

Death 1871

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Chapter 1871: It is Worth the Risk

Naturally, Rean's group was taken aback to hear that. "Wait, what?!"

[I can't go into details, but Rean's thoughts aren't completely wrong. The continental barriers weren't here at the start. As for why they came to be, that's something I don't know. Perhaps it really is some creature, although I find it hard to believe as well.]

Rean sighed in relief after that. "Phew... for a moment, I thought you were going to say that there really is some living being down there. However, you only know that the continental barriers were not here before, so I can accept that."

Though, Sister Orb added. [I didn't say that wasn't the case either.]

Rean nodded in response. "Fair enough."

After that, Rean looked back at Fluki and asked him, "Anyway, will there be anything capable of stopping you from passing through this continental barrier? I would rather go through this thing the same way as the previous ones."

Fluki shook his head, replying, "Not that I know. Shall we go?"

Rean and Luan nodded before Fluki put them into his mouth. Following that, he jumped inside the continental barrier, leaving the range of Rean's Light and Divine Sense bending skill. That obviously allowed the other Continental Barrier Spirits to see Fluki passing by.

Normally, none of them would try to talk with Fluki. It was normal to see these kinds of spirits passing, after all. However, this one was the continental barrier that separated the humanoid and spirit races. Things were different here.

Suddenly, Fluki heard someone else's voice. Or, to be more specific, another spirit. "Hey, you. Stop right there."

Well, although it wasn't normal for other spirits to try to talk with Fluki, it wasn't exactly impossible. Fluki was stopped before by other spirits, so he was used to it as well. "What is it? Could this side of the continental barrier be closed for Kibins?"

At the same time, he recognized the other race. 'Gleaming Eel Spirit, huh?' he thought. It was a very fitting name as the spirit did look like an eel, although it had its gleaming side due to the environment its race grew in.

One of the times Fluki was stopped was just because he was a member of the Kibin Spirit Race. Whatever the reason was, the spirits in that part of the continental barrier didn't allow Kibins to pass by. In the end, Fluki had to turn around and leave the continental barrier before Rean flew to another location where Fluki could finally pass.

The eel spirit immediately shook its head, replying, "Closed for Kibins? Why would I care about that? I'm stopping you because this is the division between the humanoid and spirit race territories. Don't you know that unallowed races are prohibited from staying in the Gods' Dividing Barrier?"

Fluki shook his head as well. "I didn't know. I came here from one of the normal continental barriers. I was born on the humanoid side and simply wished to look at the spirit races' territories. Why would a spirit prevent other spirits from entering? As far as I know, it isn't that uncommon for living beings to traverse the Gods' Dividing Barrier."

The eel narrowed its eyes, saying, "I don't know who told you that, but it's not that easy. The living beings that go into the spirit races' territories have permission to do so as a means of trading. They are usually followed by one of the permitted spirit races through the traversal to make sure everything goes well. As you can probably imagine, the Kibin Race is not one of these races, so you have to go back."

Fluki checked the guy's cultivation and could see that he was only in the Saint Realm. Yet, he didn't seem to be afraid of him even though Fluki has the same cultivation as Luan, the Middle Stage of Elemental Transformation. After taking a quick look around, Fluki understood that there were quite a few eyes on him, some probably with higher cultivation than his. "I see... sorry for causing you trouble, my friend. By the way, do you know a way for me to head to the spirit races' territories? It shouldn't be that hard since I'm also a spirit, right?"

The eel spirit nodded in satisfaction, seeing that Fluki understood the rules. From the looks of it, Fluki was far from being the only spirit the eel had seen trying to cross the Gods' Dividing Barrier. "That's good, then. If you want to enter the spirit races' territory, you'll need to go to one of the Traversal Cities. The humanoid continent you came from is Fluvali, so you should go to Ransvite City to get your authorization. Since you're a spirit yourself, it should be a pretty straightforward process for you as many spirits born on the humanoid side also try to go back. Just get out and then fly north. That city is located three regions away. As long as you follow the Gods' Dividing Barrier, you will definitely find it. Well, I would rather take teleport formations, though."

Fluki then talked a little more with the eel and then returned from where he came. After getting out of the barrier, Rean and Luan came out of his mouth.

Rean didn't mind what happened. "Well, they at least keep some level of protection between the territories. I guess our journey has been way too smooth so far, so it feels a lot more acceptable to be stopped."

It's just that Fluki had a problem. "If what he said is true, you'll also need one of those authorizations, right? It should be easy for me as a spirit. However, the story is different for you two. Or, at least, for Rean, since Luan can simply enter the Dimensional Realm during the traversal. Wouldn't the humanoid powers like the Rambram Sect specifically keep an eye on these cities?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "It's fine. Even my body's internal structure is different at the moment, so it's impossible to recognize me. Since these traversal cities exist, then the authorization shouldn't be that hard to get."

"What if they recognize you?" Luan asked, concerned.

Rean smiled in response, replying, "Well, we are talking about the powerhouses of the humanoid races. If they really find out who I am, I can only comply and go with them. Don't worry. We ran away because we didn't want to be held back. They won't kill us. It's worth the risk."

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Chapter 1872: Drugo Organization Territory

Rean and Kentucky then flew back to the nearest city before Rean took the teleport formation. Since he knew the name of the city, it didn't take too long for him to find the right teleport formation. In just a few hours, Rean had already reached his destination.

Ransvite City was an enormous place. However, what caught Rean's attention the most was the huge tunnel going through the Gods' Dividing Barrier. He could see many demon beasts, spirits, and humanoid race beings entering and exiting it. 'Well, the Gods' Dividing Barrier is very calm, so keeping a tunnel open between both sides shouldn't be anything hard. Perhaps they're using the Divine Energy from the barrier to keep it open.'

Rean then left the tunnel on the side for the moment and asked where he could get permission to enter the spirit races' territory.

"Oh... you can get it in the Race Exchanging Office. You'll need to register and pay a fee for that, though," replied the Formation Guild worker. "Are you planning to head there for trading?"

Rean simply nodded in response, replying, "That's the idea. I've heard of a few items that only spirits can make that can be used for forging. I plan to gather as many as possible and bring them back here to sell."

"That's a good idea." The worker nodded in response to his words. "Anyways, just head to the city center, and you'll find the office."

