

## Death 221

Death... and me

Chapter 221: Give the chick a name

This time, the chick found a deer-like demon beast. However, that demon beast wasn't a carnivore, so even though the chick came running in its direction, it basically ignored the chick. Of course, if it was any other demon beast, the deer-like beast wouldn't be so calm. The reason behind it was because the chick didn't seem to offer any danger, to the point that it didn't care about the chick.

Hulian was the first one to notice it.

"Well, that's a pretty common one beast, a white-hoofed deer. From what I can feel with my Spiritual Sense, it is an Initial Stage Two one. Simply put, it is even weaker than the Hound."

\*Chick! Chick!\*

The chick arrived at the deer's side and called for its attention. The deer that was eating some leaves then looked at the chick, puzzled. After a few moments, it took some of the leaves it was eating and passed them to the chick.

The chick then looked at the leaves and felt somewhat disappointed. Of course, the demon deer didn't understand that and simply kept eating its leaves. Finally, the chick looked back at the deer. Or better, it looked at the deer's head with shining eyes. However, the chick seemed to be struggling as well, looking at the deer's head with a ravenous gaze.

Rean immediately understood what was happening and was quite surprised.

"This chick is a lot more intelligent than I thought."

Roan and Hulian looked at Rean, waiting for him to explain.

"Can't you see? The chick's initial target was to take the white-hoofed deer's demon core. However, the deer treated the chick well and even shared some of its food. Of course, that was only because the deer didn't see the chick as a threat. It most likely thought it was just another herbivore, just like itself. The

chick is taking it as an act of kindness, so it can't bring itself to kill the deer for its demon core. If the chick didn't have high intelligence, it would never consider such a thing. The chick would have simply attacked the deer's head just like it did with the Hound."

Roan and Hulian had to admit that Rean was right.

"The chick is only a little over two months old, but it can already have such thoughts. Its scream can make one's head almost explode. Its attack power is definitely not something an ordinary Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator could take. It also has high intelligence even though it is only a Stage Two Demon Beast. Just what race did it come from?"

Finally, the chick closed its eyes and turned around, dashing into the forest once again. At the same time, its expression showed a lot of pain, as if it had made the most critical decision in its life. Rean looked at that and couldn't help but chuckle a little. He quite liked the chick. Roan, on the other hand, suddenly disappeared.

\*Swich!\*

Right after, Hulian and Rean noticed a white-hoofed deer's head falling on the ground. As one could imagine, Roan killed the deer with a single strike.

"Hm? Why did you kill the deer? After the poor chick suffered so much to let it live."

Roan looked at Rean as if he looked at an idiot.

"Obviously, to see if it has a Demon Core or not."

"Couldn't you have simply asked me? I could feel its presence."

"I only believe it if I see it with my own eyes."

"I think you simply didn't like the chick's benevolent attitude."

"I couldn't care less about the chick's attitude."

Finally, Hulian intervened in the twin's bickering.

"Ahem... if you take too long, the chick will leave my Spiritual Sense range."

Roan then performed another sword slash, cutting the deer's head open. Sure enough, a bloodied Demon Core came rolling from inside it.

"Seems like it confirms our suspicions. The chick is really aiming for the demon beasts that have demon cores."

Rean nodded.

"That's a good thing. As a demon beast itself, the demon core's energy is very compatible with it. It will be much better than eating my Spirit Stones. However, it is too young for me to leave it alone. What if it gets lost?"

It was then that Sister Orb's voice appeared.

[There is no need to worry. Since the chick suffered a mutation because of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Energy, there's a faint connection to it now. I can use this connection to find where the chick is. Of course, it is not as good as you two. If the chick goes too far away, then I won't be able to tell where it is.]

Rean was delighted to hear that. However, he quickly shook his head.

'Even so, this Demon Beast forest has a few Stage Three Demon Beasts. It will be too dangerous for the chick. I might let it wander around once it gets older or if it reaches Stage Three.'

Hulian noticed Rean and Roan's silence.

"Can we go already?"

Rean and Roan nodded, and they quickly followed the chick's trail. The chick ended up finding another demon beast at the Stage Two level with a core. Of course, the chick's coincidences didn't happen that easily. This time, the demon beast attack did not miss. However...

\*Bang!\*

The enemy's claws hit the chick's fat neck, sending the chick bounding back like a kicking ball. Rean and the others didn't know what to say. The chick approached the demon beast as if it was going to deliberately give up its demon core to the chick. It didn't try to defend or attack the demon beast at all. Obviously, the attack hit the chick perfectly.

Roan and Hulian then looked at Rean with weird expressions. They didn't say anything, but the meaning in their eyes was apparent for everyone to see.

'This chick doesn't seem intelligent at all.'

"Ahem... it's because the chick has no experience in battles. This is good though. It will soon understand that it needs to fight if it wants to survive."

Roan and Hulian then returned their attention to the kicking chick, much to Rean's relief.

'Well, at least it has a very high defense. The claws only messed up with a few of the plumes. Nonetheless, there was no injury left behind.'

Finally, the chick got up again. However, it showed the same teary eyes as before.

"Not good!"

Rean, Roan, and Hulian immediately used their Spiritual Energies to cover their ears once more. Sure enough...

\*CREEEEEEEEEEEEEE!\*

The demon beast that was coming after the chick stopped immediately in its tracks. It tried to use its own paws to cover its ears as the chick cried. Still, it felt quite dizzy since it didn't know how to use its Spiritual Energy to protect its ears.

Finally, the chick stopped crying. However, it looked somehow angry now. The demon beast, still somewhat dizzy, then slowly got up and looked at the chick with fear in its eyes. Its instincts told it that it should flee.

Unfortunately for the beast, Light Element gathered around the chick's body as it shot forward. Who said that fat means slow? At the very least, the chick was much faster than the demon beast that attacked it!

The demon beast was frightened as it turned around and tried to run away. Unfortunately, it was too late.

\*Puchi!\*

The chick's beak moved even faster than its body the moment it arrived beside the demon beast. Before the demon beast could even think about dodging, the chick already had a Demon Core between its beak. As for the demon beast, only a clean hole was left in the middle of its head.

This was the first time that Rean's group saw the chick actually making a proper attack. After all, the first Demon Core was obtained from an already dead Demon Beast.

"So strong..."

The chick then swallowed the demon core as it looked at the demon beast's corpse with an angry expression. Well, at least it tried... too bad that it didn't look scary at all. If anything, it looked quite funny to see the round chick doing that.

\*Chick! Chick!\*

The chick then turned around and dashed... in Rean's direction.

"Eh?"

From the looks of it, the chick knew that Rean had been following it all the time.

Once again, the chick jumped on Rean. Fortunately, Rean was prepared this time. Rean then held the fat chick in his arms, much to the chick's delight.

"You are still heavy, you know?"

However, the chick didn't hear. That's because as soon as it noticed that Rean could hold it, the chick fell asleep.

"Then again, it's just a hatchling in the end."

Hulian couldn't help but ask, though.

"By the way, shouldn't you at least give it a name? After all, it is quite annoying hearing chick all the time."

Rean then pondered a bit but couldn't come up with something good enough. He then looked at Roan to see if he had a good idea.

"What? I couldn't care less about its name. Just choose whatever."

Rean shook his head in response to his words.

"Come on, it's just a name. I'm sure you can think about something. I won't stop bothering you until you decide something."

Roan felt like a headache would come if he insisted on not choosing a name, so he simply selected the first thing that came to his mind.

"Alright. From now on, I'll call you Kentucky."

Rean's mouth twitched.

"Do you want to eat it that much?"

Roan nodded.

"You think?"

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Chapter 222: I want them

"Alright, Kentucky it is, then."

Roan didn't expect Rean to accept that name, but he refrained from commenting either. It's just like he said before, whatever name was okay. Even 'chick' wouldn't be a problem for Roan.

Hulian, on the other hand, was puzzled.

"Is there any meaning behind this name?"

Rean couldn't help but laugh after hearing that.

"Don't worry, it's basically a joke about a certain food company that we know."

Hulian didn't know what to say. Still, it wasn't his place to decide what the chick would be called.

"Alright. Kentucky... seems to be sleeping. It probably is because it's absorbing the energy from the Demon Cores. That being said, there is no point in staying here anymore, so let's go back to the Sect."

Rean and Roan nodded. Soon after, Hulian used his Spiritual Energy and brought them flying back to the teleport formation.

After Rean and Ron left, Hulian decided to at least report it to Mia. After all, Kentucky could also use Light and Dark Elements. As mentioned in the past, Rean and Roan were the only ones they had ever heard of using those Elements. So it made sense that Kentucky caught Hulian's attention.

Mia received the report but didn't think much about it. After all, Reliance had said all those things to her, so she already knew that Kentucky was something extraordinary. The fact that it could use the Dark and Light Element was most likely due to the mutation Reliance told her about.

After some time, Rean came to know that Demon Cores were indeed much better for Kentucky. From what he knew, Kentucky would need to eat around 300 of his Spirit Stones before falling asleep to absorb the energy. However, it only required 3 to 5 demon cores to get the same effect. Of course, everyone knew that demon cores had a lot more Spiritual Energy than Spirit Stones, so that made a lot of sense. It's just that the energy was not good for cultivators to use directly. Usually, the demon cores would be used for alchemy and other things instead.

In the end, Hulian passed a token that allowed Rean to enter their Private Demon Beast forest. Every time Kentucky got hungry, Rean would teleport there and let it feast on Demon Cores. Besides, it was also good for Kentucky to learn how to defend itself. Except for a few herbivore demon beasts, most of the ones who had demon cores attacked Kentucky. With time, it began to learn how to dodge and attack.



Another thing was that Rean could clearly see Kentucky's size becoming bigger. That was a common thing between demon beasts that increased their cultivations. Still, Kentucky was a little too fast compared to the other demon beasts Rean dealt with before.

And just like that, another three months went by.

