

Death 311

Death... and me

Chapter 311: Finish Them!

Everything happened too fast. Neither Vio nor Sames had time to react to that. In fact, even if they wanted to, Roan and Latalia wouldn't let them.

Nevertheless, Latalia was really surprised when she heard Roan's plan.

Back then, just when the Flag Protection Formation was put in place, she heard Roan's plan.

'Rean and I will definitely get targeted by one of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm guys, most likely the Initial Stage one. However, I'm pretty sure we can kill him by ourselves. All I need is that you and Roan don't let those Middle Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators intervene. As for those Core Formation Realm guys, I will let Ervan, Sian, and my Demon Beast hold them just for a few seconds.'

Latalia, obviously, didn't believe that Roan and Rean could do that. After all, they were an entire realm of cultivation behind their opponent.

'Of course, I know that you don't think that we can do such a thing. However, those guys won't let you run either. At the moment, you can only enter our boat or die alone in the sea. Besides, you will lose at most a few seconds following my plan. If it doesn't work, you can still use us as bait to run by yourself. Well, I don't think you have any chance of breaking through this Formation fast enough, though.'

Roan then explained that he and Rean would pretend to be weak, waiting for the best moment to strike. It was only when she saw everything working like Roan said that she finally believed that they might be able to really do so.

The nine swords slashed Beal from every side. Dark and Light Elements cut through his Spiritual Energy barrier like butter. Especially when used together with Rean's White and Dark Stars, which were much stronger than ordinary Earth High-Level Weapons.

"Garrhh!"

Beal could only let out a loud scream as his body was cut to pieces.

Vio was shocked by that. Soon after, he became enraged.

"I'll kill you!"

However...

"Hahaha! We just started playing, didn't we? Why are you leaving so soon?"

Why did Roan get stronger than Vio? Obviously, that was because of Rean's Enhancement Skill. Before the battle started, Rean had touched Roan, increasing his combat ability. However, Roan didn't use it straight away. He held himself back as Roan initiated the feigning weakness plan on the move. Only when he saw that the twins would act again did he release his body's full strength, bolstered by Rean's Enhancement Skill.

Rean's skill wouldn't last long. At the Core Formation Realm, he was able to lock enough Light Element inside Roan to last perhaps a minute. However, to a fight of this level, one minute was a huge amount of time.

The twins' pretense plan only lost them around 30 or so seconds. As soon as Beal fell, their eyes turned in the direction of the Core Formation Realm cultivators.

Sure enough, as much as Sian could, Ervan kept retreating inside the Formation. They were already reaching their limits. It was thanks to Kentucky's ridiculous feathers and scales' defense that they survived this far.

Creee!

Once again, Kentucky spread his White and Black Flames, blocking the cultivators' path, trying to finish him and the other two.

"This dammed bird!"

It was then that they heard Sames' Spiritual Sense message.

'Give up the bird, go after the twins!'

The guys were taken aback when they heard that. They immediately shifted their attention to Rean and Roan's battlefield, just in time to see Beal's several body parts falling on the ground. Soon after, Rean, Roan, and the two remaining clones charged at them.

"What?! How did they do that?"

"Who cares? Leave the bird, and those two trashes alone, kill the twins!"

All of them immediately turned around and charged at the twins as well. As much as Beal might be dead, the fact was that they could still feel Rean and Roan's cultivation. They were the same Initial Stage Core Formation Realm as before. The reason they didn't see what the twins did to kill Beal was that this place restricted Spiritual Sense. In their eyes, they probably used some trick to reach that result.

'Umbral Severing!'

'Purple Sun!'

'Northern Cicada Awl!'

'Limitless...'

The twins also understood that there was no point in pretending anymore, so they went all out against the Core Formation Realm opponents.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

'Death Style...'

Boom, boom, boom, boom...!

The attacks from both sides arrived almost instantly. However, Rean, Roan, and the remaining two clones' attack still displayed a power equivalent to those nine Core Formation Realm cultivators.

"What?!"

"What kind of monsters are they?"

"Focus! Don't look down on them!"

Ervan, Sian, and Kentucky didn't let the chance slip. Since Rean and Roan could put the fight to a stalemate by themselves, what would happen if they joined?

Ervan and Sian gritted their teeth and bore with the pain of their injuries before throwing themselves into the fight. Kentucky was also injured, but he had used a lot of Spiritual Energy to help hold these cultivators back. Still, the Minokawa also threw itself into the fray. In fact, Kentucky was feeling extremely excited. He was becoming more and more used to his own power and abilities.

'Mountain Piercer!'

'Extreme Wind Slash!'

Ervan and Sian had taken the front for the first time. With Rean and Roan grabbing the enemies' full attention, they finally had a chance to help.

Seeing that, Rean and Roan mentally nodded.

'Great!'

Without another choice, two of the Core Formation Realm enemies could only separate from the main group to hold Ervan and Sian back.

Vio and Sames also saw the situation on their side, quickly changing their minds and tried to get away from Latalia and Rovon. However, how could those two not know what they were trying to do? So they increased the pace of their attacks even more, making sure that neither Vio nor Sames would have time to care about anything else.

Sian and Ervan on one side. Roan, Rean, and their two clones on the other. There was one missing.

When the enemies noticed that the demon bird hadn't attacked them as well, they immediately looked around, trying to find it. Too bad that Kentucky had disappeared. In fact, even Rean was taken aback by that. That's because just a moment ago, he saw Kentucky bending light to create a camouflage effect!

'That's my skill! I demand copyright!'

Roan felt like kicking this guy away.

'If you have time for such bullshit, increase your number of attacks. Otherwise, the chicken's next attack won't be as effective.'

Of course, Kentucky's skill wasn't as good as Rean's. Still, it was enough to get away from everyone's sight for a moment. Well, Rean and Roan still knew exactly where it was due to their connection as masters.

Creeeeeeee!

Suddenly, Kentucky reappeared above the Umbral Sect Core Formation Realm cultivators. His body descended from above like a meteor, his body covered in black and white flames!

Rean's eyes lit up, seeing that.

"It's the Fried Chicken Cannonball Attack!"

Roan almost tripped when he heard that name. Since when did Kentucky's attack have a name? And why would you call it like that? Well, Roan often called it a chicken, so he didn't have the right to complain.

The Umbral Sect cultivators had little time to react as Kentucky crashed against the ground.

Boom!

Black and White Flames soon spread together with a powerful wave of Spiritual Energy. Some of the Umbral Sect cultivators were blasted away, while others were able to somehow defend themselves. Kentucky had used an area attack, descending right in their midst. The Fried Chicken Cannonball was really mighty!

Sian, Ervan, Rean, and Roan didn't let the chance slip.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

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

'Earth Splitter!'

'Green Flash Wave!'

Boom, boom, boom!

swish, swish, swish!

One by one, the Core Formation Realm cultivators of the Umbral Sect fell. The moment their numbers became lower than Rean's group, they immediately gave up the fight and turned around to flee.

"Seniors, save us!"

Vio and Sames were trying to help, but Latalia and Roan were even using their bodies to stop them. Even though that put them in advantage in the battle, things would change when those monster twins joined the fray. It was evident that Rean and Roan could fight at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm level.

Vio and Sames quickly reached a decision through a Spiritual Sense conversation.

"Retreat!"

Vio shot in another direction as he extended his hand. Soon after, Spiritual Energy began to gather in his hands. He was trying to dissipate the Protection Formation for them to escape this place.

Roan, of course, noticed that.

"Hmph! Since you came, you might as well stay here... forever."

Right after, several other flags flew from Roan's bag, heading towards the several exists.

Of course, Sames and Vio got shocked once again when they saw them.

'It's Gugo's Flags!'

They weren't idiots. It was evident that the twins' group killed Gugo's group before.

Sames and Vio noticed that they wouldn't be able to escape in time. Because of that, they gritted their teeth and completely ignored Roan and Latalias' attacks. Even if they get hit, that would be better than getting trapped inside the Formation. As for the Core Formation Realm members, they couldn't care about them anymore.

Boom! Boom!

Roan and Latalia's attack did indeed connect. However, Roan was more experienced in the end. He understood Vio's intention and changed his aim. Instead of trying to deliver as much damage as possible, he attacked in a way that delayed Vio's movements.

"Nooooo!"

Shuwa!

Finally, Roan's own flags activated their Protection Formation, trapping Vio and the remaining Core Formation Realm Cultivators inside. As for Sames, he didn't even turn back as he flashed away with his body bleeding everywhere.

Roan narrowed his eyes after seeing that.

'In the end, I'm not used to these things. I took way too long to aim in the right places.'

He then looked at Vio and the rest.

"Finish them!"

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Chapter 312: Conversation

With Latalia, Rován, and the twins working together, Vio was quickly overwhelmed by the group attack. Not to mention that he had tried to escape earlier while ignoring Rován's attack. That only contributed to his terrible situation.

The other Core Formation Realm cultivators were also quickly dealt with, leaving almost none alive.

In the end, only Vio was left alive. However, it was done that way so Roan could ask him a few questions.

However, as soon as the battle was concluded, Sian and Ervan fell to the ground. They were already gravely injured while Rean and Roan prepared the trap for Beal, forcing themselves to stand up and attack the Umbral Sect's group after the twins' help finally arrived.

Latalia narrowed her eyes as she looked at the two. After that, she arrived beside Ervan and began to pour Spiritual Energy into his body. Rován wanted to do the same, but the Enhancement Skill's effect had already disappeared a while ago. He didn't receive serious injuries, but he could barely move at the moment.

Latalia then looked at Sian before shaking her head.