Hearing that, Rean didn't waste time and moved out. Sure enough, as he walked through the city, he could see many pictures of him, Roan, and other important members of the System Sect. He then stopped in front of one of those boards with the posters and took the one with his image in it as he thought, 'Hmm... they didn't capture my best side. Such a shame...'

It was then that someone called his attention. "Hey, you."

Rean looked to his side and saw a man looking at the poster in his hand. "Errr... a member of the Drugo Organization?"

The man was indeed part of the Drugo Organization. Rean traveled quite a lot in the center of the Realm of Gods already. Thanks to that, he came to know what kind of badges each of the top powers used. The badge on the man's clothes was definitely from the Drugo Organization.

The man nodded at Rean before pointing at the poster, asking, "Could it be that you know the guy on the poster? Our Drugo Organization is giving a huge reward for any information regarding them."

Rean obviously shook his head, telling the man, "As if!" Right after, he looked at the other posters. "I was just curious as to what these people did for the top powers at the center of the Realm of Gods to be all looking for them."

The man narrowed his eyes after hearing that. "That's surprising. This is the Drugo Organization's territory, so we're the only ones looking for them in this place. How did you know that the other top three were looking for the people in the poster?"

Rean was taken aback for a moment but didn't show it on his face. "How else? I'm not from here. What? Could it be that I can't use this city's passage since I'm not from here?"

"No one said anything like that," the man answered with a smile. "Well, I guess it makes sense as we receive people from all over the humanoid races' territory. Was there a need to be that hostile, though?"

Rean shook his head and put the poster back on the board. "This is the Realm of Gods, so I'm used to this kind of treatment. Anyways, I'm not going to bother a member of the Drugo Organization anymore."

Rean turned around, preparing to leave. However, the man suddenly held him by the shoulder. "How about you tell me more about your reason for being here? Don't worry. We'll just ask you a few questions. Everyone in the Drugo Organization received the order to stop anyone we find suspicious."

Rean couldn't help but ask in response, "That doesn't make sense. Did I become suspicious just because I looked at the posters? If that's the case, everyone passing through the board should be suspicious as well. How come you're only stopping me?"

The man didn't care, though. He wasn't just looking for the twins' group. Instead, he was also told to look for any allies of the demon beasts in their territory. When he saw Rean, he simply thought Rean was paying way too much attention to the poster and decided that he might as well check. Then again, there were rewards for anyone who found clues about the twins or the demon beasts connected to the demon beasts' territory.

"The more you complain, the more suspicious you look in my eyes. Are you sure you want to resist?" asked the man.

Rean looked at him and could tell that the guy was only in the Initial Stage of the Transition Realm. If he wanted to leave, it would be an easy task. However, thanks to his Divine Sense bending skill, Rean could tell that there were quite a few powerful Divine Senses scanning everyone. He could escape the guy, but it would be another story against the stronger ones. "Sigh... and here I thought I would get my crystals without many problems. Fine, fine... let's go wherever you want me to."

The man finally nodded in satisfaction. "That's a lot more like it."

Rean then followed the guy to the Drugo Organization's site. Since this was a Traversal City, the Drugo Organization obviously paid special attention to it. The fact that they were looking for Rean and Roan helped increase the security over the city even more.

There, Rean was sent into a room where he would be interrogated.

'What do you plan to say?' Roan asked through the Soul Connection. Obviously, he could see everything that was happening. 'You better hope no one too strong comes to see you. Otherwise, they'll feel the presence of our Dimensional Realm. If that happens, that would be the end for us.'

Indeed, they were still in the Transition Realm, so having a Pocket Dimensional Realm should be almost impossible.

However, Rean wasn't that worried. 'Don't worry too much. Even the Drugo Organization can't send top experts for every small task in their territory.'

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Chapter 1873: I'm Still a Transition Realm Cultivator

Rean was right. There were a few high-level experts watching the city. However, they would need to be close to Rean to feel the presence of his Dimensional Realm. Sure enough, the person who came to see him didn't even have a Pocket Dimensional Realm of her own.

"So you're the guy Brinti brought for checking, huh?" The woman in front of Rean didn't look very pleased, obviously not in the mood to be there to talk with Rean. In any case, it was her job to check the people that were brought there. It's just that because of the twins' disappearance, she had been getting a lot more work than she liked, reducing her time for cultivation.

Rean nodded in response. "That's me, I guess? It seems like once you look at the posters of the wanted people in the city, you'll become a suspect yourself. That's the first time I've heard of such a thing."

The woman sighed in response, telling Rean, "If it helps, you're far from being the first one during these past few weeks. Anyways, let's get over with it already. I need to know where you came from and get some proof that you came from there."

Rean pondered in silence for a bit about the issue. The problem was that he wasn't from the center of the Realm of Gods to start with. He could come up with some random story, but how would he prove it? "Some proof? I haven't really brought anything to prove who I am. Well, I can tell you where I came from, and you can send someone to check. With your organization's size, it shouldn't be too hard to send a message, right?"

The woman nodded in response. "That should suffice."

Rean nodded after hearing that and then began to talk. "I'm from the Himaria Clan Territory. As I mentioned to the guy before, I intend to go to the spirit races' territory to acquire a specific type of crystal used for forging. The name of the crystal is Azure Stream Crystal, which is very good for Water Element Affinity cultivators. This is a crystal made by the Azure Lilibel Spirit Race, and they're too hard to find on the humanoid race's side."

Rean wasn't lying about the crystal. It really was a crystal made by that specific race.

The woman narrowed her eyes in response. The problem wasn't what Rean was looking for but the area he came from. The Himaria Clan territory was just too far away. If she wanted to check Rean's

information, she would need to use very expensive talismans to send and receive the message. "Haven't you come from a place too far away? Is it even worth the trip to the other side?"

Rean smiled in response. "It seems like you don't know much about forging. How about you go check the price of Azure Stream Crystal in the Blacksmith Guild? Once you find out, I'm sure you won't ask that question anymore."

The woman shook her head. "No need. We have our own blacksmiths here. Just give me a second." She still had to check everything properly, so she quickly called one of the Drugo Organization's blacksmiths that were present there.

Not long after, a young man entered the room. "Satica, you again? How many times have you called me already?"

Satica was obviously the woman's name. "Stop complaining, Triwe. It's your turn to take care of the tasks of the Blacksmith Hall, so just help me confirm this guy's words."

Triwe shrugged his shoulders in response and then looked at Rean. "Alright, alright. So, what is it that you want to check?"