Droman had already returned after confirming that the Lightning Sect could really modify the Lightning Beads for their use. Thanks to that, Droman and Rean's Router Formation finally got rid of the main problem: saving the signals and wiping them out straight away when not necessary anymore.

As one could expect, the Lightning Sect immediately accepted the Dalamu Sect's Copyright contract. They called the Zafa Bank that was already part of the Lightning Bead's business before and drafted a new agreement that made all three parties happy. The Lightning Sect was more than happy enough in knowing that it could start the construction of their own communication system in their territory. Being able to do it before any of the other powers in their country was a great deal for them.

In the end, the Dalamu Sect got the rights to sell the Lightning Beads while the Lightning Sect would develop and produce them. The Lightning Sect would then gain 40% of the profits, Dalamu another 40%. At the same time, Zafa Bank, as the intermediary that will prevent the contract from being broken, got 20%. 20% was a substantial amount, considering that Zafa Bank would have almost no work to be done. Their part was basically to prevent other powers from producing the Lightning Beads in their Sasamil Empire. This kind of deal was something that Zafa Bank was already very used to working with.

Rean and Roan had also been diligently cultivating until now. They were very close to the Top of the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Alongside their cultivation, Roan's alchemy skills kept increasing by leaps and bounds. At the moment, he could already make quite a few different Light or Dark Element Pills for the twins to use. Well, Old Worm was always helping him, so that was to be expected.

Rean was also regularly practicing his Formations with Droman. Of course, after Droman came back, he would leave every few days to check how the cable work was going in their Dalamu Sect Territory. Fortunately, the other people responsible for the project got a lot of experience during it, so they didn't really need Droman that much. It's just that they didn't know why Droman would always ask to not connect every city's cable to the main ones. Well, that was obvious. After all, there would need to be a Router Formation in those places in the future. Connecting them now would not make any sense.

Today, Rean and Droman were discussing a few other points of the Router Formation when all of a sudden, a guest arrived.

"Oh! Elder Reliance! You are finally here."

Reliance had finished collecting the Decaying Roots, which he already delivered to Mia. As promised, she wouldn't intervene in his attempt to take Rean and Kentucky with him. That being said, he came straight to the Formations' Hall where Rean and Droman were working in the formations.

"I heard you passed by the Sect last time, but you didn't even spare some of it to come to pay your old pal a visit. Is that how you treat your friends?"

Reliance smiled as he shook his head.

"Of course not. It's just that I wasn't supposed to be here during that time. I only came by because Mia had sent me a message saying that she needed my help. Otherwise, I wouldn't have come. Anyway, I finished what that Mia brat asked me to do, so I could finally come here."

Droman nodded, not finding it surprising at all.

"So, where are the Formation Flags? For you to come to see me here, it is obvious that you want me to repair them again."

Reliance didn't deny it.

"That's true. However, I have another reason to come here to talk to you."

Reliance then looked at Rean... and then Kentucky, who was sleeping in a corner. Rean didn't keep Kentucky all the time inside the Dimensional Realm. After all, it would make others suspicious if Kentucky kept appearing and disappearing. That being said, he tried to keep it out as long as possible.

"Droman, I want to take this kid as my disciple. Would you mind giving him to me?"

Droman's relaxed expression immediately changed after hearing that.

"Are you crazy? This kid has the most extraordinary Formations Master talent I've ever seen. Even if you kill me, I won't give him up."

Rean was also surprised to hear that.

"What is happening here, Elder Reliance? I don't remember us having any kind of interactions before."

Reliance didn't mind their answers.

"Kid, to be honest, what I'm interested in is that guy behind you."

Rean and Droman looked in Elder Reliance's direction and saw Kentucky sleeping. After three months of eating Demon Cores and sleeping, Kentucky got even bigger. He was almost the same size as Rean and Roan. Besides, his round shape finally began to disappear. Well, he was still quite round nonetheless. On top of that, Kentucky's Yellow Plumage finally began to fall. In its place, feathers finally started to come out.

"Are you talking about Kentucky?"

"What? Who's Kentucky?"

"That chick's name. You talking about my Kentucky, right?"

Elder Reliance didn't know what to say about that name.

"Well... people often say that my naming sense isn't that good either."

Droman rolled his eyes at Reliance after hearing that.

"Your naming sense is even worse. How are Lanlan, Zunzun, and Jinjin doing?"

Rean couldn't help but look at Reliance with a weird expression.

'Are you the one to complain about my chick's name?'

Of course, Reliance was a Peak Nascent Soul Realm elder of the Sect, so he didn't say that aloud.

Reliance knew that he was losing ground, so he changed the topic.

"Ahem... the three of them are fine. Anyway, I want to take this kid with me so I can help him raise the chi... Kentucky."

Droman couldn't help but ask.

"I know that you love demon beasts, so I can understand why you want Kentucky. However, what does my disciple have to do with it?"

Before Reliance could answer, Rean intervened.

"Regardless, Kentucky is my and Roan's Demon Beast. I'm not giving him away."

Reliance shook his head in response.

"It's pointless for you to give him away since he already took you as its-"

It was then that he noticed a problem.

"Wait! Did you say that Kentucky is your and someone else's Demon Beast?"

As far as Reliance knows, this Demon Beast would only accept one master in its life, so why were there two owners?

Rean nodded anyway.

"Yes. Kentucky is ours."

Although Roan and Kentucky didn't like each other that much, it was confirmed that Kentucky still accepted Roan somehow. There had been a few times during the last three months that Rean had to leave Kentucky with Roan. Roan was basically the only one other than Rean that Kentucky reluctantly accepted be left with. Any other person would make Kentucky throw a tantrum. Of course, Kentucky still preferred Rean the most.

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Chapter 223: Reliance is out of luck

Reliance was then lost in his own thoughts.

'That shouldn't be possible. A demon beast only accepts one Master during their entire lives. At most, they would be friends or treat others better. Still, their loyalty would always be to that single person. Oh, right! That's what happened. This chick simply thinks about the other kid in a friendly way. It's not like it also got that one as its Master.'

Reliance wasn't wrong. A good example was Nana, Tiria's Snow Crane. Although Tiria was her Master, Nana still liked Rean very much. It's just that if there came a day to choose one side, Nana would absolutely choose Tiria.

"I see... Kentucky also likes your brother, is it? Anyway, I heard you spent some time in our Demon Beasts' area and that you like them as well. Since that is the case, you should have already heard about the fact that Demon Beasts can accept Masters, right?"

Rean nodded.

"Yes. I saw a few Demon Beasts there who have Masters already. What about it?"

Reliance nodded.

"It's just that a Demon Beast can only accept a single Master during its life. Or at least, that will be the case until they get strong enough. At a certain point, a demon beast will become independent enough to decide whether it still wants to treat you as a master or not. It's not like it has a forced bond or anything like that. Anyway, this is something that only happens after Stage Nine, so we probably will never see one of those."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"So how do you know that a Demon Beast accepted you as a Master?"

Reliance shrugged his shoulders.

"Isn't that obvious? Although there is no such thing as a forced bond between you two, there is still a connection. Touch Kentucky's head and release some of your Spiritual Sense on it. You can definitely feel a small link between your Spiritual Senses. It's nothing that impressive, but it should still be there."

Rean nodded his head.

"There is no need. I already noticed it a long time ago. However... my brother can also feel the same thing."

Reliance's smiled disappeared once more.

"Impossible! There is no way a Demon Beast can accept two Masters."

Droman and Rean looked at Reliance with a puzzled expression.

"Why?"

Reliance then answered... or well, he tried to.

"That's because... that's because... because... Errr..."

It was then that he noticed... there was no reason for a Demon Beast to not accept two Masters. It's just that he had never seen or heard about it before. Several Cultivators have tried to tame Demon Beasts that already had Masters. However, no one succeeded so far. At most, they had to put some restrictions that forced the Demon Beast to work for them against its will. For example, taking the Demon Beast's Master as a hostage. Of course, Reliance had no intention of taking a kid hostage. First of all, he didn't like to force Demon Beasts to start with.

"Anyways, it should be impossible. I've never heard about a Demon Beast with two Masters. Kentucky probably just likes Roan as well, that's all."

Droman and Rean then looked at Reliance with a weird expression.

"Wh-What is it? Did I say something wrong?"

Rean could only tell the truth.

"Ahem... Kentucky... probably hates my brother. It feels afraid every time it sees him."

Even Droman saw the chick's scared face when it looked at Roan. From what he heard, Roan seemed adamant about eating it at all costs. If not that sometimes they had no other choice, Kentucky would definitely not stay with Roan.

Reliance finally lost his patience and said.

"Call your brother here. I want to confirm if what you said is the truth!"

Droman then intervened.

"So what? Are you intending to take Roan as well if you find that Rean isn't lying?"

Reliance then looked at Droman and nodded his head.

"And what if I say yes?"

Unfortunately, that answer only made Droman burst out in laughter.

"Hahaha! Alright then, I want to see if you can really take Roan away."

Instead of telling who took Roan in, Droman was more willing to see Reliance stepping on the mine himself.

'Hmph! Let's see what kind of face you will show when you find out the truth.'

Reliance was a little taken aback by Droman's reaction, but he decided to ignore it anyway. However, Rean didn't seem very willing either.

"Elder Reliance, I don't intend to become your disciple. First of all, why do you want my Kentucky so much?"

Reliance then explained.

"Kid, you have no idea what you have in your hands. Only under my care will Kentucky be able to show his full glory! Believe me, I'm doing you a favor by taking you as my disciple. If not for your heaven-defying luck to get this little guy, I wouldn't spare a second glance at you."



Rean didn't care what Elder Reliance said as he responded.

"So what? I already helped Kentucky reach Stage Two in only two months. I can definitely help him all the way forward on my own as well. Besides, I don't need your help to cultivate. I'm more than good enough to cultivate on my own."

Droman couldn't help but show a satisfied smile. He knew that Rean was right. Rean and Roan's cultivation growth was due to their own efforts. Although the Sect Helped as much as they could, most of their achievements were from their own.

