

Death 2341

Death... and me

Chapter 2341: Meeting Gean Again

Gean was taken aback, not believing what he just heard. Immediately, he answered back with another Divine Sense Message. 'Are you crazy? The humanoid races are looking for you everywhere because of that communication whatever of yours. How could you appear here when the big powers at the Center of the Realm of Gods already know from where you came? I might not be able to recognize you, but who knows if some high-level expert is nearby, watching?'

Rean just laughed in response. Gean was more worried about Rean than himself. 'Hahaha! Don't worry, senior Gean. This Body Transformation of mine is perfect. It changes both the aura and body structure. It isn't wrong to say that I'm a completely different person except for my blood. Besides, no one would ever believe it was me if they looked at my cultivation.'

'Cultivation?' Gean had noticed that he couldn't see Rean's cultivation, but only now he noticed that it didn't make sense for Rean to be that strong. 'Wait! Cultivation! How the hell did your cultivation get higher than mine in such a short time?! I can't even see what level you reached now!'

Kentucky just followed right behind with a bored expression as Rean and Gean walked together. Rean and Gean pretended to not know each other and talked about some meaningless things. However, at the same time, they kept exchanging Divine Sense Messages. 'Many things happened, but that is not important now. Here, senior, for all the help you gave me and my brother back then. Make sure to only take the things out of this Spatial Ring when there is absolutely no one looking, even if they are your family members.' Rean then passed a Spatial Ring to Gean.

Yet, Gean refused. 'There is no need. Can't you see the situation of our sect? We have received a huge boost ever since you and your brother helped Jamai win the competition for that free continent. Whatever you could possibly have owed us has already been paid many times over. If anything, I feel like I ripped you off now that I look at how things turned out. Hahaha!'

Rean didn't mind and simply stuffed the Spatial Ring on Gean's hand. 'Then consider this spatial ring a gift of a friend. I'm only passing by, but I will return later to take the teleport formation back to the Center of the Realm of Gods. Anyway, that's basically it. I'll see you in a few days, senior.'

Before Gean could refuse it again, Rean and Kentucky already took flight and disappeared into the distance. With their cultivation, not even Gean could hope to follow them now. In the end, he sighed

and told everyone to go back to their posts. When questioned, he simply said the Jamai Sect seemed to have some business here, but they didn't want to tell him. No one there would question whatever the Jamai Sect wanted to do, so they let the matter rest.

Later, in his own chamber, Gean took the Spatial Ring Rean gave him and had to admit he was quite curious. Considering how much higher Rean's cultivation had become, it was bound to not be simple. Inside, he found a saber.

He knew that Rean had invented the Elements Gathering Weapons, and his own sects had been using them for a while. Yet, the moment he held that saber and ran his Divine Energy through it, he immediately understood how many times better than his own saber that one was. 'This is crazy!'

The only thing Rean did not add to this saber was the Solar Essence. Other than that, Rean forged that saber to the best of his abilities, making it a type of weapon that others could only dream about. Gean immediately fell in love with that weapon, and Rean would have to kill him if he decided to take it back. 'Good saber! What a good saber! Hahaha!'

He immediately sent it into his own Pocket Dimensional Realm, afraid that some calamity would strike out of nowhere and make him lose his new weapon. Right after, he looked at the rest of the items. Inside, there were a total of twenty spheres and a jade slip. Since he couldn't recognize those spheres, he understood that an explanation was probably provided inside the Jade Slip.

Sure enough, when he finished reading the Jade Slip, his breath turned cold. 'Clean Divine Origin Energy! They are filled with Clean, Divine Origin Energy! These things are worth more than Rank Nine Divine Stones! This is a fortune!'

Rean also explained in the Jade Slip that he absolutely couldn't let anyone find out about it. If he did, Rean truly couldn't guarantee he would stay alive for long. In fact, the moment Gean found what they were, he had already understood that principle. Rean's warning was completely unnecessary.

Gean also sent those Spheres, which were the Core of the Machines of the Ruins of Stars, into his Pocket Dimensional Realm. He would never use them outside. Even his gifted saber couldn't compare in importance to them since they could literally be the deciding factor of whether he could achieve breakthroughs in the future or not. 'I have to say... that decision to help those two youngsters was probably the best choice in my life...'

Gean knew where Rean and Roan came from, and his head turned in the direction of the Huring Continent. 'Still, couldn't you have waited a little bit? Huring Continent isn't the same as it was when you two left.'

In the end, Gean just shook his head. 'Oh well, with your cultivation now, it won't matter much anyway. Still, you are in for a big surprise.'

Rean and Kentucky waited for them to be far away. Finally, Rean opened a Spatial Gate, and the two of them left. Without the Continental Barrier's presence, he didn't need to worry about the direction he took. In the end, all Rean needed was a little over a week to arrive at Huring.

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Chapter 2342: Let's Stay Quiet

"Things look quite lively here..." Rean couldn't help but think when he arrived at Huring. He still remembers Huring's conditions when he left. "How could it be this full?"

Rean could see way more cultivators coming and going, and this was just one city. In the next cities he passed by, the situation was the same or even worse. Through his Divine Sense, he could tell that every single city was well above its maximum capacity. There was simply no space for everyone.

Constructions took place pretty much everywhere as all the cities expanded at a ridiculously fast rate. Rean even passed by Yangxi City, one of the cities he visited in the past when his group was still wandering around Huring. That city alone, which wasn't anything that impressive, was now almost three times as big, and it was still fully occupied, with many having nowhere to stay.

Cosec City was no different. Finally, curiosity took the better of Rean, and he came down into the City Lord's mansion. There, he met for the first time the City Lord, some kind of mayor, Trisdoo. Well, even though he was the City Lord, this is Huring Continent, somewhere far away from the Center of the Realm of Gods. His cultivation was only at the Transition Realm.

Zush!

After easily hacking into all the protection formations of the mansion with Sister Orb, Rean suddenly appeared in Trisdor's office, much to the guy's shock! "Who are you?! How dare you invade my office? What the hell are the guards doing?!"

Rean just smiled before he released a tiny bit of his cultivation so that only Trisdor would be able to feel it.

Trisdor's face changed from shock to deep horror. Here in the Huring Continent, someone like Trisdor doesn't even know what the name of Rean's cultivation realm was, showing just how much higher it was compared to his. "S-Sir, s-sorry for my-my outbursts. H-How can this lowly one help you?"