Rean then told Triwe the exact same words he told Satica a moment ago, which surprised Triwe quite a bit. "Azure Stream Crystals? Do you know how hard it is to forge with them?"

Rean obviously nodded, saying, "But of course! I'm a blacksmith, after all. However, I can definitely use them to make Golden Peak-level weapons, and they're worth a lot in the Himaria Clan Territory."

Triwe thought about the issue a bit before looking at Satica, saying, "The guys we're looking for are Formation Masters, right? Since he's a blacksmith, do you still want to waste our time here?"

Surprisingly, Satica immediately shook her head, telling him, "That's incorrect. We just obtained information a while ago that one of the twins is an excellent blacksmith. Someone from the Rambram Sect went all the way to Huring Continent and found out about it."

Rean was internally surprised as well. There was one person in Huring that did know what they wanted to do, which was to head to the demon beasts' territory. That person was obviously Erithean. He also knew that Rean was a very good blacksmith. It's just that the blacksmith part was also known by all the important figures in the Huring Sacred Land. 'They probably found out about my Element Gathering weapons already,' Rean thought.

Triwe then pointed at Rean, saying, "Well, anyone who can work with Azure Stream Crystals is definitely a very good blacksmith."

Rean sighed in response. "So I'm also a suspect now because I'm a blacksmith..."

Satica didn't care about Rean's words, though. "You can't blame us. You came from a faraway territory, and you're a blacksmith. The description of one of the guys we're looking for fits. As far as I know, you might be lying about having come from Himaria Clan Territory."

Rean just shrugged his shoulders after that. "In that case, you can just send a message to check my identity. I came from the Klavus Continent, Remgrol Region, Woscao Country. Ask for someone to check for my information in the Flastin Clan. My clan lives in the capital of Woscao Country, so you just need to inquire about Tian Flastin, which is my name."

Satica nodded after hearing that. That was a very specific description that would help a lot. Currently, Rean's appearance was of someone in his mid-forties. Of course, she knew that with his cultivation, he was definitely much older. The age someone seemed to have wasn't something that important in the Realm of Gods. As for the price to use the talismans to contact such a faraway place, as long as there was a real chance of Tian Flastin being the person they were looking for, the Drugo Organization didn't care about spending it.

However, just as she was about to go out to do exactly that, Triwe asked with a puzzled expression. "It might look obvious, but... why don't you simply ask this guy to sign a Soul Binding Contract? He's still a Transition Realm cultivator, you know?"

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Chapter 1874: Impossible With These Crystals

Satica looked back at Triwe in surprise. The thought hadn't occurred in her mind. After all, everyone who appeared for her to check so far were all in the Void Tempering Realm or above. It wasn't that there

weren't any lower-level cultivators. It's just that those were usually subordinates of someone with a higher realm.

Rean also looked at her with the same expression, saying, "I thought it was because she didn't want to expend too much on this interrogation..."

"I... didn't think about that..." Satika felt like throwing herself into a hole. "It's not my fault. Everyone so far was in the Void Tempering Realm and above, the majority in the Space Bending Realm. I haven't checked a Transition Realm or below in several weeks!"

Triwe looked at her as if he was looking at an idiot. "They even warned everyone that we shouldn't care about using Soul Binding Contracts."

"So... it was not because of the cost of the Soul Binding Contract?" Rean asked back.

Triwe shook his head, replying, "Do you know how much the talismans that can reach the Himaria Clan territory are worth? A single one could probably pay for a few tens of Soul Binding Contracts."

"Ahem..." Satika immediately stopped Triwe there. "I understand already, so let's get over with it." Without wasting time, she took out a Soul Binding Contract from her spatial ring.

Sure enough, no one knew that the twins could ignore Soul Binding Contracts even though they weren't above the Void Tempering Realm. It's not that there weren't other methods of doing it, but that they were just too rare and difficult to find out.

Rean just smiled in response after hearing Satika's words. In fact, if Triwe hadn't asked Satika, he would have done it himself. It's just that he didn't want to be the one to say it in order to not seem suspicious. That was the main plan all the time and why Rean wasn't too worried about this interrogation. Use a Soul Binding Contract and pretend to be telling the truth since they were useless against the twins.

Satika quickly wrote down the terms of the contract and had Rean sign it. Rean, obviously, used a drop of his blood to seal the deal before the contract burned. The system quickly created a dummy soul for the contract to bind itself before Rean started to answer Satika's question once more.

"According to the contract, you'll die if you lie," Satica pointed out. "Well, you signed it without thinking twice, so the answer is pretty obvious. Just answer this one question. Is everything you said about your origin true?"

Rean immediately nodded, replying, "Yes. I'm truly Tian Flastin from the Himaria Clan territory. I'm heading there to acquire the Azure Stream Crystals and bring them back home." It went without saying that nothing happened to Rean at all, which confirmed that he was talking the 'truth' there.

Triwe didn't want to waste time anymore either. "Well, there's your answer. By the way, my time to deal with matters regarding blacksmithing is also over, so don't call me anymore. Glacs will be the one you'd call if you need the same kind of service again."

Satica was also satisfied with the results. Especially since she wouldn't need to explain to the higher-ups later why she used expensive Thoughts Transmission Talismans because of a Transition Realm Cultivator. "Alright, Tian. That's all for now. You can go."

Rean nodded with a smile. "I guess I won't stop and look at the wanted posters anymore. Hahaha!"

Rean then made his way out of the room, preparing to leave the Drugo Organization. However, just as he stepped out, Triwe called him from the side. "Hey, Tian. Can we talk a little about the Azure Stream Crystals?"

Rean was surprised to hear that but nodded in the end. He followed Triwe to his own workshop. "So, what is it?"

Triwe then took out a few pieces of blue crystal from his spatial ring. Naturally, Rean recognized them straight away. "Oh! Azure Stream Crystals! As expected of the Drugo Organization, you have quite a few of them."

Triwe nodded in response. "I have them. Not only that, but I'm also in the Transition Realm. However, I'm having quite a bit of trouble forging them. You said you can forge with this crystal, right? Would you mind sharing your knowledge a little?"

Rean found it weird, though. "That doesn't make sense. I refuse to believe the Drugo Organization, as one of the big four organizations of the humanoid races, doesn't have the methods to work with Azure Stream Crystals."