"Hmph! Do you even know what it is?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"Yes. It's my chick. That's all I need to know."

Droman then sent a Spiritual Sense message to Rean.

'Do as he says and call Roan over. Trust me, he will drop this idea of forcefully taking you as his disciple very soon.'

Rean couldn't help but think of Old Worm. He still remembered how Droman acted super polite in front of him in the past. In the end, Rean decided to trust Droman and did as he said.

Reliance was just about to continue talking when Rean said.

"Anyway. First, let me prove to you that Roan also has this small connection to Kentucky."

Reliance narrowed his eyes but nodded in the end.

"Very well. I need to confirm if you two are really Kentucky's Masters anyway. If that is the case, I will have to take you two at the same time."

Reliance was determined to take Kentucky. If he had to bring another kid together, then so be it. It would all be worth it as long as he could be the one to help Kentucky grow up.

Back inside Old Worm's hut, Roan and Old Worm were working on a new pill. Well, in fact, this was a neutral one. As mentioned in the past, Old Worm's interest in Roan was not only his talent for alchemy. There was also his Dark Element that was much better at destroying impurities than any other Element.

He might not be good at making Pills of other elements. But if they were talking about Neutral Pills, he was confident that Roan was heads and tails above all others. Not to mention that he noticed that Roan could use Rean's Light Element as well. Not only could he destroy the impurities, but he could also protect the herbs and other materials with the opposite Element. Even Old Worm felt quite jealous of Roan's Elemental Affinity.

Suddenly, Roan stopped his concoction as he looked in another direction. Old Worm, of course, noticed that change.

"What?"

Roan sighed.

"Problems."

A moment later, a disciple of the Formations' Hall arrived in the hut.

"Sorry for the interruption. Elder Droman asked for Roan to come to the Formations Hall as soon as possible."

Right after delivering the message, the disciple left. Rean and Roan had their own Soul Connection where they could talk to each other, but the others didn't know about it. That's why Droman sent a disciple to call him over.

Old Worm then looked at Roan and asked.

"Need help?"

Roan pondered a bit. Just now, Rean explained the situation to him and said to bring Old Worm together if possible. He didn't really want to get involved in that mess. However, if Reliance really brought Rean away, his own cultivation will be hindered. He also didn't want to ask Old Worm, who had nothing to do with it. Still, from what Rean said, bringing him would be the fastest way to get things over with.

"Yes."

Old Worm closed his book as he got up. He didn't ask anything.

"Lead the way."

As always, those two only exchanged a few words. Still, it was impressive that somehow, they could understand each other that well.

A few minutes later, Roan arrived at the Formations' Hall. The side occupation buildings were located around the same place in the Dalamu Sect, so it was expected that he arrived that fast.

Reliance then looked at Roan and could immediately tell that he was Rean's brother. After all, they were identical to each other.

"So you are this brat's brother. Anyway, he said that you can also feel the link between you and Kentucky. Go ahead and try to feel it. I will hold your shoulder and use my own Spiritual Sense to confirm as I did to Rean a few minutes ago."

Roan narrowed his eyes, not liking Reliance's attitude that much. However, he wanted to get over with it soon, so he did as he was told.

Kentucky was still sleeping, though. He was digesting the Demon Cores energy that he got the day before after going to the forest with Rean.

Roan then touched Kentucky's head and released his Spiritual Sense. Sure enough, the same link as Rean was also present with Roan.

Obviously, Reliance was startled to see that.

"It's true..."

He then looked at Rean and Roan and noticed that their hairs and eyes had the same color as the crown on Kentucky's head. He heard from Mia that Rean and Roan seemed to have some weird connection that allowed them to use the other's Element.

'Now I understand why the chick suffered a mutation. It definitely had something to do with these twins' connection. Well, so be it. I can take my time to check it later.'

Reliance then assumed an imposing stance and said.

"Since that is the case, you two are my disciples from now on. Get ready. We are leaving straight away."

Unfortunately for him...

"Disciples your head!"

\*Pah!\*

Suddenly, Reliance was slapped on the back of his head.

Reliance was infuriated for a second as he looked at who dared to slap him. He felt like he was about to explode. However, his rage deflated like a balloon as soon as he saw who it was.

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Chapter 224: Kentucky's Race

"E-Elder Fauk..."

He didn't even notice when Old Worm entered the room.

"Roan is my disciple. Do you want to take him away from me?"

Reliance's demeanor completely disappeared as he immediately shook his head.

"This lowly one wouldn't dare."

Old Worm snorted.

"Hmph! Of course you wouldn't. Also, his cultivation is deeply related to how close he is to his brother. You better not try to separate them."

Old Worm then looked at Roan and asked.

"Is it over?"

Roan nodded.

"Yes."

Without saying anything else, Roan and Old Worm left straight away. After all, they were still in the middle of alchemy practice when Rean called them over.

Finally, Elder Reliance calmed down and looked at Droman.

"Why didn't you tell me his brother was Elder Faulk's disciple? Are you trying to kill me?"

Droman laughed out loud.

"Hahaha! That's for you to understand that the world doesn't exist to fulfill your every command. Anyway, Elder Faulk knew that you didn't know about Rean's brother, so he won't make things difficult for you."

Droman continued.

"On top of that, I thought of bringing Rean away in the past, but the issue they have regarding cultivation can't be avoided. That being said, I can't separate them either. That's why I spent most of my time teaching Rean in the sect instead of watching over the communication system construction."

Reliance couldn't help but feel perplexed.

"What is this cultivation proximity that you and Elder Faulk talked about?"

Rean was the one to answer that question.

"Oh! It goes like this..."

He then explained the same thing as he did to Droman a few months ago.

"I see... if that is the case, then I really can't bring you further away from your brother. What do you do about missions?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"We basically take them together. However, we also make sure that the missions are difficult enough for the two of us to complete. That means we don't have any problem with real combat experiences."

Reliance massaged the space between his eyebrows.

"Droman. Even if I can't bring this kid away with me, I still want him."

Droman didn't yield, unsurprisingly.

"Hmph! Keep dreaming. Even if I have to fight your Demon Beasts, I will not give up on him."

Rean then raised his hand.

"I believe you two are forgetting the main point here. It all depends on me whether I want to get a new master or not. Droman is my Formations Master for apparent reasons. As for you, Elder Reliance, I don't really have a reason to accept you as my Master."

Reliance narrowed his eyes.

"Kid, other than Formation-related things, I can definitely give you as much or even more than Droman. Spirit Stones would not be a problem, for example."

Rean and Droman looked at each other for a second and then started to laugh.

"What is so funny?"

Droman then patted Reliance's shoulder with an expression of pity.

"Too bad, my friend. If there is one thing that Rean doesn't lack, that it Spirit Stones."

Reliance narrowed his eyes as he looked at Droman.

"You were quite the money-grubber. Since when you started to treat Spirit Stones that cheap?"

Rean was the one to answer that question.

"If Elder Droman is a money-grubber or not, I don't know. However, I've never needed his help with cultivation resources to start with. I have plenty of ways to get Spirit Stones. Just my steel works alone are already enough for my and Roan's cultivation."

Reliance didn't know what Rean was talking about, so Droman gave him a quick explanation about Rean's Blacksmith Skills. Finally, Reliance came to understand that Rean was already rich in his own right. If anything, the Jamariz Weapon Store had been giving him more and more Spirit Stones every month. Not only that, but they even began to consider expanding their shops to the other sects' territories as well. After all, the Steel Swords were just way too popular with low-level cultivators that couldn't pay for Spiritual Equipment.

Reliance felt a headache already. Rean turned out to be harder to deal with than he thought.

It was then that Rean said.

"Elder Reliance only wants to help me with Kentucky's training, right? How about this: There is no need for you to take me as a disciple. During the times I'm in the sect, Elder Reliance can simply take the chance to help me with it. I'll basically leave Kentucky's every step for you to decide. Of course, there will be times that Roan and I will go out for missions. Still, this is also good since we can have Kentucky try some combat."

Reliance pondered a bit before saying.

"Very well. But I won't forgive you if you let it die, so you better take good care of it."

Rean nodded and then asked the question that was puzzling him for so long.



"So... What race is Kentucky from?"

Reliance scratched his dreadlock hairs and looked at Droman.

"What? Is it some kind of secret? I've never talked about Lanlan, Zunzun, and Jinjin, so why would I open my mouth about Kentucky?"

Reliance then pointed at Rean.

"Didn't you just say it to this kid?"

Droman didn't care.

"That's because you want to take him as a disciple. If that is the case, you obviously have no intention of keeping those three hidden in the first place. Am I wrong? Besides, I just spoke a few names. I didn't tell him what they are."

Reliance wanted to refute Droman's words, but he knew that he couldn't. If he had really brought Rean and Kentucky away, Rean would eventually find out about his three main Demon Beasts.

Rean then added.

"I trust Elder Droman, so there is no need to feel apprehensive about him. By the way, who are Zunzun, Lanlan, and Jinjin?"

Reliance finally let it go.

"Fine!"

\*Fuiiiii~~\*

Suddenly, a small Fiery-Red Palm-Sized bird entered the room through the window and landed on Reliance's shoulder.

"I can't show you the other two since they are a little too catchy. However, this one should be okay. This is Zunzun, my Fire Tanager."

Rean didn't know what to say about the bird. It looked as weak as any common bird around. It's just that it's fiery red feathers really reminded him about the fire color. Still, it was just a Tanager.

Too bad that Rean didn't try to use his Spiritual Sense. If he did, he would notice that the little bird wouldn't appear inside his Spiritual Sense at all. After all, the difference in cultivation was just too high!

"Errr... that's quite a beautiful bird."

Still, Rean didn't know why Reliance would want to keep it a secret. It was then that an idea came to mind.

"Oh! I see... this Tanager is a rare one, right? Because it is too weak, Elder Reliance is afraid that someone will try to steal it."

Droman heard those words and began to sweat a bit. All of a sudden, a red flash passed by Rean's eyes.

