

## Death 281

Death... and me

Chapter 281: Router Formation Version 1.2

Garlok City, a city found inside the Dalamu Sect Territory. At this moment, Rean, Droman, and a few elders of the Formations Hall were working in the Router Formation.

"During the time you were in the Profound Abyss, I passed the specs that we wanted for the Lightning Beads to the Lightning Sect. Still, only today did we get the third version of the Lightning Beads."

Rean nodded.

"It's okay. Development is an arduous process. Elder Droman should be aware of this more than anyone else."

Rean then held one of the Lightning Beads in his hand. The Lightning Beads now had a completely different format than before. First of all, according to what Droman and Rean devised, it wasn't a bead anymore. Instead, it looked more like a rectangular cube. Not only that, but it wasn't just 4 centimeters long on all sides anymore. Now, it was 12 centimeters long and 6 centimeters high.

Other than that, there were several small holes on the two extremities, no less than twenty on each side. Unsurprisingly, each hole had the size of one of the copper cables that the communication system used. Sure enough, one side would be where the Electrical Signals would come from, and the other side would be where they would leave. This was Rean and Droman's version of a storage device. Unlike the previous Lightning Beads, this one that didn't look like a bead at all had no attack power whatsoever.

Rean then took a few of the separated cables connected to the important buildings of Garlok City. Those buildings already had the standard communication formations, so they could send messages anytime that was necessary. Soon after, he connected them to the Lightning 'Bead.'

"Elder Droman, ask them to send the message."

Droman nodded as he spread his Spiritual Sense. Thanks to his cultivation, his Spiritual Sense could cover the entire city. That was more than enough to send Spiritual Sense messages to the Formation Masters stationed at the communication formations.

As soon as Droman did that, the formation master began to send several messages at once. Those messages had no real meaning. They were only doing that to test the new storage device.

Rean, Droman, and the other elders kept their Spiritual Sense inside the Lightning 'Bead' as it received the information through the Router Formation. After a few minutes, the messages stopped after Droman asked them.

One elder called Oitive mentioned right after.

"We will need to do a few modifications on the amplification runes."

Rean nodded.

"Indeed. The previous Lightning Beads required a strong electrical signal to save the message information inside, but this one has no need for so much anymore. The Lightning Sect really knows their own product very well. Even though what we asked them was so different, they still delivered an excellent product. Not only can even more information be saved in this little guy, but it can also reduce the consumption of Spiritual Energy necessary."

Droman and the others agreed with Rean.

"Alright, let's start the creation of Version 1.2 of the Router Formation."

All the formation masters got excited and immediately began to work while following Droman's directions. Rean helped in what he could, but his knowledge about formations was still far from enough to understand all those runes. Still, the elders were impressed with his talent. They could totally understand why Droman would take Rean as his disciple.

Time passed as the modifications took place. Of course, not everything worked perfectly.

"Idiot! Can't you see that this connection will delay the information if you use the 56th and 91st runes together? Use the 56th with the 70th instead."

"What are you talking about? This is exactly how it should be. If we try to save it too fast, the information might be lost. Are you dumb?"

Rean narrowed his eyes.

"Just try both of them, for fuck's sake. See which one will work better. If it loses information, we can reduce the speed. If not, we keep it like this and test it for a few days."

Problems kept appearing as arguments popped up here and there. However, no one was really feeling angry. It's just that they were all too excited to be working with this thing. Just like Droman, they never thought that Electrical Formations could be this fun to build.

Suddenly, Droman's eyes narrowed as he looked in a specific direction. Rean noticed that and couldn't help but ask.

"Again?"

Droman nodded.

"Yes. Everyone noticed that we have been working on this Router Formation, so the spies keep increasing. That's because they can't understand the principle behind it. We have deliberately changed those formations so that no one could make heads and tails of how it works."

Rean agreed with him.

"This isn't the only city with our Router Formation set up. Without a doubt, these guys had gone to the other ones to check it. We even received a report that a black-clothed Nascent Soul cultivator used his Spiritual Energy to lift the entire ground to bring the formation away with him. He definitely wanted to bring it back to his own power intact for analysis."

Droman added.

"Indeed. But most of those who checked the router formations should have understood that it is not that easy to copy it. Especially because they don't know about the Lightning Beads. The Lightning Beads we used in the Router Formations are already very different from the defensive bead that the Lightning Sect sold in the past. Unless they find out where we got it, it will be useless to get the formation alone."

Rean couldn't help but sigh.

"Still, they should have already understood what the Router Formation does. As long as they aren't idiots, they should have noticed the problems of not having a Router Formation to deal with the over-information issues. But since they can't understand how the Router Formation works and don't have the modified Lightning Beads, they can only send people to spy over our work."

Droman and Rean found that to be quite funny. Although they were hiding it right now, they eventually intended to give the final product to the Imperial Family. Once they do that, everyone would get access to the Router Formation. After all, the Router Formation was simply a must in a giant network like what the empire would become.

What the sect expected was to make a fortune when it is finished. After all, the Lightning Beads were under the Lightning Sect, Zafa Bank, and their Dalamu Sect's control. As long as others wanted to build it, they would need to buy those things from them.

"Just leave them be. The more they appear, the better. It shows that our efforts were not for naught. Elder Droman just has to take care so that the people who know about the formations aren't kidnapped."

Droman nodded.

"Don't worry. Out of everyone in the Formations Hall, only you, me, and Oitive's group of five here knows the entire thing. The rest that came with us know only small bits. Not enough to have the project stolen. I've been keeping all you six close to me for the same reason. No one will try such a thing with a Transformation Realm cultivator protecting you."

Droman then waved his hand, which sent a wave of Spiritual Energy out.

"Arrrgh!"

They only heard a scream from a distance before it stopped.

Droman didn't kill the guy, just taught him a little lesson at most. The spy was a simple Core Formation Realm cultivator, nothing more than an ant in his eyes.

The spies felt quite helpless. There was only one way to check how Droman's group was working. They had to use their Spiritual Senses to see it, but would Spiritual Senses of such low-level cultivators escape Droman's Senses? Ha! What a joke.

Two days later, Rean's group finally finished making the modifications necessary for the new Lightning 'Bead.'

"Alright, let's try it out."

All the communication formations in the city then lit up once more. The formation masters began to send several messages at once, which all entered the Router Formation.

"Alright, stop."

"We need to verify the..."

A few little changes were then made here and there.

"Alright, again!"

Just like that, the tests continued.

It wasn't before an entire week, and tens of spies were dealt with, that they finally got Router Formation Version 1.2 to work properly.

"Great! It's working!"

Everyone cheered as the Router Formation saved and sent information ahead correctly.

Droman also smiled, satisfied.

However, it was at this moment that his eyes changed.

"Shit!"

His Spiritual Energy immediately wrapped around Rean, and he shot into the sky like a bullet! The G-Force was so great that Rean almost passed out.

But he suddenly stopped. Not because he wanted to, but because he was surrounded. Around him, five Soul Transformation Realm cultivators blocked his path.

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Chapter 282: Captured

All of them used black clothes and techniques that didn't show one's appearance with Spiritual Sense. Still, Rean could see Droman's grim face. For him to be like that, it was evident that those guys were by no means weaker than him.

"What do you want? This is the Dalamu Sect's territory. Are you sure you want to find problems here? Just so that you know, I already used a talisman to alert my sect."

Droman could tell their cultivations. Two Middle, Two Late, and one Peak Soul Transformation Realm cultivator. He had only recently broken through, so it would take a very long time before he could even enter the Middle Stage. Naturally, he didn't act harshly here.

"Elder Droman of the Dalamu Sect, right? We know that you have been working on a new type of Formation that increases communication formation effectiveness. We would like you to be our guest."

Droman wasn't surprised by that.

"You want to rob the Router Formation blueprints?"

The leader then replied.

"If you want to see it like that, then so be it."

Droman couldn't help but snort.

"That's really a pointless action. I might as well tell you that once this Formation is finished, we will present it to the Imperial Family. Sooner or later, everyone would get its blueprint."

The man shook his head in response.

"Unfortunately, we can't let that happen."

\*Boom!\*

All of a sudden, the Formation that Rean and Droman worked on during the past week exploded together with the Formation Hall's elders. That took Droman aback. As long as they had captured one of those elders, they could ask them how to build the Formation. There was no need to have him for that. Mainly because he was the one with the highest cultivation in this place.

"What's the meaning of this?"

The man repeated his words.

"I told you, we can't allow this Formation to fall in the hands of the Imperial Family. However, we also need it at the moment. So, what better solution would be there other than bringing the creator with us? We know very well that it was not created by that Elder Hulian of your sect. Otherwise, he would be here with you."

