not a clone," Turen clarified. "An avatar. That's what we call our copies. It carries a small part of our souls and can share memories simultaneously. Simply put, I was living my life in Sunkan as Turen while my real body stayed behind. That's why I could even have children of my own. That was obviously you two and Rana."

"That was quite unexpected," Rean mentioned.

Roan shook his head, though. "It explains why he's this strong. Just how long would it take for someone to reach his level? Sunkan Planet hasn't been destroyed that long ago. Now my doubts about our father's cultivation were answered."

"That's true..." Rean had to admit Roan was right. "Then again, that doesn't explain why you would live a life like that, dad. You were just a Gray Color Talent, and your cultivation had never shown any signs of growing fast. With your knowledge, shouldn't you have become a huge expert, even though you had poor talent?"

Turen then noticed a mistake in his words. "Oh, right! I told you that we shared our memories, right? However, this is only a one-way connection, not a two-way one. I did indeed live my life as Turen back in Sunkan, and my real body obtained all of the memories of my time there. However, my body there did not have access to my real body's memories. You could say that I knew I wasn't normal, but there wasn't anything I could do with it. As for why that happened, it was because I created that avatar to be that way."

Rean and Roan were confused to hear that. Eventually, one of them asked, "Could it be that you wanted to experience a common life?"

Turen nodded, replying, "That's correct. Otherwise, I wouldn't even create an avatar to start with. To create an avatar, you have to give up some of your original body's power to keep it alive. That meant I had to become weaker. It's simply not worth creating an avatar at all. Fortunately for me, my Temporal Gap was completely safe, thanks to the fragment I have there."

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Chapter 1844: Doesn't Make Sense

Turen continued, "That time truly were the best years I've ever had in several millennia. The feeling of experiencing new things, even though they weren't really new to my real body. And above all else, meeting your mother and having you three. Just so you know, I've never been married here in the Realm of Gods. I've dedicated my entire life to cultivation, so you could say I've had a pretty lonely life."

"Yet, I've never expected that the Vruve Organization would appear in Sunkan. At first, I thought they came for me. After all, they were also after the fragments. But later on, after I woke up here in the Realm of Gods with my real body again, I found out that it wasn't the case. My investigation pointed out that Vruve's experts went to Sunkan to hunt Soul Gem. I found that quite ridiculous since Soul Gem had disappeared a very long time ago. I wasn't even born when the events around the Extinction Sphere happened. Why would he suddenly appear there?"

"Yet, here you two are, and you seem to know something about it as well. At least your reaction to me mentioning the Vruve Organization was quite suspicious. Well, you are my kids, so your father will support you as long as you don't intend to destroy this universe."

Rean and Roan sighed after hearing the full story. "What about mother? Have you found her, dad?"

Turen shook his head, replying, "I did find a few reincarnations from Sunkan Planet here in the Realm of Gods. To be honest, I'm still confused as to why. Why would so many reincarnations appear here? Having their souls reborn in the Realm of Gods is okay. Yet, they all kept their memories or recovered their memories after reaching the Nascent Soul Level. I didn't need to think too deeply into it to know that Soul Gem definitely had something to do with it."

Rean could not help but mention after that, "We found Rana, dad."

"What?!" Turen was taken aback with shock! "Are you telling the truth?! Did you really find your sister?!"

Rean nodded, telling him, "Yes, she reincarnated in the Realm of Gods, just like the others. She's now a Fairy living in the Huring Continent. Well, to be more specific, she's a Fairy Queen."

"I have to bring her away immediately! Where exactly is she? I'm leaving right now!" Turen obviously wouldn't let the opportunity to get his daughter back escape.

"She's fine," Rean added. "She has her own life now. She isn't in danger or anything."

Turen shook his head, though. "You don't understand. Way too many demons, angels, and Realm of Gods' experts want my head. If not because I've prepared a lot, and I mean a lot, I would have never appeared in this place. Although the risks are low, I can't allow my enemies to capture my daughter, your sister."

It was then that Turen noticed something. "No, wait! Everyone who had reincarnated in the Realm of Gods so far became part of the Spirit Races. There were no exceptions. How come you two are still humans, and with your appearance from back then?"

"That's because we had never died to start with," Roan explained. By now, he had already confirmed that the man in front of them was really their father. "You said that we knew something about Soul Gem, right? That's correct. We know Soul Gem. It was also thanks to him that we escaped Sunkan unscratched. Unfortunately, by the time we found out the planet was going to be destroyed, we only had a few seconds to act. We did not have the chance to head back to Varen Tribe and take you, mother, and Rana with us."

