

Death 301

Death... and me

Chapter 301: More Information and Some Help

"Missing people? Wasn't it supposed to be just one woman?"

Rovan noticed that they didn't have the full story, so he began to explain.

"Around a few months ago, the cultivators venturing in this area began to disappear without any clues. The weird thing is that quite a few of them were in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Cultivators, at this level, wouldn't die that quickly in this Core Region. Even if they did, it would be because of some fierce battle or similar event. However, no clues whatsoever were found."

Rean and Roan then looked at each other.

"So, it was not only that old woman Latalia. There were more. Could it be that she was sent here to investigate the disappearances?"

"Probably. However, Juan Amakal seemed to know more than just that. Otherwise, there wouldn't be a need for him to be searching for any help possible."

Roan then turned to Rovan.

"Are you here because of Juan Amakal's request too?"

Rovan nodded.

"Exactly. That Serene Blue Jade is an excellent help for my granddaughter back in the clan. However, I had my people look into this issue until I found the constant disappearances happening here."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"Then, why did you come? Was the Serene Blue Jade worth the risk? You are the Clan Head of the Lopin Clan, after all. What if you disappear?"

Rovan shook his head.

"My granddaughter has greater talent than me or my son here. She will definitely inherit the position of clan head in the future. I'm already old, as you can see. My lifespan is reaching its limit, so I need to prepare for the worst. That's why these two elders and my son accepted that mission regardless."

Rean nodded. He was trying to obtain a better future for his clan, so that was understandable.

"Anyway, we are indeed looking for the same person. Is that all you wanted to confirm? I might as well tell you that the Serene Blue Jade is also essential for us. Otherwise, we wouldn't have come."

Well, the Jade Slip's location was the real reason, though.

Rovan nodded before asking.

"What about we join together to look for her. In exchange, you will give me those Umbral Sect people's items? Does it sound like a good deal?"

Rean and Roan understood. Sure enough, even if he was in a clan, his resources couldn't possibly compare to the disciples like the Umbral Sect's ones. The weapons and items that they brought here would be of great help. Of course, the Serene Blue Jade would be even better. However, that was not an assured reward. As for their enemies' items, they might be lower in value, but they were guaranteed.

Rean and Roan didn't have much interest in these Umbral Sect Members' items to start with. In that case, they had to admit that this was quite a good deal. Even if Rovan and his companions decide to escape with everything after, Rean and Roan wouldn't care too much about it.

"Very well. However, we have some uses for the Flag Protection Formation. If you are fine with the rest of the items here, you can have everything."

Rovan and the others immediately nodded. Although the Flag Protection Formation would sell for a lot, the rest of the items were by no means worse.

"Great!"

Rovan then took a jade slip from his bag and passed it to the twins.

"Take a look inside. It is a general map of this place. The parts that I marked were places we looked at already, so you can ignore them if you want. Of course, you can look inside them as well if you wish."

Roan then looked at Rován's group before asking.

"Did you find a mountain with four peaks in these areas?"

Rovan and the others showed a puzzled expression.

"A mountain with four peaks? I don't remember anything like that. What about you three?"

His son and the two elders shook their heads as well.

"Nope, nothing in our end either."

Rovan then looked at Roan before asking.

"Is there any meaning in that mountain?"

Roan nodded before he took a badge out of his robe. That was his Earth High-Level Alchemist Badge!

"I'm an alchemist. Another reason to come here was to collect a few herbs that only grow in that place. Since there was also a searching mission too, we decided to take both at the same time."

Rovan's group couldn't help but sigh.

'He is already that strong at this age, and he still found time to become such a high-level alchemist. How can the difference in talent be this great?'

Rovan quickly recovered before nodding.

"Very well. How do you want us to contact your group?"

Rean then put his hand inside his bag before taking out a talisman from it. Although talismans were a lot more expensive than using the Communication System, they had their advantages. For example, the fact that they could be activated anywhere instead of having to find a communication formation to do so.

'Perhaps I'll be able to create cellphones in the future. Hahaha!'

Rean then threw it at the Clan Leader.

"Here's a Thoughts Transmission Talisman. If you find the Four Peaks mountain, just contact us through it, and we will come as fast as possible."

Roan also added.

"Don't forget that this Umbral Sect's group wasn't the only one. Next time, don't try to pry into their identities. Just say that you don't know anything."

Rovan bitterly smiled as he scratched his head. How could he not understand that specific question turned them into corpses? He wouldn't be idiotic enough to make the same mistake again.

After finishing that and discussing a few more things, Rean and Roan soon departed with Kentucky. As for the Umbral Sect items, they simply left them there for Rovan's group to collect on their own.

As the twins disappeared in the distance, Ervan couldn't help but ask.

"Are we really going to help them look for the targets and that mountain? What if we are attacked by the Umbral Sect's remaining members?"

Rovan shook his head in response, replying.

"It's okay. We just need to be more careful next time. Besides, it would be great if we can form a friendship with those twins. You saw their power, right? I think we have a lot more to gain if we help them in this endeavor. They are bound to accomplish great things in the future. If we are the ones to find what they want, we can even ask them to help your daughter once she joins the sect next year."

Ervan and the other two elders nodded. That was indeed a tempting option.

"But what if we were caught by whatever is making the cultivators disappear?"

Ervan was the one to answer that question.

"Didn't we already come here even though we know about that? What is there to be afraid of? Father already said what would be better for us, so let's go."

Rovan nodded, satisfied.

Rean and Roan already left the Lopin Clan's members Spiritual Sense range by this time. Thanks to the research they did, Rean and Roan were able to risk more than 40% of the search's total area. They quickly paid attention to the places still available and moved to the next one.

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Chapter 302: Information Share

It wasn't a lie when Rean and Roan were told that Juan Amakal accepted anyone willing to look for Latalia. Because of that, that specific Core Region area had a few more cultivator groups than usual. Of course, considering the necessary level to explore this place, that number wasn't that high.

Still, Rean and Roan ended finding more of them. It looked like the Serene Blue Jade was tempting not only for the twins but also for several other powers. Fortunate or not, they didn't seem interested in attacking the twins.

However, that also made the search of the other three Umbral Sect Groups easier since they could ask those groups if they had seen Rean and Roan.

Unfortunately for them, they didn't know that the Umbral Energy inside their bodies could be perceived from a much higher distance than their Spiritual Senses could reach. Thanks to that, Rean had enough time to react and send Kentucky into the Dimensional Realm before concealing him and Roan. He preferred to do that since he could also practice using the skill. Otherwise, the twins could also go into the Dimensional Realm.

Just like that, the time continued to pass as Rean and Roan looked for mountains with four peaks. In a 3000 kilometer radius, there was really a lot of them to be checked. Soon enough, another two days passed in a flash.

Roan was quite satisfied since they were 'lucky' enough to find more Stage Four Demon Beasts. That made them go all out to defend themselves, including Kentucky. It's just that defeating those Demon Beasts and killing them were completely different stories. Even the Sixth Form, Destroyer, wasn't strong enough to the point where it could instantly kill the big ones. That being said, just like the Spider Mother, most of them fled once they saw that they couldn't win.

However, it wasn't always the demon beasts who fled. Rean, Roan, and Kentucky had to put their tails between their legs and sometimes run as well. Middle Stage Four Demon Beasts and higher were indeed just too strong. The Tusk Earth Lizard had only died due to the terrible compatibility between it and the twins' abilities. Sure enough, breaching more than an entire cultivation realm to fight was anything but easy.

Suddenly, Rean's Thoughts Transmission Talisman shone inside his robe. Seeing that, he immediately took it out and put it on his forehead. The Talisman then released a stream of Spiritual Energy that entered his head. Following that, the marks on the Talisman disappeared after relaying the message.

Roan noticed a change in Rean's expression, so he immediately asked.

"Was it the Lopin Clan guys?"

Roan asked that since they didn't only have the Thoughts Transmission Talismans from Rován's group. They also had a few others like Droman and Old Worm's.

Rean confirmed with a smile.

"It was them, indeed. It seems like they found a mountain with four peaks around 550 kilometers from here. They are asking us to come over to verify if that is what we are looking for."

Roan nodded, satisfied.

"It seems like they didn't flee with the Umbral Sect Members' items after we left. That's quite good already."

Rean and Roan had to admit that they were expecting Rován's group to leave straight away after they gave up the items. However, it seemed like the other part knew how to keep their word.

"Anyway, let's go. Still, once we get around 20 or so kilometers close, we should stop and go by foot. There is still a chance that the Umbral Sect might have found out about them and forced their group to deliver this message to us."

Rean nodded, not minding that too much.

The twins then called Kentucky over and immediately began to run in the direction mentioned by Rován and his group. Even now, the twins still preferred to not fly since it would catch too much attention.

Back on Rován's group side, they looked around as their vision expanded to the horizon. They were now at the highest peak of the mountain they found. However, there was one thing making them puzzled.

"This mountain does have four peaks, but there are almost no herbs on this one. Is this really the place that black-haired twin talked about? I don't think the herbs here are of much use. At least, I don't feel much Spiritual Energy inside them, nor can I recognize any rare one."