Droman and Rean didn't know what to say. Droman helped in its creation, but the general concept and idea came from Rean. However, they think that the one who created it was Droman instead. Well, they couldn't be blamed since Droman was indeed the head of the Formations Hall. Not to mention that Hulian was supposed to have no knowledge about formations.

"So you don't just want the Router Formation... You want me to work for you in developing more of those things. But I'm not the only one with the Router Formation's blueprint. My Sect Master also has it. It would be pointless."

The man laughed after hearing that.

"Hahaha! Let's be honest here, shall we? Even if she does have it, she doesn't know how it works. She can try to bring it to the Imperial Family, but they will be far from being able to comprehend it as well as you do. While they would move at a snail's pace to understand it, you would be flying like the wind. By the time they understand how it works, we would have long since achieved our objective."

"You should really consider coming with us. I might as well tell you that whatever you receive from Dalamu Sect at the moment, we can give several times more."

Droman snorted in response.

"That's something you'd only give after you put several restrictions in my body and have total control over me, right?"

The man shrugged his shoulders.

"We can't take risks, after all, but we promise we won't harm you as long as you follow our orders. We can also guarantee to bring you all the way up to the Saint Realm as compensation. If you don't accept,



we will need to use force. I advise you to not resist and flee. I already made sure that no one can escape this area. You will only make a lot of the civilians in this city die during the battle to capture you."

Droman couldn't help but ask.

"Are you not afraid of the Imperial Family coming after you? You should know very well that they are supporting our sect at the moment. Besides, my sect members might arrive at any second."

The man laughed once again.

"Don't be ridiculous. Since we dared to act, then we are obviously sure about our chances. I can guarantee you that no other cultivator capable of helping you will appear for at least two hours. Elder Droman, my patience is limited. What will you chose?"

Rean was feeling quite helpless at the moment. Roan was more than 300 kilometers away, so all the Soul Gem System features were not accessible. That also included entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Still, he had a plan. Soon after, he sent a Spiritual Sense Message to Droman.

'Elder Droman, did you really contact the Sect?'

Droman heard Rean's message and replied.

'I did. All Nascent Soul Realm and above elders have a super long distance Thought Transmission Talisman for their use. This is to inform the sect straight away in case an emergency appears. However, Garlock City is just too far from the sect. Even if the reinforcements come out straight away, it will take a few hours for them to arrive, not just two. There is no way I can resist for that long.'

Rean didn't mind the rest.

'That's enough. Just surrender with the condition of keeping me by your side. I'm only at the Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. They will not think anything about me. That will be more than enough.'

Droman was taken aback.

'Are you crazy? These guys definitely came out prepared. As soon as they capture us, they will leave this place as fast as possible. To be honest, I think they're not from the Sasamil Empire. They acted too indifferent when I brought the Imperial Family's name out. If they bring us away, I don't know what will happen anymore.'

Rean shook his head in response as he replied.

'Don't worry, they will not be able to hide or run away. Sect Master Mia will definitely be able to find us.'

Droman found it hard to believe.

'How can you be so sure?'

Rean smiled.

'Trust me, I know.'

Droman narrowed his eyes. Still, there was really little to no chance of escaping these guys. Besides, that would be while he was all by himself. If he tried to bring Rean together in an escapade, then his chances were definitely null. The difference in numbers and power was just too big.

Droman looked at Rean's confident expression and gritted his teeth.

"Alright. I will go with you. However, this kid here is my legacy disciple. He has to come with me and stay by my side all time. As long as you can guarantee his safety, I will agree. But, if you do as much as hurt a single hair of his head, even if you torture or kill me, I won't move a single finger for you."

The leader laughed before nodding his head.

"That's not a problem at all."

Right after, he threw some kind of pill at Droman.

"Swallow it. Don't worry, this is not poison. It will only lock your Spiritual Energy for a few days."

Droman looked at Rean, and they nodded. Soon after, he descended on the ground and took the pill. Sure enough, he felt his connection with his dantian disappearing. It was as if a wall had separated the two of them. Because of that, he couldn't use his Spiritual Energy anymore.

The men in black quickly descended by his side and locked the Master and Disciple with their Spiritual Energy. They didn't even bother to seal Rean's Spiritual Energy since a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator was simply powerless in front of them.

"Objective achieved. Keep those two together as the old man requested. Let's leave this shitty empire straight away."

With that, the five of them pulled Droman and Rean together as they disappeared in the distance. Only then did the other cultivators and civilians come out again to talk about what had happened.

Back in the Dalamu Sect, Mia had received Droman's message. Sure enough, her face went immensely grim after checking it.

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Chapter 283: That's Enough

Although she was angry that such a thing happened, she was also surprised. She thought that as long as Droman was present, that would be more than enough to stop anyone from trying to force their hands. She never expected that the enemy would send five Soul Transformation Realm cultivators, including a Peak Stage one.

However, she didn't call for a sect meeting. After all, Droman's message was apparent. He was surrounded by five Soul Transformation Realm cultivators. None of the Nascent Soul Realm elders of the

sect would be of much use there. In the Dalamu Sect, there were only four people capable of helping them.

The first, obviously, was Mia herself. As mentioned in the past, people believed that Mia was at the Peak of the Soul Transformation Realm. In fact, they were wrong. Mia was at the Late Stage of the Soul Transformation Realm at the moment. Of course, considering her age, that was a huge achievement already.

The second person was obviously Elder Reliance. Everyone knew that Reliance was only at the Peak of the Nascent Soul Realm. Still, his three Demon Beasts, Zunzun, Lanlan, and Jinjin, were Stage Six Beasts. Surprisingly, his Fire Tanager, the smallest of his Demon beasts, was the strongest in that bunch. Zunzun was a Late Stage Six Demon Beast, while Lanlan and Jinjin were at the Initial and Middle Stages, respectively.

The third person was none other than Roan's Alchemy Master, Old Worm. Old Worm was more or less like Reliance and his three hidden demon beasts, someone that almost no one knew about. Even Roan himself did not know Old Worm's cultivation level. It should be no surprise to anyone that Old Worm's path that allowed him to enter the Soul Transformation Realm was alchemy. Turns out that Old Worm had the highest Soul Transformation Realm cultivation in the sect.

It was kind of funny. Both Rean and Roan's Masters just so happened to have entered the Soul Transformation Realm thanks to their side occupations.

Last but not least, the Dalamu Sect's one and only Saint Realm cultivator, Mia's master. However, that man rarely left the sect, so Mia wasn't sure if he would move out now. In the end, she could only try.

'Master.'

Somewhere in a secluded place in the sect, an old man opened his eyes.

'Hmm? What is it, Mia?'

Mia then explained everything to him.

'Five Soul Transformation Realms together? That doesn't sound like something the Royal Family of Jialin or the other Four Sects would do. Besides, our sect received the favor of the Imperial Family. Everyone knows that already. That being said, I doubt just any kind of force would try something like this.'

Mia nodded.

'Indeed. If I'm not wrong, this is not a force from our empire. It was my mistake. I thought that Droman would be more than enough to keep Rean safe, but I never thought that others would come after Droman instead. Rean was basically involved in the mess.'

Suddenly, a white-haired man appeared in front of Mia like a ghost.

"Master! Are you going to act?"

The man nodded.

"I have no other choice. It's not just because of Droman and Rean, but because I don't think that those Soul Transformation Realm cultivators are the only ones involved. If they really came from another empire, there must be a supervisor watching over them. If you guys go along, I'm afraid that our Dalamu Sect might lose all our Soul Transformation Realm elders."

Mia wasn't surprised by that. In fact, she was ready to use the exact same argument. Fortunately, her Master noticed the issue even faster than she could.

"Thank you, Master."

"Hahaha! It's time for Zuan Lamil to make an appearance in the outside world once again. Don't worry, we will bring them back. Besides, leaving the empire isn't simple. With their cultivations, those guys need to be careful on their way out. They absolutely won't fly at full speed. Call the other elders capable of helping. We will need to act together to get the kid and Droman back."

Mia nodded as she immediately called Old Worm, who was with Roan at that moment.

"Hmm?"

Old Worm then looked in a specific direction as his vision darkened. Right after, he looked at Roan.

"Your brother got kidnapped, come."

Roan was taken aback for a second. Still, those words were more than enough for him. He simply nodded and approached Old Worm. Soon after, his body was enveloped by Old Worm's Spiritual Energy as he pulled Roan with him.

Reliance was in the Beast Taming Faction, helping to train Kentucky. If not because of the Minokawa, Reliance would probably be somewhere else now. It was then that he received Mia's message as well.

"Fuck!"

He looked at Kentucky, who was eating a demon core, and thought.

'Better leave it here since it would be too dangerous. Still, who the hell would attack Droman with five Soul Transformation Realm cultivators? Oh well, I can hear more from their corpses later.'