"So you really were involved with Soul Gem..." Roan's words confirmed Turen's suspicions. "Now that I think about it, your talents and knowledge back when you were kids were just too weird. Such a thing shouldn't have been possible, but there you were. My avatar didn't know anything. However, after I woke up with my real body, I started to piece things together. First of all, humanoid races shouldn't have an affinity with the Light and Dark Element, but you two did. Was it because of Soul Gem too? Do you mind explaining to me what your connection with him exactly is?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other for a moment before nodding. "Very well, it goes like this..."

The twins then explained everything to Turen. How they, in fact, didn't come from this side of the universe but the other. How they acquired their affinity due to the Soul Gem System, or how Soul Gem's soul was still hibernating in the Soul Gem System itself. How they kept their memories from their previous lives... they also recounted their adventures so far. The Zasfins' planet, the demon guarding the Realm of Gods' portal, their arrival in the Huring Continent, their journey all the way to this place.

Naturally, they also told Turen about their ultimate objective. The fact that they had to acquire all fragments and unite both halves of the universe again. Otherwise, the universe would perish.

"This..." Without a doubt, Turen had never been so shocked in his life. "The universe was divided in two... and one side doesn't even have Spiritual or Divine Energies. I didn't know about that at all, and I truly did a lot of investigation on Soul Gem's topic. If even I didn't know about it, then how many know of it?"

However, he quickly noticed a problem. "No, that doesn't make sense..."

Rean and Roan nodded, having noticed the exact same problem as their father. "Half of the universe disappeared during the Extinction Sphere event. It's normal that the low-level experts in the Realm of Gods don't know about it. However, it seems like father is at the very top of the food chain. Yet, even you didn't know that half of the universe disappeared. Is that even possible? How come you know about the events of the Extinction Sphere but not about the half of the universe that disappeared? It truly doesn't make sense. It as if..."

Turen nodded, continuing, "It's as if this knowledge had been purposely wiped out from this side of the universe."

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Chapter 1845: I'll Keep It Safe

"Not only this side," Roan clarified. "As I mentioned before, I was a Death Spirit and had lived for a very long time on the other side. If we talk about age alone, I'm not sure who's older, you or me. In any case, I've never heard anything about the universe being divided in two."

Turen sighed after that. "Hearing your son say that he's older than you feels quite weird..."

"Don't worry, dad. I'm still a normal guy," Rean quickly added.

Roan wasn't in the mood for the jokes, though. "Can we return to the main topic? Father, do you think that really no one knows about the two halves of the universe, not even Soul Gem's Vruve Organization? Well, it's not his organization anymore since they tried to get rid of him."

Turen shook his head, replying, "I don't know. The Vruve Organization is quite untouchable, to be honest. They never intervene in the Underworld, Heaven, and the Realm of Gods. Well, that's basically because these last three would definitely ally themselves against the Vruve Organization if they tried anything funny. As strong as the Vruve Organization might be, it couldn't possibly fight everyone alone, so it keeps itself away from the others. Even I would have quite a bit of trouble getting in contact with them. Unless, of course, I show some weakness, and they think they can acquire my fragment. In that case, they would come running."

"Forget it," Rean shook his head after that. "It's obvious that they aren't the kind of group we should mess with at the moment."

Turen nodded in agreement. "Exactly. I wouldn't allow you to go after them either. At least, not with how weak you are. It's truly impressive. The Peak Stage of the Transition Realm in just a bit more than a hundred years. And you two were even born in the Mortal Realm. Even with Soul Gem System's help, it's still a huge achievement. By the way, do you want a Void Shattering Pill? It should allow you to break through to the Void Tempering Realm straight away."

Adding the extra 20 years of the competition, the twins had now reached 116 years of age. It wasn't wrong to say they had lived just a bit more than a hundred.

Roan immediately shook his head, telling him, "We're almost there ourselves. It's been many years since we reached this level. We could have broken through already, but the war took a lot of our time for cultivation. I would rather keep following our cultivation technique to prevent any mistakes."

It was true. In the years that followed their breakthrough into the Peak Stage, they would have gotten enough Divine Energy to enter the Void Tempering Realm if they had focused on cultivation. Then again,

at least Celis kept cultivating most of the time, which meant that he cultivated for the twins as well. Although a lot more time was necessary, the twins were indeed very close to the Void Tempering Realm.