Triwe shook his head in response. "That's not it. The problem is that I don't have access to the forging methods."

Rean pondered over it for a bit before understanding. "Is it because Azure Stream Crystals are usually used in Divine level equipment?"

Triwe was happy that Rean understood. "That's correct! I have access to all the study materials I need up to the Golden Peak-level. However, the Drugo Organization considers this crystal to be a Divine level material. They don't have any Golden level forging processes that use them. As you can see, I'm also in the Transition Realm, so I can't forge any Divine level equipment yet."

Rean understood that Triwe was definitely a very low member of the organization. After all, anyone with high talent would be given a Void Shattering Pill to break through to the Void Tempering Realm straight away. 'Well, he was at their beck and call for these interrogations, so it makes sense. The big talents wouldn't be given such a task.'

"Why are you using Azure Stream Crystals, though? As part of the Drugo Organization, you'll reach the Void Tempering Realm at some point. Isn't it better to keep them until then?" Rean asked back.

Unfortunately for Triwe, he couldn't wait. "That won't do. There's an elder in our Blacksmith Hall in this city recruiting a few new direct disciples. As you can imagine, the way to attract his attention is to craft something impressive for our level. Or, that's what I plan to do, at least. If I forge a good weapon with a hard-to-work material like these crystals, I reckon my chances will be pretty high."

Rean didn't mind it. "I see... well, I don't mind helping. However..." He looked at the crystals right after, telling him outright, "It'll be impossible with these crystals of yours."

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Chapter 1875: Seems Like We Have a Deal

"Eh?!" Triwe was surprised to hear those words. "What do you mean?"

Rean then explained, "The energy in these crystals is too unbalanced. It wouldn't be a problem if you were going to use them in Divine level equipment. However, because you're purposely trying to reduce the level of the equipment, you need something more harmonious so that it won't break apart. Let me guess, every time you finish forging, or even during the process itself, the blades start cracking for no reason, right?"

Triwe was truly amazed by Rean's knowledge, replying, "Yes! That's exactly what's happening!"

Rean nodded after hearing that. "Now you know why. That is also why I'm heading to the spirit races' territory myself. It's not like I can't acquire Azure Stream Crystals in the Himaria Clan territory, but they're all just like the crystals you have. We need to ask the Azure Lilibel Spirits to make them for us with specific traits regarding energy. The same thing applies to you. The crystals you got are probably something you bought instead of talking with the Lilibels, right? If so, that won't work."

"I see..." Triwe couldn't help but become somewhat disappointed after that. "I paid so much for these crystals. To think they're actually useless for what I need."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "Well, it's not all that bad, right? You can still sell them to someone else and recover some of your Divine Stones. Anyways, without the right type of Azure Stream Crystals, forging a piece of equipment at the Golden Peak-level won't happen."

Triwe didn't mind it. "I still have to thank you, though. Now I know what I have to do."

Rean smiled in response, preparing to leave. "Well then, this is it for now. I'll take my leave."

However, Triwe immediately came with him. "I'll go with you, then. With me here, you'll be able to get permission to enter the spirit races' territory straight away. This is my way of saying thanks for the help you gave me."

Rean was obviously happy to hear that. In the end, his trip to the Drugo Organization building wasn't a complete waste of time. "Well, if that's the case, I'll thank you for the help as well."

At the same time, in a closed room somewhere else in the city, a man opened his eyes. Just like the other experts there, he had his Divine Sense spread all over the city, trying to find the twins the Drugo Organization needed. 'That's quite some knowledge about forging. Even Divine level blacksmiths would have some trouble finding the problem in those crystals with just a glance.' However, he quickly shook his head. 'Then again, he did say he had experience forging with Azure Stream Crystals, so I guess it is to be expected.'

Little did Rean know, but even after signing the Soul Binding Contract, he was still being watched by the Drugo Organization. No, Rean knew that the Drugo Organization's experts were watching the entire city with their Divine Senses. He just didn't know that they were paying such close attention to him even after the contract. In the end, his conversation about forging with Triwe was what saved him from trouble. In other words, that corroborated his own fake story.

Later in the Traversing Office, Triwe's position as a member of the Drugo Organization had accelerated things. Instead of having to wait in queues, he simply brought Rean straight to a private office and arranged the authorization quickly.

"Alright, Sir Tian, here is your authorization. Just show this badge at the Traversing Tunnel, and one of the spirits there will guide you through the Gods' Diving Barrier. Once you decide to come back, just return to the city on the other side and use the same tunnel. This badge will also be valid there," said a worker.

Right after, he looked at Triwe, saying, "As for you, sir, you don't need any badges since Drugo Organization members have free passes as long as they aren't above the Space Bending Realm."

Drugo nodded in response, satisfied. "Alright, thanks."

Rean couldn't help but look at him after that, asking, "Are you going to the Azure Lilibel Race?"

Triwe quickly nodded. "I don't have any other choice, do I? You might not know this, but it's not like I have any important position in the Drugo Organization. I can't simply ask someone to head there and do the job for me. It would be too expensive."

Rean knew the first part. As mentioned before, anyone with real talents would have been given a Void Shattering Pill, after all. "Well, I think you're doing the right thing. Then again, you know I'm coming back with the same type of crystals, so why didn't you just ask me?"

Triwe glanced at Rean, asking him, "You would charge more than you paid, wouldn't you?"

"But of course! I'm making a living here, you know?" Rean answered without a shred of shame.

"Sigh..." Triwe sighed in response. "Even after selling the remaining Azure Stream Crystals, I would still be short on Divine Stones. I have to save as much as possible. Fortunately, I have free teleport usage as a member of the Drugo Organization, so it's more worthwhile heading there myself. Sorry for ruining a possible business opportunity."

Rean didn't mind. After all, he wasn't planning to go back at all. "That's okay. By the way, do you think I can use the free teleports if I'm with you? Teleportations are quite expensive."

Triwe could only smile in response. "Oh-ho! And what would you give me in return? I already helped you with the authorization, so we're already even here."

Rean didn't mind. He wasn't short on Divine Stones at all. Instead, he just wanted to use Triwe as a way of preventing unnecessary suspicion. Rean already inquired about the Azure Lilibel Race's location, and it just so happened to be on the way to the demon beasts' territory. It was very convenient. "Well, you can forge your equipment after getting the right crystals. However, you'll still fail several times. If I help you, you can learn how to do it much faster. I believe you also want to save time and materials since you'll have to forge something in front of that elder of yours, right?"