Reliance then looked at the Fire Tanager and murmured something to him. Right after, Zunzun disappeared in a flash of red light into the distance. Obviously, Zunzun was going out to call Lanlan and Jinjin. Reliance didn't wait, though. Instead, he went straight up to the mountain.

It had been just one minute since Mia received Droman's message, but everyone was already gathered in front of her.

However, Mia's eyes narrowed as she saw Roan. With his cultivation, there would be nothing he could do.

"Elder Faulk, why did you bring his brother? He won't be of any use in this matter."

Old Worm shook his head in response.

"He needs to know what is happening. It's his right. We can simply leave him here after we are done talking."

Roan, however, didn't seem to be the least bit concerned with Rean's situation. If anything, his only worry was he would die because Rean died as well. He wouldn't panic or even have a change in expression because of it, though.

Mia nodded after hearing Old Worm's opinion. However, just as she was about to start the discussion, Roan stepped forward.

"Do you know where they have gone?"

Mia's master was quite surprised that Roan didn't feel intimidated in the presence of so many high-level cultivators. That was the strongest front that the Dalamu Sect could put, after all.

Well, Mia, Reliance, and Old Worm didn't think like that. All of them have had enough interactions with Roan to know that he simply doesn't give a damn about things like that.

Mia then shook her head.

"No. But if we call a few favors and spread the net, there is a good chance that we might catch their trail."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he said.

"That will take too long. Just bring me together. I know exactly where you can find those two."

This time, everyone was really shocked by that statement.

"How?"

Roan then pointed at his own head.

"The connection between Rean and I is not only to the point where we can exchange elements with one another. It doesn't matter where the other goes. We can feel the average direction where we can find each other. At this very moment, this group you talked about is moving south-southwest. The closer we get to Rean, the more precise I can feel their location. As long as Droman and Rean are together, you will find Droman as well."

That was great news for all of them. That meant that they wouldn't need to ask for anyone's help. Not to mention that the kidnappers probably thought about this possibility, so the truth was that they had little hope of finding them.

"Since that's the case, the matter is decided. Let's go."

Mia's Master, Zuan Lamil, didn't waste any time and enveloped everyone with his Spiritual Energy. It would be a lot faster if he brought them with him rather than letting them fly by themselves. Besides, at his cultivation level, bringing a few people and demon beasts with him didn't spend any significant Spiritual Energy.

Somewhere outside of the Dalamu Sect, Zunzun, Lanlan, and Jinjin were also caught by Zuan and brought together.

On the way, Roan sent a Spiritual Sense message to Zuan Lamil.

'How far can a Saint Realm's Spiritual Sense reach?'

Zuan looked at him and then answered.

'So you noticed that I'm not a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator, huh? Anyway, it depends on the stage of cultivation and Soul Power. But generally, Initial Stage is up to around 100 kilometers, 150 for Middle, 200 for Late, and 300 for Peak.'



Roan nodded.

'That's enough.'

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Chapter 284: Close

Hearing that made Zuan puzzled.

'Why would it be enough?'

Roan didn't mind answering part of the reason.

'That's because 300 kilometers is the maximum distance I can pinpoint the exact location of that idiot. Further than that, and I will only be able to show the general direction.'

Zuan nodded.

'I see. It seems it's not as simple as Spiritual Sense, right?'

'Correct. My Spiritual Sense is just slightly bigger than average. At the moment, it can only go as far as 250 meters.'

Zuan's mouth twitched. Just slightly? A peak Foundation Establishment Realm Cultivator could only sense as far as 150 meters. The ones with superb soul power and talent might reach 200. But to think that this guy can see up to 250 fucking meters! It might mean nothing to Zuan's actual level, but he was far from Roan's range back when he was at the same level.

Roan didn't say anything about the teleport formation in the Dimensional Realm. It would be better to stay silent in case anything went wrong. Once he reached a distance close enough for the Soul Gem System to reconnect, he would check things with Rean first. The problem is that while the Soul Gem System was disconnected, neither he nor Rean can talk with each other or even Sister Orb.

Back on Rean's side, he and Droman had been in a passive state ever since the kidnapping. Droman was even feeling a little embarrassed at this point. After all, it was he who said that no one would try something like this. But look at the situation right now.

'Sorry. I'll find a way to get at least you free.'

Rean heard that but shook his head.

'It's fine. The problem would have been if they had killed me. However, they seem to be dead set on getting your help. Because of that, they kept us together. Besides, help is already on the way.'

Droman couldn't help but ask.

'Are you sure your brother can feel your general location?'

Rean nodded.

'Yes. I can also feel Roan's, and I can tell that he is quickly approaching.'

Droman nodded as he pondered a bit.

'When I sent the message to Sect Master, I also told her the enemies' cultivation level. That being said, Mia, Reliance, and Elder Faulk are probably coming as well. It's our luck that Reliance is staying in the Sect because of Kentucky. Otherwise, things would be very complicated without his three demon beasts.'

Rean got curious after hearing that.

'Old Worm? So, he's really that strong?'

Droman nodded.

'Indeed. Other than our Ancestor Zuan, Elder Faulk has the highest cultivation there. He is at the Peak of the Soul Transformation Realm. However, keep this fact a secret, okay? I'm only telling you because you will definitely see him in action once they arrive. Elder Faulk's strength is also something that almost no one knows, just like Reliance's Demon Beasts.'

'Who is Ancestor Zuan?'

Only then did Droman remember that Rean had never seen the Sect's ancestor.

'Oh. This part isn't exactly a secret. All five sects and the Jialin Royal Family can only hold their power because of their ancestors. They are the only cultivators of Jialin at the Saint Realm.'

Rean was surprised to hear that.

'Is this Ancestor coming as well? I hope he does because it will be necessary.'

'That... I don't know. But why will it be necessary?'

Rean smiled but didn't explain. He had his Fourth Form of the Life Style, Hidden Radar. Because of that, he can tell that these five guys scouting them aren't the full force. Since the very start, there was someone with an even stronger Spiritual Sense who had been following them in the shadows. For Rean, the stronger one's Spiritual Sense, the easier it would be to detect. This guy's one was as strong as Polian back in the Profound Abyss Entrance.

Seeing that Rean didn't want to answer, Droman changed the topic.

'Our problem at the moment is the fact that we are in their hands. They can use even you or me as a hostage to hold our Sect's hands. It will make things complicated.'

Rean narrowed his eyes. He did have a way to get both him and Droman out of there safely. However, that meant revealing the existence of the Dimensional Realm and the Teleport Formation to him. In fact, considering that Roan was also with the Sect Master and the others, they would also find out about it. At the moment, he wasn't sure if he should do it or not.

Ancestor Zuan was correct about one thing. The enemies were not flying as fast as they could. Instead, they were making their way out while keeping their presence as hidden as possible. They didn't want to catch other high-level cultivators' attention. After all, they did indeed come from another empire.

Time passed, and almost half a day had gone by. Suddenly, Rean and Roan felt a jolt in their Souls. The connection with the Soul Gem System was recovered.

[Hum? How come you two are so far away from the Sect? Wasn't Roan supposed to stay behind?]

Sure enough, Sister Orb's words immediately echoed in their souls.

Roan then looked at the elders around before saying.

"Found Rean. He is exactly 300 kilometers away from us."

Roan then had everyone slow down until they reached the same traveling speed as Rean's group. With that, they would stay out of the enemy's sight and Spiritual Sense ranges while he and Rean talked.

As he did that, he contacted Rean straight away.

'Hey, Nightingale, still alive?'

Rean's mouth twitched.

'At least more alive than you had ever been.'

'Whatever. Both me and Droman are fine. However, what do you think we should do? If I enter the Soul Gem Realm now, I can escape on my own, but I don't want to leave Droman behind.'

Roan nodded.

'That's the problem here. If you do that and teleport to where I am with the Circuitry Teleport Formation, Sect Master and the others will definitely ask how we did it. However, being in the middle of a battle of this level would have us killed if a single mishap occurs.'

Roan then continued.

'However, I thought about a way to do it and trick everyone. The problem is, you will need to find a way to keep Droman in the dark for a few seconds.'

Rean thought about it for a moment and nodded.

'Don't worry, I know an excellent way of doing it. In fact, he will stay in the dark for much longer than just a few seconds. By the way, what's your plan?'

Roan was surprised that Rean could pull that off. However, he didn't waste time asking what he would do. Instead, he explained the plan.

'I will get a random item from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and pretend that it is some kind of teleport device that we found in an inheritance. I will also cover it with my Dark Element so that they can't see what it is. After that, you and Droman will teleport to where we are as I destroy it.'

Rean couldn't help but ask.

'Isn't it way too convenient? Do you think the elders will believe it?'

Ron snorted in response.

'What is there to doubt about? They will see you and Droman appearing by our side in a second. It doesn't matter how suspicious they are. They can only believe it.'

