

Death 201

Death... and me

Chapter 201: Droman's Change

"In the first solution, we have all the building cables connected directly to the main one that goes to the other cities and our Sect, right?"

Droman nodded and waited for Rean to continue.

"In the second and best solution, not a single cable would be directly connected to the main cable anymore."

"What? Then, how are you going to pass the electrical signal?"

Rean smiled as he continued.

"Here's the part that I think it will be complicated for the Formations Hall to work. Instead of connecting all the buildings' cables directly to the main one, you will first bring them inside another formation. This formation will then receive all the signals and send them in order into the main cable. Let's call it... the Router Formation."

Rean couldn't help but think.

'Since I already stole the word 'Network,' I might as well steal all the other names too. Hahaha!'

"This..."

Leaving the name aside, which he had to admit, was quite too perfect. Droman finally became speechless. What Rean suggested seemed simple. However, making such a formation would indeed be several times more complicated than the actual ones. He doesn't even know where to start!

Rean could already tell what Droman was thinking too.

"Indeed, the degree of difficulty will be several times higher. Until now, the formations used for our communication system only had to work with a single electrical signal per time. Obviously, that was simple for Elder to work around. After all, it simply received the signal and displayed what that signal meant to those looking at it. It couldn't be more straight forward. However, this formation I mentioned is completely different."

"First, this new formation will need to be able to handle several electrical signals at once. But that is not all. It has to send the received signals into the main cable in proper order too. That means it will need to literally save the content of the signals it received... all of them! After all, if two signals arrive at the same time, the formation can't send both of them into the main cable at the same time as well. Otherwise, they will once again bump into each other."

"Since it can't send both together, it will need to keep one of them 'saved' in its 'memory' while it works to send the other ahead. Only after it finishes sending the first one will it start to send the 'saved' signal next. The complexity and implications of such formation are far beyond what Elder has worked so far."

"For example. Suppose that this Router Formation received two signals at once. Which one should it prioritize to send ahead first? If you don't specify before-hand, the formation will probably crash straightway since it will be lost at what to do. It won't know whether it should still send the signals ahead or not. Or worse, because it received two signals simultaneously, the formation might think they are the same one. In that case, it will mix both signals as if they are only one and then send ahead. Those who see it at the end will only say that the message doesn't make sense at all!"

"No, it would still be good if the receiver could see anything in the first place. Because both signals got mixed, the 'identification' of the signals will probably not match any of the receivers' formations anymore. That being, those formations will completely ignore that new mixed-signals since they are not supposed to show messages with that weird 'identification' inside them."

"That being that, your formation MUST know that two signals or more can arrive at once. It also needs to know which one it will prioritize. For example, let's say there are 10 buildings connected to the formation. Suddenly, buildings 03 and 07 send a message at the same time. The formation will have to have a priority system. You can simply do something like, the lower the number, the higher the priority."

"Alright, let's continue."

Droman could help but stop Rean.

"Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait! Give me a second for me to note everything down."

Rean noticed that he got too focused on explaining that he didn't see that Droman was already sweating cold with everything he heard.

"Cough, cough... No problem, take your time."

Of course, Droman said note down, but he instead used a Jade Slip and his Spiritual Sense to save everything inside.

"Phew... Alright, you can continue now. Tell me all the possible errors you can think about. The more, the better."

Rean nodded as he continued to explain.

"Anyway, that is one of the problems. The next one is the saved information. This formation can't possibly keep saving everything forever. Otherwise, it will reach a limit and won't be able to record anything anymore. You will need to find a way that the information will only stay saved until the signal is sent out. After that, the saved information will be deleted to give space for more information that arrives."

Droman then thought about something.

"What about the jade slips? They can save information exactly as we want, after all."

Rean shrugged his shoulder after hearing that.

"Well, Elder is the real Formations Master here. However, I need to point out that what will arrive at this Router Formation are Electrical Signals! Can jade slips save electrical patterns?"

"That..."

Droman became speechless again. What the cultivators used to input information inside the Jade Slips was Spiritual Energy, not Electrical Signals!

"It seems like Elder Droman understood. That is correct. If you want to use Jade Slips to save the information, then your formation will need to first convert the Electrical Signal into Spiritual Energy. That being said, I believe that Jade Slips are a terrible choice. Elder Droman forgot an important point here. To put information inside the Jade Slips, we use both Spiritual Energy and... Spiritual Sense! Can you understand where the main issue with Jade Slips is?"

Droman immediately nodded. He is, after all, the Formations Masters Hall's Head and a Peak Nascent Soul cultivator.

"Yes. The problem is in the Spiritual Sense. We can control our Spiritual Sense with our own Soul. However, formations don't have Souls. Obviously, they can't control Spiritual Sense to create detailed information to input inside the Jade Slips. There are formations capable of enhancing or hindering Spiritual Senses, but they are not even close to what we would need."

Rean agreed.

"Correct. So, if you really want to use Jade Slips, your formation will need to: Receive the Electrical Signal;

convert it into Spiritual Energy and Spiritual Sense;

input the received information correctly into the Jade Slip;

after that, it will wait for this information's time in the queue;

once that time comes, it will use Spiritual Sense and Energy once again to read the information in the Jade Slip;

convert it back into the correct electrical signal pattern as it was received;

and finally, send the signal into the main cable once more."

Elder Droman couldn't help but smile bitterly.

"Let's... drop the Jade Slip idea..."

"Hahaha! Sure, it would be way too annoying to work around such a thing."

Rean then asked something he was curious about.

"Elder Droman, the best thing is to have some material that can literally use electrical signals to save information. Do you know anything that could be used as a memory and that the formation could save the electrical signal pattern inside?"

Droman narrowed his eyes and began to think. However, even after a few minutes, he didn't answer Rean's question.

"Ahem... Could it be that there is none?"

Droman finally came back to himself and immediately shook his head.

"It's the opposite. I have too many options that I can't figure out just which one would be the best."

Rean really didn't expect that. He thought that one of the biggest issues would be to find something that could be used to save information. Who could have thought that not only there was, but there were too many on top of that.

"Well, then let's go for the cheapest options first."

Droman continued to ponder for a while and nodded.

"Indeed. I've never used those Lightn-... errr... electrical type of materials for something like this before. Because of that, I simply can't figure out which one is better. Perhaps, the cheapest ones will give the necessary results that we need. At least, I hope they do."

Rean agreed with Droman as well.

"Another issue I can think about is the time."

"Time?"

Rean nodded.

"Yes, time. To be more specific, the time necessary to save all the information and then take it out once more. Seconds are far from good enough. After all, these Router Formations will probably be localized at the intersection of several cities at once. Not only that, there will be Router Formations that will have to handle ALL the information of several other Router Formations that will arrive at it."

Droman promptly nodded.

"Indeed. If the busiest formations take as much as one second to make the entire process, it will definitely crumble apart. No, even a tenth of a second is way too much if the Router Formation is localized here in our Dalamu Sect. After all, a lot of information on our territory would definitely pass through here since we plan to make this place the center of the... Network..."

"Correct. Fortunately, now that we removed the jade slips idea, the formation will basically work with electrical signals. The only difference is that it will also use Spiritual Energy to generate even more electricity to keep the formation itself working. But that won't be a problem considering the gains of such a great thing. Anyway, what do you think so far?"

Rean thought that Droman would be somewhat discouraged about this second solution due to its complexity. However, what he saw next was the polar opposite of his thoughts.

"Hahaha! You want to know what I think? I have no idea whatsoever! I've never thought about something this complex before. However, I can't help but feel overflowed with excitement! This project will be the most entertaining and challenging thing I've worked with ever since I became a Formations Master!"

Suddenly, a wave of Spiritual Energy came from Elder Droman's body. It was so abrupt that even Droman himself was taken aback by that. Droman was one of the oldest elders in the Sect, being over 400 years old. He had been in the Nascent Soul Peak Stage for a very long time already. However, at this very moment, the bottleneck that hindered his progress for over 150 years broke apart as if it was made of paper! From today onwards, the Dalamu Sect has one more Soul Transformation Realm cultivator!

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Chapter 202: It Was Not On Purpose!

The moment Elder Droman achieved his breakthrough, All Nascent Soul and above level experts in tens of thousands of kilometers noticed his presence. One must understand that Soul Transformation Realm experts are extremely rare in the Country of Jialin. Even put the Sects and the Royal Family experts together, the total number doesn't reach 10! No one could tell why they could feel that, though. It has always been a mystery.

Dalamu Sect had only Mia since her Master, the hidden ancestor, is in the realm above. The Royal Family has two. The other Sect that also has two is the Lagan Sect. As for the other three sects, they only have one each! Droman has just become the 9th one here.

To make a comparison, if you take vagrant cultivators, clans, sects, the royal family, etc., there are more than 500 Nascent Soul Realm Experts in Jialin Country alone! That shows just how difficult it was to become a Soul Transformation Realm in a place like Jialin. It is not a matter of not having enough Spiritual Energy. No, far from that! It is a matter of the soul, a matter of understanding your own path. Few can really tell what their real paths are. Most Nascent Soul Experts will die before ever finding it out.

Of course, all the sects and the royal family have their own hidden ancestors that no one knows about. Mia's one is a good example. We are talking about those who surpassed the Soul Transformation Realm. No one knows exactly at what level they are since they left the ordinary cultivation world affairs behind a long time ago, secluding themselves. It was to the point that no one knew who was still alive and who

was dead. Because of that, no one counted those long-forgotten monsters. Unless their backgrounds reached a life and death situation, they would not emerge from their nests.

Elder Droman noticed what happened to him and was speechless. He had been a Formations Master for almost as long as he was a cultivator. He did think that his path would probably have something to do with it as well. However, even after this long working with it, he didn't feel like the Soul Transformation Realm door was opening at all.

