

Death 1951

Death... and me

Chapter 1951: Same Strategy

Tampering something made by a strong being like Placake was always risky. That's why Rean took great care with the removal. "Sister Orb, can you see anyone coming to the room where the claws are located?"

[You can see the outside, too, no? Anyways, I can't see anyone.]

Rean and Roan nodded after hearing that. "Better to be safe than sorry. Let's go."

Rean and Roan's appearance then immediately changed, making them look like some random member of the System Sect. They didn't use the Circuitry Teleport Formation in the Dimensional Realm, though. That thing would teleport them randomly in a specific direction. The experts watching the System Sect know where the exits of its teleport formations were located. So it would be too suspicious if the twins suddenly appeared somewhere different.

Instead, the twins came out of the Dimensional Realm and went to the Mission Hall, using the exact same method as Fay and Alen did. Even now, Restlar and Animo were pretending to be Fay and Alen. It's just that they rarely showed their faces with the excuse that Roan was giving them some special training. Roan was famous for his control over the entire sect's training schedules, so it was pretty normal for a lot of people there to receive such attention every now and then.

Rean looked at Roan as he took one of the missions in the Mission Hall. 'So, are we truly not going there?'

Roan nodded, telling him, 'We told Calina and Qia that we were heading to the Floating Islands of Time. However, I would rather not risk it. That's because we have Kentucky, so that place will probably be searched once we disappear. The best thing is if no one really knows where we're going.'

'Then the devils' territory it is,' Rean replied.

That was correct. Chances might be low, but Roan still thought it was possible that the demon beasts would look for them in the Floating Islands of Time. Simply put, since Kentucky was part of that race, it wasn't like they would have a better idea.

'It has been such a long time since those islands existed. If the fragment hasn't been extracted until now, then it won't be anytime soon. We can come back later instead.' That was the new plan in the twins' roster.

However, it was a fact that neither Rean nor Roan knew of any fragment located in the devils' territory. The only place related to the devils that had fragments was the Underworld! Rean and Roan decided to visit the Underworld first, as it would be the last place anyone would try to find them.

They entered a teleport formation in the System Sect and appeared at one of its exits with two more sect members who were on another mission. However, Rean and Roan simply ignored them and departed straight away. Since they had Rean's Divine Sense bending skill, they could feel the powerful Divine Sense watching over this region. It was the same anywhere near the System Sect and the Dragon Race's territory.

Of course, they didn't show any reaction and simply flew away. Because of the distance of that Divine Sense, Rean could use his Divine Sense bending skill to hide their cultivation. Whoever was watching was just too far away to use their natural spatial perception to tell that the twins were, in fact, Void Tempering Realm cultivators. Natural spatial perception had always had a range far shorter than Divine Senses, after all.

'Where do we go from here?' Roan asked through their Soul Connection.

Rean pulled out a jade slip and checked the information inside. Since the demon beasts, humanoids, and spirits were preparing to invade the devils' territory, many antennas had to be built close to its borders. Rean participated in many of the discussions to find the best places to create the network in the demon beasts' territories. With that, he naturally had access to many of the maps. 'We need to travel a few days northeast. There's a city controlled by the Dragon Race there with a super long-distance teleport formation. We can use it to teleport to the borders of the devils' territory.'

Roan nodded in response. 'Did you prepare the Formation Badge?'

'But of course!' Rean immediately confirmed.

The System Sect had to send Formation Masters everywhere for the expansion of the communication system. These Formation Masters obviously had to be identified somehow. And so, that's where the Formation Master Badges came into play. They could only be created in the System Sect and could be used in any major city of the demon beasts' territory for access to teleport formations and other services.

One must remember that the demon beasts only used these kinds of teleport formations. Short-distance teleport formations practically didn't exist since the number of demon beast cities was several times lower than humanoid ones. Each one was always located just too far away from the other.

'The question is whether Placake will notice that we disappeared.' Roan obviously understood the main issue.

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. 'The Rank Four Divine Stones should last at least a few weeks. There have been many times when we had to isolate ourselves in the System Sect, so it shouldn't be anything new to him. Qia, Calina, and Zuo will also cover for us. Besides, if we don't take the long-distance teleport formations, we'll have to fly with Kentucky all the way to the borders. We might be in the Void Tempering Realm, but it would still take us several years if we do that.'

Roan agreed with Rean. 'I know that. As soon as we get out of the range of this Divine Sense, we'll bring Kentucky out and fly full speed to the city. Kentucky's speed will save us a lot of time.'

Rean and Roan were right. Calina and Qia stayed near the claws with the Divine Stones and appeared every once in a while, saying that Rean and Roan were working on their cultivation technique. Placake only found the twins' lack of movement weird when Rawor contacted him, saying that he needed to see Rean and discuss a few things but couldn't get permission in the System Sect for that. Unfortunately for them, two weeks had passed by then.

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Chapter 1952: Out Of Reach

"What do you mean they left?" Placake's mood obviously soured as soon as he heard Calina and Qia's words. Soon after, Placake used his Spatial Powers to envelop the area where his tracking claws were

located. Sometime later, the space around the claws warped before they were suddenly teleported to Placake's side. Even the System Sect's defenses could do nothing about it.

As one can imagine, it was useless. All he got was a pair of light blue claws and two Divine Stones attached to them. The twins were simply nowhere to be found. "This..."

Placake looked at the claws in dismay. He couldn't believe that his claws had been removed from inside the twins' bodies without him noticing anything.

Linfia also took a look at that and was just as impressed. "Their Divine Energy... it's the same! The Divine Energy from these Divine Stones is exactly the same as the twins' ones."

However, that didn't matter to Placake. He could also make Divine Stones carrying his own Divine Energy by running it inside his body and then returning it. What he couldn't believe was that anyone could remove his claws instead. He was confident that even someone at the same level as him wouldn't be able to do it without him feeling anything.

He then looked at Calina and Qia with a dark expression. "How did they do it? Speak! Also, you better tell me where they are right now!" Obviously, he had already spread out his Divine Sense. However, the twins were nowhere to be found.

Qia just smiled in response and took out a jade slip. "Here, Senior Placake. Rean asked me to deliver it to you."

