

## Death 191

Death... and me

Chapter 191: Solo Battle

Rean and Roan continued their way to the Sun Streak mountain. On the route, Roan stopped showing mercy for any enemy. Of course, that was good news for the couple who didn't want to leave anyone out to start with.

Suddenly, Rean and Roan's vision turned red.

'Killing Intent!'

The two of them immediately raised their hand for Westren and Lana to stop as well.

"What is it?"

The twins didn't answer his question. Instead, Rean began to accumulate Light Energy around himself. A few seconds later, he looked in a certain direction in the forest before laughing. Doesn't matter how well hidden they are; all living beings have a life force. With Rean's affinity with Light Element, he could feel their presence in the distance as long as he put enough effort into it.

"Since the six of you already came, why don't you show yourselves?"

After saying that, another laugh came from behind the trees that Rean was looking at.

"Hahaha! Indeed, the reports were true. The first two guys you let go told me about some kind of demon twins. At first, I thought it was bullshit. However, seeing how you found our location this easily, I can't help but feel that there is a hint of truth behind our disciples' words."

A man using a black robe then appeared in their vision. Right after, another five cultivators appeared behind him. The five cultivators didn't seem much of a threat. After all, Rean and Roan's Spiritual Sense could tell that they were all in the peak of the Foundation Establishment. However, the man in black was a little different since he was in the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Obviously, he was Okrin, the cultivator that Buran sent to hunt Rean's group.

Nevertheless, Roan seemed a little disappointed. With Rean's new skill and their increase in cultivation, Roan didn't think that the guy would cause much trouble. Unless...

Okrin didn't notice it. Instead, he asked Rean something else.

"By the way, how did you find us? I'm pretty confident in my concealing technique. Even those in the same realm as me would have some difficulty noticing my presence with Spiritual Sense alone."

Rean smiled before saying.

"Haha! Who knows? Maybe I thought that it was already time for someone to appear, so I decided to try my luck and say a few words in empty air."

Obviously, Rean wouldn't talk about Roan's ability to see killing intent through colors. Much less about his own capability of noticing Life Force.

As one can imagine, Okrin didn't believe a single word from Rean. How lucky would Rean need to be to stop and look right in his direction when talking? There is no way that it was just a coincidence.

"Well, I can ask you later after I capture you four."

Roan then thought about an idea. Since it would be much of a challenge, he would create one. Roan then looked at the couple before sending a Spiritual Sense Message.

"Westren and Lana will give support to Rean while he gets rid of the Foundation Establishment enemies. Rean will try to finish it as fast as possible. As for me, I'll hold the Core Formation Guy."

Westren and Lana were taken aback. Their Spiritual Senses couldn't go as far as the twins, so they didn't know that the cultivation of the leader of the enemy's group. Obviously, they felt nervous when Roan said the words 'Core Formation Realm.' However, Roan seemed pretty confident in his words, so they decided to do as he said.

Rean, on the other hand, understood what Roan wanted to do.

'Who are you trying to deceive here? I can totally tell that you want to fight that guy alone. Or could it be that you thought I wouldn't notice, uh?'

Roan narrowed his eyes but didn't refute Rean's words. Roan really wanted to see if he alone was enough to fight a Core Formation Realm enemy. After all, he was sure that their twin combo could efficiently deal with the enemy. However, this would not be considered a challenge at all.

Noticing his silence, Rean laughed out loud in their soul connection.

'Hahaha! Don't worry. As long as you use my Life Style First Form to attack, that will be enough for me. It is an excellent opportunity to see how well it will perform when there is only one of us. Of course, if you see that you are dying, you can implore for my help. Your grandfather, I, will definitely offer a helping hand.'

Roan's mouth twitched.

'Hmph! I would rather die and bring the two of us down together than implore for your help. I'll leave it at your own discernment if I need help or not.'

The reason Roan wasn't so sure about his strength alone was that he can't use the Fifth Form of the Death Style alone. The Mirage Assault skill needed both of them to work. After all, it required a much higher control of Light Element than he can do alone with just their Soul Connection. It was the same thing for Rean. Without Roan's Dark Element control, the Mirage Assault skill wouldn't work either.

Rean then laughed once more and didn't say anything else.

Although they talked a lot, the fact is that they used Spiritual Sense or the Soul Connection to talk. Because of that, just a few seconds passed outside.

Okrin also gave his orders to the subordinates he brought along. However, he told them to leave both Rean and Roan for himself to deal with. Their objective was to take care of the couple at the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment.

After that, he promptly dashed in Rean and Roan's direction.

However...

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement.'

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

The twins' hairs changed into black and white colors. Right after, Roan shot in Okrian's direction! Rean, of course, went after the Foundation Establishment guys.

"Fast!"

Okrin was taken aback. The ray of black and white energy made all the hairs in his body stand up. Every single pore screamed danger, making him understand that Roan alone is already strong enough to threaten his life!

'Sword Wind Blade!'

Without wasting any time, Okrin attacked with one of his own skills. Spiritual Energy and Wind Element accumulated in his sword as he slashed the air in front of him.

As a Core Formation Realm, he obviously could use skills as well. Fortunately for him, he was an agility type cultivator. Thanks to that, he had faster reactions and attacks than other types. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to counter-attack Roan's Stellar Piercer fast enough. Not that he was weaker, but that he underestimated Roan, which delayed his reaction.

\*Boom!\*

Both the Stellar Piercer and the Wind Blade clashed and disappeared. However, Okrin wasn't the least bit happy. He is a Core Formation Realm cultivator while Roan is a Middle Stage Foundation Establishment one. Still, Roan's attack had enough power to nullify his Wind Blade.

Nevertheless, he didn't have time to think or stop Rean, who was moving away. That's because Roan had already appeared right in front of him. At the same time, he received a Spiritual Sense message.

"I hope you don't disappoint me."

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#### Chapter 192: Threads

Okrin immediately gave up any ideas of trying to stop Rean. He simply used his Spiritual Sense to tell that he won't be able to help his subordinates with it. They should focus solely on defense and hold Rean and the couple back as much as possible. After all, from what he heard, both twins are similar in strength. That being said, those Foundation Establishment guys are in deadly danger.

Roan, of course, wouldn't let him do that anyway even if he wanted to.

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

Three black and white swords came at Okrin from three different positions. However, Okrin couldn't tell which one was real.

'Wind Barrier!'

Spiritual Energy and Wind Element gathered around Okrin's body. Since he couldn't tell which one was real, he would use his Wind Barrier to find the real one. He was confident that he could block Roan's real sword after spotting it with his reaction speed. After that, he would counter-attack with his own skill using any opening left behind by Roan's skill. Too bad, though. All three blades hit barriers at the same time, causing damage.

"What?! All three are real?!"

In his alarm, Okrin jumped while trying to block one of them.

\*Clang! Swich, swich!\*

Okrin was lucky. The sword he decided to block was Roan's real one. The other two were also strong, but they only carried 70% of the power of Roan's White Star. Thanks to his Wind Barrier, his reaction time to jump back, and the real sword block, he avoided any severe damage.

However, Roan smiled nonetheless.

"My attacks aren't only physical."

Okrin's eyes opened wide! As soon as he heard those words, he felt some kind of energy entering his body. Whatever it was, made him feel as if he was in the middle of torture. As one can imagine, that was Roan's Dark Element destroying Okrin's Life Force!

"Argh!"

Roan didn't lose that chance and immediately charged forward. However, Okrin seemed to have a lot of experience in dangerous situations. He gritted his teeth and blocked Roan's assault while bearing all the pain.

\*Clang, clang, clang, clang...\*

Okrin blocked all Roan's attacks while jumping back, trying to open distance to get some breath. However, he soon noticed another problem. His sword began to crack!

"What the hell is that sword?!"

Roan didn't answer and continued. Obviously, Rean's White Star was much stronger than ordinary High-Level Weapons. The only reason Okrin's sword took this long to crack was the superior cultivation that allowed him to protect his sword with more Spiritual Energy.

Noticing that he couldn't continue like that for long, Okrin changed his instance.

'Severing Wind Field!'

Immediately, Spiritual Energy and Wind Element generated tens of wind blades that danced around Okrin's bodies. Individually, they weren't as strong as his Sword Wind Blade, but they were enough to protect his body with quantity. The only problem was that this skill used a lot of Spiritual Energy at once.

Nevertheless, Okrin achieved his objective. Roan had to stop his assault for a second, or he would charge directly inside the sea of wind blades. That gave enough time for Okrin to finally catch his breath and initiate his attack. It was also enough time to focus his energy on blocking the Dark Element in his body.

'Call of the Wind!'

Right after, Okrin began his own offense. Wind Element gathered inside his body as his speed promptly increased. Roan was surprised to see that since it looked quite similar to Rean's Life Style First Form. However, his control of the Wind Element couldn't compare to the twins' Dark and Light. It was evident that a lot of Wind Element was wasted during the process of maintaining it. Not to mention the way he used his meridians was utterly wrong.