Naturally, those were the words Triwe was waiting for. "Seems like we have a deal."

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Chapter 1876: No One Has Ever Proved That

Rean didn't have a reason to stay any longer, so he told Triwe that he would be leaving straight away. Triwe, of course, finished his own business in the Drugo Organization building and obtained the time necessary to travel to the Azure Lilibel Race. Thanks to that, the two were already in front of the Traversal Tunnel that connected the humanoid and spirit races' territory by the end of that day.

At a building right in front of it, Rean passed his authorization badge to one of the attendants while Drugo simply showed his organization's badge. The attendant simply nodded in response before leaving for a moment. Not long after, he returned with Rean's badge and passed it back, telling them, "Alright, you're all set. A member of the Lapolis Spirit Race will be waiting for you at the tunnel entrance. He will guide you through the traversal."

Rean and Triwe nodded after hearing that. "Thanks."

At the entrance, it was possible to see spirits appear out of thin air every time someone needed to go through the tunnel. As mentioned before, spirits could keep themselves hidden from others unless they didn't want to. Well, it wasn't of much use against experts at the Void Tempering Realm and above, though.

Swish!

Suddenly, a spirit that seemed to look like a crab appeared in front of Rean and Triwe. "Are you Tian and Triwe? If so, let's get going as I have a quota to fulfill today."

"I'm fine here," Rean answered without thinking too much.

"Same goes for me." Naturally, Triwe was the same.

The crab then pointed at his back, telling them, "Hop on. The Gods' Dividing Barrier is safe for people at your cultivation level. I'll bring you through it."

With that, the two got on the crab's back before it jumped straight into the tunnel. There wasn't really a need for spirits to go together, but that was part of the agreement between the three powers and had been like this for a very long time.

As they passed through the Gods' Dividing Barrier, Rean took the opportunity to ask something that was bothering him. "Do any of you two know why this continental barrier is called the Gods' Dividing Barrier? If it was the normal continental barrier, being in such a place would be suicide for Triwe and me. That's why the name doesn't make much sense in my eyes since it's tons weaker than the others."

Triwe pondered over the question for a bit, eventually having to admit he didn't know the answer. "To be honest, I've never cared too much about it. But now that you say that, that is quite odd. I don't see how this barrier could hold gods back while the dangerous ones can't stop the top experts of our races."

"Oh! So you don't know, huh?" Surprisingly, the crab seemed to know a little about it. "I'm not that well-versed in it either. However, I heard that while the Gods' Dividing Barrier is harmless to lower cultivation beings like you, it can be quite nasty to higher-level ones."

Rean looked around and found it hard to believe. "Are you saying that such a calm barrier will become more dangerous the higher your cultivation gets? Then what about the normal barriers?"

"I know it's hard to believe," the crab answered. "However, I've seen it with my own eyes while living in this continental barrier. It may be rare, but sometimes the experts of our races have to make a trip to each other's side. I've seen high-level spirits, demon beasts, and humanoids stopping right in front of it before trying to go through."

Triwe didn't know that. "Is that so? I haven't been in Ransvite City for long, so I haven't had the chance to see such a thing yet."

The crab nodded, replying, "If you stay there, you'll eventually see it. That's because it turns into quite the show every time someone with very high cultivation needs to go through. The barrier will literally fight back against the expert's advance and create a lot of commotion."

That was one of the reasons Lanfia, the old female demon beast who captured Erithean, was in such bad shape on her way back. And that was after she used the secret passage, which was now gone. Of course, Rean's group had no idea about this event.

The crab continued, "If you stop and think about it, there's a rule for the traversal that makes it quite apparent."

Rean pondered over it for a bit and immediately remembered one of the rules of the traversal. "The Space Bending Realm limit, right?"

Triwe was surprised at first but quickly understood. "I see... Space Bending Realm is the limit of what the Gods' Dividing Barrier allows to pass through without fighting back."

"That's correct." The crab agreed with them. "Anyone above this realm will start to receive the opposing force of the barrier. Well, being one or two realms above the limit is still fine since the opposing force isn't that great. But if you're a top expert, then you're in for quite the experience."

Rean sighed in response. "No wonder the experts of each side of the territories rarely ever go out. Passing through the Gods' Dividing Barrier seems to be a pain they don't want to go through. They would rather send subordinates to do the talking since it's way easier."

The crab nodded. "I can guarantee that a lot of the spirits and humanoids passing through are not heading to the other side because of trade deals, but for other reasons like that. What about you? Trade or politics?"

"Trading," Rean and Triwe answered straight away.

"That's good." The crab was used to it. "Those who can pay to come and do the traversal to then return usually make a lot of Divine Stones. Just remember that if you reach the Elemental Space Realm or go beyond it, be careful with the Gods' Dividing Barrier. This calm thing can become pretty nasty against the things it doesn't like."

Rean couldn't help but remember his talk with Luan and Fluki. "You speak like the Gods' Dividing Barrier has some will of its own."

The crab nodded, saying, "Well, that's just a belief of the spirit races. We believe the continental barriers are somewhat alive, although no one has ever proved that."

Death... and me

Chapter 1877: Spirit Stream

"Hahaha!" Triwe couldn't help but laugh in response. "Come on! The continental barriers are alive? There's no way such a thing is true. I'm not familiar with how powerful the top experts of the Realm of Gods are. However, I'm pretty sure that none of them would be strong enough to match the energy released by the continental barriers. That's just a ridiculous notion."

Hearing that, Rean could not help but feel like he had just experienced déjà vu. That was basically the same argument he discussed with Luan and Fluki a day ago. "Well, everyone can have their own beliefs."

The crab didn't mind it either. "We're used to the humanoids and demon beasts calling us crazy. To be honest, most of us also find it hard to believe, but it's part of our history already. Whether it's true or not, I doubt we'll be here by the time an answer is found."

Rean and Triwe agreed with the crab. "That's true."

The traversal went along without any issues. Eventually, Rean and Triwe arrived at the spirit races' Traversal City, Gamaia, and were left by the crab straight away. From the looks of it, the crab already had to attend to the next member of the humanoid race and bring the guy here.

The two then came out of the building where the crab left them and looked at the city surrounding them. Immediately, there was a huge difference between this one and the city on the humanoid races' side. "If I didn't know better, I would say this was a ghost city.."