"This one called Ervan can still be saved, but he has absorbed too much Umbral Energy, so I don't know if he can fully recover. As for the other guy, he is beyond what a healing Pill can fix. Just give him a quick death."

However, everyone other than Latalia looked at Rean at that moment.

"Alright, alright. Don't look at me with those puppy eyes. I'll fix him, okay?"

Latalia didn't know what Rean was talking about. What fix? Does he have a high-level healing pill?

Of course, that was far from the truth.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery.'

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification.'

In front of Latalia's eyes, she saw all the injuries on Sian's body quickly closing. Not only that, her Spiritual Sense could tell how the Umbral Energy inside his body was being swiftly destroyed.

"The hell? What are you, a god?"

Rean laughed as he looked at her.

"Nope, I'm an angel."

Everyone other than Roan showed a puzzled expression.

'What the hell is an angel?'

Roan simply added in response.

"It does match the nightingale's nickname."

Rean's mouth twitched.

"Fuck you!"

While no one understood what they were fighting about, Rean finished healing Sian up. Sian was not at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm like Roan, so it was a lot faster to finish him.

Soon after, Rean moved closer to Ervan.

Latalia finally came back to herself and retreated to the side. Compared to his healing abilities, her Healing Pills and Spiritual Energy were simply useless.

"Nnghhh."

"Bear with the pain. Destroying the Umbral Energy inside your body is the first priority before it can damage your organs. If that happens, it will take even longer to heal you."

Sure enough, as much Light Element as there might be, having Dark Element running through ones' body was anything but comfortable.

"Impressive. Now I know why the Umbral Sect was after you two. There was a rumor about a kid who could heal Umbral Energy without the need for pills from the Dalamu Sect. That kid is you, right? I didn't expect that your healing abilities were that powerful that even Healing Pills pale in comparison."

Rean smiled as he nodded.

"It seems like I'm quite famous. Hahaha!"

Pah!

Roan slapped the back of his head right after.

"Since when being famous is a good thing in the cultivation world, you idiot? Stop wasting time and finish this guy."

Rean rubbed the back of his head as he looked at Roan.

"Did you finish with that guy?"

Roan nodded.

"I did. They didn't come at us by following a track or anything like that. It was purely coincidence that they just so happened to use the same maze change moment that brought us together. It seems like quite a few groups are starting to understand how this maze works. If they don't die to the Fake Demon Beasts, they will eventually head in the same direction."

It was then that Latalia remembered.

"Wait! Don't think I forgot how you pulled me into this mess. Although we won the fight, we almost died, brats!"

Roan looked at Latalia and snorted in response.

"Hmph! That was your own luck. None of us knew that the Umbral Sect would appear in that place. After all, the initial idea was to simply get Ervan's group back. We didn't even know you were with them. Of course, we didn't know because you didn't allow Ervan to say that in his Thoughts Transmission Talisman, right? That is also part of your own fault."

Latalia's expression darkened, but she couldn't come up with an answer. It was true that she was the one who ordered Ervan to not tell them about her presence.

On Ervan's side, he finished explaining what happened to Luo through a Spiritual Sense message.

Rovan sighed after hearing that. How could he not understand how Evan felt? They were a small clan. Because of that, their few members were quite united too. Ervan obviously grieved the loss of Elder Luo. However, Rovan shook his head in the end.

'We all knew about the risks of coming into the Core Region to look for Latalia. It was all for the Serene Jade and your daughter's sake. Besides, she really kept her word and protected you all during the rest of the way. That alone was already heaven-defying luck of your part. You will be the next Clan Head in the future, so you must look at the greater picture.'

Ervan's expression turned gloomy, but he knew that Rován was right.

'Yes, father.'

Rean then finished dealing with Ervan before he extended his hand to Latalia.

"Please give me your hand for a second."

"What do you want?"

"Senior Latalia was also hit that guy called Sames, right? I can feel the Umbral Energy inside your body. Although it isn't much, that's not something you can eliminate with your cultivation alone. You will need a specific pill for that, which I don't think you have at the moment."

Latalia wanted to deny it, but it was apparent when looking at her body that she had been injured in the battle as well.

"Brat, you better not try anything funny."

Rean smiled as he shook his head.

"Don't worry. However, it will be quite painful, so bear with it."

"Hmph! It is okay as long as you finish it properly."

Rean sighed at how she acted high and mighty. Nevertheless, he still started with his treatment.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification.'

Rean held Latalia's hand and began to eliminate the Umbral Energy inside her body. His control over the Purification Ability was several times better than when he healed Tiria and Nana. He didn't need to touch the parts where Umbral Energy was gathered anymore to get rid of it. Besides, the amount of Umbral Energy inside Latalia's body paled in comparison to what Tiria had.

Latalia understood why Rean warned her. It was indeed painful to have the Dark Element running through one's body. If not for the Light Element protecting her organs, she would have pulled her hand back straight away. Still, she gritted her teeth as she kept her prideful stance.

Unfortunately for her, Rean had first treated the Umbral Energy in her body. He had left the healing of her injuries to be done after that on purpose.

The pain of the Dark Element quickly disappeared after the Umbral Energy was dealt with. Following that, Rean playfully smiled as he began to heal the injuries on her body instead.

'Let's see if you can keep your facade up now.'

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery.'

Rean went all out as a burst of Light Element and Spiritual Energy came from his body. It quickly washed over Latalia's entire body, healing her injuries at fast speeds. However, his aim was not that...

Latalia was taken aback because of the sudden burst of... pleasure... and couldn't hold her voice back.

Moan~

She quickly covered her mouth in less than an instant, not believing what she had just done. She was over a hundred years old, with a middle-aged appearance. Not to mention her serious yet cold expression she kept ever since meeting Ervan's group. That 'cute' moan had really attracted all of the men's attention in the area. Immediately, Latalia's face turned as red as a tomato. When had she ever moaned in front of others like that?

Rovan, Ervan, and Sian coughed as they looked away, pretending that they didn't hear anything.

She then looked hatefully at Rean. It was evident that it was his fault that she did that. The Light Element made her entire body feel way too good! Especially some 'particular parts' down there that Rean purposely focused his Light Element on.

"Done. You are as good as new now, senior Latalia."

Latalia then looked at Roan, who smirked at her.

"Didn't know you had such a side. Guess you aren't that cold after all."

"Fuck you! It was your brother's fault!"

Rean looked at Latalia with an innocent and wronged expression.

"Why put the blame on me?! I just eliminated the Umbral Energy and healed all the injuries on your body. Take a good look, I even got rid of all the scars, new and old, that you had before. And this is how you thank me?!"

Latalia was taken aback as she used her Spiritual Sense to check her body. As an old cultivator at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, she had participated in several battles. Naturally, she got quite a few scars as time went by. Even Tiria and Mia back in the Dalamu Sect were no exception to these issues.

However, now that she looked at her entire body, she noticed that all the scars had really disappeared completely. In fact, her skin looked as smooth as never. As cold as she might be, Latalia would be lying if she said she didn't mind those things.

"This... Is this a permanent change or temporary?"

Rean nodded.

"It's permanent. After all, scars are also considered old injuries, not part of the body. That being said, I can stimulate the cells to recover those damaged parts."

Latalia couldn't help but ask.

"Cells? What are cells?"

Only then Rean remembered that people don't know the concept of cells in this medieval world.

"Ahem... All you need to know is that your scars won't come back. Of course, if you get new ones, then there's nothing I can do."

Latalia was in a dilemma. Be angry because of the embarrassment she had just felt, or thank Rean for doing something any woman would love to receive.

Rean then faintly smiled as he got an idea.

"Alright. I healed your body and got rid of the scars as compensation for pulling you inside the Umbral Sect battle. We owe you nothing anymore. If you get other injuries and scars in the future, that is your problem. Everyone, let's move out!"

Latalia's expression suddenly changed. That's right! In the future, she really might obtain more injuries. That's something that all cultivators are at risk of receiving as they progress. Wouldn't it be great if she could ask Rean's help to heal them for her?

Of course, there were alchemist pills that were made to help get rid of scars. The problem was that the stronger one gets, the stronger the pill had to be. Besides, depending on how one got those scars, the remaining power in the injuries might make it impossible for the pills to heal them. Latalia's own scars just so happened to be that type. The ones that could be cured with pills she did already. Besides, she knew quite a few other female cultivators that would love something like that.

"Ahem... Let's not act so harsh towards each other, right? Didn't we just go through a life and death battle together? Aren't we basically friends now?."

Roan and the others' mouths twitched. Since when had she thought about them as friends? As for Rean, he couldn't help but inwardly laugh out loud.

'The ultimate women's trap! Hahaha!'

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Chapter 313: How the Maze Works

Roan then looked at Rean before asking.

'What the hell did you do to her?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response as he replied.

'Me? Nothing. I just paid our debt. She's probably so grateful that she wants to befriend us now.'

'Befriend your ass!'

Roan then ignored Rean before looking at Latalia.

"Whatever. I might as well let you know that the Umbral Sect came to this place because of your nephew. He recognized me when I went to take the mission to find you. That's why there are Umbral Sect cultivators in this place at the moment."

Latalia's expression darkened once more.

"Fuck that little piece of shit! So it was also his fault again."

Latalia then looked at Roan before saying.

"You don't need to worry over it. Even if you don't do anything, I definitely won't let him get away with it that easily."

Latalia then asked something else.

"Leaving that idiot aside, how did you appear in front of me when the maze finished changing? You were supposed to be waiting for me somewhere else after I passed the information about this place to Ervan."

Roan snorted.

"Why should I? You're not the only one who understands how this place works, you know? All I had to do was pair the information that I received from Ervan with what I knew to understand where you would come from. It wasn't anything hard to do, really."