'I see... he can keep that form because of his cultivation. He obviously has a lot more Spiritual Energy than me, and this is why it works even though the wastage is so enormous. Well, his Spiritual Energy will dry out in a flash if he continues like this, which means...'

Roan was right. Okrin knew about the side effect of his Call of the Wind. However, he couldn't hold back against Roan. That's why he decided to go all out and try to finish it as fast as possible.

With his increase in speed, Okrin arrived in front of Roan in a second. However, Roan didn't step back. Although he knew that he could stall for time and win in a battle of attrition, it would not help his own development.

'Call of the Wind, Severing Wind Sword!'

Okrin's attacks suddenly increased in speed by at least three folds. However, Roan also didn't hold back.

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

White and Dark Element gathered on Roan's White Star. Right after, his hands moved in several arcs, creating threads of Dark and Light Element in mid-air. However, instead of moving forward, those threads kept stationary. When the Severing Wind Swords hit those threads, they would bounce back. During that moment, the Dark Element would drain and destroy the attacks' power while the Light Element fueled the Dark Element resistance. Just like that, all of Okrin's attacks lost their effect before the threads bounced back far enough to hit Roan's body.

Rean, who was paying attention to that from far away, couldn't help but feel surprised.

'Oh! It's the first time I see someone forcing Roan to use his Death Style Defensive Form.'

Okrin was shocked that Roan could put up a defensive skill that could totally nullify his attacks. After all, the difference in cultivation was there for anyone to see. Worse than that was the fact that his Wind Barrier, which he used for defense, didn't hold Roan's Claws of the Dragon at all!

Finally, Okrin's Sword began to reach its limit. Noticing that he wouldn't be able to win this battle, Okrin used his Severing Wind Field one more time to open distance from Roan. Obviously, another huge chunk of his Spiritual Energy was consumed with that. But that didn't matter, because he used that chance to turn around and... run!

Unfortunately...

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'



His path was blocked by Rean! Okrin was shocked to see the other twin in front of himself. After all, Rean was supposed to be dealing with the Foundation Establishment Subordinates. Too bad, though. He was so focused on his battle that he didn't notice when Rean finished all of them. The only reason he didn't intervene until now was so that Roan could have his solo battle. Of course, he paid attention to their fight to prevent this guy from escaping.

Fuck!

Okrin tried to jump back in his desperation. Regrettably, Roan was right behind him too.

Roan didn't mind Rean entering the fight now. Since his opponent decided to flee, that meant that his battle was already over. The proof was that the Red Color of Killing Intent had already disappeared. That being said, they might as well put an end to it.

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

Okrin was surrounded by both sides, without anywhere to run.

However, just as Rean and Roan's attacks were about to slice him to pieces, the red color of Killing Intent appeared once more. Yet, it wasn't coming from Okrin this time.

'There is someone else!'

Right at that moment, the ground below Okrin shined with yellow light!

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Chapter 193: Heaven's Might Water

Right after, two Earth Pillars came at Rean and Roan. Fortunately, the Red Color of Killing Intent warned them in advance. They immediately shifted their attack and aimed at the two Earth Pillars. The pillars were then severed in three parts, quickly falling on the ground. Still, that gave Okrin enough time to jump away from their encirclement.

It was then that another man appeared.

Okrin looked at the newcomer and couldn't help but feel ecstatic.

"Elder Buran!"

Buran was the same one who gave Okrin the order to hunt Rean and Roan's group.

"I knew something was fishy—two super-powered kids appearing out of nowhere. My gut feeling kept telling me that something was going to happen. Sure enough, Okrin, all your subordinates died, and you were just a second away from following them."

Okrin quickly bowed as he apologized.

"I'm sorry, Elder Buran. But I'm really weaker than any of the two. When they gathered together, I was as good as dead already."

Buran shook his head.

"It's okay. I was watching the battle from the moment you used your Call of the Wind. It wasn't your fault. I gave you a mission that you had no chance of completing, that's all. Step back. You have almost no Spiritual Energy remaining."

Elder Buran then looked at Rean and Roan before asking.

"Who are you? I'm sure you are not part of the Sky Piercing Sect. After all, there is no way we wouldn't know about two geniuses of your caliber appearing there. Not to mention that your Elemental Affinities are outside the five main elements range. That's one more reason that you are not that sibling's fellow disciples."

Roan smiled after hearing that.

"Indeed. We are not part of the Sky Piercing Sect. We are only using these siblings as a beacon to attract your sect's people to attack us. That way, we can gain combat experience."

Buran nodded.

"I see... In that case, why don't you help our sect instead? I can offer a good payment as long as you kill those siblings behind you."

Lana and Westren began to sweat. If the twins decided to change targets, they would be dead for sure.

However, Rean laughed out loud after hearing that.

"Hahaha! Payment? I'm sorry to throw it at your face, but we probably have more Spirit Stones than you. Besides, a Late-Stage Core Formation Realm target just appeared in front of us. How could we let such a chance to pass? You will be a perfect challenge for us."

Buran was taken aback. He thought that the twins would definitely try to run after seeing his cultivation. However, it seemed more like they wanted to fight him. Still, he didn't give up.

"Don't be so fast to refuse me. Our Heaven's Might Sect has more things than just Spirit Stones. For example, we can give you some Heaven's Might Water, which increases the foundation sturdiness. You can ask these two disciples of the Sky Piercing Sect about it if you don't know about it."

Rean and Roan were taken aback. Having breakthroughs is what they need the most at the moment. Suppose that Heaven's Might Water can really increase the foundation's sturdiness. In that case, that also means they will have an easier time stabilizing it.

Rean and Roan then looked at Westren and Lana, waiting to hear their answers.

The siblings knew that lying would be useless. After all, the Heaven's Might Sect name was created due to this water. As long as they search a little, they will find out that Buran wasn't lying. Instead, if they lie, they will just make Rean and Roan turn against their sect.

"It's true, the Heaven's Might Sect has a pond that accumulates the five elements from heaven and earth. Those who drink its water can increase the foundation's sturdiness, so their sect sees it as one of their greatest treasures. However, it only works up to the Core Formation Realm Peak Stage. After one enters the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, that water loses its effect."

Buran then laughed out loud.

"So what? By then, our foundations will already be much stronger than others. Wouldn't that be perfect? There are very few alchemists' pills that can achieve such a great effect. Not to mention that they are really expensive. As long as you put hard work into the sect's missions and duties, you are entitled to some Heaven's Might Water."

Buran continued.

"As you know, we are in a war at the moment. So the sect has taken out a lot of the Heaven's Might Water for those who contribute the most. With your strength and the fact that others would underestimate you because of your age, you can no doubt make a killing with our reward system."

Roan then asked something else.

"Could it be that you also have this water with you?"

Buran didn't find the question weird. Since the twins didn't know about Heaven's Might Water, they obviously wanted to confirm if it was real.

"Sure. I'll pass you a few drops. It's not enough to make any difference, but you can definitely verify its effectiveness."

Buran then took three bottles out. One had Heaven's Might Water while the other two were empty. He then poured three drops in each bottle and threw them at Rean and Roan.

The twins quickly grabbed the bottles. Then, they pretended to verify the contents. However, they were, in fact, doing something else.

'Sister Orb, how is it?'

[Wait a minute...]

[Done. I only checked if there were any detrimental effects or not. I still don't what it does either. However, I can tell that it won't do anything bad to your bodies or foundations.]

Rean and Roan nodded.

'That's more than enough.'

Finally, they opened the bottles and drunk the content inside. Sure enough, they felt some kind of energy rushing into their Dantians. However, they quickly noticed a problem. Like the siblings mentioned, this water was made in the pond that gathered the five main elements. The problem was that both Rean and Roan didn't have much affinity with any of the other Five Elements. Because of that, the effect of the water was reduced by a lot.

Of course, they could tell that it still worked nonetheless.

Westren and Lana looked at the twins nervously. After all, they didn't know which decision those two would make.

"Good, it really works, as you said."

Buran smiled after hearing that. However, just as he was about to continue to talk, the twins pointed their swords at him.

"Now then, since you already have so much of it with you, we might as well take our rewards earlier."

Everyone was taken aback, including Westren and Lana. Even they thought that Rean and Roan would end up selecting Buran's side.

Buran, of course, felt like he was played with, which enraged him.

"Hmph! I gave you a chance, but you failed to grasp it. Since that is the case, don't complain later when I send you to the next world."

Elder Buran's body immediately gathered Spiritual Energy and Earth Element. Right after, a layer of rock seemed to gather over his skin.

'Earth Armor!'

Without wasting any more time, Buran charged at the twins.

"Fast!"

Rean and Roan were taken aback. Even though Buran was an Earth Element user, his speed didn't lose to Okrin at all. In fact, he was even slightly faster!