Placake looked at Linfia and the others before taking the jade slip. Right after that, everyone sent their Divine Senses inside.

-Hello, Senior Placake. I hope you're doing well. Roan and I had some business to deal with, so we'll be taking our leave. Unfortunately, even though I can remove your claws from inside our bodies, it only works for Roan and me. With that said, we decided to leave Qia, Calina, Zuo, and the rest of the System Sect under your care. Don't worry. I've already concluded my part of the deal between us. Rawor and the other Formation Masters now know everything they need to know about Circuitry Formations.-

Of course, Rean didn't stop there.

-Oh, and you better treat them well. Just keep things the same way as they've been so far. Qia, Calina, Zuo, and the rest of the System Sect will be your guarantee that we won't spread any information about your communication system's secrets. However, I'm still the creator, so I can definitely think of a way to take it down from afar. As long as I'm close enough to one of the antennas, I can definitely make it possible. I'm sure you don't want such a thing to happen.-

-As for how we removed your claws, that will have to stay a secret. We haven't even told our wives and kids about it, so you can use a Soul Binding Contract on them as much as you want. But of course, that will be useless.-

-Then again, it's not like we haven't warned you before. Do you remember the day we met? The day that both humanoid and demon beast races almost fought for Havek and me? That day, Roan and I told you that we could escape anytime we wanted, which wasn't a lie. Just because you put a tracker on us didn't mean we had no way of dealing with it. In the end, you relied too much on the difference in cultivation between you and us. Perhaps this will serve as a reminder for you to be more careful in the future.-

-Last but not least, Roan and I will be back one day. Just make good use of Qia's ability in formations. She does know a lot of my stuff as well. Considering what has happened, I doubt you will let her or the others even enter a place where your Divine Sense can't see them anyway. By the way, if Roan and I are still inside the communication formation's range, you can contact us through the communication badge.-

Placake and the others looked at Qia, Calina, and Zuo after that. Their hands were pretty much tied up because of Rean's warning. They better treat the girls well, or Rean could use some method to take the entire communication system down.

Placake quickly shifted his attention to Rawor. "Is what he said true? You and your group learned Circuitry Formations from Rean and his Formation Masters all this time. Can you tell whether he left some mechanism capable of disabling and making it all useless from afar?"

"I don't believe so..." Rawor spoke his real thoughts. After these two decades, he thought that he or the other Formation Masters would have noticed if such a thing existed.

"You believe so?" Placake didn't like the answer, though. "Do you believe so, or are you certain? I need certainty! Are you absolutely sure that such a loophole doesn't exist?" The attack against the devils was set to start in a few decades. Placake's demon beast race couldn't take any chances.

"I... am not absolutely sure." Unfortunately, Rawor couldn't guarantee it. He looked at the other Formation Masters who also worked on the communication system, but they all shook their heads.

"I mean, we're confident that we didn't let anything pass through. But then again, Rean was the creator. He might have done something at the start when our knowledge of Circuitry Formations was still scant. Perhaps something that he hasn't taught us is capable of achieving this result."

"Go check," Placake immediately ordered. "Look at everything. I hope nothing happens for your own good."

Right after, Placake took his communication badge out. Obviously, he also received one of those from the System Sect. Although the System Sect used a different one from the demon beasts, he quickly input Rean's communication badge number, hoping to get connected. Unfortunately...

-Device out of reach.-

Rean's communication badge was not in range anymore.

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Chapter 1953: Fluki's Plan

At that moment, the twins were in front of the Gods' Dividing Barrier. As mentioned before, the Gods' Dividing Barrier was what separated the cardinal sides of the Realm of Gods. Unlike the normal continental barriers, it had little effect on those below the Space Bending Realm. However, the higher one's cultivation was beyond this level, the harder it was to get through.

Nevertheless, there was a problem. "So, Roan, the Gods' Dividing Barrier is full of spirits around the same level as us. How will we pass through without being noticed?"

That was correct. Back then, the twins used the Drugo Organization's pass to get into the spirit races' territory and, ultimately, into the demon beasts' territory. There were tunnels in several traversal cities that allowed them to get to the other side. Unfortunately, it wasn't the same thing in relation to the devils. After the devils conquered the Essence Races' territory, such tunnels were closed.

Now there were only the Gods' Dividing Barrier and the Continental Barrier Spirits that stayed inside all the time. Not to mention that Fluki wasn't part of the spirit races used that protected and kept a watch on it.

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before saying, "There's only one way. We'll have to pass through as fast as we can. This barrier doesn't affect cultivators at our level, so we should rush through it."

Rean was taken aback. However, he immediately understood why Roan offered such a plan. "I see... the spirits are here for the sake of keeping watch over the devils and stopping a possible invasion. They won't expect someone trying to enter the devils' territory instead."

"That isn't all." Roan nodded and began to add, "The barrier affects those at the Space Bending Realm and above, so we won't find any spirits above that level. At our current strength, do you think a bunch of spirits can stop us?"

"However, wouldn't the spirits then inform the demon beasts?" Rean asked back. "What if they call Placake or someone at his level to capture us? We won't be able to escape those guys if we can't get through. We will be as good as captured."

Roan shook his head in response. "I don't think it'll happen. In any case, it's worth a shot."

Suddenly, Kentucky talked to the twins from within the Dimensional Realm. 'I wouldn't do that if I were you.'

The twins' attention was obviously piqued. 'Why do you say that?'

'Simple,' Kentucky explained. 'If you're seen entering the devils' territory in such a manner, the demon beasts might think we're allied to them. If they really reach such a conclusion, what do you think will happen to Calina, Qia, Zuo, and the System Sect? Do you think Placake will believe that we won't say

anything to the devils if he thinks we're their allies? First of all, the reason we're entering the devils' territory in the first place is that no one would expect that we would do that.'

'This...' Even Roan was surprised by Kentucky's words. 'He's right...'

'I didn't expect we would miss this point.' Rean was happy that they didn't go ahead with the first plan.

Roan decided to bring Kentucky and Luan out after that. Luan, of course, also told Fluki to come out of his forehead.

