

Death 231

Death... and me

Chapter 231: Fighting their way through

Rean and Roan then went to their specific arenas to wait for the two guys to come. Limio and Fredin weren't expecting that, though. After all, every time someone wanted to join the Inner Sect, they would select someone at the very bottom of the list. Still, rules were rules, so they had to appear.

However, they soon found out who were the challengers. Even though Rean and Roan were part of the outer sect, the demon twins were quite famous already. Especially after the Umbral Energy event, where everyone found out that Rean could heal it. Besides, even before that, a few people heard about the two twins with rare elemental affinities.

Fredin and Limio then went up to the stage. However, they weren't idiots to underestimate the twins. After all, they wouldn't be challenged by then if they were not confident.

It was then that Limio, who was Roan's opponent, remembered something.

"I've heard that you and your brother can use each other's elements to fight, and that your hair color changes into a mix of black and white when it happens. However, this is the Inner Sect exam. You can only rely on yourself to get inside. That being said, you are prohibited from using your brother's help."

The disciples around heard that and had to admit that Limio was right. It doesn't matter how one looked at it. Using someone else's element is definitely the same as receiving their help.

Rean's opponent, Fredin, also heard that statement. He didn't waste any time and repeated Limio's words.

"The same goes for you. If you want to join the Inner Sect, you will have to rely on yourself."

Rean and Roan nodded in the end. They were indeed going to use the elements exchange since they were stronger that way. However, they couldn't deny that Limio and Fredin's words were correct.

"Very well, no elements exchange then."

The arenas also had a few elders that acted as judges for important events. Fights for the Inner Sect position was obviously one of them. They were there to prevent anyone from intervening and to make sure that no one died. After all, the sect can't have their best talents killing each other. No sect would be idiotic enough to let their geniuses die like that.

"Killing or permanently crippling your opponent is forbidden. Anyone who breaks these rules shall be punished accordingly. If I see that a victor has already been decided, I will stop the fight. Alright, you can start now."

Still, before the fight started, Rean and Roan exchanged a few thoughts.

'We can't use each other's elements. However, our swords can already gather the opposite element. We usually use our elemental exchange to hide this fact, but we can't do it now. I don't want people to know about my sword's special abilities yet, so make sure you don't use it either. Anyway, my White and Black Stars should still be strong enough even if we don't do that.'

Roan nodded, not caring too much.

'Alright.'

Right after, the Dark Elements gathered around Roan as he dashed forward. He might not be as fast as Rean without the Life Style First Form. But he was definitely a lot faster than those at his level. Of course, his opponent was an Initial Stage Core Formation Realm cultivator, so Roan was only able to match his speed.

Nonetheless, Limio was shocked to see that Roan could be as fast as him. Fortunately for him, he already expected that the black demon was strong, so he reacted swiftly. Limio took out his saber and immediately counterattacked. The Lightning Element then gathered around his blade as he used one of his skills.

'Chaotic Lightning Slash!'

Lightning spread out of his saber, sealing Roan's escape routes as the main blade appeared above Roan's head. Limio was already in the Core Formation Realm. Naturally, he could already use his cultivation advantage to bring out skills.

Roan wasn't any slower, though.

'Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

Dark Element gathered on Roan's White Star. Soon after, his hands moved in several arcs, creating threads of Dark Element in mid-air. This version of the defensive form was weaker than the real one. After all, it did not have Rean's Light Element to increase the Dark Threads' resistance.

However, Roan wasn't fighting a Late Stage Core Formation Realm like in the past. Besides, his own cultivation went up a stage as well. That being said, the Dark Elemental Threads were enough to stop both the lightning coming at him and the lightning-imbued saber right in front.

Zap, Zap, Zap, Zap...

Lightning sounds spread around as the Dark Thread destroyed them. Right in front, Dark Threads and Limio's saber were in a lockdown. However, it was apparent that Roan's Dark Threads were on the verge of breaking. They definitely wouldn't hold for more than a second. That showed just how much weaker the Reversive Arcs were when the Light Element was not present. Still, Roan stopped Limio's full power attack with his Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation. Limio wasn't underestimating Roan, but he found it hard to believe that Roan could stop his attack just like that.

Suddenly, a faint smile appeared on Roan's lips, which made Limio feel a chill on his back.

"Not good!"

Limio shot back at full speed, but Roan didn't give him time to run. The Dark Threads could only stop Limio's attack for a single second, but for Roan, that was more than enough. Why? That's because it left his hands free to use his White Star! At the same time that Limio shot back, Roan exploded forward with all his strength. Both had similar speeds in that situation. Since Limio was already so close to Roan, he had no chance to increase their distance anymore.

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

Soon, three dark swords aimed at Limio's head, throat, and heart, respectively. Still, Limio was a genius of the sect and a Core Formation Realm cultivator.

'Lightning Suppression!'

His body released massive amounts of lightning while he brandished his saber, created a protective layer of pure lightning! Roan's three swords hit that layer at the same time.

Bzzzz!

The Three Claws of the Dragon consisted of two semi-real swords and one real. The semi-real ones only have 70% of the real sword's power, so they were still stopped by Limio's Lightning Suppression. However, the third one was a lot stronger. Besides, Limio didn't know which one of the three was the real one, so he used his saber to stop the most dangerous one aimed at his throat. Too bad, though. That was a semi-real one. Roan's White Star then pierced through Limio's Lightning Layer, going straight for his heart!

It was too fast, it was too sudden! Even the elder didn't have time to act to stop it anymore. In the end, he could only shout.

"Stop!"

The moment Roan heard that voice, his White Star froze in place. That's what he was waiting for, the elder's declaration.

Everyone looked at that scene where Roan's White Star tip made a small drop of blood come out of Limio's chest. He was moving so fast just a split-second ago, but he was able to stop it instantly. It was evident that Roan had planned it from the start. However, his attack was so brutal, and his killing intent was so strong that everyone thought he was really trying to kill Limio.

The elder had already braced himself to send Limio to the Doctors' building, expecting to get a dead disciple.

'What a terrifying control over one's own strength. Even I can't be this precise.'

Roan then retracted his White Star as Limio kneeled on the ground with his body fully covered in sweat. He really felt like Roan wanted his life just a second ago.

'May I never fight you in my life again.'

Those were his first thoughts.

The elder quickly composed himself and announced.

"Winner, Roan Larks!"

Roan nodded, not appearing to be that happy with the result. He simply sheathed his sword and stepped down of the arena. At the same time, he looked at Rean's fight against Fredin, which was still ongoing.

'Hey, Nightingale. How long will you take to finish it?'

Rean's mouth twitched while he exchanged attacks with his opponent.

'Fuck you! Don't you know that I'm not as strong as you? Ordinary people need time to adjust, you know? Besides... call me Doctor Wilson.'

Roan snorted, though.

'Wilson was a man, but you are moving like a lady over there. What's wrong with Nightingale? If you put on a dress, I might think that you are dancing in a ball.'

Roan was usually very quiet and didn't like to talk if not necessary. However, when it came to cursing Rean or making him angry, he was more than willing to change his style.

It was then that Roan had an idea and sent the Judge a Spiritual Sense message.

Rean felt like crying. Thanks to his Light Element, Rean was a lot faster than Roan when using his Life Style First Form. However, his combat prowess wasn't even close. Because of that, Fredin could still use his advantage in cultivation to fend off Rean's attack. Rean kept moving everywhere while using one skill after another. Anyone could see that Rean had the absolute advantage in this fight. Still, in Roan's eyes, that was nothing more than a shameful display.

The thing was that Rean wasn't used to fighting without the support of Dark Element. Roan, on the other hand, didn't have a problem with it. That is basically the difference in experience between the two of them. It's not something Rean would be able to overcome anytime soon.

Finally, Fredin couldn't hold anymore and admitted defeat.

Rean sighed in relief as he turned around to leave the arena.

The judge had a puzzled expression on his face. But in the end, he announced as Roan said.

"Winner, Nightingale!"

Suddenly, Roan saw the red color of killing intent appearing around himself. However, it was undeniable who wanted to kill him. Seeing that, he looked directly at Rean's dark face and snorted.

'What? Don't you like it? Then come at me! If you can, of course. Hahaha!'

Little did Roan notice, but this was the only kind of thing that could make him laugh for real. Sure enough, Roan still remembered that he was brought to this world because of Rean.

Rean didn't want anything else at the moment other than to cut Roan's head off. Unfortunately, he wasn't Roan's match in direct combat. There was nothing he could do about that. In the end, Rean could only think to himself.

'Hmph! Payback will come.'

Death... and me

Chapter 232: Finally a Breakthrough

After spending quite some time convincing the other disciples that Nightingale was a mistake, Rean and Roan got permission to move into the Inner Sect. The higher the disciple's position, the higher they lived in the mountain. At the same time, they would also get more Spiritual Energy.

Well, Rean and Roan had been to the Mountain Peak to visit Mia quite a few times, so they already understood this part. After receiving the room numbers, they took their things and moved up. Of course, Kentucky followed right behind.

Unfortunately for them, as mentioned before, challengers would not get time to rest; only the challenged would. Once the other disciples discovered that Rean and Roan had joined the Inner Sect and got the 903rd and 907th positions, the disciples lower ranked than them immediately issued a challenge against them.