Rovan shook his head.

"None of us are alchemists, so we can't really guarantee if these herbs are wrong or not. The important part is that we did find this Four Peaks Mountain. Even if they say that this wasn't what they were looking for, it will still serve the purpose of building a good relationship."

Ervan, who was also hearing their conversation, then asked something else.

"What if what they are looking for are not herbs? Could this mountain have something they want instead?"

Rovan pondered a bit as he looked around. However, he couldn't see anything out of the ordinary with his Spiritual Sense.

"It seems pretty normal for me."

Yet, Ervan felt like he was missing something after they failed to identify any valuable herb.

"Father, I'll go take a look around. Is that okay?"

Roan nodded, not minding too much.

"Alright. Just make sure to not leave the range of my Spiritual Sense."

Rovan then looked at the other two elders before saying.

"You two go with Ervan as well. I'll stay here on the peak to watch around. Fortunately, there are no clouds around this mountain, so I have a privileged vision here."

The two elders nodded, and they immediately departed with Ervan.

Meanwhile, the three Umbral Sect groups had just gathered once again somewhere in the Core Region.

Their leader, Lian Buran, looked at the other two groups as he narrowed his eyes.

"Where is Gugo's group? They were supposed to have arrived already."

The others looked at each other, but they all shook their heads.

"We've been here for quite some time already. Still, we haven't seen even a shadow of Gugo and his group members."

Lian pondered a bit before taking a Thoughts Transmission Talisman from his robe. Right after, the Talisma burnt as the message was sent. Lian then took another Thoughts Transmission Talisman from his robe and began to wait. He had just used one Talisman to send a message. Now Lian was using the other to wait for an answer. Obviously, the one he tried to contact was the so-called Gugo's Group.

However, even after ten minutes of wait, no answer came back at all.

"This..."

"Could it be that something went wrong?"

Lian nodded.

"Most likely."

Vio then guessed.

"Would there be a group capable of taking Gugo's group down without giving him a chance to contact us back?"

"If that is the case, I can only think about Nascent Soul Realm cultivators or Stage Five Demon beasts. Even a Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator wouldn't be able to finish Gugo that easily. Besides, Wilk was with him. With two Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators in the group, at least one would have been able to escape."

Lian shook his head in response.

"That way of thinking is too simple. They might have been ambushed as well, which didn't give Gugo a chance of contacting us back. Don't forget that only Gugo has the Thoughts Transmission Talisman on him. If he died straight away, the others wouldn't be able to do anything to warn us."

Sames, another Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator, then asked.

"Could it be the Dalamu Sect? Considering the importance of Rean to that Sect, it wouldn't be weird if he had Thoughts Transmission Talismans on him. Maybe he called for reinforcements after finding that we were here somehow? If that is the case, we might be really dealing with higher-level cultivators here. Should we give up this search?"

Lian shook his head once more.

"No. The chances of that happening are too low. Let's keep searching for them. However, keep your Thoughts Transmission Talismans in your hands all the time. If you see that you get ambushed or found something wrong, use it immediately. That should at least give the other remaining two groups time to react."

Vio and Sames nodded. After that, their group discussed a few more things before once again separating. The search continued.

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Chapter 303: Pulled Inside

Ervan looked around the mountain as he collected a few of the herbs present. Although he didn't think they had much use, perhaps they were what Roan was looking for. The same could be said to the other two elders who were searching with him. Just like that, three hours or so went by.

Suddenly, he received a Spiritual Sense message from one of his companions.

'Ervan, come take a look at this.'

Not expecting too much, Ervan moved a few hundred meters until he arrived at the location that the elder told him. Together with him, the second elder appeared as well.

'What is it, Elder Sian?'

Sian then pointed at an aperture on the other side. It was relatively small and would be easily overlooked if one didn't pay very close attention. Sian only found it because he thought that he could find some herbs around the place as well.

'Ervan, Luo, try to use your Spiritual Senses. Can you see that crevice in there?'

Luo and Ervan narrowed their eyes as they spread their Spiritual Sense. Sure enough, they could see everything around them... except for that aperture at the wall.

'This... Isn't it the same as what those two twins did previously? They also disappeared from our Spiritual Sense, just like when we met the Umbral Sect members.'

Sian nodded.

'Exactly. That's why I called you two over. Ervan, you were doubting that the black-haired boy really wanted the herbs, weren't you? After all, all the herbs we found here have little to no Spiritual Energy

inside. They don't seem suitable for alchemy, as far as we can see. Maybe this is what he and his brother were really after.'

Ervan narrowed his eyes as he looked at the area ahead. Still, he shook his head and looked at the Mountain's Highest Peak.

'Let's call father over before we check it.'

Sian and Luo nodded. However, just as they were about to turn around, a burst of energy came out of the aperture. It was too fast for any of them to react. However, they were not attacked by that, but captured!

"What?!"

Ervan, Sian, and Luo were shocked and immediately activated their Spiritual Energies, trying to get free of whatever was holding them. Unfortunately, they were too weak! Soon after, that aperture on the mountain wall began to engulf the Spiritual Energy, quickly pulling Ervan's group with it.

Rovan, who was still in the Mountain Peak, suddenly opened his eyes. Ervan and his group were inside his Spiritual Sense all the time. Naturally, the place they found was the same. However, a powerful burst of Spiritual Energy appeared out of nowhere close to their location. Not to mention that he saw them struggling as they seemed to be pulled over.

'Not good!'

Rovan flash away as he quickly made his way to where his group was located.

Tremble!

The mountain shook as Rovan flew there. However, the tremble was concentrated. Only those on the mountain or at most a few kilometers around could feel it. Considering the Core Region's size and the search area, most likely, no one noticed that.

It only took a few seconds for Rován to cover several hundred meters. Unfortunately, he arrived just a bit too late. Ervan, Luo, and Sian were already pulled inside. Of course, Ervan was his son while the other two were elders of his Clan. That being said, Ervan also rushed inside straight away... or so he tried.

Bang!

Rován then smashed against an invisible barrier. The blow was so hard that Rován even felt dizzy for a few seconds. Nonetheless, he quickly recovered as he looked at the aperture in front of him in dismay. Of course, he wouldn't stay put without doing anything.

"Open for me!"

His Saber came out as he immediately attacked the barrier with all his strength.

'Emperor Flame Saber!'

Fire Element gathered all over his body for a few seconds before he sent the attack down.

Boom!

The ground trembled as flames spread everywhere. The earth and dirt flew everywhere around the crevice as well, increasing the gap of that aperture. Still, the barrier itself didn't even budge.

Rován was really shocked this time. Emperor Flame Saber couldn't be said to be a famous skill. The few seconds that it needed to charge was more than enough for cultivators at Rován's level to release several other attacks. In a battle, it wasn't efficient. However, if given the time to do so, it was indeed a powerful single-target skill. Yet, the barrier didn't move at all. How could Rován not be startled by that?

It was then that Rován noticed something different. At first, there was just a small aperture on the Mountain Wall. But after his attack, that aperture expanded several times as the wall was blasted away. However, he quickly noticed that the mountain wall was, in fact, hiding something else. Now, Rován could see something like an ancient ruin wall with several patterns carved on it.

But the impressive thing was not the carvings. Instead, it was the fact that Rován's strongest attack also didn't leave behind as much as a dent on these ruins.

'Just what the hell is this place?'

Rován then gathered his Spiritual Energy once more and attacked the place time and time again. Nonetheless, it brought him the same result. Rován simply didn't have enough power to break through the ancient ruin or the energy barrier. In the end, Rován was left in front of the barrier, gasping for air.

'Fuck!'

As Rován complained, Latalia heard some kind of mechanical sound reverberating through the entire maze. She narrowed her eyes and looked at the roof.

'It has opened again. Someone else has just been caught. Or was it a Demon Beast this time? I'm not sure.'

She then ignored the sound and looked ahead of her. Latalia was quite good at survival. Because of that, she escaped from the Energy Beasts time and time again until she finally found something different. She was now in front of another ancient ruin wall with similar patterns as the one Rován saw outside. There was a door also made of the same material as the rest of the wall in the middle. Unfortunately, it didn't matter what she did. She couldn't force it open.

'The Laan City remnants from over ten thousand years ago. Way before Zef Jialin arrived at this place and founded the Jialin Country. Even my Amakal Family only has a few records about its existence.'

Several thoughts passed through Latalia's. It was then that she looked at a few small gaps beside the door. There were even more if one looked further away. But above all, there was a small pillar right in front of it that seemed to be necessary to open the passage.

'I don't have the keys to open this thing. As for that part...'

Latalia sighed before shaking her head.

She then looked at an open room on the back, close to the place where she used to enter this area. She seemed to have understood what it was used for and felt some relief. However, she shook her head in the end and decided to not enter it.

'I can't give up now. Better continue to investigate.'

Latalia didn't just run around aimlessly. She also made sure to memorize her path to mount a map for her use. The only problem was that the maze seemed to change its format, so it took her quite a lot of time to understand the patterns.

Latalia then focused her mind on the parts where she hadn't investigated yet and quickly left once again.