"However, I would very much like to get the recipe for the Void Shattering Pill if you have it." Roan didn't let the opportunity slip by him, of course.

"Here." Turen then threw a jade slip to Roan in response. "The concoction method can be found inside. I'm not an alchemist, but I have my connections. It's just that you will have to gather the items for the pill yourself."

Roan faintly smiled in response. "That's not a problem at all."

Rean then raised his hand and asked, "Father, what about mother? Have you found her?"

Turen shook his head, saying, "I haven't. In fact, I did not put too much effort into it. It's not that I don't want to find her. I would pay any price to know where she is. However, if I show too much interest in this particular reincarnation, my enemies will definitely find out. Who knows what the demon, angels, the Realm of Gods, or the Vruve Organization could do if they found out the truth. So far, no one knows that I sent an avatar to live in the Mortal Realm."

Rean had to admit his father did the right thing. At his level, the kind of dangers he had to experience was not something their mother would be able to cope with. "By the way, you also have another fragment. Is that correct?"

Turen nodded in response. "I do. It's that fragment that allows me to keep the Temporal Gap open. It's also this Temporal Gap that keeps me safe. After we finish here, I'm returning to it since I can't stay too long outside." Turen then looked at the twins and asked them, "You need it to reunite the two halves of the universe, right?"

The twins nodded. "That's correct."

Then again, even though he listened to them, that didn't mean Turen believed that. Well, to be more specific, he trusted his sons, but not Soul Gem. "Are you sure Soul Gem was telling the truth? As far as I

know, he might just be using you two to gather the fragments for him. Only his soul remains, right? Perhaps he needs the fragments to recover or something like that."

Roan shook his head, saying, "We also thought of the same thing countless times. However, it's true that the Extinction Sphere damaged the foundation. Also, Soul Gem knew about the split of the universe. I won't say that I trust him, but I do believe that it's the best option we have. Well, our lives are also connected to the Soul Gem System, so we don't exactly have much choice."

"I see..." Turen wanted to help, but even he didn't know anything about this system Soul Gem created. "Very well. However, I can't give you my fragment yet."

Rean and Roan obviously understood why. "That's because your fragment will act as a safety measure."

Turen nodded in agreement. "Exactly. While I have it, no one else will be able to take it from me in the Temporal Gap. I'll keep it safe until the day you confirm that everything is true and that you can really reunite the universe with Soul Gem's help."

Roan was satisfied to hear that. "That's good. Now then, can we talk a little more about the demons and the angels' realms?"

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Chapter 1846: Talk

Roan already understood that the demons' realm was also the Underworld. However, he didn't know much about the Underworld on this side of the universe. Well, he also wanted to know more about the angels' realm as well.

Turen nodded in response to that and began to explain. "First, the demons' realm, also known as the Underworld. You said you were a Death Spirit before reincarnating on this side, right? Then, you know that all souls head to the Underworld before reincarnating."

Roan confirmed, replying, "Indeed. My job back then was basically to guide the souls out of their dead bodies to the path of reincarnation, which was located in the Underworld."

Turen continued, "That's basically the same thing here. However, there's no need for anyone to guide anything. Souls from dead living beings are sent into the Underworld automatically. Unless, of course, demons capture their souls before they make the transition. The demons you fought before just so happened to use the souls of many Space Bending Realm experts to fight against you two."

"So that's why they were that strong," Rean couldn't help but mention after hearing that. "By the way, what was that item that looked like a sea urchin? We couldn't avoid it at all."

"You don't need to be too afraid of items like that," Turen said in response. "They're extremely hard to make and require the sacrifice of part of the creator's cultivation. Unless it's someone or some extremely important mission, you won't find them anywhere. That's because once they're used, they're gone for good. You need to sacrifice even more of your cultivation to make another one. If you think about it, you'll see that items that can save one's life like that have practically never appeared in front of you before."

Rean pondered over it for a bit and remembered one of these items, though. "Didn't that girl use some kind of bark to save her life back when we were trying to get a Dark Element Material for your Elemental Transformation breakthrough?"

Roan nodded, saying, "She did. Perhaps that was another one of those items."

Turen then heard the twins' explanation before agreeing with them. "Yep, that's most likely one of these items. It feels quite a waste that it was used by someone with such a low level. Most likely, her elders found that item in some inheritance or something like that. Anyways, it doesn't change the fact as to how rare they are. As for the sea urchin Rean mentioned, it's called the Space Piercing Needles. It's an item that could only be created by demons due to the need for soul power. Not the soul power that you and I have, but real souls."

