

Death 2371

Death... and me

Chapter 2371: Square Space

"That helped a lot, Kenny," Rean said with a smile.

Kentucky nodded and immediately turned around. "Alright, you guys go ahead. I'll stay behind and watch." He might have helped open the gate, but he definitely wouldn't follow.

Rean shrugged his shoulders and looked at Zandolf and Essefy. "What now?"

Zandolf immediately took the lead. "What else? Let's go."

Rean and Essefy nodded, feeling a little more respect for the man. He could use his cultivation to force Rean and Essefy to go ahead, but he did it himself.

The three of them passed through the opening of the gate, entering another corridor. To be safe, Zandolf put a few more things in between the two doors of the gate to make sure it wouldn't close. Only then did they continue. Rean once again had to summon his Light Element to generate some illumination on the way.

However, it didn't take more than a minute for them to notice something. "Everything is so clean..."

Zandolf agreed. "Indeed. Everything outside was filled with dust due to the long time that had passed. Yet, everything here is spot-clean. Could someone really be here, maybe the Essece Race?"

Rean shook his head. "Not necessarily. If this place was tightly closed to the point no air circulated, and no dust could come from anywhere else, there would be no dust regardless of how long it has been."

The corridor continued for a while, though. It wasn't before ten minutes of walking, following this corridor that led even further down, that they finally reached somewhere different. Another door appeared in front of them, although this one wasn't like normal doors. It was circular and small, which would need Rean and the others to crouch down to pass.

They opened that door, and immediately, Rean's light sphere became useless as everything inside was illuminated. Zandolf narrowed his eyes but passed through the entrance anyway. Rean and Essefy followed right behind.

The illumination wasn't coming from the roof, though. Instead, it seemed to come from further ahead, from an even lower height. Only then did they notice that their field of view expanded tremendously. From the looks of it, they had entered a gigantic square space that extended tens of kilometers in four directions.

They noticed that they were much higher than the source of all the light, so they approached the front, which looked more like a cliff. However, none of them expected to see what was down below in this gigantic square cave. "This..."

Colored flames... tens of thousands of them... floated everywhere down there. They had several different forms. No, it was better to say that they could take any form they wanted, as Rean, Zandolf, and Essefy noticed some of them changing shape here and there. But above all, there were many buildings extending through the entire cave.

It didn't matter how one looked at it. That was definitely a city, and a very lively one! "The... Essence Race... and a city?" Rean, Zandolf, and Essefy seemed incredulous.

At the very center of that city, Rean noticed a gigantic cube, one that was a perfect copy of the cubes they had seen in the images while they walked down here.

"Hehe..." Zandolf couldn't help but feel excited. "Hahaha! So many Essence Race beings! Sure the secret I'm looking for is here. It must be!"

Rean was more interested in something else, though. 'How is it, Sister Orb? Senior Hyeoumu said that a fragment could be found in the hands of an Essence Race member. Can the system feel the presence of the fragment? There are so many Essence Race members here, after all.'

Yet, Sister Orb found it hard to answer. [I'm not sure. The system itself seems to be struggling with something, but I can't tell if it has anything to do with a fragment or not. Nonetheless, for the system to react like this, there must be something related to it here.]

Suddenly, one of the buildings in the distance shined brightly with colored color. Right after, three Essence Race members appeared, looking to be much bigger flames than all the rest. They quickly made their way to Rean's group direction.

Zandolf, Rean, and Essefy didn't act harshly. It was to be expected that their presence was found after they opened the gate, after all.

Finally, those three stopped in front of Rean's group while the center flame took a humanoid shape and stepped forward. "Humans? How did you get here? Did you escape the camps of concentration of the Devil Races?"

However, another flame immediately took humanoid form and pointed at Zandolf. "There is no way they are devil food. Look at this guy. He is in the Middle Stage of the Divinity Realm. The other two are in the Elemental Space Realm Peak, which is quite high, too. The Devils would never nurture such experts in their own home."

Zandolf was surprised they could tell his cultivation. After all, Divine Sense worked strangely in this place, showing nothing but a gray mist. Still, he was the leader of this group, so he had to take the initiative to talk. "Are you members of the Essence Race?"

Yet, it didn't seem like the flames wanted to answer. Instead, the three of them formed a circle around Rean's group as if trying to prevent them from escaping. "It might look rude, but we can't let you leave this place. Just surrender nicely, and we won't need to use force here."

One of them looked at Zandolf, who seemed to be prepared to fight. "I might tell you as well. All three of us are at the Peak Stage of the Divinity Realm. A brat like you won't stand a chance."

Zandolf was taken aback. He was a Divinity Realm Cultivator, but he was only in the Middle Stage. Yet, he couldn't confirm the flame's words since his Divine Sense didn't work. "And do you expect me to believe you?"

The leader of these Essence Race members seemed to understand something. He then made a few hand seals, which seemed to interact with the environment around Zandolf, Rean, and Essefy. Suddenly, their Divine Senses came back to normal.

Zandolf was the one to feel the greatest shock. That's because he now knows that Essence Race guy wasn't lying. Each of these flames is indeed at the Peak Stage of the Divinity Realm!

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Chapter 2372: Essence Race Leader

Zandolf immediately stopped circulating his Divine Origin Energy, knowing that even he wouldn't be able to escape from this place. Seeing that, the leader of the Essence Race group nodded. "You are very sensible. So, have you brought anyone else with you?"

Zandolf glanced at Rean, who sighed in response. "I have a Demon Beast friend waiting at the entrance, outside of that gate that attacked us. He stayed there to watch our back while we investigated this place. However, he still doesn't know about what can be found here."

The flame nodded. "Very well." It then looked at another one of his companions. "Trulo, go out there and bring that Demon Beast inside."

Trulo nodded and immediately disappeared. Following that, the leader looked back at Rean's group before saying, "Come with me. Obviously, don't try anything funny since we don't really have a reason to keep you alive. It's just that we don't have a reason to kill you either."