Rean nodded, not taking it to heart. He is the highest authority in the city, and someone invading his mansion like this was indeed quite upsetting. It's just that Rean didn't need to care about such things at his level in a place like this. He just wanted precise information. "There is no need to worry. I didn't come here to do anything to you."

Trisdor immediately nodded. "I know, sir. Someone with a cultivation of your level would never need to accept a job of eliminating someone like me. It simply wouldn't make any sense regardless of how many enemies I might have." Surprisingly, Trisdor quickly calmed down.

"Smart," Rean answered. "The truth is that I'm just passing by. However, I have been to this continent a few hundred years ago. Back then, it wasn't anywhere near as populous as it is now. Even the average cultivation level increased by at least one realm. Why?"

Trisdor was surprised that someone of Rean's level would ever come to an isolated continent like this one, let alone that this was his second time passing here. Nonetheless, he immediately began to give a detailed explanation. "There are two reasons behind it, sir. The first one should be quite obvious, the Continental Barrier disappearance."

Rean nodded. "Yes, the living being that holds the entire Realm of Gods on its back seems to have made an agreement with the Divinity Realm experts of the Center of the Realm of Gods. He will not release his power for a while. Naturally, the Continental barriers won't appear."

"What?!" Trisdor was shocked out of his mind once again. "T-The Realm of Gods... is on the back of a living creature?!" In fact, he didn't even know what kind of monster a Divinity Realm expert was, either.

Only then did Rean remember that very few people knew about such things. "Just forget it. Even if you know this information, it is not like it can be of any use to use. So, what is the second reason?"

Trisdoo didn't know how to react anymore. Rean suddenly dropped a bomb that he found just too hard to believe. Yet, he couldn't think of a reason for someone like Rean to invent a story like that for someone like him. He tried to calm his turbid emotions once again and continued his explanation. "S- So... the second reason is our Huring Sacred Land's Elements Gathering Weapons."

Rean's eyes widened a little. He was the one who introduced the Elements Gathering Weapons for the Sacred Land, after all. Not only that, but he had given them a better forging method than they could ever think about. Of course, in exchange, he got a lot of benefits from the Huring Sacred Land before he and Roan left. 'To think my weapons could create such a situation...'

Trisdoo continued. "The Elements Gathering Weapons and the Sacred Land's special forging method created weapons that could completely destroy any weapons of the same level. As senior definitely knows, there is a limit to the level of a weapon that a cultivator can hold. If it is too high, they can't use it. That said, holding a weapon for one's own level and breaking higher-level weapons guarantees an advantage in power."

Trisdoo sighed as he thought about it. "Because of that, and especially because of the disappearance of the Continental Barriers, countless experts of the surrounding continents have been flocking into our Huring Continent. Even the Sacred Land is having a hard time managing everything."

"I see..." Rean wondered if it was a good thing to give the method away. But then again, it held no danger to himself. The method he passed away was indeed better than anything Huring had before, but it wasn't anywhere near what he himself could achieve. If he were to forge a weapon now, his own would definitely destroy anything of the same level from the Sacred Land. "Oh well, that's their fortune, I guess."

Rean then smiled at Trisdoo. "Thanks for the information. Goodbye." Right after, Rean disappeared from the room as if he had never been there.

Trisdoo sweated cold, feeling like he had just had the scariest experience of his life. 'I... I wonder if I should warn the Sacred Land about this... No, even the Sacred Land would be nothing but a bunch of ants in that senior's eyes. Let's stay quiet.'

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Chapter 2343: Locket

Understanding why huring became like that, Rean couldn't help but smile even more. If the Soul Gem System still worked like in the past, the changes caused by Rean's intervention in this continent would have definitely given him a huge amount of Destiny Points. 'Well, there is nothing to be done about that.'

Rean and Kentucky then flew to Erqs Forest, where Rana, the Fairy Queen, presided over the fairies of the Huring Continent. It had been a few hundred years since he had been back, so he wondered how she was.

The illusion barrier that the fairies created in the Erqs Forest so that others wouldn't find them was pretty useless. Siste Orb quickly found the weak points and hacked into the formation. In fact, if Rean wanted, he could have broken that illusion on his own. It's just that Sister Orb was faster. Not to mention, she could make it so that the formation wouldn't need to be deactivated.

Finally, Rean and Kentucky appeared above the many tree houses in the forest, looking at all the fairies around. Normally, it was not possible to see the fairies unless they wanted to appear in front of you. However, they were Spirits of Light, so they were very obvious in Rean and Kentucky's eyes. Not to mention, their cultivation alone would also be enough to see through their concealment.

Rean then came down, catching the fairies around by surprise. They all kept themselves concealed, but Rean simply turned in the direction of one of the fairies and spoke. "Hahaha! Senior Thicket Cedarthistle, I can see that you are still around."

As soon as that fairy heard his name, surprise appeared on his face. He couldn't recognize Rean's changed appearance, but he definitely wouldn't forget Rean's voice. "This... Rean boy, is that you?" Immediately, he unmade his concealment, appearing in front of Rean.

Rean and Kentucky's appearance changed back to their normal ones as Rean nodded. "Yeap, that's me."

"You brat! Did you see just how much trouble you caused?" Instead of giving a happy welcome, Thicket immediately complained.

Rean scratched the back of his head. "Could you be talking about the Elements Gathering Weapons? Did Lady Tulipa tell you it was me who gave the Huring Sacred Land the forging method?"

Thicket floated in front of Rean and nodded with an angry expression. "Obviously, it was her. She is an Elder in the Sacred Land, after all. Who else could contact us if not her? Because of you, this continent's Karma is all messed up. It is quite annoying, you know?"

Fairies cultivate through Karma, and they can see the Karma Threads that connect people and things. It is through those threads that they attach themselves to certain cultivators or demon beasts and increase their cultivation level. However, the sudden surge of cultivators into the Huring Continent has made too many Karma Threads appear, so it also affects the Fairies Cultivation.

"Sorry, sorry. However, you can't really blame me, right? It is not like I was the one who deactivated the Continental Barriers," Rean tried to apologize. "If not for that, even with the Elements Gathering Weapons, the situation would have never become like this."

"Hmph!" Thicket was still angry, but he knew that Rean was right. "Fine, I can't blame you for that phenomenon. So, what are you doing here? I thought I would never see you again."

"I came to see the Fairy Queen. There is something I need to talk to her about," Rean quickly explained.