Turen then returned to the main topic after that. "Well, that's the Underworld for you. Oh, right! Just so you know, the demons are in control of the northeast side of the center of the Realm of Gods. Make sure you don't head there unless absolutely necessary."

Roan found it strange. "Why would they be there? Didn't the angels try to stop them?"

Turen shook his head, telling him, "The angels obviously wouldn't want such a thing. However, the demons are the ones controlling the Temporal Passage that connects all three upper realms. If the angels try to use the Temporal Passage, they will most likely die to the demons protecting it. Only really strong angels would dare to pass through it to enter the Realm of Gods. However, they prefer to stay in their realm, so the number of angels in the Realm of Gods is ridiculously low."

"What about the demons?" Rean asked back. "Why do they want to control part of the Realm of Gods?"

"Souls," Turen answered succinctly. "Demons can cultivate without the need for souls, but it's much better if they have access to them. Then again, the Realm of Gods' experts wouldn't simply let them do as they please, so they forced the demons who crossed over this side into confinement. Obviously, that would be the northeast side of the Realm of Gods. The demons could leave that place if they wished to, but they couldn't possibly match all the forces in the Realm of Gods. That's why they also stayed on the northeast side. There are countless living beings there, so as long as they manage the place correctly, it will never run out of souls for their cultivation."

Turen then pointed at the door where the two demons left a while ago. "They just so happen to be from that northeast side. Fratekla is the granddaughter of Krankax, one of the high elders of the demon races. Though, you won't find him in the Realm of Gods. Instead, he's most likely in the Underworld."

"Why?" Roan asked. "Wouldn't it be better for him to be in the Realm of Gods and absorb living souls to cultivate?"

Rean suddenly felt enlightened once he heard that. "I see... it's useless for him to absorb souls anymore. He has already reached the limit of cultivation on this side of the universe."

"Smart," Turen was happy that Rean understood. "That's why we all want the fragments. We want to use them to refine the universe's foundation into our own to surpass the limit of cultivation imposed on us. Naturally, absorbing more souls is pretty useless for Krankax at the moment."

"Does father want to do it as well?" Roan asked back.

"I wanted to," Turen answered straight away. "Well, to be more specific, I wanted to gain control over this universe to try and find my most likely dead family. But lo and behold, my three children are still

alive. Hahaha! Since that's the case, I don't really need to do it anymore. That's why I gave the fragments to you."

"But that might have helped you in finding mother," Rean answered.

Turen shook his head, though. "What do you think is more important, your children or yourself?"

"I understand..." Rean didn't mention that anymore.

"Of course, we'll still try to find her," Roan added.

Turen nodded after hearing that. "That's good enough. You can do it in my place since I can't leave the Temporal Gap."

Roan then returned to one of the terms Turen mentioned earlier. "So, what about the angels and this Temporal Passage?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1847: It's never easy

Turen pondered in silence for a bit before continuing, "The angels are obviously in the Light Realm, and as you can imagine, they don't get along with the demons very well. You should have noticed that they suffer a lot more during your fight when hit with Light Element abilities. That's why the experts in the Realm of Gods have difficulty dealing with them since most demon beasts and humanoid races don't have that kind of affinity."

"Anyway, just like the Dark Realm is called the Underworld, the Light Realm is called Heaven. There, the Light Element is abundant and perfect for the angel races' cultivation. Unfortunately for them, the demons have control over the Temporal Passage, as I mentioned before. They can't come to the Realm of Gods as easily as the demons."

"As for the Temporal Passage, you could think of it as if it's some kind of stream. It makes a full circle between Heaven, the Underworld, the Realm of Gods, and the Mortal Realm. There's a passage in there

that also connects to the Vruve Organization's location. I won't say there isn't another way of traversing between realms, but any other method is many times more difficult compared to it."

Roan couldn't help but mention after that. "We found out that one of the Foundation Fragments is in the Underworld. Is there a way to get there without warning the demons?"

Turen looked at Roan for a moment before telling him, "You still can share your Elemental Affinities, right? Most of the high-ranked demons have humanoid appearances. The two demons you saw here a moment ago just so happened to be two of them. If you share your Dark Element with Rean and display it as if you two only have Dark Element Affinity, it shouldn't be hard to pass off as demons."

"The problem is getting to the Underworld. As I said, the easiest way is to take the Temporal Passage. However, I'm not entirely sure that no one will notice your real identity, especially if the guards of the path ask you to take on your demonized form."