The number 909th challenged Roan while the 916th challenged Rean. Of course, they didn't see the battles that the twins went through. Otherwise, they definitely wouldn't have made such an idiotic decision. Neither Rean nor Roan got any injuries to start with. They were both okay with Spiritual Energy as well. In the end, the two challengers ended up getting a good beating. The ones below them in the rank didn't waste that chance either and immediately defeated those two once more. With that, Rean and Roan's challengers suffered a terrible setback. Well, neither Rean nor Roan cared about it anyway.

Of course, the other disciples that were present made sure to check their fight this time. After all, they were two battles at the Inner Sect level, different from the Outer Sect challenging an Inner Sect. In the end, they all reached a conclusion. It's better to leave the demon twins alone.

Later in their room...

'The Spiritual Energy here will help quite a bit.'

Roan nodded.

'They also have a cultivation tower in the Inner Sect, so it should be of higher quality as well. Let's go. It's time to finish our breakthroughs into the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.'

Rean also agreed with Roan, and the two left their new rooms just a few moments after they arrived. But before that, Rean gave one of the Luminun Ores to Kentucky to eat. Unsurprisingly, the big guy immediately swallowed it and went to sleep. Rean already got used to this and knew that the Minokawa wouldn't awaken anytime soon. That was more than enough time to have their breakthroughs.

Mia's token could be used in the Inner Sect, too, so the two did not have to pay for the time to use it.

Immediately, they retrieved Rank Two Spirit Stones from the Soul Gem Realm and inserted them in the Energy Gathering Formations.

'Sister Orb, how are our foundations at the moment?'

[Well, you two haven't gone out to battle even once during the last few months with your Late Stage cultivation. Usually, that is the best way to solidify the Foundation during the cultivation time. However, your foundations were already in their best condition in the previous Middle Stage, so it was not affected much during this Late one. It should still be fine if you want to enter the Peak Stage now. However, do not rush with your cultivation while you are in the Peak Stage. Take your time to let the Foundation stabilize on its own.]

[Oh, right! Because you are making breakthroughs like this, your foundations will be a lot more chaotic than in the perfect conditions after you are over. That being said, you probably will need at least three months before you can start cultivating again. I advise you to not try using the Cultivation Stabilizing Pills this time since it would be forcing your Foundation to calm down way too fast. Give your Foundations time to get used to its own energy naturally.]

For Roan, that was already good enough. He thought about going out to do some missions during the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. However, the Universal Restraint was getting close.

He was afraid that something might have gone wrong during it, so he decided to sacrifice some stability for safety. After the breakthrough, they could take extra time to properly recover their Foundation to its peak state while slowly cultivating.

'Alright.'

Rean and Roan then focused on their Light and Dark Element manuals as they began their breakthrough. Sister Orb also checked their condition through the Light and Dark Soul Connection to prevent any mishaps.

Once again, Spiritual Energy began to rush into their ten Foundation Pillars that had broken through their Dantians in the past. Rean's Dark Element Pillar and Roan's Light Element Pillar also helped them with the Elemental Exchange that kept the balance of their cultivation.

Soon, their pools of Spiritual Energy, which was already filled up to the brim, began to overflow. Eventually, there was so much Spiritual Energy that the Spiritual Pool, where the ten Pillars were present, couldn't hold Spiritual Energy anymore. With that, Rean and Roan used the entire energy in their Spiritual Pools to attack the Peak Stage Bottleneck.

The process was basically the same as the previous stages' breakthroughs. Their Foundation began to expand, and so did the Spiritual Energy pool. Finally, the pool increased in size as the Spiritual Energy inside was almost entirely used up. The Light and Dark Element that helped with the process also stopped pouring inside due to the lack of Spiritual Energy.

In the end, Rean and Roan spent two hours to finish their breakthroughs. However, it was just as Sister Orb said. Their cultivations in their dantians was a lot more chaotic than when they entered the Late Stage. That was the price of having a breakthrough before the conditions were perfect.

Pin!

[Congrtulations, Hosts! You have successfully reached the Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. The first condition to resist the Universal Restraint has been completed.]

[Reward: Authority Level +1.]

After that, the Soul Gem System went silent once more.

Rean and Roan didn't expect that. After all, the System told them about the incoming Universal Restraint, but it didn't say anything about a possible reward.

Right after, Sister Orb was the one to talk with them.

[Well, that was an unexpected reward. Anyway, an extra Authority Level will always be welcome.]

Rean couldn't help but ask.

'But it said that only the first condition was fulfilled. We already have more than 1000 Destiny Points, right? Shouldn't the second condition be completed as well?'

Back then, the Soul Gem System stated that they would need both the cultivation and 1000 Destiny Points to resist the Universal Restraint.

[Don't worry. The Destiny Points were really the second condition for it. However, this condition will only be completed when the Universal Restraint comes down. Simply put, the Soul Gem System will use those 1000 Destiny Point as 'fuel' to protect your bodies and souls. So, be sure to keep 1000 points at all costs.]

Rean and Roan sighed in relief.

'That's good then. By the way, it's been a few months already. Our Router Formation is not complete yet, but the Imperial Family must have already started expanding their own cables around the capital and nearby cities, no? Surely it gave us quite a few more Destiny Points.'

Sister Orb agreed with him.

[That's correct. You had 1289 Destiny Points after you bought the Alchemy Workshop and Electrical Formations Repository. However, that was three months ago. By now, your Communication System and the Steel Works that is also expanding already gave you another 713 points. Of course, as I mentioned in the past, you are getting almost no more points from the Steel Works. From the 713 that you got, only 47 came from it. At the moment, you two have 2002 Destiny Points.]

Rean wasn't surprised by that. He was already not getting much from the Steel Works anyway.

'So we got more than 1000 points free for use. Roan, what do you think?'

Roan pondered a bit and decided to take a look at the reward list first. Of course, they returned to their rooms first before entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

[Tiger Bones - 500 Destiny Points] (New)

[Spiritual Sense Absorption Upgrade Level 2 - 1000 Destiny Points] (5% At the moment)

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 2 - 800 Destiny Points] (New)

[Yin Yang Bathhouse - Reward from Destiny Strugglers Title]

[Soul Connection Range Upgrade level 2 – 1500 Destiny Points] (300km)

[Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop - 400 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Alchemy Workshop Upgrade Level 2- 1000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Electrical Formations Repository Upgrade Level 2 - 1000 Destiny Points] (New)

'I doubt that the level 2 of the Alchemy Workshop or the Formations Repository will make much of a difference. Besides, we would have only 1002 points once we buy any of those. I don't like this proximity to the limit number, so we better leave them aside.'

Rean agreed with Roan.

'In that case, the Spiritual Sense Absorption Upgrade Level 2 is also out of the question. That leaves us with Tiger Bones and Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 2. As for the Blacksmith Workshop, I doubt that Level 1 will give me anything useful. Also, I need to wait for my cultivation increase before I can try to forge anything of a higher level anyway.'

'By the way, our Authority Level just increased one level. Did it not give us anything new?'

[Nope!]

For some reason, Sister Orb's nonchalant answer annoyed the twins quite a bit.

'Well, aren't we going into that Profound Abyss in a month? We might as well get the Tiger Bones.'

Rean agreed with Roan, and they finally made their decision.

[Tiger Bones - 500 Destiny Points]

[Confirm Selection?]

'Yes!'

It was then that Rean remembered something.

"Ah! We forgot!"

Right after... the twins were contorting like two worms on the ground due to the pain.

[I wish I had a camera to take a picture.]

"Fuck you!"

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Chapter 233: Universal Restraint and the Profound Abyss

The process took around one hour to finish, just like last time. In the end, the twins were drenched in cold sweat. Sure enough, there was no way they could get used to that.

"I hate this shit!"

"Indeed. However, it's already over, so let's forget about it."

Roan then got up and performed a few movements. He wanted to see how much his body had improved with the new bones. Rean, of course, was also curious, so he did the same.

"Exchange a few blows with me."

"Alright."

The twins then sparred in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm for a few minutes. As one could expect, Rean received a good beating. Still, as the Light Element user, he recovered from those blows almost instantly. Well, they were just bruises to start with. It was not surprising that bruises disappeared that fast for him, who can heal severe injuries in seconds.

Roan also wanted to test his own body resistance, so he allowed Rean to hit him several times during that spar. He was also able to heal very fast by using their Soul Connection to get the Light Element. Of course, not as quickly as Rean.

"Alright, that's enough."

Rean nodded and stopped.

"As expected of the Soul Gem Realm Rewards. I feel like my body strength alone increased by at least 10% or so."

Roan agreed with him.

"Correct. It's not as much of an improvement as breaking through a small realm, but it is definitely a significant improvement. When we were in the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment, we fought that Late Core Formation Realm Dual Element user. We had to go all out during that time to barely achieve victory. However, now that I'm two stages higher and got the Tiger Bones, I feel like I can put an even fight against him on my own."

Rean pondered a bit and then added.

"Well, that is in the case the battle doesn't continue for too long, right? If it turns into guerrilla warfare, that guy would probably be victorious due to his much bigger pool of Spiritual Energy."

Roan snorted in response.

"Do you think my Death Style would allow for guerrilla warfare? Don't forget, my Death Style looks for the fastest way to connect a killing strike to the enemy. I will more than welcome anyone who tries to use guerrilla warfare in front of me."

Rean had to admit that Roan was right. As the second main user of this style, he understood it very well.

"Anyway, now we need to deal with our last problem."