Latalia was surprised to hear that. She already spent several weeks in this place and already had some knowledge about this place's history. However, she took much longer to finally get a grasp of how the mazes worked. In contrast, Roan already grasped it.

"Sigh... whatever. After what you showed me during that battle, I might as well believe what you said. Anyway, where are you planning to go? Did you enter this place to run away from the Umbral Sect?"

Roan shook his head.

"No. We entered this place because of a certain jade slip."

Roan then explained about the Jade Slip that he and Rean found in the past. There was no point in hiding it now since the Jade Slip was used already. It disappeared when the entrance to this maze closed. Besides, other than showing this area's general location, there was no additional information inside of that thing.

Latalia nodded after she heard everything.

"So that's what happened. Does that mean that you are after treasures in this place?"

Roan and Rean looked at each other before they nodded at Latalia. It wasn't wrong to say that they were after treasures. It's just that the treasures they want were information. All they knew was that this place had something to do with 'Vruve Remnants' and that Sister Orb or the system didn't give them permission to look into this information. That's the reason why they entered. Of course, if there were other treasures with some value, that would be good too.

"You could say that. Well, that's why most of the groups entered this place, too, right?"

Latalia nodded. After she heard how the Four Peaks Mountain changed, shooting light rays into the skies, she understood why so many cultivators entered this place at once.

It was then that Roan remembered something.

"Oh, right! Why was the maze pulling cultivators who passed nearby inside by force? Also, this was a recent event, so why didn't it happen in the past?"

Everyone nodded as they looked at Latalia. That was something which really puzzled them.

Latalia then sighed as she answered that question with another one.

"Many cultivators disappeared because of the maze these last few years. However, have you found any trace of them? Bones, old battle marks, anything?"

Everyone shook their heads. Rean's group was the first to enter after the mountain revealed the maze entrance. Still, they didn't find anything whatsoever.

"Where have they gone?"

Latalia then explained.

"To be honest, I think that the demon beasts we have been encountering so far are exactly those cultivators."

"What?!"

Everyone was shocked by that revelation. However, Roan immediately understood why Latalia thought like that.

"I see... Latalia is most likely correct. Have you noticed? We haven't found a single Demon Beast at Stage Five or above so far, right? We only found Stage Three and Stage Four ones. Besides, the Stage Three ones were usually Late or Peak Stage Three. Almost not a single one at Middle Stage Three or below can be found."

Roan continued.

"The Jiran Forest is a training ground for Core Formation Realm and Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators. But in the Core Formation Realm cultivators' case, they are usually at least at the Late or Peak Stage Core Formation Realm. After all, this is a place with Stage Four Demon Beasts ruling. Coming to this place with a Middle Stage or below cultivation is quite an idiotic idea if you don't have the power to keep yourself alive."

Latalia was happy that she didn't have to explain everything herself.

"It's good that you understand. It's too much of a coincidence that the Demon Beasts in this maze have the same average level as the cultivators that roam outside. Besides, it's as you said, they are all fake demon beasts. Not real ones."

Rean then asked something else.

"Wait! Then how did they transform into that? Also, senior Latalia has been here for a long time already. How come you didn't change into one of them?"

Latalia shrugged her shoulders.

"How would I know? If I were to guess, it's because I'm very good at running. I believe that the primary condition is for you to get captured or killed by the demon beasts."

Roan pondered for a bit before saying.

"There are a few cultivators that can use skills or cultivation techniques to gain some temporary or permanent demon beast traits. They are quite rare, but they do exist. It's not hard to think that these guys were forcefully transformed. Most likely, the key is their dantian. Once they die, they can be transformed by using the power inside. The strong ones will then receive those 'tokens' or whatever they are in their bodies."

Latalia nodded.

"Exactly. That also explains why the maze would try to drag a few cultivators inside every now and then."

Rovan then asked.

"Okay, I can understand most of it, but I still can't understand why it just began to happen recently. We all know that the missing cultivators' issue only started a few years ago. Before that, it would always be simple deaths and things like that. Also, why drag cultivators inside? Wouldn't it be better to simply pull a few demon beasts to do the job? Why go through the pain in the ass process of changing a cultivator's form to create those fake demon beasts?"

Latalia didn't find those questions surprising.

"I can't answer your first question. I also don't know why the maze started acting up just now. However, I can answer the second one. Well, at least I think I can. Keep in mind that I might be wrong here."

Rovan and the other nodded as they waited for her answer.

However, just as she was about to continue talking, Rean finished healing Rován's injuries and Umbral Energy as well.

"Alright, I'm done."

Roan then looked at everyone before saying.

"Good, let's leave this place first. Don't forget that the Umbral Sect still has another group with a Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator in their ranks. Not to mention that that group has other Core and Soul Fusion Realm members too. I don't want that escapee to lead them to us. Rean and I can't use the pretense of being weak to take them by surprise anymore, either."

Everyone immediately got up and departed.

"Where to?"

Roan pondered for a bit. However, Latalia answered before he could say anything.

"I know where the city entrance is located. Come with me."

Rean's group showed puzzled expressions.

"City entrance? What city?"

Latalia then replied.

"First, follow me. I'll talk about Rován's question first on the way."

Everyone nodded and did as she said.

"Rovan asked why the maze would pull cultivators inside instead of demon beasts. The key for that should be intelligence. I believe that there is a gigantic formation under the maze that controls the Demon Beasts."

Roan and Rean nodded.

"Yes, we also reached the same conclusion. Only that could explain the super-fast recovery of the defeated Demon Beasts."

Latalia nodded and continued.

"Correct. However, Demon Beasts below Stage Five still haven't acquired sentience, let alone intelligence. That should be an issue if you want to give them orders. However, a transformed cultivator is still an intelligent one. He or she can understand commands and act accordingly. Once again, this is just my own theory. I can't guarantee that I'm right since I don't have access to the formation. Even if I had, I don't think I would understand how it works anyway."

Roan wasn't surprised by that.

"You are probably right. I can't think of any other reason to take cultivators in instead of real demon beasts. Besides, real demon beasts are savage. The problem wouldn't be just the fact that they can't receive orders, but that they would act aggressively against anything else too."

For now, everyone decided to accept that theory. Rean then asked about the next topic.

"Alright. Can senior Latalia explain more about this city entrance? You said you found a door in this maze. How do you know there is a city behind it?"

Latalia went silent for a bit before saying.

"That's because my family members are descendants of one of its citizens from thousands of years ago."

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Chapter 314: Amakal Family

Everyone looked at Latalia with a surprised expression. However, Roan immediately asked.

"Why would you tell us that? As far as I can see, it was supposed to be some kind of great secret, no? What made you change your mind all of a sudden?"

Latalia shrugged her shoulders before saying.

"Look around. Do you think we would be able to hide it for long? Even you noticed that something wasn't right with Juan's request, trying to look for me, let alone the leaders of sects and other powers. Sooner or later, they will knock on my idiot nephew's door. Once that happens, that coward will spill all the beans."

Roan still found it strange.

"But you could have kept it a secret until there was no other choice but to tell us, no?"

Latalia shook her head.

"That would be impossible. The reason is simple. The city entrance needs two things to open. The first, I believe you already know what it is."

Roan nodded as he pulled out one of the small 'tokens' from his robe.

"So this is some kind of key, uh?"

Latalia nodded.

"Yes. There will be a need for several of these things. You could also say that the reason the maze began to pull the cultivators inside was so that it could convene the keys to the latecomers. I might be wrong, but I believe that being able to acquire the tokens is also some kind of trial."

Everyone nodded. After being inside this place for so many hours, they would be lying if they didn't at least think about that possibility before.

"Alright, but this reason doesn't explain why you went ahead and told us about your descendency. What is this second condition then?"

Latalia then pointed at herself before saying.

"My blood. Without the bloodline of one of the residents of that city, you won't be able to open the entrance. Right in front of the door, there is a small pillar used to control the door. I need to drop my blood inside it for that to work. However, it will only work once enough tokens are gathered. Once I drop my blood to control it, everyone there will obviously notice that I have some relation to this place."

Roan understood what Latalia wanted.

"I see. You could have simply waited at that door until the cultivators eventually gathered there. However, you would be without a token yourself. Last but not least, you would be on your own. That being said, you had no other choice other than to go out and look for help. First, you got help from Ervan's group since you wanted to get a token that would be only yours."

"After that, you intended to find a relatively stronger group to ally with. When you heard from Ervan about our existence and our average cultivation level, you thought it was a perfect choice. After all, you would still be the cultivator with the highest cultivation in our midst. You could talk about this city or whatever while still being certain about your own safety."

Latalia's expression didn't even change after hearing all of that.

"So what? Are you telling me that I was wrong? You also stand to gain in this trade since you will be able to enter as well. It's a win-win situation. Are you not satisfied?"

Roan shook his head.

"Not at all. I prefer to make it clear about both sides' stakes. We have something you need, and you have something we do. That's the best way to keep both interests intact."

Well, the truth was that Latalia still felt Rean's group to be slightly weaker than she wanted. Nevertheless, her female side wanted to befriend Rean for future 'uses.' The ultimate women's trap was just that powerful!

Roan then decided to enter the main topic.

"Alright. What about this city thing? What are we expecting here? From what I know, there wasn't supposed to be a city in this place, no?"

Latalia nodded.

"During the time Zef Jialin founded this country, the city was already non-existent. This is a story from way before the Sasamil Empire arrived in this region as well. The city's name was Laan, a relatively small city if you take the country's capital as an example. Still, the people who governed this place all had heaven-defying cultivations. Some say that they even had a few ascenders."

