

Death 2081

Death... and me

Chapter 2081: Unexpected Visit

Near the border of the Swamp, the Elder Devils easily noticed that Rui was still waiting for them there. "Rui, you didn't get inside. Why is that?"

Rui shrugged his shoulder. "I'm the one responsible for the Underworld Relic during the next thousand years, am I not? What if the Swamp's ability suddenly reappeared? I wanted to stay out so that I could use the Relic to rescue you all."

Frulos Trus, the Elder Devil who had been lost in the Swamp for a long time, was also in the middle. "Since you can use the Underworld Relic to bring the other Elder Devil out of the Swamp, why no one tried to bring me out? I've been locked inside that shit for countless years." He obviously wasn't very happy to hear that.

However, Rui had never seen this Elder Devil. However, Rui had heard about him as it was he who warned the twins about this Elder Devil. "Are you perhaps Frulos? The Elder Devil who got lost all those years ago?"

Before Frulos could answer, Mephisto, who knew Frulos from the past, intervened. "He is. Anyway, Frulos, the reason we never used the Underworld Relic to get you out was simply that you decided to enter that place on your own. Don't think I forgot what you said. You made it very clear that you didn't want anyone's help even though we warned you about the risks of entering the Swamp."

"Hmph!" Frulos could only do that as he had no answer. He knew Mephisto was right.

"Let's not waste more time here," Mephisto returned to the main topic. "Rui, we found nothing in the Swamp. However, there are traces that a Fragment was inside before, but it has already been taken away. We believe it was Sesame, a Divinity Realm Demon Beast that lived there before the Fragment arrived in the Underworld. We also believe Belial knows something about it, so we need to find him. Have you seen Belial? He left the Swamp even before we could break into the Swamp's core area."

Rui nodded. "Yes, I felt the Spatial Oscillations of an Elder Devil a few hours ago leaving the area. Since you are all here, that one should be Belial. I couldn't tell which direction he went, though. Anyway, since

you are all safe, I will not meddle in this matter anymore. As the Relic holder, I will just focus on it for now. I guess you won't mind it, will you?"

"Not at all," everyone nodded. The least amount of Elder Devils going after the Universe Foundation Fragment, the better. Especially since Rui had the Underworld Relic, which made him the strongest Elder Devil during the next thousand years.

"Well then, I'm off." Since he had no more uses in this place, Rui took his subordinates and left the area through his own Spatial Gate.

The others also looked at each other but didn't say anything. They just left as they intended to investigate Belial and Sesame on their own first.

Rui didn't take long to return to his Light Devil Clan. For the advantage in cultivation to be active, the Relic had to stay in the Light Devil Clan's territory, after all. However, as soon as he arrived, he narrowed his eyes. He looked at his subordinates behind him before giving an order. "I'm going back to my room. Do not bother me unless it's extremely necessary."

"Yes, Ancestor!" No one complained and immediately left the area.

Rui also moved away, teleporting straight into his cultivation room. Following that, he activated all the concealing formations around, making it impossible for anyone to see what was happening inside.

Finally, he looked at a corner of the room before speaking with a calm voice. "You can come out already."

Light Element gathered there before it began to take a human-shaped form. It's just that this figure also had six wings on his back, which was a mark that only Archangels carried. Yes, he was someone at the same level as Rui or Sesame. "Sorry that it took so long, Rui. Your Light Devil Clan won't need to wait any longer."

"A-A-Azrael!" Rui finally saw who it was, and shock appeared on his face. "I can't believe the heavens would send one of the twelve Archangels. You are one of the pillars of the Angel Realm. You shouldn't have taken such a risk!"

Azrael sighed in response. "Sigh... You are wrong, Rui. Compared to the risks your Light Devil Clan has been in all these years, this little bit of danger simply isn't worth mentioning. That little guy with rich Angel Bloodline, Fagund, right? He did a great job in reaching us in the Heavens. He met with Liran, so I know a little about it."

Rui nodded. "That's why I sent him there. I trusted he would find a way without alerting the Devils." Rui couldn't help but ask what he wanted most. "Then... is it starting now?"

Azrael confirmed with a nod. "It is. The Realm of Gods' Powers are about to start a full-scale attack against the Devils' Territory in the Realm of Gods. Surprisingly, they convinced that thing to stop its energy release for a year, and it is about to get busy."

"What?!" Rui knew about the creature that lived under the Realm of Gods. The same creature that was responsible for the Continental Barriers' Energy. The Continental Barrier wouldn't exist without that being. "Just how much of a price did they pay to convince it? I'm already surprised it didn't kill everyone who was sent there to talk to it. Whether it is Archangels, Elder Devils, or Divinity Realm beings, they are nothing but ants in front of it."

"That's not our problem," Azrael answered. "All you need to know is that the moment the Devils split their forces to defend their territory in the Realm of Gods, it is the moment we attack as well. The Reincarnation Path, such a sacred element of our Universe, can't stay in the hands of the Devils anymore. It's time to take it under our protection."

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Chapter 2082: System back online... and back off again

Rui took a deep breath and raised his hand over to Azrael. It was the same hand holding the Underworld Relic. "Sir, you probably know already, but I'm the one who got the Underworld Relic."

Azrael smiled and nodded. "It truly was a surprise when I arrived in the Underworld and found out you won the thousand years competition. I won't lie. We already had a plan to deal with Mephisto when he used the Underworld Relic. However, it seems it won't be necessary anymore."

Rui was happy to hear that. "Very good. However, the Angels must not forget I will not be able to take action during the attack. The Underworld Relic was made in a way that it can not be used against other

Devils. Instead, all I can do is to keep it safe as it is almost indestructible. Not to mention all the Elder Devils can feel its presence, so trying to hide it is impossible too."

Azrael didn't mind. "Don't worry. When the time comes, I'll have two Archangels to stay close to you, and our forces will be between your group and the enemy forces. There will be no risks since the Devils won't have enough experts to defend our main forces anymore."

"Alright, Rui. Another thing I was sent to check was the Fragments of the Universe Foundation. The Underworld Relic has one of them, obviously. But what about Belial's Fragment? Do you know if there is a good way of getting to that guy?" Azrael entered one of the main topics other than the Reincarnation Path.