Rean, Essefy, and Zandolf took flight right behind the two remaining Essence Race Divinity Realm experts. From the looks of it, they were all flying in the direction of the gigantic Cube at the center of the city. Before they even got there, the Essence Race guy called Trulo had already come back, holding a Divine Bird in human form with his Spatial Powers.

Kentucky couldn't move a muscle and was scared of his wits. Only when he saw Rean and Rean explained the situation did he calm down a little. At the very least, it didn't seem like they were going to be killed straight away.

Arriving in front of the giant Cube, a door opened in front, allowing them to get inside. There, they found even more members of the Essence Race going back and forth with their own businesses. They all stopped to look at the newcomers, though. After all, who knows how long since they had seen anyone who wasn't part of the Essence Race?

The three Peak Divinity Realm ignored those others and brought Rean's group further inside the Cube. Finally, they stopped in front of another huge door, seeming to be waiting for something. Rean, Essefy, Kentucky, and Zandolf asked what was happening, but they didn't answer.

A few minutes passed when suddenly, a voice came from the other side of the door. "You all may enter."

Rean's group looked at the Essence Race members. Even though they were just some kind of flame form, they could feel the respect they had for the owner of that voice, which surprised them. After all, each of these Essence Race guys was at the peak of the Universe's Cultivation.

As soon as the door opened, Rean and the others felt their bodies being assaulted by a wave of colored energy. It didn't harm their bodies, but it definitely felt uncomfortable. It wasn't the Divine Origin Energy, nor was it Elements. It was something different.

Rean and Kentucky immediately identified it since they had fought someone who used this kind of energy. 'Essence Energy!' It wasn't all that surprising, of course. From what they knew, the Essence Race was indeed highly compatible with Essence Energy. They could even generate their own type of Essence, and this energy they were feeling was most likely it.

At the center of that room, a much, much smaller colored flame floated silently. It was even smaller than any of the Essence Race members they saw in the city earlier. However, there was another difference in it: Essence Energy seemed to be several times more concentrated than even the Peak Divinity Realm experts on their side.

"Master Huban, we have brought them," the leader Essence reported with a tone of respect.

Zandolf, Rean, and the others were immediately shocked when they heard that name. Huban was exactly the Essence Race member Zandolf mentioned to have almost succeeded in surpassing the Divinity Realm! Yet, this Essence Race member had been gone ever since the Devils attacked the Essence Race Territories.

Of course, Zandolf found information about Huban, but he found nothing mentioning that Huban died. It's just that he didn't believe Huban to still be alive up to this point.

"A-Are you... that Huban?" Zandolf asked with a trembling voice. "The one who is said to almost reach the next cultivation realm?"

Huban's calm flame seemed to tremble a little when he heard Zandolf's remark. "I didn't expect the outside world to still remember my name. In any case, it matters little."

Huban then looked at Rean. "So it is you, uh? Hyeoumu did mention recently that I might get a visit and that I would recognize the person with a piece of his shell."

Rean was surprised to hear that. But above all, he scratched the back of his head in embarrassment as Zandolf glanced at him. Didn't that simply confirm Rean had lied about how he got his shell piece? "Ahem... That is indeed me, senior." Well, since the truth was already out, what's the point in trying to hide it now.

Rean then brought that piece of shell out. Right after, the shell floated and shot in the direction of Huban in the center of the room, stopping right in front of him. "Sigh... it is hard to believe the big turtle allowed someone to get scot-free after breaking his beloved shell."

Zandolf was even more shocked now. "You broke Hyemoumu's shell and is still alive?!"

Rean bitterly smiled. "Well, I am very good with my words." Naturally, that was another lie.

Huban ignored that before asking something else. "So, did you come here for that?"

"That?" Zandolf seemed to think about something and nodded. "Ah, yes! I've spent a gargantuan effort to find this place because I wanted to find the secret behind your breakthrough attempt. Just how did you almost succeed in stepping beyond the Divinity Realm? No, better than that, have you succeeded now?"

Huban looked at Zandolf. "My question wasn't to you, idiot. I was asking the brat with a fake appearance."

"This..." Zandolf and Essefy looked at Rean.

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Chapter 2373: Huban and Kafan

Rean sighed, understanding that he couldn't hide it from that Essence Race member. With that, he began to turn back into his real form. Kentucky knew that once Rean reappeared, it would be pretty obvious who he was, too. So, he also changed back into his Minokawa form.

"It's you!" How could Zandolf and Essefy not recognize Rean and Kentucky? Pretty much the entire Realm of Gods have been looking for them! After all, they knew the secrets of the Communication System, which both humanoids and demon beasts wished to protect at all costs.

Yet, its created, Rean Larks, escaped right under the nose of the Dragon Race, much to their distress. Not only him but his brother and demon beast, too. "Sorry for hiding it from you, senior Zandolf. Well, I believe you understand why I did it. If my group suddenly appeared, you guys would definitely do everything to take us under your custody. Unfortunately, we need our freedom, so we couldn't let it happen."

If it was anywhere else, Zandolf would have put everything aside and immediately captured Rean, bringing him back to the Humanoid Territories. That's how important the humanoid races take him to be, and Zandolf wasn't different. Yet, what surprised him even more was obviously Rean and Kentucky's cultivation. "Only a few hundred years... only a few hundred years, and you are already in the Peak Stage of the Elemental Space Realm..."

Huban didn't seem to care about any of that. "That's better. I don't like it when others try to hide in front of me. So, you came here for that, didn't you?"

Since Huban talked with Hyeoumu somehow, Rean definitely knew what Huban was talking about. "Yes, senior. We need it if we want to succeed."

Huban fell silent for a moment before continuing. "It's not that I don't want to trust you, but that this matter is too important for the entire Universe. I can't leave this place as I'm connected to this land. None of the Essence Race members can. Still, I can't simply let it go without some guarantees."

Rean pondered a bit when suddenly...

Vup!

Another 'Rean' appeared on Rean's side, although this one had black hair and eyes. Naturally, Roan had made his appearance. By now, Zandolf already expected Roan to be nearby since the reports did say the twins had their own Pocket Dimensional Realm.