It was only today, during this breakthrough, that he understood what he was lacking the most. It was not only the Formations themselves, but the challenge of seeking something new that has never been used before. Droman had created several formations in the past. However, he knew that formations like those ones already existed. It's just that he had never put his hands on their blueprints before.

Because of that, even though he created them himself, he had never made anything that he could call 'original and challenging.' Of course, the previous communication formations that he made so far could also somewhat be considered original and new. However, he didn't feel the least bit of a challenge making them. The very first one only took him around an hour to create. Where was the hurdle in that?

But today, while Droman discussed this new Router Formation, he realized one thing. The Router Formation was everything he ever wished for! The complexity, the applications, the changes it could bring to the world, not to mention that Spiritual Energy was only used as fuel. Instead, electricity was what would move the entire thing. Above all, the difficulty! It was as if his soul had always waited for this specific formation to appear in front of him.

It was so perfect that Droman wondered if it could be called fate. His soul pierced through the bottleneck of the Soul Transformation Realm as if it didn't even exist! If Droman hadn't been stuck for over 100 years at the Peak of the Nascent Soul Realm, he wouldn't even say that there was a bottleneck there to start with. After all... he broke through without even trying! It was completely spontaneous!

"Cough, cough... Elder Droman... if I offended you somehow... cough, cough... I will apologize..."

Right after, Rean passed out before he could even think about using his Life Style Skills.

It was then that Droman noticed a white-haired boy stuck on his room's wall with a pale ghost face. Not only that, but he was bleeding all over! Behind him, the wall caved into the shape of a human. It looked

more like the scene of a terror movie. It's just that Rean wasn't dead yet. As for the rest of the room's furniture, they had all been broken into pieces...

Because his breakthrough was so sudden, he didn't prepare a place in advance. The burst of Spiritual Energy that came from his body was not aimed at anyone, but it still carried the power of a Nascent Soul Expert. If Rean hadn't defended himself and jumped back in the last second, he would have definitely died!

"Ah!"

Droman's face turned as pale as Rean himself. Rean's shape was so terrible that he thought Rean could die at a moment's notice. If Rean really died here, he would never be able to forgive himself. The boy was the reason he finally crossed the threshold that held almost all Nascent Soul Cultivators in place. To thank the boy, he killed him. How ridiculous would that be?

Not to mention that Mia would skin him alive! She might turn him into the Soul Transformation Realm cultivator to have lived the shortest between all those that had ever existed.

"Boy! Don't you dare to die on me!"

He rushed to Rean's side and used his Spiritual Energy to protect Rean's organs. Only then did he slowly remove Rean from the wall. Almost all of Rean's bones were broken. If Droman tried, he could make Rean contort into shapes that a human shouldn't be able to at the moment.

He immediately took the best healing pill he had and fed to Rean too.

A few moments later, several figures appeared inside Droman's room. Obviously, they were the Core Sect Elders who were all at the Nascent Soul Realm. Also, Mia was there too.

Mia looked at Rean's condition and then at Droman, who was holding him. Obviously, her expression turned terrible to watch.

"Droman, care to explain?"

Mia said that as the bones on her hands made cracking sounds. Anyone can that that she couldn't be more enraged.

Droman felt like crying but had no tears!

'It was not on purpose, it was not on purpose at all! Please, trust me!'

Hard to do that when you look at the situation at hand.

Finally, everyone calmed down as Droman used a Spiritual Sense Message to tell them what really happened.

Elder Tiria, who was also there, was the first to talk.

"So, you really did breakthrough into the Soul Transformation Realm."

Everyone then looked at Mia, who was the only other Soul Transformation Realm in their Sect.

"It's true, I can feel that his cultivation reached the Initial Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm. Seems like you succeeded in finding your own path."

She then approached Droman and Rean and looked at the fainted white-haired boy.

"Still, I don't know whether I should say he is lucky or unlucky. He got a Soul Transformation Realm to owe him a life-changing favor, but he almost died for that."

Droman bitterly smiled as he kept pouring his Spiritual Energy into Rean's body, trying to stabilize his condition. Mia joined him too and sent a wave of Water Element and Spiritual Energy into his body. Elder Tiria and the other also got close to take a look and offered a few healing pills as well to help him. Finally, with everyone working together, Rean woke up once more. Of course, his condition was still terrible. The moment he came to himself, a wave of pain assaulted his entire body.

"Holy Mommy! This hurts like hell!"

Mia saw that and called his attention.

"Stopping wasting time and concentrate on your injuries. We don't have all day to take care of kids."

Only then did Rean notice all the famous figures around him.

"This..."

However, due to the pain, he decided to ask questions later. He immediately checked his condition and sighed in relief. He really looked bad, but there was no permanent damage that couldn't be healed by his skills.

Right after, all the surrounding Light Element began to converge inside Rean's body.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Rean then locked most of the Light Element inside and began his fast recovery.

Of course, that made all the elders open their eyes wide! They could see with their Spiritual Sense that all Rean's bones mended back together in a matter of seconds. His organs' injuries healed, and the outer ones closed without leaving a single scar behind. If not for the fact that Rean's clothes were in tatters and there was blood all over, no one would be able to tell that he was close to being dead a few seconds ago.

'Isn't this Light Element way too overpowered?'

Rean then got up and stretched a little.

"Phew... I thought I was going to die. Elder Droman, if you feel it is too hard to understand what I said, you don't need to hit me to make me stop talking. Just ask me, and I will take my time making things easier for you to learn."

Droman almost vomited blood!

'Didn't understand your head! It's because I understood it so well that it happened, idiot!'

Of course, he wouldn't burst out in front of all the other elders and especially Mia.

"Ahem... Don't worry, it won't happen again."

Only then did he proceed to tell Rean what really happened through a Spiritual Sense message.

Rean, of course, was taken aback by that.

"Now... that's surprising. Congratulations... I guess..."

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Chapter 203: Sealed Arrays

Pin!

[The birth of a Soul Transformation Realm can deeply affect an entire sect's destiny. They are a force to be recognized with, bringing a storm to the country, depending on their achievements. Host helped one of these experts to find his own path, allowing him to take this incredible step.]

[Reward: 300 Destiny Points.]

Rean smiled, already expecting something like this.

'Not that much, but it already helps.'

With everything settled, Mia decided to leave with the others. But before that, she said something else.

"Droman, now that you entered the Soul Transformation Realm, there will be a lot of cultivators coming to pay a visit to you. After all, everyone at the Nascent Sou Realm and above felt your presence when that happened. You better stay in the sect for the next few days."

Droman was aware of it. He is a lot older than Mia, so he was here when she entered the Soul Transformation Realm too. At that time, the sects and other powers came to congratulate her and the sect. In fact, their sect had done the same thing when other Soul Transformation Realm cultivators appeared in their country.

"Yes, Sect Master."

Mia nodded and added.

"Also, since Rean will spend some time healing those with Umbral Energy during the next few days, you might as well act as his protectors and stay by his side. I doubt anyone will try something idiot with you there."

After finishing those words, Mia disappeared from the room. Tiria and the others congratulated Droman one last time and left as well.

Seeing that everyone was gone, Droman finally let out a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Rean was fine, so he wouldn't become the cultivator to have lived the shortest after entering the Soul Transformation Realm.

"I say, boy. You really know how to scare others."

Rean couldn't help but shrug his shoulders.

"Hey, it was Elder who sent me flying, you know?"

Droman then looked around his room and scratched the back of his head. He had quite a few things he liked there. However, because of the burst of Spiritual Energy, everything broke apart.

"Well, not everything can be perfect. Let's go somewhere else. I'll have the disciples fix this place for the moment."

Rean nodded, and the two went to another secluded place. There, Rean and Droman continued to talk about the new Router Formation that Droman would be working with.

"Well, this is basically everything I can think about at the moment. However, I know nothing about formations, so Elder will have to figure out how to put all of this together."

Droman looked at Rean before looking at himself. In the end, he decided to offer.

"You have the knowledge. That being said, why don't you become a Formations Master? A head for theories like yours would be perfect for the job when coming up with new formations."

Rean felt a little embarrassed after hearing that. Everything he talked about was the general knowledge he learned back on Earth. There wasn't anything really original to it.

"Better not. I'm already a blacksmith, so I prefer to not waste more time learning formations as well. Besides, I only gave everyone ideas. The concept to make those things work is totally different."

Droman shook his head, though.

"Now that I think about it, you are really a blacksmith. In that case, you should definitely rethink working on formations. You must understand that it is possible to add tiny formations to weapons as well to enhance their abilities. Well, to be more specific, they are called Sealed Arrays since they are sealed inside the weapons. You can't mistake it with 'formations' drawn to be static in a place or 'equipment formations' made with several equipments that have Sealed Arrays to create Formations on the spot. They are three different uses with their own features, after all. Of course, they are all branches of the Formations Master occupation."

Rean narrowed his eyes. So far, he hasn't seen a single Weapon Sealed Array in anyone's weapons.

"How come I've never seen it?"

Only then Droman remembered that Rean is still in the Foundation Establishment Realm.

"Oh, right. You won't see such works before you deal with weapons at the Heaven Level. That's because weapons at the Earth Low, High, and Peak-Levels aren't strong enough to keep the Sealed Arrays' integrity during a battle."

Droman then took a small plate out and showed it to Rean.

"This is a Heaven Low-Level equipment. I paid a fortune to get this little guy. As for the Sealed Array drawn on the plate, it was me who did it."

Rean looked at the plate with curiosity and could see the Sealed Array that Droman told him about. It wasn't just drawn on the plate's surface. The Array entered the plate itself, making its way to the other side of it. Even if someone scratches the surface, the Array will continue to work. To make the Array lose effect, one will need to literally open a hole on the plate.