Meanwhile, Lian and his group continued their search for the twins. Finally, they got another clue from a group of cultivators who saw the twins passing by. Different from the Umbral Sect members, the other cultivators didn't have Umbral Energy in their bodies. Naturally, Rean couldn't feel their presence from further away. Not to mention that Rean couldn't keep the Hidden Radar skill activated all the time. That being said, they would end up inside someone's Spiritual Sense in case they got too close.

This one had just been one of the groups that had bumped into the twins and the Minokawa with their Spiritual Senses while they made their way to Rován's place. Of course, it was not just because they saw Rean's group cultivation that they would decide to attack or rob the other part. Not everyone acted in that manner. In fact, most of the groups didn't come here for that but to train or acquire Demon Beasts' materials. It was that simple.

After acquiring the information, Lian contacted the other two groups. Right after, they headed in the direction the twins were seen the last time.

Back on Rean and Roan's side, they finally spotted the Four Peaks Mountain in the distance.

"We are here. Rován should be at the highest peak waiting for us."

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Chapter 304: Transformation

Boom!

As the twins made their way up, they suddenly heard the sound of an explosion coming from another part of the mountain. Before entering the Mountain, Rean began to use his Hidden Radar and Light Camouflage skill. Only then did the twins made their way up. As for Kentucky, he was sent into the Dimensional Realm once again. That being said, Roan didn't know they were there.

The twins then looked at each other before moving in the direction of the sound. Only then did they find out what was happening.

Boom!

Turns out that Roan didn't give up. He kept hitting the barrier and ancient ruin's wall time and time again. He tried to find another entrance by digging holes beside the wall or going from behind. However, it was all useless. This place seemed to be some kind of pyramid, deeply buried in the mountain. There were no other entries other than the sealed entrance in front of him.

Rean and Roan then looked around to see if Roan was alone. After confirming that, Rean finally Brought Kentucky out of the Dimensional Realm as the Hidden Radar and Camouflage Skills deactivated. That way, it looked like all three of them appeared together.

Roan wasn't an idiot. He kept his Spiritual Sense spread nonstop. Obviously, he quickly noticed the presence of the twins approaching him. Still, he couldn't help but feel surprised how they could hide from Spiritual Senses and suddenly appear like that.

Roan then put those thoughts behind his mind and went straight to the point.

"You two. Were herbs really the reason that you asked for our help to find this Four Peaks Mountain?"

Roan narrowed his eyes but shook his head in the end.

"I would need to be an idiot to try to keep this lie. You would be an even bigger idiot if you believed that as well."

Rovan nodded. Even if they said it was a coincidence, he wouldn't believe it one bit.

"What is this place? My son and the two elders of my clan were pulled inside this thing. It doesn't matter how many times I attack this shit. It doesn't even budge. You can forget about finding other entrances either. I tried that already."

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded. Rean then returned his attention to Rovan.

"We are indeed looking for something different other than that old woman called Latalia. However, we are not sure if what we are looking for is this thing. Of course, the chances are high."

Trying to hide it now would be useless since the ancient ruins were right in front of Rovan.

"The issue is that we also didn't know what we would find. We acquired a Jade Slip by coincidence a long time ago, which showed a location on the Core Region's Map. However, all we could figure out was that it was inside the Core Region of Jiran Forest and that it was located in a Mountain with Four Peaks. As for what is inside, we have no idea."

Rovan narrowed his eyes as he looked at the barrier in front of him. There was no guarantee that the twins were talking the truth. Especially since the twins seemed to have a similar ability to disappeared from others' Spiritual Senses. Still, at least they admitted that they knew something about this place.

"Do you have any idea to open this thing?"

Roan answered that question with one of his own.

"How did your son and those two elders enter it in the first place?"

Rovan shook his head.

"I don't know. This thing doesn't appear in my Spiritual Sense, just like you two. Because of that, I could only see them being pulled inside by some kind of Spiritual Energy Skill from a distance. When I got close, they were already at the entrance, just about to fall inside. When I tried to rush over to save them, I smashed my head at what seemed to be an invisible barrier."

Roan then controlled his Spiritual Energy to grab a rock and threw it at the entrance.

crash!

Sure enough, the rock seemed to hit something in mid-air before crumbling to the ground.

"The barrier itself doesn't seem to have any kind of danger to the attackers. Then again, it's definitely not something I can take down with my strength. Believe me, I tried."

Roan thought for a moment before reaching a conclusion.

"You said before that several cultivators began to disappear around this part of the Core Region recently. Obviously, this thing is most likely the reason. Still, this is also good news. That's because we know that this phenomenon will happen again. You will have your chance to enter this place sooner or later. The only problem is how long it takes for each event."

Roan nodded since he also thought about that possibility.

"However, the issue is how to leave after that. I would not be the first Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator entering this place, after all. Still, I haven't heard about anyone coming out anymore. Otherwise, Juan Amakal wouldn't have put that mission up to find Latalia. It is evident that none of the ones who fell inside have escaped."

Roan then approached the ruins as he looked at the ancient marks. Of course, he didn't understand anything.

'Sister Orb, is it possible to translate these words?'

[Sure.]

Right after, the Soul Gem System's voice entered the twins' mind.

[Detected ancient Vruve Characters.]

[Translation will cost a total of 137 Destiny Points.]

[Confirm Purchase?]

Rean and Roan got puzzled.

'Vruve Characters? What are those?'

[I didn't expect to find Vruve Remnants in this place. Still, I'm sorry. The system doesn't allow me to say anything.]

Rean and Roan were not surprised by that. After all, they still remember all those 'access denied' messages once they tried to pry into the secrets of the Universe Division.

Roan then commented.

'It doesn't matter. Sister Orb's Silence is an answer in itself already. The only thing the system keeps secret about is things related to the calamity that divided the Universe. So it has something to do with that too.'

Rean agreed with Roan.

'What do you think? Should we pay for the Translation of the words? We just have a few hundred Destiny Points remaining after buying the Soul Link Upgrade. Still, it might be worth it if we find some answers inside.'

Roan pondered a bit before looked at the wall as well. It was then that he noticed something. There was a small gap on the entrance's side that didn't seem to be part of the carvings made in that weird language. Right after, he noticed what it looked like.

'Oh, so that's how it is.'

Roan then made his way to the wall before touching that gap.

"Alright. I think I know what it is."

Right after, Roan pulled out the Jade Slip from his robe. It was the same Jade Slip that they found the information about this place. Jade Slips weren't identicals. They were just pieces of Spiritual Materials used to keep Spiritual Sense information. That being said, they had several forms depending on where and who made them.

Roan then put the Jade Slip on the gap, which just so happened to fit perfectly.

Tremble!

As soon as he did that, the mountain began to tremble once again. However, the tremble was several times stronger than it had ever been.

Rovan and Rean were taken aback as they spread their Spiritual Senses. Suddenly, Rovan pointed somewhere with his finger.

"Look, the highest peak."

Rean then added.

"Not only that, but the other three peaks as well!"

The Four Peaks suddenly began to crumble down. Rocks came down from the mountain as something was revealed under it. The mountain had Four Peaks—one in the center, which was the highest, and another three around it. When the peaks crumbled, four buildings that looked like pyramid tips were revealed.

The earthquake continued as more and more of the mountain came down. Rean and Roan used Kentucky to fly above it as Rován flew by himself.

Suddenly, the three pyramid tips surrounding the main one began to shine with light. It was as if they were being charged with energy. It was then that three rays of light shot forward, striking the main peak's pyramid tip.

Rean, Roan, and Rován couldn't help but think.

'What...what the hell is happening here?'

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Chapter 305: More Groups

A few seconds after the three rays hit the highest peak, another light ray shot through the skies, much thicker this time. It quickly hit the clouds above, disappearing inside. That was really a big spectacle. It shot so high and was so bright that anyone thousands of kilometers around could see.

Finally, the earthquake that shook everything in a radius of hundreds of kilometers stopped. Still, the light didn't retract. It was there for anyone who wished to see it.

Roan narrowed his eyes after seeing that scene, though.

"This isn't good. It won't take long before all the cultivators around start to come to see what is happening. Obviously, the Umbral Sect members won't be different."

Roan looked at the place where Roan had put the Jade Slip. However, Ervan, Sian, and Luo didn't come out of it. Without any choice, he decided to check if things were still the same as before.

Rean also thought about the invisible barrier, so he patted Kentucky's head, telling the Minokawa to go down as well. Once they reached the ground, Roan, Rean, and Roan went to the place where the invisible barrier was located. However, it was nowhere to be seen anymore. If anything, the entrance had expanded several times because of the event. Even large demon beasts would be able to enter it.

Rean then looked at Roan before asking through their Soul Connection.

'What should we do here? This thing is too eye-catching. It will definitely attract a lot more attention than just the cultivators in the Core Region. I know that this might be related to what brought the Universe's separation, but I don't think we can hide it. What about contacting the Dalamu Sect?'

Rean said while looking at the Light Pillar shooting into the skies.

Roan agreed with Rean.