Huban wasn't surprised, though. "And here I was thinking how long would it take for you to come out." However, he soon noticed something different when Roan appeared. To be more specific, he noticed something different in both Rean and Roan. "Hum? This..."

Roan didn't know what happened. He only came out to talk. "What kind of guarantees do you need?"

Yet, Huban continued to think for a moment. Finally, he spoke again. "You two... came from the other side, didn't you?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other and then back at Huban. "That's correct."

Huban thought about it a little more before he settled on Roan. "This power of death... brat... No, I'm not sure that calling you a brat is the right word. You are definitely a lot older than you appear, not as much as me, but definitely not a kid. In any case, let me ask you. Have you ever met a Death Spirit called Kafan on the other side?"

Roan's soul trembled for a moment when he heard that name.

Huban didn't finish, though. "No, asking you about some Death Spirit through his name is useless. There are countless of you on the other side. Errr... what was his ID number back then? Oh, right! Death Spirit Instructor PL1205-"

Huban was cut off as Roan continued his words. "Death Spirit Instructor PL1205667JT. Also known as Kafan."

"Yes, that's the number..." Huban was taken aback. "Wait, you do know him!"

How could Roan not know him?! Kafan was Roan's Master! Back in the Universal Transition Organization, where all the Death Spirits reported their work, Kafan had the Instructor job. When Roan was 'born' as a Death Spirit, it was none other than Kafan who taught him everything.

Even back then, Roan was quite cold, so his number of friends was almost zero. No, perhaps it was better to call those friends acquaintances than anything else. However, if there was a Death Spirit Roan was somewhat close with, that Death Spirit was definitely Kafan.

Still, here he was, hearing that name from the mouth... well, that flame didn't have a mouth... but he was hearing this name again and ID number again. He was on the other side of the Universe, a Universe that had been split in two! "How do you know my master's number?"

Roan was surprised to hear that. After all, Roan had never talked about Kafan, even to him.

Huban was somewhat surprised to hear that. But, at the same time, he seemed to have understood something. "I see... so you must be that Death Spirit called Tera he talked so much about... To think you really came to this side..."

Roan was even more shocked now. Tera was indeed his name back on the other side as a Death Spirit, and it was a name given to him by Kafan himself! "Just what is happening here?"

Huban wanted to talk, but he was stopped by one of the Divinity Realm Essence Race members. "Sir Huban, we have some more important issues to take care of first."

Huban looked at him and agreed in the end. "You are correct, Joju." He then turned to Zandolf, who had the highest cultivation there. "Tell me, what has happened outside in the past few tens of thousands of years? How did you get here and find this place?"

Zandolf was definitely curious about the conversation Roan had with Huban, but he also had his objectives, so he was happy he could talk to Huban again. "Sir, the three powers of the Realm of Gods initiated a war against the Devils. We reconquered the Temporal Path Entrance, blocking any Devils' Reinforcements and are now in the process of eliminating the Devils from the Realm of Gods."

Huban wasn't surprised by that. "No wonder Hyeoumu told me he stopped his energy release. It must have been you who convinced him." Right after, he snorted. "Hmph! So what if you take action now? You did nothing back then when we asked for help, afraid our Essence Race would grow too strong. Now that you think we are all dead, you finally move. Such convenience!"

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Chapter 2374: Why Are They Hiding?

"This..." Zandolf didn't know what to say. As a Divinity Realm cultivator, he was privy to certain pieces of information. It was indeed true. Because of the Essence Race's affinity to the world, they were indeed extremely strong, even though they were extremely rare.

However, never did the other three powers think that the Devils would not only succeed in taking down the Essence Race but also completely dominate the Northeast side of the Realm of Gods. In the end, it took up to this point for the chance to retake those territories to appear.

Huban continued. "What? Did you expect me to jump in happiness? Take all my Essence Race members and go out to help the Realm of Gods to eliminate the Devils? Alright, then, what happens next? Will your three powers leave and give our territory back?"

Zandolf kept silent. He had no way of guaranteeing such a thing. The war against the devils obviously wasn't just to get rid of them, but also the territorial gain for the three powers. Would everyone really just give up everything after the Essence Race appeared to help? No! They wouldn't!

The situation was already way out of Zandolf's expectations. He didn't even know if he could find a living Essence Race being, let alone an entire city with them. Not only that, but they have three Peak Divinity Realm experts. As for Huban himself, the Essence Race expert who almost succeeded in surpassing the Divinity Realm.

He could already imagine how the other three powers would take the information in, and none of the outcomes seemed very interesting for the Essence Race.

"Hehe!" Huban could tell what Zandolf was thinking. "Since you don't want to talk, I will tell you what the possibilities are. The first one is that they would ask our help to take down the Devils. Fine up to this

point. However, they would demand us to join their powers while they would divide the territories. We would become some kind of vassals."

"The next option is that if we insist on not giving up our land, the three powers will simply leave! They will leave us to deal with the entire Devil Race on our own and wait for us to be wiped out before they finish the job. In the end, we would need to go back to them and accept their terms."

"These two options aren't all that bad. That still leaves us a path of survival. The third option is the one that bothers me the most. With this many Essence Race beings still alive... wouldn't the same fear as the past resurge? Instead of trying to help us, the Demon Beasts, Humanoids, and Spirits would immediately join forces to get rid of us before we could recover our previous power."

Huban then looked at Zandolf with seriousness. "Now then, tell me, Zandolf, which of the three options do you think your three powers will take? And before you answer, I wish you to take a look at Joju, Trulo, and Landeau on your side. The three Essence Race beings that brought you here to talk to me."

Huban continued. "You saw our city, right? It does have a lot of Essence Race beings, but it is nowhere near the millions we had back before the Devils' invasion. Still, with just this many, we were able to give birth to three Divinity Realm Peak Stage experts. I might as well tell you that we have another four Essence Race beings in the earlier stages of the Divinity Realm that are cultivating in other parts of this city. It shouldn't be anything hard to guess, after all."

"I..." Zandolf wanted to say there was a fourth option. Unfortunately, he wasn't an idiot. The third option was most likely the one that would be chosen by the three powers of the Realm of Gods. As for the first two options, even he finds it hard to be given in the first place.