Droman then threw the small plate in the air. Suddenly, the Sealed Array on the plate began to shine as the plate increased in size tens of times. However, the impressive thing was that the Array increased in size too.

"This is one of the powers of a Heaven level equipment. It can keep the proportional size of the Array as it changes. Weapons at the Earth Level can't sustain such a thing. The Arrays inside would definitely crumble apart."

Rean was surprised to see that.

"Does it mean that I won't be able to make a Heaven Level equipment if it doesn't have a Sealed Array on it?"

"Not necessarily. You can make a Heaven Level Equipment without Sealed Arrays. However, suppose you put two identical pieces of equipment against each other. In that case, the one with a Sealed Array on it will definitely trash the one without it."

Rean nodded. He had to admit that these Arrays caught his attention. It was then that he thought about something else. Right after, he contacted Sister Orb.

'Sister Orb, would you be able to crack into those Sealed Arrays as you did with the formations we found in the past?'

[Hard to say since I've never encountered one. However, even if possible, it will depend on the Soul Gem System's processing power. In the end, the battle might be over before I even manage to crack into it.]

'Processing power? Like, CPUs? The Soul Gem System has such a thing?'

[Of course! Why do you think it is called a system? If you want, you can use Destiny Points to upgrade it too. It's just that your authority hasn't reached the necessary level yet, so this option is not available in the reward list.]

Rean was quite surprised by that. But after thinking about it for a moment, he had to admit that it made sense. Of course, the system's existence was still as weird as ever. At least there was no such an 'all-powerful' system back on Earth.

'Oh well... Heaven Level Equipment can only be used by Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and above. If such an enemy appears in front of me, it will matter little whether his equipment has a Sealed Array in it or not. Still, I better prepare myself for it now that I know.'

"By the way, what does your Sealed Array do, Elder Droman?"

Droman smiled as he stuffed his chest with pride.

"This is one of my masterpieces, a fusion between energy gathering and flying Sealed Arrays. It can gather Spiritual Energy on its own to keep itself afloat."

Rean's mouth twitched.

"That's it?"

Droman nodded.

"That's it."

Rean couldn't help but spit out.

"It's useless!"

Droman, of course, got angry when he heard it.

"Useless your head! Suppose you have an attack coming your way. Instead of holding that plate to defend and be blasted with it, you can send the plate to block the attack first."

Rean snorted, though.

"And what happens after? The plate will be blasted away, and you will have to go take it back?"

"Of course not, look."

Droman then made a seal on the air. Right after, the plate flew right back on his hand.

"See? I can call it back as soon as it finishes blocking the attack. As long as the Sealed Array is not damaged, I can do it as many times as I want."

Rean still found it quite impracticable. There were way too many flaws in it.

"How strong is the Energy Gathering Array? Can it keep with a long battle? Nascent Soul cultivators use powerful attacks. I can't see the Energy of a simple Energy Gathering Array being able to cope with it. If it runs out of Energy while you are not close by, will it fall into your enemies' hands? Or maybe just fall on the ground? Consider that it still has Spiritual Energy to spare. If your enemy fakes his attack for you to throw the plate and then grab it, is the flying Array on it able to get the plate free from the enemy's grasp? If it can't, what will you do when you lose the protection of this plate? Does it have a countermeasure that will automatically strike the enemy who is holding it? What if..."

Droman began to sweat. The more Rean talked, the more useless his plate seemed to be. It reached a point that even Droman began to doubt his own choices.

Suddenly, Droman recalled his plate and put it away while Rean was still talking.

"Ahem... let's forget about my little plate for now, shall we?"

Droman was forced to do it before his own heart broke apart.

"Anyway, after all the... points... you mentioned just now, you can see just how important Equipments with Sealed Arrays are, right? If you intend to become a peerless blacksmith, you will have to know how to draw your own Sealed Arrays."

Rean decided to ignore the fact that Droman fled from the topic about his flying plate. After all, he wouldn't commit the same mistakes.

"Very well, I'll do it."

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Chapter 204: Was it Important?

Elder Droman was happy to hear that.

"Great! I'll have to stay with you for the next few days anyway. It's an excellent opportunity to get you started in the path of Formations. But before that, let's go out and check when you have to do those healings of yours."

It was then that Droman thought about something.

"Oh, right. Since you will be studying Formations under me, I'll put your status as my disciple. That should give you some more protection in the future. Although I will only be responsible for teaching you formations, the others don't need to know it. Let them think I'm your full-fledged master for everything."

Rean pondered a bit and nodded. Cultivation was being dealt with by Sister Orb. However, Rean had no one to teach about Formations. Besides, it wasn't as bad as accepting being the Sect Master's Disciple. That one would instead bother him more than help. But if it was an elder of the sect, it would be easier to deal with the commotion.

"Indeed. Having a Soul Transformation Realm master can be quite convenient in the long term. Let's go ahead with your plan."

Droman's mouth twitched a little after rearing that.

'Quite... convenient...'

If any other Foundation Establishment heard that they could become a Soul Transformation Realm's disciple, they would be crying out of happiness. Rean, on the other hand, found it... convenient... How could Droman's pride not be hurt?

'Forget it... Expecting normal reactions from these abnormal twins was a mistake to start with...'

Right after, the two left together.

Back on Roan's side, Old Worm came to the hut to watch him try the new combinations for Dark and Light Element Foundation Stabilizing Pills.

"Oh, it seems like you got all the items indeed."

Roan nodded.

"We posted a few missions for others to collect three of them. Only the Midday Ginseng was remaining. Fortunately, we got quite a harvest on the Sun Streak Mountain Range."

Old Worm nodded.

"Very well. You can start now, and I'll observe. Since it is a new elemental type of Foundation Stabilizing pill, I'm also curious to see the process. I'll tell you the points you need to correct if I see something wrong."

Roan didn't say anything else and immediately began his concoction. Those two weren't the type to talk much to start with, so they didn't bother with pleasantries.

As one can imagine, Roan failed quite a few times. Still, he didn't use even 10% of everything he had yet.

"This combination seems wrong too. You better try something else."

Roan then changed the combination of herbs once more. As mentioned before, both Roan and Old Worm don't know if it will really work. They can only try several methods and see which one works better. It was a good thing that Old Worm was present since he helped Roan avoid many mistakes.

"This one was somewhat better. The harmonization process went smoothly most of the time, only failing in the end when Mastoka Grass was added. I think if I change it to Edocel Root, I should get the same effect without losing the necessary properties."

Old Worm pondered a bit about Roan's words and nodded his head.

"Seems feasible. Do it."

Roan then restarted the concoction and repeated the same process to the end. This one ended using the Midday Ginseng in the process instead of the Two-Tailed Sun Phyton Blood. As for the other two items on Old Worm's list, they would be used for a Dark Element Type of Foundation Stabilizing Pills.

Finally, the harmonization process finished without the concoction failing. Of course, Roan was sweating all over since he had to adapt to all the new changes to it. Only after he makes more of them will he get used to it. Still, the last part was to form the pill.

As mentioned in the past, Roan found Pill Formation to be the easiest part. That being said, it wasn't hard for him to finish this one too.

Suddenly, the cover of the cauldron opened as three milk-white pills shot out. Roan was ready for that, so he quickly grabbed all as he put them inside a pill bottle.

Old Worm then nodded.

"Seems good enough."

That was all. Old Worm didn't say anything else, and neither did Roan want to hear it. Congratulation words and things like that simply wasn't their style. Somehow, the two of them communicated very well like that. Rean would only find it creepy, though.

"I'll recover my Spiritual Energy and try Dark Element ones."

Old Worm then took a book out of his chest and sat on a chair to read it.

In the end, Roan and Old Worm spent an entire day to finish the first batch of Light Element Foundation Stabilizing Pills.

Back on Rean's place, he was in the Doctors Building while a frightening queue could be seen outside his room's door. Droman, obviously, was there as well.

However, don't misunderstand these words. The queue wasn't frightening because it was big. Instead, only 23 people were waiting. What was frightening were the cultivation levels of these people. The weakest one was a Core and Soul Fusion Realm Initial Stage!

If one stops to think, that makes sense. Only people at these levels that practiced Umbral Energy would be able to leave long-lasting Umbral Energy injuries on the others. That's why the patients that came to see Rean all had high-level cultivation. There was even a Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm elder in their middle.

"Don't think too much over it. Now that I'm at the Soul Transformation Realm, no one will be able to touch you. You can go and do your healing thing without being afraid of someone turning against you."

Droman saw right through Rean's concerns. After all, his Middle Stage Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation was nothing more than an ant in front of those monsters outside. Obviously, he was nervous that someone might try something under the Umbral Sect orders.

In the end, he took a deep breath and nodded.

"Alright. Send the first person in."

As one can imagine, the higher the cultivation, the higher the priority. That being said, the Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm guy entered first.

"Oh! Long time no see, Ramon. Seems like the rumors were true. You really had a fallout against Latan from the Umbral Sect over that auction item."

That's the name of the old man in front of Rean.

Ramon saw Droman and was taken aback. That's because he couldn't feel Droman's cultivator as he did in the past.

"Dr-Droman! I see... so that presence I felt coming from Dalamu Sect was you. Congratulations on finding your own path. Now the Dalamu Sect is on par with the Royal Family and the Lagan Sect. I was already planning to come by later to congratulate the new pathfinder, but it seems like I can do it now."

Droman smiled after hearing that.

"You are still young, barely 200 years old. You have a lot of time to find your path after you reach the Peak Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm too."

Ramon couldn't help but sigh.