\*Bang!\*

Before Rean could even process what happened, his body was sent flying! Something had just hit his chest head-on!

\*Crash!\*

Rean hit the wall with so much strength that the entire room trembled. He fell down right after and vomited some blood. He looked at his chest and saw the scourged black mark left behind by the assault.

Rean then looked around, afraid that an enemy had attacked him. However, he soon saw Elder Droman's weird expression as Reliance laughed out loud.

"Hahaha! That's too funny!"

Rean couldn't understand anything. However, he noticed that the red bird on Reliance's shoulder disappeared.

"Hey, brat! Where the hell are you looking?!"

Only then did Rean notice that fiery red bird on the ground... was talking to him.

"I will let you off the hook this time since Master likes you. However, if you disrespect me again, don't blame me for not holding back. Hmph!"

Rean's fearful expression changed to that of extreme shock in an instant!

"The bird can talk?!"

Droman then sighed as he explained.

"Ahem... Zunzun is a Stage Six Demon Beast after all."

Rean's blood drained from his face as he looked at the palm-sized bird in front of him. Without a doubt, this was one of the biggest shocks he had received ever since he was born in the cultivation world.

"Alright, Zunzun. Leave him alone. It is not good to abuse your power in front of the kids."

"Yes, Master!"

Zunzun then became another flash of red light as he flew back to Reliance's shoulder.

"Zunzun has a very high affinity with Fire Element, which makes his behavior as fiery as his feathers. Don't take it personally."

Zunzun didn't like Reliance's words but didn't say anything.

"Hmph!"

Reliance then smiled and explained.

"Stage Five Demon Beasts can use Spiritual Sense to convene their thoughts. As for Stage Six, they gain the ability to speak with words."

Rean always had the thought that the higher the Stage, the bigger the Demon Beast. Obviously, that was not the case.

"So strong! Could it be that Zunzun is some Legendary Tanager or something like that? Could it be that Kentucky is also a Legendary Bird?"

Reliance laughed once more.

"Hahaha! Legendary? Far from that. There are so many Fire Tanagers from where I came that you might even see thousands in a single pack. Well, Fire Tanagers usually never cross Stage One, though. I had to put a lot of effort into helping Zunzun reach his actual level."

Reliance then looked at Kentucky.

"However, it's not wrong to say that about Kentucky. After all, it is a Minokawa."

Death... and me

Chapter 225: Minokawa

Rean was puzzled by that name.

"What's a Minokawa?"

Even Droman had no idea what a Minokawa was.

Reliance then looked at Kentucky before replying.

"To be honest, I've never seen one myself. Well, not before Kentucky. All I knew about were legends shared between the people of my home country. Later on, I found several records that Minokawas are not legends... but real Demon Beasts. Who could have thought that I would find one here?"

Reliance then continued.

"Anyway, from what I know, Minokawas are dragon-like Demon Birds. It has a beak and claws that are as resistant as metal. Their eyes are like mirrors. The wings' feathers are as sharp as blades, while the body has several dragon scales mixed in with the feathers. Most of the feathers and scales are a mix of white and black colors. The legends of my people say that they can grow strong enough to swallow the sun and moon. Of course, I think this part is an exaggeration."

Reliance then made Rean ask a question.

"Has it already started to shed its plumage?"

Rean nodded absent-mindedly. Reliance then approached Kentucky, who was still sleeping, and lifted some of its under neck plumage.

"Take a look."

Rean didn't pay much attention to the places where the plumage had disappeared before. He simply felt that it was normal for a bird to lose its plumage, which would give it space for its new feathers. However, when he looked under the plumage that Reliance lifted, he noticed tiny protrusions between still growing tiny dark and white feathers. After touching them, Rean could feel how hard they were.

"This... could they be?"

Reliance nodded.

"Kentucky had already entered Stage Two. It's to be expected that his scales already began to take form."

Reliance then lifted one of Kentucky's wings and rubbed his hands on both sides as if he was looking for something.

"Oh! Here you are."

Reliance then looked at Rean.

"Give me your hand."

Without thinking too much about it, Rean extended his hand to Reliance. After that, Reliance rubbed Rean's finger in the same place he found on Kentucky's wings.

"Ouch!"

Suddenly, Rean felt that something had cut his finger. It wasn't anything big, but it was definitely sharp. Reliance then lifted the plumage that was covering that part of Kentucky's wings. Sure enough, Rean saw more of those White and Dark feathers beginning to take form. However, as a Blacksmith, he could quickly tell just how sharp these feathers' edges were.

After seeing this much, there was no need for Rean or Droman to doubt Reliance's words. Everything he said about this so-called Minokawa had been proved correct so far.

"My people have no idea how strong a Minokawa can become. No, that's the wrong way to put it. In fact, any demon beast or cultivator could grow to unprecedented levels as long as the conditions allow it. A good example of it is how I was able to help Zunzun reach Stage Six even though he is a common Fire Tanager."

"However, we can't ignore that talent and bloodline are also extremely important to a cultivator or demon beast. As a member of the legendary Minokawa race, Kentucky's potential is simply above our imagination. That's why I want to train it. I want to see just how far it can get. It really makes me jealous that you were the one to find its egg and not me."

Rean then went beside Reliance and patted Kentucky's head with a smile on his face.

"As I thought, you are really a fantastic chick."

Reliance then looked at Rean with a peculiar expression.

"You... don't seem to care about my skin color that much, no?"

Reliance was already used to all these white people trying to stay far from him because of how different he looked. Even Droman and Mia were not different in the past. It took quite some time for them to grow used to it. However, Rean didn't seem to give a damn about it. He even extended his hand when Reliance asked as if there was nothing wrong with that. One must remember that Rean still had the height of an almost 13-year-old kid. Reliance wasn't wrong to expect that a white kid like Rean would avoid him since there were virtually no black people in the Sasamil empire.

Rean looked at Reliance, puzzled.

"Is there something wrong with it? Oh, I see! You heard that I can also use my Light Element to heal other's injuries, right? Alright, since Elder Reliance told me what Kentucky is, I'll help you recover. Show me where the problem is."

Rean wasn't really pretending. Back on earth, black people were nothing but ordinary where he lived. Although there were still more white people in his city than black ones, they weren't rare. During his life, he had seen so many that he can't even guess a number. They were present in school, college, companies, shops, and etc. There were even two metallurgists who worked together with him in the same room, which he interacted with on a daily basis. So yea, Rean didn't feel anything wrong with Reliance's skin color at all. The only moment he felt some surprise was when he had seen Reliance for the first time. But that was because Reliance was the first black person he had seen in the cultivation world, not because of his skin color itself.

"This... errr... no, it's okay... I can deal with it myself."

Rean nodded.

"Well, if you say so."

Rean then looked at Kentucky again and asked.

"So, how does Elder Reliance intend to train Kentucky?"

Reliance's opinion about Rean turned a lot more favorable after that. He had seen the way others treated him tens of thousands of times, so he could tell that Rean wasn't pretending.

"Ahem... how about you tell me how you had been raising him so far?"

Rean nodded and then looked at Droman.

"Elder Droman, is it okay if we pause for a moment?"

Droman shrugged his shoulders.



"Well, he already gave up the idea of taking you with him, so I guess it is okay. Since I'm already at it, Reliance, pass me the Formations' Flags you have. You still want to repair them, right?"

Reliance nodded and threw an old bag at Droman.

"Sigh... can't you find a better case to keep the flags?"

Reliance shrugged his shoulders.

"It's not like they will break because of it, right? As long as I can carry them, who cares about how I do it?"

Droman shook his head and then left the room. Since he was already in the Formations Hall, it wouldn't be difficult for him to fix the flags. It's just that he would need the Blacksmith Hall's help as well, so he needed time.

After Droman went out, Rean began to explain how he was training Kentucky. Well, he simply let Kentucky hunt on his own in the Dalamu's private Demon Beast forest. Of course, he didn't tell about the baths Kentucky took in the Soul Gem Dimension Realm.

"You will need a lot more than just that. Minowakas can be considered a kind of a 'metal bird.' Of course, this is just the way I put it. It's not like the 'metal bird' denomination really exists. After all, I don't know about any other demon bird race that needs precious metals for its development."

"According to the records I found about Minokawas, the rarer the metals, the more sturdy their feathers will be. They aren't considered as sharp as blades for nothing."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"How come I've never seen it touching a piece of metal before? Could it be that it has a specific palate for metals?"

Rean has many High-Level Spiritual Ores and even some Peak-Level ones in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Still, Kentucky has never touched them before.

Reliance narrowed his eyes as he pondered.

"Hum... It's hard to say since I've never trained a Minokawa before. What level of Metals have you shown to it?"

"High and Peak-Level Spiritual Ores."

Reliance nodded.

"This guy is a Legendary Demon Beast. Perhaps these metals aren't good enough to catch its attention..."

"Wait here for a sec."

After that, Reliance disappeared from the room. It was so fast that Rean couldn't even see his shadow.

'As expected of a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator.'

After that, Rean waited for ten or so minutes. Eventually, Reliance came back. In his hand was a small piece of ore that looked as black as coal. However, Rean could tell that its level was far above any other ore he had seen so far.

"Could it be...?"

Reliance nodded.

"This is a Heaven-Ranked Ore, Malagal Iron. I found it by coincidence while dealing with a few ants in the past."

Suddenly, Kentucky's nostrils caught the scent of the piece of ore. His eyes immediately opened, and looked directly at Reliance's hand. They immediately shone like stars as Kentucky got his plumpy body up and ran directly at it.

"Stop right there!"

Hearing Rean's voice, Kentucky stopped in place.

\*Chick?\*

He then looked at Rean with a pledging eye. Rean could even see Kentucky drooling.

Rean didn't care, though.

"Do you know how expensive this thing is? Go back to sleep. This is not for you."

Obviously, Kentucky showed an almost crying expression.

Reliance then laughed out loud.

"Hahaha! It's okay. It's not like I need it for anything."

