

## Death 1971

Death... and me

Chapter 1971: Angels

'I see...' Rean understood the problem. 'Your soul is a proper living one now. I guess that's to be expected.'

Suddenly, Fleus' Divine Sense reached them. 'Thank you, Dean. I didn't really expect that you would make a move at the very last moment. You saved all six of us.'

Rean and Roan decided that they could discuss the issue of the connection with the Underworld later. For now, they were more interested in what all of that was back in the Realm of Gods. 'Right! What the hell was that Light Devil Clan thing? Also, that devil on the other side said something about your Light Devil Clan never eating living souls. If that's the case, then what are these humanoids doing here? Last but not least, why did you say they were more important than yourself. I don't remember ever seeing a devil considering its life less valuable than its own.'

Fleus pondered a bit to see if he should talk or not. However, when Rean used his Divine Sense to ask back, he didn't ask only Fleus. Instead, the same question reached Orklia, Zektak, and the three humanoids.

Thanks to that, the one to talk first was, in fact, one of the male humans. 'Fleus, it's fine. We have finally reached the Underworld. If these two decide to investigate a little, they'll find out about us quite easily.'

Rean looked at the guy who had just talked. He was the weakest humanoid in the trio. Nothing but a Middle Stage Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. 'So I wasn't wrong. When I helped Fleus and these other two devils find the tracker in their bodies, the ones who seemed to be really relieved were the three of you. Why would some soul food feel good that its buyers were safe? Seems like you three aren't just some cheap living souls that Fleus bought back in Fraghal.'

The young man nodded in response. Yet, the other two humans on his side tried to warn him. "Little Fagund, they're devils. It doesn't matter if they were born in the Realm of Gods. It's not good to talk too much."

"Glirava, Lugrak, it's quite late for that, don't you think?" Fagund asked the other two humans, a female and a male. "They did save us back in the Realm of Gods. Besides, we need help later."

Rean and Roan noticed that Fleus, Orklia, and Zektak had their eyes closed as they ignored Fagund. No, to be more specific, they were being respectful. If Fagund was talking, they didn't intervene. That was quite a sight since it was Fleus' group that were devils.

"Our help, you say?" Roan snorted after hearing that. "Ha! Why should we help some humanoids? You're lucky that I haven't started to torture you with my Dark Element yet."

Fleus, Orklia, and Zektak immediately put themselves in between Roan and Fagund, ready to protect the human with their lives. Yet, Roan didn't seem to be worried at all. Space began to bend around his hand as he coldly smiled at Fleus. "What, do you really think you can stop me? A devil who can even bend space while still in the Void Tempering Realm?"

"I don't," Fleus answered. "But even if it costs my life, I will try."

"Same for us," Orklia and Zektak also joined. They were only Soul Transformation Realm devils, but they were just as determined to put their lives on the line for Fagund.

Rean shrugged his shoulders and didn't say anything. Since Roan wanted to do the talk, that was fine.

Contrary to Fleus and the others' expectations, Fagund didn't look concerned at all. Instead, he stepped forward and opened the way to Roan, much to Fleus's group's concern. "Little Fagund..."

Fagund smiled back at Fleus before using his hand to put Fleus' hand down. "It's fine, Fleus. Doan has absolutely no intention of doing what he said. It's just a test to see how important I am to you even though you're also in the Void Tempering Realm. Your actions just told him that I'm a lot more important than he initially thought."

The space around Roan's hand returned to normal after hearing those words. "Oh-ho... at the very least, you're a lot more interesting than I thought."

"You and your brother are just as interesting, Sir Doan," Fagund answered.

Yet, those words did impress the twins a little. Rean and Roan had changed in a way that they still looked like humanoid-type devils. However, their appearances were very, very different. Not something another devil would think. "You can tell, huh? Well, it's not like we were trying to hide it. Yes, we are brothers."

In any case, one thing was certain. Rean and Roan did have the same blood. They were twins, after all. They had already considered that some devils might notice their connection because of that, and Fagund's words just confirmed it. That was especially so if the devil checking them was at a much higher level. Well, Fagund's cultivation was much lower, though.

Suddenly, Fleus' group became tense. Rean also approached and began to pat Fagund's head as if he was a kid. "What a smart child. Doan, let's take him home."

"Stop your bullshit," Roan wasn't in the mood for jokes. "Speak. What is this all about? Depending on your answer, we don't mind going separate ways here. Gean and I already repaid the favor for the free passage through the spatial gates back in the Realm of Gods." Well, to be more specific, Roan didn't even intend to help back then. It was Rean who once again acted on his own and gave them that last helping hand.

Rean nodded in agreement. "I also want to know what this Light Devil Clan is all about."

Fagund pondered over it for a bit. He was organizing his thoughts to see how he would explain everything. This time, however, he used Divine Sense. 'Hmm... where do I start... well, it's true that our Light Devil Clan doesn't use souls. That's because we're more like a branch of the angels rather than the devils, to be honest.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1972: Contest

Suddenly, six wings made out of Light element grew from Fagund's back. However, Rean could tell that those wings had also been somehow contaminated with Dark Element. They weren't completely made of light as Dark Element surged from a few spots there. Nevertheless, Fagund's wings only lasted there for a second or so before they completely disappeared.

"An angel?" Rean couldn't help but ask. "No, not exactly." Rean had seen an angel before in the Lost Star Realm. Because of that, he identified some differences. The Dark Element mixed in the middle was the main one.

"It feels like the Dark Element is harming your wings, though," Roan added.

Fagund was taken aback to hear that. "You can tell?"

Roan didn't answer. "That doesn't matter. Continue your story."

Fagund could only nod in response. "Very well. The Light Devil Clan acts as the contact between angels and devils. When there's some official topic that needs to be discussed between the two races, the Light Devil Clan is responsible for calling this meeting."

"Well, this goes both ways. While you have a Light Devil Clan, you also have a Dark Angel Clan. It should be pretty obvious that the Dark Angel Clan is located in Heaven. Such meetings are extremely rare as both races simply don't get along with each other. However, they do happen."