However, Zandolf immediately noticed something weird. "Wait... Senior Huban, if you have seven Divinity Realm experts, why are you still hiding in this place? That is definitely a force strong enough to at least contend against the Devils here in the Realm of Gods."

"Hehe!" Suddenly, a small, cold laugh echoed. However, it wasn't Huban who laughed, but Roan instead. "I ask you to repeat your question once more and analyze why it was a question which the answer has already been given."

Zandolf was taken aback for a moment. Yet, Huban and the other Essence Race experts didn't seem surprised, as if they also thought that question to be meaningless. Nonetheless, Zandolf couldn't see what was wrong with his question.

Seeing that, Roan shook his head and explained. "The Essence Race has seven Divinity Realm experts here. However, the Devils definitely have more or less the same amount in total, and that is not even considering the Elder Devils back in the Underworld."

Roan continued. "Alright, let's consider the actual situation where the Devils in the Underworld can't help the Devils in the Realm of Gods. It wasn't the case before, but it is now. It would still leave a similar amount of Elder Devils and Divinity Essences. What could possibly be the outcome of a clash between the two?"

Zandolf finally understood. "Mutual destructuion..."

Roan nodded. "Indeed. And the Essence Race beings are in an even worse situation. After all, their numbers are so low that they would be helpless against a spread attack from several sides. But let's consider for a moment that the Essence Race somehow wins. The outcome would still be the Essence Race losing most of its experts, once again nearing extinction."

Roan then shrugged his shoulders. "Now then, what do you think the Realm of Gods Demon Beasts, Humanoids, and Spirits would do after their fight is over?"

"They would attack and make sure to eliminate the rest of the Essence Race," Zandolf answered as he gritted his teeth.

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Chapter 2375: The Hidden Experts

Huban was satisfied by Zandolf's answer. "At least you admit it. That's why my Essence Race can't afford to appear at the moment even though you managed to put the Devils on their back feet."

Zandolf immediately understood those words. "You are the one who wants to use us to get rid of the devils before showing yourselves!"

"Hahaha!" Huban laughed in response. "That's exactly what we want to do. Regardless of how much of an advantage the Realm of Gods' Three Powers have against the Devils, they will definitely have to use a lot of their forces to get rid of the Devils here. All we need to do is wait."

Seeing Zandolf's expression, Huban snorted as well. "Hmph! What is that face for? You admit you would take the chance to use us, but you don't like when we want to use you instead? Do you see the hypocrisy in that?"

Essefy, who had been silent until now, raised his hand. "Then, what will happen to us here? Are we going to be killed to make sure the others outside won't find out about you?"

Joju, on his side, snorted. "Do not take us to be the same as you. Unless you give us a reason to end your lives, we won't do such a thing. All we talked about until now is speculation of what could happen depending on the circumstances. However, none of it has happened yet."

Huban agreed with him. "Joju is right. However, we also can't allow you to leave before this war is over, so you will be our guest for the time being."

"You can't do this! If I don't return to my army, the Realm of Gods' will send people to investigate. You would definitely be found by then!" Zandolf tried to arrange an excuse to leave.

Yet, Huban and the others weren't the least bit concerned. "There is no need to worry. No one will find this place. I already took the necessary measures to hide the entrance even better than before. Besides, you said it yourself, you spent a huge effort to find this place, would others do the same? First of all... does anyone else even know you came here? After all, this is still the Devils' Territory."

Zandolf's expression turned even worse. It was true. He didn't tell anyone about coming to this place. He looked around, trying to see if there was a way out. However, it was then that he was assaulted by a huge Divine Energy pressure, a pressure that surpassed even the Regal Azure Dragon, Placake! "Y-You..."

Zandolf then looked at Huban, who was exerting that pressure. Because his Divine Sense had been freed, he finally used it to feel Huban. Yet, even as a Divinity Realm cultivator, he couldn't see Huban's cultivation level. "You succeeded in surpassing the Divinity Realm!"

That Divine ENergy pressure then disappeared without a trace. "Succeeded? Hahaha! As if! However, it is not right to say that I'm in the Divinity Realm either. How can I say it? You might think about it as me being in a division between the Divinity Realm and the Realm above. In a certain way, I'm still in the Divinity Realm, although there is almost no Divinity Realm, Elder Devil, or Archangel capable of contending against me."

Zandolf swallowed some saliva. "Then what was all that talk about being suppressed by our Realm of Gods' Three Powers? You alone can stand above all of the Divinity Realm experts! As long as you are here, you can demand anything you want!"

Yet, Huban looked at him as if he was looking at an idiot. "To think that even a Divinity Realm Middle Stage like you doesn't know about the true experts of the Three Realms... Well, it is not like those old monsters like to make an appearance anyway."

"As I thought..." Rean suddenly said. "I noticed from the very start you were definitely stronger than any common Peak Divinity Realm or similar being. For you to not come out must mean that you aren't the only one in this Division between Divinity and beyond."

Huban nodded. "I don't know where they are or what they are doing, but they are definitely keeping an eye on these developments of this war."

Zandolf truly didn't know that there were others like Huban. "Is that really true? Are there really others like you in the Realm of Gods?"

"There are," Huban confirmed. "However, none of us can come out and interfere with anything."

Everyone got confused. "Someone of your level can't interfere with anything?" It seemed hard to believe anything could stop someone like Huban.

Joju, on their side, was the one to answer. "It's the agreement. The appearance of an expert as Senior Huban could literally change the overall power of the Realm of Gods, Underworld, and Heavens. That's why they never come out, they never intervene, they never try to change the course of anything. So, in a certain way, you could say that Senior Huban isn't of much help to the situation of our Essence Race."

"Doesn't that mean that some people, devils, and angels know about Huban's existence?" Rean asked curiously.

Huban confirmed. "That's correct. Well, I haven't seen any of those monsters for a very, very long time, so I don't know if they are dead or alive. The same could be said about me to them."