Knowing that things got dangerous, Rean and Roan also didn't hold back.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

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Chapter 194: Dual Elements

Elder Buran saw the Light and Dark Element coming back and forth from Rean and Roan. However, he didn't want to give them time to use any skill, so he immediately stomped the ground.

'Earth Spike!'

Buran was much closer to the twins this time, so the earth spikes came out a lot faster. Not only that, but they came from behind the twins. Both the Earth Spikes pierced through Rean and Roan's bodies, quickly impaling them from the back. Seeing that, Elder Buran smiled, satisfied.

However, his smile quickly froze. That's because both Rean and Roan suddenly became specks of Light and Dark energy that drifted away.

'Not good!'

From both his sides, Rean and Roan appeared simultaneously!

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

Six sword slashes came at Buran. He knew that all of them were real, so he did not try to block them. Instead, he once again stomped on the ground, shooting himself in the air.

Roan's eyes narrowed, seeing that. Buran's reaction was much faster than he expected. However, it wasn't over. Out of nowhere, another Rean and Roan appeared from behind Buran, also rushing at him right after he jumped.

'Death Style, Fourth Form, Soaring Dragon!'

Buran couldn't believe it. He can see Rean and Roan on the ground, so where did these two come from? Not only that, he saw that the Rean and Roan on the ground used skills. Now, their copies were also doing the same thing, using skills!

'How are they doing it?'

Still, he didn't have time to think.

'Harden!'

Suddenly, his Earth Armor seemed to transform into metal!

\*Clang, Clang\*

The two Fourth Forms of the Death Style hit Buran. Blood gushed out, leaving deep cuts on his body. Not only that, but Roan's Dark Element immediately entered his body, destroying his Life Force while causing immense pain.

"Argh!"

Still, Buran was at the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. His Spiritual Energy pool was much bigger and stronger. He quickly channeled it on his injuries, promptly stopping the bleeding and locking Roan's Dark Element in place.

However, Rean and Roan didn't have any intention of giving him time to recover. They calculated his descending path and immediately rushed there. At the same time, the two energy clones that used the Fourth Form of the Death Style disappeared. On the ground, another two clones quickly took their place.

Those two clones immediately changed their instance and used their long-ranged attack at the falling Buran.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Buran noticed the two rays of Black and White Energy coming at him. However, he was prepared this time.

'Release, Gather!'



In a split of a second, his Earth Armor separated from his body and gathered in the form of a boulder under his feet. Buran then used that same boulder to change his falling position straight away.

Because of that, both clones' Stellar Piercers missed their target by a hair. Not only that, but the real Rean and Roan had to adjust their positions as well. Roan couldn't help but feel surprised by Buran's reaction. The Stellar Piercers were extremely fast, but he was still able to respond in time.

Of course, he knew why it was that. Buran had seen the twins using the Stellar Piercer before. So when he noticed the clones' instances, he knew that the long-ranged attacks would come. Still, that wasn't something that just anyone could pull off. It showed just how much experience Buran had in combat and especially how well he knew himself and his own skills.

Of course, Rean and Roan were not slow. Since they couldn't pinpoint the right position of his fall in time, they might as well hit the entire area!

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

Buran saw the two big arcs of White and Dark energy coming at him. This time, however, he wasn't idiot enough to put himself in mid-air with another jump.

"Hmph! Just because you injured me, do you think you have the advantage?!"

As soon as he touched the ground, he didn't stop. Instead, his body went underground at speed even faster than his descent was!

The twins were taken aback by that. However, Roan's cold mind didn't let the two of them lose focus. He immediately looked at Rean and nodded.

Rean understood what he meant and nodded as well.

Light Element once again gathered around Rean. However, it was not an attack this time. Suddenly, Rean and Roan jumped back in a specific direction. As for the place where they were a moment ago,

another two earth spikes appeared in a flash. This time, the Earth Spikes came out of the ground at least twice as faster. If not for their timely reaction, they would definitely have been hit by them.

Yet, Rean and Roan didn't stop. They kept jump right and left, back and forth, avoid several Earth Spikes that could come from anywhere. It was as if they predicted every attack.

The observers, Okrin, Lana, and Westren, were shocked by that. However, they were not as shocked as Buran himself!

'What?! Dodging once could be attributed to luck, but not several times in a roll. My cultivation is over an entire realm above theirs. It should be impossible for them to find my presence with Spiritual Sense while I'm hidden in the ground. Just how can they tell where I am?!'

That's because Rean was using Buran's Life Force to find his location under them. He might be able to hide his presence from Spiritual Energy, but as long as he is alive, he won't be able to conceal his Life Force!

'Keep dodging. This kind of Earth tunneling and fast Earth Element materialization definitely spends a lot of Spiritual Energy. If he continues like this, he will run out of energy way before we do.'

Rean nodded and did as Roan said.

Sure enough, the sudden flash spikes stopped in just a few moments. However, that didn't mean Buran gave up.

"You were really a surprise. In that case, let's see how you deal with this."

Suddenly, two different Elements gathered around Buran's body. Rean and Roan were shocked to see both elements flowing into the ground. This was the first time they had seen someone using more than a single element other than themselves.

"It's Water and Earth... He can use Wood Element!"

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Chapter 195: Don't Forget Me

They were right. Buran began to use both elements to manipulate the wood element.

"Hmph! So what if you know?!"

Right after saying that, the Wood Element spread around the ground with Buran's Spiritual Energy's help.

'Vine Forest!'

Hundreds of vines sprouted from the ground, quickly storming and Rean and Roan.

The twins tried to dodge. However, Rean was a step too slow, which was enough for one of the vines to attach to his leg. Rean immediately passed another order to his clone, who promptly used the second form of the Death Style to cut all the vines. Of course, he used his sword to cut it too. Roan also dodged the vines while using his clones to help Rean as well.

"Hehe! Do you think I will lose such a good change?!"

The ground all around Rean shined with bright yellow light for a moment. Right after, several Earth Spikes came from all sides while more and more vines locked Rean in place.

In the last moment, Rean contorted his body as well as he could. Also, he poured his entire Spiritual Energy into gathering Light Element to increase his strength. Thanks to that, he was able to dodge the majority of the Earth Spikes even in that situation. Unfortunately, two of them still impaled his body.

"Arrgh!"

Immediately, two enormous holes appeared in Rean's body. Right after, both Rean and Roan's Clones disappeared. Obviously, the Mirage Assault had been broken!

Roan was taken aback. However, he didn't stop and continued to rush at Rean. But right at that moment, Buran finally stepped outside of the ground.

"Where do you think you are going? He's already dead. Hahaha!"

Roan didn't lose his calm, though.

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

Buran saw that and almost laughed.

'Ground Shield!'

All the slashes hit an Earth Barrier that appeared between Roan and Buran. Buran didn't stop there. As soon as Roan's attack hit his shield, he punched the same shield in front of him as well. The shield then broke into several pieces that flew at Roan like bullets. Buran also used this chance to stepped forward to not give Roan time to recover. However, as soon as he gave the first step, he saw a ball of white light in front of him.

"What?!"

The ball immediately exploded like a flash grenade! That was a trick that Rean used all the way back in the Varen Tribe. It basically consisted of gathering Light Element in a single point and made it explode. It couldn't even be considered a skill to start with.

Simultaneously, Roan repeated the same attack again.

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

Buran was shocked that Roan didn't retreat when he punched the shield. That's because it meant Roan bore with the rubble that flew at him. Sure enough, the light only lasted half a second, and as soon as it disappeared, Buran saw Roan's body full of injuries.

"Hmph! Trying to bring both of us down together? Not so easy!"

Although Roan ignored the damage, he was still somewhat slow. Buran saw that and immediately stomped the ground to create another Earth Shield. However, before the shield materialized, he received a Spiritual Sense Message from... Rean!

'How can you ignore the most awesome twin, me?'

"Elder Buran, behind!"

Okrin tried to warn him, but that it was too late!

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

This time, Buran didn't have his Earth Armor anymore. Also, his attention was entirely on Roan since he was sure that the damage he caused to Rean would definitely kill him. Last but not least, the ball of White Light made him focus his attention on Roan in front of him rather than the surroundings. Those three factors ended sealing his fate.

Without having the chance to even look behind, Rean's three swords pierce his head, heart, with the last one cutting his neck.

Until the moment his conscience faded away, he kept thinking.

'How is he still alive?!'

Going back to the moment Rean's body was pierced, it was true that he received two fatal injuries. His normal Light Element Healing wouldn't be able to help him recover in time to return to the battle either. However, Rean had said it when the twins used his Life Style for the first time.

'Hey, are you ready to try one of the skills I came up with?'

Yes, 'skills' in the plural. Rean had created another one during his time healing the members of the sect. His ability to lock down the Light Energy and stop the wastage wasn't good for increasing one's strength only.