"If it was that easy, there wouldn't be so many Nascent Soul Realm cultivators dying over the years without entering the next Realm. Anyway, I didn't come here to sulk over it. That damned psychotic idiot really didn't hold back when I left with the auction's Litoen Pearl."

Droman nodded. It was evident to him that Ramon got injured quite badly. If Ramon continued like this, he would probably take several more years before driving the entire Umbral Energy out of his body.

"Of course, I didn't let him leave that easily either. He is probably suffering as much as I am at the moment. Hahaha- ouch."

He almost lost control over the Spiritual Energy used to suppress the Umbral Energy because of that laugh.

"Are you okay?"

Ramon quickly stabilized his chaotic energy and nodded.

"Yea, I'm fine."

Droman couldn't help but comment.

"Latan was quite bold, indeed. After all, you are the representative of the Empire in our country. Aren't they afraid of offending the higher-ups?"

Ramon shook his head.

"Although he didn't hold back, he wasn't trying to kill me either. At most, the Umbral Sect would get a warning. After all, we are just too far away from the Empire's capital for the higher-ups to really care about. I might as well not go through the bother."

Rean was surprised to hear about Ramon's background. Still, he didn't try to get in the middle of their conversation.

Droman and Ramon exchanged a few more words until finally, Ramon took his time to look at the white-haired kid in the room.

"So, you are the miracle boy that can heal Umbral Energy, yea?"

Rean bowed as he introduced himself.

"Yes, senior. My name is Rean Larks. Nice to meet you."

Ramon nodded as he asked Droman.

"Were you tasked to protect him? Well, that makes sense since someone capable of healing Umbral Energy is an important asset to the sect."

Droman nodded.

"Indeed. Also, Rean is my disciple, so I have even more of a need to do it."

Obviously, Droman said that for Ramon to hear. With that, the word would quickly spread.

"I see... congratulations on finding someone this good to inherit your techniques. Anyway, shall we start it?"

Ramon then looked at Rean and said.

"Kid, if you are really able to heal this thing, I, Ramon Doichu, will owe you a favor."

Rean nodded.

"Thank you. Please sit on this chair, senior."

Ramon then sat down as Rean asked.

"Alright. I will need senior to block all your senses and cultivation as much as possible. It will help finish the job since our difference in cultivation is too high. If you keep driving your Spiritual Energy, it will take forever."

"Wouldn't it let the Umbral Energy run rampant in my body?"

Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry, senior. I can protect your organs with my Light Element. You already came here, so you might as well trust me to the end. Just be aware that there will be a lot of pain while I eliminate Umbral Energy. Please bear with it."

Ramon then sighed and nodded. In any case, Droman was there. If he wanted to kill him, there would be no need to go through all these troubles.

Soon, he locked all his senses and stopped driving his Spiritual Energy as much as he could.

Rean then put his hands on Ramon's shoulders and sent his Spiritual Energy and Sense inside to check his condition. Rean had to be a lot more careful since the difference in cultivation between them was too high. Otherwise, he would have used the Purification straight away.

'Hum? He is also inflicted with poison. Seems like he sealed it on a corner of his heart. Oh well, since I'm already at it, I might as well take care of it.'

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Due to the difference in cultivation, Rean's Purification still took over ten minutes to finish. After all, the natural protection of Spiritual Energy in his body hindered Rean's progress by a tremendous amount, and that was while Ramon tried to block it. Still, compared to the several hours he took to heal Elder Tiria in the past, this was basically nothing.

Of course, that was the time necessary to eliminate the Umbral Energy. As for the poison in the Heart, Rean was finding it a lot more troublesome to deal with it.

'That's quite a strong poison. No wonder Ramon didn't say anything. He probably thinks I can't deal with it or that my ability to remove Umbral Energy is different from removing poisons.'

'Hmph! Let's see how much this poison can hold.'

In the end, Rean took another two hours just to eliminate that poison alone. Obviously, it far surpassed what Umbral Energy could do. Nonetheless, Rean got rid of it without leaving a single trace behind. It's just that he felt quite tired after it.

The surprising thing was that Ramon's expression didn't even change during the process.

'As expected of a Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm, bearing with pain isn't anything difficult for them.'

Rean then sent a Stream of Spiritual Energy into Ramon's head to tell him that the process was over.

"Already? It has been only a bit over two hours."

Rean smiled as he said.

"Senior Ramon can check your body if you don't believe me."

Ramon quickly drove his Spiritual Energy and Sense in his body to check the places where the Umbral Energy was present in the past. Sure enough, there wasn't even a trace of it anymore.

"Hahaha! Great! Boy, you didn't disappoint this ol-"

Suddenly, Ramon's voice froze on the spot.

"This..."

He then looked at Rean as if he was seeing a monster. The poison that was sealed in his heart... was gone! Even the elimination of the Umbral Energy didn't shock him as much as the disappearance of the poison.

"Boy... did you do something else other than the Umbral Energy elimination?"

Rean nodded as his Dark and White hair returned to being just white again.

"I found that your heart was afflicted with another poison. I was already treating the Umbral Energy, so I decided to destroy it too."

Rean didn't think he did anything wrong. However, not only Ramon, even Droman's expression changed drastically after hearing that.

"Could it be... that it was important?"

Death... and me

Chapter 205: Empire's Poison

Suddenly, Droman released his Spiritual Energy, sealing the entire room from the outside. Ramon, obviously, couldn't help but feel nervous when he saw that.

"Droman! What are you trying to do?!"

Ramon didn't try to break out since he knew the difference between Nascent Soul and Soul Transformation Realm experts. It would be a waste of energy and time to try to do so. Of course, he was prepared to go all out if Droman really decided to attack him in this place. It's not like he would simply wait for his death.

"What do you think? Now that it reached this point, I can't simply let you go, you know?"

However, just as Droman was about to attack, Rean held him back.

"Hey, hey, hey! I just saved my patient, and you want to kill him? What kind of treatment is that? Let's all sit down and talk, shall we? We can definitely reach an agreement without bloodshed."

However, Rean was more thinking about something completely different.

'Fuck you! Just a breakthrough Spirit Energy shockwave almost killed me. If those two fight here, there won't be even a trace of me remaining to tell the story. If you want to fight, wait for this grandfather to be far, far away first.'

Droman and Ramon looked at Rean and then at each other. After that, Ramon pulled the chair beside him and sat down. Seeing that, Droman calmed himself and did the same as well.

"Good, it would be shameful to have two seniors several hundred years old fighting in front of a kid like me. Now, let's start with the part about what brought you into this state. Just a moment ago, you two

seemed to be quite friendly to each other. Why all this hostility all of a sudden? Is it because I healed his poison?"

Droman didn't say anything and looked at Ramon, waiting for him to tell what was happening.

Ramon knew that Droman was aware of the issue at hand, so he decided to bring out the truth too.

"That's precisely the problem here. You should have told me beforehand that you were going to heal it. In fact, even if you had said to me that you could eliminate it, I wouldn't believe your words. Still, I would ask you to not touch it either."

Rean nodded. It seemed that it was really a problem related to that poison.

"Why would you want to keep it inside your body? From what I could see, that thing was several times more potent than the Umbral Energy in your body. Isn't it good that it is gone now?"

Ramon nodded his head and shook it right after.

"It is indeed good that the poison is gone. However, that is also a major issue. Did you hear that I'm the Empire's representative in the Jialin Country?"

Rean nodded and waited for Ramon to continue talking.

"Jialin isn't the only country to do so. All the countries in our Sasamil Empire also have their own representatives. Of course, their levels are different depending on the status of the country itself. Since Jialin is such a weak and small country, a Nascent Soul Realm representative is more than enough for it."

Ramon continued.

"Being a representative is something really good. Because of your relation to the Empire's capital, you are entitled to a lot more resources and payment than others at the same level. At least, that is so if you compare me to other Nascent Soul Realm cultivators in Jialin. Droman can confirm that too."

Droman nodded.

"He is talking the truth."

Rean already began to get a picture of what was happening here. However, he waited for Ramon to continue his explanation.

"Anyway, this is the kind of position everyone would love to take. However, there is a certain condition for anyone who takes it."

Rean couldn't help but say.

"Loyalty."

Ramon bitterly smiled as he nodded his head.

"Exactly. After all, what would the Empire turn into if its supervisors were all doing their own shady things on their backs? That would lead to a lot of problems instead. Not to mention that the Empire is providing them a lot of resources for their cultivation. Such a situation would be ridiculous."

Rean nodded.

"That's where that poison in your heart came into play. If you were caught doing something that could damage the Empire, they could use it to get rid of you."

Ramon sighed.

"Yes. Of course, there are a lot of loopholes around it. For example, if you try something that could take advantage of the Empire without anyone noticing, then you would be fine. After all, it is not like the poison can monitor you. However, that also prevents any of the representatives from trying anything overboard. In the end, they can at most do small things in the shadows."

Rean agreed with him.

"That makes sense. Once you try something against the Empire's Will for your own benefit, it has to be as secret as possible. However, such operations at the Nascent Soul Level or above would usually not only have yourself behind it. After all, considering what you already get from the Empire itself, it would be ridiculous to put your life at risk for some little benefit. For it to be worth it, it would definitely involve many people depending on the operations. That's where the issue resides. As long as one of them lets the cat out of the bag, this representative's life would be in great danger. After all, there would be no lack of cultivators who want to take his place."

Ramon was quite impressed by Rean's words. It was not something you would expect to come from a kid's mouth. Still, he quickly came back to himself.

"That's exactly it. So, even though I won't say that there aren't any of them doing shady works behind the Empire's back, the ones willing to try are few. So far, it has been an excellent system to keep all their supervisors in check. They keep an eye on the sects, royal families, guilds, etc., and report it back to the Empire Capital. That's how the Empire has been able to hold a fairly stable government over the last few thousands of years."