Rean found it too ridiculous. But he had to admit that the Sect Master and the others would have no other choice other than to believe it. After all, would they come to the conclusion that Rean and Roan had a Dimensional Realm with a Teleport Formation just for the two of them? Now, that would be even harder to believe.

'Alright. Tell me when you're ready.'

Roan nodded.

After that, he asked everyone to stop for a second and took out a Rank Three Spirit Stone from his bag. Of course, he covered it in Dark Element so that no one could see what it was. All they could tell is that Roan was holding something that had Spiritual Energy inside.

"What is it?"

Roan smiled as he answered.

"That's Rean and Droman's pass out of that situation. I didn't want to use it, but it seems like I can't take risks here."

Not long after, Roan gave Rean the signal to start.

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Chapter 285: Friends from Afar

Rean heard that and took a Rank Three Spirit Stone from the Dimensional Realm into his hand. His bag with his items had been taken away from him, after all. Still, it appeared inside his hand, so no one noticed.

He then sent Elder Droman a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Elder Droman, you will feel your body being pulled away for a second. Do not resist it, okay?'

Droman was puzzled by that message. Still, he trusted Rean, so he nodded.

Right after, both twins' hair colors changed into a mix of Black and White. Rean then controlled the Dark Element he was getting from Roan to spread it around him and Droman. Droman's cultivation was sealed. Because of that, he couldn't use anything Spiritual Energy related. Even his Spiritual Sense couldn't go more than a few meters away, which was more than enough for Rean. The black energy he gathered around them completely sealed Droman's Vision and Spiritual Sense.

The enemies around Rean immediately noticed the change and stopped.

"Brat, what are you doing?!"

However, before they could do anything...

\*Vup!\*

Rean and Droman disappeared into thin air!

"What?!"

Back on Roan's side, the Dark Elements he summoned around the Spirit Stone increased in size several times, which made everyone around him puzzled. As Roan did that, a message appeared in Rean and Roan's head.

[Saving a Coordinate will cost 100 Destiny Points.]

[Confirm Purchase?]

'Yes!'

[Purchase Confirmed.]

[Saving Coordinates.]

[Coordinates Saved.]

Roan's Black Energy also covered the cube that the Soul Gem System summoned outside. However, he couldn't hide the ripples of energy. Let alone the elders, even Zuan, was shocked by that strange energy. After all, that was a Circuitry Formation that didn't exist in the outside world. But in the end, they still felt that it was quite familiar in some ways.

"Isn't that similar to when we use a Teleportation Formation?"

"It is indeed. What is the thing in Roan's hands?"

"How would I know? Let's just wait and see what will happen."

Back inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, a cloud of black energy suddenly appeared right above the Teleport Formation in the center. That Cloud was obviously Rean and Droman. Because of the Dark Element around them, Droman couldn't see or feel anything with the little Spiritual Energy he still had.

Sister Orb was already waiting for them. Roan had her put the Spirit Stones necessary for teleport in the formation, so it was ready to go. That being said, Rean and Droman didn't even have time to hit the ground before the Circuitry Teleportation Formation activated.

\*Vup!\*

Only a second passed in the Dimensional Realm before Rean and Droman disappeared once more.

\*Vup!\*



Sure enough, a Cloud of Black Energy appeared right beside Roan. It had the same shape and size as the one he summoned himself. That was Rean's plan. With Droman's cultivation sealed, he could completely lock Droman's senses with Dark Element alone.

\*Crack, Shatter!\*

\*Crack, Shatter!\*

Immediately after, everyone heard the sound of something crumbling. Of course, those were the two Spirit Stones that Rean and Roan had in their hands, the decoys. As the Spirit Stones' dust was carried away by the wind, the Cloud of Black Energy disappeared as well. From inside, Rean and Droman appeared in front of everyone.

"What?!"

"How did they do that?"

"Was that the thing that Roan was holding?"

"It must be!"

Rean and Roan didn't seem happy, though. Their expressions made one think that they had received a tremendous loss.

"Sigh... Our only Pinpoint Teleport Stones, gone, just like that..."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"There is no helping it. Didn't we save them for a moment like this? They have served their purpose. It was a lot better than staying in the enemy's hands as hostages."

The elders and even Droman wanted to ask something else, but Zuan immediately stopped them.

"We can ask questions later."

Right after, he put his hand on Rean and Droman's shoulders to check their conditions. Rean didn't have anything wrong with his body. However, Zuan quickly found the blockage in Droman's Dantian.

"Hmph!"

A powerful wave of Spiritual Energy then entered Droman's body and crushed the barrier around Droman's Dantian. It wasn't poison, but more like a Spiritual Energy restriction. With Zuan's Spiritual Energy strength, it was more than enough to shatter it with brute force.

Right after, Droman felt his Spiritual Energy running around his body once again.

"Great! Thank you, Ancestor Zuan."

Zuan nodded as he looked at the direction their group was moving a second ago.

"The enemy is in that direction, right?"

Roan nodded.

"Yes. But now that Rean returned, I can't tell where they are anymore."

Zuan snorted in response.

"That's all I need to know."

He then looked at Reliance.

"Ask Lanlan to bring Rean and Roan back to the sect. The rest of us, we can't possibly go back to the sect without giving our visitors a departing gift, don't you think?"

All the elders' eyes turned cold as they nodded.

Reliance then talked with Lanlan, the enormous centipede. Lanlan simply nodded and opened its mouth. Before Rean and Roan could even react, it immediately swallowed the twins. A second later, Lanlan descended from the skies and entered the ground. It decided to tunnel its way back to the sect. Even a Saint Realm cultivator would have a lot of difficulties stopping it.

As it tunneled its way back, Rean and Roan heard Lanlan's Spiritual Sense message.

'Hehe! Don't worry, I will not digest you. Master just told me to deliver you back to the sect's entrance. Well, we are underground, so it will take some time. You two might as well sit down and cultivate for the time being.'

Rean and Roan nodded.

'Thank you, Sister Lanlan.'

The centipede was taken aback.

'Sister? Hahaha! Now, that's a way no one has called me before. Anyway, you are safe with me here. As for Master and the others, there is no need to think about them either.'

Back on Elder Zuan's side, he quickly grabbed everyone with his Spiritual Energy and disappeared in a flash. As for their enemies, they were still looking around with their Spiritual Senses, but they couldn't find anything. However, it wasn't just the five Soul Transformation Realm cultivators there anymore. Other than them, another cultivator with black clothes and using a technique to hide his face appeared. That was the cultivator Rean and Zuan talked about, the Saint Realm enemy.

"Where the hell did they go?"

"Forget it! They probably had some treasure that teleported them away."

"If they had that, why didn't they use it until now?"

"Maybe they were waiting for something?"

Suddenly, a powerful Spiritual Sense fell over everyone. The Saint Realm leader then looked in a particular direction and immediately understood.

"Fuck! They didn't teleport before because they were being tracked down! We can't stay in Sasamil Empire anymore."

It was then that a laugh entered everyone's minds.

"Hahaha! Leaving already? How could you do that? You still haven't enjoyed this old man's hospitality, you know? What about staying for a bit longer?"

As soon as that happened, an enormous fireball appeared above everyone there. Not only that, but the Wind Element fueled it, making it even more terrifying. Ancestor Zuan's Elemental Affinity was Fire, but he had also achieved superb control over the Wind Element at his level. Someone like Silo, Calina's dead guardian, could only kneel down to it.

The enemy's Saint Realm cultivator narrowed his eyes and acted. A Yellow Light came out of his body as Earth Element gathered like torrents. Right after, an enormous Earth Shield, which was as tough as a Heaven Level Metal, was shot against the descending Fireball.

\*Boom!\*

The shockwave made even the Soul Transformation Realm cultivators on the enemies' side find it hard to keep their balance in the air.

Right after, Ancestor Zuan arrived with everyone else. Mia and the others didn't need his orders. They immediately started their attacks against the enemies' Soul Transformation Realm cultivators as soon as they appeared.

However, they didn't seem to be going all out. Instead, they began to play it very safe. Still, that was terrible news for the enemies. The enemy's Saint Realm cultivator knew very well what they wanted to achieve.

'They are trying to create a commotion to attract the nearby powers here. The longer we wait, the more disadvantageous it will become.'

However, he didn't have much time to think. That's because Zuan came at him like a cannonball.

"Friend from far away, let's play, shall we?!"

\*Boom, boom, boom...\*

Immediately, the place turned into a battlefield. Still, the Saint Realm leader sent a Spiritual Sense Message to everyone.

'Disengage! We can't stay here for longer.'

Like that, the battle became a cat and mouse situation bound to extend for several countries worth of distance.

Death... and me

Chapter 286: Speed Up?