Huban then looked at Zandolf. "If you want to learn more about it, you can ask that blue lizard Placake or that nosy brat Fosleve. They know about it, so perhaps they are willing to tell you more. As for me, I'm not part of your powers, so I won't tell you more about it. Just stay here and cultivate properly. This war probably won't last more than one or two hundred years. What is that for cultivators like you? Nothing but a blink of an eye."

Zandolf felt helpless, but he still gritted his teeth and asked. "Alright, I know that trying to flee with you here is basically impossible. However, I still wish to know, what do I have to do to reach the same level as you?"

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Chapter 2376: Sudden Chance

Huban was taken aback for a moment. "Could it be that was the reason you have been looking for the Essence Race?"

Zandolf didn't deny it. "Yes. Everyone wants to surpass the Divinity Realm. During my research, I found you almost succeeded, so I wanted to know how you did it. Even if you didn't exactly enter the next realm, your methods might have some clues. That was the sole reason for me to spend so much time on it."

However, Huban's answer wasn't exactly what Zandolf expected. "To be honest, even I don't know exactly. I'll go even further. The other experts at my level aren't very sure of why they got to this point either. It was a kind of feeling... a feeling that that door to the next realm had finally appeared."

Huban continued. "Even up to this day, I remember how that felt. Unfortunately, I've never been able to achieve that feeling again. I've tried countless times, repeating every step as perfectly as possible. But, as I mentioned, it was a sudden occurrence. It wasn't like I did anything special. I wasn't even cultivating at that time since I was already at the Peak Stage of the Divinity Realm."

Rean pondered a bit and asked. "Senior Huban, do you think senior Hyeoumu is someone who succeeded?"

Huban immediately answered. "If he did succeed or not, I'm not sure, but he is definitely many times stronger than any of us. Perhaps he truly did reach that next realm, or perhaps he just got a lot closer to that than I or the other did. He never told us about that, regardless of how many times we asked."

Zandolf couldn't help but feel disappointed. "So... there was no secret? Is it a chance event? Then isn't it pretty much impossible?"

"Hehe!" Huban laughed a little. "How many life forms exist in this Universe? Of these, how many have even reached the level I am at the moment? Yes, it is pretty much impossible! Just getting where I am is already pretty much impossible, too. The only reason I don't say it is 100% impossible is because Hyeoumu exists. Yet, as I mentioned, perhaps even he hasn't reached that level."

Huban then decided to share his experience. "Listen, and that is valid for everyone in this room. You will never know when that moment will arrive. Me and the other guys believe that that feeling only happens once. We have reached the conclusion that we simply lost our chance to achieve the breakthrough. However, you guys are different. Continue cultivation, reach the Peak of the Divinity Realm, and perhaps, one day, this moment will arrive."

"None of the others got to feel it again either?" Roan asked curiously.

Huban confirmed his words. "Yes. Or, at the very least, none of them told me that they succeeded in feeling that moment again. However, that doesn't mean we gave up. Cultivation is infinite, and all paths lead to the ultimate Dao. Even to this day, we are still trying to reach that next realm."

Joju couldn't help but ask. "Master, is it really okay to tell them about it?" As a Peak Divinity Realm Essence Race member, he was obviously told about it in the past and considers himself very lucky to have Huban to watch over him. Yet, Huban was also sharing his experience with these newcomers.

Huban didn't seem to mind, though. "It is meaningless to hide it, Joju. Just because you know it exists doesn't mean you will get there. Aren't you, Trulo, and Landeau stuck in the Peak Stage of the Divinity Realm all this time? Besides, take Zandolf, for example. He is in the Middle Stage of the Divinity Realm.

As long as he doesn't get himself killed, he will eventually reach the Peak of the Divinity Realm. Once that happens, you can be sure his humanoid race will tell him about what I just said."

"I understand..." Joju nodded, having complete trust in Huban.

Zandolf felt somewhat disappointed, but he still took the chance to ask. "You say that we might have a one-time chance. It might not be true, but it might be. What kind of preparations can I make if my time truly comes?"

"Preparations, uh?" Huban pondered a bit. "I guess it depends on the person. I'm an Essence Race being, so I would do things good for our Essence Race, like accumulating as much as possible of Essence Energy and storing it. Yet, even to this point, I'm not sure if the secret to reaching the next realm is related to more energy or not. As for your humanoid races... I have no idea. Why not try to save as many high-level Divine Stones as possible? It might be good."

Zandolf shook his head, feeling even more disappointed now. There wasn't really a need for Huban to tell him that since he would do that much, at least. 'Well... it was already good to know about this sudden moment in the future,' he thought.

He also wondered why no one in the Humanoid Races told him about it. However, after thinking a little, he understood. Most likely, it was because knowing it might hinder him more than help. In that case, perhaps it was better for him to only know about this sudden chance after he reached the Peak Stage of the Divinity Realm. 'Once I go back home, I'll definitely ask Fosleve about these other experts similar to Huban.'

"It seems like we ended up straying away from the initial topic..." Huban then returned to the previous conversation. "Simply put, I will have Zandolf and Essefy stay in this hidden city until the war is over. You can cultivate or do whatever you want; just don't try to flee on your own. This place is special, and I'm connected to it. You will never be able to escape my watch as long as you are here. Understood?"

Zaldolf and Essefy could only nod. Yet, they noticed something different. "But... what about Rean and Roan?"

Death... and me

Chapter 2377: Too Convenient

Indeed, Huban had never said anything about locking Rean, ROan, or Kentucky down. Was there a reason for that?

Huban looked at the twins and the bird... "They are a special case. There is no need for me to be afraid of them talking about my Essence Race City's location to anyone."

Well, that was true. The twins' group doesn't even want to be known, let alone do something that would catch so much attention. Whether Zandolf and Essefy could accept it or not, that wasn't their problem.

Huban then passed an order to Joju and the others. "Bring Zandolf and Essefy to some random residence where they can live for the time being. There isn't really a need to lock them in a prison or anything like that. They will never be able to leave this city with me here."

"Yes, Master Huban!" The three Peak Divinity Realm beings accepted the orders without complaints.