"Of course, no one is forced to take the position of supervisor. However, as you said, there is no lack of cultivators who would love to do so even if they have to become an empire's dog. After all, it is better than have one's cultivation path halted. I just so happen to be one of them. It was thanks to all those resources that I reached my level of cultivation at such a young age."

Droman nodded once more. He is already 427 years old. He reached the Late Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm at the age of 273, a lot later than Ramon. After that, he reached the peak at 315. As mentioned before, Droman stayed in the peak of the Nascent Soul Realm for over a hundred years before entering the Soul Transformation Realm. However, Ramon would definitely reach the peak of the Nascent Soul Realm way before 300. This is all thanks to the resources provided by the Empire to him.

"Now, here's the problem. As far as I know, only cultivators above the Saint Realm should be able to remove that poison from my heart. Did you see that it had a seal around it?"

Rean nodded. When he was attacking that poison, that seal resisted for a long time. However, he thought that the one who put it there was Ramon himself to prevent the poison from spreading. It was thanks to Roan's Dark Element's corrosion effect that he eventually broke through it.

"So, that seal was not yours, but the Empire's one that was used to keep the poison at bay. If they desired, they could lift it and let it spread into your body. If that happened, you would be dead for sure."

Ramon nodded once more.

"Exactly. Now, the seal and the poison are gone. As mentioned before, only those above the Saint Realm were supposed to be able to do so. Of course, I heard that the Empire also has a pill that can heal it in case the representative wants to retire from his position or some other circumstances. However, the concoction process is a secret that no one other than the Imperial Family knows about. Also, the one who wants to retire from the position will have to pay a high price for it."

"Still, here you are, a Foundation Establishment Kid who can get rid of the poison without leaving a single trace behind. Do you have any idea how big it is? The fact that you can heal Umbral Energy is nothing compared to it."

Rean sighed in the end.

"I try to help others, and that's what I get. What kind of shit luck is that?"

Rean then looked at Droman and Ramon.

"So, Elder Droman was trying to get rid of you before you could tell anyone about it, right?"

Droman and Ramon nodded.

"I can understand your thoughts, Elder Droman. However, I can't agree with it. It is not like it was his fault."

Still, Rean couldn't help but think.

'If it was Roan, he would definitely not stop Droman.'

Droman then told Rean.

"Then, what do you suggest? Do you plan to let him leave? This thing wouldn't only affect you, but the entire sect, you know? Don't worry, as a Soul Transformation Realm, I can take the blame for killing him without being killed as punishment."

Ramon began to sweat cold after hearing that. In the end, it was all in the hands of the white-haired boy.

Death... and me

Chapter 206: Same Thoughts

"Hum... It is quite simple, isn't it? Let's have him promise he won't tell anyone."

Droman's mouth twitched when he heard that.

"Hey, hey, hey! You can't possibly trust his words that easy, right?"

Ramon also agreed with Droman... even though he was the one who would benefit from that.

"He's right. There is absolutely no guarantee that I wouldn't tell them about you, you know?"

Rean was puzzled.

"Could it be that the empire has a way to know that you removed the poison?"

"This..."

This time, it was Ramon and Droman's time to be puzzled.

"Well... there isn't really. Unless a Saint Realm expert comes and verifies it by himself, it is not possible. However, what does it have to do with anything?"

Rean nodded.

"So, to remove the poison without the right method or pill, you need someone above the Saint Realm. However, to put it there, Saint Realm is enough, correct?"

Ramon nodded subconsciously.

"In that case, with which frequency these... Saint Realm experts... come to verify if you still have the poison or not?"

Droman immediately shook his head before Ramon could even answer.

"Saint Realm experts aren't that free. Unless there is a good reason, they won't waste their time doing such a thing. Besides, the empire is very confident in its method."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"Then we are fine. As long as Ramon doesn't say anything, there is no reason to be afraid of anything."

Ramon couldn't help but ask.

"Why would I keep this secret for you? If they find out that I did not tell about the poison being removed, not only I'm dead, you are dead too. In fact, I might even get rewarded if I go ahead and tell them about it."

Droman's expression turned dark, but he knew it was the truth and the reason why he wanted to kill Ramon. Ramon knew that as well. That's why he didn't try to hide it either.

However, Rean got even more puzzled now.

"I don't understand. Why would you do such an idiot thing as telling them?"

Droman and Ramon wondered if Rean had paid attention to what Ramon just said.

"As I said th-"

Rean raised his hand and cut Ramon's next words in the middle.

"That's not what I'm talking about. What I mean is, since you can still receive the resources while having no risk of dying, why would you go ahead and tell them? Correct if I'm wrong. Suppose one day you need to leave for some reason, be it an enemy, the empire wanting to change you for someone else, and prefer to kill you since it is faster, or whatever. Wouldn't it be better if you didn't need to care about it and simply did whatever you want? It doesn't matter how I see it. The benefit of having control over your own life is worth more than anything else, especially since you can still work for the empire while receiving all the payments. Or could it be that you like the feeling of having your life on their hands?"

Ramon was taken aback by Rean's words. Of course, he didn't like the fact that the empire had his life on their hands. However, that was the price he paid to get the things he needed. However, if he can still get everything while not being afraid of dying, wouldn't it be several times better?

Rean noticed Ramon wavering and struck while the iron was hot.

"Besides, if they really find out, they won't kill you. They will first capture you and then interrogate. At that time, you can simply explain what happened and trade the information about who did that in exchange for your life. Of course, from what I heard from you two, the chances of someone really finding it out is nearly zero. Especially when you are taking care of such a small country."

"I..."

Ramon wasn't faking. Rean's words had really affected him.

Finally, Rean used his last trump card.

"Also, don't forget you said that you owe me a favor for getting rid of the Umbral Energy. Consider this little secret between us as the payment for that favor."

Droman, of course, was still against it.

"I can't accept your idea. It is too risky for both you and the sect."

Just as Rean was about to say something else, a voice appeared inside of their room.

"It's fine. Let Ramon go."

"Sect Master!"

Obviously, it was Mia who intervened.

"But Sect Master, what if he prefers to try to get a reward and tell about Rean's ability?"

Mia then replied.

"It's okay. It is not because they found that Rean can do such a thing that they will kill him. First, they will capture him. After that, they will obviously learn that Rean can only do such a thing thanks to his ability to control both Light and Dark Elements. Simply put, other than him and Roan, no one else would be able to eliminate the poison in the same way."

"Since such a method can't be copied, there is no risk of it spreading out. Chances are that they will take Rean and Roan under their custody, which might not be a bad thing for the two. After they find out how much of a genius they are, they won't simply let them go and will try to gain their favor instead for the sake of the empire. However, it would definitely be a terrible thing for Ramon since he was the one to denounce the two. Who knows, Rean and Roan can use his life in exchange for willingly entering the empire's forces."

Ramon became even more fearful now that he heard that. If he doesn't say anything, he might die if the empire finds out. However, if he does tell, he might die if Rean and Roan decide to use his life in exchange for loyalty.

Mia didn't say anything else after that. Even though the one who was protecting Rean was Droman, she still kept one eye on the situation. When she saw the restriction being lifted around the room, she immediately used her own authority to pry inside and see what was happening.

Droman sighed in the end and lifted the restriction in the room. As for Ramon, he could only stand up and walk out. However, he felt like he was under even more pressure now. Who knows? They might have said that just for him to leave the sect and then have him killed outside to cover the traces. Yet, he looked at Rean one last time. It was thanks to him that he still had a chance to live instead of dying in the Dalamu Sect. Nevertheless, he also agreed with Droman that such action was too naive. Of course, after hearing everything, he had no intention of saying a single word of what happened to anyone else.

Rean smiled and immediately called the next person. Just like that, he began to heal everyone from Umbral Energy as if nothing had happened.

Somewhere else, Mia retracted her Spiritual Sense from Rean's room and sent it somewhere else.

'Master, is it really okay?'

Obviously, Mia was talking with the same Ancestor from when Rean and Roan joined their Dalamu Sect.

'It's fine. If the Imperial sends someone questioning, I'll step out to deal with it. The boy had done a lot for our sect with that communication system of his. It is nothing much to accommodate one of his selfishness. The interesting thing is that his Brother would definitely have agreed with killing Ramon. How can twins be so different from each other? Hehe...'

Mia then looked up in the sky. As mentioned before, only she and her Master can see the Yin Yang effects happening around their Dalamu Mountain.

'It is still changing. Soon, it will start to increase our sect disciples' fortune.'

Mia's Master nodded.

'Yes. There is no doubt that it is related to those two. We need to do our best to keep them with us for as long as possible. Of course, with their talent, they are bound to open their wings and fly far away. The rare elements that they have an affinity with don't seem to be holding them back at all. But until then, I want our sect to make a bound as strong as possible with the two.'

Mia agreed with her Master.

'Don't worry, Master. I'll do my best for it to happen.'

After that, Mia retracted her Spiritual Sense once more and then sighed.

Suddenly, she noticed a certain figure slowly making her way out of the room while trying to not catch her attention.

Mia's eyes narrowed as she gathered some Spiritual Energy. After that, she condensed it and used that to hit a certain naughty girl's head.

Pah!

"Ouch!"

Who else could it be if not Malaka?

"Master, it hurts!"

Mia then began to gather Spiritual Energy once more while saying with a frigid voice.

"Is that so? Let's see if I can make it hurt even more."

Malaka's face went pale, and she immediately ran back to her position, the same position where she was supposed to be cultivating. Seeing that, Mia finally retracted her hand as the Spiritual Energy dissipated. At the same time, Mia couldn't help but shook her head.