Roan considered Fagund's words for a moment. "Alright, a link between Heaven and the Underworld has to exist. There's no such thing as light without dark, after all. Even here in the Underworld, where Dark Element is mostly predominant, it's still possible to gather Light Element. I can see why your Light Devil Clan is considered important. Yet, I don't think your status is just like any other Light Devil Clan member. First of all, you were disguising yourself as a human a moment ago. Why did you have to go to the Realm of Gods?"

Fagund went silent for a moment. Glirava and Lugrak tried to stop him as well. "Little Fagund, there are things you can say and things you can not."

Roan coldly smiled in response. "It seems like the Devils were not aware that such an important member of the clan like you went to the Realm of Gods. Or should I say it would be very bad if they did find out?"

"Sigh..." Fagund sighed after hearing that. "It's alright. We can't stop these brothers if they decide to leave and tell other devils about us. What's the point in hiding it? The Elder Devils would definitely understand the meaning behind my journey to the Realm of Gods even if we didn't tell Gean and Doan."

"You went to the Realm of Gods to meet with the Angel Race, am I right?" Rean suddenly asked back. In fact, Roan had the same idea.

Fagund's friends were surprised that the twins understood it so quickly. Yet, Fagund didn't seem to mind since he had already decided to talk. "That's correct. It should be pretty obvious that such a meeting, especially one with the next Light Devil Clan Master, would not be very good for the devils. Let alone one that we tried to hide."

Roan understood that part. "Sure, it doesn't seem good. Your Light Devil Clan probably has some information about the Underworld that the Angel Race would make good use of. The same goes for the Realm of Gods since the devils are the ones that have control over the path."

Roan still found it weird. "Yet, aren't you afraid that Gean and I will immediately tell the devils about it? No, even better. We could capture you now and have the devils decide what to do. I can even imagine what reward we could get from it. In any case, it's bound to be something very, very good. Last but not least, since it's detrimental for the devils, it also means it's detrimental for my brother and me."

Fagund shook his head after hearing that. "Detrimental for you and your brother? Quite unlikely. You just helped us at the very entrance of the Temporal Path. That alone might have been incredibly detrimental for you, but you still did it. If you really cared about it, you would have simply left us behind. Don't worry, though. The devil back then was just trying to make things difficult for our Light Devil Clan. He won't go as far as entering the Temporal Path just to pursue us. I'm pretty sure he took action on his own."

That sounded reasonable, so Roan decided to accept that. To be more specific, Rean and Roan didn't care much about the devils because they weren't devils themselves. Their ultimate objective was still the Universe Fragments, just that. "Very well. Now, what's this thing you said you needed our help with? Surely your Light Devil Clan has higher realm devils that can be used. Perhaps an Elder Devil at that. Whether you're the next Light Devil Clan Master in line or not shouldn't change this fact."

Rean added another thing. "He still hasn't told us what the objective of his visit to the Realm of Gods was either."

Fagund refused Rean's question. "I can't tell you what my meeting with the Angels in the Realm of Gods was about. I hope you're satisfied just knowing that we met one of them there."

"But I can tell you what I need your help with. Doan's right. Our Light Devil Clan does have devils with higher cultivation. It should be pretty obvious that the only reason I didn't bring one of them with me was to keep a low profile."

"However, the thing I need help with can only be accomplished by Void Tempering Realm experts or below. You see, even though we're somewhat closer to the angels, we're still considered devils. Odd devils, sure, but devils nonetheless. The Light Devil Clan just so happens to be one of the dominant clans of the Underworld. After seeing your strength, I understood that you two aren't normal devils either. With that said, could you lend the Light Devil Clan your strength in the Underworld Soul Reincarnation Contest?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1973: The Soul Devil

"Soul Reincarnation Contest?" Rean felt that the phrase was somewhat familiar. 'Where have I heard about it?'

Roan, on the other hand, immediately remembered his job as a Death Spirit back on the other side of the Universe. 'That was what I tried to do with you back on the other side, idiot.'

'Oh!' Sure enough, that was indeed Roan's job. 'You were quite bad at it. You couldn't even deal with a single soul.'

Roan's mouth twitched after hearing that. What did he mean by a single soul? Roan had never encountered any other soul capable of doing any actions at all back there. Rean was a complete anomaly due to the Soul Gem System. It was different on this side, where souls with high enough cultivation could bring their memories with them.

Nevertheless, he decided to ignore Rean as there were more important matters in front of him. "Are the devils in the Underworld the ones responsible for the Path of Reincarnation?"

"Not exactly the Path of Reincarnation," Fagund answered. "Only guiding them to enter it. I heard when you said you were born in the Realm of Gods, so it's normal that you don't know about it. Not to mention that only devils from important bloodlines are allowed to do such a job."

Fagund continued to explain. "Of course, if we make you part of our Light Devil Clan, you'll be allowed to do that as well. The problem is that only devils below the Space Bending Realm can enter the area where the dead souls arrive. In order to not let the area overflow with way too many dead souls, the devil clans guide them into the Path of Reincarnation."

The twins could only imagine. "That's the place where all the dead souls appear. With the number of living beings in existence, just how many dead souls would appear there every second? Surely it would be in the tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands. Perhaps millions? How do you even take care of all of that?"

Fleus, who had been silent for a while now, decided to answer that. "I've been there as a member of the Light Devil Clan. To be more specific, there aren't that many dead souls for us to take care of. It's just as you mentioned, the number would be too great. The truth is that most of the dead souls already fall straight inside the Path of Reincarnation. The souls we take care of are the souls that end up not falling inside the path. It's just a fraction of the total amount. In any case, if we just leave it be, there would be too many of them. Believe me, the last thing you want to see is that place getting too crowded with souls. If that happens, a Soul Devil might appear."

"Soul Devil?" For some reason, that name reminded Rean and Roan of the devil's soul inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. That was a very, very strong soul. What if it wasn't a soul of a dead devil but a Soul Devil instead?