Roan knew what Rean was talking about.

"Indeed."

"Sister Orb, the Universal Restraint will arrive at the same time as the Profound Abyss opening. However, we don't want to lose this opportunity. How will it work?"

[To be honest, I'm not really sure. I know that this half of the Universe will try to use its own power to destroy the intruders. Still, I'm unaware of how it will do that.]

Rean pondered a bit and then asked.

"The Profound Abyss will open in two months. To be more exact, it starts in 58 days. How long will it take for the Universal Restraint to arrive?"

[From what is showing in the Soul Gem System, the Universal Restraint will come during the third day after you entered the Profound Abyss, which means 61 days.]

Roan asked another thing soon after.

"Can we undergo the Universal Restraint inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm? That would be the safest option."

[I would not recommend that. I'm not sure about it. Still, I think if you enter the Dimensional Realm during that time, the Universal Restraint will destroy it so that it can reach you two. Of course, this is just speculation, but the chances are very high. If that happens, the Soul Gem System will be affected, which will obviously affect the protection it can give to you two.]

[But that's not the worst that can happen. Suppose the Soul Gem System is destroyed during the process instead. In that case, there will be nothing there to protect you two against the Universal Restraint. Without a doubt, that will mean instant Roan!]

Roan's mouth twitched a little after hearing that.

Rean, on the other hand, agreed with Sister Orb.

"Indeed. It looks a lot scarier when you put it like that. Who wants an instant 'Roan?' It's like a terrible cup noddles mark no one really buys. Let's stay outside the Dimensional Realm to be safe."

Roan's expression darkened as he threatened.

"Let's go back to the main topic before I give you a quick 'Roan' right here. Different from cup noddles, I guarantee my 'Roan' will be really 'instant.'"

Rean laughed out loud with Sister Orb, but they didn't persist with the joke.

With that over, Roan asked something else.

"What about the visual effects? What will happen when others see us passing through it?"

[No idea. It is the first time you and I will see the Universal Restraint. We need to wait to check how it goes.]

Roan and Rean nodded. You can't really blame Sister Orb for not knowing something she had never seen before.

"Alright, we can just try to stay hidden when that time comes. We will deal with it as the situation requires."

With all of that over, Rean and Roan exited the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. However, Roan was still kinda itchy for some battle, so he went back to the arena to challenge the next opponent, the 895th one. As mentioned before, one can not challenge more than ten positions ahead of oneself in the Inner Sect. The 895th was the highest positioned Inner Sect disciple that was available to fight at that moment.

As for Rean, he decided to go back to practice Formations and help Droman with the Router Formation. Unlike Roan, he didn't have an interest in the different skill manuals that Inner Sect disciples have access to or the battles he could have. Also, since he was alone in his own room, he decided to send Kentucky into the Dimensional Realm. It was better than having it start to scream because no one was around and get into trouble.

Still, Roan gave him a warning through their Soul Connection.

'We just had a breakthrough, and our cultivations are very chaotic. The Inner Sect disciples are a perfect opportunity to help stabilize it through battles. I don't care if you spend more time with Formations, but you should also try to reach the Inner Sect disciples at the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Besides, you need to practice more to fight with your Light Element alone if such a situation arises in the future.'

Rean pondered a bit and replied.

'Alright. It's just that Elder Droman and I are very close to completing the Router Formation, so I want to help him finish it.'

That was indeed a good reason to not start it now. After all, the Router Formation was directly linked to their Destiny Points' rewards.

'How long before you complete it?'

Rean smiled as he replied.

'Version 1.0 should be ready for tests in two weeks or so. Droman and I already prepared a few cities with the correct cabling work to receive it too. Once he goes out to test the formation, I'll go to the arena to challenge the higher-ranked disciples.'

Roan nodded and didn't ask anymore.

As one could imagine, Roan coming down to challenge the next disciples so fast like that caught a lot of attention. However, what really surprised everyone was that he had a breakthrough into the Foundation Establishment's Peak Stage! Because of that, quite a crowd gathered to see Roan's fights while he tried to go up in the rank.

Rean didn't care about any of that, though. He quickly arrived at the Formations Hall and found out that Elder Reliance was also there, talking with him.

"Oh! You are back. Wait, you entered the Peak Stage of Foundation Establishment?"

Rean smiled and nodded.

"Roan and I were already at the peak of the Late Stage before, so we just needed to take the last step."

Reliance narrowed his eyes before warning.

"Your cultivation is progressing too fast. If you continue like this, your foundation will suffer the consequences."

Rean agreed with Reliance too.

"Don't worry, we already decided that we will let our cultivations stabilize naturally. We will only try a breakthrough in the Core Formation Realm once after we have reinforced it as much as possible."

Reliance's expression finally relaxed as he looked around.

"That's good then. By the way, where is Kentucky?"

"I just gave him another piece of Luminun Ore. He is now sleeping in my room while digesting it."

Reliance nodded, satisfied.

"That's good then."

He then turned to Droman before saying.

"Droman, I'll leave that in your hands then. I still need to prepare a few things for the Profound Abyss travel, so I'll take my leave."

With that, Reliance disappeared from the room.

Rean, of course, was curious about it.

"What was that about?"

Droman shrugged his shoulders, not minding that much.

"It's just a few upgrades he wants to make to his Formations Flags. It seems like they aren't that useful for him anymore now that he is already at the Peak of the Nascent Soul Realm."

Droman then changed the topic.

"Anyway, that thing can wait. Come take a look at this. You won't understand the rune arrangement at your level, but I want your opinion on the concept behind it."

Rean nodded and immediately began to work with Droman.

And just like that, the days began to pass.

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Chapter 234: Good Enough for Tests

As Rean expected, he and Droman finished Router Formation Version 1.0 fifteen days later. Rean, of course, explained what he meant by 'version.' In the future, they would have to upgrade it, add different runes, etc. So for each new version, they should preserve the entire building process, guaranteeing that they knew exactly what they did in the past.

Droman looked at the enormous formation and couldn't help but sigh in response, though.

"This thing ended up being a lot bigger than I wanted."

Rean just laughed out loud, though. He still remembered seeing a documentary about the first computers that occupied giant rooms. Their formation could be said to have more or less the same size, which Rean was already expecting.

"There's no helping it. For Version 1.0, this is already good enough. Besides, our sect won't find any issue in freeing enough space in the cities to use one of these guys. We had to do the runes this big so that we knew what was happening. If we used extremely tiny ones like those used in your Heaven Plate, it would be too difficult to tell what was occurring. For test purposes, this is the best we can do. In the future, once we find a more perfect combination of runes, we can start to shrink its size. Besides, I've been thinking about an entirely new concept of Electrical Formations that I plan to show you soon."

Droman's eyes lit up.

"A new concept of Electrical Formations? How does it work?"

Rean smiled and shook his head.

"That will be a surprise. Once I'm sure about its practical use, I'll show it to you."

Obviously, Rean was talking about the Circuitry Formations that he saw in the 'Introduction to Circuitry Formations' article. It was the one that appeared in the Electrical Formations Repository inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Rean then looked at Elder Droman before saying.

"I couldn't help much with the overall work since I don't understand most of the runes. Most of the work was done by Elder Droman alone."

Droman shook his head.

"Without you, I wouldn't ever think about such a thing. Anyway, let's stop with this sentimental crap. I already have all the building process recorded in the jade slips. I'll take the other high-level formations master of our Formations Hall and share the work with them. I want to have these formations ready to work in at most two months."

Rean nodded. The formation was very hard to make, and there would be a need for hundreds of it in the entire Dalamu Sect territory. Two months to build all the necessary ones for testing was already a quick result.

"That's good. I should be back from the Profound Abyss before the tests start, then."

Droman narrowed his eyes and warned Rean.

"The Vermilion Pools are great, but there is no need to put your life on the line for it. I'm sure that you will reach the Nascent Soul Realm with your and Roan's talents even without it. Make sure to put your lives above anything else. If the opponent is too strong, retreat immediately. There is no shame in living to see the next day."

Rean smiled after hearing that. He knew that Droman was just worried about him.

"Don't worry, Elder Droman. We know what we are doing."

Later that day, several Formation Masters of the Dalamu Sect flew out of the sect in several directions. Each one of them went to a different city to start building the new Router Formations.

The other sects and the royal family had been watching closely how the Dalamu Sect acted. They had given them the communication system for them to build. They also confirmed that it worked exactly as

the reports said—instant communication over long distances. However, they noticed that the Dalamu Sect wasn't connecting any of the cables in the cities to the main ones leading to other cities. All cities were left with a big space for work that remained with nothing more than several wires disconnected.

Obviously, that was the space previously prepared for the construction of the Router Formations. All these wires were connected to the most important facilities of those cities like the city guards, the city office, etc. Once the formation was finished, those cables would be connected to it. Only then would two more cables leave it and connect to the main ones leading to other cities.

Still, it was too early to see whether they would work as well as in the tests. Rean would not see the results before leaving for the Profound Abyss anyway, so he put the matter behind his mind.

With that done, Rean began to issue challenges in the arenas as well. As Roan mentioned, the Inner Sect disciples would give him a golden opportunity to help stabilize his chaotic foundation and get used to his increase in combat power.

In the end, he just so happened to arrive when Roan finished another fight. The judge then raised his hand and stated.

"Winner, Roan Larks!"

Wow!

The public around went into another uproar.