"Fluki, you heard everything, right? Do you have any idea of how to pass through without being detected? At the very least, do you know some way of not allowing the Continental Barrier Spirits to not notice Roan and I are there?" Rean asked.

Fluki pondered in silence for a bit and nodded in the end. "Your original idea was to pass through the barrier super fast, right? You kept my existence hidden from the demon beasts during the years we stayed there. If I put you two in my mouth and pass through fast enough to the point no one would stop me, it should count, no? You two weren't supposed to know any spirit."

"But can you do that?" Roan narrowed his eyes in response. "Your cultivation follows Luan's. Luan is at the Peak Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm, so I believe it's the same for you."

Two decades was a lot of time, so Luan's cultivation improved greatly. In fact, it could have gone further, but Roan always insisted on prioritizing a strong foundation over higher cultivation.

Talking about cultivation, two decades was enough for the twins themselves to go up two more stages. After all, the System Sect was located inside the Dragon Race's territory. With that said, that territory itself had higher Divine Energy. Since the Dimensional Realm always had 50% more Divine Energy than the outside world, it became a cultivation paradise for Celis. Not to mention the many Divine Stones the twins had in their hands.

Rean had to spend time on the Circuitry Formations and the Formation Masters. However, Celis, Kentucky, and Roan could spend a lot of time cultivating since they weren't knowledgeable about those formations at all. On top of that, Celis, Kentucky, Rean, and Roan's cultivations were linked. Thus, their

group was now at the Late Stage of the Void Tempering Realm. In fact, their last breakthrough was just a year ago or so.

Rean agreed with Roan. "You might find spirits at the Void Tempering Realm inside. Transition Realm ones are practically guaranteed. What can you do in that case? Can you even run?"

"If it's only Transition Realm ones, I should be fine." Fluki didn't seem too concerned. "Don't forget that Kibins are stronger Continental Barrier Spirits. As for the Void Tempering Realm ones, I can escape if it's really necessary."

That was a first for Rean, Roan, and Luan. "You didn't mention that back when we wanted to traverse the Gods' Dividing Barrier into the spirit races' territory."

Fluki smiled in response. "Back then, my cultivation wasn't anywhere near what it is now either. Don't worry. I can do it. Besides, I'm quite curious to see what the devils' territory looks like after so long. Then again, it's not like you have a better choice anyway. If things go south, just jump out of my mouth and force your way through. You can deal with the aftermath later."

Hearing that, the twins could only go with Fluki's plan.

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Chapter 1954: Slow and Fast

It was then that Luan raised his hand. "Father, let me try if I could see the spirits inside the Gods' Dividing Barrier. I should be able to see them from far enough and help Fluki avoid them."

Roan and the others looked back at Luan in response. They all knew that Luan's eyes could see the elements. However, all continental barriers were filled to the brim with them. Back when Luan tried to do it, he felt more like he was blind than seeing anything better. "Will you be able to separate the spirits inside the barrier from the Elements themselves?"

Luan nodded, replying, "My eyes have improved a lot since that time. Divine Senses and Spatial Perceptions don't work in the barrier, so I think I would be the best choice. I'll stay on Fluki's back and guide us through it. I should be able to differentiate the spirits from the Elements in the barrier now."

Besides, if it doesn't work, Fluki can simply go with the plan of passing through as fast as he could while he keeps both of you in his mouth."

Roan nodded without thinking twice. "That's good. However, make sure you hide well while you're out so that no one will see you. If anything happens, I'll send you straight into the Dimensional Realm before you can be identified."

"Great!" Fluki was more than happy to hear that. "Let's go!" He immediately placed Rean and Roan inside his mouth while Luan jumped on his back. With that, they went to the Gods' Dividing Barrier.

"How is it?" Fluki asked as he got close to it. "Can you tell where the spirits are?"

Luan narrowed his eyes and couldn't help but become a little tense. They were getting very close to it, but he could only see a sea of Elements. However, just as they were about to enter it, Luan raised his voice. "Stop!"

He could barely see a few spots where the flow of Elements and Divine Energy was different from his current position. "Go to the right."

A few minutes later, Luan found a location where he couldn't see any of those changes in the flow. "Go inside, Fluki. Be ready to follow my commands."

As a Continental Barrier Spirit, Fluki could also see quite far inside. Yet, Luan's eyes were just that better. With that, Fluki began to swim inside the Gods' Dividing Barrier. Up, down, right, left, etc... sometimes, he was even made to retreat a bit. At other times, he had to dash forward within a marginal time frame. Nevertheless, Fluki was surprised to see that he really hadn't seen any spirit up to that moment.

Unfortunately, the Gods' Dividing Barrier was truly full of Continental Barrier Spirits. "Shit, we're surrounded!"

Roan heard that from inside Fluki's mouth and didn't waste time. In an instant, Luan disappeared from the Realm of Gods, heading into the Dimensional Realm. Soon after, Roan ordered. "He brought us this far. You should be able to do the rest."

Fluki was already running when he heard Roan's voice. "You don't need to tell me twice."

One of the spirits was swimming inside the Gods' Dividing Barrier, not caring too much about the things around him. After the devils were forced to stay in the northeast, rarely anyone tried to cross the barrier with them there. However, it was then that he noticed a flash of yellow light within the several other elements of the barrier.

"What?!"

That spirit was taken aback for a moment. Especially since it wasn't someone coming from the devils' territory but from the demon beasts' territory instead. "Stop right there!"

He quickly shot in that direction, trying to catch up. However, he quickly noticed that he wasn't a match for that thing. "It's a spirit from some other race, a very high-ranked one at that." He didn't give up, though. He used his own power and caused as much commotion as possible, trying to catch the attention of other spirits in the surroundings.

Fluki looked at his back for a moment and felt a sense of urgency. In just a few moments, more than five spirits started to chase after him. 'Hmph! Let me see if you can catch me then!'

Fluki used even more of his own power, increasing his speed even more. Common Transition Realm spirits couldn't even dream about following him. Yet, that action only helped increase the commotion and attract even more spirits. Some even tried to block his path ahead of him and attacked.