Everyone looked at Latalia with a slightly puzzled expression.

"Ascender? What is that?"

Unfortunately, Latalia just shook her head.

"I also know nothing about it. The only thing I heard is that once your cultivation surpasses a certain level, you will ascend. However, no one knows what this 'ascendance' means. Cultivators can fly. Does it mean they leave our world? Or perhaps they are sent into another place through some kind of teleportation? Maybe they receive the right to do so and then decide whether to go or not. Perhaps they are forced to leave or pulled away? In any case, I have never seen one. You will be luckier if you ask your sect elders about it."

Latalia then continued.

"All you need to know is that this was a city where no one dared to mess with. Sasamil Empire was already strong at that time. Perhaps they didn't dare to let anyone take this area since they didn't want to mess with Laan City. Of course, this is just speculation."

Rean then asked.

"So, what happened to the city? How come Zef Jialin came to this place and took over? Also, didn't the Sasamil Empire try to stop him? Or perhaps they sent Zef here instead?"

Latalia shook her head once more.

"I don't know. According to the records of my clan, Laan City suddenly disappeared one day. No one knew why, but the city simply vanished into thin air. In its place, only barren land remained. Thousands of years later, when Zef Jialin arrived, the land had already been taken by the demon beast forest that surrounded the city before. No one knew what happened to the citizens of this place."

Roan felt that something was strange.

"Then how come you're a descendant? Did someone flee from the city before it disappeared?"

Latalia then scratched her back head with a helpless expression.

"To be honest, it seems like our ancestor was exiled. There are no records of what happened. It's just that he did something that had him almost killed and thrown outside."

Latalia then shrugged her shoulders.

"Well, to be honest, I'm delighted that he did. After all, I wouldn't be here today if he didn't create his own family later on outside. Anyway, it was also thanks to that that we know something about what

happened. The city didn't really disappear, but it was moved. It's just that it was impossible to track it down. All that we know was that it was still inside Jiran Forest, that's all."

"The problem was that we had no idea about its location anymore. My ancestor looked for it until the end of his life came. The next generations did the same, but none of them were lucky. Jiran Forest seemed to be the same as always, and it continued to be so for many, many generations. Until a few years ago, sudden disappearances began to happen."

"At first, no one paid much attention. After all, the Jiran Forest's Core Region had many Stage Four Demon Beasts, maybe even a Stage Five somewhere. Every now and then, some would die inside, never to be seen again. Probably ending up in some Demon Beasts' belly."

"However, the situation worsened as time passed. Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators had also turned into casualties. It was a rare thing. Even in a desperate situation, as long as they decide to pay the price, they would still be able to escape. Let alone that Stage Four demon beasts don't have intelligence and sentience. A good example was that Umbral Sect guy who ran away. Even in that situation, he still found a silver lining that allowed him to keep his life."

Roan wanted to say that Latalia didn't use the right movements to delay his movements, but he decided not to do so. After all, Roan also thought that he wasn't as perfect as he was when he used the Flags.

"Once we noticed that a lot of cultivators were disappearing without leaving any clue behind, we immediately started to make an investigation of our own. Of course, their disappearances could have been for any other reason. Still, it was not like we had any further clue. To my surprise, I was also captured by the maze. It was then that I saw the patterns on the walls and confirmed that this was really related to Laan City!"

Rean then asked something else.

"Then why does it look like your nephew wants to stop you?"

Latalia laughed before saying.

"Isn't that obvious? That nephew of mine is a coward. He wanted to give up any more research about Laan City. Even it existed, what good would it bring to our Amakal Family? He wanted to bring me back and force me to forget about our ancestor's wishes. Well, to be honest, I couldn't care less about that. I'm here for the same reason as the rest. I want to get the treasures left behind as well. As a real descendant, I believe that I will have access to many things that others won't. Why should I give up?"

Roan snorted in response.

"That is considering that your banished ancestor's bloodline is still accepted, right?"

Latalia didn't deny that.

"Do you have a better idea?"

Roan was tongue-tied. In the end, he could only answer.

"No."

Death... and me

Chapter 315: Teleport Formation

When the Umbral Sect entered the Laan Maze, they had separated into two groups. One was Sames and Vio's group, while the other one had Lian Buran. Unfortunately, they had encountered Rean's group. Naturally, Sames tried to make his way back to Lian's group.

They had noticed that people were being teleported when they entered the maze. Because of that, they made sure to keep together to be teleported to the same place, just like how Sister Orb warned Rean and the others to do so. They didn't know that it was a maze at first and only separated after discovering it. Of course, they also made plans to meet again before that.

Sames had stopped at some point to recover from his injuries. After stabilizing his own condition, he once again made his way to the meeting point. Then again, it was easier said than done. They knew that the maze frequently changed shape, making it very hard for either Lian or Sames to go where they wanted.

Because of that, it took Lian an entire day and several dangers to finally find his way back to Lian's group. It couldn't be helped. If it was easy, the maze wouldn't have any meaning.

Lian's group had five members, different from Vio and Sames' group with 11 in total. However, they were definitely the strongest group between the two. That's because Lian was at the Peak of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, not to mention having two members at the Initial and Middle Stage of the same Realm. With Sames coming back, they now had four members in that Realm.

Lian narrowed his eyes when he saw Sames approaching. After all, Sames wasn't supposed to be alone.

"What happened?"

Sames bitterly smiled as he organized his thoughts before sending a Spiritual Sense message with the entire story in tow. Of course, he sent the same message to everyone in Lian's group.

"What?! Are you serious?"

"Can two Initial Stage Core Formation Realm kids be that strong?"

"You must be kidding, right?"

Sames shook his head.

"I wish I was. Everyone other than me died because of them. Beal thought that they were not a threat and was the first one to die because of that. Of course, I can't blame them since I would probably have thought the same."

Lian nodded.

"I was thinking about ignoring the twins for now since we found this place. However, considering their growth rate and strength, we better get rid of them as soon as possible. Not to mention, our Umbal Sect

and the Dalamu Sect has been on bad terms for quite some time. It will be problematic if they reach the Core and Soul Fusion Realm or even the Nascent Soul Realm in the future."

Everyone nodded. It was already under their orders to kill the twins, especially Rean, but mostly because of Rean's ability to heal Umbral Energy. Right now, however, their own strength was the problem in this place.

"Do you know where they have gone?"

Sames shook his head.

"No idea. I left the place as fast as I could. I didn't dare to stay around. However, everyone in this maze is probably heading to the same place. After all, there seems to be nothing more than Demon Beasts in the maze itself."

Lian and the others nodded. They had been exploring the maze as well, but they didn't find anything of value either. They also asked other groups just to receive the same answer. Without any other choice, everyone could only move in the same direction as they slowly understood how the maze worked. Of course, there were still those tokens, but no one found out what use they have yet.

"Alright. Give Sames some time to recover, and then let's move out."

Back at Rean's group, they ended encountering more of those fake Demon Beasts. However, even though their numbers were enough to kill them, it was becoming something without much use. That's because those demon beasts already lost the tokens inside them.

"It seems that even though we might be ahead of others, the demon beasts in the maze are all accumulated where most of the cultivators are. Otherwise, the groups of demon beasts we found should have those tokens with them."

Everyone nodded.

"There is no helping it. The fake demon beasts are supposed to be a trial, right? It is normal that they were found already. Anyway, how far are we from that door you talked about, Latalia?"

Latalia smiled before replying.

"We're getting close. We just need to wait at the next juncture for the maze to change shape again. Once the room reconnects, we should be almost on the side of the City Entrance."

Just as Latalia mentioned, they unsurprisingly arrived at another point of the maze that changed from time to time. They waited in that position for around an hour until finally, mechanical sounds resounded once more. Just like before, Rean's group was then locked inside the corridor as the maze changed the connections between passages.

Eventually, the corridor they were in was opened once more, allowing them to come out.

"Alright, it should be just ten kilometers ahead where the City Entrance is located."

Latalia then looked at Ervan and Sian.

"Also, there is something there that might be of some help to you two."

Ervan and Sian looked at each other, not understanding what Latalia meant by that.

Latalia didn't explain as their group went ahead. After some time, they finally saw what seemed to be some open gate in the distance. However, Rean's group also noticed that a few cultivators seemed to already have arrived there.

Latalia wasn't surprised by that, though. She had found this place before and then left. It had been more than a day since she had been here. Some lucky group or lone cultivators would eventually reach this place after so long.

The other cultivators looked at Rean's group as their eyes stopped on Latalia and Rován. However, different from before, no one noticed who Latalia was.

Rean knew that a few groups had been sent to the Jiran Forest to look for Latalia. Naturally, they had talked with Juan as well and received her picture. Imagine a situation where Latalia continued to move around with her real appearance. In that case, things might get annoying as others would be able to recognize her. Because of that, Rean did the same thing he did to Calina with her, changing her appearance with his Light Element.

Latalia was surprised after looking at her appearance after the transformation. If she could, she probably would keep this one rather than heading back to her previous appearance. Unfortunately, Rean told her that it was only temporary. He needed to keep the transformation with Light Element by repeating the process every few hours.

Nonetheless, that was enough for no one to recognize her. That alone was already a very good thing.

Everyone then focused their attention on Latalia and Rován. Of course, not that they recognized the two, but because they were the only Core and Soul Fusion Realm in Rean's group.

"Another group arrived. It seems like that Light Pillar really went very far."

"It did. I was a few thousand kilometers away, but I still could see that. Fortunately, it only took a few hours to arrive with my cultivation."

"Hey, the newcomers over there, do you know anything about this door? Or perhaps that room on the side of this room entrance?"