'Indeed. At the very least, those guys from the Umbral Sect will definitely do so. I refuse to believe that they don't have Thoughts Transmission Talismans capable of reaching their Sect. If we don't call for reinforcements, things will get complicated once Nascent Soul and higher realm cultivators begin to appear.'

With that said, the twins took the Talismans they had. Rean had one for Droman, while Roan had one for Old Worm. Their thoughts entered the mark before the Talismans burnt down.

'Still, considering the distance, it will take several hours for them to arrive even if they come at full speed. What should we do? Wait?'

Roan shook his head.

'The cultivators that are coming here will definitely not do so. That includes the Umbral Sect Members. To be honest, once they see this place, they will probably change their priorities and enter the ruins instead.'

The twins looked at each other and seemed to have arrived at the same conclusion.

[Saving a Coordinate will cost 100 Destiny Points.]

[Confirm Purchase?]

'Yes!'

[Purchase Confirmed.]

[Saving Coordinates.]

[Coordinates Saved.]

The twins nodded before they turned to Roan.

"We are going to enter the ruins. What about you?"

Roan snorted.

"What do you think? My son is there with two more elders. I have to get them out safely."

Rean and Roan didn't say anything. There would be no point in stopping Roan here since the cultivators' army coming in this direction definitely won't stop.

"Let's go."

Rean, Roan, Rován, and Kentucky then jumped inside the entrance.

Suddenly, their field of vision distorted.

'Sister Orb, what is happening?'

[There is a formation at the entrance. You are being teleported to another place. Hold on to each other, or you might be teleported to different locations.]

Rean and Roan didn't have time to think as they held Kentucky. Rean also saw Rován becoming distorted, so he quickly grabbed him as well.

'Shit! Are the 1000 kilometers of the Circuitry Teleportation Formation enough to bring us back?'

[Wait for the teleport to be over so that I can check.]

Finally, Rean's group vision came back to normal. They then released Kentucky and looked around. However, the room was completely empty. There was only a single exit with something that looked like some kind of number. Unfortunately, they could read it. At least, not without paying Destiny Points, that is.

"We were teleported, it seems."

Said Rován as he checked their conditions.

'Sister Orb, how is it?'

[Don't worry, you are still inside the 3000-kilometer range for teleportation. It seems like your group was teleported underground instead of another surface somewhere.]

'3000 kilometer range? What range exactly? We only have Rank Three Spirit Stones, so we can only use them for 1000 kilometers. Above that, and we will need Rank Four ones.'

[It seems to be around 1700 kilometers.]

Rean sighed, already expecting something like that.

'No point in thinking about it now. Let's move out. Since we were sent to this place, there must be an exit somewhere. Perhaps we can go up enough to reach the 1000 kilometers range.'

Rovan noticed the twins' silence and asked.

"Are you two okay? We can't stay here forever."

Rean and Roan nodded.

"We are fine. Let's take a look outside first. Rovan, do you have a way to contact your son and the two elders?"

Rovan shook his head.

"No. It's not like we have a way to find each other to start with. At most, I could use a Thoughts Transmission Talisman. However, when I tried to use it outside, it didn't work."

Roan pondered a bit before saying.

"Perhaps you can use it now. After all, we are in the same place that your companions were sent to. We might get some valuable information from them."

Rovan's eyes lit up as he took out that same talisman as before. Because it couldn't connect to his son's talisman, it was not spent. Rovan quickly put his thoughts inside and tried to activate it. However, the

result was the same. The talisman couldn't find its pair that his son carried. Naturally, it wasn't consumed again.

"No can do."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"What's the range of your talismans?"

Rovan scratched the back of his head after hearing that.

"Thoughts Transmission Talismans are super expensive, so my clan could only afford ones that could reach 300 kilometers. More than that, and it would be a waste of Spirit Stones."

The twins were not surprised by that. They knew very well that the talismans they had were indeed very expensive to be able to contact the Dalamu Sect from so far away. People using low-quality ones like Rovan was quite common. In fact, if Droman and Old Worm haven't given the talismans to the twins, Rean and Roan wouldn't even have one.

"Keep that talisman in hand. It might be that you are still out of range even though we were teleported to this place."

Rovan nodded, and their group finally left the room. Rean and Roan expected this place to be full of caves everywhere, just like the Profound Abyss. However, what waited for them outside were perfectly made tunnels or corridors. The one right in front expanded as far as their eyes could see. All the ways had the same ancient carvings as the outside too.

Those tunnels also shone with yellow light, showing the presence of Earth Element inside them.

Roan then took his sword and attacked.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Clang!

The sound of metal hitting metal then echoed around. As for the place where Roan attacked, not even a dent was left behind.

"It seems like creating our own way out won't work."

Roan nodded.

"It was the same as the walls outside. But that isn't all. Have you noticed that your Spiritual Sense is also affected?"

Rean and Roan nodded. They tried to spread their Spiritual Senses as soon as they arrived, but it couldn't go further than a few meters. The interference in this place was even worse than the Profound Abyss.

"Let's move."

As Rean's group began to explore the place, the outside world began to get lively. One by one, more and more cultivators at the Core Formation Realm and Core and Soul Fusion arrived. Those were the nearby cultivators that just so happened to be inside the range of the pillar of light. Naturally, they rushed over, ignoring everything to see what was happening.

Not too long after, the groups from the Umbral Sect arrived as well.

"Isn't it too much of a coincidence? This is the direction those guys told us they saw the twins moving at."

Lian nodded.

"Indeed. However, it matters little now. Something much bigger is happening here."

Suddenly, another cultivator group arrived. Vio and Sames thought about getting rid of them straight away. However, Lian immediately stopped the two.

'Don't act harshly. They don't know where we are from. Besides, more and more cultivators will arrive as time passes. There is no way we can deal with all of them together. It will bring us no good to increase our number of enemies here.'

Vio and Sames nodded as their group calmed down. They waited to see what the other group would do. However, when they passed through the entrance, they suddenly disappeared in a flash of silver light.

'A teleportation formation?'

'It seems like it. I wonder where it will send them.'

'Should we stay outside and wait for the elders?'

Lian shook his head.

'Let's enter. This is the Dalamu Sect Territory. As you can imagine, they will definitely arrive before our sect elders. In fact, most of the sects' elders closer to here than our Umbral Sect will not take long to find what is happening either. We need to take the initiative. Don't worry. Even if the other sects are keeping an eye on our Nascent Soul Cultivators, they won't try to stop them once they find what is happening here.'

Vio and Sames nodded together with the rest.

'Then it's decided!'

Death... and me

Chapter 306: There You Are

Rean's group continued to explore the area and soon found out that they were inside something like a maze. However, it had several different floors as well. They also looked for weak points where the wall could be broken, but it seemed to be completely sealed with no gaps.

"Since it's a maze, we might as well use the old strategy."

"What strategy?"

Rean then touched the wall on the side before saying.

"We just need to follow the wall. As long as we do that, we will eventually find an exit."

Roan immediately shook his head.

"That's not gonna work? Didn't you hear those mechanical sounds? I'm pretty sure that this maze is changing shape all the time. You will only get even more lost if you do that."

Rovan couldn't help but say.

"I thought those sounds were because of more people being sent inside this maze. With the show happening outside, there should be quite a few cultivators inside already."

Roan agreed with Rovan.

"That's right. However, the more people that are sent inside, the maze continues to keep changing. Did you forget about the thin above the entrance of the room we appeared in? It had different formats from most of the carvings on the walls. I'm pretty sure that was a number. If I'm not wrong, there should be several more rooms like that where others are being teleported."

Rean narrowed his eyes.

"That doesn't explain how you know that the maze is changing form, just that there are more teleportation destinations."

Roan snorted before saying.

"You still doubt it? Very well, let's move back. Don't worry, it will only take 30 or so minutes."

Rean and Rován had made sure to keep track of the places and paths they took. Obviously, they could return if necessary. Unfortunately, after running back for around 20 minutes, they reached a dead end.

"It's true... There was not supposed to have a dead-end in this place."

Rován nodded.

"Yes. I'm sure we were supposed to go down from here."

Roan then turned around and began to walk while saying.

"That should be enough to prove what I said. What bullshit follow the walls, and you will be out? Who would make such an idiotic mistake like that? Since this place is a maze, then it was definitely built to keep people inside for sure."

Rean and Rován quickly followed Roan with Kentucky.

Roar!

Suddenly, a roar came from the direction they were heading. Rean's group immediately stopped and looked ahead. Sure enough, several Demon Beasts appeared in their sight a few moments later.

"Were these ones trapped as well?"

However, Rean immediately shook his head.

"They are not real demon beasts."

Rovan and Roan looked at Rean, puzzled. These Demon Beasts had Stage Four cultivations and looked very much alive. They couldn't see anything that indicated that they weren't Demon Beasts. Of course, if Rean said that, then there was a reason. Roan already understood what it was, but Rean had to tell Rovan at least.

"My Light Energy allows me to feel life force. Every living being has it. However, this place is devoid of plants or people. Because of that, any sign of Life Force like you, Kentucky, or Roan, shine like the sun in my eyes. Those demon beasts ahead though... there isn't as much as an iota of Life Force in them. They are not alive at all."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he said.