'Well, this isn't good...' Fluki couldn't help but think. There was a limit to what he could do. Nevertheless, he gritted his teeth and dashed forward.

However, just as he was about to be hit by some of the attacks...

Bang, bang, bang...

All the attacks seemed to hit a Divine Energy barrier and get deflected. Fluki had used his own Divine Energy barrier, but it wouldn't have been enough to withstand the attacks of so many spirits. Yet, he

could tell straight away that Rean and Roan had acted. The twins used their own Divine Energy to create two layers of protection to cover Fluki's mad dash. 'Great!'

Of course, Rean and Roan didn't use their Elements. They only used Divine Energy and nothing else. Using their Elemental Affinities would most likely show that they were there with Fluki. But if it was Divine Energy alone, then it could be anyone. Not to mention that they were still hidden in Fluki's mouth.

Fluki completely gave up trying to defend himself with the twins' help and used his full strength to flee. In less than a minute, they had covered pretty much the entire span of the Gods' Dividing Barrier.

Unfortunately, they weren't able to make it all the way to the other side before a Void Tempering Realm spirit appeared to block Fluki's path.

"You have gone far enough!"

Natural spatial perception didn't work, but that didn't mean Spatial Powers couldn't be used. Especially since the Gods' Dividing Barrier had a very calm environment. Before Fluki could do anything, the space around him seemed to become more viscous as the spirit at the Void Tempering Realm tried to capture him.

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Chapter 1955: Dark Side

Seeing that Fluki's speed had decreased quite a lot, the spirit's confidence grew. "Now, come with me and explain why a Kibin is trying to barge into the devils' territory." Sure enough, he also noticed which race Fluki was part of.

Yet, Fluki instead faintly smiled in response as he could see the end of the Gods' Dividing Barrier. "I wonder if you can really force me."

Fluki's fish scales suddenly stood out and shone with yellow light. Then, small specks of yellow light came out of them before Fluki flapped his wings. One should not forget that a Kibin looked like a mix between a fish and a bird, so he indeed had both.

'Mirage Streak!'

Boom!

It was then that an explosion of yellow light spread out of Fluki's body, blinding that spirit for a moment as Fluki's speed ascended to greater heights! Even the small amount of Spatial Power being used by that spirit was broken momentarily by Fluki's action.

"Fuck!" That spirit quickly recovered and used his own Spatial Powers to dart in Fluki's direction. Yet, to his surprise, he could only match Fluki's speed. He wasn't faster at all. 'These abilities high-ranked spirits have are just too unfair!'

Zush!

Fluki then broke through the Gods' Dividing Barrier and didn't stop, rushing into the distance as fast as possible. Fortunately, the Void Tempering Realm spirit didn't try to follow him. Or, to be more specific, he didn't dare to enter the devils' territory. 'Fuck it... it's not like no one tried to enter the devils' territory now and then.'

True. Considering the size of the borders between the devils and the other races, every now and then, there was obviously someone who tried to cross it, especially since it didn't affect those below the Space Bending Realm.

The important part was that Rean and Roan didn't appear, making it look like it was a spirit that made the cross.

As Fluki flew forward, Rean and Roan kept their Divine Sense bending skill active. Now that they were out of the Gods' Dividing Barrier, Divine Sense worked normally. They wanted to know if someone was watching the border with Divine Sense or not. Yet, their Divine Sense bending skill didn't pick up anything.

Following that, Rean took the front and used his Light bending skill as well. That made Fluki's body disappear together with the twins. No Divine Senses didn't mean there were no eyes around. Nevertheless, Fluki flew for a few more minutes before he finally stopped.

His fish scales immediately dimmed down as his body turned quite dim. As a spirit, he only had a core. In fact, his fish bird-like appearance was generated by that. Yet, it seemed to be on the verge of disappearing.

Vup!

In the next moment, Luan appeared once again in the Realm of Gods. "Hmm? Fluki, what happened to your body?"

"I used a secret ability of my Kibin Race. It isn't anything that impressive, though. It gives me a lot of speed, which is very good for last-ditch escapes. Unfortunately, that also affects my body. Don't count on me for the next few months..." Before anyone could say anything, Fluki's body turned into a flash of light that disappeared into Luan's forehead once again.

Rean looked at Luan before asking, "Is he okay?"

"He seems quite weak," Luan answered. "But that's fine. It's not that noticeable, but he seems to be recovering now that he has returned to my forehead."

Roan was satisfied to hear that. "That's good. No wonder he said he could make it through in a single go. As long as he didn't find any Void Tempering Realm enemy, his ability could really ignore the rest of the watching spirits. Even after finding one close to the end of the barrier, he did have enough speed to escape. In the end, your improved eyes and his secret ability allowed us to pass through without anyone noticing Rean or me."

Luan smiled and finally decided to take a look around. "Father, Uncle Rean, seems like we're in the devils' territory for real."

Roan nodded before asking, "So you can see it, huh?"

At the moment, the sky was completely dark. Yet, it wasn't like it was nighttime. Instead, it was as if it was clogged by some kind of dark power. The main point was that Rean and Roan could feel a much higher concentration of Dark Element in the surroundings.

In Luan's case, his eyes could literally see it. "Yes. From what we heard about the devils back in the System Sect, this place was supposed to be full of living beings of all races. There was nothing that mentioned the dense Dark Element at all."

Roan agreed with Luan. "It has been a very long time. The devils should have the power to change the environment accordingly to what they need."

"But with such an environment, it would be quite hard for other types of life to develop, don't you think?" Rean couldn't help but ask.

Roan pondered over the issue for a bit. "Maybe. However, we have no clues at the moment. Let's first change into our devil forms. Luan, I'm sending you back into the Dimensional Realm."

Luan nodded and quickly disappeared. As for Rean and Roan, their bodies changed completely, both inside and outside. Horns grew from their heads, their eyes turned red, and their bodies started to emanate a slightly dark aura. Basically, it was what Rean practiced back when they met their father. Even their father couldn't see the difference. Dark Element Affinity was pretty much the norm with devils, so Roan's affinity was just perfect. If anything, Roan's affinity was even purer. Since Rean could use it as well, it was easy to do it through their Elemental Exchange.