During that moment of life and death, he immediately activated his second one.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Of course, although Rean called it Instant Recovery, it was not like his Injury would immediately disappear. Not to mention that Rean had been impaled by two of the Earth Spikes. He had to first remove the pillars from his body before the injuries could start to heal.

However, the Life Style Second Form was who knows how many times faster than normal Light Element Healing. It was to the point that only Rean could achieve this effect. Roan could also use the Second Form, but his healing speed would definitely not be as fast as Rean. Even the extra Light Element from Roan's White Star Sword wouldn't be able to overcome the difference. That being said, Rean was able to recover two fatal injuries in a matter of seconds!

In fact, it could be even quicker. Unfortunately, Rean could only stop the leakage of Light Element by around 70%. He still has to improve his proficiency a lot. Also, every % extra was more challenging to achieve than the last one. Rean knew that he would need a very long time to eliminate the wasted Light Element by 100%. Nonetheless, the effects were already heaven-defying by themselves.

As for the battle's result, another critical point couldn't be forgotten, the mistake caused by none other than Buran himself. He used several Earth Spikes at once to hit Rean. Although only two hit the target, the rest was still there. All those Earth Pillars then hid Rean while he healed his body.

Well, in fact, it couldn't really be considered a mistake from Buran. He at least saw when Rean was impaled by the two Earth Pillars. With such injuries, no one should have been able to recover. If it was anyone else, they would be incapable of battling anymore even if they didn't die straight away. Too bad that he had encountered Rean this day.

Okrin was frightened when he saw Buran's head flying. Without wasting a single second, he immediately turned around to flee. However, he didn't expect that Westren and Lana would block his path right at this moment.

"Two punny Foundation Establishments are trying to block my path? Die!"

However, both Lana and Westren didn't feel the least bit scared due to the cultivation difference. That's because they knew that Okrin was at the end of his energies. Not to mention his injuries.

As for Lana and Westren, they didn't use much energy when they were dealing with the Foundation Establishment enemies that came with Okrin. After all, their job was basically to help to hold them back while Rean finished them.

Sure enough, Okrin was able to suppress Lana and Westren, but he didn't have the strength to kill them anymore. Not to mention that the two were making sure to not let him run away. It would be a disaster if he could call reinforcements right now. After all, they could see that Rean and Roan were exhausted. They definitely couldn't go through such a battle anymore before recovering their energies.

Lana and Westren did their best to pin down Okrin. It was to the point that they even allowed themselves to get severe injuries in the process. As spent as okrin might be, he is still a Core Formation Realm cultivator while the siblings aren't.

Their battle continued for half a minute. Just as the siblings were reaching their limits, they received a Spiritual Sense message from Roan.

'You aren't so bad, after all.'

Okrin instincts also told him that he was in immense danger. He quickly looked behind, just in time to see Roan rushing at him.

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

Okrin's face paled. He then gritted his teeth tried to breakthrough the siblings' blockage by brute force.

'Wind Barrier!'

Okrin was almost entirely spent, so even his Wind Barrier was practically ineffective. The siblings' next attacks ended hitting his body as his Wind Barrier reduced only one-third of the attacks' power. However, he ignored the pain and the blood flowing from his body and tried to dash forward. Without a doubt, that required an enormous resolution.

Too bad that resolution alone wasn't enough. Roan was still much faster than him. The third form of the Death Style hit his body, leaving three more huge cuts behind. Finally, Okrin couldn't move anymore and fell on the ground, indignantly.

'Just what kind of monsters are those twins?'

That was his last thought before passing away.

Roan then looked at the body on the ground and took a deep breath. He was also badly injured. Nonetheless, just like Rean, he could use the Second Form of the Life Style. However, as mentioned before, his healing speed couldn't compare to Rean himself. That being said, he took a few more seconds to recover enough. The rest of the time was spent rushing at Okrin's location that was a little far away after the end of their battle against Buran.

Roan then looked at Lana and Westren, who were covering their injuries with their hands before saying.

"Take everything you can."

Rean quickly arrived on his side as well.

"I'm ready here too."

The four of them immediately departed after that. That was the right decision. A few minutes later, a few more groups arrived, following the previous battles' commotion. Rean's group definitely wouldn't be able to deal with that amount of cultivators with their injuries.



Death... and me

#### Chapter 196: Super Effective

Rean's group first looked for a place to recover. Obviously, they didn't continue to move in the Sun Streak Mountain Range's direction. Fortunately, they were in the middle of a forest, so it wasn't that hard to find one in the end.

Right after, they began to recover their Spiritual Energy. Rean and Roan then brought all quite a few Rank Two Spirit Stones. Not only that, but Rean also threw a few of those Stones at Westren and Lana.

"You can use those to recover your Spiritual Energy. Once I've recovered enough, I'll heal your injuries too, so just concentrate on not making them worse."

The siblings nodded and accepted Rean's Spirit Stones. Still, they were quite impressed that Rean could take out Rank Two Spirit Stones that easily.

'It seems like he wasn't lying when he said that he probably had more Spirit Stones than the elder from before.'

Around one hour later, Rean finally got up again and approached the siblings. After that, he put his hands on their shoulders before gathering Light Element.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Suddenly, the injuries on Westren and Lana began to heal at high speeds. Nevertheless, because it wasn't his body, he couldn't heal them as fast as he can himself. Of course, compared to what he had to do before, it was still several times faster.

Around a minute later, all the injuries on their bodies disappeared without leaving a single scar behind. Fortunately, they didn't get any too serious one, or it might have been a problem if they had to wait until now.

Westren and Lana had seen Rean used this ability on himself. The same happened with Roan. However, it was the first time they were healed by them. Obviously, they were taken aback by the incredible feeling that comes while the Light Element enters their bodies. Both Westren and Lana were just a step away from moaning in delight. Yet, it might be because they still feel the adrenaline of the previous battle, but they were able to hold themselves back.

"Oh! Finally, some people who don't start making weird noises when are being healed. When I was in the Doctor's building healing everyone, they kept moaning all the time. During the first days, the doctors there looked at me with a weird face because of this. Just after a few weeks did they all understand that I wasn't doing that on purpose."

Westren and Lana didn't know who the people Rean healed were. However, they really couldn't blame them since they understood why that happened. Rean's Light Energy just feels way too good!

"Cough, cough... Forget about the moaning. Thank you for taking care of our injuries, Rean."

Rean smiled before nodding. After that, he returned to his position and continued to recover his Spiritual Energy. As for Roan, he simply ignored everything and focused on his recovery too.

Back where Rean's group killed Buran and Okrin, quite a few cultivators of the Heaven's Might Sect gathered. They kept guarding the place while waiting for someone to arrive. At some point, a man appeared beside Buran's body without the disciples even noticing. When one of them finally saw the person, he almost jumped in fright!

"Ah!"

"E-Elder Galef!"

The others quickly heard that name and looked at the man. Right after, they all bowed to him.

"Paying Respects to Inner Sect's Elder Galef."

Galef just nodded and kept examining the bodies.

'Weird... These injuries don't match the techniques of the elders of the Sky Piercing Sect. Also, why all their injuries were this rotten already?'

Obviously, that was because of Roan's Dark Element.

Galef then pondered a bit.

'Hum... The Sky Piercing Sect seems to have found some new helpers... Perhaps they employed some of the Shadow Reapers? There is a good chance that it is the case.'

A cold glint then appeared on Galef's eyes for a second before disappeared.

'I didn't expect that the Sky Piercing Sect would kill two Core Formation Elders so sudden. Most likely, the ones who came were at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm.'

'...'

'If I'm not wrong, the kids from the report were sent to catch our attention and make Buran abandon his post at the camp. When Buran finally arrived here, he was ambushed and killed. After all, there is no way that Foundation Establishment Kids could kill a Late Stage Core Formation Realm elder.'

Galef couldn't be blamed for thinking like that. Where would you find kids at the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment strong enough to do such a thing? Unless you were crazy, one wouldn't even consider the possibility.

'Still, the battle continued for a long time. From the looks of it, the one who attacked Buran and Okrin wasn't that much stronger than them. What should I do...?'

Galef then looked at the disciples around before asking.

"Has anyone seen these so-called freak kids?"

Everyone shook their heads.

"We sent quite a few disciples to look for traces, but it was as if they evaporated in mid-air."

Galef nodded.

"As I thought."

Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators could fly. Since no traces of their escape was left behind after such a long battle, Galef believed that they escaped flying. Of course, that couldn't be further from the truth. However, who could expect a master of killing like Roan to appear here? Things like covering one's tracks weren't anything hard for him at all.

Galef then looked at one of the disciples beside him.

"The report said that the kids were moving in the Sun Streak Mountain Range's direction. Get some groups to watch the routes to that place. Tell them that if they find anyone, they are prohibited from engaging in battle. Retreat and report it back to me first."

The disciple quickly accepted the order and left straight away.

However, Galef didn't believe that they would find anything.