Rean and the others then looked at the room the others mentioned. Sure enough, there was an extra room connected to this place. However, everything was dark inside, and only a few of those ancient words were visible above the entrance.

"Didn't any of you enter to check?"

Everyone smiled but didn't say anything. That, of course, made Rean's group apprehensive. However, it was then that Latalia sent them a Spiritual Sense message.

'That room has an automatic Teleport Formation. Once you enter that, you will be teleported outside, leaving the maze entirely.'

Latalia then looked at Sian and Ervan.

'I promised you two that I was going to bring you out, right? That's why I said that. I knew that I could send you out through this teleport formation.'

Ervan couldn't help but ask.

'How do you know that?'

Latalia smiled as she pointed at the words carved above that room entrance.

'It's written right there.'

Rean and Roan's interest was immediately piqued.

'Can you read this ancient language?'

Latalia then explained.

'Just a little. My ancestor's recording had several texts explaining Laan City's language, enough to recognize essential words like the teleport formation. However, more significant sentences with more complex meanings would be quite hard.'

Rovan then looked at Ervan and Sian before saying.

'You two should leave. Go back to the clan.'

Ervan was taken aback.

'But father!'

'Enough!'

Rovan then shook his head.

'I know that you want to help, but truth be told, you and Sian are too weak. You indeed helped in the last battle, but you almost died. If not for Rean's unique ability, you would be dead already. If something happens to me, it will be up to you to take care of the Lopin Clan until your daughter matures.'

Sian also agreed with Rovan.

'Your father is right, Ervan. The clan always come first.'

Ervan gritted his teeth before asking.

'Then why doesn't father come too? We will be safe once we go out.'

Rean nodded.

'Rovan, you helped a lot out already. Perhaps you should really go back with your clan members.'

Rovan shook his head in response.

'I will stay. Besides, I don't have much of a lifespan left anyway. Unlike these two, I won't be able to stay around for long. I might as well join you three inside.'

Rean nodded, not trying to stop him. After all, Rován's presence would indeed be helpful.

Ervan was unwilling, though.

'Still...'

Rovan shook his head.

'This is the Clan Head's order. Return to the clan. If I don't come back, Ervan is to be the next Clan Head. That's all.'

Sian bowed to Rován, accepting the order.

Ervan unwillingly did the same.

Rovan then smiled before saying.

'Don't worry, I'm not going in to have myself killed. Who knows, I might even find something that can increase my lifespan. Hahaha! Oh, right! Don't forget to bring the Umbral Sect items we got from the last battle too. They are worth a lot to us.'

After the last battle ended, neither the twins nor Latalia seemed to have much interest in the Umbral Sect members' things. Naturally, Rován had Ervan and Sian gladly take it all for themselves.

After that, Rean's group pretended to be curious about the 'unknown' room and had Sian and Ervan 'conveniently' check it. Sure enough, they were teleported straight away, which made the expression of Rean's group turn 'dark.'

The others laughed but didn't care about the glares of Rean's group.

Death... and me

Chapter 316: Outside Situation

Outside the maze, things began to heat up. Like the Dalamu Sect, other sects also came to know what was happening in the Jiran Forest. Because of that, they all sent their elders there to check what it was all about.

The Dalamu Sect was a lot closer to Jiran Forest than the other powers. It was natural that they were the first ones to arrive. Of course, they wouldn't dispatch their full force to do that. None of the other sects would either. In the Dalamu Sect's case, the ones who came were Tiria Yinsan and Juvian Tarcio, two Nascent Soul Realm cultivators.

"The twins weren't joking. Just what is this place?"

From far away, they already noticed the pillar of light. Even though Tiria and Juvian were informed ahead of time, they were still surprised to see it.

"I have no idea. The twins' message simply said that this was the place where the Jade Slip they found had guided them. However, it didn't say what it was or how it ended over here."

"And where are those two brats?"

"Where else? Would you be able to hold yourself back and wait for reinforcements? Of course, they entered the place already. Not only them, but I'm pretty sure a lot more cultivators who've seen this definitely entered already, including those guys from the Umbral Sect they talked about."

Tiria's expression darkened after hearing that. In the twins' message, they also commented about the Umbral Sect coming to this place. Most likely, they found about the twins' location and sent that group here to get rid of them.

"Let's first secure the place so that others can't enter."

Juvian shook his head in response.

"It's useless. The ones who wanted to enter have entered already. Only a few others will arrive after all this time has passed. Not to mention that the other sects and the royal family have definitely been informed about this place already. Once their experts arrive, we won't be able to prevent them from entering."

Tiria nodded.

"Should we enter as well, then? Or perhaps call Elder Droman to come since he's a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator?"

"Droman's busy managing the Communication System. We can't have him move every time something happens. After he lost many of his most trusted Formation Master members from the Formations Hall, he has become even busier training new ones to help."

All of a sudden, Tiria and Juvian felt a Spiritual Sense wash over them. In an instant, their eyes narrowed as they looked in a specific direction. From there, they saw two cultivators moving in their direction at high speeds.

"Lukia, Soran, your Sect moved quite quickly."

They were the Nascent Soul Realm elders of the Raskil Sect, one of the five major sects of Jialin Country.

"Hahaha! You guys are slow, that's all. But don't pay too much attention to us. There's bound to be more of us soon enough."

Sure enough, it was just like Soran mentioned. Not too long after, more Nascent Soul elders of the other sects began to arrive as well.

Tiria and Juvian were not surprised by that. They understood that those guys must have used one teleport formation after the other to reach this place this fast. Otherwise, how could they arrive just a

few minutes after them? Their Dalamu Sect, on the other hand, didn't need to do that since this was already their territory.

Tiria's expression darkened as she looked at one of the elders. He was Feren Posin, the same guy who had hit her with Umbral Energy in the past. If not because of Rean, she would probably still be slowly getting rid of the Umbral Energy in her body.

Furen noticed her eyes and gently smiled as if nothing had happened in the past.

"Oh, long time no see, Tiria. How have you been? I hope your days were not that painful."

Tiria snorted.

"Very well, to be honest. And how has Elder Furen been since the last time we met? Have you been feeling cold recently?"

Furen's mouth twitched, but he continued to smile nonetheless. Tiria was a Water Element User. Just like Elder Furan hit her with Umbral Energy, Tiria had also left a few gifts behind. It's just that it wasn't as troublesome to deal with as Umbral Energy.

Galios, the Lagan Sect's Nascent Soul Realm elder that Tiria met before during the twins' first mission, soon stepped forward, putting an end to their antics.

"Are you two having fun? What about we talk about this place first? If you want to settle scores, just step aside and get your problems resolved somewhere else."

Tiria and Furen ignored each other. After all, Galios was right.

Galios then looked at a group with three Nascent Soul Realm cultivators in tow. They were not part of any of the sects, but the Royal Family of Jialin instead.

"Mali, Colen, Xansio, if there's anyone here who knows what might be happening, that's gotta be your Royal Family."

Xansio looked at the entrance before shifting his attention to the strange words written on the walls. He narrowed his eyes as those words indeed brought back a few memories. The Royal Family records repository was the biggest in the country. After all, this was an abandoned place when Zef Jialin first arrived. No one had been here for longer than them.

He then pondered on whether he should talk or not. However, the fact was that he didn't have any useful information. The only information he had was of a few records talking about an ancient city that existed in this place way before the country was founded. In the end, he decided that he might as well share this information to not be on bad terms with the others. The Royal Family might be powerful, but they wouldn't be able to contend against all five sects at once.

"From what I know, this Jiran Forest was the place where a city called Laan was located in the past. However, it was long before Ancestor Zef Jialin founded the country. Other than the fact that the City disappeared one day, I know nothing else."

The others didn't know what to say about that information. It's not like it was of much help to them, after all. A Nascent Soul Cultivator from the Rohe Sect named Rago then asked.

"And how do you know that this place is related to this so-called Laan City?"

Xansio pointed at the walls beside the entrance.

"Those patterns match up with the records I read in the past, but don't waste your time asking me anything else. Even Ancestor Zef didn't know much about this place, let alone me. Besides, even if you don't believe me, it's not like I'm obligated to tell you everything I know."

The others narrowed their eyes but didn't complain in the end. It's not like they wouldn't keep a secret or two themselves.

"So, what do you guys want to do?"

Galios shrugged his shoulders before responding.

"I don't know about all of you, but Fia and I are going in to take a look."

Fia was the other Nascent Soul Realm cultivator from the Lagan Sect that came with Galios. A female cultivator at the Middle Stage.

Galios and Fia then headed down, ready to enter the place. The others also looked at each other before quickly following. Without wasting time, they all passed through the entrance and were teleported straight away. Obviously, they were sent into the maze, just like everyone else.

Back at Rean's group, they looked at the City Entrance before asking the people around.

"So, what are all of you waiting here for? Can't you open that door?"

One of those cultivators snorted in response.

"Aren't you an energetic kid? Why don't you go and open it for us, then? If we knew how to open it, we wouldn't be waiting outside."

Latalia then pointed at the slots on the walls close to the door.

"Can't you see that? It is evident that you need to use those tokens in there, don't you think?"

The cultivators knew what tokens Latalia was talking about. After all, for them to be here, they must be strong groups that also defeated the fake demon beasts on the way. Naturally, they got a few tokens from their bodies.

"Hehe! Do you think we didn't try? The tokens do fit in the holes indeed. However, nothing happened even after we put them there."

Another cultivator added.

"We believe that we don't have enough of them. There are 42 holes on the walls, but we only have 22, counting the tokens of all groups."

Latalia narrowed her eyes in response. She thought that with the number of people currently here, they would have close to enough already.