"Demonized form?" Rean and Roan were confused.

Turen then explained, "Fratekla and Rlakux, the two demons you were fighting, were in their demonized forms. You saw it, right? Red eyes, horns, that kind of thing. Usually, they wouldn't look much different from normal humanoid race people. It's just that neither of you have a demonized form. Your body structures are also a little different than demons."

"Demonized forms..." Roan thought about that issue before asking Rean, "Your Light Element was always able to change the body structure, right. Father said that demons have a slightly different body structure. Can we use your Light Element to achieve an internal structure similar to demons?"

Rean nodded, replying, "As long as it isn't anything ridiculous, it shouldn't be that hard. It's just that we still don't have a demonized form."

"We can use your Light bending skill for that," Roan answered. Rean had used his Light bending skill before to change the light around their bodies to hide or pretend to have some features they didn't have.

Rean didn't mind. "Well, we can give it a shot. I just need to take a very good look at a demon's body. An unconscious demon would be the best choice as they wouldn't be able to stop my Divine Sense and Soul Power Scan."

Turen laughed in response. "Hahaha! That's the easy part. Don't we have two perfect demons here? I'll just knock the two of them out, and you can take a good look at their bodies. If you can really do that, then using the Temporal Passage is the best choice. However, you'll have to gain your passage to the Underworld by yourselves."

"And how do we do that?" The twins asked.

Turen obviously answered their question. "Well, first, you'll have to head to the northeast side of the center of the Realm of Gods. That's the area being controlled by the demons and also the area where you can find the entrance to the Temporal Passage. Once there, you'll need to join some of the powers and use them to gain a visit to the Underworld. It doesn't need to be a big power. Any middle-sized organization among the demons there should be able to grant you passage."

"What are the risks?" Roan asked again.

Turen shook his head, saying, "If you wanted to go to the Light Realm, that would be risky. However, heading to the Underworld is a lot easier. That's because most demons want to come to the Realm of Gods, not the other way around. You know the reason, right?"

The twins immediately nodded. "They want to absorb living souls to help out with their cultivation. From the looks of it, dead souls that traverse to the Underworld after their bodies die can't be used for it or aren't as effective."

"Exactly," Turen agreed with the twins' words. "To be more specific, souls that traverse to the Underworld after their bodies die head straight into the reincarnation path. They can't be taken for cultivation as it would also affect the natural cycle. The demons know better than to try and mess with it. They have to take the souls before they go to the Underworld."

It was then that Rean noticed one thing. "Wait, dad, your Temporal Gap is inside the Temporal Path, right? Can't we take a shortcut by going there and then into the Temporal Path?"

Roan snorted in response. "Hmph! Can't you think a little more? The Underworld, Heaven, and the Realm of Gods want to get their hands on father's fragment. Do you think they won't be watching the entrance of his gap?"

Turen bitterly smiled in response. "Unfortunately, Roan is right. As I said, I took quite a big risk to prepare this trap against the demons. I doubt it would work again once I return to the Temporal Gap. It would be many times safer if you went to the demons' side in the Realm of Gods."

Rean could only sigh in response after that. "I see... it's never easy..."

Death... and me

Chapter 1848: The Fragments

"By the way," Roan decided to ask. "How do we reach the Light Realm, Heaven? At some point, we'll also need the fragments present there. Do you know if there's any free fragment in that place?"

Turen nodded, replying, "There is a free fragment in the Light Realm. However, unlike this continent's fragment, the angels know it's there, so it's protected by many of their experts. It's just that they can't take it."

He continued, "It's a fragment located in the Azum Dimensional Realm. If you ever reach Heaven, the Light Realm, it'll be easy for you to find where Azum is. However, getting in there is another story. I can't help you with that since I've never been able to get close. Not to mention that it has been many, many years since I've last been to the Light Realm. You'll have to find a way in on your own. One thing is certain, though. The angels still haven't acquired that fragment."

Rean pondered in silence for a bit before asking, "What about fragments that have been acquired? We know you have one. We just acquired the fragment that was in that Elder Demon Krankax's possession. But what about the others? There are 14 of them, after all."

Turen nodded and told the twins what he knew. "Let's enumerate the fragments we know so far. Fragment 01: Found in the Demising Catacombs in Huring Continent. You already got this one.

Fragment 02: Found in the Raskran Continent. I gave this one to you.

Fragment 03: Krankax's fragment. I also passed this one to you already.

Fragment 04: Floating Islands of Time in the Realm of Gods. You have to find this one out by yourselves.