'Sigh... Whoever did this is probably back in the Sky Piercing Sect's side already. There is no way they would continue this obvious journey to the Sun Streak Mountain Range. It will be impossible to catch them now.'

Still, Galef looked in the direction of the enemy's territory, and his expression changed into a cold smile.

'Hmph! Since you guys were bold enough to send a Core and Soul Fusion Realm here to kill our outer sect elders, then don't blame us for doing the same.'

Galef then ordered the disciples to bring Buran and Okrin's bodies back and left right after.

Little did Rean and Roan know, but their actions had just initiated a chain reaction in this war. At first, the elders were leaving the low-level disciples to battle without intervening. However, Buran's death changed everything. With that, the scale of the battles quickly escalated.

Of course, although the twins acted as a trigger, they only sped up the inevitable.

Back on the twins' and siblings' side, the four of them finally finished recovering their energy.

Roan then looked at Westren to ask something else.

"We can't use the same route anymore. After all, they will definitely station scouts around the area. Now that a Late Stage Core Formation Elder is dead, they will put a lot more attention into preventing meaningless deaths too. That being said, it will be quite hard to kill more members of their sect from now on. What I need from you is another route where we can enter the Sun Streak Mountain Range without being noticed."

Westren immediately asked.

"So... can we use a route that passes through our own territory first?"

Roan pondered a bit and nodded.

"It should be fine now. That last battle was enough for me to understand quite a few things."

Rean nodded as well.

"It was good indeed... even though I almost died. Ahem... Anyway, there is no need to poke the hornets' nest now that they are all waiting for us."

Westren couldn't help but sigh in relief. He also believed that continuing to use the same route would definitely be much more dangerous now. Maybe someone even stronger than that Late Stage Core Formation Realm elder could even appear. If that happened, Westren didn't believe they would be that lucky again.

"Alright, come with me. Considering the time we spent recovering and the distance we traveled since the last battle, I believe that this route should be pretty safe."

Rean couldn't help but mention.

"You seem to know this place pretty well."

Westren nodded.

"But of course. Before this war started, this region was part of our territory. I did quite a few missions in this place. There were quite a few demon beasts in this area too. Too bad that with the war, all of them ran away or were killed. I was used to getting quite a good number of demon cores here."

Roan immediately understood.

"Lana's fault, right?"

Westren's eyes lit up as he nodded vigorously.

"Who else if not her? Hahaha!"

Rean didn't understand, though.

Noticing Rean's puzzled face, Lana sighed before explaining.

"As you know, I'm also an alchemist. Quite a few types of pills need demon cores as catalysts. Well, since my idiot brother is almost always lazying around doing nothing, I had him come here to gather demon cores for me."

Westren's mouth twitched.

"Is that how you thank me for my efforts?"

"What effort? Who were the ones who used the pills in the end, uh? Be thankful that you have a sister who only charges you the price of the items and nothing else. Otherwise, do you think you would have enough Spirit Stones to buy the pills yourself?"

Westren immediately shut up after hearing that.

Seeing that, Rean couldn't help but remember a particular sentence.

"Westren received a Critical Hit. It's super effective!"

Too bad that only people from Earth would understand that reference. Still, Westren could at least tell that he was being made fun of.

"Ahem... Now, would you look at the time? We better get going!"

In the next second, Westren dashed away without even looking behind.

Rean and Lana laughed at each other before their group followed Westren as well.

Death... and me

Chapter 197: Consequences

Rean's group quickly made their way back to the Sky Piercing Sect side. From there, they followed another route that would also bring them to Sun Streak Mountain. They would only be considered inside the Heaven's Might Sect territory once they enter the mountain range.

On the way, they found a few disciples of their sect. However, as disciples of the same sect, they were able to pass without being barred by them. Not to mention that some even knew them.

The travel there was quite uneventful, much to Westren and Lana's relief. Finally, they arrived in front of the mountain. From there on, the one guiding them would be Lana instead.

"Alright. What will we do if we find disciples of the Heaven's Might Sect? Will we attack straight away or try to hide from them?"

Roan pondered a bit before saying.

"If there aren't many, we can attack. Otherwise, let's try to not catch their attention, or someone might escape and tell our position."

Lana and Westren nodded, and they left right after.

Meanwhile, on the Sky Piercing Sect's side, a group with several Foundation Establishment cultivators was wiped out. The culprit was none other than Galef, the one who examined Buran's body. After making sure that none was alive, he quickly hid his presence.

Sometime later, a few other cultivators of the Sky Piercing Sect arrived. As soon as they saw the corpses, they turned around and fled. Still, Galef didn't move from his place. He kept waiting until finally, a new group appeared once more.

The leader of the group happened to be a Core Formation Realm, just like Buran and Okrin.

He then looked around with his Spiritual Sense but couldn't find anything. That was to be expected. After all, Galef is in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Not to mention that the gap between him and that guy was more than one entire Realm.



Galef waited for him to get closer. Finally, he had the confidence to finish the guy and made his move.

\*Clank, clank, clank!\*

Suddenly, a chain appeared out of nowhere, quickly wrapping around the Core Formation Realm cultivator's neck. Not only that, but several other chains also spread around the area, preventing any of the Foundation Establishment disciples from escaping too.

"Chain Maniac, Galef!\*

Galef heard that and laughed.

"Hahaha! It's good that you know who I am. Because of that, I'll give a quick death."

The guy's face paled.

"Galef, it is still not time for people of your level to enter this war. Are you trying to escalate things?"

\*Crack!\*

As soon as the Core Formation guy said that, his neck was broken.

"Hmph! It's too late for that, don't you think?"

With that, the guy's body fell on the ground, dead. Galef then looked at the other disciples he had caught.

"You can go on your way too."

\*Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!\*

Just like that, a Core Formation Realm elder and several Foundation Establishment disciples died.

Galef didn't stay in the area, though. He immediately took whatever he found to be of some value and left straight away. Later that day, another two Core Formation Realm elders of the Sky Piercing Sect died as well.

Obviously, the higher-ups of the Sky Piercing Sect didn't stay put and moved out too. Soon, the battles didn't have only Foundation Establishment cultivators anymore, but Core Formation Realm ones.

As for the culprits for these sudden changes, they were in the middle of the Sun Streak Mountain Range looking for Midday Ginsengs. Lana seemed to really know where to go, so it didn't take long for Roan to find a few of the herbs he needed.

Although the one showing the route was Lana, the one walking in front was Roan. That's because he was much better at hiding and finding enemies. Thanks to that, their group always had the advantage. If the group was too big, they ignored it. If not, they didn't mind attacking them.

Lana and Westren, of course, caught all of the fallen enemies' badges. Later, they will be able to exchange them for war points in the Sky Piercing Sect.

The only thing that bothered Roan was that he found more disciples in the Mountain Range than he expected at first. Obviously, that made things harder to collect the herbs without catching much attention. It was then that they found a group of the Sky Piercing Sect battling the Heaven's Might one. Not only that, but Rean's group quickly noticed two Core Formation Realm cultivators exchanging blows in the middle of the skirmish.

Seeing that, Lana felt that something wasn't right.

"Why is Elder Sunder here? He was supposed to be on the feet of the mountain guarding the border of our territory."

Roan looked at her after hearing that.

"No wonder there were so many people of the Heaven's Might Sect around. Something might have happened that made him enter the enemies' territory."

Lana nodded. However, she didn't know that the Core Formation Realm cultivators were now participating in the war because of them.

Westren then looked at Rean and Roan, waiting to see what they wanted to do.

"What, do you want us to help them?"

The siblings nodded.

"Would that be a problem?"

Roan looked at the battle and could tell that Elder Sunder had the advantage in the fight. After pondering a bit, he nodded his head.

"You two can go. However, Rean and I will stay hidden. Don't worry, from what I can see, this battle will end with your side as the winner. Do one thing for me when you are there, will you? Ask your fellow disciples why they entered the mountain."

Lana and Westren thanked Roan and quickly joined the battle.

Rean then looked at Roan before asking.

"Is there something in your mind?"

Roan nodded.

"If I'm not wrong, this event is probably linked to us. Still, let's wait for Lana and Westren to come back to ask them the details."

Sure enough, it was, as Roan mentioned. Elder Sunder was obviously stronger than his Core Formation Realm opponent.

"Retreat!"

In the end, the guy fled as he shouted for the rest to run away as well. Although Sunder was stronger, he knew that killing the guy would be very difficult. That being said, he immediately changed his target and helped the Foundation Establishment Realm disciples to get rid of the rest.

"Alright, we are going back to recover; after that, we are entering the mountain again, so be ready."

Lana and Westren took the opportunity to ask one of the disciples that they were acquainted with. However, when they heard the reason behind elder Sunder's appearance, they began to sweat cold.

The two of them weren't part of Elder Sunder's group to start with. Instead, they were appointed as scouts, so their job was to move alone to start with.