Surprisingly, Kentucky seemed to have understood Reliance's words as his sad expression warped into an excited one.

\*Zap!\*

As fast as lightning, Kentucky took Reliance's Malagal Ore and swallowed it.

\*Burp~~\*

Reliance couldn't help but feel surprised when he saw it. Kentucky's speed just now definitely surpassed what any Stage Two Demon Beast could achieve.

"As expected of the legendary Minokawa."

It was then that he remembered something.

"Oh, right! The mutation."

Death... and me

Chapter 226: Heaven-Level Metal Detector

Rean looked at Reliance before asking.

"You can tell that it has mutated?"

Reliance nodded and then touched Kentucky's head, where the almost imperceptible crown made out of black and white feathers was present. Kentucky didn't mind, though. Since Rean was there and Reliance had given him delicious food, he didn't think that Reliance was bad.

"There are no records about Minokawas having a crown of feathers, so I can tell it has mutated somehow. Is it me, or the Light Element I felt from you back then is also present in these feathers? Oh, right, Mia already told me everything about you and your brother's peculiar elemental affinities."

Rean wasn't surprised by that.

"Yes. I think it has something to do with Roan and I having this special connection that allows us to use the others' elements. Because of that, Kentucky can also use both Light and Dark elements."

Reliance shook his head in response.

"You are wrong. Whether you or Roan can use those elements matters little. That's because Minokawas were already supposed to use those two elements to start with. Your Elemental Affinities are indeed extremely rare, but you guys definitely aren't the only ones that have ever existed."

Rean heard that and couldn't help but ask Sister Orb in secret.

'Sister Orb, is that true?'

[I don't have much information about this side. Still, it is not hard to imagine that in the entire half of the Universe that other races can do it. However, I can at least guarantee that no one has a higher affinity with those two Elements than you two. At most, they would only be at a similar level, and even that would be almost impossible.]

Rean had to admit that even if it was half of a Universe, it was still a scale that he could hardly fathom. It made sense that there might be others out there that can use the Light and Dark element.

'Alright.'

Rean then returned his attention to Reliance and asked.

"Elder Reliance seems pretty sure about it even though you have never seen a Minokawa before."

Reliance nodded.

"The reason is pretty simple. Kentucky can use both Light and Dark Elements, right?"

Rean nodded and waited for Reliance to continue.

"However, from what I heard, you and Roan can only borrow each other's elements. It's not like you can gather the other element alone, but Kentucky can. Besides, the old records already said that it could use

Light and Dark Elements. I think that the legend that Minokawas can swallow the Sun and Moon are probably related to this ability to use Light and Dark Elements."

Rean shook his head after hearing that.

"That's not entirely correct. I can gather the Dark Element without Roan's help."

"You can?"

Rean nodded once more.

"Yes. However..."

Rean then used his Spiritual Energy to call forth the surrounding Dark Element. Unfortunately, the amount he could gather on his own was almost imperceptible.

"I'm simply terrible at it. Using my Dark Star Sword and borrowing Roan's Dark Element is hundreds of times better. Besides, when I concentrate on gathering the Dark Element, my ability to gather the Light Element is deeply affected. Simply put, it's much better for me to use the Light Element alone than trying to use the Light and Dark Element together. After all, the gains don't make up for the losses. I would rather use my Dark Star Sword to gather the Dark Element if Roan was not present."

Reliance understood.

"I see... Well, those are not elements that I can use, so I can't help out that much on it."

Rean then asked something else.

"Does it mean that Kentucky did not receive any mutation?"

Reliance immediately denied that idea.

"No, he definitely mutated because of you and your brother. As I said, Minokawas were not supposed to have a crown of feathers. In fact, the results of the mutation are pretty obvious. Ask Kentucky to do one thing for me."

Reliance then explained what he wanted through a Spiritual Sense message.

Rean was surprised to hear it at first, but he quickly nodded and sent a stream of thoughts through Spiritual Sense to Kentucky.

\*Chick? Chick!\*

Dark and Light Elements began to converge around Kentucky like torrents. All of a sudden...

\*Whoosh!\*

Kentucky's body soon burst into black and white flames! The flames were intense enough to even force Rean to release his Spiritual Energy to protect himself.

Reliance, on the other hand, just smiled after seeing that.

"As expected, he really mutated. I might be wrong, but according to the records I found, a Minokawa shouldn't be able to call forth the Light and Dark Flames before it reached at least Stage Five. Let alone one flames as intense as this one. It's quite obvious that Kentucky can use his flames to surpass the Stage Two Demon Beast level of power."

Kentucky maintained his flames for a minute or so. Eventually, he grew tired, and the flames disappeared. Right after, he fell on his butt and began to gasp for air. That was the first time Kentucky had done it, so he didn't know how to control the flames yet.

Reliance then continued to explain.

"The Light and Dark Flames are deeply related to the Yin Yang balance in his body. Before a Minokawa grows strong enough, it shouldn't be able to control the flames, but look at Kentucky. He is just a hatchling, but it can already do such a thing several Stages below. The mutation he went through has deeply affected his affinity with those two elements and powers. Besides, you probably noticed it already, Kentucky is a lot more intelligent than any other Stage Two Demon Beast."

Rean immediately nodded. He had to do a few sect duties in the Beast Taming Faction in the past, so he came to know the Demon Beasts there. High-level ones were rare, but low-level ones were everywhere, which included Stage Two ones. Still, none of them could understand Rean's commands. However, Kentucky seemed to have no problem doing so. He looked more like a super prodigy. He learned things way too fast.

Reliance then started to pet Kentucky around his neck, much to Kentucky's delight.

"Alright. This is all that I know about Minokawas and what I can tell about his mutation. From now on, anything we find about him will be new for you and me. First, you will need to find more Heaven-Level Ores for him to eat. The earlier he builds his feathers with them, the better they will be in the future."

Rean immediately felt a headache.

"That's impossible. I might be making a lot of Spirit Stones right now, but only when considering the expenses of two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators. Heaven-Level materials are just too far from what I can afford at the moment."

Reliance had to admit that Rean was right.

"That's true. I do have a few more Heaven-Level ores that I accumulated by chance during all these years. Still, I doubt it will be enough to satisfy a Minokawa. Especially one like this one that is obviously far above in power than others. Kentuck will probably need a lot more ores if he wants to improve his scales and feathers."

Rean shook his head.



"I can't possibly ask Elder Reliance to use your own ores on Kentucky. Any Heaven-Level ore or material is just too rare. Besides, Kentucky is my Demon Beast. I should be the one to afford its food."

Reliance then smiled as he said.

"Well, that's a good way of thinking. However, I'm not doing it for you. I told you before, right? I want to see where Kentucky can arrive. Also, don't forget what I said. The ores I have with me are far, far from enough for its development. Minokawas need to continually eat them as they grow. Besides, I'm a Demon Beast Tamer. I don't use weapons. The only pieces of equipment I use are protective ones, which I already have."

Rean sighed and then nodded.

"If Elder Reliance is that adamant, then I won't say anything. I can only promise that I will use all of them for Kentucky alone. Fortunately, it will give me enough time to think about ways to get more Spirit Stones to buy Heaven-Level ores for him."

Reliance then shook his head.

"There is a better way for you to do that."

Rean's attention was immediately caught.

"How?!"

Reliance laughed and pointed at Kentucky.

"Did you forget? Kentucky is what I like to call a 'metal type' demon bird. How do you think Minokawas can evolve their feathers and scales? We already confirmed that they need Heaven-Level Ores too. Obviously, their affinity with metals allows them to perceive nearby worth consuming metals. Simply put, Kentucky is a Heaven-Level Metal detector in and out himself."

Rean's eyes lit up after hearing that. For a metallurgist in a cultivation world, those words were the same as the call of Gods!

"That's great! I'll be sure to keep an eye on Kentucky from now on."

Reliance nodded.

"That's good. Still, there are a few tricks you can use. For example, when you go out for a mission, try to move closer to mountains where there are higher concentrations of Spiritual Energy. Plan your travels in a way that will make you more likely to find Heaven-Level metal deposits with Kentucky's help."

It was then that Reliance's expression changed.

"Another thing. Keep this special trait from Kentucky hidden. Even if they are family or close friends, do not disclose Kentucky's Race or Metal Finding ability. If anyone discovers out about it, you might get into deep trouble. Even the entire Dalamu Sect will be powerless to help you."

Rean immediately nodded.

"Yes, Elder Reliance."

Death... and me

Chapter 227: Maril Region

Rean wasn't an idiot. The ability to detect Heaven-Level Metals. That's not something anyone would spread. Besides, that was only at this moment. If Kentucky grew strong enough, he might even find metals that surpassed Heaven Level. Obviously, those materials were worth a fortune, so everyone would want to put their hands on Kentucky.

"Oh, right! Elder Reliance, how many Heaven-Level ores should I let him eat every day?"

Reliance pondered a bit as he looked at Kentucky's size.

"Hum... that also depends on how good the ore itself is. That small Malagal Ore I gave him just now was around 100 grams, and it's considered a Middle-Level Heaven Material."

Reliance then sent his Spiritual Sense inside Kentucky's stomach and watched as he digested that Malagal Ore for a few minutes.

"Alright. If it's Low-Level Heaven Materials, give him a similar piece every three days. If it is a Middle-Level one like this Malagal Ore, give him a piece every five days. High-Level ones should be one piece per week. And if you are lucky enough to find Peak-Level ones, and are willing to let Kentucky eat it, give one every ten days."

Those words made Rean notice one thing.

"Does that mean they all have the same effect on Kentucky?"

Reliance nodded.

"Yes. That's because Kentucky is refining the ores inside his own body. That means he can separate the impurities so that only the parts that really matter will be absorbed by his feathers and scales. Obviously, the higher the level of the ore, the longer it will take to refine since they have more 'content' available."

Reliance continued.