Rui wasn't surprised by that. However, his next words did surprise Azrael instead. He told everything about Belial and the possible Fragment that disappeared from the Swamo of No Return. "What?! Such things happened? That's great! The Elder Devils will be busy looking after these Fragments. It's indeed the best opportunity for us to come down."

"And when will that happen, sir?" Rui asked back.

"One year at least, three years at most. I'll be staying here and making other preparations if you don't mind." Azrael answered.

Rui obviously had no objections. "You are more than welcome, sir. I'll send my subordinates out to investigate the Fragments and Belial, as the Heavens will need the Fragments. No one will find it suspicious since all the Elder Devils are after them."

"I'm counting on you." Azrael accepted that. He and Rui conversed for a little longer. After a while, Azrael was guided to a room of his own and a few servants that could be trusted to not say anything.

Rui looked at his room's door and narrowed his eyes. The shock on his face had already disappeared. Instead, he seemed to be deeply concerned. He took out a Golden Thoughts Transmission Talisman and put it on his head. A moment later, the talisman burnt out, and his message was sent. 'The Angels are coming... I hope I didn't make the wrong choice.' Right after, Rui disappeared from his room as well.

Back at the twins' place, Sesame had chosen a desolate place where no one would try to find them. He might have been locked inside the Swamp for many years, but it didn't mean he didn't know the layout of the Underworld anymore.

"This place is called the Sparse Black Grass Land," he explained. "It is a region of the Underworld that no one really cares about. It has little Devilish Energy, no natural treasures, almost no Devils, and pretty much no other beings, either. Due to how big it is, it is also the best place to be if you wish to hide. We will stay here for a while before going to the Temporal Path."

Roan was satisfied with that. "We have pretty much no use for Devilish Energy anyway. With the amount of Divine Stones we accumulated during the years, we can afford to cultivate with them only. Besides, the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm already converts Devilish Energy into Divine Energy. It's just not as useful as being in a place with Divine Energy from the start."

[Hey, the system is about to wake up.] Sister Orb's voice suddenly echoed in their mind inside the Dimensional Realm.

Rean immediately stopped studying Hex's runes and got out of the Circuitry Formation Repository. "Has it already been 50 hours?"

Roan and Celis nodded. "Pretty much. There should be just a few minutes now."

Everyone waited for the system message to pop out until finally...

Pin!

[System Upgrade Complete]

[Random Destiny Points are not available as a reward anymore. All Destiny Points will be given through quests. Quests will give three times more Destiny Points.]

[Processing Power has also improved.]

[Reward List has been upgraded.]

[The System Reward Option, Destiny Perception Range, has been removed. The 300000 Destiny points used in the three levels bought for it have been reimbursed.]

[Destiyn Points: 833215]

The Destiny Perception Range was the option that increased the range that the system could feel the changes of destiny caused by the twins. Thanks to that, more Destiny Points could be awarded as long as the system could detect it. Now that only quests will give Destiny Points, the Destiny Perception Range Option became useless. Nonetheless, the twins were happy. After all, they recovered the 300000 Destiny Points used on it.

However, that's not the part they were interested in. "Should happen anytime now..."

Sure enough!

Pin!

[A new Fragment of the Universe Foundation has been recovered.]

[Destiny Points Reward: 1000000 Destiny Points]

[Total Destiny Points: 1833215]

[The system will go through a Processing Power Upgrade now.]

[Time for Upgrade Conclusion: 75 hours.]

[System-related functions will be deactivated during this period. The system advises the hosts to exert caution during this period.]

"Hell yea!" Immediately, everyone cheered up. "As we thought, the more fragments we get, the higher the reward."

[Yeap, that's how it should be,] Sister Orb agreed. [Better than that. The two Upgrades of Processing Power will be greatly beneficial. I shouldn't need more than an hour at most to completely hack into Divine Middle-Level Formation now. And that's if it is a huge formation. Otherwise, it will be even faster.]

Indeed that was truly a great processing upgrade.

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Chapter 2083: Upgrade Started

With the system offline again, all the twins' group could do was wait. Roan went to train as normal. Rean went back to the Formations Repository. Celis cultivated as Kentucky stayed in the nest between Celis's branches. Luan already had his training menu ready for this and the next realms, so he also cultivated. As for Sesame, he found a corner for himself and simply slept. Sesame has long since reached the highest cultivation level of the Universe, so there was no point in cultivating for him anymore.

Outside, the Elder Devils moved around, trying to find Belial's secrets. However, other than the fact Belial seemed to be looking for something, they couldn't tell anything else.

Like that, another 75 hours went by in a flash, prompting the system for its second awakening in less than a week.

[System Upgrade Complete]

[Processing power successfully improved.]

[New Title Unlocked: Fragments Collector.]

The twins heard that and immediately stopped what they were doing.

"New Title? It has been a very long time since we last won a Title, no?" Asked Rean with some expectation.

Roan was aware of that. "Yes. Sister Orb, does this title provide us with any reward?"

[Let me check...] Sister Orb quickly focused on the system before answering their question. [Oh! Now, would you look at that? The system has provided you with one free upgrade from the reward list. Just in case you are curious, the title was given to you because you acquired half of the available Universe Foundation Fragments.]

The twins' eyes lit up. That was a very good reward for that title. "That's definitely a very good reward. Let's not waste time and check the Reward List." The twins' eyes immediately set on the most expensive reward on the list.

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 5 - 5000000 Destiny Points]

"Phew... We knew that it was expensive, but looking at it once again makes me think that it is truly a ridiculous amount of Destiny Points," Rean couldn't help but mention once again.

Roan had one of those rare moments where he truly agreed with Rean completely on something. "At the moment, we have 1833215 Destiny Points. We are nowhere near having enough points to buy this upgrade."

"But then again, we have absolutely no idea what this next Dimensional Realm upgrade will provide us," Rean wasn't in a hurry to buy it, though. "Perhaps this free upgrade would be better used somewhere else."

Roan looked at the list and thought about the possibilities. "Back when we made our last purchase, we had decided that we would wait until we got 1000000 Destiny Points to buy the [Starlight, Soul Power, and Divine Origin Energy Fusion]."

Rean pondered a bit. "But we already have more than a million destiny points available. Would it be okay to use the free upgrade on it?"

"That would allow us to use these 1.8 million points on other things. It's not a bad idea." Roan had his opinions about it.