Lana and Westren quickly returned to where Rean and Roan were waiting for them.

"We asked them what was happening. It seems like the elders of the Heaven's Might Sect entered our territory and killed three Core Formation Realm cultivator elders. Because of that, our sect began to retaliate as well. That's why Elder Sunder was here in the mountain. Not only him, but it looks like most of the Core Formation Realm elders already began to join the battle."

Lana then seemed to hesitate as if she wanted to say something. However, Roan already understood what was on her mind.

"If you are wondering if it had something to do with Buran's death, then you are probably correct. Well, there was Okrin too. The Heaven's Might Sect probably thought that your Sky Piercing Sect sent their

higher level cultivators to ambush Buran. That being said, they also retaliated on the same coin, killing Core Formation Realm elders of your side. Of course, this is all just a theory; I can't confirm it. Nevertheless, I'm pretty sure I'm right."

Lana couldn't help but ask.

"What should we do then?"

Roan shrugged his shoulders.

"Do what? Stop them? The only thing that bothers me is that the Sun Streak Mountain Range has many more scouts of the Heaven's Might Sect. As for the rest, I couldn't care less."

Rean agreed with Roan.

"He is right. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing. Let me ask you, do you think this war would have a peaceful ending?"

Lana and Westren were taken aback. However, they know how deep the grudge between both sects was, so they shook their heads in the end.

"Then that's it. Roan and I only sped up the inevitable. Sooner or later, it would escalate to this point. Who knows, the war might be over a lot earlier than expected. Also, you can't forget the main point here. Everyone who entered this war knew what could happen to them. Now, focus on your job and let us find these Ginsengs. By the time we are done, you will probably have enough badges to buy your way out of this mess."

Lana sighed.

"Alright."

She then pointed her finger in another direction and told Roan.

"If we follow that path, we should reach another area where a few Midday Ginsengs can be found."

Roan nodded and immediately dashed ahead. Rean and the siblings then followed him from afar. Just like that, they began their search once more.

\*Pin!\*

[The hosts' intervention changed the course of the war between two of the most prominent sects of the Qerten Country, successfully altering their Destiny.]

[Reward: 500 Destiny Points.]

Rean and Roan paused for a second. Right after, they smiled and continued what they were doing.

Death... and me

Chapter 198: Another Time

Surprisingly, Rean's group still found another Core Formation Realm cultivator during their time in the mountain. However, this one was even weaker than Okrin. To prevent him from fleeing, Rean and Roan joined forces from the very start, not giving him a chance to do so.

Of course, he also had a few Foundation Establishment Subordinates that tried to help. Unfortunately for them, the twins used the Fifth Form of the Death Style straight away. With Lana and Westren's help, they were able to prevent anyone from escaping too.

They also made sure to hide the bodies this time so that it would take longer for someone to find about their deaths.

Lana guided them around the Sun Streak Mountain Range for an entire day, allowing Roan to collect quite a lot of Midday Ginsengs. Roan believed that he got enough for several tests, and even if he failed many times, there would still be some for the pills themselves.

That being said, they decided to leave the mountain once more. Also, with that Core Formation Realm elder disappearance, the Mountain Range was bound to have even more scouts soon.

Rean and Roan followed the siblings back to their territory entrance, and from there, they made their way back to where they left Nana. The siblings' presence made things a lot easier while passing by the Sky Piercing Sect territory. Due to the escalation of the war, there were a lot more disciples of their sect around. That being said, their group couldn't avoid all of them. Thankfully, Lana and Westren's identities made things a lot easier.

Finally, they moved far enough from both sides.

The twins then stopped in their tracks and looked back.

"Alright, this far is enough already."

Lana and Westren were taken aback.

"Are you sure? We are far from the war zone, but there is still a chance that you will find a few scouts of our sect here."

Rean smiled before shaking his head.

"It doesn't matter anymore."

Seeing the puzzled expressions on Lana and Westren's faces, Rean turned around and looked at the skies. He then took a deep breath and gave a shout.

"Nana!"

A few moments later...

\*Creeeeee!\*

Suddenly, a loud cry came from the distance, alarming the siblings. It was then that they saw a white shadow falling from the skies. Obviously, that was none other than Nana, the Peak Stage Four Snow Crane!

Nana then gently landed beside the twins. It was so soft that it was hard to believe that Nana was really that big.

"As expected of a Snow Crane, you hate making things messy."

\*Cree!\*

Nana quickly lowered her head and rubbed it against Rean's body, much for his delight.

"Hahaha! I'm happy to see you too."

Seeing that, the siblings felt a chill on their backs. They could not tell how strong the Crane was at all! Their Spiritual Senses gave them no answer either. Obviously, the Crane far surpassed Stage Two and Three Demon Beasts.

Suddenly, Nana's expression changed as she looked in a particular direction in the forest.

\*Cree, Cree!\*

Rean smiled after seeing that, though.

"It's okay. It is just an elder of the Sky Piercing Sect that followed us here. He is only a Middle Stage Core Formation Realm cultivator, nothing for you to worry about."

Roan didn't seem surprised by what Rean said, but Lana and Westren were completely different.



"What?!"

They quickly looked back, just in time to see a man coming from behind a boulder while scratching the back of his head. Obviously, his expression wasn't very good.

"How did you know I was here?"

Rean smiled as he kept rubbing Nana's head. With Nana here, only a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator could possibly pose any threat to them.

Lana and Westren, on the other hand, quickly bowed to the man. Still, the shock on their faces didn't disappear. They didn't know they were being followed at all!

"P-Paying Respects to Elder Lyo."

Rean then explained.

"Oh, nothing much. Just make sure you are dead next time you follow us."

Lyo was taken aback.

'Dead your head! If I'm dead, how can I follow you?!'

Of course, with Nana there, he didn't dare to say those words.

"Errr... I didn't understand what you mean by that."

Rean shook his head.

"It's okay if elder doesn't."

Roan would always be in front to check the perimeters, but Rean didn't just follow him either. Every few kilometers, he would stop for a moment and gather the Light Element to scan the surroundings for strong life forces. Sure enough, he noticed Lyo at some point.

"By the way, why did elder Lyo decide to follow us?"

Lyo sighed before explaining.

"After I captured some of the disciples of the Heaven's Might Sect, I heard from them that they were looking for some twins. From the looks of it, they were used as bait to have some of their Core Formation Realm elders killed. However, I didn't know about any twins in our sect that fit the description. After investigating a little longer, I found out that Lana and Westren were seen with you two. Through them, I finally caught your tail and came as fast as I could."

Rean nodded.

"But you didn't do anything else other than following us, right?"

Roan then continued from there.

"That is simple. Since Lyo knew that we were 'used as a bait' to kill the Core Formation Realm elders of the Heaven's Might Sect, he was afraid that someone stronger than him was also following us around. Most likely, he is waiting for reinforcements before making a preventive strike."

Roan didn't say much, but hearing that was enough to make Lyo's expression change. Indeed, he was really waiting for another two elders he contacted to arrive. However, with that Snow Crane here, those two elders would be useless. Not only that, they might even die to it.

Rean then laughed when he saw Lyo's nervousness.

"Elder Lyo doesn't need to be worried. We are not going to attack you. After all, that would put Sister Lana and Brother Westren in a difficult position. We went to the Sun Streak Mountain Range to collect a few herbs. On the way, we bumped into them. Due to a few circumstances, we ended saving their lives. To repay the favor, they offered to guide us there."

Lyo then narrowed his eyes.

"Then why did you go through the Heaven's Might Sect territory? It would have been much better if you used our territory to arrive at the feet of the mountain first."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"If we did that, no one would attack us. The reason we selected this war zone was so that we could have some combat experience too. Besides, with Lana and Westren's yellow robes, we became like beacons of light in the night. They were very useful on the way. We even found a Late Stage Core Formation Realm. How good was that?"

Lyo was taken aback by those words.

"Wait! Wasn't it this Snow Crane that killed Heaven's Might Sect's Elder Buran?"

"Of course, not. Do you think we could bring a bird this big into the war zone without anyone noticing? Well, whether you believe it or not, that's not our problem. The fact is that we got rid of three Core Formation Realm elders for your Sky Piercing Sect. There is no need to thank us."

Lyo narrowed his eyes.

"Because of that, the Heaven's Might Sect began to send their Core Formation Realm to attack us ahead of time, you know?"

Roan, who had been listening to the conversation thus far, snorted.

"You talk as if a peaceful ending was possible between you two."

Lyo was surprised by that answer.

"Still..."

Rean raised his hand, stopping Lyo's next words.

"What is done is done. As for Lana and Westren, they were only dragged into this because of us. However, I won't have you stay silent about their actions for nothing."

Rean then began to make his way to Lyo's position. Lyo, of course, felt nervous. That's because the Snow Crane followed by Rean's side while showing him a threatening gaze. He didn't dare to try to flee since he knew he wouldn't be the Crane's match in speed.