However, Thicket's expression changed a bit when Rean asked for Rana. "That might be somewhat difficulty..."

Rean had used his Divine Sense to check the Fairy Forest, especially the enormous three where his Sister lived before. He knew that Rana wasn't there, so he came to ask Thicket first of all. "Could it be she left to somewhere else?"

Suddenly, another voice cut in before Thicket answered. "She did, but she will not be back."

Pretty much all fairies had small bodies, no more than half a meter in size. The only exceptions to that Rule were the Fairy Queens and Kings. Those ones would even be slightly taller than the average human.

The fairy that appeared now just so happened to be one of those, much to Rean's surprise. "Wasn't Huring Continent supposed to have only one Fairy Queen? How come there is another one here?"

That fairy could see the Golden Thread of Karma on Rean and Kentucky's bodies. Only Karma Threads connected to Fairy Queens and Kings had that color. Yet, that was the first time she had seen them. "So you are those guys who came here back then... I heard quite a little about you from the previous Fairy Queen. She told me that you might come by in the future, too."

Rean and Kentucky nodded. "Indeed. Still, you haven't answered my question."

"You were right," that Fairy Queen answered. "There was supposed to be only a single Fairy Queen in Huring Continent, and that's exactly the case at the moment. I'm filling in for your friend since she couldn't take this job anymore."

Rean narrowed his eyes. "Who are you?"

The Fairy Queen then took a golden locket that seemed to be sealed by some kind of power and passed it to Rean. "She told me to give this to you. As for who I am, I'm Arlette Ambercreek."

Rean took the locket and didn't really know what to do with it. "So... what do I do?"

"I don't know," Arlette answered. "She only told me that as long as I gave it to you, you would know what to do. Now, if you have nothing else to do, then I must ask you to leave the Fairy Forest. I don't know how you entered it, but I know your cultivation is very high. Still, I hope you will understand that non-fairies are not welcome here."

Rean looked at Thicket, who nodded back at him. "She truly has nothing to do with the previous Fairy Queen disappearance. In fact, no one knows. All we know is that Arlette was called to take her place."

Arlette nodded. "Sorry for not being able to help you. With this locket delivered, your Karma with this forest is now resolved." She then turned around and left, not in the mood to continue to talk to Rean. Well, Rean caused a lot of problems for the fairies, so it would be weird if she felt happy with his presence.

Seeing Thicket's helpless expression, Rean knew that it was better for him to leave. "In any case, it was good to see you again, senior Thicket."

"You too, Rean boy." Thicket nodded before his body returned to its natural concealed mode.

Rean and Kentucky looked at each other and nodded. Finally, they took flight and left the forest. After opening some distance from there, Roan appeared outside as well, and they all looked at the locket. "Now... what to do with this thing..."

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Chapter 2344: Hamarlia's Family

They tried to open it, but the power protecting the locket made it impossible. Of course, they could force their way through, but everyone there was pretty sure whatever was inside would be destroyed if they did that.

Roan looked at Rean. "Is this some kind of small formation protecting the locket?"

It wasn't Rean who answered, though. Instead, it was Sister Orb. [No. It is absolutely not a formation of inscription. If it was, even if I didn't have the level to hack into it, I would at least be able to tell that it was a formation. Of course, the story could be different if we are talking about a formation or inscription that far surpasses the system's detection ability.]

Sister Orb could even detect Legendary Level Formations, so Rean found it hard to believe this locket had something higher than that. "Still... If it is a formation, what kind would need to be for you to not detect, Sister Orb?"

[It would need to be something at a level higher than Legendary... which doesn't exist in this Universe. Simply put, it would need to be something from outside,] Sister Orb explained.

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky were even more sure now that this locket wasn't protected by a formation. "Since it is not a formation... could it be some kind of fairy special ability?" Rean asked. "I mean, fairies can control and use karma. Perhaps they have some kind of karmic sealing?"

Roan didn't discard that possibility. "Perhaps..."

Kentucky couldn't help but ask. "Then what did she mean with you would know what to do with it? Other than your mother, I don't remember anyone who has something similar to it."

Rean and Roan instantly looked at Kentucky. "What did you say?"

Kentucky looked back at them, confused. "About your mother?"

"Yes!" Rean nodded. "I've never seen Mother with anything similar to this locket, so how can you say she had one?"

Kentucky found it stranger. "That is my question, you know. How come you did not notice it? Sure, she wore it under her clothes all the time, but I'm sure I've seen it once. Well, I didn't have any interest in it, so I've never asked what it was. I thought you knew it. Are you sure you are her sons?"

Rean and Roan ignored Kentucky's last remark and immediately entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They instantly teleported to where the new System/Freedom Sect was being built in there, finding the location where most of the Varen Tribe members lived. Hamarlia was obviously there, too.

"Oh! Rean, Roan, what is it?" Now that she lived in the Dimensional Realm with Turen, the twins would often visit her, so she didn't find it strange that they came once again. "Do you want more deserts?"

Rean quickly shook his head. "That's not it, Mom. Here, take a look at this." Rean then took the locket out, passing it to Hamarlia.

Hamarlia and Turen were quite surprised to see it. "This... it is exactly the same as my own," said Hamarlia.

Turen could tell that, too. "That one your grandfather gave you before passing away is indeed very similar. Didn't you say it was some kind of family heirloom or something like that?"

Hamarlia faintly smiled as she remembered her grandfather, who had passed away years before the twins were even born. "It is indeed. From what he told me, it has been in our family for as long as his own grandfather remembers, so it might have quite a few hundred years. It is from the time before the Varen Tribe was even formed."

Rean and Roan looked at each other, finding the situation quite weird. "This other locket was given to us by Rana."

"Rana?!" Hamarlia's eyes immediately lit up. "Where is she?! Bring your mother to her!"

Unfortunately, Rean shook his head before explaining everything that happened. "In the end, this locket was given to us. What surprised us was that we didn't even know you had something similar to it. It was Kentucky who told us that."

Hamarlia narrowed her eyes. "Are you really my children? How come you never noticed I had it?"

Kentucky nodded. "That's exactly the question I asked them. To think they could be this unfilial... truly disappointing."

Rean and Roan felt like frying the chicken right there and then, but they restrained themselves. "Ahem..." Ahem tried to brush the topic away. "So, Mom, we tried to open it to see if there was any information that could tell us where Rana went. Do you know how to open it?"