Kentucky then contacted them from inside the Dimensional Realm. 'Do you want me to come out?' It was obviously faster with Kentucky.

Yet, Rean shook his head. 'Not for now. I can't feel any living being around, so it's better not to risk it. I don't know if someone has a way to see through my Divine Sense and Light bending skill.'

Roan thought of the same thing. 'Indeed. Anyways, let's go.'

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Chapter 1956: You Better Have Them Ready

While staying close to the ground, the twins flew forward, getting further away from the Gods' Dividing Barrier. At some point, even something as big as the barrier disappeared from their sight. The problem

was that the twins didn't have any information on anything inside the devils' territory. That meant they didn't know where they could find a city or anything like that.

Nevertheless, they could only keep going forward. At least, by using the maps from the demon beasts' territory, they could at least fly in the direction of the central region.

The sky continued to stay completely dark, impacting the visibility. Then again, they could use their Divine Senses along the way, so it wasn't a problem. It wasn't like there was no light, either. It's just that it was much worse than nighttime back in the other territories.

A few days of traveling later, Rean and Roan could finally see some changes in the environment. 'The concentration of Dark Element here is higher than when we crossed the Gods' Dividing Barrier,' Roan mentioned.

Rean checked it as well. He couldn't tell it as precisely as Roan, but he could still feel it. 'That's to be expected. I don't think Dark Element is generated naturally in the devils' territory. Something must be spreading it, and we should be getting close.'

Rean was right about that. Also, it was the only clue they had about where they should fly to. By following the concentration of Dark Element, the twins ended up arriving at what seemed to be the first location with living beings ever since they came to the territory.

From afar, the twins noticed that some kind of barrier began to appear in the distance. It extended to both sides, and it wasn't possible to see the end. The same could be said for the sky. However, it was very different from the continental barrier. Instead, it seemed to be a formation.

The twins approached it and felt the presence of Divine Sense touching their Divine Sense bending skill. Yet, the owners of those Divine Senses were too weak. Their Divine Senses weren't enough to pierce through the bending.

Rean touched the barrier in front of them after stopping in front of it. 'A formation that's quite high-leveled.' He then forced his hand a little, making it pass through the barrier without problems. 'This isn't something made to hold anyone inside or outside.'

Roan did the same thing and immediately understood. 'There's no Dark Element inside this thing.' It was obvious that the barrier was made to only keep the Dark Element out.

Realizing this, the twins looked at each other and nodded. They put their heads and the rest of their bodies through, easily entering the other side. With that, they could finally see some life. Soon, a forest expanded ahead as their Divine Senses caught sight of many demon beasts.

Rean then looked in the direction he could feel the Divine Senses before asking, 'Should we take a look?'

Roan didn't even answer. He was already heading in that direction. 'We need to check if the Divine Senses are from the demon beasts or someone else.'

Rean then kept his Divine Sense bending skill spread with as much power as possible, just in case a stronger Divine Sense appeared. Fortunately, the strongest one touching them was only at the Elemental Transformation Realm, so its owner would need to be very close to be able to feel the twins.

'Hmm?' The twins then saw a small wooden building in the distance. Surprisingly, there were a few humanoid race beings going in and out of it. In fact, the Elemental Transformation Realm Divine Sense was coming from inside as well.

On the side of that building, there were many captured living beings. From the looks of it, there were at least a few hundred of them. Every single one was a Demon Beast at Stage Five or above or some other race at the Nascent Soul Realm. Yet, none of them reached Stage Seven or the Saint Realm.

The twins wondered if they should show themselves. Or if they should return to their human forms before doing that. There were quite a lot of humanoid race beings captured as well, so showing themselves as humans might only cause trouble.

'What about capturing one of them to see what they know?' Rean asked, ready to take action.

Hearing that, Roan agreed with Rean. That would be the safest and easiest way of acquiring information. They could even use one of Rean's Soul Biding Contracts to make sure the captured target wouldn't talk later. None of them were still in the Void Tempering Realm, after all.

Yet, just as they were about to move, a few more Divine Senses touched Rean's Divine Sense bending skill. They quickly looked in the direction the Divine Senses were coming from and gave up their plan. Instead, they flew higher into the skies while the Light bending skill stayed active.

'Transition Realm... quite a few of them at that,' Rean mentioned. They had to stay a little bit further to make sure their Divine Sense bending skill wouldn't be pierced through.

While flying up, the twins noticed that a dark cloud began to approach the building's location. As they did so, the humanoid people near the building seemed to become nervous as they quickly rushed back. In the end, the Elemental Transformation Realm owner that was in the building came out, revealing the origin to be a woman with a few scars on her face. She narrowed her eyes for a moment but quickly returned to normal.

The dark cloud stopped right above the building before it revealed a bunch of horned beings with red eyes. Some of them had humanoid forms, while others seemed more like demon beasts. Yet, Rean and Roan could easily tell that they were all devils. The Dark Element coming out of their bodies already told them that.

With the Divine Sense bending skill, Rean could tell that the strongest devil among them was at the Late Stage of the Transition Realm. He was also the one who came forward to do the talking. "You better have them ready."

Death... and me

Chapter 1957: How Else Would I Notice You?

The woman quickly nodded in response and pointed at the formations that held the living beings. "They're all there. A total of 500 souls. 300 demon beasts and 200 humanoids."

The devil looked at them and nodded with a satisfied expression. In fact, he had already counted them even before coming down. "Hehe! See? All you needed was a little push, and you'll definitely meet the quota. If you had put more effort last time, I wouldn't have to make up for the numbers by grabbing a few members of your group."

"Ahhhh!"

Suddenly, the woman heard the scream of one of her people and immediately looked over. It was then that she saw another devil holding a man by the head. The man was only in the Nascent Soul Realm, so he couldn't possibly fight the Transition Realm devil.

Following that, the devil began to extract his soul, much to the woman's shock. "W-What are you doing?! We reached the number of souls this year! Release him!"

Bam!

However, she was suddenly struck by a mass of Dark Element, making her body crash against the building. The leader among the devils wasn't just higher in cultivation. In pure talent and overall strength, he was stronger than the woman by far. Even in the same realm, she wouldn't have a chance, let alone when his cultivation was higher. "Who are you to give me orders?"