[I'll be honest,] Sister Orb also had a say on it. [The Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 5 should be the best choice. I mean, even if you don't know what advantages it would provide, you at least know that the Dimensional Realm would increase a lot in size. Aren't we packed with Demon Beasts at the moment because of Sesame's contribution? It would definitely be in hand.]

[Besides,] she continued, [Can you guarantee that a free upgrade reward like this one would appear again? What if we end up needing all the space in the future but don't have the points for it? Since you have the points for the most important upgrade, the fusion of all three energies, you should truly take the Dimensional Realm Upgrade one.]

Celis, Kentucky, and Luan were also in the conversation. Hearing Sister Orb's words, they had to admit she made a lot of sense. "I guess we all agree with Sister Orb, which is a very, very, veryyyyyyyyyyy rare thing to happen. It's Sister Orb, after all."

[Are you all trying to buy a fight?] Sister Orb almost lost her wits. [Don't forget I'm your god when we are inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.]

Kentucky quickly raised his wing. "It's a joke, just a joke. The Great Sentience of an entire Universe wouldn't really take such words seriously, right?"

[Hmph! It's good that you know.] Sister Orb was truly easy to appease.

Roan shook his head, not willing to take part in that bullshit. "Then I pick the Dimensional Realm Upgrade. What about you, Rean?"

The decision had to be made by both twins as they both needed to give permission for the upgrade to start. "Alright, I guess we can give Sister Orb a vote of confidence here. If worse comes to worst, we at least saved five million Destiny Points."

With that decided, Rean and Roan touched the Soul Gem Orb and sent their request inside.

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 5 - 5000000 Destiny Points]

[Confirm the Purchase?]

"Wait!" Rean suddenly remembered something. "During the upgrade, will the Dimensional Realm be closed? Because if it does, all the Demon Beasts will be sent out. How will we take care of all those guys at once? Besides, it will definitely catch a lot of attention, even in a place like this Sparse Black Grass Land."

[Oh, don't worry. There will be no need to send anyone out. The Spatial Abilities of the System have already reached a high enough level to separate the living beings inside from the Spatial Modifications that will occur.] Sister Orb reassured Rean, though.

"Well, if that's the case..." Rean sighed in relief.

"Yes, confirm Purchase."

[Purchase confirmed.]

[Free Upgrade Option available: 01]

[Not enough Destiny Points detected, using the Free Upgrade Option.]

[Upgrade Started.]

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Chapter 2084: Golden Light

Immediately, Rean and the others noticed that they were enveloped in a kind of Spatial Bubble before being lifted from the ground. [This Spatial Barrier will keep you safe while the system modifies the Dimensional Realm,] Sister Orb quickly warned them.

Everyone nodded and looked around. Sure enough, Spatial tears appeared everywhere, crashing against the land from all sides. The Spatial Border of the Dimensional Realm was the first to break apart, causing Spatial Storms to enter the Dimensional Realm.

"This is quite brutal..." It was the first time they saw the transformations of the Dimensional Realm up close. It was even more apparent for Rean and Roan. After all, they could use their connection with the Dimensional Realm to see the entire extent of its territory all at once.

Finally, the Spatial Borders began to expand outwards. At the same time, new land began to appear. Just like before, it was basically barren lands, mountains and water without life. Let's not forget that all the plant life that exists in the Dimensional Realm at the moment was put there by Celis while the Demon Beasts were brought by the twins.

However, Rean quickly noticed something. "Hum... Sister Orb, how come I can't feel our connection with the outside world?"

[Oh, that's because the system can't create a connection with the outside world either. You will need to wait for the upgrade to finish before you can come out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.] Sister Orb explained.

"Wouldn't that make us vulnerable if someone finds the entrance we created outside?" Roan obviously had his concerns.

[Don't worry,] Sister Orb wasn't afraid, though. [Since the connection with the outside world can't be established, the entrance you left behind is completely sealed. It is still there, but it can't be felt at all. Even a Divinity Realm being standing right on its side wouldn't be able to tell it was there.]

Roan nodded. "As long as it is safe, I don't mind waiting."

Luan used his eyes to watch the changes and was impressed by all the Spatial changes happening. "This is truly mind-blowing. I thought the wall that protected Sesame's land was incredible, but this is simply on another league altogether."

However, the one who was truly shocked was Hex, the Universe Space Temporal Beacon. [You guys... just what is this? How come you can create a planet this easily?]

"Planet?" Everyone looked at Hex with puzzled expressions. "What do you mean by 'planet?'"

However, Rean quickly understood. "Oh, you mean the World Essence?" One must remember that the Dimensional Realm was capable of creating World Essence, which was the same thing that planets could naturally do. "It's not because this is a planet. It's just that our system has the ability to create some of it. Don't get the wrong idea, though. The amount of World Essence the system can create compared to a real planet is just not worth mentioning at all."

[World Essence? What are you talking about? It might be a rare thing for you to create World Essence, but it definitely isn't anything impressive according to the records inside my memory.] Hex didn't seem to care about that. [What I'm talking about is that this place is transforming into a real planet at the moment.]

This time, everyone was taken aback for real. "Becoming a real planet?"

Rean and Roan quickly focused their minds on the Dimensional Realm in its entirety, getting kind of a bird's eye view from high above. Sure enough, they quickly noticed something. The new land was curving outwards. If it continued like that, the Dimensional Realm Land would eventually become a round-shaped thing, and a really big one at that. "It seems like he is telling... the truth?"

Roan tried to see the Dimensional Realm from another angle. "If this extension continues taking this shape, the Dimensional Realm will indeed take a planet shape. If I'm not wrong, it will have around 18000 kilometers of circumference. Sister Orb, the Dimensional Realm only had 300 kilometers before, and it was flat land. Is it truly turning into a planet? Also, isn't this increase in size just way bigger than we thought?"

[This is something the system decided by itself. Even I can't tell what Destiny Energy, which is basically Destiny Points, can cause to the system. From what I can see, it is indeed taking the shape of a planet.]

Everyone then just watched as all the crazy stuff happened around them.

Celis also had his connection with his own saplings around the Dimensional Realm. Just like before, he could tell that they were being spread around the new land of the Dimensional Realm as they were responsible for the extra absorption of Divine Energy from outside. "It seems to be right... However... Isn't this thing a little too slow?"