Fagund continued from there. "Soul Devils are born from the agglomeration of too much soul energy and dead memories. They're really hard to deal with since they don't have physical bodies. Even if we devils use souls to cultivate, we still rely on our bodies for that. On the other hand, Soul Devils are different. Worst than that is the fact that they would acquire the memories of countless experts. Because of that, Soul Devils are often crazy. They simply don't have a controlled sense of self."

"I've never seen one, but that's what I heard. The Soul Devils will quickly gather more and more souls from their surroundings. Since they're basically jumbled souls, their minds get even crazier without any control. Unfortunately, they also get stronger. Imagine a Soul Devil as strong as an Elder Devil and with the memories of countless dead beings. Just how many skills can they use there?"

Rean and Roan had to admit that didn't seem good. "We wouldn't want to be up against such a being for sure. By the way, can a Soul Devil retain self-control? Perhaps its own sentience, separating it from the memories it accumulates from the souls it absorbed?"

Fagund nodded, telling them, "Not only is it possible, one of the strongest experts among the devils just so happens to be a Soul Devil."

"Really?" That surprised the twins. "And doesn't he care about the devil clans' efforts to prevent Soul Devils from appearing?"

"Care? Hahaha!" Fagund couldn't help but laugh out loud in response. "Another Soul Devil would just mean one of them would devour the other. Nothing is scarier for a Soul Devil than another Soul Devil. After all, they're each other's main source of power. If anything, the only Soul Devil in the Underworld will definitely do his best to prevent another intelligent Soul Devil from appearing."

"I see..." Roan agreed that it made sense.

Fagund smiled after that. "You don't need to be afraid of some Soul Devil deciding to take revenge during the contest or whatever. You seem to be very careful with every detail, so I just wanted to clarify that."

Fleus also added something. "It's possible that you'll see the moment a Soul Devil starts to form. If you do, attack it straight away. It takes a long time for the souls to gather in high enough concentration to form a Soul Devil. Even when they do, they'll be very weak, no stronger than a Foundation Establishment being. Don't worry. The devils have a well-encompassed scouting routine. No Soul Devil was able to grow for a very long time."

Rean and Roan still thought about their own devil in the Dimensional Realm. "So, who is this Soul Devil? Do you know him?"

Fagund and the others shook their heads in response. "No one has seen that Soul Devil for a very long time. All the actual Light Devil Clan Master knows is that he's still alive. We do know his name, though. Everyone calls him Beelzebub."

Death... and me

Chapter 1974: We can see that



"Beelzebub, huh?" The more Rean and Roan heard about top-level experts' names, the more impressed they became. Once again, another name from the myths back on Earth appeared in the cultivation universe. The thing that really made things weird was that even Roan had only heard of those names there. In the other planets he worked, no such names existed.

'Just what does Earth have that a ton of coincidences like these happen?' Rean couldn't help but ask through their Soul Connection. 'I mean, the Soul Gem System also went there to take my soul, right? That's too precise. You've never talked about it before, but surely there were more souls in other parts of that half of the universe. They didn't even need to be humanoids. All living beings had souls. It could have been anything else.'

Surprisingly, Roan didn't know. 'No point asking me. I've been to other planets with living beings. But you're right. Earth was really the only place where I had heard those names before. Perhaps we'll get our answer one day.'

Rean nodded and focused on Fagund again. "Well, if no insanely strong Soul Devil tries to attack us, then that's good enough. Considering that we help you with the Underworld Soul Reincarnation Contest, what's in it for us?"

Fagund was happy to hear that. He was in doubt if he could even get the two brothers to consider the idea. But now, they seemed to be interested as long as there was a good enough reward. "Great! As for payment... hmm... it would be better to hear it from you guys."

Rean didn't expect that it would be that simple. "We can choose? Really? Now that I think about it, is that contest really that important? We asked what's in it for us. However, I would also like to know what's in it for you guys."

Fleus decided to explain it himself, or so he intended to. However, it was also at that moment that he spotted a Devil City in the distance. "Oh! There it is. We've arrived at Xioklo City."

"So, does the Underworld also use teleport formations?" Roan asked back.

Orklia nodded in response. "Of course! Devils have their own versions of teleport formations. After all, they have to be resistant to Dark Element. Nevertheless, they are the main modes of transport in the devil races' territories."

"Come on, guys." Fleus didn't waste time as he brought everyone down to the gate entrance. "Before anyone tries to find trouble with us again, we have to find Elder Tapir."

"Who's Elder Tapir?" Rean and Roan obviously heard that for the first time.

Fagund quickly explained, though. "Elder Tapir is one of the Light Devil Clan's High Devils. He was the one who made sure no one saw when I left for the Realm of Gods. He's supposed to be waiting for us in this city. Once we find him at the meeting point, he'll be able to bring us back to the Light Devil Clan."

"There's no need to look for me anymore." Coincidentally, a voice suddenly fell into their ears. Soon after, an old 'human' appeared at the City Gate entrance before they could even get inside. He did have the devil races' horns. Yet, Rean and Roan couldn't feel Dark Element coming from him. He also didn't have the red eyes that all devils usually did. "Seems like you're all back. Time to go."

"Elder Tapir!" Fagund quickly approached the old man to pay his respects. "Thank you for your trouble, elder."

Tapir just nodded in response. "I didn't have anything else to do, so I decided to wait outside. Besides, the city's insides are being watched quite thoroughly, so it's better if we avoid entering it." Obviously, he noticed Rean and Roan there as well. "These two were not with you when I sent you away."

"They're here to help, Elder Tapir," Fagund began to talk on the twins' behalf. "I invited them to participate in the Underworld Soul Reincarnation Contest."

"In the Soul Reincarnation Contest?" Tapir didn't quite get it. "Did you forget that the spots are limited? You can't just send anyone there. We've already selected the Void Tempering Realm devils of the clan that will take part in it."

Fagund shook his head, though. "They aren't just any devils, Elder Tapir. We might really get a shot at winning this contest if we let them participate."