In the end, Zuan and the other Soul Transformation Realm cultivators of the Dalamu Sect were able to take two of the kidnapers down. That was because the commotion from the pursuit ended up catching the attention of other cultivators at a similar level. Still, the rest ended up escaping, including the Saint Realm enemy.

Later on, when the Sect Master and the others came back to the Sect, they said something that didn't make Rean and Roan the least bit happy. It turned out that the two cultivators that died were most likely from the Chrole Empire. Or at least, they had traces of the people from there, which was basically the fact that they had blond hair, just like Calina. Only Empires from the north shared this kind of trait. Of course, that didn't mean that once couldn't find blond-haired people outside there. However, they were relatively rare.

Unfortunately, Zuan's group couldn't get any information from those two since they died. It was not because they were killed, but because once they noticed that they couldn't escape anymore, they took their own life.

Still, the fact that the Imperial Family was thinking about invading Chrole was a secret for most of the people. That being said, Rean and Roan couldn't bring up the issue about the possible war against them to their Sect Master and the elders. In the end, they just participated in that meeting to give their opinions. The twins would have to wait until the Dalamu Sect found it out by itself.

As for the 'Teleport Item' that Rean and Roan used, they simply said that it was something related to an inheritance they found a long time ago. However, they weren't willing to share more details than that. In fact, Mia and the others thought that it was something like that. After all, who would give the twins such impressive teleport stones which could be used without preparation? Unless, of course, the twins had a background that no one knew. Naturally, that was even harder to believe than an inheritance.

Mia also resolved to give them a vote of confidence since it was thanks to those stones that they could get Droman back. One must not forget that the enemy wasn't after Rean or Roan, but Droman instead. Wasn't it because of the twins that Droman was rescued without any risks? The twins had this kind of card to play.

Later, Zuan and Mia finished their meeting and let the twins and other elders go, leaving only the two behind them.

Zuan knew his disciple well, so he was the first one to talk.

"What? Do you think this is also related to what you told me about the Profound Abyss events?"

Mia nodded.

"Master also heard what Roan said before, right? What's the most powerful weapon in a large-scale battle? Communication! Now, we had an entire group, including a Saint Realm expert, come after Droman. They were also from another Empire, which means that they have eyes in the Sasamil Empire's Capital. I can't help but think that everything is related somehow. Every time the twins are involved, something out of the ordinary happens, after all. Even though Droman was the target, Rean was the real author of the Router and Communication formations."

Zuan then shrugged his shoulders before saying.

"Why don't you simply lock the twins inside the Sect for some time, then? That would ensure their safety in case you are worried. However, you aren't worried about them, right? It's Malaka instead. You know how much she likes her brothers. That's why you don't want anything to happen to them."

Mia couldn't help but sigh. Even though she didn't say anything, her Master saw right through her.

"Well, it's not like I don't care about the twins at all. They did bring a lot of fortune to our Sect as well. I can't just ignore their wishes either."

Zuan nodded.

"It's fine. As for this war that you are worried about, it's just too early to think about it. We can't even guarantee that those guys were really from Chrole. Even if they are, since they committed suicide, the Chrole Empire could simply deny knowing anything about that. Other than that, you should think of a way to keep Droman safe instead. From the looks of it, they only believe that Droman was responsible for the creation of the Communication and Router Formations. Then again, that's understandable. After all, we never told the Imperial Family about Rean's involvement in it."

Mia agreed with her Master.

"Master, do you think I should ask for the protection of the Imperial Family? After all, we can't keep Droman in the Sect since he needs to work on the communication system. Especially now that the other Formation Elders that knew about it are dead. He needs to train a few others to help him with it, which

can't be done in the Sect alone. Besides, there's a chance that he will need to bring Rean out with him as well. Next time, I doubt they will hear his wishes to keep Rean alive or bring him with Droman."

Zuan narrowed his eyes as he thought about it. Indeed, Rean wasn't a target in the Communication System's case since almost no one knew of his involvement. However, if they really called for an expert at the Saint Realm of the Imperial Family to look over it, Rean's abilities were bound to be found. It's not like it was a bad thing, but the problem was that they didn't report it to the Imperial Family either. They couldn't tell if the Imperial Family would blame them or try to woo Rean over to their side. Perhaps, even both were possible.

In the end, Zuan sighed as he said.

"Seems like I have no other choice. Anyway, with the Dalamu Sect's Formation, you shouldn't have problems in defending it even if I'm out. I'll take the responsibility of looking over Droman's safety for the next few years. That should be enough for everyone to learn about any possible upgrade Droman and Rean make. Droman should be safe once that happens."

Mia nodded.

"Thank you, Master. With you there, I doubt someone will try to take Droman again."

Zuan nodded and then left the room. He would simply keep an eye on Droman and follow him in the shadows once he needed to work in the Communication System outside again.

On Rean and Roan's side, their conversation was even more heated. After all, they did know that Chrole and Sasamil were the two main characters in this war they were involved in.

'Seems like you're right. The Empire really wanted the Communication System built as fast as possible because of Chrole. Chrole noticed the changes happening here and went out to find a way to gain the advantage. In the end, they came after the creator of the communication system, but thought it was Droman.'

Rean nodded.



'But it wasn't all that bad. At least now we are sure that the Sect really didn't say anything about me to the Imperial Family. I just so happened to be with Droman at that time.'

'By the way, do you think that it will speed up the Emperor selection?'

Roan shook his head.

'I don't think so. We are talking about Empires here. Do you think that the Imperial Family would be idiotic enough to think that there are spies around? Let alone Chrole, there should be a few spies of each Empire in all the Empire Capitals in this world. Although they came for Droman, who is at the Soul Transformation Realm, it was quite a harsh decision. It wasn't totally impossible. We are at the same point here, with just a few years before things start to heat up.'

As the two talked, Rean received a Spiritual Sense message from Droman.

'Rean, we will depart to continue the project tomorrow.'

Rean narrowed his eyes before asking.

'Is it really okay? We just received an attack, you know?'

'It's fine. I just received a message from Mia saying that she already took care of our safety. If I'm not wrong, Ancestor Zuan will probably be watching over us from now on. Besides, we had already finished Version 1.2 of the Router Formation. We just need to rebuild it to make a few more tests.'

Rean didn't mind.

'Alright, then. I'll come by tomorrow. However, I can't spend too long out. After all, I need to cultivate as well, and you know that I need to stay close to Roan for it to be effective.'

Droman accepted that.

'No problem. Once we finish rebuilding it, I'll bring you back straight away. Oh, right! Make sure to study well. I'll also use our free time to teach you Formations.'

Death... and me

Chapter 287: Check That Thing

Things seemed to calm down after the last event. No one tried anything against Droman and Rean anymore. Roan also passed his days in the Sect practicing alchemy or winning and losing a few battles in the Inner Sect ranking fights. Of course, there was that single day in the week where he would appear in the Blue Orchid District to bea- train the girls and Julio.

After a few times, the girls and Julio noticed that Roan seemed to be picking on Calina. However, they only thought that it was because Calina was the only one who could force his hands more than any other. Calina, of course, began to be afraid of that special day in the week. It wasn't as if she never landed any hit on Roan. But what she achieved so far seemed so lackluster in comparison that she couldn't even tell if she was advancing or not.

It was only after Roan ordered Calina to fight four of her sisters in the Blue Orchid District that she finally felt the difference. Although it was by a hair, she was still able to achieve victory. All the girls knew that Calina was more talented than them, but she was improving way too fast!

Roan nodded after seeing that, satisfied.

"That's more or less it for you in the Blue Orchid District. From now on, you will do two things. First, take missions. The harder, the better. You needed to go through life and death experiences, or you will get stuck at some point. Second, go enter the Inner Sect. The people there are a much better fit for your current level."

Roan then looked at Amanda.

"In fact, you should try the Inner Sect as well. You are definitely stronger than the last 100. I don't know why you are still here."

Amanda was a little surprised that Roan thought that about her.

"I didn't expect that you thought that about me."

Roan didn't mind her response, replying.

"Other than this Illia girl, you are definitely the strongest here. However, you should know this already. Is there any specific reason for you to stay? It's not like Inner Sect disciples can't choose to live in the Outer Sect. If you just don't wish to leave, you can simply stay here."

Amanda shook her head.

"I will enter the Inner Sect, but I decided to do that once I enter the Core Formation Realm. At least, I'll be able to go much further through the ranks instead of staying at the bottom."

Roan didn't think that it was necessary. Still, since she decided to do that, then so be it.

"Anyway, I'm finished here today. Illia, don't forget to revise what I passed on to you."

Roan didn't even wait for an answer before disappearing.

On Rean's side, he and Droman finished installing Version 1.2 of the Router Formation. Now, Droman changed his focus to expanding the Communication System so they could hold a real stress test. After all, there wasn't enough information passing through it to test the limits of their creation.