"However, you should try to feed him as many higher-level ones as possible. Although there is no difference in the end result, the time wasted separating the impurities in his body is too big. It is not worth feeding him only low-level ones since it will take forever for it to bring out any significant result."

Rean didn't mind, though.

"It's okay. As long as Kentucky can really detect the presence of Heaven-Level Materials, he will be able to sustain himself. My problem would be if I had to buy them myself."

Reliance laughed.

"Do you think Heaven-Level Ores are that easy to find? Everyone wants those things, so most near-surface ones have already been mined a long time ago. As I've said, using his ability to find metals is only an alternative. You will need to have heaven-defying luck to find more of them around. Also, even if you find it, there will probably just be a few small chunks available. Heaven-Level materials don't appear in large quantities like Lower-Level ones."

Rean could only sigh after hearing that. Indeed, things wouldn't be that easy.

"Kentucky, feeding you in the future will be quite expensive. Can't you go out and find some Heaven-Level Spiritual Ores for us?"

\*Chick? Chick!\*

Suddenly, Kentucky closed his eyes. He stayed like that for a few minutes until Kentucky suddenly opened them again as he looked in a particular direction.

\*Chick!\*

Right after, Kentucky ignored Rean and Reliance, dashing straight out of the room.

Rean then looked at Reliance with a weird expression.

"Wasn't it supposed to be hard to find Heaven-Level Spiritual Ores?"

Reliance scratched the back of his head right after.

"Ahem... Maybe the records were wrong... or maybe his mutation increased his ability to find them. Anyway, we need to first see if he really found something or not."

Of course, they immediately got up and followed Kentucky. However, after following Kentucky for a few minutes, they noticed that it intended to go out of the Sect. Reliance believed in the Minokawas' senses, so he decided to help it. He enveloped Kentucky and Rean with his Spiritual Energy and took flight, bringing them in the direction Kentucky was pointing.

Some people in the Sect noticed when Reliance brought Rean out, including Droman.

"Hum? Where are they going?"

Still, he didn't care too much and returned his attention to repairing Reliance's Formation Flags. Reliance had three Stage Six Demon Beasts ready at his beck and call. Even if some spies reported Rean's whereabouts to the Umbral Sect, nothing would change. The Umbral Sect would only be sending their forces to become the meals of Reliance's Demon Beasts.

As for being afraid of Reliance trying to capture Rean, that thought didn't even pass through Droman's mind. Even though Reliance had such a weird personality, Droman knew that Reliance would never go back on his words. Since he agreed to not insist on taking Rean away, Droman was sure that he would do it.

As soon as Reliance stepped out of the Sect, he spread his Spiritual Sense to contact Lanlan and Jinjin. Zunzun had been staying on his shoulder all the time, so there was no need to reach it.

'Follow me.'

Reliance knew about the Umbral Sect issue, so he called everyone just in case.

Surprisingly though, there was no need to be that alarmed. That's because Kentucky's group didn't even leave the 300km radius of the Dalamu Sect territory. Around 220km to the east of the Sect, Kentucky began to point his beak to the ground.

\*Chick! Chick!\*

"That close?"

Rean and Reliance immediately became doubtful. This was way too close to the Dalamu Sect; they haven't even left its territory yet. How come the Sect didn't find it before? Was there really anything in this place? Besides, they weren't near any mountain to start with. Rean knew that ores were easier to find close to mountain ranges since tectonic activities would bring them up from below. Of course, that was not an absolute rule, far from it, actually. Still, he thought that if they were to really find a Heaven-Level Ore deposit, it would probably be near the mountains.

Reliance then landed on that flat land that had a few trees and boulders here and there. Because of its proximity to the Dalamu Sect, no Demon Beasts or any human settlements could be found nearby.

Kentucky then began to peck on the ground while he used his feet to push the earth away. He was quite fast, considering his plumpy size. However, at that rhythm, it would take forever.

Reliance then patted Kentuck's head before saying.

"Alright, you can stop already. Leave it to me."

Kentucky then looked at Rean, who used his Spiritual Sense to convey Reliance's words. Only then did Kentucky stop excavating and waited for Reliance to act.

"Lanlan, are you there?"

Right after, Rean and Kentucky heard a voice coming from below as the ground trembled a little.

"Yes, Master. Do you need anything?"

Although Rean couldn't see it, he didn't need to think too much to understand that this was another one of Reliances' three Stage Six Demon Beasts.

Reliance then nodded.

"Yes. According to this Minokawa, there should be a deposit of Heaven-Level Spiritual Ore under this place. Can you go around and see if you can find anything?"

The centipede immediately answered.

"Alright. It might take some time, though. The area that the chick pointed out is quite big, and I also don't know how deep I need to go."

Reliance didn't mind.

"Take your time. We will be waiting here."

Rean then felt the ground under him tremble for a moment until it completely stopped. It was evident that the centipede had gone too deep for him to feel its movements.

"Kentucky, are you sure there is something in this place?"

\*Chick?\*

Kentucky then looked at Rean with a puzzled expression. He wasn't intelligent enough to understand everything yet.

Reliance then sat on a corner and played with Zunzun. Around a minute later, a black snake with a horn appeared nearby.

"Jinjin, come here. I want you to meet Rean and his Minokawa too."

The Snake then nodded at Rean.

"I'm Jinjin, a Horned Black Snake from the Everdark Swamp in the Maril Region."

Rean smiled as he asked.

"Is Maril Region the place where Elder Reliance and your Demon Beasts' friends came from?"

Rean had heard about the place before. It was even further away than the Flaxin Empire that neighbors their Sasamil one. Of course, there was very little information, so he didn't know much.

Reliance nodded.

"Exactly. That place is even bigger than Sasamil or Flaxin. However, there is no government entity there like the Imperial Families here. The ones who control the area are the cultivation sects and other small organizations. There are no countries either. If you want to establish any organization, you will need to fight for territory first. In a certain way, it's quite chaotic."

Reliance then rubbed Jinjin's forehead as he said.

"Before you ask, Jinjin is also an ordinary demon beast. There are hundreds of thousands like him in the Everdark Swamp. By the way, the voice from earlier was Lanlan, a female Spring Centipede from the Luva Forest. Just like Zunzun and Jinjin, she is also quite a common demon beast there. It's just that she is already a Stage Six Demon Beast, so she became several times bigger than the others."

Rean couldn't help but feel impressed by Elder Reliance.

"You made three common Demon Beasts reach Stage Six. That's amazing!"

Reliance shook his head in response.

"I only gave them support. It was through their own effort that they reached this level."

"That's not right, Master! If not for you, we would never gain sentience. We were supposed to have died of old age a long time ago without ever really understanding the world."



Reliance laughed as he pet both the Tanager and the Snake.

Rean's opinion of Reliance couldn't get any better either. After all, he also liked Demon Beasts.

Time passed, and three hours went by. Suddenly, Rean felt the ground tremble again. However, this time, Lanlan really came out of there. Finally, Rean was able to see the enormous dark green colored centipede.

"Master! It's amazing! There is an enormous deposit of High and Peak-Level Spiritual Ores around 29km deep. There is a magnetic field around it too. That's why no one noticed it before. Besides, the concentration of Spiritual Energy is very high. I believe there is probably some Heaven-Level Spiritual Ores at the very center and not just a bit at that."

Reliance and Rean immediately looked at Kentucky with surprised expressions.

\*Chick?\*

Death... and me

Chapter 228: More News

After that, Rean and Reliance went back to the Sect and straight to the Blacksmith Hall. After all, the deposit was still inside the Dalamu Sect territory, so they would need to report it. The Blacksmith Hall Head, Lian Boares, was surprised to hear that and immediately brought their members to the mentioned place.

The deposit was very deep into the ground. However, Dalamu Sect had no lack of Earth Element cultivators. Lian even asked two elders at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm with the same affinity. In just a single day of work, they were able to open a tunnel all the way to the deposit's inner depths.

Lian was right there to check ores together with Reliance. Rean and Kentucky were not present since it could catch too much attention. Besides, it didn't matter if they were here. Since they were the ones who found the deposit, they would obviously have a share of it. To make things simpler, Reliance went with Rean to talk with Mia. He explained about Kentucky's needs and that they would need the Heaven-Level Spiritual Ores present in that place. Mia couldn't decide it alone since it was a property of the Sect.

But after talking about it with the other elders, they reached an agreement that 50% of all Heaven-Level Spiritual Ores would be Reliance and Rean's. The rest would be the Sect's property. As for the High and Peak Earth-Level Spiritual Ores, the Sect would have 90% of everything.

Rean didn't mind those numbers at all. 10% of the Earth-Level ores was more than he would need for a very long time. He probably won't even use everything. As for the Heaven-Level, he wasn't expecting getting any to start with. Getting 50% of it was more than enough to satisfy him since he would be able to feed Kentucky for a long time.

Lian didn't take long to identify the ore.

"Oh! The High and Peak Earth-Level Ores are Zarkirian Ore. It's excellent for defensive equipment thanks to its low weight and high resistance. It's quite expensive in the market too. To think we would find such a big deposit like this one."

It was then that another elder of the Blacksmith Hall mentioned.

"If Zarkarian Ore is present, then the Heaven-Level Ores at the very center must be Luminun Ore."

Lian nodded.

"Indeed. Let's start the mining process straight away. First, we need to retrieve the Heaven-Level Ores from the center to prevent any accidents."

Lian then turned to look at Reliance before saying.

"Elder Reliance, you probably know how greedy others can become if they hear about Heaven-Level ores. Would you mind staying here to guard the mine for a few days? We will ignore the Earth-Level Ores for now and put all our effort into retrieving the Luminun Ore first."

Elder Reliance didn't mind. However, Reliance didn't really stay behind but left Zunzun taking care of it instead. Zunzun was a Stage Six Demon Beast, so his Spiritual Sense perception was much bigger. Not to mention that no one would pay attention to the little Fire Tanager.

Rean was practicing Formations with Droman once again when Reliance returned.

"So, it's Luminun Ore, uh?"