Seeing Fagund's insistence, Tapir decided to not deal with it for the moment. "Fine. You can explain it to the Light Devil Clan Master. For now, let's leave this place before anyone notices that I'm here. Even worse, before anyone finds out that YOU are here."

Tapir then used his Spatial Powers to capture Rean, Roan, and Fagund's group. Soon after, he opened a fissure in the space and entered it. Tapir wasn't at the highest cultivation of the universe. However, he at least had enough power to travel through the spatial storms. That alone would save the time of going through any teleport formations.

On the way, Rean decided to ask something else. 'By the way, does the Underworld have the continental barriers too?'

Fleus answered that for his group. 'No. The Realm of Gods is the only realm that has such a thing. Heaven, Underworld, and the Mortal Realms don't have anything like that.'

Rean nodded after that. 'That makes things a lot easier.'

'Easier?' Tapir obviously noticed that Rean and Roan were devils born in the Realm of Gods. 'Hmph! That only means the wars are at a much bigger scale than anything you would find in the Realm of Gods. Devils like you, who had never been to the Underworld, just don't know how easy you had it. Consuming living souls and barriers to secure each space for the devil continent.'

'Don't mind him,' Fagund spoke in Tapir's defense. 'Elder Tapir despises devils who cultivate through the use of living souls.'

Rean didn't mind since they weren't devils to start with. 'Well, we can see that.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1975: Beelzebub

Glirava felt like she should add. 'Ahem... most of the devils in our Light Devil Clan don't quite like it either. It's not only Elder Tapir.' Of course, she made it so that only Rean and Roan would hear it.

Suddenly, the twins saw an opening in the middle of the spatial storms before Tapir pulled everyone inside with him. Before they knew it, they were already in front of a complex of buildings that stretched for several kilometers. The closer it was to the middle, the bigger they were.

It wasn't that fact that caught the twins' attention, though. Instead, it was how bright the sky seemed to be. Light came from far above, making it hard to even look in the sky's direction. It was a complete contrast to what the Underworld was just a moment ago. It was especially surprising how much Light Element was there.

Fagund warned the twins about that. "You should shield yourselves with Dark Element, Gean, Doan. It can make normal devils feel pretty bad if they're exposed to Light Element in such quantities for too long."

The duo nodded in response and used Roan's Dark Element to create a thin barrier around them. There wasn't really a need for it, but they had to keep up their appearances. At least they knew their devil forms were pretty much flawless since even Tapir hadn't noticed it.

'Fagund, come to the meeting hall. Everyone is waiting.' Sure enough, the experts in the Light Devil Clan noticed Fagund's arrival and called him over.

"Take care of Gean and Doan for me. I'm going to talk with the Clan Master." Fagund could only do as they said and pass the ball to someone else.

Tapir looked at the twins after that. "I can tell that you two have your own Pocket Dimensional Realms. That means you aren't just any devil, just like Fagund mentioned. You can use them if you want, but just make sure you don't stay inside for too long. We should call you later."

Well, it was normal for others to be able to feel it. Even if one's natural spatial perception was a lot worse in the Underworld, Tapir was definitely close enough to feel the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Tapir, of course, was part of the devils who knew about Fagund's objective, so he left with Fagund after saying that. He didn't seem to like to spend time with Rean and Roan, it seemed.

On the ground, the twins noticed that Fleus, Orklia, and Zektak also created a barrier of Dark Element. "I thought you guys were part of the Light Devil Clan. Why are you also blocking the Light Element?"

Fleus shrugged his shoulders in response. "Not everyone in the Light Devil Clan is like Fagund, Glirava, and Lugrak. In fact, the majority are Devils who have Dark Element Affinity, just like you two. The three of us will leave sometime later and head to the area where the Light Element is at normal concentration."

"Does that mean you can use living souls, then?" Rean asked back, thinking that Fleus's group were normal devils instead.

Fleus denied that, though. "No, we can't use living souls. You could say that our bloodline is more inclined to Dark Element, but our souls didn't become complete devil souls. If we try to use living souls to cultivate, we won't gain any benefit from it. Worse than that, chances are that we'll mix our memories with the memories of living souls. There's simply no merit for us to do it at all."

"Sorry for saying this, but... doesn't that make you guys somehow worse than common devils?" Rean had reached that conclusion in the end.

"Perhaps?" Fleus didn't deny that. "But we do have our advantages. All devils know that the Light Element is extremely bad for us. Yet, devils like Orklia, Zektak, and I aren't as affected as them. In a battle where the enemy is capable of using Light Element, like an angel, we would have the advantage compared to other devils."

"That's true." Rean thought that it was still pretty bad since it was very hard for devils to find angels nowadays. It's just that he didn't say that. Well, that only meant Fleus and the others were put in the same situation as the cultivators and demon beasts. They had to cultivate with the help of Divine Energy and their Elemental Affinity only.

Glirava and Lugrak decided to enter the clan's inner areas, though. "Alright, let's not stand outside. I'll show you guys where you'll stay until Young Master Fagund talks with the elders."

Roan narrowed his eyes in response. "What if they decide that they don't need us?"

"Young Master Fagund is a good Light Devil. He might not be able to allow you two to leave soon, but he'll surely guarantee your safety," said Glirava.

The twins could tell that one special Divine Sense was locked on them from the moment they arrived, so they knew better than to try anything at the moment. Well, no one here knew about the Circuitry Teleport Formation in the Dimensional Realm, so there would be plenty of opportunities to escape if necessary.

Glirava and Lugrak then brought the twins deep into the buildings, using their own badges to gain access. Rean and Roan could see that there were still quite a few devils like Fleus, who had Dark Element as their main affinity. Light Devils didn't look very common, even in this place. Of course, they did see a few here and there.

"Here we are." Finally, they arrived at a guest's room. "The meeting with the Light Devil Clan Master should take some time, so you can just wait here. We'll be outside if you need anything." With that, the twins were left alone in the room before Fleus' group left.

The twins already knew what to do, though. Immediately, they disappeared from the room, entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Following that, they went to the area where the devil's soul was sealed with Celis, Kentucky, and Sister Orb.