However, Roan snorted after hearing that.

"22, huh? Who would believe that? Let's not treat each other like fools. You guys definitely have a few more that you didn't bring out."

"Brat! Are you sure this is a place where an Initial Stage Core Formation Realm can talk?"

Latalia was surprised for a second but immediately understood. Soon after, she stepped forward and responded.

"Enough. Since no one wants to show their hands first, I'll be the one to do so."

Latalia then took four tokens from her robe and approached the walls. One by one, she put them inside the slots. Since she had the highest cultivation, Roan passed the tokens to her to prevent problems. No one would find it weird if a Middle Stage Core and Soul Fusion had them.

"I'm sure you all want to open this door too, right? If you keep waiting, more and more cultivators will arrive here. Don't you want to have a head start?"

Everyone looked at each other apprehensively. Roan was right. A few of them were hiding their own tokens since they didn't know if they would need more ahead.

Finally, one of the cultivator groups stepped forward and brought three more tokens out.

"Hey, didn't you say you only had two tokens?"

The guy who was holding them snorted.

"So what? Bite me!"

Latalia's words were correct. It was better to have a head start.

Seeing that, a few other groups also began to step forward. One by one, the 42 slots began to be filled.

Death... and me

Chapter 317: You Forgot

Everyone was looking at each other as their own groups protected the tokens they had. Unfortunately, in the end, there still wasn't enough to fill all the 42 slots. In the end, 34 slots were filled up, showing that they needed more groups with 8 more tokens to come.

Latalia then looked at the others before uttering.

"Alright, then. I'll wait here for more groups. I won't take my tokens back. It will be better than starting this game again by pretending to not have a token. Since you already arrived in this place, others will eventually do the same."

Latalia, Roan, and the twins then leaned their bodies against the wall with their tokens and began to wait there. Seeing that someone else took the initiative to wait, the others did the same. And just like that, time passed.

Around one hour later, two more groups appeared, contributing five more tokens to the mix. Now, only three were needed. While they waited, Roan decided to ask Latalia about something else. He also used a Spiritual Sense message so that others couldn't hear her.

'According to your story, Laan City disappeared with its people in the past, right? Does it mean that behind this door, there is a living city?'

Latalia pondered a bit and shook her head.

'I don't know. Because our ancestor was banished, he had no idea as to what would happen with the city's people. Or at the very least, his records from thousands of years ago didn't mention anything about the destiny of the city residents.'

Roan nodded.

'We don't know if they will become allies or enemies, so we better take care. Depending on what happens, we might have to retreat straight away.'

Suddenly, another group arrived at the entrance of the room. However, Rean immediately recognized the energy in their bodies.

'It's the Umbral Sect.'

Latalia and the others then looked at the newcomers, especially the guy at the front. In an instant, their expressions darkened. Just as they had heard, there was a Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator between them. Right behind them, they finally saw Sames, the guy who had fled from them before.

Naturally, the Umbral Sect members also noticed Rean's group.

'Senior Lian, it's them!'

Lian nodded. If it was anywhere else, he would have attacked straight away. He had the advantage in both cultivation and number by far. However, the room was packed with people from the Dalamu Sect territory. He even identified two more Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators. If they all decided to gang up against his group, they could only flee.

Suddenly, Roan snorted before saying.

"Oh! To think that the Umbral Sect also sent people here. Aren't you all quite cocky to enter the Dalamu Sect's territory like that?"

At that moment, everyone's eyes focused even more on the newcomers. It was no secret to anyone that the Dalamu and the Umbral Sect don't get along. As one could imagine, Umbral Sect members weren't welcome in their territory.

'That damned brat!'

Sames felt like striking without caring for anything else. However, Lian immediately raised his hand to stop him.

"Brat! Are you thinking that I can't do anything to you because you're part of the Dalamu Sect?"

In contrast to the Umbral Sect, it was no secret that Rean and Roan were part of the Dalamu Sect. After all, where would you find cultivators at the Core Formation Realm at around 14 to 16 years of age? Everyone restrained themselves against Rean's group because of that same reason.

Roan didn't seem to care about Lian's group, though.

"Is that so? Then why don't you try? If you even have the gall to attack the Dalamu Sect members in their territory, then I wonder what you would do to the others once they've separated."

No one here was an idiot. Roan was basically pulling them all into the conflict of their sects. However, his words had hit the right spot. Indeed, if they disregarded everyone here to attack Roan's group, what would they do once they get separated?

Of course, if a battle for treasure arose, no one would hold back against anyone. That naturally included Dalamu Sect members. However, the Umbral Sect group was a lot stronger than Roan's team.

The only problem was that no one wanted to start a battle at this very moment. Wouldn't it be a shame if their groups were forced to retreat even before seeing what was on the other side? And just like that, the room reached an impasse where neither side wanted to make a move. As much as the Dalamu Sect

group was outnumbered, they had four Core and Soul Fusion Realm experts in their midst. Umbral Energy was an extremely annoying thing to deal with, and no one wanted to be hit by that.

In the end, Roan grinned as he pointed at another side of the room.

"Since you don't have the guts to do what you said, then don't waste our time. Can you see those slots on the wall there? Take your tokens out and use them. At least, your existence will have some utility."

Lian's expression didn't even change from the provocation. He looked at the other groups and knew that the situation was not in his favor, so he didn't dare to act harshly. He looked around calmly, analyzing what was happening. It didn't take long for him to understand that everyone was protecting their own tokens that they had put in the wall slots.

"Hmph!"

Suddenly, three more tokens appeared in his hand, and he went straight to the last slots available on the walls. Soon after, he inserted them into the holes and waited to see what would happen.

As soon as the last one entered the right slots, all the holes with the tokens inserted closed at once. Everyone was taken aback as they looked at that. Following that, each of the closed holes began to shine with Spiritual Energy. It was then that the small pillar in front of the door came to life as it radiated a faint white light.

Everyone got excited, expecting the door in the front to open. However, nothing happened after that. In the end, one of the cultivators' groups lost their patience and stepped forward. All the others did the same once they saw that. After all, the tokens were locked behind the slots on the walls. They simply couldn't take it back anymore.

"What are we supposed to do with this thing?"

The first guy to get close touched the pillar, but nothing happened either.

"Get out of the way. Let me take a look."

The guy snorted but didn't care, quickly giving way. Since he didn't know what to do, staying there like a statue would be useless.

The next person then used his Spiritual Sense and Energy, just like the last one. Still, nothing seemed to happen to the pillar. He looked around, but the pillar was even on all sides. There was nothing for them to use.

"Get out. It's my turn."

One by one, the groups looked at the pillar, starting with the strongest groups, of course. Still, none of them found anything different.

Latalia and her group didn't mind that. They just pretended to wait for their time to take a look-see as well.

At some point, Lian's group also came forward to verify the glowing pillar. Or perhaps, it was better to call it a pedestal. Of course, Lian only dared to do that because the other groups seemed to have given up. Well, to be more specific, they were waiting for someone to open the door for them somehow.

"Perhaps we need more of those demon beast tokens?"

Everyone looked at each other, not sure if that was the case.

Finally, it was the turn of Rean's group. Latalia then pretended to look around and test the thing, just like everyone else. She also tried to move the pedestal to no avail.

It was then that Latalia took another token from her robe.

"Hehe! So you said all of that, but you had extra tokens as well, uh?"

Latalia laughed, not looking the least bit ashamed.

"At least I decided to use my own. Or are you guys telling me that none of you have an extra token somewhere?"

The others snorted but refrained from answering. Sure enough, a few of them still had at least an extra token that they kept to themselves. In fact, even Lian's group from the Umbral Sect was no different. They also gathered more than just three tokens, but didn't try to use another one.

That was Roan's idea. According to Latalia, she would need to use her blood on the pedestal for it to work. However, to prevent others from noticing it, Roan had her make a cut and drench the token with her blood first. Now that the token came out, it had some of her blood on it, but others didn't care. First, they didn't know if it was her blood. It could have been from someone from another group they stole from or whatever, or it might even be from the Demon Beasts themselves. It simply didn't matter. In their minds, what could possibly work was the token itself and not the blood.

That was the moment of truth. The records only said that the citizen's blood was necessary to enter the city, nothing else. She was a faraway descendant. Tens of generations had gone by before she was born, so her blood might not even have the necessary thickness of her ancestor's blood either. Last but not least, there was no guarantee if the pedestal would work with the blood of a banished person.

She placed the token with her blood on it on the pedestal... but nothing happened as well.

Latalia couldn't help but sigh after seeing that.

'In the end, it didn't work.'

It was then that Rean appeared by her side.

"Senior, you forgot to try something else."

Death... and me

Chapter 318: Arrival

Rean then lifted the token and... used his sleeve to wipe the glowing pedestal...

Everyone's mouth twitched after seeing that.

"Brat, what the hell are you thinking about? This is obviously a Spiritual Equipment of some sort, the dust has no eff-"

Clack...

Suddenly, Latalia's blood-drenched token fused with the pedestal, quickly disappearing. Well, What was really being absorbed was Latalia's blood. The token was only taken as a souvenir by the pedestal.

Clack, clack, clack, clack, clack, clack...

The mechanical sounds continued as the door in front began to tremble. The dust in the room was stirred up as it felt like the entire room was on the move.

Rean then looked at the guy who had just talked.

"You were saying?"

If there was a hole at the moment, the guy would definitely have jumped inside it.

"Hmph! Who cares. If it opened, then that's what matters."

The others around laughed out loud but quickly regained their focus. Finally, the Laan City entrance began to open slowly. Light shone from the other side until finally, it opened enough to at least see what was on the other side.