At some point, Droman went to the other Sects and the Jialin Royal Family, asking to connect their already made networks with the Dalamu Sect. In exchange, he would pass them their actual Router Formation blueprints for them to build it. The Sects and the Royal Family gladly accepted it.

Just like that, time continued to pass. Rean and Roan were finally able to stabilize their foundations and returned to cultivating at full speed. The good thing was the extra Rank Three Spirit Stones they got from the Profound Abyss event, which helped them even more.

However, they were not the first ones to reach the limit of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Instead, it was Calina who got there first. At some point, she went to the cultivator tower and started her breakthrough. Roan decided to be there as well. Since her cultivation technique also relied on Yin Energy, he could help her with it.

The next day, Calina returned to the Inner Sect, which she had already entered as Roan solicited. When she appeared there, she immediately started to issue challenges to higher level cultivators. The reason was obvious, with her finally entering the Core Formation Realm. With the boost in power, she could finally go up in the ranks again.

However, what she really wanted to try was to challenge Roan. She was already stronger than Core Formation Realm cultivators at her level. She wanted to see if she could finally teach the corpse a lesson.

Roan, of course, saw no reason to decline. Calina's progress was directly linked to his life. He was more than willing to see how much she changed after the breakthrough.

"Alright, let's start."

Calina and Roan's battle caught a lot of attention that day. After all, Roan was used to trashing those at the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. However, Calina really gave him a run for his money. Although Roan won in the end, it wasn't as easy as it always was for him.

Others might be impressed that Calina forced Roan that much, but unfortunately, she wasn't the least bit happy.

"So annoying! I'm already at the Core Formation Realm. How come I still can't win?"

Roan snorted in response.

"Simple. I'm stronger. Still, you did much better than the other Initial Stage Core Formation Realm cultivators of the Inner Sect. It seems like all the training I gave you was not for naught. You've begun to think ahead, always expect a counter-attack, not freeze up when something goes wrong, and so on. Even I had some difficulty in taking you down. You should be proud of yourself. If you were in the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm, it would be a draw, or I would have lost."

"Don't worry. You certainly improved a lot, but there is a lot of room for growing. I told you, didn't I? I will make you the Empress. For that, you have to show a talent higher than your brothers. That's the only way of being recognized by the actual Emperor."

Calina couldn't help but feel a little flustered by that. Every time he talked about her becoming an Empress, the scene where she fell into his embrace would surface in her mind.

"That's enough for now. I came to ask you something."

Calina's interest was immediately piqued.

"It's not every day you ask for something. Say it, I'll do what I can."

Roan nodded and then explained.

"I would like to ask for you to reconsider passing your cultivation technique to Malaka. In the end, this enormous quantity of Yin Energy that you get from it is better than her actual technique. I know that it is one of the Imperial Family's techniques, but there should be something I can do in exchange for it."

Calina sighed as she shook her head.

"Forget it. I'll give it to Malaka."

Roan was a little surprised by that.

"You were quite adamant about not doing it in the past. What changed now?"

Calina then explained.

"To be honest, I couldn't bring myself to totally believe you guys before. Because of that, I always had some reservations. But it is clear to me now that you really want to help me. Malaka had always tried to do what she could to cheer me up. Rean also healed my injuries every time things went bad. He only doesn't do more because he can't help me with training as much as you do. Since you have all done so much for me already, I might as well go all in."

Roan's expression didn't change at all.

"Wasn't that obvious? We asked you to trust us, but you did that out of pure necessity. There was nothing wrong with keeping your guard up. In fact, if you really did, then you would hardly be fit for the position of Empress. Seems like you aren't completely helpless after all."

For some reason, Calina didn't feel bad about Roan's last words. It was more like if he didn't throw stones at you, that wouldn't really be him.

"Just remember. No one can know that I passed that technique to Malaka."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he pondered. Mia would definitely notice if Malaka changed her cultivation all of a sudden. The hard part was to convince Calina, which was done, but keeping Mia in the dark wouldn't be easy either.

It was then that he had an idea.

'Seems like it is time to go check that thing. It will serve as the perfect excuse.'

Death... and me

Chapter 288: Most Expensive Purchase

Roan was thinking about the Jade Slip the twins got back in the Jiran Forest. They didn't dare to enter it in the past because it had Stage Four Demon Beasts. In fact, even now, entering it at their level was not a good idea at all. Not to mention that Juri said that there were rumors of even Stage Five Deamon Beasts existing in there.

However, Rean and Roan were planning to enter the Core Formation Realm pretty soon. Once they do that and put all their abilities together, their average strength should shoot up significantly. With Rean's Enhancement and Roan's Shadow Steps, they should at least be able to escape if necessary. Of course, that was only in the case of Stage Four Demon Beasts. If a Stage Five Beast appeared, the story would undoubtedly change.

Still, Roan wasn't in the mood to wait for the time they could safely do everything. After all, it would not serve as training at all. In his eyes, the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm was a perfect choice. They could test their own increase in power and experience real Life and Death combat.

However, it was then that Calina asked Roan.

"Are you worried about Malaka's Master finding out that she changed her cultivation technique?"

Roan nodded, not minding too much.

"It's not really a worry. Mia will definitely notice it straight away. After that, she will ask Malaka how she got it. Obviously, she will find out about you sooner or later. After all, the amount of Yin Energy in your body is very high. Zaia most likely already got someone to check your identity, which is safe because of the Zafa Bank. However, Mia is a lot sharper than Zaia. She might, no, she will get very suspicious."

Calina shrugged her shoulders.

"In that case, I just need to give it to Malaka in the open. What I said is that others can't know the technique itself. I've never said that others can't know that I passed it to someone."

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Chances are that Mia will ask Malaka to show it to her. After all, she is Malaka's Master. She has the right to be worried that Malaka might be cultivating something bad. Besides, this would make a lot of people jealous as well."

Calina couldn't help but sigh.

"Why does everything have to be this complicated? Fine, I will give a copy to Mia as well. As the Sect Master, she should be able to at least keep her word, right? I just need to ask her to not spread it."

Roan looked at Calina.

"How come this secret technique of the Imperial Family doesn't seem that secret anymore? Aren't you being way too open all of a sudden? Just because she is the Sect Master doesn't mean that she won't spread it, you know? Where did you get your confidence from?"

Calina got angry.

"Can't you just decide already?! Do you want me to do it or not?!"

Roan could only nod in the end.

"Fine, let's do as you say. I hate to admit it, but it's true that Mia has a habit of keeping her words. As long as you say that it's part of the techniques of your Family, it should be okay. If she asks why you decide to give it to them, just say that you wanted to. After all, you and Malaka are already back to that 'best buddies' behavior, just like in the Profound Abyss."

Calina finally smiled. She felt like she finally won an argument against Roan, which was quite rare.

"By the way, Malaka and I are going out for a mission in a week again."

"I know. You two are doing well like that. I checked with the Missions Hall. The two of you have been selecting pretty hard missions. That's a good way to test your strengths. However, don't exaggerate. Challenging Missions and Suicide Missions are entirely different."

Calina laughed as she said.

"Don't worry, I'm not an idiot."



With that, Roan finished his talk with Calina and left. However, even though Calina resolved the issue of 'secrecy' herself, his plan to visit the Jade Slip location was not canceled. He wanted to see what was being kept in there. Well, Roan also knew that considering their resources now, whatever it is that was hidden there might not be that impressive.

Later, he told his plan to Rean as well.

"Are you sure about that? If Tribe Leader Juri's words are true, we really could end up bumping into a Stage Five Demon Beast, you know?"

Roan nodded.

"So what? It's no different compared to when we went to gather those ginsengs. We entered the middle of a war where we could have found someone we would be helpless against. Still, did we stop? Just focus on cultivating so we can breakthrough in the next two months."

Rean had to admit that Roan was right. They got into quite a few situations where danger was at every corner. This would just be one more of them.

Later on, Calina passed her cultivation technique to Malaka, who also gave a copy to Mia. When questioned, she spoke what Roan suggested. Malaka was her best friend in the Sect, so she wanted to help her. She went even further and said that this technique of her Family wasn't really super-secret. As long as one got the connections and paid the price, her clan didn't mind passing it out.

Mia looked at the technique and had to admit that it was incredible. However, she also knew that 'Illia' was supposed to be a daughter of the Fosk Clan. From what she knew, a clan as powerful as that one would indeed have something like this. It couldn't compare to the Nine Subordinate Clans of the Imperial Family. However, it was still more powerful than her Dalamu Sect.

Mia then got into a dilemma. She wanted to pry more about 'Illia's' sudden decision of passing this technique to them. However, she also couldn't help but feel tempted by it. Her Master had a similar technique. However, it was only compatible with Fire Element users, so she couldn't use it.