The altar finally came out of the ground after decades, catching the attention of the devil's soul inside. "What? Will you let me out now?"

"Come on, Beelzebub. What are just a few decades for someone like you?" Rean asked with a smile.

"Hmph!" The devil's soul snorted in response. "I don't care about the years, but the fact that you tricked me."

Yet, only after those words did he notice. He had just answered Rean's remarks even though he had never told the twins his real name.

Rean could help but smile after that. "So you really are Beelzebub."

Death... and me

Chapter 1976: Contingency

And now, they had just tricked Beelzebub once again. "You... how did you find out about me?"

Hearing that, Roan didn't mind explaining. "Your soul had been trapped in that pseudo-world for so long. That place was enormous and really well protected from every possible side. Besides, you were able to gather and use so much power even though only your soul remained. Doesn't that seem a little too far-fetched?"

"Of course, at the time, I didn't consider such a thing. We knew too little about the Realm of Gods. However, after we heard about Beelzebub and how he didn't really have a physical body, we thought that perhaps that's the guy we had. Soul Devils are strong by just being souls. You were strong by just being a soul, and most of your power is sealed in this altar."

"Well, you just had to answer us after we used the word Beelzebub, so you only have yourself to blame. We didn't expect it to be this easy," Roan finished.

Of course, Beelzebub hardly cared about that. "Hmph! So what? You can do anything to me and are just lucky that this altar exists. If you try to destroy it, then I couldn't be more thankful. Now, place me back and forget about me."

"No problem." Rean's group nodded in response. "See you around."

Beelzebub was taken aback, expecting that the twins' group wanted something from him after ascertaining his identity. Yet, they just checked it and were now sending him back into the ground. He already understood that he couldn't escape this Dimensional Realm, so when would the next time he would see the outside world be?

"Wait..." Just as his altar was about to be sealed in the Dimensional Realm again, he asked them to stop. "What is it that you want? It couldn't be that all you wished was to know whether I was Beelzebub or not, right? Although this black-haired shit tricked me, he didn't break our pact. Go ahead, talk. Just be aware that I'll want a new pact to be made with Roan, and this time, I'll really want to be released."

Roan faintly smiled in response. "First, you were born in the surroundings of the entrance to the Path of Reincarnation, right?"

Beelzebub confirmed Roan's words. "Isn't that obvious? That's the only place where you can get enough dead souls together to create a Soul Devil. If not there, then where?"

"There's one thing I don't understand, though," Roan continued. "From what we heard, devils with cultivations at the Space Bending Realm or above can't enter there. However, you're considered one of the beings at the peak of the cultivation universe. Just like the others, you just can't get stronger because the laws of the Universe don't permit it. How did that happen?"

Beelzebub understood something. "You know about the cultivation limit around the Path of Reincarnation? That's something only the top powers in the Underworld are aware of. Could it be that we're in the Underworld at the moment?"

Rean, Celis, Kentucky, and Sister Orb looked at Roan, who just nodded and decided to tell the truth. "That's correct. One of the Universe Fragments is located here, after all."

Seeing how he wasn't sealed underground, Beelzebub used his Soul Power to scan everything in his surroundings. A moment later, he was surprised by what he found. "I can feel the Universe Fragment's power. How did you get your hands on it?"

"We're just a lot more efficient than you. It's that simple," Roan answered. "So, will you talk about your cultivation or not?"

Beelzebub pondered over it for a moment and thought that perhaps it was a huge opportunity. "Fine. That cultivation limitation is only valid for others. Although I'm a Soul Devil, I'm ultimately a gathering of dead souls. The surroundings around the Path of Reincarnation can't see the difference between the normal dead souls and me in there. It's not like it has some sentience or anything like that. With that being said, I can enter and leave that place anytime I want. My cultivation is not a deterrence. If anything, it's a very safe location for me."

It was then that Celis thought about a possibility. "This guy was probably sealed away because he couldn't be killed. Not only that, but he could enter the Path of Reincarnation with his strength. Doesn't it seem like the other devils didn't like that idea and decided to do something about it?"



Celis's words brought back quite a few bad memories to Beelzebub. "Ha! As if they would really do that. I wasn't killed, not because I can't be killed. There's no such thing as real immortality in this Universe. I wasn't killed because they were afraid."

Roan thought for a moment following that. "The other devils were afraid of losing one of the pillars of strength of the Underworld."

"Oh!" Rean's group had to admit it made sense. "The devils should also be the ones with the right method to free Beelzebub from this altar."

The twins had checked the altar before. They didn't have any intention of releasing Beelzebub, but that didn't mean they didn't think about that. For example, perhaps releasing Beelzebub outside in a moment of peril might work as a life-saving opportunity. Yet, they reached the conclusion that even they couldn't destroy the altar. It was holding one of the top experts in the Universe, after all.

"That's not all. If, because of some mistake, the devils fail to notice the appearance of a new Soul Devil, the best way to deal with it is to have the other Soul Devil come out and fight it. In that case, Beelzebub," Rean added.

Beelzebub didn't deny that. "They can accept one Soul Devil for their own benefit, but they definitely can't allow more than one. They know I also can't allow another Soul Devil other than me, so they kept me around. The famous contingency plan. What wouldn't I give to eat their souls..."

Death... and me

Chapter 1977: You Will Get Your Meal Soon

"Why the Realm of Gods, though?" Kentucky was the one to remember that part. "I mean, why imprison you in the Realm of Gods instead of the Underworld? Wouldn't they have more control here?"

"Fear, I guess?" Beelzebub answered. "It's no secret that the Elder Devils are stronger in the Underworld, just like how the Archangels are stronger in Heaven. I'm a Soul Devil, so I ought to have a better chance at escaping my confinement if I were in the Underworld."

Sister Orb noticed a strange point in that. [Fine, it makes sense. However, we were the ones who took you away. How come there were no devils watching over your confinement?]

Beelzebub didn't seem to want to answer that. "That's none of your concern."