Rean's group wasn't impressed by that. After all, Latalia already said that there should be a city behind it. However, the others were indeed surprised to see it. The door was located at what seemed to be an advantageous point. Because of what was stated before, they could see an entire city stretching for tens of kilometers.

However, there was one thing that surprised Rean's group. Unlike the others, they were sure that they were deep underground. The other cultivators only thought that it might be possible since they haven't seen the sky until now. But even so, there was no ceiling above the City. All they could see was a deep blue sky like any other part of the surface.

Immediately, Roan asked Latalia.

'What's happening here? Weren't we supposed to be underground?'

Latalia was also taken aback. However, she quickly noticed a difference.

"Wait. Look closely. That's not a real sky."

Latalia didn't use her Spiritual Sense. Instead, she talked in a casual manner. Naturally, everyone around heard her as well. They paid close attention to the blue sky and finally noticed what she was talking about.

A few lines of light ran through the blue skies at high speeds. However, they were very tiny and hard to detect. Still, the cultivators noticed that those lights followed some patterns, releasing their energy into the air, quickly fusing with the sky itself.

"It's a formation that creates an illusion of a sky, not a real sky per se."

"Well, those guys made this strange maze with false demon beasts. It's not hard to believe that they could make a fake sky with a formation."

"Wait. This is a city, but is it empty at the moment?"

As soon as that doubt appeared, everyone spread their Spiritual Senses into the City in front. However, they didn't take too long to get their answer.

All of a sudden, a strong Spiritual Pressure fell over all their bodies, forcing them all to the ground. Soon after, an old man followed by what seemed to be a feathered person descended from the fake sky in front of the cultivators. Everyone immediately dropped any thoughts of resistance. That Spiritual Pressure alone was enough for them to understand that they were nothing more than ants in front of the newcomers.

"Who are you? You were not supposed to be able to open the City Entrance without having the citizens' bloodline. And what are you doing inside our Laan City's training ground?"

Latalia bitterly smiled. Even after thousands of years, there were still cultivators present in Laan City. She thought that it would be completely empty since none of them appeared outside anymore.

Someone then lifted his head and tried to explain.

"Se-Senior, we found the token after battling strange demon beasts in the maze behind us. Some of them had some kind of tokens inside their bodies, which we used to open the door. As for the bloodline, we don't know what Senior is talking about."

Everyone also understood something else. The treasures that they were expecting to receive from this hidden ground was only a pipe dream right now. How could they possibly think about robbing a city protected by such strong cultivators?

The man narrowed his eyes as he scanned everyone in the small group. Due to their cultivation, he wasn't afraid of them trying anything. It was then that another cultivator had arrived there. Just like the bird-like man, this one had traits of Demon Beasts on his body. His arms were covered in scales similar to a snake or python.

"Elder Darkon, wait a moment."

The man beside the bird guy looked at the newcomer.

"Sira, what's the matter?"

Obviously, that was the scale-covered man's name.

"Oh... are those the outsiders? It has been a long time since some have appeared."

Darkon then narrowed his eyes.

"Sira, what are you thinking? You should know that we are not supposed to interact with outsiders."

Sira didn't seem to mind Darkon, though.

"Darkon, you're as annoying as always. The old geezers who made those rules already departed or died a long time ago. Don't you want to go see the outside world? Since these guys came inside, maybe there's a way out now."

The man with feathers on his body then criticized Sira.

"Sira. Did you forget what will happen to those who leave the City? They will be forever banished! The ancestors won't come to take them away either!"

Sira snorted in response.

"Gali, the last time anyone came to take us was over 10 thousand years ago. Wake up, idiots. No one's coming anymore."

Rean's group and the others didn't know what was happening. But from hearing the conversation between them, it wasn't hard to imagine that the citizens in this City were trapped here. That also answered Latalia's ancestor's question. Why haven't they seen any of the Laan Citizens again?

Darkon and Gali's expressions darkened, but Sira ignored them and asked the group.

"Hey, tell me. Where did you come from? Was there an exit somewhere?"

They all looked at each other. At that moment, Latalia decided to talk.

"Senior. I'm not sure if that is an exit, but there is a teleport formation in a room connected to the same room as this City's entrance. Two of our companions disappeared as soon as they entered that chamber."

"What?!"

Sira immediately ignored Latalia and stepped out of the entrance. He then looked at the room Latalia talked about, and his eyes lit up.

"Darkon, Gila, look! The teleport formation is active again!"

Darkon and Gila didn't remove their attention towards the group, but they still stepped outside to see what Sira mentioned.

"It's true... ever since the City was moved to this place, the teleport formation inside the training grounds had been deactivated."

Sira then looked at Darkon and Gila before saying.

"We need to report it to the elders. This is a golden opportunity!"

Darkon and Gila were still unhappy with that idea, but they agreed that this situation should be reported.

"What should we do with these guys?"

"Let's kill them to prevent any problems from arising."

Everyone felt a chill on their backs. However, Sira quickly intervened.

"You know, you don't have to fucking kill every outsider we meet? They're our passes to the outside world, so keep them alive."

While everyone was thinking about what to do to escape safely, Rean and Roan were more concerned about how these guys were involved in the so-called Vruve Remnants. In their eyes, these guys' strength was a big problem, but not as big as finding an empty city. That would instead make things a lot harder to comprehend.

'Roan, they seem to understand the words on these walls. However, they also speak our language, albeit with some heavy accents. This is perfect. Maybe they can directly answer what Sister Orb and the Soul Gem System talked about, the Vruve Remnants.'

In response, Roan narrowed his eyes.

'That also carries its own risks. Maybe they don't want anyone to know about the Vruve thing, as if it was a taboo, for example. If we talk about this topic, they might kill all of us instead.'

Rean was taken aback for a second.

While Sira was arguing with Darkon and Gila, everyone suddenly heard a voice coming from the distance.

"Bring the outsiders in."

Sira, Darkon, and Gila looked at the direction the voice came from. Soon after, Sira laughed before saying.

"See? Even the elders agree with me. Let's go. Maybe our confinement is about to be over."

However, just as they were about to bring everyone away, another big group of cultivators appeared at the city's entrance.

When Rean's group was waiting for more tokens to come, several hours had gone by. They also spent some time waiting for others to test the glowing pedestal before Latalia finally had the chance to try.

In the end, all that time was more than enough for the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators to arrive in this place. First of all, none of the demon beasts inside posed any threat to them. Also, they were moving together in the maze, so it was even easier. What Rean's group took two or so days to pass through, the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators only took a few hours. That was basically the difference in cultivation speaking by itself.

Tiria and Juvian immediately noticed Rean, Roan, and Kentucky in the middle of the group. However, they didn't act harshly. That's because the three guys in front of them were nothing but weak.

'Soul Transformation Realm!'

Death... and me

Chapter 319: Entering the City

The three cultivators in front of them were one realm above them. That would make it impossible for them to attack independently. In fact, they would be the ones in danger since they were all in the Nascent Soul Realm.

Sira looked at them as well before asking.

"Are you all outsiders as well?"

It was then that Xansio, the expert of the Jialin Royal Family, stepped forward. Since the City Entrance was open, he was able to spread his Divine Sense in there. Because of that, he quickly noticed that it was a lively city with many residents. However, there was supposed to not be such a thing as a city in this place. At the same time, he also remembered the records that his Royal Family has.

"I'm Xansio Jialin, representative of the Royal Family. May I ask if these seniors are citizens of Laan City?"

Sira's group was surprised to hear someone mention the name of their city.

"Oh! So you know about us?"

Xansio nodded.

"Yes. Our Jialin Country was founded after Laan City disappeared. Still, our Jialin ancestor knew a few things before coming to this place. He left behind a few records telling us of a city called Laan from thousands of years before he arrived at this place. The calligraphies on these walls are also the same as the ones we have."

Sira became even more excited as he said.

"Good, then come inside as well. We have a lot to discuss, especially about how you guys entered this place."

Darkon and Gila didn't say anything since the elders already requested the outsiders to enter.

Xansio, Tiria, and the rest nodded. In an instant, the Spiritual Pressure over Rean and the others disappeared. Soon after, they went straight to Tiria and Juvian's side. However, they also saw Latalia and Rován coming. However, seeing Roan nodding his head, they didn't say anything.

As they entered the city, Juvian took the opportunity to send the twins a Spiritual Sense message.

'You guys really found quite an impressive thing. However, we can talk about it another time. What do you know about this place?'

Rean nodded as he explained.

'It goes like this...'

Fortunately, Spiritual Sense messages were instantaneous, so it took only a few seconds for Rean to organize his thoughts before sending Juvian and Tiria a full account of what happened. Of course, he didn't mention anything about Vruve Remnants or things like that.

'So this girl is a descendant of an old citizen. Because of that, her blood was able to open the City Entrance. However, from what you told me, they used that place as trial grounds. Most likely, the maze had run out of Fake Demon Beasts for the tests. That's why cultivators began to disappear in recent years.'

'However, it seems like they still haven't found out that Latalia is a descendant of a banished person. It was then that Sira appeared, and everything changed. We arrived just a few minutes after that.'

Rean nodded. It was an excellent recollection.

Tiria also looked at Latalia before asking.

'What else do you know about this place?'

Latalia shook her head as he replied.

'This is really everything I know. We thought that the city might have people. However, we didn't really believe that. I was really shocked when I saw someone coming at us, especially cultivators this strong.'

Tiria narrowed her eyes. Of course, she wouldn't just believe Latalia's words that easily. However, it was not time to pry further into it.

As soon as they entered the city, they were met with a wave of Spiritual Energy. No, to be more precise, that was the real concentration of Spiritual Energy in the city itself.