Rean quickly arrived at Lyo's side and put his hand on his shoulder. Right after, his hair changed into a mix of white and black colors.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

"Arrrgh!"

Suddenly, Elder Lyo began to contort in pain!

That was the last skill Rean created. Rean came up with this skill during the time he healed the disciples at the doctor's building. However, the idea appeared in his mind when he healed Elder Tiria, who suffered from Umbral Energy contamination. Rean used the same principle as he used with Tiria. Dark Element to destroy whatever was attacking the body while the Light Element protected all the organs. The pain caused by the Dark Element was impossible to eliminate, though.

Of course, back then, it was nothing more than a gross use of Light and Dark Element. Not to mention that the process took several hours. But now, Rean could lock most of the Light Element inside,

preventing the wastage. Not to mention that his cultivation has also advanced since then. That's why he was able to change it into another skill of the Life Style.

The process only lasted for a single minute! Rean then took his hand off Elder Lyo's shoulder and jumped on Nana's back where Roan was already waiting.

"I hope this is enough to trade for your silence."

Elder Lyo looked at his body with a shocked expression. That was right, he had been afflicted by a poison a long time ago. However, the pill necessary to heal this kind of poison was far more expensive than he could hope to pay. His only comfort was that he was fast enough to stop the poison's spread with his Spiritual Energy.

Unfortunately, that also halted his cultivation completely. It has been over twenty years since his cultivation last progressed. He put his entire effort into saving enough Spirit Stones to buy the pill he needed. Still, he was quite far from it. That's because he also needed Spirit Stones to recover his energy and keep the poison at bay.

However, Rean got rid of it in just a minute! Other than the pain during the process, no other side effect could be felt at all! If anything, he felt quite reinvigorated.

"H-How did you know?"

Rean then pointed at his finger.

"The extremities of your fingers were dark. That was clearly a sign of poison contamination. From the way it looked, it seemed like you had been carrying it for a long time too."

Lyo couldn't help but nod his head.

"Twenty years... for twenty years, I've been bearing with the pain..."

Lyo then bowed his head.

"Thank you."

Rean smiled and patted Nana on the side.

\*Creee!\*

Nana then opened her wings and immediately took flight. Just like before, she used her Spiritual Energy to shield the twins as they disappeared into the distance.

Sometime later, the reinforcements that Lyo asked finally arrived. However, they were quite puzzled by what they saw. Lyo was known for always having a bad temper. But for some reason, he was happily chatting with Lana and Westren as if they were his lost children.

"Errr... Lyo, didn't call us to help capture someone?"

Lyo then looked at them with a beaming smile before saying.

"Oh! That's right. Don't worry, it was just a mistake on my part. By the way, let's quickly return. We have a war to win."

The other two elders then looked at Lana and Westren.

"What about these two?"

Lyo then looked at the siblings.

"Oh, them? Their talents caught my attention, so I made them my disciples."

The two elders felt like they heard something even more inconceivable. Everyone knows that Lyo, this grumpy fellow, hated interacting with others, let alone teaching. How come he took a disciple? Not to mention that it was even two at once!

Of course, the ones really shocked were none other than Lana and Westren themselves.

As for what happens next, that's a story for another time.

Death... and me

Chapter 199: Back to the Sect

With Nana's speed, Rean and Roan only took another day and a half to arrive back at the teleport formation prepared for them. Thanks to the fact that only Hulian and the Sect Master knew about it, the place was pretty safe for the twins. Well, Nana also knew about it, but Rean wasn't afraid that she would go out to tell others about it.

After leaving them there, Nana retook flight and went somewhere else. As for the twins, they entered the small hut that had the teleport formation and took some Spirit Stones out. After putting them in the right positions, they activated the teleport formation, quickly appearing inside the Dalamu Sect once more.

"Phew... we are finally back."

Roan nodded.

"Let's go talk to Hulian. After that, I'm going straight back to try out the new concoction methods."

Rean nodded, and the two returned to the sect. However, when they appeared there again, everyone looked at the two with surprised expressions. Obviously, Rean and Roan noticed it.

"Were we that famous before?"

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Famous your head! Something must have happened. Anyway, we can ask Hulian, so let's speed up."

Soon, they arrived at the Inner Sect and were brought to Hulian's house. There, they finally got the chance to report that everything worked fine on their end.

"That's good. It seems like the secret teleport formation we prepared for you was used correctly. If you need to leave for a mission again, don't forget to report to me. By the way, did you like Tiria's surprise?"

Rean couldn't help but laugh. Elder Tiria was Nana's owner. Obviously, he was talking about the fact that she was lent to them for this journey to Qerten.

"Hahaha! That was great! It only took us a single day to arrive in Qerten, so we saved a lot of time. Otherwise, we probably would still be on our way there."

Hulian nodded, satisfied.

"That's good then. However, don't expect it to happen all the time. It was an exceptional occasion only. We can hide the fact that Nana would be used by you once or twice, but others will be suspicious if she disappears every time you do."

Roan wasn't very patient, so he asked what was bothering him in the end.

"When we passed through the sect, we noticed that everyone was looking at us. Why is that?"

Hulian nodded. It was evident that he was waiting for this question.

"As you can probably imagine, it is because of the ambush we prepared for the Umbral Sect elders. Back then, we got two disciples to play your role. Sure enough, they fell for it, and we gave them a huge blow."



"With Sect Master present, they simply had no chance, so the two Nascent Soul Realm elders who came after 'you two' were killed without issues. However, the battle's result ended spreading out. Everyone wanted to know why two Nascent Soul Realm elders of the Umbral Sect targeted two kids. In the end, they found out that it was because you guys can Heal Umbral Energy without the use of any pills whatsoever."

Rean and Roan immediately understood. Obviously, they became the target for all the Umbral Sect members who used Umbral Energy.

"That makes things a lot more complicated. After all, there will be no lack of greedy people who would happily sell information about what we are doing or where we are going to the enemy. Everyone was looking at us because they think we bought a fight against an entire sect. I won't be surprised if most of them think that we are already dead."

Hulian sighed and nodded in the end.

"Correct. However, it is not all bad news. The fact that you can heal Umbral Energy also caught the attention of several cultivators who don't have the means to do it themselves. After all, only at the Nascent Soul Realm would they be able to use their stronger Spiritual Energy to 'oh so slowly' drive the energy out, like Tiria was doing before meeting you. Because of that... well..."

Rean immediately understood.

"We will probably receive a lot of guests during the next days, correct?"

Hulian nodded.

"As to how you intend to use those connections you will make, that is up to you. Anyway, seeing as you can heal Umbral Energy and everyone knows about it, you became an essential asset of our sect. After all, you can save us a lot of money with those extremely expensive pills. Not to mention that you can finish it in less than a day. The pills would still need us to use a month or two. That being said, would you like us to assign you a protector?"

Combat-related issues were all Roan's field, so Rean simply looked at him, waiting for his answer.

Sure enough, Roan shook his head straight away.

"That's not necessary. If we get someone protecting our asses everywhere we go, we won't be able to experience real combat. Even though it would make no difference in my state of mind, I'm still afraid that this idiot here will get complacent."

Rean's mouth twitched, but he refrained from commenting.

Hulian narrowed his eyes.

"In that case, you will need to have a plan every time you go out. At least until you can protect yourselves if more assassins appear."

Roan nodded.

"As long as you can provide those hidden teleport formation, I can take care of the rest. It's not like disguising is anything that hard to start with. However, you better get someone to stay beside Rean when he is healing those... visitors. I wouldn't be surprised if one or other suddenly tried something while he is healing them."

Hulian wasn't surprised with that last part.

"We know. We will have one of the Core Elders to be beside him all the time when he is treating the outsiders. At the same time that it is good to make connections and have others owing you favors, you can't be complacent either."

Rean also took the opportunity to ask how the new communication system project was going.

"Oh, nothing much has changed yet. You two were gone for four days only after all. However, it was still enough time to connect Majorias City with Gapan City. Now, both cities are connected to the Mission Hall and the Sect Affairs Office."

"Sect Affairs Office? Does it mean that you are using two cables instead of one to get more information?"

Hulian nodded.

"That was the idea. After all, only the Mission Hall having it was way too inconvenient."

Rean nodded his head and then shook it right after.

"Having two cables is a good thing. After all, if one fails, the other is still there as back up. However, you are using it the wrong way."

Hulian got puzzled.

"How come? Both formations in the Mission Hall and the Affairs Office are working pretty fine."

Rean shook his head once more.

"That is not it. What I meant was that you didn't need two cables for each connection. Anyway, can you tell Elder Droman Saliu to come to see me? There are a few ideas I had that I want to explain to him. Also, keep using two cables in the project, but there is no need to use each one for a single building."

Hulian immediately nodded. Rean was the hidden head behind this project, so they would definitely try any idea he comes up with.