Fortunately for her, he did hold back, so she only suffered a few injuries. She then used her Divine Energy to fight the Dark Element, which was trying to rampage inside her body as she looked at the man's soul being extracted. She could tell that the devil was purposely acting slowly. The difference in cultivation between the devil and the cultivator was definitely enough to extract his soul in a few seconds. However, there was nothing she could do but watch.

The leader snorted before saying, "Hmph! This is for your own good. Since you needed some of your group to die to do things right, we better make sure it stays that way. If you achieve the necessary number of souls next time, then I might consider letting your group remain intact."

He then looked at the devil with the person in his grasp. "Thael, make sure not to do it properly. These guys need to understand that they can't disappoint us, ever!"

Thael laughed in response. "Hahaha! Leave it to me. This guy's soul isn't that bad, actually. I will savor it slowly. Clanti, just don't forget that 100 of the demon beast souls are mine."

Clanti was obviously the leader's name. "Even if I took those souls, what would you do about it?"

Thael's smile disappeared as he looked at Clanti. Yet, he didn't say anything. It seemed that the hierarchy there was very well defined between the devils.

"Hahaha!" Surprisingly, Clanti just laughed right after. "It's just a joke. If I don't give you your souls, the elders will definitely complain later." With that, he looked at the other three devils on his side. "Let's eat. Today, I'll have my breakthrough to the Peak Stage of the Transition Realm."

However, just as they were about to move, Clanti felt something. His eyes turned in the twins' direction even though he couldn't see anything there. "Who are you? Come out right now!" Dark Element gathered in his hand before bursting into many Dark Element arrows that flew in the twins' direction.

Rean and Roan were quite surprised by that. They had no intention of intervening from the start. Sure, there was one devil attacking a humanoid guy and extracting his soul. However, there were many humanoids there that had been captured as well inside the formations. It didn't seem like any of them wanted to be there. That meant the humanoids who were in charge of that place weren't that good to start with, so why should they help them? Even if that wasn't the case, it was better to not reveal their presence. Unfortunately for them, it still didn't work.

Roan narrowed his eyes for a moment before he waved his hand. The Dark Element in the arrows immediately lost control before they all dissipated at the same time. Using Dark Element against Roan while being at a much lower cultivation realm. That was ridiculous...

Rean and Roan knew they had been found, so they simply deactivated their Light and Divine Sense bending skills. There wasn't much reason to be afraid since the difference in strength between the twins and those devils was enormous as well. At the very least, the twins' couldn't feel the presence of any other Divine Senses stronger than themselves.

When Clanti saw that, his demeanor immediately changed. It was easy to tell that the 'devils' in front of him had much higher cultivation. The way that Roan dissipated his arrows also proved that he wasn't their match. Nevertheless, he wasn't afraid. "This is the Huopis Clan's territory. Other devils shouldn't be here. If you want more souls, you better go somewhere else."

For the humanoid woman, the situation didn't seem any better, though. Stronger devils appeared, and they didn't seem to be from nearby. That meant that not only the living beings could have their soul extracted, but she and her group might be included as well.

Thael also stopped to extract the soul of the Nascent Soul guy, afraid that his lack of attention to the matter might end in his death. Devils weren't exactly known for being amicable with each other, after all.

Rean then looked at Roan after that. 'What now? I don't think I revealed our location at any moment.'

Roan agreed with him. 'Me neither. Let's ask them and see.'

"How did you know we were here?" Rean and Roan were more interested in why they were found out at that moment.

Clanti could only look at Rean and Roan in response. He found that quite a dumb question. "Only other devils have Dark Element here, so how else would I notice you?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1958: Free Souls

Rean immediately tried to avoid the question. "It just means my technique to try and hide our Dark Element didn't work as I expected."

Roan nodded in response. "Seems like so."

Following that, he answered Clanti's threat. "As for your Huopis Clan, since when would I care about that? Or so I wanted to say... well, I admit I don't want any trouble with your Huopis Clan. I heard about their power around this region."

Clanti sighed in relief after that. "It's good that you know your place. Now, go back from where you came." If Rean and Roan were weaker than him, he would have attacked already. It was quite unfortunate for him that he was the weak one, so he only wanted to see Rean and Roan as far away as possible.

Rean shook his head, though. "Before that, how about you help me with a map? My friend and I just arrived in this region, so we would like to know a bit more about this place. It won't be a problem, will it?"

Clanti narrowed his eyes in response but still did as Rean asked. "Here, take it." Immediately, a jade slip flew in the twins' direction, quickly being caught by Rean. "This will show you the main locations of my Huopis Clan."

Rean smiled in response. "Good!"

Vush!

Suddenly, Rean's body disappeared as he activated his Light bending skill once again. Before Clanti could do anything, Rean had already appeared on the devils' side, slashing with his sword.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

A wave of black and white light came out of his Black Star, cutting Clanti and the four devils in half! Rean's Crescent Moon even had Spatial Power behind it, so how could Clanti and the others do anything? The only one who survived it was Thael, and that was only because he was further away. The fact that he had attacked that humanoid race member first was what saved his life.

"You..." Clanti couldn't believe his eyes. He truly didn't expect that someone would attack him inside his Huopis Clan's territory.

However, Clanti wasn't dead. Dark energy spread from out his devil core, connecting with the other side that had just been slashed in half. At the same time, a huge burst of Dark Element and Divine Energy came out of his body. But above all, Rean could feel the power of the soul more than anything else.

'Last Soul Sacrifice!'

All the souls that Clanti had kept for cultivation were used in an instant, swiftly increasing his strength. Even his injuries seemed to disappear as the two parts of the body reconnected.

"Oh! That's unexpected." Rean was obviously surprised by that, getting a firsthand look at the huge healing power of the souls in a devil's body.

Of course, Clanti didn't stay there while Rean admired it, though. He activated his movement skill and immediately tried to flee. He used a large portion of the souls' power just to recover, so he didn't have that much to use in battle. Besides, Clanti didn't think he would win even if his body was fine from the start.