'She has such great potential. Why is she this lazy?'

Little did she know, but a certain Black-Haired Twin had asked himself the same question tens of thousands of times.

If one didn't keep an eye on Malaka, she would definitely try to run out as fast as possible. Sometimes, only the fear of pain was strong enough to keep that girl in her place.

Death... and me

Chapter 207: The Egg

In the end, Rean got quite a few favors and items. He didn't know if he would ever use any of it, but it was good to have them at hand.

"Phew... it is finally over."

Droman nodded.

"Indeed. Alright, let's go back and start practicing the formations."

Rean was about to nod his head when suddenly, a disciple entered his room in a hurry. Droman narrowed his eyes, seeing that.

"What is it? Do you need anything?"

The disciple then quickly bowed to Elder Droman as he looked at Rean.

"Fellow Disciple Rean, elder Javiu is summoning you urgently. It seems like it has something to do with the egg you left in his care."

Rean's eyes lit up as he looked at Droman.

"Sorry, elder Droman. I have to pay a visit to the Beast Taming District. I'll see you later in your room."

Before Droman could even answer, Rean disappeared from the room in a flash.

'This boy... doesn't he know how to properly treat his master? Where is the paying of respect before leaving my presence?'

In the end, Droman sighed and left as well.

Rean didn't know what Droman was thinking, and he probably wouldn't care that much either. He even used his Life Style First Form to get there faster.

Finally, he arrived at the barn where his egg was being taken care of. However, he was taken aback by what he saw. But before he could ask anything, he heard Javiu's voice coming from the side.

"Oh, you are here. That is your egg, so you go and do something about it."

At the moment, the egg was absorbing all the Spiritual Energy of the surroundings like a black pit. It was to the point where it was hard to stay close to it.

"This... what happened?"

Javiu shook his head after hearing that.

"No idea. It was still as always until suddenly, it became like this. Anyway, you better feed it with Spiritual Energy soon. From what I can see, it is trying to hatch, but for some reason, it needs a lot of Spiritual Energy to do so."

Demon Beasts absorbing Spiritual Energy to hatch isn't anything rare. Even the mammals do it with their mothers. However, the amount was usually small to the point that no one would notice. Elder Javiu could sense how weak the Spiritual Energy inside the egg during the nurturing was. He always thought that a useless demon beast would come out of it and couldn't understand why Rean put so much importance on it. At most, it was taking a lot more time to hatch than what he initially expected.

However, his opinion completely changed now. He had never seen a demon beast egg absorbing so much energy like this before.

Rean then looked at elder Javiu before saying.

"Elder Javiu, can you let me alone with it?"

Javiu didn't know why Rean asked him to leave. Still, since it was his egg and he paid to use the barn, he decided to do as Rean asked.

Of course, there was a reason why Rean asked that. He would need to access the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Rean was only at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Obviously, he didn't have that much energy to give the egg. Without another choice, he could only bring out his Spirit Stones. Of course, if even Elder Javiu, who was in the Core Formation Realm, didn't dare get close to the egg, he wasn't idiot enough to do that either. That being said, Rean began to throw spirit stones close to the egg.

The egg's absorption power was really frightening. As soon as a Spirit Stone appeared in Rean's hand, its Spiritual Energy already began to flow out before he even threw them at it.

'Such a frightening absorption power. Still, why do I feel some familiarity with it?'

Sister Orb answered that question.

[Oh, that's because you kept this egg in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm for a long time. Although I don't know what demon beast it is, I knew it was something interesting due to its Life Energy Purity. After staying in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, the Yin and Yang power that exists here was also absorbed inside it. Most likely, a mutation happened during it that time that created this connection with you and probably Roan as well.]

Rean couldn't help but lament once again.

'I wonder why you always forget to tell those things ahead of time.'

[Teehee.]

A vein popped on Rean's head.

'If just she wasn't so much stronger than me...'

Leaving Sister Orb's memory issues aside, Rean kept throwing his Spirit Stones at the egg as it absorbed it without stopping. At some point, Rean's Rank One Spirit Stones were gone for good.

'Just how much hungrier it can be?'

Without another choice, Rean began to throw Rank Two Spirit Stones as well. Fortunately, he had received a payment recently. Because he already finished his own, Roan, and Malaka's weapons, he had no need for more High-Quality Materials. That being said, he took his payments with Spirit Stones alone.

The Spirit Stones then began to disappear.

10...

20...

40...

100...

200...

Before he could complain, a thousand Spirit Stones were gone, just like that.

"For fucking sake! How much more are you going to absorb?"

Still, it was as if the egg completely ignored Rean's voice and continued to absorb the Spiritual Energy inside all the stones thrown at it.

It wasn't after around 3400 that it finally stopped absorbing the Spiritual Energy of the stones. Of course, Rean was feeling quite helpless. Even though he has a lot of Spirit Stones, that is still a tremendous amount.

Crack.

[Quickly. Elder Javiu said that you had to be the first one that it sees. It will help you form an emotional bond with it.]

Rean nodded as he approached the egg.

Crack, crack, crack...

The egg's crack spread everywhere until suddenly, a hole appeared as a small head popped out.

It was yellow...

It was small...

It was weak...

It was...

"A chick?"

Obviously, Rean didn't believe it was a chick. After all, the egg was several times bigger than a chicken egg. Naturally, this chick was just as big. Maybe an ostrich hatchling would be more fit. Besides, where have you ever seen a chicken egg absorbing over three thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones before even being born? That is ridiculous.

Chi, Chi!

The young chick flapped its plumed wings as it looked at Rean. It tried to get up, but it soon tripped, falling with its head on the ground.

However, it was thanks to this trip that Rean noticed the plumage on the top of its head. It barely formed the shape of a crown. Not only that, but the crown was made with black and white plumage, different from the rest of the body.

Rean then helped the 'sticky' chick up. One must remember it was just born. That being said, its body was still full of the amniotic liquid all over. However, Rean could feel the connection between him and the chick even more clearly now. Sister Orb was right. He could feel some of his own power inside it. At the same time, he could feel a little of Roan's power too.

"Sigh... Oh well, let's help clean you up first."

Rean then poured some water inside a tub and placed the chick there. While Rean cleaned the little guy, he also asked Sister Orb.

'What kind of Demon Beast is it?'

[No idea. But I can tell that the crown was obviously formed because of the Yin Yang energy it absorbed inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. It might have something to do with its own powers as well.]

Rean nodded as he thought about something. Right after, he began to gather Light Element on his hands. The moment he did it, the chick seemed to have understood something. It was then that Light Element began to gather around the chick as well. Not only that, but the white plumes that formed half of the crown shined as the chick absorbed it.

"This... it can also use Light Element?"

[Seems like it. This Demon Beast is probably quite an impressive one since it can mutate to the point of being able to absorb the same element as you. Judging by the other half of the crown that is black, it can probably use Dark Element too.]

The water on the tub then began to heat up as the Light Element gathered around the chick. However, the chick quickly got tired and stopped using its Spiritual Energy to assemble it.

Still, Rean quite liked the chick.

'Well, since it can gather Light and Dark Element, it is definitely compatible with Roan and me. Let's see what it will become in the future. No, wait! Perhaps, elder Javiu knows something about it.'

With that idea in mind, Rean finished cleaning the chick and brought it outside to ask Javiu.

Death... and me

Chapter 208: Not Dead...

Javiu was waiting for Rean outside. As for the other disciples, he sent them away a long time ago. When he saw Rean coming out, he immediately went to ask how things ended.

"So, did the egg survive?"

It was then that he saw a big chick... on Rean's arms.

"It hatched without any problems. However, I have no idea what kind of Demon Beast this little guy is. Does Elder Javiu know anything about her?"

Javiu, obviously, didn't expect to see such a... weak... demon beast, especially after how much Spiritual Energy it absorbed to hatch. As far as he could see with his Spiritual Sense, there was really nothing impressive about it. He felt that if he put a little pressure, he would break all the bones of the chick.

"This... if not because it is much bigger than a real chick, I would surely say it is a chicken. Even the yellow plumage is the same as one. Of course, it definitely has nothing to do with chickens after what happened."

Elder Javiu grabbed the chick, who seemed very dissatisfied with him. However, it had no power to resist at all. It was also tired after using its little Spiritual Energy to gather Light Element a few moments ago inside the Barn.

"Hum... I've never heard of a white and black crown either. Or better, is it even a crown? Well, it does look like one. I will have to take a look into the books of our Beast Taming Repository. However, I know most of the books already, so I'm pretty sure that I won't find anything in there."

Javiu continued to ponder until he decided to suggest.

"I might have some knowledge about demon beasts, but I believe it will be better to seek elder Reliance Gongol's advice."

Rean remembered that name. Back then, when he first arrived at the Beast Taming faction, elder Javiu told him that Reliance Gongol was the Inner Sect elder responsible for their district. However, even after working there for so long and the other times he came by, Rean had never seen that Elder in person.

"I thought that this elder didn't like demon beasts."

Javiu immediately shook his head.

"Of course not. Elder Reliance Gongol loves them as much as we do. I can't blame you for thinking like this, though. After all, he seldom appears in our district. However, it is not because he doesn't like it, but because he spends most of his time traveling around to learn more about Demon Beasts. You might as well know that he is the only Nascent Soul cultivator of our sect that is not a Core Sect Elder."

Rean was quite surprised to hear it. So far, all the Nascent Soul Elders he found were Core Elders.

"Why is that?"

Javiu shrugged his shoulders.

"Isn't that obvious? Unlike the other Nascent Soul cultivators of our sect, Elder Reliance is the polar opposite of his own name. You can't rely on him at all! Unless the sect reaches a life and death situation, he probably won't raise a single finger to help with anything. Of course, unless someone offers something in return. What good would he bring to the sect as a Core Elder? The fact that he is an Inner Sect elder is basically to show some face to his Nascent Soul cultivation."