Hamarlia nodded with a smile. "If it is the same as my grandfather's, then it is fairly simple as long as you know the method."

The locket had three tiny pins that barely appeared on the three corners of the locket. Hamarlia then pulled one of them and spun a little before pushing it back. Following that, she repeated a set of specific movements that took the twins by surprise.

Turen looked at them, understanding what they were thinking. "I only recently took over my avatar, so I had forgotten about it. But now that you and I are seeing Hamarlia's actions, it is indeed quite weird. Varen Tribe shouldn't have had such a complex mechanism."

Rean nodded. The problem wasn't the mechanism, as he had found some during his time in Sunkan. Instead, it was the size that bothered him. Without fine-precision tools, which you probably would find very hard to acquire even if you used the Sasamil Empire's connections, you should be able to make something that good. Yet, Hamarlia's side of the family had this and kept it for so long.

Clack!

When Hamarlia finished the last set of movements, there was a small sound coming from the locket.

Clack, clack, clack, clack...

Following that, the locket seemed to come alive as even more mechanisms seemed to work inside it. By now, Rean had already discarded the idea of Sunkan Planet. "There is absolutely no way Sunkan had any place capable of crafting something like this..."

Pin!

Just as the locket was about to open, another sound echoed in the twins' minds. It's just that only they heard it.

[New Quest Available]

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Chapter 2345: Why So Smart?

[As the paths of destiny connect to each other, so do the paths of the hosts with the Universe. By following one's roots, the hosts have arrived at the karmic conjecture of destiny. Accept your fate or defy it. Ultimately, the host can not deny it.]

[New Quest: Follow this path and find the source of the calamity. As for what to do with it, that will depend on the hosts' own choices.]

[Time: Unlimited]

[Destiny Points Reward: To be calculated upon quest conclusion]

[Failure Conditions: None]

[Title Reward: Calamity Manipulators]

The twins were taken aback by the system's voice. It had been a very long time since it gave a quest. Of course, not counting the quests related to the Fragments of the Universe.

Click!

However, they didn't have time to think about it as the locket now opened. "This is..."

Inside, there was a very old picture, already all yellowed due to its age. Yet, there seemed to be some kind of power over the picture that prevented it from being damaged. It was the same power that kept the locket closed. "It doesn't make any sense..." Rean couldn't help but mention.

Roan nodded, not understanding it either. Although the picture in the locket was small, with their eyes, it was possible to see that it had thousands of lines. Still, they didn't form any kind of specific shape. "I can't figure it out either."

Turen pondered a bit before looking at Hamarlia. "Honey, could you take out your locket as well?"

Hamarlia nodded and took the locket being held with a small chain around her neck. Sure enough, this locket was basically the perfect copy of the locket that was given to Rean and Roan by Rana. However, Rean, Roan, Turen, and Kentucky could immediately feel the same faint power around it. "We have never noticed it before."

Turen knew why. "Before, I only had my own avatar's perception, and I didn't even control it. Naturally, I would fail to perceive something like this. The same thing happened to you back then. You didn't have the necessary cultivation to perceive it either."

"It quite bothers me seeing you all talking like that," hamarlia complained. It was obvious that their group was now relying on their cultivation to make those conjectures. She, on the other hand, was just too weak. Rean and Roan provided her with resources, while Turen gave his knowledge. Thanks to that, hamarlia had already reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. Still, compared to those four monsters in front of her, that was truly nothing at all.

Still, she began to do the same actions and movements as before, working with the three small pins on the locket. After a few moments, it started.

Click, clack, clack, clack...

Finally, it also opened, showing a similar picture to the locket that was given to the twins by Rana. It's just that they form two different images... if they could be called images at all. They still couldn't see any sense in the pictures.

Yet, only a few seconds passed when suddenly, both images began to resonate with each other. The lockets faintly shined with a golden light, creating a small projection in mid-air. Those two projections merged together, forming a 3D image that seemed to be part of a map.

Everyone's expression was quite wondrous. It is one thing for Rana's locket to have some kind of secret. After all, she is a Fairy Queen and lived in the Realm of Gods longer than the twins themselves. It would make sense if she had stumbled into a few secrets.

However, the problem was Hamarlia's locket. How did this thing, which is obviously linked to Rana's locket, end in the hands of her family in the Mortal Realm? What kind of ancestor did Hamarlia have to put his or her hands on this thing. Better than that, perhaps it was this ancestor who created the lockets? No one could tell for sure.

"This is definitely a map... but it is incomplete," Roan finally spoke. "It is impossible to tell where it leads with just this much. The Realm of Gods is ridiculously big. Not to mention, we have the Underworld and the Heavens as well. "

Rean then added. "Underworld? Heavens? Realm of Gods? Your range is too small. It might also be somewhere in the Mortal Realm. Hell, perhaps it is even on the other half of the Universe."

"I just don't understand why Rana left after leaving it behind," Turen suddenly commented. "Would it have been better if she had waited? Also, why did she only deliver it now? Why didn't she give you this locket back when you met her for the first time in the Realm of Gods?"

Rean and the others went silent. There were too many questions, but no answer.

Rean then looked at his mother. "Mom, did your grandfather tell you anything about the origin of this thing?"

Hamarlia quickly shook her head. "No. Back then, when he gave me this, he just told me his own grandfather passed it to him and that it was a heirloom. His own grandfather had received it from his mother, who also received it from her mother, who received it from her father, and so on and so forth... or so I was told. Other than that, he emphasized it was extremely important to keep it going down the line, nothing else. For me, it is more like a keepsake of my grandfather that I loved very much."

"What about your parents, Lady Hamarlia?" Kentucky couldn't help but ask, seeing she received it from her grandfather instead of her mother or father.

"They died when I was very young," she replied. "That's why my grandfather was the one to give me this. Otherwise, it would probably have been my parents instead."

Rean scratched the back of his head and shook it in the end. "Forget it! I give up! I can't see how we can use these two to find anything."

Everyone nodded, helpless at the lack of information.

However, Kentucky remembered something. "This thing is connected to your family, isn't it? That means your bloodline. In the Realm of Gods, we have many things that can be bound by one's blood. Have you tried to drop some on it?"

Everyone looked at Kentucky, surprised. "Since when did you get this smart?"

"Fuck you!" Kentucky answered straight away.

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Chapter 2346: Priority

"Anyway, it is definitely worth a try," said Roan.