Fragment 05: Dark Side of the Foundation Realm, Underworld, Swamp of No Return.

Fragment 06: Azum Dimensional Realm in the Light Realm, Heaven."

"Now, the fragments I know that are in someone else's possession.

Fragment 07: Obviously, my fragment. I'll keep that with me until you gather the others.

Fragment 08: It's in the hand of an Archangel called Gabriel. Think of the Archangels as the Elder Demons of Heaven. All of them have achieved the highest cultivation possible in this universe. I can't say where he is, nor can I help you in acquiring this one either.

Fragment 09: Same thing as the previous one. However, it's in the hands of another Elder Demon, an annoying guy called Belial."

Rean and Roan could not help but look at each other after that. "Gabriel and Belial? Aren't those the names of an angel and a fallen angel from Earth? Could this be just a coincidence?"

Turen looked at the twins, slightly confused. "What are you talking about?"

Rean and Roan then explained that those names were present in the religions back on Earth, although no one really knew if they were real or not.

"That's quite interesting," Turen had to admit. "Those two should not have had contact with the other side of the universe, so how come their names are known? It might be something worth investigating, you two."

"If we get the chance, that is," Roan added.

Turen then talked about the other five fragments... or so he wanted to. "As for the last five fragments, I have no idea where you can find them. Then again, Soul Gem brought you two to the fragment back in Huring Continent. That was a fragment no one knew that was there. Perhaps he can help you find the last fragments, so you'll have to ask him."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response to that. "We don't even know when he'll wake up again..."

Turen did the same. "If you can't do anything about it, let alone me."

Turen's expression then turned serious after that. "However, I wish you two to keep a priority during your investigations, your mother. I know very well how unlikely it'll be to find her, but I don't want you to give up."

The twins nodded in response. "That goes without saying."

Turen then took out a Thoughts Transmission Talisman before sending a message. "Alright, I've already ordered one of my trusted subordinates to go after Rana. From what you told me, she doesn't seem to be in danger, and no one knows about us. In that case, I'll let her keep acting as the Fairy Queen in the Huring Continent as it won't attract anyone's attention. Make sure you don't tell anyone about her either."

"Understood." The twins agreed with Turen.

Turen then took two more talismans and passed them to the twins. "These Thoughts Transmission Talismans are of the highest quality, capable of reaching me from anywhere on this side of the universe. If you ever get in a situation where you need my help, just send me a message. I'll ignore all dangers and definitely come for you. Of course, if you have something important to say or ask, you can use it as well."

With all of that now said, Turen smiled before changing the topic. "Now then, how about you tell your old man a little about these girls you're traveling the entire Realm of Gods to look for?"

For the first time in ages, the family started to talk about things that didn't involve danger or the future of the universe. It was just a normal family conversation, although Roan barely spoke that many words. Turen didn't mind since he already knew Roan anyway.

Several hours later, they finally ended their conversation. "Good. You know pretty much everything you need, so I'll bring those two demons here."

Turen then waved his hand, and the next thing the twins knew, two unconscious demons appeared right in front of them. Naturally, those two demons were Fratekla and Rlakux. "Just analyze their bodies as much as you want. They won't wake up."

Immediately, Rean sent his Divine Sense into their bodies and checked their structures. "Sure enough, they have many humanoid traits. However, it's obvious that they're not part of the humanoid races. Now then, let me give it a try with my own body. Roan, I'll need to use your Dark Element as well."

"Very well." Roan didn't mind as the twins immediately began to exchange elements once again.

Death... and me

Chapter 1849: Until Next Time

It took some time before Rean got the knack of copying the demon's body structure. After all, the differences weren't just external but internal as well. Things like the horn, for example, were things he couldn't create, so he used his Light bending skill to make it look like he had them. The red eyes were easier, as he just needed to drive the blood inside to his eyes. With his Light Element and knowledge of the human body, it wasn't anything that hard.

"Phew..." Rean took a deep breath as Dark Element emanated from his body. "How is it? Do I look like a demon? Of course, I have the fake horns, but we won't bring them out unless the demons ask to see our demonized bodies. I want your opinion on the overall transformation. Do I look like a demon even without the demonized form?"

Turen was really impressed by Rean's transformation. It wasn't something one could identify with Divine Sense since Rean truly changed the internal structure of his body. "That's very, very good. If anything, I would call you a high-ranked demon without thinking twice. Just that alone would open many doors in the Underworld or on the northeast side of the Realm of Gods."