Roan and the others understood that Beelzebub probably did something that caused his confinement to be transferred somewhere else. Let's not forget that the Upside Down World was nowhere near the devil races' territory in the Realm of Gods. If the devils really brought Beelzebub to be locked in the Realm of Gods, that place would definitely be located in their territory. Since that world was pretty much a Dimensional Realm, someone like Beelzebub should have had his own ways of sending it somewhere else.

Roan decided to ask in the end. "You were obviously trying to escape back then. Does that mean you know how to free yourself from the altar?"

"I do!" Beelzebub didn't hide that. "I just needed enough dead souls to gather enough power to break the altar's seal. If you help me get those souls, I can definitely leave this thing."

Rean sighed after hearing that. Just how strong was Beelzebub? Just how formidable was the altar to be able to hold him and even seal his power? There's no way Beelzebub would try to return to the Underworld in that state. With that said, Rean could only imagine the number of living beings Beelzebub would need to kill to get the souls he required.

He then asked Roan through their Soul Connection. 'Okay, that pretty much explains everything. Do you have any other questions? If not, I'll simply burrow him again. I'd rather not have to ever use him. Even if we do need him, it's not like we'll be able to gather the necessary amount of souls required anyway.'

Roan shook his head. 'There is a way to get enough souls. Aren't we going to the Path of Reincarnation? We can get the souls we need there and use them to free Beelzebub.'

'Are you crazy?' Rean asked back. 'Let's not think about how many souls we would need anyway. First, those dead souls were living beings before getting there. They still have their memories, even if they'll forget them after entering the Path of Reincarnation.'

Roan shook his head. 'Do you think I don't know that? Making sure the souls got into the Reincarnation Path was my job. It's just that this side of the Universe doesn't seem to have any use for Death Spirits like me. The dead souls get here on their own.'

'Then why are you thinking about letting Beelzebub absorb them? Isn't that a bit too cruel? Before they got into the Path of Reincarnation, I considered them to be individuals, demon beasts, or whatever other race.' Rean couldn't accept it, though. 'Why do you want to release him anyway? We aren't in a situation where we need his strength. Our devil form is perfect. Besides, once he's out, he'll come after us for the fragments we have.'

'Yeah, but not before he tries to acquire the fragments he knows. I don't think that the Swamp of No Return is the only fragment location Beelzebub has knowledge of,' Roan explained. 'It might be a good idea to let him go and try and get the fragments from him later. I don't like the idea of using the dead souls, either. But you know me. I'm thinking about the end result. If we don't get the fragments and reunite both sides of the Universe, a few dead souls will be the least of our problems.'

Rean pondered over it for a bit and finally understood what Roan meant. 'Soul Devils are the gathering of countless dead souls and their memories... could it be...'

'That's what I'm thinking,' Roan nodded. 'The very reason Beelzebub didn't go crazy with the number of souls used to create him was probably because one of those souls came from someone really strong. That soul took command and separated the rest into the corner of his mind, where he could access it anytime he wanted. Of course, this is just a theory. You have to agree that it's plausible, though.'

'Fine, but you'll need to make another pact with him of non-aggression between both sides. Also, we'll only use those dead souls if we really need Beelzebub's help. Otherwise, we won't do it.'

Roan shook his head in response. 'That won't work. It's not like we can keep dead souls saved in a box or anything. Dead souls, regardless of their location in the Realm of Gods, will ultimately travel to the Underworld.' Roan then looked at Sister Orb. 'Am I right?'

Sister Orb obviously heard the conversation. [Yep. Devils use living beings' souls, not dead ones. If you really intend to use Beelzebub to help you two out in the future, you'll have to free him once you enter the Path of Reincarnation.]

[Of course, there is another method,] Sister Orb added.

Rean and Roan obviously knew what the second method was. 'We need to find one of the Elder Devils who imprisoned Beelzebub and have him tell us how to break the seal.' Naturally, there was no way the Elder Devils would tell the twins such a thing. Instead, the moment the twins asked anything, they would become a target in the Underworld, just like the Realm of Gods.

"Alright, Beelzebub." They finally decided. "You will get your meal soon."

Death... and me

Chapter 1978: No More Loopholes

Beelzebub was obviously surprised to hear that. "Oh?! Is that so? Devil souls won't make the cut, though. How do you plan to get my souls?"

"How else?" Roan asked back. "We'll obviously let you out in the Path of Reincarnation. From there, you'll have to get the souls yourself. Don't blame us if you get captured again, though."

Beelzebub was very confident if that really was the case. "Not a problem. Just drop me anywhere in that area, and I'll grab the souls myself. Well, it'll still take some time."

"I know." Roan understood why. "Even if you're there, you don't want to catch anyone's attention. I would also keep a low profile and stay hidden while I grab the souls I need. How long do you think you'll need to gather the souls without alarming the devils?"

"Hmm... hard to say as you never know how many souls will be in range. Not to mention I can't let the area I'm hidden become empty. That would be the same as saying that a Soul Devil had appeared.' Beelzebub was used to that, it seemed. "But then again, that's close to the entrance to the Path of Reincarnation. Perhaps a few decades if I'm lucky."

Roan nodded after hearing that. "Very well. Then we only need to make another pact."

"This time, I won't be tricked by your game of words." Naturally, Beelzebub didn't forget how Roan had agreed to free him but had never said when. Because of that, Beelzebub was still locked in this place.

Roan didn't mind, and the two made another pact. Sure enough, Beelzebub checked the terms of their pact many times over. Only when he was absolutely certain that Roan couldn't find a loophole did the two go to the next step.

In the end, it was decided that neither side would injure the other. Well, that was more for the twins' sake since Beelzebub was just much stronger. It was also agreed that they wouldn't tell others about each other's existence and the fragments the twins possessed. That meant Beelzebub couldn't go after the twins once he recovered. At the same time, the twins' couldn't say anything about him being inside the Path of Reincarnation to regain his strength. Both sides had too much to lose.