"What position did he challenge this time?"

"It was the 743rd positioned disciple! Mirio Garland. He was at the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm, but he still lost to Roan."

"Roan is still at the Peak Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, right? Not to mention that he is only 13 this year. Mario, on the other hand, is already 25! Now I know what a real genius looks like."

"Yea, but Mirio is still considered a Genius of our Dalamu Sect. Look at Roan. He is full of injuries."

They were right. It turned out that the level of the Inner Sect disciples was a lot higher than Roan expected. He thought that he could still easily win against those at the Middle Stage, but it turned out that he had to go all out to do so. Of course, the injuries on his body were quite bad but of little concern. As soon as the battle finished, he connected to Rean's Light Element and began to heal his wounds with the Life Style Second Form.

For Rean, that was quite a funny thing. Several times while he was practicing formations under Droman's teaching or helping with the Router Formation, his hair would suddenly change colors without any warning. It couldn't be helped, though.

Nevertheless, Roan was delighted with that development. Mario was considered one of the weaker Middle Stage Core Formation Realm Inner Sect Disciples. Still, he already forced him to this state. That meant he would have plenty of practicing partners even before reaching the disciples at the Late Stage.

In front of everyone, Light Element began to gather around Roan as his hair changed into a mix of white and black colors. Just like that, his injuries began to close at high speeds. In just a minute, not even a scar remained.

"Sigh... There he goes, using his brother's Light Element again."

"Those who make the challenges will not get one-month of protection. Only those who were challenged can get it. Usually, someone would take the chance that Roan just finished a fight to challenge him and take his higher position. But now, no one dares to do so. Look at that. He is back into peak condition already."

"You should be thankful already. Thanks to the Inner Sect Rules, Roan can't get outside help during the fights for positions. Otherwise, he could simply heal himself while exchanging blows with others. That would really be a big problem."

Roan ignored all the comments and came down the arena. Finally, he noticed Rean looking at him in the corner.

'You finally here, uh? Did you finish the Router Formation?'

Rean nodded.

'The first version of it is done. Still, I will only know if it works or not once we come back from the Profound Abyss.'

Roan didn't mind, though.

'That's fine. We have exactly a month before we leave the sect for it. Take this time and challenge as many Inner Sect disciples as possible. Turns out that they are much stronger than I expect, so this is a good opportunity.'

Rean nodded and then left to talk with one of the disciples taking care of the arena.

"I want to challenge a higher ranked disciple."

That disciple nodded and passed Rean the list with each Inner Sect's disciple. But it was then that he noticed a familiar name there.

"What?! Inna Malaka?!"

Rean immediately contacted Roan through their Soul Connection.

'Why didn't you tell me that Malaka fought for one of the Inner Sect positions?'

'Why should I? You locked yourself with Droman during the past two weeks, so I simply thought you were too busy with that Router Formation. Besides, Malaka was more than strong enough to defeat some of the low-ranked ones. After all, she has my Death Style Manual.'

'Still, I would at least have taken the time to come to watch it.'

'That's not my problem.'

Although he was angry, Rean knew that insisting on this topic would be useless since Roan simply didn't care.

"899th positioned one, Laco Hearan."

As one can imagine, the disciples who saw the 'White Demon' coming up gathered around immediately to watch.

Too bad for that Laco guy, though. Rean was in a terrible mood, so he ended discounting everything on him. In the end, the judge had to intervene so that the bullying could stop.

"Winner, Rean Larks."

Rean noticed that he had gone a little overboard and healed that disciple before leaving the arena again.

'Sigh... whatever. I'll just spend the rest of the month challenging the Inner Sect Disciples like Roan is doing.'

Time passed in a flash. Finally, the last month before departure was gone. The Dalamu Sect's five disciples were ready to go to the Profound Abyss.

Death... and me

Chapter 235: Leaving the Sect

At the Sect Master's Hall of the Dalamu Sect, Rean, Roan, Malaka, Weren, and Tive were gathered together for the trip. Of course, Mia was there too. Other than them, there were just a few elders.

Of course, Reliance was also there since he would bring and protect the team during the round trip. Tiria and Hulian were there as well since they knew the teams. Droman also took some time to come and see

Rean off. Other than them, there was another Core Elder called Ryfon Quilynn. He had appeared once during the Entrance Exam of the Dalamu Sect. He was also Weren's Master.

Well, Kentucky was going as well, but he kept waiting outside. After a few months, Rean finally succeeded in training the chick a bit. Now, it could at least stay alone for some time without starting to cry.

Mia didn't feel like wasting much time, so she went straight to the main topic.

"The Profound Abyss is opening in 15 days. However, it is quite far away. You will need to pass through quite a few countries before arriving there. That's why I'm sending you off ahead of time. Reliance will be in command. I gave him full authority to deal with anyone who doesn't follow his rules on the way as well."

"Remember, this is an excellent chance to improve your meridians. Still, know that there are dangers ahead. The other participants will definitely get rid of you if they see that it will increase their chance of acquiring a spot in one of the Vermilion Pools. I know that you are all confident in your own strengths. However, there will be no lack of Core Formation Realm cultivators there, several of them even with Red Color aptitudes. Even Purple Color aptitudes might appear during it due to how many countries are taking part."

"You are the future of the sect, so make sure to put your own lives above all benefits. Do not show mercy to anyone. I'm adept at attacking first and making questions later, so I hope you can do the same. If you see that getting rid of someone will give you access to the Vermilion Pools, attack to kill since the enemy will definitely do the same."

"You are bringing the Sect's name on your back, don't disappoint me."

All the disciples bowed at the same time after hearing that.

"Yes, Sect Master."

Mia nodded.

"Good. Reliance, I'll leave them in your care."

Reliance laughed as if it wasn't a big deal.

"Hahaha! It's okay. I'll bring them all back in one piece... as long as they come back alive from the Profound Abyss, that is."

With that, Rean and the others left the Sect Master Hall with Reliance. After walking a little, they finally saw Kentucky, who seemed to be walking in circles... with an 'oh I'm so bored' expression.

"Kentucky!"

Malaka immediately rushed at the Minokawa, who also noticed her. For some reason, Kentucky only acted intimate with Malaka other than Rean or Roan.

She hadn't seen it for a few weeks since Mia insisted on increasing her training before the Profound Abyss opened.

In the last few months, Kentucky's cultivation continued to increase. Although he didn't step into Stage Three, he was very close to it. He lost quite some of his plumpness. His yellow plumage was almost totally gone, giving space to his Dark and White feathers and scales. He also increased quite a bit in size, surpassing Rean and Roan's size and being almost as tall as an adult. Finally, he was looking more like a proper bird than a chick. Well, the chick's traits were still present, though.

Malaka immediately hugged the bird, who was supposed to have feathers as sharp as blades and scales as resistant as metal. However, as mentioned before, Kentucky seemed to control this feature, so all Malaka felt was a velvety sensation. Reliance and the twins didn't know if it was an effect of the mutation or not either. Right after, she jumped on Kentucky's back, making him her mount. Kentucky didn't seem to care either and began to play with her.

Rean sighed as he shook his head. They were just about to go to a place where they might even die, but the girl seemed to not feel the tension at all. On Roan's side, Weren and Tuve didn't know what to say either.

As Malaka played with the bird, Weren took the chance to talk with Rean and Roan. After all, this was the first time seeing them.

"Hey there, Weren here."

As mentioned before, Weren was the previous Red Color Aptitude disciple who joined the sect before Agis. He joined the sect six years prior, when he was eleven. Now, with seventeen years, he already reached the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm.

Although the twin's bodies' age was the same as Malaka, eleven years old, they seemed older. Also, they gave the wrong age information to the sect when they joined it, so others think they were thirteen at the moment. That being said, they didn't look like the kids from back then anymore, but not adults either. Well, Weren didn't seem to intend to treat them as kids either.

Roan simply gave a small nod while Rean properly complimented the man back.

"Hi there, I'm Rean Larks. Don't mind the empty shell beside me. He's always like that."

Rean also took the chance to compliment Tuve.

Tuve was the oldest of the group, being 25 years old at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. Because of that, he couldn't help but see Rean and Roan as kids.

"Oh! Hey there."

He didn't seem to have much interest in them, though.

Neither Rean nor Roan cared. They were already used to the treatment due to their appearances anyway.

Weren was just about to make a few more questions when suddenly, a cry sounded by their ears. They all looked at the sky and saw a blue eagle with four wings coming down. That was one of Reliance's tamed demon beasts that he usually left in the sect, a Stage Four Sky Eagle.

It quickly landed in front of Reliance and extended its head to him. However, it was then that it saw the small Fire Tanager on Reliance's shoulder. Immediately, it stopped its actions as it retreated a few steps slowly. It knew very well just how strong the Fire Tanager really was.

Weren and Tuve noticed its fear, but they didn't see anything that could cause it.

Reliance just laughed as he said.

"It's okay. He won't touch you. Come here."

The enormous Sky Eagle finally showed a happy expression. She brought its head down once more so that Reliance could pet it. Zunzun, who was on Reliance's shoulder, didn't seem to like it very much, though. It wasn't only Zunzun. Lanlan and Jinjin also liked to monopolize Reliance for themselves.

"Alright, that's enough."

Reliance then jumped on the Four Winged Sky Eagle's back and called Rean's group.

"You five, jump on Fanfan's back. She will bring us to the Profound Abyss's location."