First of all, there weren't many buildings. Spirits more commonly lived in nature, so the settlements they eventually built were in synergy with nature itself. A good example was back in Huring Continent, where Rana, the twins' sister, lived as the Fairy Queen. Their small town, if one could call their home like that, was all within the trees.

This city still had many buildings similar to the ones on the humanoid race territory. However, compared to the city Rean had just left, there was almost nothing. Not to mention that most of them only existed because of the humans who came to visit.

Yet, the main reason for calling it a ghost city was because of the spirits' ability to stay hidden. So instead of the spirits that had to keep their forms visible due to their duties, most of the spirits in the area were invisible to the naked eye. Of course, Rean and Triwe knew that there were definitely a lot of spirits around. That was especially the case for Rean, who could already control space. He could indeed tell where and how many spirits there were in the area.

"In fact, even counting the spirits that are not visible, this city has a lot fewer living beings than the humanoid races' side. Most of the spirit races don't give birth the same way as the demon beasts or us.

They usually need special conditions to take form. Out of the three powers, the spirits are by far the bunch with the smallest number," Rean explained.

"That's not entirely correct," Triwe added. "You definitely know about the devils on the northeast side, right? From what I heard, they're even fewer in number than the spirits. It's just that each one of them is extremely strong."

Rean didn't mind, clarifying, "I said three big powers, not four. The devils are basically invaders. Well, they are definitely strong. All three powers had to ally to keep them in check."

Triwe couldn't go against those words. "That's true."

"Alright, shall we take the teleport formations? We can teleport all the way over to the continent of the Azure Lilibel Spirits," Rean asked, preparing to leave.

"Teleport formations?" Triwe looked at Rean as if he was looking at an idiot. "No wonder you said this was your first time coming here to buy the crystal directly. You know nothing about this place, right?"

Rean had a bad premonition, asking, "Could it be that there are no teleport formations here? No, wait, that doesn't make sense. You said it yourself. You could use your position as a member of the Drugo Organization to use the teleport formations for free. There has to be teleport formations here."

Triwe sighed in response. "There are teleport formations. However, very few cities of the spirit races have them. The spirit races' territory is the place where the Formation Guild has the least number of branches. With that being said, it would be almost impossible to teleport all the way over. Especially since the Azure Lilibel Spirit Race is a few continents away. What my free pass can get us is access to the Spirit Stream."

"Spirit Stream?" Rean had never heard about that before. But then again, he knew about forging materials but not the story behind most of them, as it never mattered much to his job.

Triwe nodded with a smile, saying soon after, "I wonder if I should charge you for the information or not. Perhaps a few Divine Stones would be nice."

"Oh, almighty member of the Drugo Organization. Please bestow your friend with the knowledge necessary to use the Spirit Streams," Rean asked without a shred of embarrassment.

"Hahaha!" That was the first time someone talked to Triwe like that, even if it was a joke. "Alright, alright. The Spirit Streams are channels of constantly moving Divine Energy. It only happens in the spirit races' territory and could be said to be another reason for the lack of teleport formations. It's so good that these channels go through even the dangerous continental barriers unimpeded."

Triwe continued, "Above all is its ability to bend space as it passes through the continents. If you and I were to fly all the way to the other side of the continent, it would take us who knows how many years. However, if we enter the Spirit Stream, a month should be enough to arrive there."

Rean understood. "So, it's not as fast as going through teleport formations but is a lot cheaper in comparison. Long distance teleports spend a lot of Divine Stones, after all."

"Exactly," Triwe confirmed. "In fact, it's free to use for the spirits themselves. Only other races need to pay Divine Stones to enter. Well, except people like me, who have a free pass thanks to the Drugo Organization's badge."

"I'm counting on you." Rean really wanted to see it now.

Death... and me

Chapter 1878: The Spirits' Nature

The Spirit Stream wasn't something created by the spirits, though. It had been there way before the spirits took control of this side of the center of the Realm of Gods. In fact, the Spirit Streams extended way beyond the center.

Unlike the humanoid races' territories, the spirits did not have any border between the center of the Realm of Gods and the far away continents. Any spirit that had the ability to do so could come to the center of the Realm of Gods at any time.

In fact, the same thing happened in the demon beasts' territories. It's just that, as demon beasts, they were a lot more 'territorial.' That meant any demon beast trying to take place in the center of the Realm of Gods would need to win that spot through sheer strength.

In the spirits' case, such things rarely ever happened. After all, the spirits were known for being a peaceful bunch. There wasn't even a need to fight over the territory since spirits were fewer in number to start with. Above all, most spirits had connections with their own lands. Many spirits born far away in the Realm of Gods would never try to leave their land unless necessary. A good example was Rana's Fairy Race. Once they took root in a place, they simply stayed there.

One must not think about the spirits as weak, though. Just the fact that spirits could hide from the naked eye from anyone below the Void Tempering Realm was already a dreadful asset. It literally meant they could launch sneak attacks and destroy entire cities without the other side being able to do anything against them.

Sure, the top experts of the powers were their real strength. Above the Void Tempering Realm, the spirits couldn't hide. However, spirits could also fight, which meant they wouldn't simply die if attacked. Also, the main problem was indeed those below the Void Tempering Realm. Such beings were the root and foundation of any power, including devils and angels. Let alone demon beasts and humanoids. The spirit races had the power to completely destroy this foundation with their natural concealment ability.

That being said, the spirits had always been able to hold a tight grip on their territory, and neither humanoids nor demon beasts attacked them. That didn't mean they couldn't win, though. But that didn't mean they would assuredly win either. Above all, the costs would be too great and not worth it.

Going back to the Spirit Streams, they looked more like a bunch of veins that connected the spirit races' territories. If there were reasons for anyone to try and take the spirit races' territory in the future, the Spirit Stream would be one of the huge reasons. Unfortunately, even the spirits didn't know how to recreate such a thing. The stream wasn't something anyone could copy, or at least not for now.

With that being said, the spirits also couldn't select where the Spirit Streams passed through. That also meant Gamaia City had no Spirit Stream. Rean and Triwe would need to head to another city and take the Spirit Stream from there.

The good thing was that Gamaia, as a Traversal City, was one of the few cities in the spirit races' territory that had a Formation Guild. Thus, it also had teleport formations. It's just that the teleport formations there could only send so far. At the very least, they were connected with a city that had a Spirit Stream.