Rean and Roan immediately nodded. "Yes, it is truly slow."

They weren't wrong. After observing the changes for a while, they understood that the expansion of the Dimensional Realm's planet was quite sluggish. "Just how long will it take until this upgrade finishes at this rate?"

Sister Orb calculated the speed of the upgrade and reached an answer in a few seconds. [If it stays like this... it will take two and a half years...]

"What?!" Everyone looked at Sister Orb. "That's too long. Are we going to stay still inside these Spatial Bubbles during all this time?"

Kentucky was more worried about something else. "It isn't a big deal for us since we have high cultivations. But what about the new Demon Beasts? All the Demon Beasts we got from Sesame's land are Stage Two Demon Beasts. They need to eat and drink to survive, you know?"

Sesame was obviously the one most concerned about it. After all, that also included the members of his village. "The people of the village will not survive two and a half years."

Just as Sister Orb was thinking to try and solve the problem, a change suddenly happened. Golden Light began to envelop the living beings' Spatial Bubbles! "This is... Time Light!"

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Chapter 2085: Definitely Fake

With the exception of the twins, Celis, and Kentucky, everyone inside those Spatial Bubbles seemed to get frozen in time, including Luan. "Their time is not moving?"

Roan shook his head. "No. If you pay close attention, they are moving. But it is extremely slow. Not even a hundredth of what they usually do. But then again, I believe that things are passing at a breaking-neck speed for them when they look outside their bubbles."

[Well, that solves the problem. We should have guessed that the system wouldn't simply let the living beings inside it die this easily.] Sister Orb said that, but she was the most nervous one a moment ago.

That seemed to be the case. Yet, there was one more character that wasn't affected by the Time Power. It was none other than Hex. The Golden Light was also present in his Spatial Bubble, but it couldn't affect his movements. "Hey, Hex seems to be fine."

Hex, who was seeing everything, didn't seem surprised. [I'm capable of controlling the time of the Universe Foundation Fragment, which is an item at the same level as this Soul Gem Orb of yours. Naturally, the Time Power deployed to slow me can't really do anything. Of course, if I wish to, I can let it go, and I will slow down just like everyone else. It's just that I don't want to.]

Rean looked at the runes around Hex and nodded. "Your time runes are moving just like I studied them. That's quite convenient. Still, I'm surprised the system suddenly showed the time power."

[We will still need to wait for the upgrade to finish and then use Hex's runes to be able to add the time-changing option to the system. Still, it is good to see that Luan was right. The system always had time-relating powers. It's just that we can't control it at the moment.]

Roan then sat in midair and closed his eyes. Since they couldn't do anything else other than wait, then he was just going to wait in silence.

Celis could still cultivate, albeit much slower. For him, though, it wasn't a problem, as cultivating was the only thing he loved to do.

Rean, on the other end, put his mind into the Runes that Hex had. He and Sister Orb continued to work with Hex and analyzed his runes. Because Hex was using them to not get affected by the System's Time Changing power, it became even better to study their right effects.

The only one lost seemed to be Kentucky... "This shit is so boring!"

Rean glanced at him without taking his attention away from Hex's runes. "Why don't you simply cultivate like Celis?"

"There is too little Divine Energy," Kentucky answered. "Besides, I've never felt any fun cultivating."

Rean shrugged his shoulders. "Your Regal Bloodline has a great effect on Spatial Powers, doesn't it? Try to train your Minokawa abilities. With so much Spatial Power running around while you are in a safe environment, it should prove quite beneficial. Perhaps it will help you unlock even more of your Regal Minokawa Bloodline."

Kentucky had to admit Rean had a very good idea. "Right! My bloodline. I can definitely use all the Spatial Power here for that." Kentucky immediately opened his wings and spread his Divine Sense. Surprisingly, the Spatial Bubble didn't block anything, allowing Kentucky to feel everything in his surroundings.

Rean faintly smiled and went back to his study of Hex's runes with Sister Orb. Just like that, time went by in a flash.

Boom!

Sister Orb said that the land would finish taking the shape of a planet in more or less two and a half years. However, one year into the transformation, something else happened.

The twins, Kentucky, Celis, and Hex, stopped to look above, where the fake Sun of the Dimensional Realm could be found. "It's growing..."

Indeed, the Fake Sun began to swell at a visible speed. Not only that, but the twins' group felt for the first time the warmth of the Sun reaching their bodies. So far, the fake Sun has only provided light to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. The temperature was controlled by the system itself. Feeling the warmth of the Sun was never an option.

Thanks to their ability to cover their eyes with Divine Energy, everyone there could look straight at the Fake Sun and watch it. The curious thing was that it was truly looking just like a real Sun now. That definitely wasn't the case in the past. "It's slowing down now."

The Fake Sun was the part that moved in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. It more or less worked like the Flat Earth crazy theories back from Rean's Earth. However, things were changing now. The Sun stabilized itself at the very center of the partially grown planet. It's just that it was much, much further away from the land than it was before.

BRRROOOOOMMMMMMM...

Suddenly, the entire land of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm began to tremble, surpassing any events so far. Spatial Power enveloped the land, forcing it to start moving.

At the same time, the Spatial Barrier that separates the Dimensional Realm from the Spatial Sea outside finally reached its full size. Turns out that compared to the expansion of the Spatial Borders, the size of the soon-to-be planet was nothing. The range of the Spatial Border was many times longer.

The twins' group didn't take long to understand. "That's interesting. The Fake Sun has turned into a real Sun. As for our land, it is becoming a planet that is now starting to orbit the Sun at the very center of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm."

Sister Orb denied that. [No, it is still a Fake Sun.]

Rean agreed with her. "Sister Orb is right. A real Sun would need to have several times that size and mass to simply keep its own structure. If a Sun was suddenly created like that, it would just dissipate. It looks a lot more like a Real Sun, but it is definitely fake."

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Chapter 2086: New Essence

Rean shrugged as he continued. "This is quite a weird way to start a planet and a sun too. I mean, you know how the Universe originated through the big bang theory, right? This is completely different, so it is all about the Soul Gem System's power and not a real solar system."

Roan nodded. "So be it. As long as everything works as expected, I don't mind which route it takes to get there." Following that, Roan ignored the earthquake and closed his eyes once again.