Rean had also studied the several records in the Blacksmith Hall after entering the Dalamu Sect, so he already knew about it. Luminun Ore was a semi-transparent Ore at the Middle Heaven-Level, which almost looked like glass. However, just like Zarkarian Ore, it was super resistant and light, which was great for defensive equipment.

The only problem was that Rean was far from reaching the level necessary to work with Heaven-Level Ores, so he didn't know what kind of work he would be able to do with it. He couldn't even forge Peak Earth-level to start with.

"Well, it's supposed to be Kentucky's food anyway. I hope to get a few kilograms since I'll need to feed him around 100 grams every five days."

Reliance shrugged his shoulder.

"Well, even if you run out of Heaven-Level ores, it's not like he will die. Just leave him without any until you can acquire more."

Droman, who was by the side, took the opportunity and passed a bag to Reliance.

"Here are your Formation Flags. I'll make it free this time since you helped find that Ore Deposit."

Rean looked at the Formations Flags and asked.

"Are these the flags used by those who don't know much about formations?"

Droman nodded.

"Yes. However, they are costly to forge and repair. Even Nascent Soul Realm cultivators would rarely have them. If Reliance wasn't quite rich himself, he probably wouldn't use it either."

Reliance laughed.

"That's all thanks to Zunzun, Lanlan, and Jinjin. Anyway, the flags I got are area restriction flags. As long as I position them correctly, I can seal an area around 100km wide. It's very convenient when you are trying to tame some strong demon beast and don't want it to escape."

Reliance then talked with Rean for a while longer before leaving. He would stay in the Sect for a few days to wait for the removal of the Heaven-Level Ores, so he could come to see Rean another time.

Soon, the news that the Dalamu Sect found an enormous deposit of Zarkarian Ore with Luninun Ore at the center spread. Unfortunately, none of the Sects and the Royal Family could do anything. If it was outside, they could contest for it. Too bad that it was inside the Dalamu Sect's range. In the end, they could only look and do nothing about it.

Still, Lian underestimated the Zarkarian Ore. He thought he would reach the center of the deposit in at most two weeks, but it took him an entire month. Of course, that was also good news since it meant they had even more Zarkarian Ore than expected. Nonetheless, they were able to acquire the Lunimun Ore at the center.

During this month, Reliance spent a lot of time with Rean and Kentucky. Well, he mostly ignored Rean and only paid attention to the Demon Beast itself. It's just that the Minokawa, Kentucky, hated to be far away from Rean or Roan, so Rean had to tag along. During his studies, he came up with a training schedule for Rean to follow from now on.

Another one who liked to visit Kentucky was none other than Malaka. She loved to hug the fluffy plumpy chick the most. At first, Rean and Reliance tried to stop her because of the sharp feathers and the scales hidden under Kentucky's plumage. However, it turned out that Kentucky could also control their resilience, making them soft as real feathers or hard as blades. That was another thing that Reliance didn't know about Minokawas. Or perhaps, that was a result of the mutation as well. Malaka always used the free days that Mia gave her to come and see the Minokawa.

The other person who didn't stop his training was Roan under Old Worm's teachings. During his time, Roan was able to consolidate his Middle Earth-Level Alchemist status. Just as Old Worm expected, Roan's Dark and Light Elements were just way too good for concocting neutral pills. He believed that Roan won't take more than three or four months to become a High Earth-Level Alchemist. Too bad that Roan's cultivation would become a limitation after that. Just like Rean's blacksmithing abilities, Roan would need to wait until he was in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm or at least close to it to be able to advance into the Peak-Level.

Of course, neither Rean nor Roan forgot about cultivating. Their night times were always spent in their rooms, where they focused on it. Thanks to that, they were even closer to the Peak of the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. By now, they had already finished stabilizing their cultivation with the pill Roan made for them.

Finally, Elder Reliance came to see Rean one day to deliver the Luminun Ore extracted from the Ore Deposit. Rean was delighted to find out that 50% of the ores gave him a total of almost 10kg! Don't look down on this number. If Rean tried to sell it, he probably would get around 10,000 Rank Four Spirit Stones! That was a fortune! One should remember that almost no one was willing to part with their Rank Four Spirit Stones to start with, even if you had the money. This rank of Spirit Stones was essential for the cultivation progress of those at the Nascent Soul Realm and above. After all, almost nothing was more important than one's cultivation.

Since Luminun Ore was a Middle Heaven-Level Spiritual Ore, Rean had to feed around 100 grams every five days. That meant Rean had enough to last for 500 days! How could he not be happy?

Rean wasn't sad that everything would turn into Kentucky's food. After all, it was Kentucky himself who found it. Besides, he received 10% of the High Earth-level Zarkarian Ore, which he would use to make some defensive equipment for him, Roan, and Malaka.

And just like that, Rean and Roan continued to train and cultivate. In the end, they reached the Peak of the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment after another month. With that, they still had two months before the Universal Restraint.

Rean and Roan were pondering when to breakthrough into the Peak Stage of Foundation Establishment when Mia called them over.

"In two month, the Profound Abyss will open. The Sect has five slots in total. Three of these slots are for you two and Malaka. Make sure you two are ready."

The twins looked at each other with puzzled expressions as they asked.

"What is this Profound Abyss?"

Death... and me

Chapter 229: Invitation

Mia then explained.

"That's one of the areas that the Imperial Family of our Sasamil Empire prepared for the young ones. There are quite a few of them around the Empire as well. This one, specifically, is a place where Decaying Energy is constant."

Mia continued to tell everything she knew about the Profound Abyss. How all the countries around would participate, and how a few young members of the Empire's Capital's Powers would also be present. She talked about the berserk demon beasts, the Vermilion Pools' effects on one's meridians, the Decaying Fog, etc. Last but not least, she talked about the surge. After she finished, Mia took out two pill bottles and threw them at Rean and Roan, who quickly grabbed them.

"These are Anti Decaying Pills. Usually, no one would get them since that was supposed to be a training ground. However, the surge is most likely to hit the Profound Abyss while it's open. Once that happens, the concentration of Decaying Fog will increase by more than ten times. There will also be several waves of Decaying Energy that will sweep the Profound Abyss, which are far more potent. With just the natural protection of your bodies and Spiritual Energy, it will be far from enough to resist it."

Roan opened the pill bottle, and a thin dark fog began to emit out of it. Inside, he could see a black pill emitting that fog. He then used his Spiritual Energy to grab that fog and looked closely at it.

"Quite a weird pill."

Mia nodded.

"Yes, but don't worry. The dark fog of the pills are quite different from the Profound Abyss. After you consume it, the pill's energy will spread through your body, especially the meridians. It will act as a barrier that will prevent most of the Decaying Fog's Energy from entering your body. Each one of you has five pills. Malaka will also have the same amount."

Rean then asked.

"The abyss will be open for two weeks, right? Are five pills enough?"

"There is no point in making more than it. This kind of pill isn't exactly that good for the body. Because of that, you will develop resistance against it. The first pill will last a day, the second will last half a day, the third 6 hours, the fourth 3, and the last one would only take effect for one hour. Any other pill after that will have no effect whatsoever. You would need to wait at least half a year before your body can retake it."

Roan wasn't surprised by that.

"That's just how pills work. Still, this one loses its effect a lot faster than normal ones. It seems like you used something from inside the abyss that also has that so-called Decaying Fog Energy. That's why it happened."

Mia nodded.

"Yes. Anyway, as long as you reach the Vermilion Pools, you don't need to be afraid of the Decaying Fog. Besides, it's not like you can't protect yourself against the surge without the pills. There are several safe spots inside the profound abyss where the Decaying Fog's Energy is weak. Most of the participants will probably rely on it to rest before they continue moving forward. You two should do the same thing and hold back on using the pills as much as possible. After all, this is supposed to be training."

Rean and Roan agreed with Mia's words.

"By the way, what are the rules of the Profound Abyss?"

Mia already expected the question, hastily responding.

"There is only one rule. Everyone is an enemy. There are only that many Vermillion Pools, far from enough to support every single cultivator. That being said, no one will hold back inside when it comes to the 'negotiations' regarding the spots. Others will attack to kill, and you should do the same."

"Well, there is also the fact that you must be out before the two weeks are over. Otherwise, the Profound Abyss will be sealed again until it opens once more. Simply put, you will be trapped inside."

Roan was quite satisfied with the 'rules.' That was the kind of environment he wanted to be in. There was no better way to test one's strength than life and death situations.

It was then that Rean thought about something.

"Right! What about Kentucky? He definitely will throw a tantrum if we leave him behind."

Of course, Rean could send him into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. However, no one knew about its existence, so it would be weird if Kentucky simply disappeared.

Mia shrugged her shoulders before responding.

"Well, you can simply lock him down here in the sect. Even if he throws a tantrum, we are more than capable enough of holding a Stage Two Demon Beast down. I'll see that he gets fed during this time."

However, Roan thought about another possibility.

"Do tame demon beasts use a slot as well? If possible, I would prefer to bring it with us."

Mia shook her head.



"Tame demon beasts are also considered part of the cultivator's strength. That being said, you can bring one with you without using a slot. Of course, the limit is a single demon beast for each cultivator. Also, they must not be above Stage Three, which is equivalent to Core Formation Realm cultivators. However, Kentucky is just a kid, right? Are you sure you want to bring him together?"

Rean was also surprised that Roan asked for something like that. After all, he isn't very fond of the Minokawa. However, Rean knew that Roan would never make such a request without a plausible reason, so he didn't ask why.

"In that case, we will bring Kentucky as well. This will be an excellent chance to have it gain some combat experience."

Mia narrowed her eyes. She and Droman were the only ones other than Rean and Roan that Reliance told about the Minokawa. If possible, Mia didn't want it to die since Kentucky might find other rare ore mines for them in the future. Besides, Kentucky isn't just a Metal Detector. He is bound to become a powerful demon beast in the future.

"I don't have any other Anti-Decaying Pills for it. You better reconsider it."

Roan shook his head in response as he replied.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

In the end, Mia sighed before nodding.