Triwe and Rean stepped on the teleport formation before it activated. As always, their vision blurred for a moment before they appeared on the other side.

"Let me see, this should be Tamoula City, right?" asked Rean as he looked inside a jade slip. Before leaving Gamaia, he went to a shop and bought a general map of the continent. The Azure Lilibels were located several continents away, but he could buy more maps later.

"That's correct." Triwe nodded as he looked at his own map. He had never come to the spirit races' territory, after all. "Let's head outside. The Spirit Stream should be visible straight away."

Rean nodded, and the two stepped out of the Formation Guild. Immediately, their attention was caught by the huge 'river' of rainbow-colored energy passing far above their heads. Rean almost thought that he was looking at the continental barriers but quickly discarded the idea. The continental barriers usually came from below, and that thing was far above in the skies. "That's huge!"

Triwe agreed with him. "If you pay close attention, you'll see the several spirits who transport other races through the Stream."

Rean narrowed his eyes in response, and sure enough, he could see very small dots passing by at frightening speeds. If not because of his cultivation, he wouldn't have noticed them at all. Obviously, they looked like dots due to the difference in size between the 'passengers' and the Stream itself. 'Kentucky can only dream of ever flying that fast. I guess he wouldn't be that quick even at the Space Bending Realm.'

Rean then looked at Triwe with a smile. "No wonder a month is enough to cross an entire continent. However, how do acceleration and deacceleration work? If we're suddenly shot at that speed, I don't know if our bodies can resist it."

Triwe shook his head, replying, "That's why the Stream is so good. We can't feel it because we aren't at the Void Tempering Realm yet. However, the stream's power affects space itself. This power found inside will make it look like we aren't accelerating at all. It would seem more like space is bending in our direction. Of course, from the outside, it does look like the guys inside are traveling at breakneck speeds."

Rean couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. "Such an amazing transportation method and completely free for all spirits. How good would it be if the humanoid races could copy it?"

Triwe shrugged his shoulders in response. "Would it be good, I wonder? That also means moving entire armies through several continents and record speeds. One of the greatest problems in war is the distance between targets in the Realm of Gods. Sure, there are teleport formations, but moving armies with them costs huge sums of Divine Stones."

Rean had to admit Triwe was right. "Perhaps it only works here because of the spirits' nature."

Death... and me

Chapter 1879: Into the Stream

There was a huge tree that stretched all the way to the Stream. It was by far the highest tree in the entire region, which seemed to be related to the same reason. It was as if the tree feasted on the energy of the Stream to stay tall and strong. For the spirits and everyone else, that was perfect. They all seemed to use the tree to get into the Stream for their travels.

Arriving at the tree base, Rean and Triwe noticed that the tree had space inside open and that many spirits and other races walked around. Some were paying for the use of the Stream, and others were there to guide the payers. Obviously, there were those who had just arrived and came down from the Stream.

"Give me a second as I register for the use of the Stream," said Triwe as he moved to one of the counters.

Rean, on the other hand, used his Spatial Abilities to feel the Stream. 'Triwe was right. The power of space interacting with the Stream above is really enormous.'

"Hey, Tian!" Fortunately, it didn't take long for Triwe to call Rean. "Everything's ready. Let's go."

Rean smiled in response, and soon, the two made their way to the top of the tree. As they got higher, the amount of energy passing through increased. In any case, it didn't seem to affect their bodies at all.

Another spirit appeared not long after to take Rean and Triwe. "Alright, come with me. You guys are heading straight to the Isvotis Continent, is that correct?"

Isvotis was the continent where one could find the Azure Lilibels.

"That's correct," Triwe answered. "Will there be any stops on the way?"

The spirit shook his head, saying, "No. I'll do the connections myself on the way, so we will enter the right streams once we get close. Is there a specific place you want to go to in the Isvotis Continent?"

Rean nodded, replying, "As close as possible to the Azure Lilibel Spirit Race. We're going there to buy their Azure Stream Crystals."

"Very well." The spirit didn't mind. "In that case, our next stop will be the Hogral Lifan Spirit Forest. At your cultivation, it shouldn't take more than a week or so to fly to the Azure Lilibels' territory. Anyways, let's get going."

The spirit was as big as Fluki. However, he wasn't a Kibin, but a Nastreas, a type of fish-like spirit. He simply opened his mouth and tried to put the two in its mouth. Triwe was taken aback at first, but Rean quickly held him. "Don't worry. This is pretty common."

As a spirit, it wasn't like the Nastreas had saliva or anything like that, so one couldn't say it was gross. Nevertheless, Triwe still felt gross just because he was inside someone else's mouth. "Are you used to this kind of thing?"

Rean nodded, replying, "Did you forget? I came all the way from Himaria Clan territory. I had to pass through quite a few continents. Not everyone has those beautiful official paths open all year long."

Triwe could only bitterly smile in response. "So we'll have to stay here until we arrive, right? Just how long will that take?"

Surprisingly, the spirit was the one to answer. "The Isvotis Continent is located seven continents away from here, so it'll take a while. Just to leave this continent will take a month. Of course, continents have

different sizes, and that doesn't mean we'll cross each one entirely. Some we will just pass by for a few days, for example. If nothing goes wrong, I reckon it'll take around half a year to get there."

Triwe sighed in response. "So it'll be at least a one-year trip. Fortunately, the elder of the Blacksmith Hall shouldn't finish selecting his new direct disciples so fast. By the way, sir spirit. How should I call you?"

"Nisso," the spirit answered. They would be together for that long, after all.

"So, Nisso. Is it worth doing such long-distance travels?" Triwe felt like it was a huge waste of cultivation time.

Surprisingly, Nisso quickly nodded. "It does. For my race, cultivation happens through exposure to the five elements and our bodies' processes. The Spirit Stream is rich in five elements even though the Divine Energy isn't compatible. That means I can cultivate a lot faster here."

Rean found it weird. "Spirits can use the Streams for free, no? Do you need to work to do that? Couldn't you simply travel around on your own?"

"They are free. That much is true," Nisso answered. However, that doesn't mean we can stay inside forever. Otherwise, any spirit that can benefit from the Streams will definitely spend their whole life inside it. Spirits aren't as many as the other powers, but we still have a lot. The Streams are far from enough to cope with everyone, so it's strictly regulated by the top powers of the spirit race and the continents they pass through. That's why I joined this line of work. I can stay here as long as I'm working."