'Impressive! The Spiritual Energy here is so concentrated that I feel like I'm cultivating with Rank Three or higher Spirit Stones. This is just the common Spiritual Energy.'

They walked through the streets and saw several citizens looking at them. There were a lot of normal humans, but there were humans with demon beast features as well.

'I guess this explains why the formations they have can transform humans into fake demon beasts. This is a city that has many cultivation techniques that leave Demon Beast features on them.'

'That's not all. Look at their cultivation. Everyone here has higher cultivation that you would encounter in ordinary cities. All the young adults are at least in the Energy Gathering Realm. The older ones are at least in Foundation Establishment.'

'Yes, but their numbers don't seem that high. If you think about the city's size, there are, in fact, only a few people. You guys said that these people from Laan City have been trapped in this city, right? There might be a chance that they had to keep the balance of the population.'

'Yes. Another thing is the buildings. They are all made of the same material as the maze walls. Extremely resistant. At the very least, Rean and I were not able to leave even a dent on it. This means that these buildings have been the same for a very, very long time.'

Finally, Sira and the others arrived at what seemed to be an enormous hall. Sira, Darkon, and Gila paid their respects and quickly brought them inside. Each one of the guards protecting it was at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, at the very least. If this city was a Sect, it would definitely become the strongest Sect of Jialin.

It was then that they finally saw a few elders waiting for them inside. Some looked like normal humans, while others also had some demon beast features. They seemed to be there to welcome them. However, none of the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators felt happy. That's because they couldn't even tell what cultivation they had. That meant that this city had at least a few Saint Realm Experts. Even if you put all of the powers of Jialin together, you wouldn't have this many Saint Realm Experts. That was no good news for any of their sects or the Royal Family.

"So these are the outsiders, huh?"

One of the elders, who seemed to be the leader of the group, then stepped forward.

"Welcome to Laan City. My name is Wario Qualton."

Death... and me

Chapter 320: Vruve Question

"Well, you're probably as lost as we are. After all, it has been thousands of years since an outsider entered this city—all the way from the time the city was located outside. To be honest, we only have records about it since anyone who saw outsiders have already ascended or died of old age."

Tiria and the other Nascent Soul Elders were surprised to hear that.

"Don't you guys never go out?"

Wario shook his head.

"The formations left behind by our ancestors were not something we could breakthrough. Besides, we received strict orders that no one shall leave the city until their return."

Xansio couldn't help but ask.

"So, are you telling us that your ancestors moved the entire city to this place and locked it down? However, they left right after and left you alone?"

Wario sighed as he nodded.

"Putting it in simple terms, that's what exactly happened."

Wario looked at everyone's puzzled faces and could tell what they were thinking.

"You're probably imagining why we look so unphased with your presence in this place. After all, this is the first contact we had with outsiders during all this time, right?"

Everyone nodded. Even Rean and Roan had to admit that they found it a bit strange. Considering how long this city had been locked, why were they not more excited? The only exception so far was Sira, the guy with snake scales all over his body.

Wario continued.

"That's because most of us simply don't care about it. We don't want to leave the city, so your presence doesn't matter much to us."

Furen Posin asked straight away.

"Why? If what you said is true, then you have been confined in this tiny space for your whole life. I would feel mad already, to be honest."

Wario smiled as he answered.

"That's because we are waiting for our ancestors to come and grab us away from this place."

Colen, another expert of the Royal Family, asked.

"Are you talking about the so-called ascenders?"

Wario nodded.

"Exactly. Many of our ancestors reached a level high enough to break through the barrier to a higher realm. Such a thing happened many times in the past. Before the last ones left, they told us that they would lock us so that no one would threaten our existence. We should simply wait for their return. Once that happens, they will bring us together to the higher realm."

Everyone couldn't help but think it was a bit creepy when they heard that. Wario looked like some fanatic from a weird religion, though it did make sense. Otherwise, how would they have endured so many years to the point of being born and dying in this place?

Sira then sighed as he also stepped forward.

"Elders... We can finally go out. There is no need to wait for our ancestors anymore."

Wario and other elders just smiled at Sira, as if he didn't say anything out of the ordinary.

"Child, we are happy to be in this place. With our cultivation, our lifespan is incredibly vast. We have already waited for so long, always believing. We will not waver that easily."

However, there were two elders in the middle of all of those who came forward. Just like the leader at the front, none of the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators could see their cultivations.

"Wario, most of you believe that, but it's a fact that the city has more and more people who don't wish to wait anymore."

"Indeed. If you guys wish to stay, then so be it. However, we won't lose this opportunity. We are going to leave."

Sira nodded as he joined those two elders. Every elder of the outside powers looked at the current situation with weird faces. For some reason, they seemed to have become some kind of spectators. It was as if their presence didn't mean much. Or, to be more specific, they set off the fire, but their own fire was now useless in front of the size of the flames that they had created.

Wario and the elders who still believed in their ancestors' words didn't seem to mind their attitudes.

"I know. That's why I didn't do anything to the outsiders and even called them inside. Fuka, Nifere, you two had never been very satisfied with the life here. Since that's the case, the other elders and I had a meeting and decided that we might as well banish you together with the citizens who don't want to

stay. Unfortunately, we couldn't banish you anywhere since there was no way out. That being said, the outsiders' presence is truly convenient for us."

"This..."

Fuka and Nefere were taken aback. It was apparent that they didn't know about this meeting at all.

"When was it?"

Wario then explained.

"It had been decided several centuries ago. Of course, since there was no way to banish you, we didn't say anything. However, I guess this is not a bad deal for any of you since you will have your desires fulfilled."

Fuka couldn't help but ask.

"What if a way out hadn't appeared?"

Wario shook his head.

"It wouldn't have been the first time. If the situation reaches a critical point, then we would be forced to eliminate the root of the problem. Fortunately, it didn't reach that stage yet."

Before Fuka could say anything, Wario turned to Rean and the others before saying.

"Even though we have different beliefs, it was a fact that they were born and raised in Laan City. They are important to us, nonetheless. The reason I decided to let you in was to ask all of you for a favor."

Everyone's attention turned in Wario's direction.

"Fuka, Ferene, Sira, and many others who want to leave don't know how the outside world works. In fact, no one in the city remembers it anymore, either. I want you to help all of the people who will leave with this problem. In exchange, we can also share some of our cultivation knowledge, or spare a few treasures that would greatly help low-level cultivators like you all."

Even the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators were considered low-level at this moment. However, they didn't dare say otherwise since it was a fact that those elders were much stronger. Perhaps some of them had even surpassed the Saint Realm.

Wario once again looked at Fuka and Nefere before saying.

"Go. Gather all of the citizens who have doubts about our beliefs. You all have two days to gather everything before you leave. If you don't, we will have to move you out ourselves."

Fuka and Nefere immediately nodded and left the room with Sira. The city wasn't that big, so it wouldn't take that long for them to gather everyone.

However, the sect powers and the rest were still puzzled. There were many questions unanswered. For example, weren't they afraid of the sects and royal family to come back to try and take their city? What about the people they would bring out with them? Weren't they afraid of the 'outsiders' fooling their city members and imprisoning them? Maybe even killing them?

Of course, none of them thought about that. What they wanted was nothing more than convincing those high-level cultivators to join their own powers.

However, they decided not to bring those topics up. At the moment, they were a lot more interested in the payment the city would give them.

Xansio then stepped forward and asked.

"When can we take a look at the cultivation manuals and treasures?"

Everyone's eyes lit up. However, there were two exceptions. Rean and Roan.

'Should we ask them for information instead?'

Roan was pondering precisely that. They wouldn't have time to look into all this place. Not to mention that they probably wouldn't be left alone to start with. However, they were truly a lot more interested in information regarding Vruve than anything the elders promised. After all, they had the Soul Gem System. Those things couldn't beat what the Soul Gem System could provide in the long term.

While the twins thought about what they would do next, Wario explained how it would work.

"Each one of you will have the right to choose one thing—a suitable cultivation technique for you, or a treasure. However, as you can see, many of us use cultivation techniques that affect our bodies. There is a chance that you will also receive a cultivation technique that might transform some parts of your body."

"But don't you worry, your offsprings will still be normal humans. The changes can't be passed down by bloodline. If you think it is worth it, then choose your cultivation techniques without fear. As for treasures, it will depend on what you want. It can be a cultivation resource, a weapon, an armor, a formation blueprint, etc. We will let you choose according to your own levels."

It looked like a lot. However, the key point was 'according to your level.' The highest cultivation was Nascent Soul Realm. For a city with experts at the Saint Realm Level or even above, the items of Nascent Soul Realm cultivators probably didn't matter much.

Rean and Roan then looked at each other and nodded.

'Sister Orb. How far are we from the Save Point?'

[1478 kilometers.]

The twins' nodded. Soon after, Rean turned to look in Tiria and Juvian's direction and asked with a Spiritual Sense message.

'Elders, if I suddenly say that I need 500 Rank Four Spirit Stones, would you have it? Don't ask why. I just need an answer in case things get complicated.'

Tiria and Juvian were taken aback. But as Core Elders, they knew about the twins' special position.

'If Juvian and I take everything we have, we should barely have this amount.'

Rean and Roan nodded before turning in Wario's direction to send a Spiritual Sense message.

'Elder Wario? Can my brother and I ask for information instead?'

Wario was surprised to hear such a proposal, but nodded nonetheless.

'As long as it is something we can answer, then yes.'

Roan's expression then turned solemn as he asked.

'What do you know about Vruve?'

From the very start, Wario's expression had never changed. However, as soon as the term Vruve appeared, shock instantly appeared on his face.