Rean nodded. "Indeed. Mom, give me them so that I can try."

Yet, before Rean even extended his hand, Hamarlia had already bit her finger. "This is mine, so I'll do it." Right after, she released a drop of her blood on her locket, leaving Rana's locket on the side.

As soon as the drop of blood fell on her locket, it was instantly absorbed by the locket, which began to shine with an even brighter golden color.

There was also the other locket. This time, it was Rean who used a drop of his blood. After all, as the son of Hamarlia, he obviously was part of the same bloodline. Yet, this locket had absolutely no reaction other than the same one from before.

"Hum... could it be my bloodline is too thin?" Rean wondered.

Hamarlia then used the same cut to release another drop of her blood on the locket from Rana. Unfortunately, the result was the same. The blood had no use. Both Rean and Hamarlia's blood just stayed there, not being absorbed at all. "What do we do now?"

"Just put both lockets close to each other again," Roan suggested. "Perhaps with one activated, it might be enough to get some reaction."

Rean and Hamarlia put the lockets close to each other. The locket that had absorbed Hamarlia's blood immediately reacted. The brighter and the lesser golden lights once again merged together, changing the picture of the map slightly. Yet, it wasn't the map that caught everyone's attention. Instead, it was the blood-golden arrow light pointing in several different directions nonstop.

Seeing that, Sister Orb had an idea. "Isn't this thing acting like kind of a compass?"

Everyone had to admit her words made sense. "It can't find a direction, though."

That's because we are inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm," Roan immediately understood. "Let's go outside and see what happens."

Zush, zush, zush, zush, zush...

The twins' group quickly appeared outside, holding the lockets in their hands. The lockets were still acting together. Yet, this time, the blood-golden arrow began to stabilize. After a few seconds, it finally stopped moving, pointing in a specific direction. "This direction..."

"Does any of you know where it is pointing at?" Kentucky asked.

However, everyone shook their heads. "No. We can't even tell where it is in the Realm of Gods. Is it in the Realm of Gods to start with? It's just a general direction, nothing else."

Turen looked in that direction. "Well, one thing is sure: this thing is not pointing in the direction of the Central Area of the Realm of Gods. At the moment, that's all I can say."

Indeed, the twins' group at least knew the direction of the Central Area of the Realm of Gods, and the arrow wasn't pointing there.

"Sigh..." Rean then looked at everyone. "What do we do now? Do we follow the arrow, not knowing how far it is? Don't forget Kentucky, and I need to be back before the three-month time is up. We have joined the army to look for that member of the Essence Race, after all."

Roan immediately shook his head. "Even though we don't really need to worry about being excluded from the army since we can simply change our appearances again, I prefer to go there now. At least we have a clear objective in mind. Rana should not be in any danger at the moment since she would definitely have warned us if that was the case. The member of the Essence Race might not be the case, though."

Rean and the others nodded. Right after, Rean passed Rana's locket to Hamarlia. "Mom, you hold into these two lockets then. Perhaps you will find some other secrets to its mechanisms."

Hamarlia didn't mind. "Alright, then send me back home."

The twins nodded, and Hamarlia disappeared from the outside world. Turen and Roan did the same, disappearing in the next second. Only Kentucky and Rean were left outside. "Let's go back, Kentucky."

Kentucky nodded and waited for Rean to open a spatial gate. The two of them entered it, leaving the Huring Continent sometime later. As for all the changes Rean's Elements Gathering Weapons made, there was nothing he could do about it. Still, he wondered just how long it would take until the Central Area of the Realm of Gods noticed this new type of weapon. 'Well, it should be fun to watch when the time comes. If I'm not wrong, Jamai Sect most likely already began to put its eyes on it.'

Another week and something passed when a Spatial Gate appeared near the Jhiod Sect. Kentucky and Rean came out, flying the rest of the way and meeting Gean once again there.

'So, did you like the changes in Huring?' Gean smiled as he asked.

Rean scratched the back of his head. 'I didn't expect my weapons would cause such a huge change. Of course, this is mostly due to the disappearance of the Continental Barrier.'

Gean nodded. 'Indeed. Still, if the Huring Sacred Land plays its cards right, it might truly emerge as a big power in this continental region. Well, they are quite far away from us, and we also have your forging method, so it matters little to us. By the way, good saber!'

"Hahaha!" Rean couldn't help but laugh. 'I thought you would like it. Compared to the weapons forged with the method I shared, your saber is like gold compared to dirt.'

Gean knew he was telling the truth. 'Thank you, especially for those cores. I'll make sure to keep them hidden.'

'That's for your own good,' Rean added.

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Rean and Kentucky finally stepped on the Teleport Formation. They quickly passed the Rank Seven Divine Stones necessary to activate the teleport, which was promptly carried by the various formations masters. 'Good bye, senior Gean.'

'I hope to see you guys again,' Gean smiled and nodded.

Finally, with a flash of silver light, Rean and Kentucky disappeared from Jhiod Sect.

Death... and me

Chapter 2347: To the Devils' Territory

Kentucky and Rean didn't even stop to meet Luina in the Jamai Sect. As soon as they arrived, they paid for another Long-Distance Teleport Formation and disappeared once again. This time, they went to a city called Joshuy. It was one of the big cities of Lantripass Continent and had one of the military teleport formations set up.

Rean and Kentucky, using their fake appearance, showed their identification, which was now done through the communication badge. They weren't teleported straight away, though. Such Teleport Formations cost a lot of high-level Divine Stones. That said, the teleportations were only done when enough experts gathered.

Kentucky and Rean were already lucky, though. Most of the cultivators who joined the war had to travel by airships, packed inside in the thousands. That is another reason why preparation for the war took so long. For experts of Rean and Kentucky levels, they at least had access to free teleportation. That only happened for groups with Void Tempering Realm experts or above.

Of course, Rean could just pay and have himself teleported away without having to wait. Still, he only had to wait a day, and he would save his Divine Stones, so he didn't mind.

Rean then went out of the recruitment office where the teleport formation was located and rented a room in a hostel. There was another thing Rean wanted to check before going to the Devils' Territory.

Zush, zush, zush.

Hamarlia, Roan, and Turen once again appeared. Hamarlia obviously held the two locket. "Should we try it now?"

Everyone nodded. The idea was quite simple. Back in the Huring Continent, the two lockets only showed a simple direction to move. It wasn't possible to even tell whether it was in the Realm of Gods or not. However, now that they had left such a faraway place and come to the Central Area, the arrow was bound to have changed direction.