Thael was another one who didn't stay still. Before Clanti had even finished recovering, he also used his movement skill, trying to escape. It's just that he didn't have any souls left to help increase his strength. He just hoped Rean and Roan would pay more attention to Clanti than him. As for what would happen with Clanti? He couldn't care less.

Unfortunately for him, Roan had seen it coming way earlier.

'Death Style, Shadow Bind!'

Dark vines spread out from the shadows, including Thael's. Unfortunately, it didn't work. The vines were made of Dark Element, so they seemed to lose quite a lot of their power when they held Thael. 'So devils have a higher resistance against Dark Element, huh? Well, that's to be expected. It seems like even physical things created with Dark Element have their effects reduced when using them against a devil.'

Roan just faintly smiled as his body also flashed away.

On the other side, Rean didn't let Clanti run that easily. Spatial Power gathered around the guy, reducing his speed several times. Rean and Roan's Spatial Powers were much higher than anyone at their level. By now, even Space Bending Realm enemies would have a hard time fighting against the twins. They were already in the Late Stage of the Void Tempering Realm, after all. All of Clanti's souls didn't help at all.

"Stop! I'm the son of Elder Gack Huopis! You and whatever power is behind you will not escape the consequences of killing me!" Seeing that even the use of his gathered souls didn't help, he could only threaten Rean with his status.

"Is that so?" Rean felt like laughing after hearing that. "Unfortunately for you, I have no idea who this guy is."

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

This time, Rean didn't use Dark Element, only Light. He wanted to see if the exclusion of the Dark Element would help against a devil's power.

Arrrgh!

Sure enough, when used alone, Light Element had a huge effect on Clanti's power. With that, Clanti's body was once again cut, this time in three different parts. The energy of the souls tried to connect them together, but Rean's Light Element acted like how Roan's Dark Element acted on other races. It rampaged all throughout Clanti's body, eating away on his life force while destroying everything else. 'To think my Light Element would have the same effect as Roan's Dark Element on a devil. That's good to know.'

'Death Style, First Form, Stelar Piercer!'

With that, Rean aimed straight at Clanti's devil core. A ray of light pierced through it, making the core shatter almost instantly.

Uooooohhhhhh...

Uhhheeeoooo...

Ohhhhhhwww...

Surprisingly, Rean was able to see all the souls that Clanti hadn't consumed yet escape from his core. Not only that, the Dark Element around them dissipated as a result of Rean's Light Element. 'So the souls that devils gather are contaminated by Dark Element as well...'

Death... and me

Chapter 1959: Where should we start?

A moment later, Roan appeared on Rean's side, holding Thael by the hand. Thael simply couldn't do anything against it since Roan was using both Spatial Power and Rean's Light Element. 'Seems like your Light Element allowed those souls to enter the reincarnation path. I don't think it would be possible any other way.'

Rean nodded in response. 'I see...'

Pah!

Ouch!

It was then that Roan slapped the back of Rean's head. "Now, the plan was not to get involved. What were you thinking? Look at the mess you caused!"

Rean looked around and could see both the humanoids, the ones out and the ones locked, looking at what had happened. "Errr... my bad, my bad. I really didn't want to get involved. But in the end, I just couldn't watch while they had their souls extracted. But hey, look at the guy you have! Since we captured a devil, surely it will give us some good information."

"Is that so?" Roan asked with a snort. "Maybe you didn't notice it, but Dark Element is useless in torturing devils. That means the interrogation will have to be done by you and not me."

Rean obviously wasn't very good at it. "I would rather use one of my Soul Binding Contracts. He's only in the Transition Realm, so he can't defend against it."

"Whatever." Roan could only agree with that. Rean's contract couldn't be denied, so it was a lot more useful. "Take it out. We'll decide what to do with the rest later."

Rean quickly brought out one of his contracts. However, as soon as Thael saw that, he immediately implored him to spare him. "No, please! You know very well that devils can't sign Soul Binding Contracts! Don't do that!"

Rean and Roan looked at each other with confused expressions. Still, there were quite a few eyes on them, so the twins decided to first bring the guy into the Dimensional Realm. Well, Rean didn't really go into the Dimensional Realm, only Roan and the guy. Rean stayed outside to look after the humanoids there.

Inside the Dimensional Realm, Roan asked the devil called Thael. "What do you mean devils can't sign contracts?"

Hearing that, Thael was the one to look at Roan with a confused expression. "You... could it be you aren't an actual devil?" Sure enough, Thael began to doubt Roan's real identity.

Roan pondered over it for a bit and decided to return to his real form, showing the devil that he was nothing but a human. "You guessed right. I'm just pretending to be a devil. Seems like it worked pretty well since you couldn't tell the difference."

"I see..." Thael understood why Rean and Roan didn't seem to know why Clanti could find their location at first. "J-Just, just don't make me sign the Soul Binding Contract. I don't care how you pretended to be a devil, but our souls will be destroyed if we sign any of them. It doesn't matter whether we agree with it or not."

"Then you'll have to tell me a lot. Plus, you'll have to convince me you're telling the truth," Roan said in response. Of course, it didn't mean he believed the guy.

Unfortunately, Thael shook his head. "I'm under the influence of the Huopis Clan Master. If I try to say anything, I'm done for."

Roan coldly smiled after hearing that. "Is that so? Then I have no reason to keep you alive." He didn't need to ask about that so-called influence since it was obvious that it worked like some seal that prevented the leak of information.

"Wait!" Thael obviously couldn't wait to be killed. "I can't say anything, but I still have some importance in the Huopis Clan. You can definitely exchange me for a few benefits."

Roan pondered over it for a bit but quickly gave up the idea. Instead, he forcefully drew a drop of blood from Thael and used his Spatial Power to force the devil to sign the contract. "I would rather see if Soul Binding Contracts are actually useless or not."

"Wait! Don't do this!" Thael tried to use all his strength to resist, but he simply couldn't do anything against Roan's might. In the end, the drop of blood was used to sign the contract.

Bzzzzzz...

Ahhhhhhhhrrrgggg!