As always, Reliance's sense to give names wasn't that good.

But it was then that Weren noticed that Malaka was still playing with the chick on the back. In the end, he couldn't help but ask.

"Isn't she the Sect Master's disciple? Is it really okay for her to be like that?"

Tuve agreed with Weren.

"She is the polar opposite of Sect Master, who is usually very cold and aloof."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"Just leave her be. In a certain way, you could say that this is her best trait."

Well, Weren and Tuve didn't mind much since she wasn't their problem. They already decided to move on their own when they enter the Profound Abyss anyway. In fact, many participants liked to do the same thing to test their own abilities during the event.

Malaka then shouted from Kentucky's back.

"Elder Reliance, can I go flying with Kentucky instead?"

This time, both Reliance and the Twins were taken aback.

"What are you talking about? Kentucky can't fly yet. Come down and bring Kentucky; we need to go."

For some reason, Kentucky got angry after hearing that. It was as if his pride as a bird had been hurt.

He immediately opened his wings and flapped them with all his might while jumping. It was quite a comic sight. Unfortunately, it already couldn't fly alone, let alone with Malaka's extra weight.

Roan seemed to lose his patience as he convened his thought to Kentucky with his Spiritual Sense.

'Stop wasting time. You are too fat to fly. Come here and get on the Sky Eagle.'

Roan was the same as Rean. He could send his intentions through their connection, so Kentucky could more or less understand it.

Kentucky then got even angrier when he heard that. Suddenly, Light Element began to gather around his body with the help of his Spiritual Energy. Right after, his body's strength increased as he was finally strong enough to force his way out of the ground.

Reliance and Rean were surprised to see that. They didn't expect that Kentucky could fly in those conditions. However, it was having quite some difficulty to keep itself in the air. After all, Kentucky was also carrying Malaka.

Nevertheless, it showed a stubborn face as if saying that he could handle it.

Malaka then laughed as she shouted from high in the air.

"See?! Kentucky is the best bird! He can definitely fly!"

Chick! Chick!

Reliance also laughed before looking back on the rest of the team.

"Alright, we are leaving very early anyway. Let Kentucky carry Malaka until it gets tired. It will be good training for it too."

Everyone looked at each other but nodded in the end. Since Reliance said it was okay, they didn't mind it either. As long as they reach the Profound Abyss in that, that was fine.

With that, the two groups finally departed the Dalamu Sect... until they reached 50km of distance and Kentucky collapsed. All they could hear was his gasps for air due to its fatigue. Rean and Reliance laughed out loud before placing him and Malaka on the Sky Eagle's back and continued their journey.

Poor Kentucky. His first time trying to show its amazingness didn't go very well as planned.

Back in the Dalamu Sect, Mia looked with her Spiritual Sense Rean's group disappearing in the distance. Finally, she let out a sigh and retrieved her Spiritual Sense back.

It was at this time that she received a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Cold and aloof... said that brat Weren. If just he knew about the younger you...'

A faint red color appeared on Mia's face as she replied with a helpless expression.

'Master... Why must you bring those past memories back?'

'Hahaha! Still, I can see why you like that disciple of yours so much. Polar opposite? No way! She is a perfect copy of your younger self. How many times I had to smack your head for you to go back cultivate? I lost count of how many times you tried to escape under my watch too. If anything, you were even more mischievous than her.'

'Master!!!'

'Alright, alright. I'll stop it here. Hehe.'

Right after, that Spiritual Sense disappeared. Mia couldn't help but sigh at this. Good thing that not many people knew about it. Nonetheless, Mia couldn't help but show a faint smile as she thought about the past.

Death... and me

Chapter 236: Arriving at the Profound Abyss Settlement

On the way, Weren and Rean talked quite a bit. As for Roan and Tuve, they didn't say much. Malaka, of course, did what she could to help with the passing time. However, in the end, they spent the majority of the time cultivating.

Every now and then, when Kentucky recovered his energy, Malaka would hop on him, and they would follow the Sky Eagle while flying on their own. As time passed, Kentucky got more used to controlling the Light Element to sustain its body strength to keep flying.

There were several Flying Demon Birds in the Dalamu Sect that could already fly for several hundreds of kilometers without rest. Those Demon Birds were also at the same stage as Kentucky. However, the difference was that they were mostly adults, while Kentucky was still a half year old Minokawa. At his age, none of those Stage Two Demon Birds could even dream of carrying someone while flying.

In the end, Kentucky was able to keep flying with Malaka on his back for 200 or so kilometers. That was basically the fruits of his constant training these past few days. If Malaka wasn't weighing him down, Reliance believed that Kentucky would be able to keep flying for at least double that distance.

The only one who didn't do anything during the entire journey was Reliance. He was already at the peak of the Nascent Soul Realm, so cultivation had no meaning for him anymore. His only choice was to enter the Soul Transformation Realm or die of old age. Well, Reliance didn't seem to care either way.

Finally, after 13 days of nonstop flight, the group was able to see the Profound Abyss in the distance. As mentioned before, the Abyss stretched out for hundreds of kilometers, so it was more or less easy to see it from up high in the skies.

Other than that, Rean's group was also able to see a faint yellow light that covered the entire extent of the Abyss as far as they could see. Those were the restrictions put by the Imperial Family experts to prevent anyone from entering. It wouldn't attack the cultivators if they tried to enter, but they wouldn't be able to pass through it either. Others said that only experts above the Soul Transformation Realm could force their way in. However, such old monsters had little interest in a kids' training ground.

The Sky Eagle then began to follow the Abyss' line for another hour or so. After all, they arrived at the Profound Abyss, but not at the gathering point. To be more specific, the place where the entrance was located.

Finally, Rean's group began to notice something akin to a small settlement ahead. There, it was possible to see several experts and demon beasts coming and going. Some were flying, while others were moving on the surface. Still, there were a lot of them.

Reliance then patted the side of the Sky Eagle's head, who immediately began to descend. Of course, the Eagle was quite big, so it had to stop outside the settlement.

There, several cultivators immediately came forward to receive Reliance's group.

"Senior, shall we take care of your Sky Eagle?"

Reliance wasn't surprised by that. Many sects were using demon beasts to come to this place, so they needed people to care for them.

"It's okay. It can take care of itself."

Reliance then murmured something close to the Sky Eagle's ears and got down. Rean and the others did the same, leaving the Eagle's back. Soon after, the Sky Eagle spread its wings and took flight once more. From the looks of it, Reliance gave it permission to fly around on its own until he called it back.

"Alright, let's go into the settlement. There are still three days before the Profound Abyss opens, so you can take a look around. If you want, you can even have a small sparring session with the other participants as long as there are no serious wounds inflicted."

"Spar?"

Reliance nodded as they entered the settlement.

"The young ones like yourselves like to make bets before the aperture of the Profound Abyss. There are things like Affinity Level Bets, Battle Bets, Talent Bets, etc... You can even find a few side occupation challenges against the young disciples of the other organizations. Oh, right. Rank Three Spirit Stones are quite hard for you guys to get at your level. However, this place definitely has it. All the participants are the geniuses of their own powers, after all. I believe you all have a few of those as well. You can simply challenge others who are also willing to use their own."

As Reliance walked with Rean's group, his appearance caught others' attention. After all, black people were very rare on this side of the world. Then again, Reliance simply treated all of them as air.

"Anyway, I'm going to find the representatives of the Imperial Family that are taking care of the Abyss this time. I need to register you guys ahead of time to prevent issues. If you need me, just ask Zunzun to call me out. As for where you will stay... well... you are all cultivators. I'm sure you can deal with a few days out in the open."

The Fire Tanager on Reliance's shoulder then flew out and landed on Rean's shoulder. Without wasting any time, Reliance disappeared from where he was. The group was then left alone.

Weren looked around with an excited expression before saying.

"I have a few Rank Three Spirit Stones, so I'm going to see if I can grab a few more. See you later!"

Tuve wasn't any slower.

"The same for me, later..."

The two of them left as fast as Reliance. They couldn't be blamed. After all, Rank Three Spirit Stones were really hard to get at their level. They wanted to use this time to see if they could increase the scant amount they had. Not everyone had an agreement with the Sect Master to exchange lower-ranked Spirit Stones for higher ones like Rean.

"What do we do now?"

Roan looked around and saw several stalls selling cultivation related items. Some of them even had skill manuals on display. Surely enough, this was a great chance to find several items and skills that you usually wouldn't be able to find. Roan, of course, was interested in the skill manuals. The more references he had, the better he could work around with creating his Death Style Skills.

"I'm going to take a look around the stalls. I'll let you know if something happens."

Right after, Roan began to wander around the stalls.

Rean then looked at Malaka on Kentucky's back.

"Well, I'm pretty much free. What do you want to do?"

Malaka was delighted to hear that question.

"Then, then! Let's go to the Affinity Tests! Master said that my Water Affinity had been improving at an alarming rate that even she can't believe it. I can get a lot of Rank Three Spirit Stones, too, if I bet with others!"

Rean didn't have to think much to understand why. Back then, Sister Orb told the twins that her long time standing close to Roan had also affected her Yin. Because of that, her affinity with Water, which was also that of the Yin element, had improved much faster than others.

Rean then looked at Malaka with a doubtful expression.

"Do you even have Rank Three Spirit Stones?"

Sure enough, Malaka immediately shook her head.

"I don't, but you do, right? Right?!"