If the arrow still pointed relatively in the same direction after going this far, then it was pretty much guaranteed it was pointing somewhere beyond the boundaries of the Realm of Gods. If it changed a lot, then it was most likely still in the Realm of Gods.

The two lockets activated, with one of them using Hamarlia's blood to have the extra reaction. The same blood-golden arrow appeared above the map projected in the middle of the room. It spun just like before, trying to find its target. Finally, it began to stabilize before stopping in a specific direction.

The twins' group's eyes narrowed when they saw it. "Even after going from Huring all the way here in Joshuy, the arrow has barely moved at all..."

Roan nodded. "That pretty much confirms it. The location it is pointing at is most likely outside the Realm of Gods. If it is the Realm of Gods, then it will be at the very outskirts of it. As you all know, the further away we go, the harder it is to find Long-Distance Teleport Formations. Rean had to open countless Spatial Gates in the Demon Beast Territory until he finally arrived in a Demon Beast city with one. Considering the change in the arrow, we can be sure it is truly, truly far away. We might have to rely on Spatial Gates once again."

Rean agreed with him. "Indeed. In that case, coming to the Devils' Territory to find that Essence Race member was the best option. Before we reach the Space-Time Realm, our Spatial Gates can't go that far. It will be better to wait for a breakthrough before we take this journey."

"Well, we are already in the Peak Stage of the Elemental Space Realm. The next step is the Space-Time Realm. It will be fine," said Kentucky.

Rean then looked at Hamarlia. "Sorry, Mom, but it will have to wait. We are simply powerless to change it at the moment."

Hamarlia shook her head. "It's fine. The one who was supposed to find a solution is not you, but your useless dad here. Isn't he supposed to be one of the experts with the highest cultivation in the Universe? Yet, he is trapped in that temporal whatever. Such a disappointment..."

Turen bitterly smiled. It wasn't like he was really trapped since he could come out if he wanted. It's just that there would be way too many experts at the same level as him, hunting him down for his Fragment of the Universe Foundation. Everyone knew he possessed one of those. "Ahem... I'm working on it..."

Rean glanced at Turen's helpless face and felt like laughing. 'Hasn't she forgiven you already?'

Turen sighed in response. 'She did... but that doesn't mean she isn't angry about it. Boy, we haven't done 'that' ever since I told her about my real identity.'

Rean was speechless. That was the kind of information he truly would rather not know about. Who would want to know about the sexual life of their parents? 'Errr... hold in there.' That was all he could say in the end.

Turen nodded, feeling dejected.

Roan didn't want to waste time there, though. "Alright, since it is decided, then let's go back. Rean and Kentucky will stay and teleport to the Devils' Territory tomorrow. Let's go."

The next day, Rean and Kentucky left the hostel, moving to the recruitment center. When they got there, they saw quite a few tens of cultivators, most of them in the Void Tempering Realm. Because there was still a lot of space remaining, the officers also added a few Transition Realm experts who were lucky enough to be here at the right time. Otherwise, they would have to wait for the next airship and take several months to reach their destination.

Rean and Kentucky could also see five Space Bending Realm experts in the midst of the groups. Everyone treated them with respect.

As for the Elemental Space Realm, only Rean and Kentucky fulfilled that criteria.

Around an hour later, the manager of that recruitment office came out. "Everyone, thank you for waiting. This teleport is going to the Tormalek Continent, which is one of the most dangerous continents in this war. Make sure this is truly the destination you selected before stepping on the teleport formation."

Rean and Kentucky didn't think twice, walking to the formation. Everyone else followed suit. Most of them were after the rewards of the Merit System, and a continent like this would be where they could make more points the fastest.

Just as the teleport formation was about to activate, a voice echoed from the distance. "Wait! I'm going too!"

Everyone turned their heads in the direction and saw a kid running in their direction. He looked to be no more than five or six, yet none of them could see through his cultivation. Well, Rean and Kentucky could, though. 'Elemental Space Realm Peak Stage too...'

The 'kid' quickly stepped on the formation before giving a smile to Rean and Kentucky. Naturally, he also noticed that Rean and Kentucky had the same cultivation as him. "Nice to meet you."

Before Rean and Kentucky could answer, the teleport formation activated, and everyone disappeared.

Death... and me

Chapter 2348: Tormalek

2348 Tormalek

Tormalek Continent was located in the northeast region of the Devils' Territories. Since most of the invasion started from the south, southwest, and west, the northeast was the direction most of the Devils' forces retreated while trying to hold the advance of their enemies. Still, if you took the entire territory of the Devils into consideration, Tormalek was closer to the center, although it was true it was on the northeast side.

That said, the Tormalek Continent became one of the continents with the most concentration of Devils, where the humanoid, demon beast, and spirit armies found it hard to advance. In the central area of the Realm of Gods, the southwest of the Devils' Territory in that central area has already been conquered.

At the border of the Tormalek Continent in the southwest, there was a city that had just been conquered a few months ago. It went by the name of Gloglie City, and the signs of Devil occupation were still visible everywhere there. The most prominent being the high concentration of Dark Element compared to the others.

After dominating this area for so many years, the devils used several methods to make the environment better for their survival. There were many giant dark trees known as Underworld Death Trees planted in all the Devil's Territory. In the Underworld, they were pretty common and didn't catch much attention. However, once planted in an environment with Divine Energy instead of Devilish Energy, that showed their real use.

Those three were able to absorb Divine Energy and release great concentrations of Dark Element in exchange. The much higher Dark Element environment gave birth to Devilish Energy, which shared space with the normal Divine Energy.

For the devils, those trees were of paramount importance back when they attacked the essence race. Above all, they were very easy to acquire in the Underworld to be transported to the Realm of Gods. The Devils' Territory, at the moment, had a higher concentration of Underworld Death Trees than many of the Underworld Regions themselves.

This high concentration of Dark Element and a more or less equal concentration of Devilish Energy and Divine Energy gave the Devils a huge advantage. Saying that these trees were the reason for the Devils' resistance being this tough is already underestimating these trees' achievement.

As a result, everywhere the Demon Beasts, Humanoids, and Spirits conquered, they would send many squadrons with the sole reason of destroying these trees. Yet, there were countless Underworld Death Trees in the Devils' Territory, so getting rid of them was a very time-consuming job.