"Leave the conversation for after. There are three Stage Four Demon Beasts in that pack. We need to take care of them."

Rovan and Rean nodded as they immediately pulled their weapons out. Rovan didn't know how the twins fought, so he didn't try to help them. Instead, he selected one of the enemies and charged at it. However, Rean stopped him before that.

"What? We need to take the initiative!"

Rean agreed with him as he touched Rovan's shoulder.

"I know."

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

Light Element poured into Rován's body like torrents, which immediately increased his combat prowess.

"This..."

Rován could tell just how much his strength suddenly increased. He was pretty sure that he would be able to fight that Middle Stage Core and Foul Fusion Realm cultivator of the Umbral Sect head-on now.

"Stop admiring and go. This skill of mine has a time limit. Once the Light Element in your body is used, your strength will return to normal."

Rován quickly came back to his senses and charged at one of the demon beasts.

'Searing Split!'

Swich!

Boom!

Roar!

The fake demon beast didn't have intelligence, so it tried to fight Rován head on. As a result, the very first strike already left a deep cut on it. Rován felt very good after seeing that. Just now, his speed broke the limit of what he could usually do. Rean's skill was really unique.

Rean and Roan didn't waste time either.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Roan then sent his thought to Kentucky, who immediately charged at one of the Demon Beasts!

Creeee!

Dark and white flames spread from Kentucky's body as his body became as resistant as metal. Light Element then enhanced his body strength, and he crashed head-on with another Demon Beast.

Boom!

Although Kentucky's Minokawa bloodline enhances his defense to a ridiculous degree, the fake demon beast in front still had a Stage Four cultivation. Because of that, Kentucky was forced to retreat after their clash. Nonetheless, his defense proved efficient as he didn't suffer any immediate injury.

Roan was fighting one of the Demon Beasts as Kentucky held another back. Thanks to that, Rean and Roan were free to deal with the last one. Roan's plan was to quickly get rid of one and join Kentucky or Roan to finish the rest.

The demon beast pounced at Rean and Roan, ignoring everything else. However, the lack the intelligence made things a lot easier for the twins.

'Death Style, First Movement Form, Shadow Steps!'

The twins flashed out of the demon beast's sight, quickly reappearing on the side. Simultaneously, two clones took Rean and Roan's place and grabbed the beast's attention.

Of course, Rean and Roan could summon not two but four clones. That being said, another two clones of the Mirage Assault appeared on the demon beasts' side together with the real twins.

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

Several Dark and White Swords appeared everywhere, hitting the demon beasts' critical points all at once.

Roar!

The beast screamed in pain as it tried to turn its body. However, the two clones that were pulling the beast's attention acted at that very moment.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

The rays of light flashed through the air, hitting both of the beasts' eyes. And just like that, the creature went blind! It then went berserk, attacking everything on all sides.

Unfortunately for the beast, how could such clumsy attacks be of any use against the twins? Taking the chance where the beast couldn't even protect itself, Rean, Roan, and the clones began to showering it with attacks one after another.

The demon beast wasn't that big, so it wasn't worth using the Sixth Form of the Death Style. Besides, the twins' couldn't use other attack skills during the time they made the Light and Dark energies go chaotic. The Mirage Assault Clones, for example, needed a fine control of Light and Dark Elements. If they tried to use the Sixth Form, the clones would immediately disappear.

Swich, swich, swich, swich...

Puchi, puchi, puchi, puchi...

Finally, the demon beast collapsed on the ground. Rean and Roan didn't waste time to check it, though. As soon as this battle was over, they rushed at Kentucky's opponents. Different from Rován, Rean and Roan knew how Kentucky acted. They immediately joined forces with the Minokawa and overwhelmed the demon beast it was fighting against.

Last but not least, there was Rován's Demon Beast. However, Rován seemed to have almost finished things on his side. Seeing that, Roan nodded, satisfied.

'He might not be a genius of any sect, but for him to reach the Core and Soul Fusion Realm without the sects help shows how much he went through in his life. His battle experience is already very rich. With

Rean's Enhancement, it isn't a surprise that he could independently defeat an unintelligent demon beast.'

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky then simply helped Rován to end what was almost finished already. Rean then looked at the fake demon beasts' corpses and shook his head.

"Sure enough, fake demon beasts don't have Demon Cores. I can't feel the strong life force that demon cores exude after their owners die."

Roan didn't seem to care.

"Doesn't matter. Let me take a look inside their bodies."

However, just as Roan was about to use White Star to open the beast, something strange began to happen. The Demon Beasts started to recover! It was then that Rean, Roan, and Rován noticed a huge amount of Spiritual Energy coming from the walls, entering the demon beasts' bodies.

Rován couldn't help but comment.

"Shit! No wonder I thought things were going too well."

Rean nodded as he looked at Roan.

"Should we leave before they recover completely?"

Roan narrowed his eyes before he said.

"You two, help me open this beast's inside for me to take a look."

Rován and Rean looked at each other and nodded.

"Alright."

They used their own skills to open the body faster than it recovered. Different from Latalia, who was alone, their combined effort surpassed the recovery speed. Especially since Roan was using his Dark Element to help with it. Finally, Roan found what he was looking for.

"There you are."

Death... and me

Chapter 307: Meeting Latalia

Roan didn't explain what that thing was. He simply grabbed it before saying.

"Let's go! The other two demon beasts are almost recovered. There is no point in defeating them again."

Rean and Rovin nodded. Soon after their group left the demon beasts behind.

Roar!

Sure enough, their group heard the roar of those two demon beasts that finished recovering from behind. However, their group had already left the beasts' line of sight, so they didn't pursue Rean's group.

"As I thought, they can't use Spiritual Sense either."

Rean nodded.

"Yes. However, I still feel like they knew where we were before. After all, even before seeing our faces, they were already running in our direction. I wonder why they aren't doing it now."

Roan pondered a bit before saying.

"Maybe because they can't feel our presence all the time. We might have triggered something that showed our location to the nearby demon beasts. It's just that we didn't notice it. Maybe it was a formation."

Rovan couldn't help but ask.

"Anyway, what was that thing you took out of the Demon Beast's body? Was it a core?"

Roan then took out the thing Rovan talked about.

"This is not a core, look."

Indeed. Rean and Roan noticed that it was far from having the spherical form of a Demon Beast core. It looked like a round stick, just six centimeters tall, perfectly linear on the sides.

"What is it? A token?"

Roan shook his head.

"I'm not sure, but it does look like some kind of token indeed. However, I could feel a different energy inside it after we killed the first demon beast. It was different from the Spiritual Energy that kept the Demon Beast's bodies whole. Since we have no clues yet, I thought I might as well take it, just in case."

Rean thought about something and contacted the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'Sister Orb, can you find any formation present in this place at the moment?'

[Give me a moment.]

Rean and Roan waited for a few minutes until, finally, Sister Orb answered.

[There is indeed a gigantic formation acting in this place.]

'Can you control it like the others?'

[Yes, but it will be useless.]

Rean and Roan got puzzled.

'Why?'

[That's because the complexity of this thing is too big. I would need a few days just to analyze and find its uses. As for taking control over it, that would probably take a few months. The processing power of the Soul Gem System is too low at the moment.]

The twins understood.

'Fine. Still, go ahead and analyze it since we don't know how long we will stay here. It would be good if we could at least understand what this thing does other than creating and recover those demon beasts.'

[Alright.]

Rean and Roan were not the only ones experiencing the same problem. After a few hours, several groups entered the building, thinking they could find some treasure inside. Sure enough, they were all teleported to different points of the maze, just like with Rean and Roan.

boom, boom, boom!

Roarr!

"Shit! Just how many beasts like these exist here? It has no end!"

"Stop complaining and run. There is no point in attacking them since they always recover."

Of course, there were stronger groups that had the power to kill those demon beasts.

"Phew.. another one down. See if it has anything worth using."

"Senior Min, I found something inside this one."

"Hum? What is it? A token?"

A similar situation happened here and there. The Umbral Sect Member, which ended up being separated during the teleport, also had the same issue. Of course, with their power, they could at least kill a few of those demon beasts if necessary.

"How many of these tokens did you find already?"

"Three. Not all demon beasts have these things inside."

Lian nodded as he put them inside his robe.

"Let's keep these things for now."

Somewhere else, Latalia was traveling alone inside the maze until all of a sudden, she saw a group approaching from a distance. However, instead of trying to join them, she immediately turned around and hid. After all, there was no guarantee that the other party had good intentions. The good thing was that Spiritual Senses were extremely restricted here, so it wasn't hard to hide from others.

"I'm starting to regret having entered this place. Everywhere is the same. Besides, we didn't find any treasure whatsoever."

"Don't complain. We entered this place because we saw everyone going inside as well. Focus on keeping your peak condition since we don't know when we will need to deal with those demon beasts again."

One of that group's members played with a token in his hand. With their combined power, they were able to kill one or other as well. One of those demon beasts just so happened to have a token inside as well.