Roan checked the two unconscious demons and then Rean before saying, "The natural Dark Element in their bodies seem to have been well copied by you. Well, as Sister Orb always says, I'm supposed to be the epitome of Dark Element, so your Dark Element, which comes from me, is a lot purer than theirs."

Naturally, Rean was happy to hear their opinions. "Great! I already memorized how to do this transformation, so I'll share it through our connection, Roan. Try to do the same thing I did."

Roan nodded and received Rean's memories. A few minutes later, his internal structure, as well as his external features, changed. If anything, Roan looked a lot more convincing in his fake demon form since he was the real Dark Element user. "This is definitely superb."

Turen then waved his hand as Spatial Power gathered around the two demons. Not too long after that, Fratekla and Rlakux completely disappeared from their sight. "Alright, that should conclude this part of the plan. Of course, you should refrain from heading to the northeast side of the Realm of Gods, the demons' territory, for now. After all, you won't be able to hide your Pocket Dimensional Realm. I can see that someone helped you two conceal it. However, when it comes to someone at my level, hiding it is simply impossible. We're too sensitive to things related to space."

The twins nodded after hearing that. Philip in Jhiod Continent was the one who helped them conceal their Dimensional Realm's presence. Yet, they had already revealed it during the competition. Of course, they understood why Turen said that. "In the demons' territory, no one knows that we have Pocket Dimensional Realms. If two unknown demons at the Transition Realm suddenly appear there with their own Pocket Dimensional Realms, that would be way too suspicious. Pocket Dimensional Realms are supposed to be very hard to get, after all. Not to mention that one shouldn't be able to have them before the Void Tempering Realm."

"Correct," Turen confirmed their words. "If I were you, I wouldn't go there before I reach the Space Bending Realm. It'll still be somewhat suspicious, but at least not as much as having them at the Transition Realm. You can just come up with some excuse at that point. Of course, it's not like you will find experts at my level in every corner. Try to keep your Pocket Dimensional Realm hidden while you're there."

The twins nodded once again. "Understood."

Rean then decided to ask something else. "By the way, dad. What exactly do you intend to do with those demons? The female one is the granddaughter of one of the big guys, right?"

"Hehehe!" Turen laughed in response, telling Rean, "Krankax will definitely ask for the fragment back, but there's no way I would give it to him. In the end, he can only retrieve his granddaughter. For demons in his position, the bloodlines of his descendants are very important. I'm thinking about asking for a few benefits to be brought to my Temporal Gap in the Temporal Passage. I will also ask for information regarding the Vruve organization."

Roan understood. "You don't know if anyone in the Vruve Organization has a fragment. However, considering their power, it's pretty much certain they have at least one, right?"

Turen nodded, saying, "Exactly. I want to see if I can exchange Krankax's granddaughter for information about it. If possible, get the name of whoever has it. The Vruve Organization is shrouded in too much fog, and the long time I've been cooped up in the Temporal Gap hasn't helped much with the acquisition of information. With that being said, this is a great opportunity. If I determine that it's necessary, I'll contact you through the Thoughts Transmission Talismans."

Rumble...

Suddenly, the room they were in at the moment began to tremble. However, it only lasted a few seconds as Turen used his Spatial Powers to stabilize it. "Sigh... seems like we're running out of time. It won't be long before everyone notices that I left the Temporal Gap, so I need to go back. Rean, Roan, we'll have to part ways here."

The twins nodded with determination in their eyes. "Don't worry, we'll look for mother while we're out there."

Turen smiled after hearing that. "I'm sure you will. However, make sure to prioritize your lives. If there comes a moment where you need to choose between the fragments and yourselves, just give them away. There's always hope while you're alive."

Turen then got up and used his control over space to catch the twins. "I'm sending you out right where I stopped your battle against Fratekla and Rlakux. You can simply use the fragments to exit the ruins. Farewell, boys."

"We'll be back, dad. You can be certain of it," said Rean and Roan in response.

At the very next moment, the space around the twins blurred before they disappeared from the room.

Death... and me

Chapter 1850: Taking Control

Vup, vup!

Suddenly, the twins found themselves right in front of the three towers from before. However, they quickly noticed something else. All the clouds around them disappeared, as well as the lightning bolts that were being absorbed by them.

"Seems like the Foundation Fragment was the reason for the tower to turn out that way. Now that we took it, the environment has changed," said Roan.