"I see..." Rean understood. "Spirits really have it hard. So many different cultivation methods." He then smiled, saying, "Well, you could just pretend that you're slower to stay longer on each trip, no?"

"Hahaha!" Nisso laughed in response. "I wish that was possible. Unfortunately, once you're inside the Stream, the speed is determined by the Stream itself. The only thing I can do is try to jump out of it, not reduce our travel speed. Whether I want to or not, this journey to Isvotis Continent will take the same thing as it should."

Triwe then remembered something. "Are the Streams the same as the continental barriers? Do they block the entrance of high-level Spirits? They do remind me of the barriers, after all."

"Not really," Nisso answered. "However, if you reach the level of one of the top experts of the spirit race, the Stream would be too slow instead. They can literally open space and travel through the spatial storms. What will take us six months to complete, they can do in just a few hours. Using the Stream is useless for them. Well, perhaps some of them just want to relax and let the Stream carry them, but that's not something we should think about."

Rean and Triwe nodded in response. "Well then, we're counting on you during this."

Death... and me

Chapter 1880: Like Hell We Did!

Without anything better to do, Rean and Triwe simply took a few Divine Stones out of their spatial rings and began to cultivate. Well, Rean was just pretending, though. As mentioned by Celis before, they were already at the Peak Stage of the Transition Realm, so all that remained for them was to break through.

Instead, Rean spent most of his time talking with Havek and the other Formation Masters about the Circuitry Formations. They had implemented so many things in the Free Continent that they obtained much more to improve and fix. Bugs in the system, as well as problems with communication, were a daily thing for them. And right now, they had time to work on the problems.

Every now and then, Triwe or Nisso would strike up a conversation, but as nothing else happened, they ended not too long after. For the two, cultivation was really pretty much what they could do. Triwe tried to get a little more information about forging from Rean, but Rean never revealed anything. He always said that he would only help him after they got to the Azure Lilibel Spirit Race.

And just like that, over four months went by as they passed a few continents through the Stream. Everything was going smoothly when suddenly, Nisso felt like his body was pulled away. Before he could do anything, he was already out of the Spirit Stream in freefall.

"Nisso, what is happening?" Naturally, Rean and Triwe noticed the change as they had barely felt anything during the last four months. However, they were still two months away from their destination.

"I don't know!" answered Nisso as he immediately tried to stabilize himself. He was also in the Transition Realm, so he could obviously fly. However, it didn't work as he continued to be pulled downwards. "Something is attracting us away from the Spirit Stream."

"Open your mouth and let us out!" Rean and Triwe obviously wouldn't stay there and simply wait.

Nisso nodded and let the duo out of his mouth. Unfortunately for Rean and Triwe, they also noticed that they couldn't fly at all. No, it wasn't that they couldn't fly, but that the force pulling them away was stronger than the force they could exert with their current flying capabilities.

'Sister Orb, how's the space around us? Can I use the Circuitry Teleport Formation?' Rean immediately called Sister Orb, having a bad feeling about this situation.

[No,] Sister Orb, obviously, knew what was happening. [The space around you has been disrupted. It's not because of the Stream, though. It's something else. If you try to use it now, chances are you are going to die. Even if you don't, you will end up somewhere far away. It can be anywhere in this entire half of the universe.]

Rean already knew that, so he immediately gave up on the idea. At the very least, he wouldn't do it right now.

Rean couldn't help but think after that, 'Could it be that we were found?'

Roan was also watching the events through their Soul Connection, so he answered, 'Most likely. You didn't get on the bad side of anyone with your new appearance, after all. Then again, let's see what happens first. Don't forget that the Destiny Avoidance mode of the System ended a long time ago, so we're prone to be attracted to weird situations now and then.'

It was then that Rean's group stopped in mid-air. It was not like they wanted to, but instead, their body was locked in place by Spatial Powers. However, both Rean and Nisso showed shocked expressions when they did so. In Nisso's case, he was also a spirit, so he could see the spirit in front of him even if it was trying to stay hidden. As for Rean, his Natural Spatial Perception was the reason why he could tell a spirit was right there.

The spirit seemed surprised that Rean was looking straight at him before he used his Divine Sense to check Rean. However, there was no need to do so. That's because, although small, he also noticed Rean's Spatial Powers. He was close enough to perceive that. 'Transition Realm and can use Spatial Powers... could this be the guy the humans are looking for nonstop? Then again... both his appearance and internal body structure don't look anything like the part. As for his Elemental Affinity, I can only feel the Fire Element interacting with him. No Light or Dark Element at all. A coincidence? Oh well, whatever.'

The spirit then shook his head and finally decided to show himself. However, he completely ignored Rean and Nisso. Instead, his attention fell on Triwe, saying, "Finally got you. Brat, you sure are hard to find!"

Triwe felt a chill on his back as he looked at the spirit in front of him. The spirit had a humanoid form, although its arms were covered in transparent feathers. In place of its hair, there was a crown of even bigger feathers, which was also transparent, that pointed backward. "U-Uncle Fran!"

Rean and Nisso looked back at Triwe. It was obvious just how powerful the spirit in front of them was. Yet, Triwe, who was supposed to be a low member of the Drugo Organization, seemed to know the guy quite well. "A spirit is your uncle?"

Triwe ignored the question from Rean and Triwe and quickly continued to talk with the spirit. "Uncle Fran, I already told you everything! I have nothing to do with any of you! First, how did you even find me?"

"You're not the one who decides that, Jakar," Fran didn't answer the question. "You should know that the cultivation world outside the race will only weaken you as time passes. Stop this bullshit, and let's go back to the race."

"No!" Triwe, or Jakar maybe, immediately refused. "I'm not going back! There's nothing for me back there, and you know that."

"Ahem..." Rean couldn't help but intervene. "Since you two have some family issues, how about letting us go? Neither Nisso nor I have known Triwe... Jakar for long. Whatever the decision you two reach, it doesn't really have anything to do with the two of us, right?" In the end, the guy really didn't come for Rean.

Nisso quickly nodded in agreement. "That's true, that's true! I'm only doing my job as a Spirit Stream Guide."

However... "Tian, how could you say that? After everything we've gone through!" said Triwe without a shred of shame.

Rean almost vomited blood after hearing that. "Like hell we did!"