Essefy quickly turned to the twins's group, asking them out of curiosity. "I heard about you two. However, how did you get to the Peak Stage of the Elemental Space Realm this fast? If you hadn't shown your own identities, I would never believe you were the same Rean, Roan, and Kentucky from the reports."

Rean smiled in response. "Of course, we had plenty of fortuitous encounters. I can't tell you exactly what we got, but it did indeed help with our cultivation speed. Well, if you want help with cultivation, just ask the Essence Race. They will not refuse someone from their own Race like you."

Essefy was shocked when he heard those words. "W-What are you talking about?!"

Kentucky and Zandolf looked at Essefy with surprise, too. They didn't know that. Roan, on the other hand, took that as if it had nothing to do with him. For Roan, the information about Kafan was a lot more important.

Rean shrugged his shoulders and answered Essefy. "To be honest, I didn't know it until we reached this city. But now that we are here, I'm certain. You are definitely a member of the Essence Race. It's just that you are using a humanoid form. The impressive part is that I didn't know the Essence Race could take a humanoid form."

"But then again, Demon Beasts can do it, so why couldn't the Essence Race? You are even better at that. Demon Beasts can't hide their demonic aura. You, on the other hand, don't show any obvious clue. Even your aura is pretty much the same as other humanoid race beings."

"Hahaha!" Suddenly, Huban laughed from the center of the room. "Little Jigan, he truly got you."

That was obviously Essefy's real name. Jigan sighed, seeing that it would be useless to hide that. Soon, his form began to change. Essence Energy spread around his body as it turned into another colored floating flame. "I've been living outside for this long. How did you find out about me?"

Rean pointed at himself. "I'm kind of a special case. When it comes to Light Element, nothing can beat me. I noticed that the Light Element in your body was different than any other race I've seen so far, but I didn't take it to heart. After all, it is normal for Different Races to interact differently with the Elements around them."

He continued. "Even if you don't have an affinity with a certain element, it is still part of your body, and Light is no different. Believe it or not, even Devils have a certain amount of Light Element in their bodies, although it is ridiculously minuscule. Any more than that, and it would harm them, which is why Light Element is their main weakness."

"Anyway, I didn't pay attention to the Light Element in your body before, but it is different now. Every single Essence Race citizen I saw with my Divine Sense had the exact same variation of Light Element as you. I believe my brother here probably felt the same regarding the Dark Element in your body, too."

Roan glanced at Essefy and took his eyes away. It was pretty obvious to him as well.

Rean then patted Essefy's shoulders. "Well, your disguise worked in the end. As long as I never saw an Essence Race being, I would never guess you were a member of the Essence Race, either. Too bad we met this many now. Hahaha!"

Rean then remembered something. "Oh, right! You don't need to worry about someone else finding your identity through this method. Although I can't guarantee it, I'm pretty sure there aren't that many out there who can perform the same type of identification as Roan and I did. Just one thing: I'm used to your Essefy name, so I hope you don't mind if I continue using it."

Jigan couldn't care less. "Compared to your previous words, what does a name mean? Jigan, Essefy, I've used both names for many years, so both feel right to me."

Joju didn't seem to care about any of that, so he called Zandolf out. "Zandolf, come with us. We will get someone to arrange a place for you."

Since Essefy was an Essence Race member, there wasn't really a need to pretend to take him away anymore, so Essefy... or Jigan... stayed behind.

As Joju left with Zandolf, Rean took the chance to ask Essefy. "So, Essefy, why did you hide outside? Was it to gather information for the Essence Race?"

"Pretty much," Essefy answered as he returned to his humanoid form once again.

"But how did you get the information to arrive here?" Rean continued, curious. "This was and still is the Devils' Territory. Did you come here by yourself?"

Essefy shook his head. "How would that be possible? Unfortunately, I can't tell you as it involves some secrets our Race would rather keep hidden."

Rean didn't mind it. "Well, it is fine too. Now then, this is the last question... Was there a reason for you to stick with me? I find your sudden appearance before Kentucky and I took the teleport to enter the war quite convenient. Maybe 'too' convenient."

Death... and me

Chapter 2378: How to Talk to Kafan

Essefy shook his head, though. "Believe it or not, it was indeed nothing but a coincidence. Of course, you can imagine my surprise when I heard you were looking for us. Not that I would tell you anything. After that, I stuck with you as it would be the perfect excuse to come back here. I just didn't expect you guys would truly find the entrance to the Essence Race City."

Rean didn't really know if he should trust those words or not, but even Roan couldn't see a lie in them. "I see... then I'm being just a little too paranoid."

Not long after, Joju's group returned to the room. "Master Huban, what do we do with these twins and divine bird?"

Huban looked at the twins' group for a moment. "What do you want to talk about first? Remember, those at my level can't intervene with anything, so don't think about asking any favors."

Rean wanted to ask about the Fragment of the Universe Foundation, obviously. However, seeing how impatient Roan looked, he stayed quiet and let Roan do the questions.

Sure enough, Roan didn't waste time. "Huban, how do you know my old master? Kafan is a Death Spirit from the other side. How could you have any interactions with him? Above all, you said he knew I came to this side and told you about it. How's that possible? Tell me, what is happening?"

Huban nodded, already expecting that much. "Do you remember when I said that there are other experts at the same level as me, those who are above the Peak of the Divinity Realm but not in the next Realm yet?" Roan nodded and waited for Huban to continue. "Kafan just so happens to be one of these experts. He is a Death Spirit who has lived longer than the time the Extinction Sphere appeared. Well, I am, too."

Huban continued. "Yet, Kafan was already at this level of mine even before the Extinction Sphere's events. Simply put, he had no need for cultivation anymore. To be honest, I think he even gave up trying to get into that Realm after so long. That said, it doesn't really matter whether he is on the other side where there is no Divine Energy or on this side. His cultivation won't change. So, as a Death Spirit himself, he stayed where the Death Spirits lived."

"But what about me?" Roan asked back. "You said he talked about me coming to this side. How did he even know it?"