"What do you want in exchange for it?"

Illia shook her head.

"This is for Malaka. All I ask is that Sect Master doesn't spread it. I'm only passing it to you since you would be worried if Malaka suddenly changed her technique. Well, there is also the fact that my punishment wouldn't be that bad if my elders find about it. It's a risk that I don't mind taking."

Mia nodded but still insisted.

"I'm glad that you think like that. I will not even investigate further since this technique is crucial to both my disciple and me. Still, I feel bad to just obtain it for free. Zaia told me that you entered the Sect because of resources, right? Let's do it like this. I'll give you free access to the cultivation tower from now on. That way, you won't need Sect Points anymore. Of course, I don't think that it is enough to pay for a technique like this, so I'll let you take 100 Rank Three Spirit Stones from the treasure every month as well. No need to pay."

Calina was indeed planning to give the technique for free. However, she wasn't surprised that Mia decided to pay so much for it. She knew better than anyone else good it was. After all, it was one of the Imperial Family's Manuals. If anything, Mia's payment wasn't even close to being worth the technique. Nonetheless, getting to receive something when you decided to give it for free wasn't bad at all. Not to mention that those Spirit Stones would indeed be of great help.

Things continued to move at a smooth pace. Just as Calina mentioned, she and Malaka began to go out on missions every now and then together.

Rean and Roan also continued to practice their own things. Droman had finally given Rean the title of an Earth Middle-Level Formations Master. As for Roan, he caught up to Rean's Blacksmith level, reaching the Earth High-Level Alchemist rank under Old Worm's guidance.

Of course, there was another thing that didn't stop. Destiny Points! In the end, Rean and Roan decided to play it safe. Because of that, they didn't expend a single point of it for half a year! Why? Because they wanted to buy the next level of the Soul Connection Upgrade, which was Level 3! The thing with the highest price at the moment, 5000 Destiny Points!

[Soul Connection Range Upgrade level 3 – 5000 Destiny Points]

[Destiny Points Balance: 5237]

[Confirm the Purchase?]

"Yes!"

[Initiating Upgrade.]

As the Soul Gem System worked, Rean and Roan also discussed something else with Sister Orb.

"Sister Orb, how's our cultivation so far? Do you think we already reached the limit of what we can do at the Peak Stage of Foundation Establishment?"

Rean and Roan wanted to enter the Core Formation Realm too!

Death... and me

Chapter 289: Core Formation Realm and an Extra...

After hearing that, Sister Orb analyzed the Twins' Dantians.

[Not bad... You two did well. This Last Stage of the Foundation Establishment took you a lot more than any of the previous stages. However, that was because you two didn't have enough time to wait for your Late Stage to mature appropriately.]

Sister Orb continued.

[Fortunately, there's no danger of a Universal Restraint approaching anytime soon, so you took your time to stabilize your foundations naturally. After you finished stabilizing your foundations, you had a lot of Rank Three Spirit Stones to use as well. So far, it seems like your foundations are in the best condition. As for the limit you talked about, I think it is already good enough.]

Rean and Roan nodded, satisfied. They had followed Sister Orb's instructions to the letter. After half a year, they had to admit, they also felt like their foundations were back to their prime conditions. They accumulated enough energy for their breakthrough as well. Their Pools of Spiritual Energy couldn't be fuller at the moment as they both brimmed with energy.

"Good! Once the Soul Connection is finished upgrading, we will make our Core Formation Realm breakthroughs as well."

As soon as they finished saying that, the Soul Gem System announced.

[Upgrade to Soul Connection Range Upgrade level 3 Completed.]

Rean and Roan didn't even need that announcement. They could feel it through their Soul Connection to the Soul Gem Orb. From now on, they would be able to use the Teleport Formation up to 3000 kilometers!

Sister Orb then warned the two.

[Don't forget, Rank Three Spirit Stones can only teleport you two up to a thousand kilometers. Anything above that will need Rank Four Spirit Stones instead.]

Rean and Roan nodded. They could only teleport 300 km before. Now they can at least guarantee 1000. That was already an excellent upgrade. Besides, it's not like they couldn't acquire Rank Four Spirit Stones in the future.

"Let's not waste our time. I want to go check that Jade Slip location and test our strength at the Core Formation Realm."

Rean and Roan then left the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and went straight up to the Cultivation Tower in the Inner Sect. As one could imagine, the Energy Gathering Formations in this place were even better than the tower in the outer sect. The best thing was their free pass into it without the need of Sect Points.

As soon as they took a room each, they began to place the Rank Three Spirit Stones in the formations. Only then did they sit and contacted the Dimensional Realm.

'Sister Orb, we are done here. Now then, how do we go around with this Universe Essence you asked us to keep?'

[The Core Formation Realm is just like the name implies. You two will need to form a Core of Energy that later will lodge part of your souls. However, let's leave the soul thing aside. After all, that will only happen once you breakthrough into the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Let's concentrate on creating the Cores here.]

[Normal Cores would be formed with the same element as the cultivator's Elemental Affinity. For example, Malaka and Calina will form a Water Core in the future. However, your Foundations have 10 pillars, with the tenth pillar being of the opposite Element of your Elemental Affinity. The Cores of your Core Formation Realm will follow a similar principle. Although they will be mostly formed with your Main Element, you will carry a trace of the other's element too. That is all for the sake of balance between your elemental exchange.]

[To form the Core, you need a foundation for it. As for the Foundation, it will be the 10 Pillars. Well, that's why it was called the Foundation Establishment Realm. The more pillars you created when you entered the Foundation Establishment Realm, the better it will be once you start building your Core.]

Roan couldn't help but say.

'Cut to the chase. All these steps are already described in the Yin Yang Cultivation Manuals. We also know about the constant exchange of elements while building the Cores as well. Tell us about how to use the Universe Essence.'

[There is no harm in reviewing the steps, you know? Anyway, once you start pouring your elements into the Core, mix them with the Universe Essence. It will naturally add to the Core's shell. Don't forget, it won't make you stronger. It will only make it harder to break and slightly increase the Spiritual Energy absorption. Of course, those two alone are already very good.]

Rean and Roan nodded before starting the breakthrough. They weren't afraid of something going wrong with the normal process of the breakthrough. After all, the Yin Yang Manuals of the Soul Gem System had always been flawless in that regard. They were only worried that the Universe Essence might have some effect or make things different.

Rean and Roan's Foundations had one extra pillar than the best foundations known by others, the Light and Dark Element Pillars. Rean had a Dark Element Pillar, while Roan had the Light one. These two pillars were located right in the middle of the Spiritual Pool, surrounded by the nine neutral ones.

When the breakthrough started, the nine surrounding neutral pillar bases began to move in the Elemental Pillar's position in the center. The place where the Elemental Pillars were located was also where the Core would start to form. Usually, it would be empty, but Rean and Roan's Elemental Pillars were there.

'There comes the painful part.'

Rean and Roan gritted their teeth and waited. Suddenly, the speed that the nine neutral pillars moved had increased.

**\*Bang!\***

It was then that all nine in each of the twins' foundations smashed against their Elemental Pillars. It was already incredibly excruciating when Rean and Roan broke the shell of their dantians to expose the ten pillars outside. Let alone now that one of them was being destroyed.

Their Dark and Light Pillars then began to crack as the Twins let out tons of cold sweat due to the pain it caused.

**\*Crack, crack, crack...\***

**\*Shatter!\***

Finally, the Elemental Pillars couldn't hold it anymore and were shattered into pieces. There was no helping it. According to the Yin Yang Cultivation Manuals, Rean and Roan would need to use the Elemental Pillars as the energy necessary to create the Light and Dark Cores. Rean's Dark Pillar would be used in his Light Elemental Core, while Roan's Light Pillar would be used in his Dark Elemental one. That's what Sister Orb mentioned by creating something similar to the Foundation Establishment Realm.

With the pillars destroyed, the space at the center of the Spiritual Pool was finally free. With that, the Spiritual Energy in the pool began to gather at the center. Not only that, but the fragments of the Light and Dark Pillars also joined in the party.

Rean and Roan didn't stop either. They gathered and exchanged Dark and Light Elements with the Rank Three Spirit Stones' and the Energy Gathering Formation's support. Obviously, they mixed the little bit of Universe Essence they got some time ago into it.

Fortunately, the twins seemed to have underestimated the manuals created by the Soul Gem System. That's because once they started to form their cores, they felt like the Universe Essence fused with the Core as if it was meant to be. It was so smooth that it was scary to them.

Their Spiritual Pool's energy quickly disappeared. The Light and Dark Cores took form while using the nine neutral pillars as foundations. Rean's Core was mostly snow-white, but one could see faint dark lines spiraling around it. Roan was the opposite. His Core was primarily dark with soft threads of white. The Universe Essence also fused with the Cores' Shells, making it stronger and a bit more compatible with Spiritual Energy.