Rean's mouth twitched in response.

"And why should I give my Spirit Stones for you to bet?"

Malaka then showed a playful smile before saying.

"Because if you don't, I'll tell my senior sisters in the Blue Orchid District who the Perverted Dogs were."

Rean almost vomited blood!

"Yo-you! How can you blackmail your older brother like that? Have you no shame? Just where did you learn to be like this?"

Malaka answered straight away.

"It was Master. She said that shame can't put food in your belly."

Rean was speechless. The image of the cold and aloof Sect Master in his mind suddenly began to crumble apart.

"Hmph! Since that is the case, I'll ask Roan to increase your training session by two times. As long as I pay for it, I'm sure he will too."

Malaka's expression changed in an instant. She couldn't tell who was worse with their Sparta-like training, Roan, or her Master.

"That's not fair!"

Rean shrugged his shoulders, though.

"Life isn't fair. Deal with it!"

Malaka then hugged Kentucky while showing a sad expression. Of course, Rean knew Malaka better than herself. That was just her way of making others feel pity for her.

Yes...

He knew it...

He really knew...

Still...

"Ahhhh! Fine! Let's go! I'll pay for you to try the Affinity Competition against the others. But you better not lose, okay? These Spirit Stones are quite expensive, even for me."

Malaka's expression immediately transformed as she jumped from Kentucky's back to give Rean a hug.

"Thank you, Rean! You are the best brother ever!"

Rean could only sigh in response.

"How long will you act like a spoiled brat? You are already 11 years old, you know?"

Malaka shook her head as she replied.

"I'm not a brat anymore. I have already entered puberty."

Rean felt even more helpless.

"Is that something a girl should say out loud?"

"Why not? It's not like I don't know how things work. I also have Spiritual Sense, you know? Senior Sister Amanda also explained a lot of things to me while we were out."

Rean knew very well what Malaka was talking about. During missions or when going out for whatever reason, one would often pass through cities. Using one's Spiritual Sense during it was simply common

sense. After all, Spiritual Sense simply made it way too easy to find one's way in those places. However, it would naturally make the cultivators catch a few couples here and there inside their houses during their 'private' moments.

It wasn't something a cultivator could prevent from happening, though. It would get even worse as one's Spiritual Sense increased in range with cultivation. Malaka was already at the Peak of the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment. Rean would have to be too naive to think that Malaka hadn't seen such things before.

"Ahem... Fine, you are not a brat anymore then. Let's go."

Malaka smiled as she held Rean's arm while they walked.

Kentucky felt somewhat jealous and also rubbed its head at Rean, asking for some attention.

Rean then laughed helplessly as he also caressed Kentucky's head. The small group of three soon disappeared right in the middle of the crowd.

Death... and me

Chapter 237: Yin Energy

Rean, Malaka, and Kentucky went to the place where the Profound Abyss participants were gathered.

Meanwhile, Roan walked around the stalls, looking for the Skill Manuals he hadn't seen before. Unsurprisingly, it wasn't only the disciples of the various sects selling them. There were also a lot of elders of smaller sects selling their own skills as well.

Then again, the kind of skill didn't matter to him. Weapon-related or not, he didn't care. The important part was whether Roan liked it or not.

As he walked, he saw several different types. Of course, he couldn't browse into the skill manuals' entire content, only their introductions. Nevertheless, he still found quite a few good examples.

"Light Blades, just 300 Rank Two Spirit Stones!"

"Fire Convergence, 450 Spirit Stones! This is a special manual that you, fire users, won't find so easily outside!"

"Come, Come! Fire, Water, and Earth manuals of different types. Get two or more, and I'll give you a discount."

Of course, Roan wasn't an idiot. First of all, those were all manuals for Core Formation Realm cultivators and above. Skill manuals that allowed Foundation Establishment cultivators to use skills were very rare. Those organizations, sects, etc., wouldn't bring them out this easily. The proof was that none of them were being sold for Rank Three Spirit Stones, only Rank Two and below.

"Let me check the Water Spirit and the Wind Lashes Manuals."

"Right away!"

Roan browsed the introduction of the manuals and nodded with a satisfied expression.

"I want both."

The seller, of course, was delighted as well.

"Both manuals would be worth 825 Rank Two Spirit Stones, but since this brother is buying two at once, I'll make them 800 for you."

Roan didn't mind and immediately took the Spirit Stones out, paying the seller. He again pretended to put the manuals on his backpack as he sent them into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Roan continued to walk around the stalls as he bought more skill books, thinking in the process.

'So far, I only have skills that are dependent on weapons. I've been working on a few skills that have no use for them, but I need a few more similar skills to take reference. Finding the right meridians' path so that one can use the skill while still in Foundation Establishment is quite hard...'

Suddenly, Roan felt some kind of familiar energy.

'Hum...?'

Roan looked in a particular direction, just to see another inconspicuous stall in a corner. There wasn't anything different from this stall compared to the others. The disciples and the elder taking care of it announced their products just like everyone else. Some stopped to see the items and skill manuals they had; others didn't.

Of course, Roan could feel that the familiar energy he was feeling was coming from there.

Roan approached the stall and looked at the products for view.

The elder noticed Roan and immediately complimented him.

"Welcome, kid. Is there something you like? Buy two or more, and I'll give you a discount."

Roan nodded as his eyes landed at the bottom right corner of the table where the items were being displayed. There, he could see a piece of dark blue metal that didn't seem that useful. So much so that it was being displayed in one of the hard to see places.

"Can I take a look at that piece of metal?"

The elder nodded and looked at the item Roan was talking about.

He then quickly fetched it for Roan so that he could take a look.

Roan held the piece of dark blue metal in his hand for a few moments while pondering.

'No doubt, this is the same Yin Energy my Death Body had before I was dragged into this place.'

Roan then looked at the elder and asked.

"What is this?"

The elder then explained.

"This is a piece of Yin Ice Ore. This kind of metal takes form in regions of extreme cold. It's quite good for those who would like to practice the skills that require this type of energy."

Roan looked at the elder with a doubtful expression.

"Is there such a thing as Yin Energy Skills?"

That was the first time Roan heard about that. So far, he had only found skills of the five main elements.

However, the elder seemed to have understood something and made a question.

"Oh! You came from one of those countryside Sects, right?"

Roan didn't deny it. Others might feel embarrassed to admit such a thing, but he didn't give a damn, so he immediately nodded.

"It's normal for you to not have heard about it since those places are too far away. Skill Manuals that use Yin or Yang Energy are rare even in a place like this, let alone there. Yin Energy skills like the one you have in this piece of metal can even allow others to control unique elements like darkness. Of course, no one is idiotic enough to use Yin Energy for something like that. What's the point in controlling an

element that you have no affinity for whatsoever? That being said, water is usually the main one. There are even some evil cultivators that like to play with dead bodies and souls by using Yin Energy."

Roan was surprised to hear that. He didn't expect that other people could use the Dark Element like him.

"Are there any skills of the Dark Element then?"

The elder didn't understand why Roan would be interested in the Dark Element that no one used. Still, he did want to please Roan as a seller, so he explained nonetheless.

"Well, the only ones that usually use Yin Energy to control the Dark Element are assassins. The Dark Element is very useful for dark environments, after all. Still, skill manuals of the Dark Element are very rare. I doubt you will find even a single one in this place, let alone in the place you came from."

Roan didn't mind. He was already satisfied that there were Dark Element skill manuals in this world.

Still, he understood that they had a different use from his own Dark Element. As mentioned before, helping someone with a rare element to cultivate is extremely hard. Rean and Roan were just doing this well thanks to the Soul Gem System. The cultivators that use these Dark Element Manuals were not Dark Element Cultivators to start with. Instead, they cultivate another mainstream element and use Yin Energy to control the Dark Element. Their cultivation progress had nothing to do with Dark Element, different from himself.

'The Empire's Capital should have some of these. I'll take a look one day if the chance presents itself.'

Still, he put those thoughts on the back of his mind and asked the elder back.

"Is that really okay to put it for selling? It seems quite rare."

"It's okay. This one in your hands is a failure. The Yin Energy inside is very concentrated but too impure at the same time. At most, you can use it for Initial Stages of Yin Energy techniques. If you keep using it for too long, it will deeply affect your body. That's why not a lot of people are interested in it. Otherwise,

I definitely wouldn't put it here for sale. The real good Yin Energy materials can be sold for Rank Four Spirit Stones, just so that you can have an idea."

Suddenly, Sister Orb sent him a message.

[Roan, buy this thing and give it to me.]

'Sister Orb, can you feel it?'

[Yes. It has a good concentration of Yin Energy inside. It will be perfect to increase the level of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Too bad we don't have any Yang Energy Material to make up for the balance. Still, I can work things around. As for the impurity he talked about, the Soul Gem System won't be affected.]

Roan pondered a bit before asking.

'What if I have a use for it?'

[You? You're basically a walking Yin Energy generator of the best quality at this point. High efficiency, with low consumption. Exactly the type everyone would want one at home to show the visitors they had money to buy. Why would you want this piece of metal?]

Roan's mouth twitched in response. Somehow, he felt like he was an expensive air conditioner.

'What will the Soul Gem Realm give me in exchange?'

[How could you ask for payment from your little Sister Orb? Don't you feel ashamed of yourself?]

Roan snorted and was just about to put the metal back on the table when Sister Orb intervened.