Rean, too, did the same thing and focused on Hex's runes. "Well, back to work." Since the Destiny Points were used already, the upgrade should have no issues.

Time continued to pass, and everything took its supposed shape. Well, there were only two things, though. The Planet and the Fake Sun. It's just that both were enormous now.

Finally, two and a half years later, the upgrade reached its end.

Blop, blop, blop, blop, blop...

The people and Demon Beasts were sent back to the ground as the Spatial Bubbles around them burst one after another. The Golden Light of Time also dissipated as if it had never been there before. The Demon Beasts didn't understand anything and just continued their life as usual. As for the Village People, Sesame explained to them what he needed and could.

Hex's runes also stopped moving after the Golden Light disappeared. [It's finally over. If I couldn't use the Time Power around as energy to keep the time power itself from affecting me, I would have been frozen just like everyone else.]

Rean also exited his bubble with a smile. "That was very useful for me and Sister Orb, though."

He then focused his mind on his connection with the Soul Gem System and checked the entire Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. He could see the planet orbiting the Sun, and especially the much larger Spatial Barrier that kept the Dimensional Realm separated from the Spatial Power outside. "This is truly a huge thing."

Roan did the same thing. "Considering the average size of planets, perhaps our own can't even be considered one. 18000 kilometers is just too small to be compared to them. Nonetheless, as a Dimensional Realm, this amount of land is very good. I can't see us using this much land anytime soon."

Suddenly...

Pin!

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Complete]

[Level 5]

[World Essence has been Upgraded to Solar Essence]

The system went silent after reporting the upgrades. However, those words immediately caught Rean's attention. "Solar Essence? Not World Essence? Sister Orb?"

[It's exactly as the system said. It's an upgrade. World Essence could be said to be the lowest type of Essence in the Universe. Solar Essence is the second on the list.] Sister Orb explained.

"What's the difference?" Naturally, that's what Rean was most interested in.

[If I could say it in simple words, I would put it as purer Essence. Can you tell the difference between the Universe Essence you got from the system in the past and the World Essence you got until now?]

Rean immediately nodded. "Of course! The Universe Essence that Roan and I used to fortify our foundation was countless times better. Too bad we couldn't get more of that since then."

[That's basically it. Solar Essence is one step further in that direction. As a Blacksmith, you will notice the difference when you use it again. Oh, there is a piece of good news. The accumulated World Essence the system had before has transformed into Solar Essence. It's just that the amount is several times lower since the level is higher. It's not enough to remake your weapons like you did in the past, but it should be enough for you to test.]

Rean didn't need to hear it twice. He immediately focused his mind on the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and located the Solar Essence Sister Orb was talking about. This time, it wasn't located under the Soul

Gem Dimensional Land but inside the fake Sun in the center. Well, it wasn't that hard to imagine due to its name.

With a thought, a wisp of the Solar Essence was teleported away from the Sun's core and appeared right above Rean's hand. He used his Divine Origin Energy and kept it still as he analyzed the Essence with his Divine Sense. "Hum... indeed. I can feel a higher quality from this Essence. It's definitely a lot more useful. Fortunately, I can barely forge Divine High-Level Equipment now. I don't think a weapon or any sub-occupation creation of a lower level would be able to hold this energy. They would break without a doubt."

Roan heard that conversation. "Are you going to reforge our weapons, then?"

Rean shook his head. "There isn't enough Solar Essence to forge two weapons. Our weapons aren't just about having the opposite of our elements. They are also a set of two. Every time I reforge them, I make it so they can work without disturbing each other's Elemental Management. We will need to wait until enough Solar Essence is accumulated so that I can reforge them both."

Roan didn't mind. "That's no problem. The weapons you made are already quite powerful for their level, anyway. Sister Orb, how long do you think it will take?"

[That depends on how much Solar Essence Rean needs,] said Sister Orb, looking back at Rean.

Rean pondered a bit and nodded. "Around 20% more Solar Essence should be just enough. Before, we spent over two hundred years cultivating, so we had a lot of World Essence. That helped quite a lot now that it was all transformed into Solar Essence."

Sister Orb heard it and calculated the time. [In that case, it shouldn't take more than 3 years to accumulate enough Solar Essence. If you think it is a lot faster than expected, that's because of the upgrade. Things will only get better as we go forward.]

Rean was indeed surprised to hear that. "Great! In three years, I'll reforge our Divine Middle-Level Weapons into Divine High-Level ones."

Death... and me

Chapter 2087: A Real Domain

Bzzzzzzzzzz...

As the twins talked to Sister Orb, more and more Spatial Bubbles liberated the beings inside. However, when Kentucky's Bubble burst, a huge wave of Spatial Power spread out. That immediately caught the twins' attention. "This feeling..."

The Spatial Power from Kentucky indeed carried a lot of strength. However, above all else, the twins could feel two extra types of energy within it. "Dark and Light Element!"

Creeeeeeeeeeee!

Kentucky cried out loud as his Regal Minokawa Bloodline burned with fervor. Rean and Roan didn't need to think much to understand that Kentucky had succeeded. He had unlocked a lot more of his Regal Minokawa Bloodline Seal. "Kentucky can now fuse his Light and Dark Element into his Spatial Powers," Roan added.

A few moments later, the shining Dark and White Light coming from Kentucky's body calmed down before he landed on the ground. "Hahahaha! Who's the best?! I'm the best! I have finally released half of my Regal Bloodline's Seal! The great me has arrived once again!"

Rean and Roan's surprise immediately disappeared as a wave of disappointment filled their minds. 'In the end, that's still Kentucky...'

Rean quickly shook his head and teleported that Solar Essence on his hand back to the Sun's core. Finally, he asked the overconfident bird. "So you can fuse the Elements into your Spatial Power, uh? Your Regal Bloodline is truly impressive. Isn't your Feather Crown quite a lot more distinct now too?"

"Is it?" Kentucky quickly used his Divine Sense and confirmed Rean's words. "Hey, my Feather Crown is a lot bigger compared to before. Oh well, who cares? Indeed, I can now fuse my Light and Dark Elements into my Spatial Powers. I believe my strength increased by at least 10% or so."