Gloglie City and its surroundings had only been conquered a few months ago, so many of those trees still stood. Besides, it wasn't just because you destroyed the three that the environment would suddenly go back to normal. After being under the influence of Dark Element and Devilish Energy for this long, it would take quite a few years before Devilish Energy completely disappeared, and only after the Underworld Trees in the region were destroyed.

In this same Gloglie City, a Long-Distance Teleport Formation had been built less than two months ago. Still, it was often used, receiving teleportations several times each day. Those who operated it couldn't help but wonder just how many high-level Divine Stones were used to arrive at this place.

Suddenly, the formation activated once again. With a huge flash of silver light, several tens of cultivators of the humanoid races and a few demon beasts in their humanoid forms appeared. Within this group, one could see a middle-aged man followed by a demon beast in human form. On their side, a 'kid' of five or six years old could also be seen.

These people were obviously Rean and Kentucky, who had their appearances changed. As for the kid... Well, Rean and Kentucky had no idea who the kid was, just that he had the same cultivation as them.

Rean then looked at the kid and smiled. "Sorry, the teleport formation activated, and I couldn't answer you. Nice to meet you, too. My name is Goku, and this on my side is Kenny." That's the names Rean and Kentucky decided to use here.

The kid just shook his head. "Don't worry, these kind of things don't bother me. You can call me Essefy. I'll be honest: I didn't expect to find someone at the same cultivation as me for this journey. Pretty much everyone in the Elemental Space Realm who wanted to go to the war had gone already, so it is rare to see more of us arriving at this point. To have three of us at the same time is even more unusual."

"Hahaha!" Rean laughed in response. "We had no choice in our case."

Kentucky... or Kenny... nodded. "Goku and I had been in seclusion together for a very long time to achieve our breakthroughs. We completely hid ourselves and simply didn't bother with the outside world. You can imagine our surprise when we found out that the demon beasts, humanoids, and spirits had started an attack against the devils. Above all, they managed to turn OFF the Continental Barriers."

Essefy wasn't surprised to hear that. "There is nothing wrong with that. I myself spent almost 400 years during my last seclusion. Although I didn't cut my connection with the outside world completely, I warned my disciples to only call me if it was absolutely necessary, so I wasn't far from being like you. During these 400 years, I was only called out twice due to some circumstances regarding my territory. Well, who are we fooling here? When someone at my level disappears and leaves his territory for someone else to look after, there will always be someone else wishing to try their luck. Hahaha!"

Rean and Kentucky understood. The times Essefy came out was basically to drive out the ones who tried to conquer his territory. Even though he has disciples, they are most likely in the Space Bending Realm or below. "Fortunately, my friend and I don't have any territory, so we didn't have to worry about such things."

"Sigh..." Essefy could see the advantage there. "Sometimes I wonder if it was really a good idea to get a territory for myself. Oh well, whatever. What is done is done. So, are you here for the Merit Points as well?"

Rean nodded and was just about to answer when his communication badge activated. Not only his but everyone else's, too. "Seems like our new bosses already know of our arrival."

Death... and me

Chapter 2349: Finally Here

2349 Finally Here

Since Rean selected this region, his commander was already decided. It was an Initial Stage Divinity Realm expert called Hrumes. He was also someone from the Rambram Sect, the same sect that helped organize the Free Continent Competition back in the day. 'He should be related to that guy called Fosleve, the Sect Master of the Rambram Sect,' Rean thought.

The contents of his message were basically the same as Kentucky's. He had to go to the Limigo Region, where the army was now gathered and waiting to start the next advance. However, the location of the gathering was a little odd. Although Limigo was indeed where the army was gathered, the point where he and Kentucky had to go was a few tens of thousands of kilometers away. It might look a lot, but in the Realm of Gods, such a distance usually wouldn't cover even the space between two nearby cities.

"Limigo, uh?" Rean murmured a bit.

Kentucky nodded. "That's convenient. Don't you want to gain merit points? This call to this further away point will probably give us the chance to accumulate more of those. It is probably some separate mission."

Essefy heard that on the side. "Oh, so you were called there too? I just happened to receive the same order. It is good if it is a separate objective. Other than just killing devils, such missions would often reward a good amount of Merit Points. How about we go there together?"

Rean and Kentucky looked at each other before nodding at Essefy. "Sure, the more, the better."

Their group quickly took flight and disappeared in the distance. On the way, Rean took the opportunity to start their investigation with Essefy. "You know, I've heard that the Devils' Territory was first dominated by the Essence Race. However, it was during a time when I wasn't even born yet. Have you ever seen one before, Essefy?"

Essefy looked at Rean with surprise. "Essence Race? Honestly, I feel like they are more like fairy tales than truth. I mean, how could a race with such a blessing for cultivation truly get wiped out? It is hard to believe, don't you think?"

Rean shook his head. "Not necessarily. From the information I got, the Essence Race was extremely rare. They didn't reproduce. Instead, they were born from the Essence Energy of Heaven and Earth in extremely specific conditions. Such conditions were so rare that they basically only happened on the Northeast Side of the Realm of Gods and close to the central area. At their peak, there were no more than a few million Essence Race members. Compared to the billions if not trillions of devils that said that, he couldn't help but remember Cryan, the Essence Crystal living being. 'Could Cryan be 11:18

considered an Essence Race being?' Rean wondered.

invaded their territory, individual strength truly wouldn't be of much help."

"Hum..." Essefy thought about Rean's words. "Perhaps you are right. Still, the Essence Race would have noticed at some point that they couldn't save their territory, right? Considering their power, how come at least their strongest experts didn't flee to the Humanoid, Demon Beast, or Spirit Race Territories? It is still kind of fishy."

Rean had to admit Essefy's words made sense. "Could it be that the same way they could only be born in this region of the Realm of Gods, they also couldn't leave it? I know a few races that are more or less bound to the area where they were born. If they left, chances are they couldn't survive."

"You might be right," Essefy agreed with Rean. "In any case, this is a matter of the past. What is the point in talking about it now?"

Rean smiled in response. "Could it be that you don't find it curious? I would love to meet an Essence Race member and experience their legendary power. Oh, don't get me wrong. I'm not some battle maniac or anything. I just wish I could exchange experience with them in any way possible." As Rean said that, he couldn't help but remember Cryan, the Essence Crystal living being. 'Could Cryan be considered an Essence Race being?' Rean wondered.