[Wait, wait, wait! How about this? I'll tell you what the next upgrade of any of the rewards available will give you.]

Roan had to admit that he was tempted. There were several rewards that both he and Rean would like to know about. For example, what the next Soul Gem Dimensional Realm upgrade would give them? As for the Workshop and Formations Repositories, what would they create after the upgrade? If they knew about it beforehand, it would be very convenient to decide whether they should buy that first or not. After all, Destiny Points were precious.

'Fine.'

"How much for this piece of Yin Ice Ore."

The elder smiled as he immediately offered.

"500 Rank Two Spirit Stones."

In fact, that was a little expensive, but the elder started with a high price on purpose so that they could negotiate. However, to his surprise, Roan simply nodded.

"Very well."

Of course, the elder was delighted to hear that. However, just as Roan was about to pay, a voice appeared from behind him.

"I'll give 600 Spirit Stones for it."

Roan's eyes narrowed in response after hearing that.

Death... and me

Chapter 238: Not Interested In Problem

He looked behind him and noticed a young man. From his appearance, he was around 18 years old or so. However, what caught Roan's attention was his red robe sewn with golden threads. Before coming to the Profound Abyss, the Sect warned its disciples about the things they should pay attention to.

That robe represented the power of the Capital, possibly someone directly descending from the Imperial Family. If possible, they should avoid any conflict with those...at least until they enter the Profound Abyss anyway. Once inside the Profound Abyss, no background would matter. Those were the Imperial Family's own words. Of course, Roan wasn't inside the Profound Abyss yet.

"Kid, give me that piece of Yin Ice Ore. I have a use for it."

Roan snorted and then threw it at the man. Soon after, he turned around and left as if nothing had happened at all.

The man looked at Roan's indifferent expression as he passed the ore over. Still, he ignored it and paid for the ore before leaving as well. Why should he pay attention to a kid from an ant-like power? He was too proud to do that.

[Ah! My Yin Energy! Why did you just leave? We found that ore first!]

Roan shook his head in response.

'What? You want me to start a betting war with him? Eventually, it will come to a point where we need to fight over it, creating some deep grudge or whatever? Ha! What kind of shit cliché story is that? Forget it!'

[But...]

'Stop complaining. First of all, considering his background, it was a wonder whether all my Rank Two Spirit Stones would be enough to win this price contest. Second, there is no need to buy a fight against someone of the Imperial Family. Did you forget what the man said? That was a failed Yin Ice Ore being sold for only 500 Spirit Stones. From the looks of it, we should be able to find more of them in the future. Besides, I'm not in the mood to make everyone pay attention to me. We better keep a low profile until the Profound Abyss opens.'

[Low profile? I don't think that's possible anymore.]

Roan was taken aback.

'Why's that?'

[Well... Malaka could be said to be doing anything but keeping a low profile.]

Roan's eyes narrowed. He immediately understood that it had something to do with Rean.

'Where are those idiots?'

Meanwhile, in the place where most of the participants were gathered to compete against each other...

There was a small arena where two bodies of water could be seen. Under them, one could see a formation shining with blue light while being fed by the Spirit Stones around. That was one of the things the young Profound Abyss participants liked to use to compete against each other. It was none other than the Water Element Disruption Formation. Of course, there were other similar ones for other elements around as well.

The objective was to use one's control over the Water Element while being affected by the formation to complete a few tasks as fast as possible. For example, one had to use the body of water inside the formation to attack several distant targets. Or perhaps, use their control to make it assume some complicated form decided beforehand. Simply put, there were several ways to use it.

Cultivation had no meaning in this. All that mattered was one's affinity and proficiency with the Water Element. Of course, it's more or less common sense that the higher one's cultivation is, the more affinity and proficiency one would get. Usually, those challenges would be done between cultivators with similar cultivation levels. However...

"Winner, Inna Malaka!"

Wow!

Malaka then laughed out loud as three water models lost their Spiritual Energy support and fell into the pond again. Malaka and her opponent were tasked to create three identical models to a demon beast that was present at the moment. If both parties finished simultaneously, the winner would be the one who made the most life-like one.

"Hahaha! I won again! Spirit Stones, pay up, pay up!"

The other disciples of several sects and organizations around couldn't help but be shocked with Malaka's talent.

"She won against Luvoni Farol of the Sarar Royal Family. He is already in the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm, but he still lost."

"An entire cultivation realm's worth of difference? That's crazy!"

"Not only that, look at her appearance. She's still a kid! What kind of talent is that? Does she have a Purple Color Aptitude?"

"Not even close! One has to first show their Aptitude before starting. She is a genuine Blue Color Aptitude!"

"Isn't that crazy?! I heard that Luvoni has a Red Color Aptitude and Water Element Affinity. How did he lose being an entire cultivation level above her?"

"I'm more curious about why she took the challenge. Her opponent was obviously at a much higher level. Could it be that Luvoni held back?"

"Held back? Are you blind? Didn't you see the speed she formed the three models of water? Luvoni definitely went all out, but he still lost by a hair's breadth."

"How many Water Affinity opponents has she defeated already?"

"With Luvoni being defeated, 17."

Rean looked at that and couldn't help but feel excited in response. Turns out they were making a fortune with it. When they arrived, they looked around to see which one Malaka should participate. In the end, he decided to use Water Disruption Formation challenges. Not only that, but he had Malaka hold back against her opponents on purpose, always winning by just a bit.

With that, the challengers kept coming, expecting that to be her limit. Finally, her opponents' levels increased to the point where she was already being challenged by people with higher aptitudes and much higher cultivation. Obviously, the number of observers began to grow as well. Right now, there were hundreds of onlookers watching the show. Of course, that was anything but low profile.

"Well done, Malaka!"

Rean quickly received the Luvoni guy's payment, who obviously wasn't very willing to pay, and returned to her side. Even for Luvoni, Rank Three Spirit Stones were very important. Just now, he lost 100 of them to Malaka. Still, going back on one's words in this place was not possible. These competitions between the Profound Abyss participants were being observed by several elders of all sects and other organizations. Obviously, they wouldn't allow any of the young ones to go back on their words.

Rean and Malaka had accumulated a total of 1256 Rank Three Spirit Stones, a very high number without a doubt. Back in the Sect, Rean could exchange Rank Two Spirit Stones for Rank Three ones. However, Rank Three Spirit Stones were still crucial for the Sect, so there was a limit of at most 100 per month for that trade. In just a few hours, the two of them had amassed an entire year's worth of Rank Three Spirit Stones!

"Hahaha! Rean, I'm amazing, right, right?!"

Rean laughed as he patted her head, much to Malaka's delight.

"Of course, you are my little sister, after all."

Little did they know that Roan had a very dark expression as he looked at them from a distance. What low profile? Those two idiots had basically caught everyone's attention over themselves.

Death... and me

Chapter 239: Do you wanna die?

Rean then sent a Spiritual Sense Message to her.

'How was it?'

Malaka understood what Rean was trying to ask, responding.

'That Luvoni guy was quite powerful. If he was just a little bit faster, I would have lost for sure. I can't do any better than that... sorry.'

'Enough! You did great! You defeated someone an entire cultivation level above your own. There is nothing to be sorry about. I'm very proud of you, and I'm sure that Roan would be as well.'

Unfortunately for him, Roan wasn't happy at all. Roan then began to make his way to where those two were staying. However, just as he was about to put an end to the show, a person stepped out of the crowd.

"Inna Malaka, right? Would you accept my challenge as well?"

Rean and Malaka looked in the voice's direction, just to see another girl who didn't look much older than Malaka herself. She was perhaps around 12, or at most, 13 years old. Her cultivation was at the Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Turns out she had blue eyes and blond hair, quite a rare sight in a place like the Sasamil Empire. However, she used similar clothes as the man who took Roan's Yin Ice Ore.

Immediately, most of the onlookers shook their heads. Even a Red Aptitude with a Middle Stage Core Formation Realm cultivation lost to Malaka. What does this girl intend to achieve against the little monster?

However, contrary to the others, Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes.

Malaka immediately smiled after hearing that, though.

"But of course! However, it will cost 100 Rank Three Spirit Stones, just like everyone else."

The girl didn't mind and immediately took the stones out. She then proceeded to her side of the stage while showing an unperturbed expression.

'Malaka, be careful. That girl isn't simple.'

She was taken aback for a second but laughed afterward.

'It's okay, I will finish it very fast. After that, you need to take me out to get some good food!'

Rean didn't try to stop her. Just now, he received a message from Roan saying to let her go. From the looks of it, both the twins felt something weird from that girl that was going to challenge Malaka.

The challenge this time was one of the most common ones. Target destroying. They would need to control the pond's water while the Water Element Disruption Formation was active to hit them. Those targets would appear anywhere above in the air, and it was up to them how they would do that. As one could imagine, the girl who destroyed most of the targets would win in the end. As for the duration of the competition, it would only last for one minute.

As Malaka arrived at the pond, Roan appeared beside Rean and Kentucky like a ghost. Still, neither of them seemed to be surprised.

'Is that what I think it is?'

Roan nodded.

'Definitely.'

The trial quickly started as the target appeared in mid-air one after another. Malaka did her best to destroy them since she knew that hiding her real strength would be meaningless at this point. The other girl did the same thing and began to summon Water Icicles, which she also shot in the air.