Latalia, who was hidden in a corner, was taken aback when she saw the token.

'Laan City Token! Where did they find that?! Wait, could it be...'

She immediately thought about what might have happened.

'Other than the door leading into the Laan City, there are only the maze and the demon beasts. No wonder I haven't found anything so far. The demon beasts have the token.'

But she also faced an issue now. She could find demon beasts, but she wouldn't be able to get rid of them by herself. That's because those demon beasts never move independently. Their groups always have at least three together. She had defeated some of them, but she didn't have the time to look for those tokens since they recovered too fast.

Latalia pondered a bit as she looked at the group moving in the distance. Finally, she shook her head and gave up the idea.

'They have two Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators with another three Core Formation ones. It would be hard to flee if they decide to turn against me. At the moment, I should be the only one with a grasp of the maze and its changes. I have to use it to my advantage.'

That being said, Latalia turned around and left in a different direction than the group she had just seen. She hid from a few groups while she had to also flee from others who spotted her first. Finally, she seemed to encounter a group that fit her needs.

"Hey, you three. Are you alone?"

Turns out that the group she found was Ervan's one.

Ervan and the two elders of his clan moved slowly, trying not to get anyone's attention. Unfortunately, they weren't lucky enough to avoid the demon beasts, so they had to flee several times. Fortunately, those Stage Four Demon Beasts didn't have any intelligence. Through some luck and wits, Ervan's group had survived until now.

Ervan, Sian, and Luo looked at Latalia and were taken aback.

"Ah! It's Latalia!"

Latalia was also taken aback for a second. She had never seen them, so why did they know about her. However, she wasn't an idiot. She only had to think for a moment to understand why.

"I guess that idiot nephew of mine sent you over, right?"

Ervan's group nodded while keeping their guards. After all, Ervan's father wasn't here. Besides, Latalia was at the Middle Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Even though they were all in the late or Peak Core Formation Realm, they didn't think they could hold a candle against her.

"Mayor Juan Amakal is contracting several cultivators to enter the Core Region to look for you. He promised that he would give a Serene Blue Jade for anyone who found you or any clue that led to you."

Latalia snorted after hearing that.

"Hmph! That good for nothing still hasn't given up. Well, whatever. I have an offer for you three. I need to kill a few of those demon beasts in this maze, but I need someone to help me hold down the other members of their groups. As for the Serene Jade, I'll make Juan give it to you once we are out of this place."

Ervan couldn't help but say.

"But senior, we are all in the Late or Peak Core Formation Realm. I don't think we will be of much help to you."

Latalia shook her head in response.

"Don't worry. I'm not asking you to kill the demon beasts. I just need you to hold down one of them while I take care of the rest. As long as we find a group with only three Demon Beasts, that will be enough. In exchange, I can also help you flee when bigger groups appear."

"I'll be honest here. Considering your strength, it is already a miracle you are still alive. But if you join me, the chances of leaving this place alive will be a lot higher."

Latalia also didn't have a choice since any group stronger than that would be too hard to control. Unless, of course, she decides to trust one of them, which she obviously didn't want to.

Ervan, Sian, and Luo discussed through Spiritual Sense Message for a moment before they reached a decision.

"Very well, we would be glad to help."

It was true that they survived against the demon beasts so far because of sheer luck. Not to mention that they don't know what Latalia might decide to do with them if they refuse. That being said, they might as well join here and bet on their luck once again.

Latalia smiled as she nodded her head.

"I'm someone who always keeps her word. As long as you don't die straight away when holding the demon beast, I will keep my part of the deal."

Death... and me

Chapter 308: Latalia Does or Doesn't Care?

As a Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator, Latalia could also fly with her cultivation. With that, she could bring Ervan and company together, which was much faster and practical.

Another good thing was that others would think that she wasn't alone, but with a bigger group, which was quite common.

Latalia did find another Demon Beast group, but most of them had more than 3 in their midst. Because of that, she could only flee while keeping a look at the surroundings to know where she was.

Perseverance finally paid off when she encountered a group of Demon Beasts with only three.

"Alright. You two will hold back that Middle Stage Four demon beast on the left. I'll deal with the other two."

Ervan, Sian, and Luo were taken aback. She was leaving the strongest demon beast between the three for them to hold back.

"Senior Latalia, we won't stand a chance against that thing."

Latalia didn't care, though.

"Stop complaining. I don't need you to win, just to hold it back. I will quickly finish the other two since they have cultivation levels smaller than mine. That's the fastest way of finishing this battle and preventing them from recovering in time."

Latalia then released Ervan and the other two before charging straight at the demon beast. Without another choice, Ervan's group also did the same.

Sian then took the front before saying.

"Ervan, Luo, I'll be the vanguard. You two try to hit its legs to hinder its movements. We don't need to kill it. Just hold on for long enough."

Ervan and Luo nodded. Sian was the only Peak Core Formation Realm in their group, while Ervan and Luo were at the Late Stage. Sian would be much better at resisting the attacks.

Boom, boom, boom!

Soon, sounds of explosions began to come from the sides. Latalia kept her word as she threw herself against the two Initial Stage Four fake demon beasts. Of course, the Middle Stage Four was there as well.

Seeing that, Sian gritted his teeth and dashed forward. He pulled a spear from his back and attacked the demon beast from the side.

The fake demon beasts didn't use Spiritual Sense. Because of Latalia's attacks at the front, it didn't notice Sian by the sides.

'Mountain Pierce!'

Earth Element gathered around Sian and his spear, which made it feel several times heavier than usual. Soon after, it came crashing down against the demon beast.

Bam!

Roar!

The spear pierced the Demon beast's body, making it scream in pain. Naturally, it immediately shifted its attention from Latalia and pounced at Sian. Sian's attack caused good damage, but it was not enough to threaten the demon beast's life.

Sian knew that, so he immediately changed into a defensive stance to hold the counter-attack. But at the same time that the demon beast attacked Sian, Ervan and Luo approached it from the sides and attacked its legs.

'Splitting River!'

'Extreme Wind Slash!'

Bang!

Swich!

Swich!

Sian was sent flying back as the legs of the demon beast were hit. Unfortunately, the damage on them was even lower than Sian's Spear just a moment ago.

The demon beast then spun its body as it clashed against Luo on the side.

'Fuck!'

In the end, the Middle Stage Four demon beast was much stronger than any of them, so its attacks were also much faster. Luo could only try to raise his sword to defend against the attack.

Clang!

The claws and the sword hit each other. However, Luo was not strong enough to hold it, so his sword was sent flying from his hand. Without anything to defend himself, Luo could only increase the Spiritual Energy around his body, trying to use it to reduce the damage.

Crash!

The Demon Beast's paw hit Luo's chest head-on, crushing his body against the ground.

"Luo!"

Sian and Ervan immediately pounced at the demon beast when they saw that.

'Mountain Pierce!'

'Extreme Wind Slash!'

The Demon Beast was paying attention to Sian and Ervan this time, so it immediately stopped its attacks and jumped away. Ervan and Sian didn't stop and followed. They didn't have time to check on Luo at the moment.

This situation continued for another 30 seconds or so. However, this amount of time was enough to push Ervan and Sian to their limits. They were overwhelmed by the difference in strength between them and the Demon Beasts and were full of injuries.

The demon beast then made a sudden shift just as it was going to attack Sian, aiming at Ervan instead.

'Shit!'

Seeing the deadly situation, Ervan immediately gave up his attack and tried to defend as well. However, just as the Demon Beast was about to get Ervan, a flash of green light hit its body by the side.

Roar!

The attack was a lot more powerful than when Sian hit the Demon Beast in the first sneak attack, which immediately made the demon beast retreat.

Only then did Ervan and Sian noticed that the green flash was Latalia. At the same time, they received a Spiritual Sense message.

'That was good enough. You can leave the rest to me.'

Latalia then started a fierce battle against the Middle Stage Four Demon Beast. However, the beast had no intelligence. With the other two Initial Stage Four ones 'dead,' it didn't take too long before Latalia took the upper hand. Although Ervan's group attacks didn't kill the beast, they were still of some help to Latalia.

Ervan noticed that Latalia was going to win and immediately rushed to where Luo was. Sian, of course, did the same.

"How is Elder Luo?"

Ervan eyes darkened as he looked at him. In the end, he shook his head.

"He isn't breathing anymore. Elder Luo was taken by surprise with that sudden spin, so he didn't have time to put up a good defense. Besides, he was a Water Element User and quite old, so his body's resistance wasn't that good either."

Sian sighed as he sat on the ground. He and Luo had been friends for a long time, so he was also affected by his clan member's death.

Boom!

Roarrrrrrr...!

Finally, Latalia landed a critical hit on the Demon Beast, taking its 'life.' Right after, he looked at the injured Ervan and Sian before shouting.

"You two, come here, fast! Help me open up this body."

Ervan felt like he was about to explode. But Sian immediately stopped him.

'Don't be rash. Latalia can kill us two in a second, especially now that we are injured. Luo wouldn't want you to die because of a fit of rage.'

Ervan gritted his teeth but nodded in the end. The two then dragged their damaged bodies and helped Latalia open the Middle Stage Four demon beast's corpse.