"Hum..." Huban pondered a bit before continuing. "To be honest, I'm not too certain about it either. After all, he is your master, not mine. He just mentioned that a Death Spirit he highly regarded, Tera, was now on this side of the Universe. I didn't truly expect you to be here. If not for the type of Death

Energy you emanate that is similar to the other Death Spirits from the other side, I wouldn't have even noticed."

Of course, Roan noticed something strange. "Alright, I can accept that you don't know much. However, there is one thing you must tell me. How did you get in contact with Kafan? If he told you about me coming to this side, then it hasn't been more than a few hundred years since you two talked to each other."

"Indeed, it has been a short time since we talked. In fact, we can talk right now if I want," said Huban.

"You can?!" Roan was taken aback. "Then do it! I want to hear everything from him!" Roan got a little agitated, which was nothing like him at all.

"I won't," Huban immediately threw cold water on Roan's intentions. "I can contact him now, but it costs me quite a lot. Also, the price is not something you can pay. It isn't something that Divine Stones can fix."

Roan narrowed his eyes. "What kind of cost is it? How can you be sure if you don't even tell me what it is?"

"Very well," Huban then explained. "I believe you already know the Space-Time Realm is where you start comprehending the Laws, right?" Roan nodded and waited for Huban to continue. "Once you fully comprehend a law, you can use it to enter the Divinity Realm."

"In the Divinity Realm, your cultivation level depends on two things. One, obviously, is Divine Origin Energy... Well, at least that's the case for your humanoid races. For my Essence Race, Essence Energy is what we use. Anyway, the second thing you need to be able to make breakthroughs is to fuse the laws."

"For example, the Laws of Fire have four sub-laws. First, the Laws of Ignition, then the Laws of Heat, following that, you have the Laws of Explosion, and finally, you finish with the Laws of Fire Essence. Once you have comprehended all these four types of Fire Laws, you can be said to have comprehended the Law of Fire and are ready to enter the Divinity Realm."

"In the Divinity Realm, you will have to fuse these four sub-laws of fire, ultimately achieving the Major Law of Fire. The same goes for any other law you use for your breakthroughs. They have their own sub-laws."

"Now then," Huban finally entered the main topic, "once you completely fused the sub-laws into the Major Law, you also reached the Peak of the Divinity Realm. That's where everyone gets stuck, waiting for their one chance to attempt to reach the next Realm."

"Once your chance arrives, and as I mentioned, you never know when it might happen, you can try to reach the next level. Unfortunately, I don't know anyone who succeeded with it. Well, perhaps Hyeoumu, but none of us is certain if he is truly there or not. Nonetheless, even if you fail, you will at least reach the same level as me and the other guys."

"It is only when you reach our level, which is neither the previous nor the next realm, that you will connect yourself with the celestial laws," Huban explained. "And it is through these celestial laws that experts of our level can communicate, regardless of where they might be in this Universe, even if it is on the other half."

Death... and me

Chapter 2379: Do Something For Me

Rean couldn't help but think. 'Isn't it countless times better than my communication system? Holy shit!'

Of course, Huban immediately talked about the price of using such a method for conversation. "But to do this, you need to manipulate them. Yet, there is a problem. It is believed that such an ability is what someone who reached the next realm can do, and we aren't there yet. So we are forcing our way to get our message through."

"As you probably can imagine, that's where the price has to be paid. We need to literally sacrifice some of our comprehension of the laws to be able to force the celestial laws to bend to our will. Once you do that, you will completely forget what you knew about these parts of the laws you sacrificed."

"Then... you and Kafan had to give up some of your comprehension to talk? Is it even worth it?" Roan asked, curious.

Huban nodded and shook his head. "I wouldn't really spend my comprehension for such a thing. The one who did it was your Master, Kafan. He was the one to contact me on this side. It was only when he paid this price that we could talk for a while. Well, in his case, I don't think he cares too much about the price."

"Why?" Rean and the others asked.

"That's because even though you sacrifice your comprehension, it doesn't mean it is gone forever. Why can't you simply comprehend what you forgot once again? It's just that it would usually take thousands of years to get back to the level you were before, so most of us only use such a method when extremely necessary," Huban explained.

"So... he contacted you just to say that I came to this side of the Universe? Why?" Roan found it strange. Was there a need to sacrifice so much? First of all, what were the chances of Roan and Huban ever meeting each other? It didn't make sense.

Sure enough, Huban denied Roan's notion. "Of course not! The fact you came to this side of the Universe was just a quick remark from him. The reason he contacted me was something different altogether. It had nothing to do with you. Even Kafan couldn't possibly predict that you and I would meet one day."

"However, I can't tell what we talked about. That's something that involves a few secrets between me and your Master on the other side. All you need to know is that I definitely won't spend some of my comprehension just so that you can talk. If you one day reach my level, you can do it yourself. You will be able to feel the presence of everyone at this level, and that includes Hyeoumu down there or the Devils and the archangels, too."

At the moment, it is already possible to feel the presence of other experts above the Void Tempering Realm through their natural Spatial Perception as long as they are close enough. So, it wasn't hard for Roan's group to believe that they could feel each other's presence after getting to that level.

Roan then pondered about the situation. From the looks of it, his Master knew he had come to this side.

Rean, too, found it strange. 'Did you notice? Back on the other side, the system chose me as the host. But I can't help but think it had something to do with my archangel father. In the end, you ended up

being affected by the system too. We always thought your involvement was nothing but a coincidence. Now, however, your Master suddenly appeared and seemed to know everything. Was your appearance back there to take my soul away really just a coincidence?'

Roan, obviously, noticed that as well. 'I truly wish to think it was a coincidence. I'm not an idiot, though. It might very well be, as you are implying. Too many mysteries at once. The problem is that Huban doesn't have much to do with it, so he doesn't have the answer I seek.'

Rean nodded. 'All the things connected to our involvement in the Universe's Salvation become more and more intricate by the day. By now, I wouldn't be surprised even if your Master and my archangel father knew each other. No, perhaps Soul Gem knows both and is also involved in it.'

'It is possible,' Roan nodded. 'But for now, there is nothing we can do. We can only look for an answer if we meet them again.'