Water Icicles kept flying and hitting the targets nonstop. Turns out that both girls were quite similar in terms of proficiency. Yet, while Malaka seemed to be putting a lot of effort into it, her opponent appeared to be taking things in a relatively lax manner.

Soon, 30 seconds passed. Malaka had a small lead, having destroyed 14 targets while her opponent got 13 in total. All of the spectators began to feel excited. This was the first time that Malaka seemed to be struggling against one opponent. Still, none of them knew where that blond girl came from either.

However, no one expected what happened next. Suddenly, that girl summoned several Water Icicles, which were obviously much stronger than the previous ones, and shot them all at once. It's just that... they were all aimed at Malaka!

Malaka was still trying to destroy as many targets as possible while looking at the sky. If those Water Icicles connected, grievous injuries would be the best outcome. Death was a lot more probable. After all, Malaka didn't have any defense up at all!

However...

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

Rean and Roan appeared in front of Malaka in a flash of black and white light, destroying all of the Icicles at once!

The girl was a bit surprised by Rean and Roan's sudden appearance. However, her smile didn't disappear.

Soon after, the Water Icicles that the girl had used to attack the targets in the air came down. Turns out that those ones were the real attacks. The first ones were only there to catch the attention of any possible protectors, leaving them with no time to react to the killing blow.

Unfortunately for her, another flash of white and black light appeared right above Malaka... Kentucky!

Kentucky's body then burst with Black and White Flames as his feathers and scales hardened.

Bam, bam, bam, bam...!

The Water Icicles hit his body but failed to leave as much as a single cut. Rean and Roan didn't seem to be the least bit surprised, though. The moment they moved out, they had noticed Kentucky's movement as well, aiming for the Water Icicles in the air. They were well aware of Kentucky's terrifying defense as well. Not to mention that the Water Icicles in the air were a lot weaker than the previous ones.

Well, he was still sent kicking like a ball because of that...

It was only at this moment did the girl's face show some shock.

The twins' expression was as dark as it could be, though. They had been paying attention to that girl because they could feel Yin Energy far above what a woman's body should be able to produce coming from her. Of course, they only noticed that because Roan was a Yin Energy Receptor himself. As for Rean, he had his Soul connected to Roan, so he could feel it as well. If not for that, they definitely wouldn't have arrived in time.

Right now, Roan had the worst expression on his face as he said.

"Do you wanna die?!"

Death... and me

Chapter 240: Calina Sasamil

The girl smiled at Roan before replying.

"It was just a small test. Since Malaka was so good at controlling the Water Element, I thought she would be able to defend against this little trick. But it seems that I've overestimated her. She didn't even react."

Roan showed a puzzled expression as he looked at her.

"Did I talk to you?"

That answer pulled her legs. Of course, she thought Roan was talking to her.

Soon after...

crash, crash, crash...

Everyone noticed the sound of targets being destroyed in the air. It was then that the girl and the onlookers noticed. Even with the sudden attack, Malaka hasn't stopped attacking the targets at all.

'Who would do such a thing in that situation? You were almost killed, you know?'

That was the thought running in everyone's minds. Of course, the girl who attacked Malaka was also taken aback by Malaka's indifferent behavior. Why is she continuing to attack the targets as if nothing had happened?

Well, Rean and Roan didn't seem that surprised, though.

Finally...

pin!

A sound came out of the Water Disruption Formations, which indicated the end of the dispute.

"Hahaha! I won!"

Pah!

"I won your head!"

Suddenly, Roan slapped the back of Malaka's head.

"Ouch!"

"Why did you do that? I won, didn't I?"

Roan wasn't the least bit happy at all.

"Let alone the fact that you and Nightingale here just caught everyone's attention, you knew very well that those icicles were coming for you. Why did you ignore them? Since when did I train such an idiot? I'll ask you once more, do you wanna die?"

Malaka sulked as she explained.

"But... you and Rean were just a few meters away. I noticed you moving with my Spiritual Sense even before she shot the Water Icicles. I knew that you two would definitely protect me."

The girl who attacked Malaka couldn't help but ask.

"Wait! You knew that the attacks were coming and did nothing. Do you want me to believe that?"

Still, Malaka looked at the girl with a proud expression.

"My brothers are super strong! They would never let anything happen to me. Even Kentucky helped! Hahaha!"

Pah!

"Ouch!"

Roan slapped the back of her head once more.

"Am I your bodyguard?"

Rean couldn't help but say in response.

"Well, you do have the black clothes already. You just need a tie, and you'll look the part."

Roan's mouth twitched.

"You shut up!"

He returned his attention to Malaka and continued.

"Next time you refrain from reacting, I'll make sure to beat you up to the point you won't get up for an entire week."

Malaka felt wronged. Just now, she won another hundred Rank Three Spirit Stones, but Roan didn't seem to care about her 'amazing' accomplishment.

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"I hate to say it. I really, really do. However, I agree with Roan this time, Malaka. What if we were not paying attention? Don't do something this risky next time, okay?"

Malaka nodded as her head drooped right after. It was hard to say if she was becoming smarter since she knew that they would definitely protect her.... or dumber since she should have reacted nonetheless.

"Anyway, you two did enough for a day. Let's leave this place."

"Wait! I still have to take the girl's payment."

Rean ran to the side of the girl while extending his hand.

"You lost, pay up!"

"Ah!"

The girl finally came back to herself.

"Are you kidding me? Are you going to ignore what just happened? Won't you ask why I attacked her or anything like that?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"What else could it be? Jealousy, of course. My little sister is super cute and talented, so you wanted to teach her a lesson. Isn't that obvious?"

Rean himself and Roan didn't really believe these words. However, they had noticed her clothes, which represented the Imperial Family or those closely related to them. Besides, the fact that she had that Yin Energy inside her showed that she wasn't simple. They quickly decided that it was better not to get involved with her to prevent more issues. If they wanted to try something, it definitely wouldn't be in a place like this where everyone was looking. Besides, even though Malaka ignored her attack because of Rean and Roan's presence, the twins knew that she was more powerful than Malaka for sure. Her Water Element control was definitely superior as well.

Well, Malaka was two realm stages lower than her, though.

As soon as the blond girl heard that, her face became as red as a tomato.

"Wh-who's jealous? I'm a member of the Imperial Family, wh-why would I feel jealous of a country bumpkin like her?"

Rean's expression finally showed some real surprise this time.

'Errr... I was... right?'

Yep. Rean was, surprisingly, 100% correct. This girl's name was Calina Sasamil, from the Sasamil Imperial Family. As one could imagine, she had imperial blood in her veins. Calina was sent to this place to participate in the Profound Abyss as a representative of the Imperial Family.

Like the Profound Abyss, this type of training grounds could be found in several different places in the Sasamil Empire. It was quite common for the Imperial Family and those closely related to them to send a few of their young ones to those locations. Obviously, Calina Sasamil was the chosen one this time.

As for her different appearance from the typical black hair and eyes, that was because of a political marriage between the Sasamil Empire and the Chroles Empire far in the north. She also had the blood of the north's people, where blond hair and clear eye colors were not uncommon.

In fact, to show the Imperial Family's higher talent, she planned to make a show in this gathering. However, someone had already caught everyone's attention by the time she arrived. Of course, that put her plans in disarray, plus she did feel a little jealous of Malaka's cute appearance and high talent that

didn't lose to her own. It was then that she decided to make Malaka as an example to display her advantages.

In the end, it was a completely ridiculous reason as that. It was Rean and Roan's mistake to think that her actions had a more profound meaning behind them.

"Hmph! Anyway, as a member of the Imperial Family, I'll obviously pay for my loss. Here, take it."

She quickly took out 100 Rank Three Spirit Stones and passed them to Rean.

A second later, a man came running from the middle of the crowd.

"Calina! Here you are! Don't walk around on your own like that."

Roan immediately identified the guy. It was the same guy who told him to give up the Yin Ice Ore. Of course, the man also noticed Roan... not that he cared anyway.

The man looked at the crowd gathering around and asked.

"What happened here? Did someone hurt you?"

Calina shook her head.

"Of course not! Who would dare to touch me in this place, huh? Anyway, I finished my business here. Let's go."

The man sighed and quickly followed the girl. He was sent here as one of her protectors. His name was Valeu Samikil, a member of one of the clans that served the Imperial Family. His cultivation was at the peak of the Core Formation Realm. He would also enter the Profound Abyss with Calina later to continue protecting her as ordered.

Rean then returned to Malaka and Roan's side. By now, Kentucky had already come back. It is just that he was a little dirty because of the kicks he did on the ground.

Rean then looked at Malaka, whose sad expression completely disappeared as she hugged Kentucky. It was a wonder whether she had genuinely reflected on her actions or not.

"That blond girl kinda reminds me of Malaka, don't you think?"

Roan had to admit that Rean was right.

"Whatever. Let's leave this place. Look around. Just how many people do you want to be aware of our strength? Couldn't you two be a bit more careful?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders and replied.

"Still, we made a fortune today. We can start cultivating with these Rank Three Spirit Stones once we stabilize our cultivation later."

Malaka then looked at Rean.

"It was me who won these stones. I want some too!"

Rean laughed.

"Alright, alright. I'll give you enough for your cultivation once we are back at the sect."

The Twins, Kentucky, and Malaka then left the gathering under everyone's eyes while talking. Well, it was basically only Malaka and Rean speaking with Kentucky making his 'chick' sounds.