Rean had to admit that the guy was quite a figure.

"Well, then why is he the leader of the Beast Taming faction? Even if he loves Demon Beasts, it won't be of much help if he isn't present."

Javiu then explained.

"That's because he usually leaves his Demon Beasts behind in the sect for us to take care. He might not make much himself, but the Demon beasts that he tames definitely do--especially the aerial ones he leaves here. Because of that, he was capable of holding the title of the leader of our faction."

However, there was still one thing Rean couldn't understand.

"If he doesn't like to help the sect, why would he want to keep the position of Beast Taming Faction's leader?"

Javiu shook his head, though.

"Who knows? He might want to guarantee that he will always have a place to leave his Demon Beasts. Or maybe it is another reason altogether. No one really understands that guy."

Elder Javiu then passed the chick back to Rean and approached his ear. Only then did he murmur something.

'Between the two of us, Elder Reliance is kinda.... no, he is totally a weirdo.'

It was then that Rean noticed something strange. Suddenly, right in front of Rean's Eyes, Elder Javiu was sent flying like a cannonball!

Bang!

The poor guy crashed against the Barn and broke through the wall, falling somewhere inside. No one knew if he was alive...

"Who the hell are you talking about?"

It was then that Rean saw a man approaching from a distance. He had big dreadlocks that surpassed his shoulders. Not a big beard, but enough to cover the skin. Rean could also see he smoking something as

the old men did back in his Varen Tribe. Last but not least, he was the first 'black' guy he had ever seen in this world.

"Wasn't Bob Marley dead?"

"Dead your head! No, wait! Who the hell is Bob Marley?"

Of course, it definitely wasn't... Bob Marley... but the guy did look like the man indeed. Even his clothes were quite colorful, one of Bob Marley's noteworthy trends. Sure enough, even Rean had at least heard about this figure back in his past life. The man in front of him was way too similar!

'Sister Orb... were we the only ones to have reincarnated in this side of the Universe?'

[As far as I know, yes.]

Rean nodded as he answered the Elder's question.

"Ahem... Sorry, Elder. It is just that you look quite similar to... a friend... I met in the past. By the way..."

Rean then looked at the human-shaped hole on the Barn's wall and asked.

"Should I prepare Elder Javiu's funeral?"

For some reason, a certain wounded man's mouth twitched inside the Barn.

'I'm still alive, you know?! Can you please not prepare my funeral without first verifying my condition?!'

Finally, Elder Javiu got up with some difficulty. He then made his way out of the Barn and bowed to the black guy.

"Cough, cough... Paying respects to Elder Bo- Ahem... Elder Reliance. I wasn't expecting Elder to come back to the sect so soon. Otherwise, I would have definitely prepared something."

Elder Reliance nodded.

"I wasn't expecting my early return either. However, that brat Mia insisted that I should come to check something. Anyway, I was on my way there when I heard a certain someone speaking about me on my back."

Elder Javiu then smiled bitterly but refrained from commenting. Who knows, he might make things even worse.

'What kind of luck is this? The guy rarely comes back, but when he does, he knows how to select the perfect time.'

Seeing that Javiu didn't say anything else, Reliance then made his own question.

"Whatever, how were my Demon Beasts while I was out?"

Javiu then immediately answered.

"They have been treated well. Elder can go and take them anytime elder wishes. However, as per the agreement with the sect, Elder's Demon Beats are also available for the sect's use. That being said, a few of them are out of the sect with other disciples or elders."

Elder Reliance then shook his head.

"It's okay, I don't need to bring any of them with me. As long as they are fine, then that's good."

Reliance then looked at Rean.

"Anyway, who are you?"

Rean then bowed as well.

"My name is Rean Larks. I'm a new disciple that joined the sect during the last recruitment. My master is Elder Droman from the Formations Master Hall."

"Oh, old paw Droman is your master, uh? Oh, right. I heard that Droman broke through the Soul Transformation Realm. Is that true?"

Rean nodded.

"Yes. He should be in the Formations Master Hall, so Elder can look for him there if necessary."

Reliance then pondered a bit before nodding his head.

"I do need him to check the imprisonment formation flags that I use. Very well, I'll go there later to take a look."

Reliance then turned around and was just about to leave when Javiu stopped him.

"Elder Reliance, please wait! Our faction has a lot of things that need your verification and approval. Can you do that first?"

Unfortunately, Reliance couldn't care less.

"Too boring, just go ahead and do whatever you want. Just make sure my Demon Beasts are treated well."

Javiu insisted, though.

"We can't! Without your signature, the higher-ups will not accept our decision."

Reliance then summoned the surrounding Earth Element and used the Earth on the ground to make a seal. After that, he threw it at Javiu.

"Just put some paint and stamp it on all the documents. Remember, this Seal will only hold for a day, so you better stamp everything before it crumbles. Also, I better not hear that it was used for some bullshit later. Alright, I'm off!"

Javiu didn't even have the time to reply before Elder Reliance disappeared like smoke. Or better, one could even say that he totally run away! Rean then looked at Javiu and could see that the poor guy was almost crying.

'No wonder he said he is the polar opposite of his own name.'

Suddenly, Rean remembered something as he looked at the chick on his arms.

"Ah! I forgot to ask Bob Marley about the Chicken!"

Death... and me

Chapter 209: The Bird

Rean then brought the chick together with him to back where Elder Droman was. Since elder Reliance was going to pay a visit to Droman later, it was better to be there with his master when that happened. Of course, Rean didn't forget Elder Javiu. The poor man ended like that partially because of him, after all.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Rean quickly healed Elder Javiu up, and only then he left. Javiu, of course, was shocked by the healing power of Rean's skill. Too bad that Rean didn't wait to hear more questions about it, though.

Back at the Formations Master Hall, Droman was already waiting for Rean with several books and materials. He wanted to start Rean in the Formations Path before he had to leave to do something else. He only had a few days to do that since he had to work on the Router Formation and supervise the Communication Network System.

"Alright, let's start."

Meanwhile, at the Sect Master's place, Bob Ma- cough, cough... Elder Reliance had just arrived.

"Well, you called me back with quite some urgency. What is it that you need, Mia?"

Elder Reliance was a very rare exception in the Sect. Very few had the right and courage to use Mia's name. Usually, everyone simply used Sect Master. Well, it was not that he was special, but that he never cared about honorifics to start with. Not to mention that Mia was indeed younger than him.

"Sorry for interrupting your travel, Reliance. It's just I need you to go check the Profound Abyss for me."

Reliance narrowed his eyes.

"The Profound Abyss? Why would you want me to go there? That thing only opens every 100 years."

Mia nodded.

"I know. However, it is only valid for those who come from outside. I want you to use your Obscure Spider to get some Decaying Roots to use against the Decaying Fog."

One of Reliance's brows lifted after hearing that.

"You have always been a smart brat. So you knew that I was successful in taming one of the Demon Beasts inside. And here was I thinking that I was secretive enough."

The fact was that the Demon Beasts from the Profound Abyss are mostly berserk. It is easier said than done to say that you want to tame one of them. Not to mention that the Profound Abyss has a cultivation's restriction of at most Peak of the Core Formation Realm. Anyone above that will be stopped by the special barrier set up by the Imperial Family Experts.

The only exception was the Demon Beasts that lived there. However, they were almost always in a constant berserk state. Not to mention they rarely ever came out of the abyss. Elder Reliance had to camp nearby for over ten years to finally tame one of them.

The abyss was a place changed into a training ground for the geniuses of the empire. It opened for two whole weeks before closing again. However, that wasn't all. At the most profound parts, it was possible to find a set of caves from where the Decaying Fog came out. Yet, that was also the place where the participants had to aim for.

Decaying Fog was very detrimental to one's body. A Spiritual Energy barrier could help to resist it, but not totally. Also, the deeper you went, the more intense the fog became. Naturally, fending off the Decaying Fog made it even harder. Let alone when you entered the source of it.

That being said, it seemed a crazy idea to enter the caves where most of it came out. However, at the end of those caves, one could find the Vermilion Pools. They were very effective for one's meridians. The more you could absorb, the stronger your meridians would become.

That's why those Sect Masters said that the geniuses who entered it would most likely become Nascent Soul Realm cultivators in the future. Their capability to absorb Spiritual Energy would get much better than the others. It was as if one's talent suddenly increased for the rest of one's life. As one can imagine, all the sects wanted to have their own geniuses to enter it.

"Anyway, why would you want me to get Decaying Roots?"

"That's because I believe the surge will come at the same time as the Profound Abyss opening. I want to be ready in case that happens."

Reliance finally understood the situation.

The surge was an event that happened in the Profound Abyss. No one really knew why it occurred, though. During the surge, the Decaying Fog in the abyss would increase several times. The problem was that it happened quite randomly. It might happen again in a month, a year, or even after ten years. There was almost no pattern to it. However, 'almost' didn't mean 'none.'

One of the things they knew about the surge was that it never took more than ten years to happen. That was the limit. Also, the longer it took to come out, the stronger it would be.

"I see... How long has it been since the last surge?"

"Eight and a half years."

Reliance then pondered a bit before saying.

"The abyss is opening in a year. If the surge doesn't come out before that, there is a good chance that it can happen while the participants are inside. No wonder you want me to get Decaying Roots. With my Obscure Spider, I should be able to grab some from inside. However, what can you give me in exchange?"

Mia then took out a bad and threw it at Reliance. However, after the guy checked the contents, he threw it back at Mia.

"Oh! I didn't expect you to pay this much for the Roots. It seems like you are quite confident in the geniuses you are sending inside. However, I want something else this time."