That wasn't a small improvement. Kentucky's cultivation hasn't moved a single inch, but he still got that extra power. "However, I'm not very good at it. It's totally different from what the Salamander was able

to do back in the Lost Star Realm. I can only fuse around 10% or so of my elements into my Spatial Powers."

Rean and Roan nodded. "That's to be expected. From what we know, all experts can only fuse 100% of their elements into their Spatial Powers after they reach the Peak Stage of the Elemental Space Realm. You haven't even reached the Elemental Space Realm yet, so it is a very good thing you can do this much now."

Kentucky then looked back at the twins. "You say that, but you can do pretty much the same thing."

"We can?" The twins looked at each other before looking back at Kentucky. "How do you know?"

Sister Orb agreed with Kentucky. [He is right. I can feel it through our connection. It's just that you haven't given it a try yet. After all, you have always thought that this kind of ability only opens after entering the Elemental Space Realm. But then again, couldn't you bend space before the Space Bending Realm? Couldn't you use Space Power before the Void Tempering Realm? It's basically the same thing.]

Rean and Roan had no reason to not give it a try. They focused on the feeling that Kentucky gave them after he broke out of the Spatial Bubble and tried to replicate the process. Of course, Roan used only Dark Element while Rean used Light Element.

Bzzzzz...

It didn't take long before Rean and Roan's Spatial Powers and Elements came together. Just like Kentucky, they were able to fuse around 10% of their elements into their Spatial Power. That also increased their strength by around 10%. "Seems like it works. Still, we can't surpass this 10% barrier."

[Don't try to overdo it. 10% is already incredible. As far as I can think, no one in the Space Bending Realm should be your match. Let's be honest. You two were always able to jump a realm to fight. This is just proof that you can do the same now.]

Rean nodded and stopped trying to force more elements into their spatial powers. "That's good enough."

Following that, Roan brought out his White Scythe to give it a try.

'Death Style, Death Scythe!'

Zuuush!

"What?!" Kentucky's eyes almost jumped out of their sockets. That's because Roan's target was none other than himself. "Fuck!"

'Dark and Light Divine Armor!'

He only had time to activate his defensive skill before Roan's Scythe arrived.

Clang! Crack!

Several of Kentucky's hardened Feathers and Scales tore apart, leaving behind a light wound. As for Kentucky, he was forced back several tens of meters before he stabilized himself. "What are you doi-"

He didn't have time to finish his question before Roan appeared at his side like a ghost.

'Death Style, Second Movement Form, Shadow Air!'

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

Kentucky couldn't hold back anymore and immediately retaliated.

'Kawa Blade Domain!'

Countless Dark and White Feathers suddenly appeared all around Kentucky as Spatial Power increased several folds. Obviously, the Spatial Powers had Light and Dark Elements fused into them, making those Feathers even more fearful.

Like flying swords, all those Feathers zoomed at Roan, attacking him from all sides. "You wanna fight? Then let's fight!"

Operating his Kawa Blade Domain, Kentucky also tried to hit Roan's vital points.

Roan just coldly smiled before his figure disappeared within the sea of Feather Blades. However, a Dark Dome spread out, covering Kentucky's Kawa Blade Domain completely.

'Death World Domain!'

Extreme Decaying Power spread out, deeply affecting Kentucky's Feather and even his Divine Origin Energy. It was truly impressive since Kentucky also had Dark Element Affinity. Still, Roan's one was better. Or, to be more specific, its usage was a lot more refined.

This isn't just a fake domain like Roan used in the past. After reaching the Space Bending Realm, Roan's Death World became a true domain. The incredible thing about Roan's Domain was that it worked differently from others.

Usually, Domains clash against each other, forcing the opposite Domain back. But in Roan's case, he followed a completely different route. His Domain did not stop the enemy's one. Instead, it filled the enemy's Domain with Roan's one and weakened it while increasing Roan's own power inside it.

Roan's body then disappeared into the darkness.

Death... and me

Chapter 2088: Recording

"That's not fair!" Kentucky couldn't help but complain as he felt his own Domain Power decreasing by a lot.

Roan reappeared after using the Shadow Air and the Enhancement ability far from where the Blade Feather hit his afterimage. "It has nothing to do with me if all the idiots insist on clashing Domains against each other. I would rather make them weaker, like you." Right after, he disappeared again.

From there on, Kentucky had to basically rely on his immense defense and the use of his Dark and Light Divine Armor, which greatly improved it. Nonetheless, it was basically trying to cover the sun with a spider web. His injuries increase little by little, forcing him even more on the back step. "Alright, alright, I admit defeat."

Roan's Death World immediately disappeared, allowing Kentucky's Kawa Blade Domain to work normally again. Well, it didn't matter since Kentucky retrieved his Domain as well, ending the battle. "Sigh... fortunately, not everyone is like you."

Roan put his White Scythe away. "Try not to be so overconfident next time." It was basically a lesson to Kentucky. If Roan wished to, he could have finished that battle faster. However, that would force him to try to actively kill Kentucky. Killing someone is always easier than defeating them. You have no need to hold back.

"Your Death World has truly become fearsome," said Rean when Roan returned to his side. "Seems like our combo will work as expected."

Roan nodded. "That's why we followed this route. Since I can't get rid of you, I might as well try to make use of your abilities."

Rean didn't even want to rebuke those words and focused on the Soul Gem Orb. "Forget it. Let's buy the upgrades first before we go out."

Without wasting time, the twins touched the Soul Gem Orb and got the reward list open for them. Their initial idea was to buy the fusion of three energies, Soul Power, Divine Origin Energy, and Stellar Energy. That would cost them 1000000 Destiny Points. However, they quickly noticed that a new option appeared after the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm finished upgrading to level 5.

[Time Acceleration - 1000000 Destiny Points]

"What?!" Rean and Roan were taken aback. "It's the thing Hex, Sister Orb, and I have been working on!"

Sister Orb immediately confirmed. [Yes, it is definitely the same. While the three of us worked on Hex's runes, I've been inputting them into the system while it was offline. After that, we could work on it after the system was back online. The idea was to have the system create a new reward related to time. It worked... I just didn't expect it would work this fast.]

Roan didn't care how it worked, only the outcome. "Then answer me straight. How much faster will time become if we buy this thing? From what I can see, there doesn't seem to be a level for this upgrade, which means it is already the option's final form."