Unfortunately, it really didn't work. Before the seal could attach itself to Thael's soul, Thael felt his soul being torn apart by some foreign power. The seal of the Soul Binding Contract couldn't find any soul to attach itself to in the end. That's because Thael's soul had already been destroyed when it reached that phase.

Uooooohhhhhhh...

Uhhheeeoooo...

Ohhhhhhwww...

More souls began to flow out of Thael's body, every single one tainted with Thael's Dark Element.

"Hmph!"

Roan snorted and quickly exchanged elements with Rean, using them to purify the souls before they disappeared. Thael didn't have anywhere near the number of souls that Clanti had, but Roan still helped them transition to the underworld by cleaning them.

"Oh! I didn't expect you to care about that," said Kentucky, who was watching the fun.

Yet, Roan's answer surprised him. "My job in my previous life was as a soul guide, a Death Spirit. Even now, I still consider myself to be one of them. Making sure the souls enter the reincarnation path is just what I should do."

[That's quite thoughtful of you.] Even Sister Orb couldn't help but comment on that. [Perhaps you do have a heart, after all...]

Roan completely ignored Sister Orb's words. Following that, he changed back into his devil form and used the Dimensional Realm to teleport outside. Bickering with Sister Orb in the Dimensional Realm never ended well, after all.

Back in the Realm of Gods, Roan appeared in the same place he had left.

Rean, of course, saw everything that happened in there. "All hail the Lord of Death. What a prime example of a Death Spirit!"

Roan glared at Rean for a moment before saying, "Go fuck yourself."

Finally, he walked in the direction of the female cultivator. In the end, there were no more devils to interrogate, only those humanoids. "Now then, where should we start?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1960: The Life in the Domes

The woman, however, seemed utterly hopeless at the moment. "Sure, please just make it quick. That's all we ask for."

Roan looked at them and shook his head in response. "I have no interest in your souls. Instead, I want to ask about the devils in this region. Is what that guy said true? This Huopis Clan is the one controlling it?"

However, when she heard that, the woman didn't seem to get any happier. Instead, both she and the other humanoids around seemed to have given up on living. "How would we know? We're just some humanoids. You devils had never told us anything."

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that. "If you're afraid that I'm going to kill you, there's no need to be. You just need to tell me everything you know, and that'll be enough."

"It seems like you aren't from any of the devil races nearby," replied the woman. "We'll basically be responsible for the death of the devils you killed. Even if you don't kill us, we won't live for much longer in this place. Literally, any simple reason can get a Soul Gathering Spot wiped out. Let alone the death of the devils themselves."

Roan looked around and saw how disheartened everyone looked. "So that's how it is, huh" He didn't feel that the woman was lying, and he was a very good lie detector.

Rean also approached them and couldn't help but ask, "Can't you simply leave? I can't feel the presence of any other devil at the moment. It doesn't seem like the devils keep an eye on you either."

Hearing that, the woman felt confused. These two devils seemed a lot more concerned about what would happen to them than she expected. To her, that wasn't how devils normally acted. Well, at least not the devils that came to receive the souls. Of course, she still decided to explain the issues. "It's useless. Where would we run off to? If we leave the living dome, we'll basically wither away to nothingness from the Dark Element outside. The only places suitable to live are the ones like this. We aren't devils, sirs."

Roan agreed with her on that point. "She's right. The Dark Element concentration outside far surpasses the other elements. It's not a problem if you intend to stay just a few days. However, if you stay too long, then death is pretty much guaranteed. The ones with lower cultivation, like the kids, would be the first ones to be affected."

"I see..." Rean and Roan obviously didn't have a problem with it because they both could use Dark Element. It's just that there weren't other humanoid race members capable of doing the same thing.

Roan knew what Rean was thinking and immediately intervened. 'You better not think about putting them in the Dimensional Realm. We don't have time to take care of their needs. It's one thing to help them against the devils from earlier, but another to commit to keeping them alive. Don't forget that staying with us might have them end up in an even worse state than staying away from us. That's why we didn't bring Calina, Qia, and the others.'

Rean sighed but could only nod his head in the end. 'Fine, I won't do such a thing.'

Roan also reminded Rean about another point. 'Also, I hope you didn't forget that these same humanoids were the ones who captured the ones inside those formations. They wanted to give them away. Don't think of them as if they're just victims.'

That was right. Rean had nearly forgotten that for a moment. "Tell me, why are you capturing other humanoids? I could understand if you used demon beasts' souls, but there are quite a few humanoid races in those formations. Right, before you explain, you still haven't told me your name."

At this point, the woman understood that those two devils wouldn't attack. Or at least not attack for now. "I'm Domelia. As for the first question, that's how things work in the living domes. The humanoids and demon beast gatherings try to capture souls to be used by the devils. In our living dome, at least, there are basically two types of devils. The bestial devils and the humanoid devils. For the bestial ones, demon beast souls are the best match. Naturally, the humanoid devils do better with humanoid souls."

She continued, "Not only do we attack other humanoid settlements, but we also receive attacks every now and then. The objective is to reach our quota every decade. In our case, we have to offer 300 demon beast souls and 200 humanoid souls every ten years. The humanoids you see locked in the formations are humanoids from settlements we attacked or the ones we found in our patrols. It goes without saying that we also lost quite a few of our own. No one wants to have their souls extracted, as you saw a few moments ago."

For a second, Rean found it weird. Ten years seemed to be quite a short time for demon beasts and humanoids to develop enough numbers to keep this quota. However, when he paid a little more attention to what was inside his Divine Sense, he quickly noticed that there was a huge number of kids further in the background. Not only that but pretty much every single woman there was pregnant. At least the ones who seemed to be in a condition to have offspring. "Simply put, this is a breeding zone for souls, huh? So many big bellies..."

Domelia nodded in response. "If we don't fight for those humanoid souls, we'll be the ones to have our souls extracted. The only way for any of the settlements to have enough fighting power is to continue to grow despite the number of warriors we lose. That's why you can see that we keep getting more and more kids. There are two things that we never run out of, food and water. So at least our people will never starve or dry to death. You also saw what could happen if we don't meet our quota."

In the end, the reality was just that bad. It didn't matter if one was from the humanoid race or not.