"There you are!"

Latalia then took another token similar to the one she saw before.

"Sure enough, it was really inside the Demon Beasts. I guess at least one of them carries it in each group."

Latalia quickly put the token in her robe before looking at Ervan and Luo.

"Take this."

Suddenly, two pills flew into their hands.

"What is this?"

"Don't ask, just swallow it. If I wanted to kill you, I wouldn't need to resort to this bullshit."

Ervan and Sian swallowed the pills. It turned out that those ones were Healing Pills. On top of that, very good ones capable of working even on Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators. So for them, it was even more useful.

"I got what I wanted, so now is my time to keep my word. As long as you don't try anything funny, I'll help you leave this place. Relax your bodies and focus on healing. I'll bring you two away with me. We can't stay here for long since those Demon Beasts will recover anytime now."

Sian and Ervan then looked at the demon beasts that Latalia killed and noticed their injuries quickly closing. Enormous amounts of Spiritual Energy rushed into their bodies, coming from the walls on the side. Right after, they noticed that the same thing started to happen with the demon beast beside them.

'No wonder she needed help. She wouldn't be able to kill all three of them before one of them finished recovering.'

Still, before Luo and Ervan could ask what was happening, Latalia caught their bodies with her Spiritual Energy and flew away with them.

"Wait! What about Elder Luo's body?"

Latalia snorted after hearing that.

"Do you really think I'll drag a dead body around? Kid, we had a deal. I would help you leave this place as long as you helped me get what I wanted. However, it did not include carrying corpses around. Of course, if you want to stay and bring it away, be my guest. Our deal will be over here and then. In fact, it would help me greatly if I don't need to look after you."

Sian shook his head as he looked at Ervan. He then used a Spiritual Sense message to say.

'Ervan, leave it. We need to leave this place first. Perhaps, we might find your father here. Once we go back outside, we can make a symbolic funeral for Luo according to the clan's customs. Remember, your father is already quite old as well. Until your daughter can take the position as Clan Head, you will be the

one doing it if your father leaves. The most important thing at the moment is your safety. I believe Elder Luo thought about the same thing as well.'

Ervan could only force a nod before going back to recover from his injuries.

Latalia was somewhat far away from the door she had found in the past, so she would need a few hours to make her way back, depending on the situation. Time began to pass, and around 1 hour later, Ervan's Thoughts Transmission Talisman began to shine.

'It's father's talisman!'

Death... and me

Chapter 309: Meeting Point

On the twins' side, they had been moving further into the maze. Little by little, Roan began to memorize the patterns and the changes the maze went through every time. His capability was even better than Latalia, who had stayed in this place for several weeks already. Thanks to that, they were not as lost as they had been before. At the very least, Roan could guarantee that they were moving into new areas.

Of course, as the number of cultivators increased as time passed, Rean's group bumped into other cultivator groups, who had been teleported into other areas. Not to mention that they began to find more Demon Beasts as well. The twins understood that those tokens would be of some use sooner or later, so they also focused on gathering them.

When the demon beast group was too big, they would flee. If they were small groups like the first one, they would defeat it, take the token, and leave before they recovered.

However, not all groups of demon beasts had tokens. After some time, Rean and Roan understood. It's not that they didn't have those tokens, but that the tokens inside their bodies were taken by other groups.

Another point was that the number of cultivators inside this place was several times higher than when the cultivators began to disappear in the past. Thanks to that, the demon beasts' damage was a lot smaller. Single groups or lonely cultivators wouldn't resist for long since they would encounter the fake demon beasts several times. They would eventually run out of energy and die inside. But now, because

of the numbers in the maze, the demon beasts that ruled this place were scattered everywhere, which gave the groups and lone cultivators time to recover between each battle.

So far, Rean's group had acquired four tokens, and that's because they arrived a lot earlier than other groups. One must remember that Rean's group was far from being considered one of the strongest ones. They weren't weak, but there were groups here with Middle, Late, and Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators. Rean and Roan might be able to fight an Initial Stage one head-on and even put up a fight against a Middle Stages. But Late and Peak stages were still far from their league.

The only reason their ambush worked so well against the Umbral Sect group was the several points that aligned together. The Flag Protection Formation made them think no one would take them from behind. Their complacency against Rován's abilities was also a factor. Not to mention that Rován himself put his body on the line to further drag the enemies' attention away when the twins appeared. Only after all of this did they succeed that easily. Otherwise, as long as the Middle Stage guy had escaped the ambush, their battle would have turned into a bitter one.

Every now and then, Rován would take his Thoughts Transmission Talisman out and try to activate it. However, with a limit of 300km of communication, he got no results. Besides, Roan believed that this maze further decreases the talisman's power since it also affected Spiritual Sense to a great extent.

Roan was right in the end. When Rován's Thoughts Transmission Talisman finally activated, their group was only 40 or so kilometers away from Ervan and Sian.

"It worked!"

Rean and Roan immediately stopped and looked at Rován.

"Alright, you and Ervan only have another two talismans capable of communicating. We don't know if Ervan's group is on the same floor either. Send a message asking him for all the details he can give you about his location and the direction he is heading to. The more detailed, the better."

Rován nodded. He didn't waste time asking how they were faring since that could be done once they reunited. Rován quickly summarized the information in his head and activated the Thoughts Transmission Talisman.

On Ervan's side, he looked at how his Talisman shone, showing that it received a message from his father. He then looked at Latalia.

"Senior Latalia, as I told you before, we didn't come to this place alone. Just now, my father's talisman reached me. Would you mind if I contacted him back?"

Latalia narrowed her eyes before stopping to ask.

"What's his cultivation level? Are there more people with him? I'm not in the mood to fall into a trap."

Ervan sweated as he shook his head straight away.

"Senior. With your strength, you should be able to at least run. Besides, my father is at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm Initial Stage. As for people with him, there are two other cultivators at the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm and an Initial Stage Three Demon Beast."

Ervan didn't want more problems to arise, but he didn't want to stay with Latalia either. That being said, he told the truth, expecting her to let them stay with his father. If she really didn't want to force them to do anything else, she shouldn't have a reason to refuse. Of course, that was considering that she believed Ervan's words. She could totally think that Ervan was trying to lead her into a trap and refuse that idea as well.

Latalia pondered a bit about her chances. She did indeed want to keep her word. However, if she can leave those two behind earlier, that would be even better. She considered the risks of it being a trap as she looked at Ervan and Sian. In the end, she thought it was worth a try and nodded.

"Alright, go ahead. But keep in mind that once you reunite with your father, you will have nothing more to do with me. That means I won't owe you anything else and will have no reason to help you go out."

Ervan and Sian were delighted to hear that as they immediately nodded.

"Alright!"

Ervan then organized his thoughts and tried to include as much information as possible into the Thoughts Transmission Talisman. That was the only remaining one he had to use, so he also asked Latalia and Sian for any other information he might have missed.

The issue was that the maze seemed to be almost identical everywhere, so it was hard to give any point of reference. However, Latalia appeared to know the place very well, which helped Ervan explain everything.

When Roan received the answer, he didn't read it since it could be done only once. Instead, he passed the last Thoughts Transmission Talisman to Roan since he already noticed how much better he was at understanding this place.

"There you go. It's the last one, so make sure you won't miss any words."

Roan nodded as he pressed the Talisman against his forehead. The information then quickly poured inside his mind as he read the entire content. A moment later, his eyes shone.

"It seems like I'm not the only one with a brain in this place. The description was quite accurate. Come with me."

Roan immediately changed direction and headed back. A few kilometers later, he began to enter the superior deeper floors. Every now and then, he would change direction again. Finally, he stopped and pondered a bit about the information he received.

"Alright, they should be just above us. Wait here a moment."

Back on Latalia's side, she had also brought Ervan and Sian to another place and stopped there.

"Let's wait here. We will start to move as soon as things are done with."

Ervan's group became puzzled.

"Why wait? What things?"

Latalia then said.

"That's because there the next passage capable of leading us down is over a hundred kilometers away. It will be a waste of time to go there, and we might reencounter other demon beasts."

That didn't answer their question, though. However, just as they were about to ask why they would wait in this place, the area began to tremble.

On Roan's side, he faintly smiled as he heard the mechanical sounds once again. This time, however, it was a lot louder than usual.

In front of Rean and Ervan's groups, the room around them closed on both sides. Latalia and Roan stopped them from trying to escaping, saying that it was part of the plan.

Right after, they felt the floor under them moving, bringing them somewhere.

"This is why following the walls won't work. The maze changes shape every now and then. I noticed a few small details that pointed to which part of the maze moved. If I'm not wrong, this one should connect to where Ervan is staying right now."

Latalia also explained the same thing to Ervan and Sian, which surprised them. That showed that Latalia's understanding of this place was a lot higher than they expected.

The rooms they were in continued to move for a few more seconds when they finally heard a sound that felt like something had reconnected. Roan immediately understood that the rooms had connected to the new area. It's just that the rooms didn't stop trembling yet, which showed that more rooms would connect to this place any second now.