[You are correct. Now that the system is back online, I can tell how it works. Basically, the amount of time acceleration depends exclusively on how much Divine Energy the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm can use. Simply put, the more Divine Stones you dedicate to the function, the faster time can become. Rank Seven Divine Stones have Divine Origin Energy inside them, so the effects are even better.]

The twins nodded, already expecting something like that. "This is good. We just so happen to have a lot of Rank Four Divine Stones lying around. How much faster can time become with them?"

[That... I don't know. The information isn't available since the system itself hasn't used the ability. You will have to give it a try. It might be a hundred times, a thousand times, ten thousand times. But it might as well be two times, half a time, or even lower.]

The twins looked at each other and reached a dilemma. The Energy Fusion Option costs a million points, but so does the time acceleration. If they buy one of them, they will be short 200000 Destiny Points for the other. Who knows when they will receive another quest now that Destiny Points don't come randomly...

However, their minds cleared up a few moments later as they understood that the choice was obvious. "What use will be there if we aren't alive? For now, returning to the Realm of Gods and searching for the next fragment takes priority. In that case, the fusion of three energies will definitely give us a great boost in power. Besides, if we recover the Universe Foundation Fragment from the Floating Islands of Time in the Minokawas' territory, we will get enough Destiny Points to buy the Time Acceleration."

[I have no complaints to make about this choice.] Sister Orb also agreed that staying alive was the best.
[It's another layer of security for us all.]

The twins once again sent their order into the Soul Gem Orb.

[All Energies and Conversion Upgrades Fusion - Only one level available - 1000000 Destiny Points]

[Confirm Purchase?]

"Yes!" The twins instantly answered.

[Destiny Points: 1833215]

[Purchased confirmed, initiating the upgrade.]

Right after, the twins' bodies suddenly felt extremely hot. Well, not only the twins but so did Celis and Kentucky, who were now connected to Rean and Roan. When the twins fused Divine Energy and Soul Power together, Celis and Kentucky also got the benefits. This time, it wasn't different.

Inside their bodies, new meridians that didn't exist before began to take form. They connected every inch of their bodies, Dantians/demon cores, and the brain where the soul lived, creating a new type of cycle between the three. Well, none of them could tell, though. That's because all four of them were contorting like worms on the ground due to the pain.

"Holy shit! Just kill me already!" Kentucky couldn't help but scream. Too bad no one would do such a thing for him.

[Oh yea... quite a satisfying view. I better record it while I can. I wonder what Calina and Qia will think of it.]

"Fuck you!" All four of them still had the energy to curse Sister Orb, though.

Death... and me

Chapter 2089: Sky Blue

Fortunately, the change in their bodies only lasted a few minutes. The light in their bodies gradually disappeared, revealing the four miserable guys once again. At first, there didn't seem to be anything different to them, though.

Rean was the first one to get up as he was the best at using his Instant Healing Skill. "Phew... I knew something like this would happen, but I just couldn't get used to it. Even my ability to block pain is useless when it comes to the system upgrade."

Yet, he didn't take that to mind. Instead, he checked his body. Or, to be more specific, the fusion of energy that was supposed to be there. "Hum... so that's how it looks. So many new meridians... However, they are different from the normal meridians, it seems."

[You are correct,] Sister Orb agreed with him. [After all, each type of energy has its own way of entering the body. That's why these new meridians were necessary. They can work with all three types of energy. Above all, they can hold the fused result of them as well.]

Rean extended his hand ahead and tried to bring his fusion of Divine Origin Energy, Stellar Energy, and Soul Power.

Zuaa...

Sure enough, it wasn't hard to bring the results out. "So this is the three energies fused." When Rean and Roan fused Divine Origin Energy and Soul Power, their result was a type of energy with a silver color. Now that it fused all three types, mental, body, and energy, it became sky blue instead. "Some might even think I'm using Divine Energy to gather Water Elements."

Roan finally got up and cleaned a little of the dust in his robe before doing the same thing. "They will need to be quite a bunch of idiots to think this is Water Element. Water Element gets a clear deep blue color, but the fused energy is sky blue instead. It's very different."

[Well, it is not like you will accumulate your fused energy in front of others so that they can guess what it is, right? Most of the time, it will be within your body and released through your attacks and weapons. It simply doesn't matter that much,] Sister Orb explained.

The twins nodded. "That's true."

Rean then used that fused energy and repeated the exact same test as he did when he fused Soul Power and Divine Origin Energy. Another arrow of energy was raised above his head as he aimed at a similar boulder nearby. This one, obviously, didn't take a silver-colored shape but a sky blue instead, as they expected.

Ziu!

Puf!

As soon as the arrow hit the bolder, it passed through it like a hot knife through butter. That wasn't all. The remaining energy of the arrow pulverized the boulder right after as the arrow shot into the distance. "Wow! How much stronger is this fused energy? Last time, the arrow just passed through with ease. There was no pulverization of the target."

Roan pondered a bit and tried it himself in a few other simple targets. Finally, he brought out a rather low-level sword from Rean and used the energy to attack it.

Clang!

Crack!

Roan didn't use much power, but he still successfully cracked the sword a little, which was a Golden High-Level Equipment. "It is quite ridiculous. I would say that our attack power has increased by more or less 50% to 60%."

Kentucky finally got up as well and used his Feather Blades in conjunction with his newly acquired fused energies. His Kawa Blade Domain power naturally went up as well. "Hahaha! See?! I'm just incredible!"

Roan coldly glanced at Kentucky, who immediately cooled down. "Ahem... Of course, that doesn't mean I will underestimate any possible enemy. Yes, that only makes me an even more careful Demon Beast, as I should be."

Celis didn't even want to comment on that and simply moved to his normal spot in the Dimensional Realm. "Well, if we are done with it, I'm going back to cultivate."

Rean couldn't help but ask. "Aren't you even curious about this fused energy? You can also use it, you know?"

"Nope," Celis answered without thinking twice. "I'm a World Swallowing Cedar, so I'm extremely closely related to the energies within my body. I know very well what I can and I can't do with it. You three, on the other hand, should indeed take the chance to go out and train with it. I'm just a little sad that we couldn't get the Time Acceleration reward, but I don't mind saving Divine Stones either."