When the last drop of Spiritual Energy in the Spiritual Pool finally disappeared, Rean and Roan's Cores began to resonate with each other. That resonance then began to make the balance of Yin Yang in the surroundings tremble. However, the only ones that noticed it were Mia and Ancestor Zuan.

'Master, what is happening?'

Zuan spread his Spiritual Sense and soon found the epicenter of the event.

'Well, what else could it be? It's those two brats again. They had just entered the Core Formation Realm.'

Mia's Spiritual Sense quickly arrived at the cultivation tower and watched the twins. Sure enough, she felt the power of the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm coming from them. In the end, she couldn't help but sigh.

'It's awe-inspiring. Even though there is no such thing as Light and Dark cultivation manuals, those two can still cultivate this fast.'

Yep. Other than Rean and Roan, no one else knew about the Yin Yang cultivation manuals. The two observed their progress as the twins finished their breakthrough.

Not too long after, that resonance began to calm down, stabilizing the surrounding Yin Yang energy.

Rean and Roan then opened their eyes as they checked their bodies. They were completely drenched in sweat, but other than that, there wasn't anything wrong. However, it was at this moment that they felt similar energies coming from another direction.

'This... It's coming from the Beast Taming Faction.'

'Indeed. For us to be able to feel this, it can only mean one thing.'

'It's Kentucky!'

Sure enough, a particular bird was finishing its breakthrough at that moment. Kentucky was now transforming into a Stage Three Demon Beast!

Death... and me

Chapter 290: The Link Between Them

Rean and Roan quickly left the cultivation tower and headed to the Beast Taming Faction. But it was also at this moment that they noticed the difference now that they were in the Core Formation Realm. Without the Life Style First Form's help, they were already as fast as when they used it in the past in the previous realm.



In the Beast Taming Faction, Reliance was watching Kentucky's Core reach the new level. Reliance had been curious about something as of late. Kentucky had reached Stage Two as a Demon Beast extremely fast. Considering that speed, he was supposed to have entered Stage Three way before now. However, he seemed to have gotten stuck there. Reliance knew that Kentucky had accumulated more than enough Spiritual Energy for a breakthrough a long time ago. But only today, out of nowhere, he suddenly started his breakthrough.

Kentucky was almost done with his own breakthrough when suddenly, the twins arrived inside the building Kentucky was staying. Reliance wasn't an idiot. The moment he saw the twins, he immediately understood what was going on.

"So you two just entered the Core Formation Realm, huh? I found it weird that Kentucky hadn't had its breakthrough until now. It seems like he is bound by your cultivation levels. If you didn't enter the Core Formation Realm, Kentucky wouldn't be able to become a Stage Three Demon Beast. I just don't know how that happened."

Rean nodded. He had also discussed this issue with Reliance quite a few times.

"I think so as well. I told you before that Roan and I have some connection with Kentucky. Where we could feel his presence even from far distances. It's not as good as the connection between Roan and me, where we can feel each other's general location regardless of distance, but it is similar. It seems like this connection also limits Kentucky's cultivation, though."

Reliance agreed with Rean.

\*Chick!\*

Kentucky finally came back to himself and noticed Rean at the entrance. He was obviously happy to see him and came running to Rean's embrace. It's just that there was a small problem, he was a little too fast and... too big! All Rean saw was a flash of Dark and White Lights coming in his direction.

"Wait, wait, wait!"

\*Bang!\*

Kentucky's head smashed against Rean's chest, sending him flying like a cannonball!

\*Crash!\*

Rean's body crashed against the building's wall before slowly sliding down. Rean felt helpless at that. He wasn't expecting Kentucky to be that fast, so he didn't react in time. The problem was that Kentucky's breakthrough had increased the guy's size a lot. As a Peak Stage Two demon beast, Kentucky was already as tall as Reliance. Now, he had suddenly expanded to twice his original size. Although Kentucky lost some of his fatness in the process, becoming a lot slimmer, he still got a lot heavier just with the overall size increase.

"Cough, cough..."

"Kentucky, you should be careful when you approach others from now on, okay?"

\*Chick!\*

Kentucky nodded as if he had understood Rean's intention. This time, he walked instead of flying. Rean couldn't help but laugh as he used the Second Form of the Life Style to heal that clash's injuries. He then patted Kentucky's head, much to the Minokawa's delight.

"You are already this big, but you still like a kid. Oh well, if age is regarded, then you are still a kid anyway."

Roan saw that everything seemed fine, so he didn't have much interest in the rest. Rean was the one responsible for the oversized chicken anyway.

"I'm going back. Don't forget to take my Cultivation Stabilizing Pills once per day. Once we finish putting our cultivation under control, we will go to Jiran Forest."

Rean nodded as Roan left.

Reliance then shook his head as he looked at Rean.

"Oh well, leaving Roan aside, there is another thing I noticed. The reason Kentucky reached Peak Stage Two so fast was probably related to this connection between you three. However, this is more like a submissive connection in this Minokawa's case. Kentucky's level doesn't affect the two of you, but your level affects his own. Because you were already at the Foundation Establishment Middle Stage when Kentucky was born, it increased his cultivation speed."

"By the time you and Roan reached the Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, Kentucky was already right behind. Finally, he reached the Peak and got stuck there with the two of you. Now you also know why Kentucky needed so many cores and Spiritual Energy. He was using it to catch up to the two of you. It's just that even he didn't notice it most likely."

Rean didn't mind.

"It's okay. If Kentucky really cultivated that fast and surpassed us, it might be hard to control in the future. I'm happy that he will have time to get used to each step he takes."

Reliance nodded once again.

"Indeed. That was also a concern of mine, but now I don't need to be worried anymore. My only concern now is that the two of you would become too slow and hinder his progress."

Sure enough, Reliance never minded making it clear that he only cared about the Minokawa and not the twins themselves. Helping the twins was only a way to get what he wanted from Kentucky.

"By the way, what's this Jiran Forest about?"

Rean didn't mind telling the truth since they would report their leave to Hulian anyway.

"And that's how we got this Jade Slip with a map inside. Oh, right! Elder Reliance, do you know if the core of the Jiran Forest really has Stage Five Demon Beasts?"

Reliance wasn't against the twins going out since it would also help develop Kentucky in the wild.

"Hmmm... considering the location you told me, I would say there shouldn't be any. Of course, I can't rule out the chance of being wrong. In any case, even if there are Stage Five Demon Beasts, there shouldn't be more than one or two of them. However, there should be a considerable number of Stage Four ones.

Rean nodded.

"As long as I know this, that's enough."

Reliance then added.

"If you want to find Stage Five and above Demon Beasts, your best choice would be Canatol's Mountain Range and Forest. This information might be of some use for you in the future."

\*Chick, Chick!\*

Rean understood what Kentucky meant and reached for his bag. From there, another piece of Luminous Heavenly Ore came out. Rean threw it at Kentucky, who immediately swallowed it whole.

\*Burp\*

Satisfied, Kentucky then returned to the nest prepared for him and began to sleep to digest the ore.

"This guy really only knows how to sleep and eat."

"Well, he is incredibly powerful in battle, though."

Rean then turned around and prepared to leave.

"I'll let you know when we decide to go to Jiran Forest, Elder Reliance."

Reliance nodded. He knew everything, so he wouldn't tell about the twins' destination to anyone to prevent unnecessary issues.

On his way back to the Inner Sect, Rean took out one of the Cultivation Stabilizing Pills and swallowed it. Immediately, the soothing effect of the pill began to act upon the chaotic energy of his Dantian.

After that, Rean went to Elder Hulian's house, which was located in the Inner Sect. It was better if no one knew when he and Roan went out for missions, so the twins always asked Hulian to fetch the missions available for them. It would also be useful since they always reported to Hulian when they were going out. That way, they could use one of the hidden teleport formations leading outside of the Sect.

"Oh, so you two entered the Core Formation Realm, huh?"

Rean nodded with a smile.

"Fortunately, everything worked fine. Elder Hulian, do you have the list of missions available?"

Hulian nodded, not finding it surprising. Anyone who reached a new realm or stage would usually go out to test their newly acquired strength. In fact, it would be weird if they didn't.

"Here's the list. Is there any specific one you want?"

Rean shook his head.

"We haven't decided yet. I will just take a look at the ones available at the moment."

Rean began to peruse through the records. The missions on the list were separated by region, so it wasn't hard to find the ones related to the Jiran Forest's surroundings. As mentioned before, it was known that Jiran Forest had quite a few Stage Four Demon beasts. So it was often used as a training ground and the Demon Beasts' material acquiring place not only for the Sect, but also for other powers in the Dalamu Sect's Territory.

"Oh! This one seems interesting."