The side walls began to open again. Sure enough, Roan and Latalia's group saw each other stopped right in front of them.

Rean and Latalia were taken aback, though.

In Rean's case, that was because he did not feel their Life Force presence until the walls finally opened. So he didn't know they were right in front before.

'So these walls can even lock the perception of life force, just what are those things made of?'

As for Latalia, she was surprised about something else.

'How did they come to this place? I was supposed to go meet them somewhere else. Could it be that they already understand the tricks behind this maze?'

Roan, on the other hand, noticed Latalia's presence.

"Is that Latalia, the one we were looking for?"

"Ah!"

Rovan and Rean immediately nodded. In the message from Ervan, he didn't comment about Latalia's presence as per her own request.

However, Rean's attention was immediately taken by another thing. Another path opened in another corner a few meters away. When the walls locking that room sides opened, another cultivator group appeared.

"Umbral Energy!"

Death... and me

Chapter 310: Counter Attack

Both Rean and Latalia's group were taken aback by the newcomers. Latalia was surprised to see Roan's group there, but she at least knew that they would be meeting. However, the Umbral Sect group was not part of her plan. Naturally, she thought about the possibility that this was a trap against her.

However, she immediately noticed Rean's group entering a guarding stance. Just as she was about to say something, Rean sent her a Spiritual Sense message.

'Senior Latalia, be careful. Those guys are part of the Umbral Sect.'

The Umbral Sect members were also surprised to find Rean and Roan here. They had noticed that the maze would change as well. However, they really arrived at this place by mere coincidence. When they saw the maze changing once more, they decided to stay put to see where the room would connect them. Finding Rean and Roan here was not what they expected. This group had Vio and Sames, two Middle Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators.

'Vio, it's the twins!'

'I know, but they aren't alone.'

'So what? There are only one Middle and one Initial Core and Soul Fusion Realm in their group. We, on the other hand, have two Middle Stages and one Initial Stage cultivators.'

They weren't the only ones talking through Spiritual Sense Message, though.

'Rovan, Rean, be ready for battle. If they attack, we will use the same strategy as before. Let Rovan take one of their Core and Soul Fusion Realms cultivators' attention. Latalia will hold one of them as well. They will definitely send the last one to deal with us. If we play it right, we can get rid of the guy straight away.'

Unfortunately, Latalia wasn't in the mood to participate.

'What are you talking about? Why should I get involved in your battle against the Umbral Sect? I don't know how you pissed them off, but I'm out.'

Roan snorted in response.

'Too bad that it won't be possible. The moment Rean said Umbral Sect, they already marked you as a target to be eliminated as well. They will not let you leave this easily.'

Roan was right. Suddenly, Vio took several Flags from his bag and threw them at all the exits. Latalia saw that and immediately used her Wind Element and tried to stop it.

'Wind Blade!'

However, Sames appeared in front of her attack.

Clang!

His sword, covered in Spiritual Energy and Fire Element, blocked the wind blade attack.

"Old lady, why don't you spend some time talking with me?"

Latalia gritted her teeth as she looked hatefully at Roan. She really didn't want to get dragged into this mess.

Rovan knew that a battle was inevitable, so he immediately contacted Ervan and Sian. As for why he couldn't see Luo, he would ask about it later if they survived.

'Erva, Sian, don't hold back!'

Rovan then charged into the Umbral Sect ranks. He wasn't trying to attack the Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators, but the Core Formation ones.

As mentioned before, each group of the Umbral Sect had five or six members. Sames and Vio were two different groups that joined together, so they had a total of eight Core Formation Realm cultivators other than the three Core and Soul Fusion Realm ones. As for his side, it only had five. Not to mention they had one extra Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator.

"Old geezer, do you really think you can do that with your miser Initial Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivation? What about asking me first?"

Vio, who had just set up the Flag Protection Formation, immediately intercepted. At the same time, Vio sent a Spiritual Sense message to the rest of his group.

'Beal, you go ahead and kill the twins while we hold their Core and Soul Fusion Realm members. With your Core and Soul Fusion Realm, it shouldn't be hard for you. As for the rest of you, go and get rid of their Core Formation Realm ones.'

Beal was the name of the third Core and Soul Fusion Realm guy. He and the others immediately acknowledged the orders and charged against Rean, Roan, and the others.

Rean and Roan then showed a panicked expression and immediately retreated. Kentucky, Ervan, and Sian were then left to deal with the remaining forces. Obviously, they would be able to do that against the sheer numbers' disadvantage.

But at this moment, Roan sent them a Spiritual Sense message. His voice cold, totally different from how he acted in front of that Core and Soul Fusion Realm guy.

'Retreat! Don't engage in battle. All you need to do is to hold for a few seconds. Although all paths are sealed, you should still have enough space to do so. If things get dangerous, use the idiot bird as cover.'

Ervan and Sian nodded straight away, and soon, they began to retreat with Kentucky.

Beal quickly reached the twins' side even though they tried to escape. Naturally, he attributed that to his advantage in speed and cultivation. Besides, seeing how the twins were young and how they were panicking made Beal even more confident of his 'superiority.'

One couldn't blame Beal for that. It was not that he was dropping his guard or underestimating the twins. The issue was that the twins were an entire realm below in cultivation. He simply didn't believe that they could pose any threat.

Beal then pulled his sword out, quickly gathering Spiritual Energy gathering around it. At the same time, purple energy seemed to appear in the middle of the Spiritual Energy. Sure enough, Beal also had the Umbral Energy Cultivation Technique of his sect.

'Purple Extermination!'

An arc of purple energy came at the twins, aiming to cut them in half. Even if it didn't, the Umbral Energy would still enter their bodies once they got injured. Rean and Roan panicked even more and quickly turned back, trying to use their White and Dark Stars to block the attack.

Boom, Boom!

However, they could not hold the attack due to the difference in cultivation and were blasted backward.

"Arrghhh!"

Their bodies were hit by the Umbral Energy, receiving quite a few cuts even after parrying it with their swords.

Beal smiled coldly after seeing that. Without giving the chance to recover, he pounced forward, determined to finish the two teenagers.

Roan saw that and also panicked.

"Stop!"

He turned around and tried to help the twins, but Vio once again appeared in his path.

"Hahaha! Why are you bothering with others when you can't even take care of yourself?!"

Latalia, who was in a stalemate against Same, also narrowed her eyes when she saw that. However, she didn't lose her calm or tried to help the twins. Instead, she focused on her own battle. Sames then tried to provoke her with a Spiritual Sense message.

'Aren't you going to save the two kids? Well, not that you could do it anyway.'

However, Latalias' dark expression suddenly changed. A cold smile appeared on her lips as she answered back.

'Don't worry, the one who needs help isn't the twins.'

Sames was taken aback by those words. Latalia's cold smile made him feel a foreboding sensation. Unfortunately, it was too late already.

Vio also saw something strange. Just a split-second ago, Rován had a panicked look at the twins' situation. Since the very start of the battle, Rován had been at a disadvantage against Vio. After all, Vio was in the Middle Stage while Rován was in the Initial Stage. However, Rován's panicked expression suddenly disappeared just as he tried to block his path.

'Rise of the Flame!'

'Emperor Flame Slash!'

Rován totally changed his stance and attacked Vio with all his might.

"What?!"

Boom!

Vio was taken aback. Out of nowhere, Rován's attack power jumped to the same level as his own! No, at the moment, Rován was a little bit stronger!

Vio was forced to retreat, not understanding from where Rován got that strength all of a sudden.

However, the main event was not happening here.

A moment ago, when Vio and Sames were unaware of what was about to happen, Beal was sure that he would kill the twins in the next attack.

'Purple Extermination!'

"Die, brats!"

However...

Boom!

The Purple Extermination hit the twins. However, Beal didn't feel the least bit happy. That's because the attack feeling was not the same as when you hit a living body!

Sure enough, Rean and Roan's bodies suddenly dissipated into specks of White and Dark Light.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

"Not good!"

Unfortunately for Beal, Rean and Roan had done all of this so that Beal would not escape. Not that he noticed the change, but it was already too late.

'Life Style, Firm Form, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, First Movement Form, Shadow Steps!'

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

With two clones destroyed, only two remained. However, those two, together with the real twins, suddenly emerged from the shadow from all sides! Together with them, nine swords materialized, giving him no chance to escape!

"Fuck!"

Beal panicked and immediately tried to stop his advance by using a movement skill technique.

'Purple Glimpse!'

Umbral Energy and Spiritual Energy gathered around his legs, quickly increasing his mobility. The attacks were too close, but he at least intended to move fast enough to prevent a fatal injury.

Unfortunately, one of the four figures that appeared from the shadows didn't attack. Instead, he had his hand extended in Beal's direction.

'Death Style, First Energy Form, Shadow Bind!'

Obviously, it was Roan. Even before he emerged from the shadows, his Shadow Bind Technique was ready to be cast. He just waited for the perfect moment to release it.

Shadow-like vines appeared from the surroundings, quickly entangling Beal's legs before he could even react. In the end, he only heard a Spiritual Sense message.

'Do you even know what death really means?'