"Very well."

The twins and Hulian then talked for a while longer. After that, Roan went straight to Old Worm's Hut as Rean returned to his room. On the way, he decided to ask Sister Orb something else.

'Sister Orb, how are our Destiny Points? We got 300 from Roan's Low-Level Earth Alchemist's Title and another 500 from that War change, after all.'

[Well, as you probably can imagine, you two already surpassed the 1000 Destiny Points mark. To be more specific, you guys have 1339 points at the moment. You got an additional 100 points from the death of the two Umbral Sect Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. The rest was all from the new communication system.]

'As expected, the death of two Nascent Soul Realm experts can't even reach the feet of the initial stage of the communication system.'

[That was obvious. Even if the entire Umbral Sect was to perish right now because of you two, it would still not give you as many Destiny Points as the communication system. Anyway, that change in the war and the death of the two Umbral Sect Elders sects was really a heavens blessing. If not for that, you would probably need another two to three months before accumulating the necessary 1000 Destiny Points.]

'Well, even if that was the case, we would have been far ahead of schedule. Now, we only need the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.'

As Rean and Roan occupied themselves with their own things, the news that they were back in the sect quickly spread. As one can expect, several figures began to make their way to the Dalamu Sect.

A few hours later, Elder Droman finally arrived and sent someone to call Rean over. Obviously, Rean went to see him straight away in the Formations Hall. Soon, he was brought into a private room where Droman was already waiting for him.

"Good, you came already."

Ran smiled before saying.

"I thought Elder Droman was in another city supervising one of the formations being constructed. I didn't expect you to come back this fast."

Droman shook his head, though.

"For you to request my presence, it definitely has something to do with the formations. Obviously, I take it very seriously. Anyway, what is it that you wanted to talk about?"

Rean nodded and began to explain.

Death... and me

Chapter 200: A Network Problem

"It's not so hard to use a single cable for several places to communicate. Simply put, you just make the formations that send the message to have a specific signal in front of them."

Droman's eyes lit up.

"You mean like an identification?"

Rean was happy to see how fast he understood.

"Hahaha! Exactly! For example. We have two places in our sect that have communication formations, right? Let's give them a number. The Mission Hall will be Number 01, and the Affairs Office will be Number 02. Suppose someone in Majorias City wants to send a message to the Mission Hall. His Formation will then add a signal representing the number 01 together with the signal of the message."

"Since both the Mission Hall and the Affairs Office are using the same cable for communication, both of them will receive the signal. However, only the communication formation in the Mission Hall will display the message since it has the number 01 in front. The Formation of the Affairs Office will completely ignore that signal since it was made to only display signals that had the number 02 in front."

"That's not all. At to moment, you guys are all doing a one way only communication system. If someone is using a cable to send a message, the other side has to wait before answering it back. Otherwise, both signals will bump on each other on the way, making it impossible for both sides to receive the message."

"However, you are already doing a two cables project, right? Make one of the cables being able to only send information while the other only receives. With Elder Droman's mastery of formations, I know who can definitely modify the existing formations for this purpose. After all, they are simple Lightning Type formations. You just need to work on different outputs of Electrical Currents that are used as Signals."

Droman couldn't help but feel excited about the idea. In theory, it should really work. That means they will be able to connect all the important places in the Dalamu Sect while using just two cables instead of tens or hundreds of them. How good would it be? Just how much better and efficient would this communication system become? But it was then that Droman thought about a problem.

"Wait, but what will happen if two places decide to send a message at the same time? I know that the time needed for a signal to be sent is extremely small. It's even less than a hundredth of a second. That being said, the chances of two signals encountering each other when they enter the same cable is minimal. Still, the chance exists."

Rean heard that and had to admit that it was a problem. Electrical signals don't recognize which direction to take. Suppose you have three buildings in Majorias City that want to send an electrical signal to Dalamu. At the moment, those three buildings' formations are connected to the same cable that goes to Dalamu Sect. In that case, when one of them sends an electrical signal, it will not go to the Dalamu Sect only. That signal will also enter those other two Buildings' Cables since they are also connected. That means that this specific signal will move in the opposite direction when it goes to the other two buildings. If, by chance, someone on those other two buildings tries to send a message at that exact moment, this message signal will collide with the previous signal that was coming in its direction.

One must remember that Rean's knowledge about electrical signals is not that great. After all, he was a metallurgist. The things he knows about electronic equipment are the same as any college student would know back on Earth. If you asked Rean to build a circuit, he wouldn't know where to even start. Obviously, he didn't think that far about it. Also, Droman's concern was valid as it could be. Although the chances of such a thing happening are low at the moment, it will increase as more and more cities are added to the web.

'If things continue like this, they will suffer the thing that most of the gamers back on Earth feared the most, the loss of packets...'

Rean lost count of how many times he heard his classmates complaining that their internet connection was terrible. Things like too many people in the same connection or not enough bandwidth because someone's sister watched whatever video. There wouldn't be space for the communication to work its wonders.

However, Rean wasn't dumb as he was in his previous life due to his soul problem. Besides, he has something that Earth doesn't. Spiritual Energy and several skilled Formations Masters, Droman included, that could work on his ideas. That being said, he quickly thought about two solutions to this problem.

"Elder Droman, I'm happy to see that you could think that far about the communication system. Even I let that point pass without noticing it. However, I have two possible solutions for it. One is cheap and easier to be implemented. However, this cheap one will not resolve the root of the problem. Not to mention that it will bring other issues to the table too. Still, it works."

"The second one would probably resolve this issue for good. However, this one will definitely be a lot more complicated. I don't even know whether the Formations Master, Elder Droman included, would be able to realize this idea of mine or not. Not to mention that it would definitely be more expensive."

"Which one would you require?"

Droman narrowed his eyes. This is an enormous project. Obviously, the sect was spending a lot on it. If they could cut costs, that would be the best-case scenario. However, Droman deeply hated half-assed jobs. He is the head of the Formations Masters Hall. He always did his very best when it came to formations. Just hearing about this 'cheap solution that won't really resolve the main root of the problem' already made him feel goosebumps.

"Before I make a decision, what are the two solutions?"

Rean nodded and then explained.

"The first solution is the 'answer requirement modification.' Elder Droman, you know very well that the signals travel at extremely high speeds. It can make its way from Majorias City all the way to Dalamu Sect in a hundredth of a second. That being said, you will need to make one more simple modification to the formations. It is quite straight forward. Once a formation sends a signal, it will also require an answer from the other side's targeted Formation."

"That being said, make it a three seconds requirement or something like that. This 'answer' is basically the receiving Formation sending a signal back to the sender saying 'I received this signal from you' kind of message."

Droman immediately understood what Rean meant.

"I see... If the sender's Formation doesn't get this answer in three seconds, it will try to send the message one more."

Rean nodded.

"Exactly. However, I believe Elder Droman can already tell what's the problem with this solution, right?"

Droman sighed as he confirmed Rean's suspicions.

"Yes. The problem is in the 'answering message.' Suppose this 'answer' bumps on another message on the way. In that case, the 'sender formation' will not receive the 'answer' even though the message was transmitted correctly. Once that happens, the 'sender formation' will once again resend the same message. It will then continue to do this until it finally gets an answer."

Rean nodded his head, satisfied.

"It is indeed a lot better to talk with intelligent people like elder Droman."

"Hmph! Don't think you can win me over with flattering."

Even though he said that, it would be a lie if he said he wasn't happy. He, too, is loving this conversation about new types of formations. It is an entirely new branch never used before. The proof of it was that even the Imperial family was delighted to hear about it and heavily rewarded their sect for that.

Rean wasn't trying to flatter Elder Droman, though. He really thought that this man was a lot more quick-witted than others. It was clearly the fruits of working in complex formations during his entire life.

"Anyway, the problem with this solution doesn't stop there. Because of the continuous tries of failed answers, all the formations will keep trying more and more. Once a lot of cities are added to our web,



the formations might overload with information. Ultimately, more and more failed answer will accumulate, making the number of times the sender tries to send their messages increase. It will reach a point of no more space on the communication system's cables, and the network will crash."

"Network? What is that?"

Rean was taken aback by a second. Only now he remembered that this word doesn't exist in this place.

"Ahem... that's just a name I came up with to describe the whole system. If Elder Droman has a better idea, I don't mind using yours."

Droman shook his head, though.

"It's okay. For some reason, I feel like this name fits perfectly. You have quite a good sense for names, young man."

Rean scratched the back of his head after hearing that. If just it was really his idea... Too bad, he is just a copycat. Everything he said so far was based on the things he experienced in his previous life.

"Errr... Anyway... I believe Elder Droman understands why this solution is cheap, but at the same time, far from perfect."

Droman nodded his head vigorously. He could already see the formations literally breaking down because of the issue. Unless the other idea is impossible to realize, he definitely won't take this one.

"Then, what's the second solution?"