Essefy looked at Rean's expression. "Well, if you find one, let me know. I'm not as curious as you, but I think it would be interesting to meet one of them."

Rean nodded. "Sure. By the way, Essefy. I intend to find out more about the Essence Race while I'm here in the Devils' Territory. Well, I guess it is more correct to say that this is the Essence Race Territory instead. In any case, I don't mind paying for information, even if it is Merit Points. If you find anything or know anyone who has some information about them, let me know."

Essefy didn't mind. "Sure thing. If it is Merit Points, I'll even put in some extra effort. There are many ruins from the time the Essence Race existed. If I find anyone worth checking, I'll give you a call. Give me your badge number."

Rean quickly passed his number to Essefy. "Thanks."

Rean also took the chance to enter the communication system network. Other than the online market, there was also a separate system for the war. There, one could find pretty much any cultivator, demon beast, or spirit taking part in this event. Rean quickly left a request there, asking for any information regarding the Essence Race. Rean even added a huge reward in Rank Seven Divine Stones if anyone could tell him where to find a living member of the Essence Race.

After that, Rean did exactly the same thing in the Online Market. As for Roan's request for the materials for Celis's Earth Life Pill, there was still no answer. Rean then increased the price, stating that just the information of where to get such things would still be well rewarded.

A day later, Rean, Kentucky, and Essefy arrived at the location shown in their communication badge. There, another five figures seemed to be waiting for them.

One of them looked in their direction, faintly smiling. "They are finally here."

Death... and me

Chapter 2350: Formation Core Attack

Rean, Kentucky, and Essefy did a quick introduction before going into the main topic. "So, what are we supposed to do here? The army is quite far from, no?"

A man stepped forward. Rean had seen his picture on the communication badge network. He was the leader of this army in the region of Tormalek, Hrumes. A Divinity Realm Initial Stage expert. "It's good that you are in the mood for this. The reason we gathered this far is because I'm sending this team on a separate mission."

Hrumes then looked at a middle-aged woman on the side. "Klangia, you know what to do, right?" Klangia nodded and waited for Hrumes to continue. "Good. Klangia here will be the leader of this party. She is a Space-Time Realm Middle Stage cultivator, so you can count on her. I'll be leaving now since I need to be at the front of the army. As for the rest, she will explain everything."

Hrumes then took flight and opened a Spatial Gate. Soon after, he disappeared inside, and the Spatial Gate disappeared behind him. Rean couldn't help but wonder why Hrumes had come at all. 'He probably wanted to see if the cultivation we mentioned in the recruitment office was real or not...' he thought for a moment.

Kanglia then moved to the center and began to explain. "Our mission is to destroy the core of the protection formation in the center of the Limigo Region. It is being held by several Elemental Space and two Space-Time Realm devils. This formation is impeding us from destroying the Underworld Death Trees, so the Dark Element and Devilish Energy keep at a steady rate regardless of what we do in this region. We need to put a stop to it."

She continued. "Most of the army of the Devils is positioned against our cultivators' army. They had no choice other than doing so since retreating would mean the loss of the Limigo Region for them as well. Above all, the destruction of the Underworld Death Trees."

"Senior Hrume will lead the army to attack the formation at the front while we will sneak behind and try to destroy the formation core. Remember, the objective is not to defeat or kill the devils there, only to destroy the core. Even though we are going from behind, the devils definitely expect our forces to

attack from somewhere else anyway. There will be defenses in place. Our advantage is that our cultivators, demon beasts, and spirits high-level experts are much more numerous. Even though they know it, there isn't much they can do, so they will focus everything on defending it."

Everyone there nodded. It was a pretty simple objective, even though it would probably be hard to complete. "What kind of defenses can we expect there?" Essefy took the chance to ask."

"Mostly big number of devils in the Transition Realm and Void Tempering Realm," Kanglia answered. "Even though they aren't much of a threat to people at our level when many of them combine their efforts, they might become a deciding factor. So be careful to not be swarmed. Other than that, we expect a few slaughtering formations. Yet, the devils aren't as good as us with such formations, so it should be fairly easy to spot them. Nonetheless, don't just rush in without making sure."

Essefy nodded, satisfied. "That's very straightforward. I like it."

Rean also took the chance to ask. "Before we go, let me make a request. I'm looking for information regarding the Essence Race or anyone alive from their race as well. I'm paying quite well for any of those two, so let me know if you guys find something."

Kanglia and the others looked at Rean and confusion. Yet, everyone had their own agendas, so they didn't mind. "No problem. Just make sure your research doesn't get between your duty to the army. We will let you know if we find something."

With that settled, Kanglia took flight. "Let's go. We can get a little closer before senior Hrume sends us the order to attack. We will only move when the two armies strike."

Everyone followed behind her. Kentucky then thought about something. "Senior Kanglia, what about the Devil Race Divinity Realm experts? Wouldn't it be bad if they appear while we are attacking?"

"Don't worry," Kanglia didn't seem to care that much. "All the armies in the Devils' Territory are keeping a very close eye on the Divinity Realm experts of the Devil Race. We know which places they are defending, and our own Divinity Realm experts are making sure to keep them occupied. Unless they want to lose even more of their territory, the Divinity Realm experts of the Devil Race definitely won't leave their positions."

Kentucky sighed in relief. "That's good, that's good."

Around three hours later, they arrived at the right position and concealed themselves. There, they waited for Hrume's call. In fact, it didn't take long for things to heat up.

boom, boom, boom...

Faint sounds of explosions and blasts of Divine Energy could be heard and felt coming from far away. It was definitely hundreds of kilometers of distance, but due to the enormous size of the clash happening there, Rean's group could still feel it from here. "Seems like they started."

Bzzz...

A few minutes later, everyone's communication badge received the call. Kanglia looked into the message, and her vision became sharp. "It's here, let's go!"

She immediately released her concealment and shot from behind a hill at full speed. Rean and the others did the same, flying in the direction of the formation core. They spread their Divine Senses, and not long after, the vision of the formation in the distance appeared in their minds.

"Senior Kanglia, how are we getting inside?" Rean asked as they sped forward.

Kanglia then took an item from her Pocket Dimensional Realm. It looked like a needle that emanated a faint spatial power. "This will take care of it. Once I thrust this needle at the formation, a small gap will be opened for a few seconds. Use this chance to get inside."

Finally, they arrived at the formation, and the operation started.