Roan then took a deep breath and asked Huban. "Alright, let's put this matter aside. Hyeoumu told us that an Essence Race member has one of the Universe Foundation Fragments. Considering how you talked before, it is pretty obvious that this Essence Race member is you, right?"

Huban didn't deny that. "You are correct. I do have another one of the fragments. Yet, they are linked to the well-being of the Universe, so why should I give it to you?"

Roan answered with another question. "Then can you use it to reunify both sides?"

"This..." Huban was taken aback for a moment. "No, I can't."

Roan faintly smiled. "Well, we can. I can't tell if the plan will work, but even Hyeoumu understands there is a chance. Would it better for you to bet on a small chance of us succeeding than you having no chance at all?"

"Hahaha!" Huban laughed after hearing that. "No wonder Kafan thinks so highly of you. Even your way with words is impressive. However, you understand that there is another reason why I don't wish to give it up, right?"

Even Kentucky understood what that reason was. "The story about the Fragments being one of the ways to surpass the Divinity Realm."

Huban nodded. "Exactly. Even experts at my level still haven't given up on reaching that illusory next realm, and this fragment might be the key to that. So, why should I give it up?"

"Simple," Rean answered. "Because if you don't, the Universe is done for. Can you reach the next realm when you and the whole Universe are dead?"

Huban had to admit Rean made sense. Others might not know, but for him, who is so close to the celestial laws, things were pretty obvious. The Universe was dying, and it wouldn't last very long. "Alright. However, you must first do something for me."

Death... and me

Chapter 2380: I Will Take Your Word For It

"We are all ears," Rean answered without thinking too much about it.

Huban nodded, satisfied. "Your friend Essefy knows better about it. Go ahead and tell them."

Essefy quickly followed Huban's orders. "Yes, Master Huban. Rean, we obviously know that you were the creator of the communication system. We hold it in high regard, but even for me, while keeping my human form, it was not possible to get close to its secret of how it works."

He continued. "I went to the Ranbram Sect and tried to volunteer myself to help with the communication system spreading plan. However, because I simply knew nothing about formations, I was rejected. In fact, even if I did, chances were that I wouldn't get my way with it."

Rean understood why. "You can't blame them. Acquiring a few communication towers isn't a big issue. After all, it is nothing but a repeater of the signals. I'm sure the devils and even other powers of the Realm of Gods itself already went out and stole those towers, trying to understand the secret behind the communication system."

"Unfortunately, the tower serves little purpose in this regard," Rean added. "If you don't have access to the core of the communication system, it is pretty much impossible to understand how it works. Knowing how valuable this secret is, you can be sure the Ranbram Sect won't let anyone they don't have 100% trust to get close. From the very start, your idea was fated to end in failure."

As Rean said those words, he also noticed something as he thought. 'Kafan, Roan's Master, is on the other side of the Universe. If he went to Earth, he definitely would be able to think about the same system as me. Could it be he never paid attention to Earth before?' Too bad there was no answer to that question.

Essefy smiled in response. "Indeed, I understood it by now. Anyway, I did get the communication badges, at least, but I'm afraid that any communications done through it can be seen by the Demon Beasts and Humanoid Races, so I've never talked about anything regarding the Essence Race through it."

Rean knew where he was coming from. "So, you have two issues. The first one is that even though you have a few communication badges, they are limited. The second is that you can't really use it for communication with your Essence Race since it would expose their existence."

Essefy was happy to hear that. "Exactly. What our race wants is pretty simple. We want to secret to build our own communication system."

"Okay," Rean answered straight away.

Essefy, Huban, and the other Essence Race experts looked at Rean in surprise. They didn't expect it to be so easy. "You aren't making a fool of ourselves, are you?"

"Not at all," Rean answered with a smile. "Do you know what my vision of the communication system is? I wish to be spread in the entire Realm of Gods! I wish it to reach every corner and allow even the mortals to be able to use it. The three powers of the Realm of Gods haven't noticed it yet. However, the true potential of the communication system can only be achieved once it is made available for everyone."

"However," Rean continued. "The Devils were still controlling the Northeast side of the Realm of Gods, so the secret couldn't be revealed yet. Simply put, once they were driven out of the Realm of Gods, I

was going to release the secret to everyone. I wish that in the future, the system can allow communication even with the angels and the devils in their own realms."

"This..." None of them expected such an answer. "Are you sure that revealing the secret to everyone is a good idea?" The Essence Race was also a race of the Realm of Gods, so they still had a similar mentality to the other three powers. They wanted the secret, but they didn't want to be known by many others.

Rean then shrugged his shoulders. "Sirs, you don't understand. Connecting the entire Realm of Gods is just an undertaking of ridiculous proportions. You probably are thinking that as long as your own race can use it, that's enough. As long as you, the humanoids, and the demon beasts keep this secret in your hands, you can charge a huge amount of resources. Yet, that couldn't be far from the truth."

Rean then patted his chest. "Trust in me, the man who created the system." At the same time, he thought. 'Well, I didn't really invent anything, but they don't need to know it...' and then continued. "I can guarantee you that the Realm of Gods will prosper like never before as long as it is made available for everyone."

Rean also added. "Of course, the Devils are still there, so the secret can't come out right away. I'll give you the schemes of how to build your own communication system, and in the future, you can integrate it into the system already placed by the humanoids and demon beasts."

Huban didn't know what to say. "The way you put it, I don't feel like I'm getting anything that valuable for the Fragment of the Universe Foundation. After all, everyone will have it in the future, too."

Rean shrugged his shoulders. "Well, those are my plans for the future. Who knows? Perhaps I will die before I can realize it, and then you and the other two powers can keep it for yourselves."

Huban didn't like those words. In fact, neither of the Essence Race members in that room took Rean's words as a joke. "Do not take us to be the same as the humanoids, demon beasts, or spirits. Especially the humanoids. We will never kill someone for such reasons." They thought Rean was implying he would be killed after getting the secret out of him.

Rean shrugged his shoulders. "Well, I will take your word for it."