"Alright, but you better take care of it. Otherwise, Reliance will skin you two alive."

The twins nodded.

"By the way, the sect has five slots, right? Who are the other two coming with us?"

Mia already knew that question was coming.

"One of them is Tive Zu, a disciple at the Peak Stage of the Core Formation Realm from the Inner Sect. The last one is Weren Kalave, the previous Red Color Aptitude disciple that joined the sect before Agis Kexidor. He is at the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Don't look down on his Middle Stage cultivation, though. He can even fight Tive Zu to a standstill even though he is two stages below."

Rean and Roan obviously remembered Agis. After all, the Soul Gem System forced the twins to save Agis' group from the Stage Three Demon Beast during the entrance exam. At the affinity test, Agis was the one only to show a Red Color Aptitude, which would only appear every few years.

"So, he has the same aptitude as that kid back then. Now that I think about it, I haven't seen Agis Kexidor ever since the exam was over. He never appeared in the fighting arenas, either."

Mia nodded.

"He was taken as a Legacy Disciple by one of our Core Elders, Ranka. Of course, the sect rules are the same for everyone, so he had to start in the outer sect. However, instead of training him in the sect, Ranka brought him to train outside. They only appeared in the sect when Ranka wanted Agis to take missions to gain Sect Points. Other than that, the only time they appeared was when Ranka had Agis take the Inner Sect test. He passed that quite easily after defeating one of the Inner Sect disciples. It seems like Agis is putting a lot of effort into his training, so Ranka quite likes him."

Mia obviously knew about Agis's steps. Red Color Aptitude disciples are very rare, so as the Sect Master, she had to keep an eye on them. Just like Malaka's Water Element, the sect didn't lack Fire Element cultivation manuals and resources. Thanks to that, Ranka was able to help Agis reach the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

"Well, that's probably because of what happened during the entrance exam. We killed the Alpha Wolf with lower cultivations while he could only watch without doing nothing. At that time, his cultivation was a stage higher than us, not to mention that he was very prideful. Seeing that we were far stronger even though we had lower cultivations definitely hurt that pride. Of course, this is just speculation."

Well, the fact was that Roan was spot on! If he saw Agis today, he might even ask if he is the same kid from a year ago.

"Alright. That is all for now. In forty days, Elder Reliance will bring you five to the Profound Abyss. I was quite surprised to see a selfish man like him volunteering to do it. Perhaps, he already knew that you would bring Kentucky together, so he wanted to guarantee its safety since there will be many experts there."

Rean and Roan nodded. They knew about Reliance's three demon beasts, so they would definitely be safe during the journey, at least.

After that, the twins left the hall. It was then that Rean commented.

"Now that I think about it, we haven't joined the inner sect yet."

Death... and me

Chapter 230: Inner Sect Rules

Roan didn't seem to care about their current positions that much.

"Is there any point in entering the Inner Sect? We basically have everything we need. Inner Sect Members have access to the cultivation tower, but we already have it. They also get more cultivation resources like Spirit Stones and pills. However, we already don't lack Spirit Stones. As for pills, I'm the only one who can create pills compatible with our elemental affinity. Neutral Pills are even easier to make thanks to our two elements."

Rean then remembered something.

"Oh, right! Didn't you want to check the cultivation and skill manuals and things like that to take reference? Outer Sect disciples like us have limited access to them. We can't go past the first floor of the cultivation repository. But if we join the inner sect, we will get access to the inner sect manuals."

Only now did Roan remember that. Indeed, he had used other skill manuals to help him develop the next skills of the Death Style. Malaka's Staff Skill was one of them.

In the end, he couldn't help but nod his head.

"That would be helpful."

But it was then that he pondered.

"However, isn't it easier to simply ask Mia? After everything you did for the sect, she wouldn't mind letting us look at those books."

Rean then shrugged his shoulders.

"Where is the fun in that? Besides, let's not use our favors for such simple things. Since we can enter the inner sect with ease, let's do so."

Roan agreed with Rean in that, and so, the two went directly to the fighting arenas. In the arena, you would need to reach a minimum score to challenge the Inner Sect members. Of course, that wasn't a problem for Rean and Roan. They had been coming here to practice against each other and other disciples several times, always challenging those with cultivations above themselves. They were already close to the very top between the outer sect disciples.

They quickly went to the counter where the outer sect disciple received the requests.

"Oh! It's you two again. I don't think anyone in the outer sect wishes to fight you two anymore, though."

There were several outer sect disciples there at the moment, and no one dared to fight these two little demons anymore, especially the black demon.

The disciple had taken Rean and Roan's registration several times, so he knew them quite well.

Rean shook his head after hearing that.

"We both came here to challenge an Inner Sect disciple. We have been in the outer sect for a long time already."

"Really?!"

Suddenly, all the disciples around went in an uproar!

"Finally, they are leaving us alone!"

"I always wondered why they stayed in the outer sect for so long."

"Isn't that obvious? They probably like to bully others, but now that there is no one to fight them anymore, they can only join the Inner Sect."

"Still, it will be a sight to behold. Let's see how they fare against the Inner Sect disciples!"

"Uh? What are you talking about? A few of the disciples that joined the Inner Sect in the past few months had already battled those two. Of course, they did that before they entered the Inner Sect. Still, do you think they will be a match against the white and black demons?"

"This brother is right. The Inner Sect entrance exam, which is the challenge fight, will not pose any threat to those two."

"Exactly. Besides, the twins are only 13 years old at the moment, no? The Inner Sect doesn't have anyone below the age of 14 except for Agis. However, Agis is a Red Color Aptitude with a Core Elder as a master, so he doesn't count."

"Yep. Because of that, they can challenge any one of the disciples at the very bottom of the Inner Sect. Although the Inner Sect doesn't have anyone below the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment, the twin demons are also at this stage. Does anyone here believe that they would lose to someone at the same cultivation level?"

The disciple behind the counter couldn't help but shrug his shoulders.

"See? You are doing the right thing by trying to join the Inner Sect."

Rean and Roan could only sigh at that view. This was the result of their constant appearances over time. However, it was then that Rean noticed another advantage of joining the Inner Sect.

"Hey. The Inner Sect disciples can fight each other directly. Doesn't that mean you can challenge those at the Core Formation Realm once we join? The Inner Sect average cultivation is already at the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm. There is no lack of people who can really make you go all out."

Roan couldn't help but feel a little moved. There was no one else in the Outer Sect that he wanted to fight or dared to take his challenge. However, that was definitely not a problem for the Inner Sect. He could even find Peak Stage Core Formation Realm disciple to practice on his own.

"Very well. Let's go."

The disciple attending them then asked.

"You two are very young, so there is no problem with the age difference restriction. The Inner Sect always keeps 1000 disciples, but you can only challenge the 901st disciple and below. If you want to challenge the higher-level ones, you will need to join the Inner Sect and make your way up."

Rean and Roan looked at each other, puzzled.

"How does it work?"

"Once you enter the Inner Sect, you can't challenge anyone more than 10 positions above you in the position board. After all, the Inner Sect would become chaotic if any 999th position guy tried to challenge the top 100 just to try his luck."

Rean thought that it was strange.

"Why would they challenge someone so much stronger?"

The disciple then explained.

"You know about the age difference restriction, right? Outer Sect Disciples can't challenge anyone in the inner sect that is more than one year younger than themselves. That is to prevent old disciples from using their cultivation, which they had accrued for a long time, to defeat a disciple who didn't have all that time."

Rean and Roan nodded and waited for the disciple to continue.

"However, inside the Inner Sect, this restriction doesn't exist. Anyone of any age can challenge any of the other Inner Sect disciples. Also, the higher you are in the rank, the more resources and benefits you get. Obviously, everyone wants to be as high as possible."

"To keep things under control, there is a rule where you can't challenge anyone more than 10 positions above you. Otherwise, we would see meaningless battles where overconfident disciples would throw themselves at the lion's den for the sake of resources."

"Also, you must be careful. If you challenge someone above you and win, anyone can challenge you straight away. That means you might have to fight while you have no more energy and are full of injuries. If you lose, it is even worse since those below you can take the same opportunity to take your position in the rank. The only ones who are safe are the ones who were challenged. Whether you win or lose, if you were the one challenged, you get one month of protection."

"Of course, if you think that you don't need that one month of protection, you can apply to give it up. Also, to prevent others from abusing this one month of protection, you can't challenge anyone during this time unless you want to give up that protection. After all, we can't have disciples challenging others above without being afraid of being challenged by those below."

Rean and Roan had to admit that the system was well thought out.

"Simply put, this is a system designed to put the ones who issue the challenges in greater peril than those who receive them. Like that, the latent potential of the disciple can be awakened."

Roan, who was eager to fight, liked it very much and agreed with that system.

"Alright, here's my sect badge. Take the 2000 points and let me select someone to fight."

Rean did the same thing.

"Here's my badge as well."

They had been doing duties and missions for the sect for almost a year already. 2000 Sect Points was not a problem for them at all.

As they did that, several disciples that were present in the fighting arenas began to gather. Although no one liked to fight the white and black demons, they definitely loved to watch it. Even some disciples from outside began to gather as well after receiving the information.

"Alright. Here's the list. However, it only shows the disciples' names and cultivation level—nothing else."

Rean and Roan didn't mind that, though.

Roan was the first one to select. He noticed that some of the names were marked in red or blue. The red ones were disciples that had been challenged in the past month, so they had a month of protection. As for the blue ones, they were disciples that were out doing missions. Obviously, there was no way to challenge those since they are not present. Anyway, Roan didn't want to pass through all the first one hundred people, so he chose the highest possible Inner Sect disciple.

"903rd one, Limio Sunda. Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm."

Rean pondered a bit and decided that he might as well do the same thing. He might not be Roan's match in a one on one, but he was definitely stronger than others.

"907th place, Fredin Jamot. Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm."

The disciple behind the counter nodded before saying.



"Very well. I'll call them over right away."