There was also a time limit. If their agreement continued forever, that meant neither side would ever be able to go after the other to gather the fragments. They would have to wait until one died for the other to be allowed to move. Beelzebub was tricked once, but he wasn't an idiot. He knew very well that the twins were a lot more talented than most, so they could probably live for a very long time if they played their cards right. With that, he wasn't in the mood to wait that long. Rean and Roan weren't planning to stay put either, so Roan agreed with that. The time was set to a thousand years.

Last but not least, the twins wanted to borrow Beelzebub's strength if necessary. Beelzebub didn't accept that, obviously. How many times could he be thrown against other experts if he agreed to that? Then again, the twins already expected his refusal, so they changed it to a one-time life-saving opportunity. After that, they wouldn't be able to ask anything else from Beelzebub. Only the time limit would remain.

"Here, take this." Beelzebub then gathered his power and materialized something that looked like a black vial. "I can feel the location of the contents inside as long as we're in the same realm. No barriers or formations can stop it. All you need to do is pour the liquid out, and I'll know you need me. However, due to the fact that I'm locked in the altar, I won't be able to travel through space easily. If you try to call me while I'm still sealed, there'll be nothing I can do."

Rean took the chance to ask after that. "You need a few decades to recover to your peak. However, to break the seal on the altar, you don't need that long, right? How long will it take for you to just get free?"

"Smart." Beelzebub didn't say it, but Rean still understood that point. "If it's just the altar, eight to twelve years. After that, I'll spend the rest of my time recovering my strength."

That was the time the twins could use it then. In at most twelve years, even if Beelzebub was still weak, they would definitely call him if the situation demanded it. An old freak like him definitely had some cards to play if such a situation arose.

"Rean, Roan, you have spent too long in the Dimensional Realm already. It would be better to go back to the Underworld." Celis then warned the two as it took quite some time for Beelzebub and Roan to reach an agreement.

"That's true." The twins nodded and decided to leave. Roan left a few words behind for Beelzebub before that, though. "Don't forget, I'll release you only if I find the opportunity. If it doesn't happen, then there's nothing I can do. The Path of Reincarnation is the only place I'm willing to do it."

"You made it very clear in the agreement," Beelzebub would be lying if he said it didn't bother him. "Make sure you do that. I might hate you, but not as much as the devils. I intend to pay a visit to them after I'm done recovering. I won't have time for the likes of you... for now."

After that, Rean and Roan then disappeared from the Dimensional Realm. At the same time, Sister Orb sealed Beelzebub's altar so that nothing wrong would happen.

Soon after, the twins appeared outside just in time to see Fleus entering the room. "Seems like you're back. Come with me. The Light Devil Clan Master is ready to see you. Young Master Fagund is there in the meeting hall as well."

Death... and me

Chapter 1979: Can't Have Been Planned Ahead

The twins quickly arrived at the meeting hall, where the clan master and the elders were waiting. Obviously, Fagund was there as well. "Gean, Doan! Come, come! Let me introduce you to everyone."

"Clan head, elder, these are the two devils I was talking about. They can bend space even though they are still in the Late Stage of the Void Tempering Realm! Their Soul Power is also off the charts!"

Fagund then pointed at the man at the center, telling the two, "That's the Light Devil Clan Master, Rui. He just so happens to be my great-grandfather."

Looking at the devils in the area, most of them looked more like demon beasts or humanoids than devils. Few had horns, and the majority didn't have the iconic red eyes of the devils, just like Fagund. They were all similar to Fagund, more attuned to Light Element than Dark Element itself. Nevertheless, they were still devils. They were different from the angel Rean and Roan had met in the past.

The clan master, especially, was one of the few devils with the most human-like appearance. "Hello, Senior Rui. Fagund here asked for our help during the next Underworld Soul Guide Contest."

Rui narrowed his eyes after hearing that before his power began to rise. Following that, six wings appeared on his back. Those wings were just like Fagund's, with several black feathers among the mostly white feathers. Dark Element still tried to gather because of those feathers, but Rui's Light Element Affinity made it look like the Dark Element was trying to harm his body instead.

The twins felt Rui's gaze and could tell that he was examining their entire bodies, trying to find something out of the ordinary. Rui was one of the Elder Devils of the Underworld, so his check would be the ultimate test of Rean's body transformation abilities. If even he didn't notice that their devil forms were fake, then no one would.

"You seem to be a little different from normal devils, although the differences are very subtle." Unfortunately, he did notice something.

"We were born in the Realm of Gods, so I guess we are a little different from devils born in the Underworld." Rean quickly spoke an excuse he had thought long time ago.

Rui got close to them and continued to look for suspicious traits. Yet, the rest seemed to be just like any other devils. "I guess that makes sense."

Rean and Roan mentally sighed in relief for a second. Unfortunately, Rui wasn't just convinced yet. "I heard the reports from Fagund and checked your cultivation. You're way more talented than most devils. How come you were born in the Realm of Gods? Talents like you would definitely have been taken by some of the devil clans. No, it's better to say that you would have been raised by them. I don't believe you don't have anyone's backing. Who's supporting you?"

The clan elders around had their own opinions as well.

"We should imprison them and plaster their faces in the Elder Devil Hall. Someone's bound to appear to reclaim them."

"What? Would you let them go just like that? With such talent, we should recruit them instead."

"What if they're here to spy on us, huh? Do you want to recruit some devils we've just met?"

"We're in need of stronger normal devils. Since they came from the Realm of Gods, I'm sure we can offer them a lot more than their backing was able to provide."

"Indeed. We just need them for jobs that don't require access to any sensitive information. It's not like the normal devils haven't tried to infiltrate our Light Devil Clan many other times, so we're used to it."

Rean couldn't help but raise his hand, catching everyone's attention. "Sorry to say this, but... it was your clan's devil who first came to us. He almost got us involved in a mess back in Fraghal City too. Last but not least, it was Fagund who asked us to come even though we told him we were planning to leave. If you have a problem with our background, then we can just go. We only saved Fagund to repay the favor of the Light Devil Clan badge that he used to bring us through the spatial gates."