"Something else?"

Reliance nodded.

"On the way here, I saw a brat called Rean. He was holding quite an interesting bird in his arms. I want that."

Mia wasn't expecting such a request. First of all, she didn't even know what Reliance was talking about. In the end, she had to call someone to make a quick investigation to finally understand what Reliance was asking from her.

"Why would you want his Demon Beast? Can't you simply go out and tame one for yourself?"

Reliance laughed after hearing that.

"If I could get something like that by going out, I would have done a long time ago. Too bad, though. If information about that thing were to spread out, it wouldn't be the time for a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator like me to take it. If the bird was an adult, then there was nothing to be done. But a hatchling? I wouldn't be surprised if Saint Realm experts flocked our Sect demanding us to hand it over. No, perhaps even they would need to think twice. After all, the monsters above the Saint Realm might stop by for it too."

Mia couldn't help but sweat coldly. Fortunately, there was only her and Reliance in that room at the moment. Otherwise, she might have to kill someone to keep those words secret.

"What is that thing? Also, how do you know about it?"

Reliance shrugged his shoulders before saying.

"I would rather not say what it is. Fortunately, it has suffered some kind of mutation, so there shouldn't be more than ten or so people in the entire empire who can tell you its identity. It is better to keep it like this."

"As for how I know about it, that's because that demon beast was the reason I became a Beast Tamer Cultivator. Well, this has something to do with a childhood event from way before I became what I am today. In a certain way, you can say it was fate too."

Mia couldn't help but ask.

"Then, why did you come here to ask me? You could have taken it by force, and there is nothing he could have done about it."

Reliance shook his head.

"I hate lying or take advantage of the situation. You were not wrong, though. If it was anyone else, they would have kept this knowledge a secret and stole the brat's bird without anyone noticing. Too bad, though. It would be a waste of time since the bird had already recognized Rean as its master. Even if he dies, the bird will never obey anyone else."

That answer made Mia even more puzzled.

"If it is impossible to take it from him, why are you asking for it?"

It was then that Reliance laughed out loud.

"Hahahahaha! Isn't that obvious? Since I can't take the bird away from him anymore, I just need to take the whole pack altogether. That being said, I want that kid too."

Meanwhile, in the Formation Masters Hall, Rean felt a chill on his back.

'How come it became so cold all of a sudden?'

Death... and me

Chapter 210: Sister Orb's Final Strike

Mia didn't know what to say about it. The twins were pretty okay with their own cultivations. If anything, they are a little too fast. Otherwise, it wouldn't be too bad to put one of them under a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's tutelage. However, Rean and Roan's situation was quite complicated.

"I can't decide it for Rean. Besides, I believe Droman will not let you do so. As you probably know already, he was the one to enter the Soul Transformation Realm. Not to mention that he took Rean as his disciple. Also, you need to convince Rean himself."

Reliance pondered a bit before saying.

"So, I just need to convince both of them, right?"

Mia shrugged her shoulders.

"Yes, but you have to bring back the Decaying Roots first. Well, it will be a good thing since Rean will be one of those entering the Profound Abyss anyway."

Elder Reliance nodded his head as he turned around to leave.

"Good! Don't worry about the Decaying Roots. I'll get them for you. To be honest, you are not the only one thinking about the Surge, so there will be quite a few trying to obtain it. But that doesn't matter since most of them can't do the same as me and have a tame Demon Beast fetch them. Alright, I'm off."

Reliance then left the room straight away to the Profound Abyss. As for Mia, she didn't seem very concerned about the issue. In fact, she showed a rare hint of a playful smile. Too bad no one was there to see such a beautiful view.

'Reliance... Both twins are not just like any kid you had seen before. I don't know about Droman, but I'm very eager to see how you will convince Rean about it.'

The days passed in a flash as both Rean and Roan occupied themselves with their own things. Rean tried to find elder Reliance again, but the man seemed to have evaporated in mid-air. Without another choice, he could only keep the chick with him to train it.

He thought about leaving the chick with Elder Javiu to take care. However, the chick would go crazy every time he tried to leave it behind. Without another choice, he could only bring it with him.

Of course, Rean and Roan didn't forget about cultivation. Every night, they would use some drops of Heaven's Might Water to fortify their foundations. Too bad that a foundation of their level received very

little effect from it. Not to mention that the water was not something for their Light and Dark Elemental affinities. Still, it was better than nothing.

Two weeks later, Droman had finally finished dealing with all the visits that were congratulating him for the breakthrough. That meant he would need to leave soon to continue supervising the installation of the Communication Network. Also, he ended teaching Rean the basics about Formations, so he took some time to have Rean build a basic one.

"Alright, it turned out that you were better than I thought. But I should have expected that, though. After all, you were able to come up with the Router Formation concept. Anyway, I want you to show me what you can do. Go ahead and try to make a simple Energy Gathering Formation."

Rean nodded and immediately began to work. Droman was quite pleased with Rean. Usually, it would take a few months for someone to learn how to use all the most basic necessary runes for this Formation. However, Rean was simply way too fast. Droman was quite confident in his talent for Formations. Still, he wasn't even near to what Rean could do when he started.

It is not wrong to say that Rean has a talent for the occupation. However, there were another two points that put Rean far ahead of any other new Formations Master.

The first one was pretty obvious, Sister Orb! She didn't know how to build formations herself. However, she was able to analyze them for her own use. With such an ability, she could tell Rean about the flaws in his Formations while he was still building it! That was an advantage that no one could compare with.

The second main point is that Rean came from Earth! As mentioned before, Rean has no idea how to build a circuit. However, he does know about the concepts behind them. It turned out that Formations were not that far from Earth's Electronic Equipments. Of course, thanks to Spiritual Energy, the formations were capable of doing things that Earth's Electronic Builders couldn't even dream about.

Thanks to Sister Orb and his experience as an Earthling, Rean really seemed like a heaven-defying genius in the eyes of others. Well, there was obviously one exception. Roan knows about Rean and Sister Orb, so he wasn't even close to being impressed.

Rean then began to build the Energy Gathering Formation in front of Droman skillfully. Not only that, but he did it quite fast. As Droman looked at him, he nodded his head in satisfaction from time to time.

'He's really a genius, but it seems like I'm also an excellent Master. Hahaha!'

Of course, he didn't let those feelings appear on his face.

Finally, the Formation was completed and began to gather the Spiritual Energy on the surroundings. Rean had built one of the most basic types, so it wasn't anything extraordinary. Besides, he still has to study and comprehend a lot of runes that could have improved the Formation. Nevertheless, that was an excellent job for someone who entered this path not long ago.

"Very good! You are learning a lot faster than I did at your age. Here, take this."

Suddenly, Droman threw a mountain of books at Rean.

"Your basics are quite solid, but you lack knowledge. I could see several places where different types of runes and arrangements could have been much better."

There was no helping it. Sister Orb could only tell what was wrong, not what could be improved or changed.

"However, it is nothing to be ashamed of. As long as you memorize the contents, things should get a lot better for you. Also, don't forget that there is nothing wrong with coming up with your own ideas."

Rean looked at all those books and felt like he was back in high school's final exams for metallurgists.

'Hmph! Since I passed through that hell once, I can definitely pass it twice!'

Droman then continued.

"This should summarize around 2% of everything we have available in our Formations Hall. Once you are finished, we will start a new round of training between Master and Disciple to put everything you learned into practice."

Rean's confidence suddenly deflated like a balloon...

"Did you say... 2%?"

Droman looked at Rean and began to laugh out loud.

"Hahaha! As expected of someone that I took as my disciple! I really can't hide it from you, can I? Alright, I just wanted to make you feel better, but it seems like you already noticed that it wasn't so simple. Anyway, the truth is that it only counts for at most a single %. Besides, our Jialin Country is quite small, so we have a severe lack of information about Formations in our repositories."

"There was one time when I visited the Formations guild in the Empire's Capital. It was really an incredible view. I can't even fathom how many times more information about Formations they have compared to us! If what you have in your hands is considered 1% of our repository, it wouldn't be even 0.1% of the capital's one. That was really a sight to behold."

Droman then looked in the distance as if recalling some happy moments of his life.

Rean, on the other hand, seemed to be having a nightmare at the moment.

"Ahem... surely Elder Droman jests, right?"

Droman immediately shook his head.

"Of course not! Formations are just this impressive. The number of arrangements possible is basically unlimited! Don't worry. You will never run out of fun when you are dealing with Formations. As your Master, I guarantee you this much. Hahaha!"

While Droman laughed, Rean cried.

"Anyway, I need to leave for a few weeks to get a look at the communication system project. Make sure you have all of this memorized by the time I come back."

Droman then turned around and left the Formations Master Hall. Rean didn't even have time to complain about his arrangement. In the end, he couldn't help but sigh.

"Well, I went to a pretty common high school back in my previous life anyway..."

Rean began to ponder a bit and finally reached a decision.

"Alright, let's pretend that I suddenly joined Harvard, and I am aiming to become the first in my class."

Unfortunately, Sister orb was there, hearing Rean trying to comfort himself.

[Stop dreaming! Considering the possible number of books and how much you need to learn, you better aim to become the best student Harvard has ever seen. Good luck!]

If one looked closely, they would notice the moment that a tear fell from Rean's eyes. Sure enough, Sister Orb doesn't know how to show mercy...

Just as Rean was intending to cry a little more, he received a message from Roan through their Soul Connection.

"Hey, Doctor Wilson. I finished devising the Dark and Light Cultivation Establishing Pills. I should be done making them this night. After that, we can finally make our breakthrough."

Rean sighed as he picked the first book on the pile.

"Well... I might as well start it now until Roan is ready."