Rean, on the other hand, ignored it and opened his hand. There, he had the Foundation Fragment they acquired from Fratekla. "Time to have you join the others." Right after that, he sent the fragment into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Sure enough, as soon as it appeared in the Dimensional Realm, it shot in the direction of the other two, fusing together once again. There weren't three fragments but only one large one now.

Pin!

[Congratulations, hosts! Another fragment has been recovered, and the previous schedule for the upgrade of the system has now changed. The upgrade will now start a week after the acquisition of the last fragment. The update time has been increased to 30 days. During this time, the system's reward system and other system-related perks will be unavailable.]

Rean and Roan then waited for the system to continue. However, that was all. It went completely silent after that.

Rean's mouth twitched as he asked Sister Orb, 'Sister Orb, where's the Destiny Point reward for acquiring a second fragment?'

[Oh! That? There's no reward,] replied Sister Orb straight away.

"What?!" Naturally, Rean and Roan were taken aback. Fragments had always been the things that gave them the most Destiny Points, after all. "Could it be that there won't be Destiny Point rewards anymore?"

[That's not it,] Sister Orb denied, clarifying, [It's just that the system's reward function has been deactivated after you got the first fragment. Now you just so happened to obtain a second one while it was preparing for the upgrade. With that said, its Destiny Point calculator wasn't functional. It's as simple as that.]

Rean felt like breaking the system into pieces after he heard that. "This is bullshit! If I knew that, I would have waited until the upgrade was over before sending the fragment inside!" It was then that he remembered something. "First of all, why didn't you warn us?"

[You didn't ask...] Naturally, Sister Orb played innocent.

Roan could only shake his head in the end. "No point getting angry over it. What's done is done. Besides, it's not like we don't know how useless that orb can be from time to time."

[Hmph! After all the work you made me do, you still have the guts to say that?]

"This is this, and that is that," Rean answered.

Well, Sister Orb was used to it already. [Anyways, it's a good thing that you added the other fragment straight away. After all, there's nothing concealing its presence from the outside. The Soul Gem Dimensional Realm can conceal its presence, but a normal spatial ring definitely can't.]

The twins had to admit that she was right on that point.

Rean then looked around their surroundings after that. "We should get out of here first. Since the fragment is gone, perhaps the barrier that keeps this place locked has disappeared as well. I don't want to be here if someone comes and investigates."

Roan agreed with Rean on that, saying, "That's a good idea. Let's go."

A few hours later, the twins found themselves moving away from the area where the Cultivation Suppression Formation was located. That was the area where all the competitors were gathering and fighting for control. After all, this would most likely guarantee the victory of the continent that got it.

At the same time, Roan took out a Thoughts Transmission Talisman before sending a message out.

At the moment, the situation in the area was very heated. Space was greatly contorted as countless skills were launched everywhere. Naturally, Olly and the other Walfure Region members were there as well. They also understood how important it was to have the formation for themselves.

However, it was then that the Thoughts Transmission Talismans in the spatial rings of all Walfure Region members activated. The talisman that Roan used was one connected to everyone else, which was made during the war.

Although the situation was dangerous, Walfure was one of the bigger groups, so they had enough time to at least hear what Roan was saying.

-All Walfure Region members, retreat immediately. No need for more sacrifices. We will meet at the spatial gate that connects Walfure to the central region. This is an order. As for the Walfure members who joined from lost regions, you can stay if you want to defy our authority over you. Just don't blame me for what happens later.-

Everyone was taken aback, especially the members that had joined Walfure after losing their regions. Since there was no monitoring, they were waiting for a chance to strike back at Walfure. However, it was just way too early. Walfure still had the highest level of power since the others who joined were not exactly allied to each other.

Olly and the others wanted to know why Roan would send such a message out. In any case, one thing was sure. He had never been wrong in his strategies during this war, so he earned at least that much trust from the others.

Olly, as the leader of their group at the moment, immediately sent a Divine Sense message to the others. 'Everyone, retreat. We'll gather at the spatial gate!'

Without wasting time, Olly and his group separated themselves from the heat of the battle. The other regions were curious about why Walfure decided to leave, thinking that they might be planning something. Nevertheless, the formation was right in front of them, so they couldn't retreat now. As long as any of them took control over it, any other trick would be meaningless, so they didn't leave.

Luina, who wasn't in the middle of the battle due to Roan's advice, also heard the message and went back. Eventually, everyone converged around the location of the Walfure Region's spatial gate.

Seeing their puzzled expressions, Roan faintly smiled while he told Sister Orb. 'Sister Orb, you can control the formation now.'