"You still haven't told me from which power you originate from," Rui mentioned again. "I will consider whether to take you in or not."

"Oh! So you really are in need of someone for the contest," replied Rean. "We can't tell you where we came from, but we can assure you that we have no intention of spying on your Light Devil Clan. Don't forget, it was Fagund who came to us and asked for help, not the other way around. We didn't even know that he was part of the Light Devil Clan to start with."

Rui didn't like Rean's attitude and was ready to punish him. "And why should I believe that?"

Rean laughed in response, not afraid at all. "Hahaha! Isn't that obvious?"

Roan continued from there, although he didn't laugh. "Fagund told us that he was from the Light Devil Clan, but neither Gean nor I tried to capture him nor leave to tell the other devils. From what we know,



the last thing you need is to have this matter known by the Elder Devils. If we were really related to any of the other Elder Devils' powers, do you think we would have come? I don't know what this meeting that Fagund had with the angels was about. But he made it pretty clear that it shouldn't be revealed in any circumstance. That the Elder Devils would definitely understand what it meant. Since we're here, that should be enough proof of our lack of connection with them."

Rui calmed down a bit after that. Whether he wanted it or not, he knew that Roan's words made sense. "It doesn't completely guarantee that. Perhaps you already told them somehow and are here now to look after us. However, I will agree that all the events that led you two to this room seem impossible to have been planned ahead. Too much luck involved."

Eventually, Rui decided to accept. "Very well, you can take part in the contest."

Death... and me

Chapter 1980: Importance

"Now you wait there a moment." Rean quickly stopped Rui in his tracks. "You make it look like we're here just to do your bidding. However, Fagund promised us a very good reward if we participated in the contest. That's why we even bothered to come here, for our rewards."

Fagund nodded in agreement. "He's right, clan master. I did say that they would be rewarded for their participation. It's also a good thing since it'll guarantee that they'll do a proper job."

Rui shook his head in response. "Not so fast. I don't even know what they want. Depending on the content of their request, I would rather just not have them at all."

"But clan master..." Fagund tried to make things work. "We need devils like them. The other participants of our clan don't have their power."

Rui looked at the twins for a moment before saying, "First, tell me what you need."

Rean and Roan had long decided what they would need, though. "My brother and I want to go to the Swamp of No Return. The problem is that we don't know where it's located. Would you be able to bring us there? You can simply forget we exist after that."

"Swamp of No Return?" Even Fagund had never heard that name. Not only him but most of the clan's elders seemed completely oblivious to that name. Some of them had heard about swamps with different names, though. It's just that they didn't think those swamps were the same ones the twins were asking for.

Yet, Rui's expression turned dark once again after hearing that. "And do you still want me to believe you have no connection with the other Elder Devils? That's not a name that should come from such low-level devils like you two."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response to that. "If we really had these connections, we wouldn't need to ask for it as a reward, right?" Well, the truth was that Rean and Roan were a little surprised by Rui's change in expression. They didn't know that the Swamp of No Return was a secret between the top experts of the Devil Races. Their main objective was to use the Light Devil Clan's power to find where the swamp was located. From the looks of it, that wasn't necessary, as Rui obviously knew about it.

Rui's expression didn't get any better, though. "Why do you want to go there? The swamp is a restricted area for most devils."

"It is?" Rean asked back. "Why?"

Rui looked around and thought it would be a good opportunity to tell the other devils as well. "To each and every one of you, I'd rather have all of you not know of it. Don't ever get close to the Swamp of No Return. It has such a name for a reason. That's not everything. The main reason it was sealed was that the swamp was expanding on its own. Do all of you understand?"

"Yes, clan master." Sure enough, no one went against the clan master's orders.

Well, Rean and Roan didn't seem to mind that. "You can bring us inside, right? In fact, that's even better. You definitely don't like our presence, so you can get rid of us by throwing us inside the swamp so that we'll never come back. It's a perfect match of interests."

As far as Rui knew, there was no coming back from the swamp. "Are you sure you want that as a reward? I'm not kidding about the swamp. Since we're already at it, I might as well tell you that even an Elder Devil was lost to that place."

"What?!" Fagund and the other devils were shocked to hear that. As the top experts of the Devil Races, it was possible to defeat an Elder Devil, but preventing it from escaping was another story altogether. But even with that said, an Elder Devil couldn't leave that place.

"That's exactly what we want." The twins were adamant. Since cultivation also didn't matter in that place, then leaving the swamp for later would be pointless. Besides, the twins knew that whatever might be happening there was definitely because of the Universe Fragment inside.

"Very well, I can send you to your deaths if that's what you wish. But I won't bring you all the way there for nothing. If you really want to gain a passage inside, you will have to show me good results in the Underworld Soul Guiding Contest." The swamp really wasn't a secret. It's just that the Elder Devils and the other devils who knew it refused to talk about the Swamp. Many tried to reveal what made the swamp like that, but it was all useless. If the twins wanted to die inside, he definitely wouldn't stop them.

"Clan master." Tapir quickly called his attention. He still didn't like the twins, not that most of the devils there did, anyway. "Each Elder Devil Clan can only send three devils at most to the contest. It's different from the normal guidance by the devils that happens all the time. I don't think it's a good idea to give up two of these slots to some devils that we don't even know if they're capable of guiding souls."

The other devils in the meeting hall agreed with Tapir. There's no doubt that the twins were very talented to be able to bend space before the Space Bending Realm. Unfortunately, that didn't mean they were good soul guides.

"I know that." In any case, Rui had already thought about it. "We can just test them out against our clan's three representatives. There are still over two years before the contest starts, so send them to the Path of Reincarnation and check their abilities. If they're shit at it, then this deal is off."

Rui then passed his orders. "Call Titia, Doohan, and Salahi here."

"Understood." Someone quickly left the room after Rui's words to find those three.

Seeing the guy disappear, Rean and Roan took the chance to clear one more doubt. "By the way... just why is this Soul Guiding Contest so important for the Elder Devil Clans?"