Roan didn't mind. "Your time cultivating is the same as our time cultivating. Just continue as you wish." Following that, he looked at Hex. "Now then, our agreement is now completed. We told you to follow us until Rean and Sister Orb could use your runes to unlock the time powers of the Dimensional Realm. Since it is done, you are free to go anywhere you want."

Hex was indeed thinking about that exactly. It's just that he was afraid they had fooled him and would use Sesame to destroy him now. [Can I truly go?]

"Hmph!" Roan snorted. "I've never gone back on my word before, and that definitely won't start now."

Rean then waved his hand, creating a spatial passage back into the Sparse Black Grass Land. "Roan is right. Thank you for all the help, Hex. The Sparse Black Grass Land just so happens to be a very good place to hide, according to Sesame. You can decide what you will do with calm while you roam around this place. It's dark but pretty much free of dangers."

[Errrrr...] However, Hex stayed still as he looked at the Spatial Passage.

Seeing that puzzled Rean and the others. "What is it?"

[Wasn't the Sparse Black Grass Land supposed to be a dark place?] Hex asked back.

Hearing that, everyone turned their attention to the other side of the Spatial Passage. Sure enough, they were all left in shock at what they were seeing. "What the hell is happening outside?!"

Death... and me

Chapter 2090: Everything According to the Plan

At the moment, the outside world could be called anything except dark. A bright light shined through the Spatial Passage, illuminating the inside of the Dimensional Realm as well. "Could it be we were found, and there is a trap outside?"

[Not likely,] Sister Orb answered. [I can't feel the presence of any formation. First of all, why would the enemy reveal their presence outside? A trap is supposed to not be perceived, right?]

Everyone had to admit Sister Orb was right. With that, Sesame immediately stepped forward, preparing to leave. "I'm going to take a look. If there is really any danger, it will be a lot easier for me to escape. You guys just stay hidden here until I call you out."

No one had any issues with Sesame's idea and let the cat, or Pixiu, pass through the Spatial Passage. They waited inside for a few minutes until, finally, Sesame called them. "Come out. There isn't anyone nearby."

Rean and Roan didn't waste time and quickly came out. Naturally, so did everyone else. "So bright..."

Rean closed his eyes and felt the elements in his surroundings. "There is so much Light Element! Dark Element is still the major Element around, but the Light Element doesn't lose to it by much."

"That's not all," Roan added. "I can feel that the Dark Element is slowly disappearing. Or, to be more specific, the Light Element is erasing it."

Sesame pondered a bit before saying, "Roan should come with me. The rest of you go back into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. We will investigate the nearest city to see what is happening."

Roan nodded. "That's all we can do at the moment. If whatever is happening has nothing to do with us, we will just depart for the Temporal Path and return to the Realm of Gods."

[Ahem...] Hex didn't seem very willing, though. [Since I'm free to do as I wish, I'll go somewhere else. You won't complain, right? I'm supposed to be free now.]

Rean and Roan didn't mind. "If you wish to do so, be our guest."

Rean then patted Hex right after. "Thanks for all the help, friend. By the way, do you have a way for us to contact you in the future if we need?"

[Why would you want to contact me?]

"Isn't that obvious?" Rean answered with a question. "You said there are other Universes out there. Perhaps one day, we will have to rely on you to get out of here."

Hex didn't like the idea very much. However, he was more concerned about leaving this place. [Fine...] Immediately, Hex's energy accumulated into a single point between him and Rean. Following that, a hexagon cube identical to Hex appeared in mid-air. It's just that this one was a palm-sized Hex instead of being bigger than Rean. [You can just pour your Divine Origin Energy inside and use a Divine Sense Message. It will be delivered to me as long as I'm still in this Universe.]

Rean smiled as he put the hexagon cube away. "Alright, thanks. We will see you around someday."

Hex was surprised that Rean didn't consider the possibility of that small communication device being fake. Well, it wasn't fake. Hex was very confident that no one could use it to locate him as it used a type of technology from outside this Universe. [Err... Sure, let me know if you need something. I'll be the one to decide if I will come out to find you or not, though.]

Rean returned to Roan's side as everyone bid farewell to Hex. "Until someday, Hex."

Hex quickly gathered his energy and manipulated the Spatial Laws around him. He wasn't at the level of a Divinity Realm being like Sesame, but opening a Spatial Gate for himself definitely wasn't an issue. [Goodbye.] Right after, he threw himself inside and disappeared into the distance. A few moments later, the Spatial Gate closed as well. No one knows when they will meet again.

Rean then looked at the others around him. "Alright, let's go back to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm."

Vup, vup, vup, vup...

Rean and the others disappeared, leaving only Roan and Sesame outside. "The nearest city should be Flangiji at the border of the Sparse Black Grass Land. Since it is one of the very few cities in this region, it is quite big."

Roan was satisfied with the idea. "A big city is more likely to have the answer why the Sparse Black Grass Land suddenly got this spike of Light Element. Let's go there."

Sesame opened another Spatial Gate and left with Roan straight away.

Meanwhile, near the Temporal Path Entrance, not a single Devil could be found. First of all, it would be hard for the Devils to even get close to this place as the concentration of Light Elements was so high that it would cause several side effects.

At the center of the city, around the Temporal Path, there was now a bright white palace. This building wasn't here before as it didn't match any of the other buildings around. Nonetheless, it was heavily guarded while winged beings came and left it nonstop.

However, even though this place was foreign, at the very top of the palace, there was someone the twins would definitely recognize. The Light Devil Clan Leader, Rui. "So the Light Element spread easier in our Light Devil Clan territory, correct?"

A subordinate quickly nodded as he discussed the events of his squadron. "Yes, senior Rui. The was one of the first territories we took control over."

Rui nodded, satisfied. "Good." He then looked at another subordinate who had more reports. "What about the Temporal Path? Aren't the Elder Devils in the Realm of Gods trying to force their way through back here?"

"We have three Archangels defending the entrance from the inside, sir." The guy quickly answered. "Besides, if they commit to the Temporal Path, they will allow the Realm of Gods' experts to completely wipe the Devils out in there. They are in a dilemma at the moment."

"Good!" Rui was even more satisfied. "Alright, you can leave now."

After they left, Rui's expression changed. He went to the window and looked outside. "Everything according to the plan..."