

Death 351

Death... and me

Chapter 351: It's Here

Boom, boom, boom...

Explosions kept happening one after the other in the air as pieces of demon beasts and cultivators fell from the sky. Of course, that wasn't all. Jialin's ranged cultivators in the air especially targeted the demon beasts close to the Cassen's defense line. Not all the Explosion Fire Beads were destroyed, so many of them began to fall on the enemy's side.

Because of that, both Jialin and Cassen's ranged cultivators on the ground had to switch their targets, aiming at the sky. They were all trying to destroy the Explosion Fire Beads before they hit their own forces. At first, it gave the sensation that both arms got into a stalemate. However, that was not the case.

Jialin's Left and Right Wings began to advance even faster now. Without the suppressing fire from Cassen's side, they didn't have to worry too much about their steps. Sure, many Explosion Fire Beads were falling from the skies. However, those ones were many times easier to hit now that they were not being controlled. That allowed Jialin Army to take a breath.

The Core and Soul Fusion Realm experts of Cassen noticed that change.

"Fuck! Stop them!"

However, the frustrated Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators from Jialin wouldn't simply let them do as they wished.

"Hahaha! Didn't you all ask us to stay behind to play? How come you are all leaving now? Since we already started this game, let's bring it to the next level, shall we?"

Sure enough, they didn't waste this chance and also blocked the enemy's path. The Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators from Jialin couldn't help but feel refreshed at this outcome.

Gofen narrowed his eyes after seeing that. It didn't matter what they did. Jialin always seemed to have a way to counter-attack and even use the situation for their advantage. The reason Cassen was so confident about their chances at first was that they believed they could keep Jialin Army's at bay. However, they continued to advance nonstop. Not to mention that their side casualties were far from what Gofen and the others expected.

Gofen then looked in another direction and saw another cultivator. The guy's name was Hyinkio Syrile, the representative of Roren Country.

"Hyinkio, can your formation stop them?"

In the end, the Formation covering the entire hill was not made by Cassen, but Roren Country instead. That was their own specialty as a country with many Formation Masters. No one liked the idea of attacking Roren since it would be extremely annoying. Their average combat power wasn't that impressive, but their formations guaranteed a high degree of safety.

"We only had enough time to build a disruption formation. As you know, it will target those who we deem enemies and disrupt their actions. It's a type of protection formation that's very useful during battles of large scale. If the cultivators on the enemy's side are too weak, their ranged attacks can't even reach our side."

He was right. That was the reason why Jialin's Ranged Attackers didn't target the other side, but instead, the attacks were coming at them. They tried to attack the enemies, but the effect wasn't good enough. It wasn't just the ranged attackers that suffered, though. The skills of close combat cultivators were also affected to a certain extent, giving Cassen's side even more advantage.

"However, this size of formation needs a lot of spirit stones to keep working. Rank One and Two are not enough. It has to be powered by Rank Three Spirit Stones at the very least. At the moment, we are all forking the price to keep it running. If you want to increase the power, we will need to switch the level."

Gofen bitterly smiled. Rank Three Spirit Stones were already hard to get in this place. As mentioned before, all the countries close to the borders control the use of those Spirit Stones. That being said, one doesn't even need to think about Rank Four ones. That level of Spirit Stones was usually only used by Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and above. They all considered them extremely important and would rarely take them out unless really necessary.

In the end, Gofen gritted his teeth and said.

"We have the Triliun and Transten Ores deposit. That alone will be more than enough to pay for any Spirit Stones we use during this war. However, if we don't use Rank Four Spirit Stones, we might lose right here and now. Let alone pay for the use of Spirit Stones. We will have to retreat without anything to make up for them."

However, Hyinkio shook his head.

"Our Roren country only mobilized a small part of our army. Although losing it would be bad, it wouldn't be as bad as losing our Rank Four Spirit Stones. It's all good if we win. But if we use them and lose, it will be a huge blow for our high-level cultivators."

Gofen then looked at the representative from Tolak Country, Rurio. Unfortunately for him, Rurio also shook his head. He wouldn't use any Rank Four Spirit Stones either. In the end, it all came to Cassen Country to decide. Did they think they could pay for the Rank Four Spirit Stones alone? Gofen couldn't make this decision.

Not long after, Gofen took a Thoughts Transmission Talisman from his pocket and pressed it on his forehead. This Talisman was of a very high level, just like the ones Rean and Roan used in Jiran Forest. Gofen decided to contact the King of Cassen about this decision. However, he didn't even have to do that.

"There is no need to contact the king. The Spirit Stones are here."

All of a sudden, a bag with thousands of Rank Four Spirit Stones fell beside Gofen.

"Ancestor Larael!"

In the end, the Saint Realm Expert from the Cassen Family made the decision himself.

"For Tolak and Roren, this would be just a small loss. However, for our Cassen Country, it would be the loss of a huge chunk of our territory plus the ore deposit. We can't hold back, so use it."

Gofen didn't complain and immediately threw the bag at Hyinkio.

"You heard Ancestor Larael. Go!"

Hyinkio nodded and immediately left for the Core of the Disruption Formation.

Jialin's Army already began to head up the hill. Since the Aerial Army and the ranged attackers were not that big of a problem anymore, they had no problem moving forward. Cassen Country, obviously, began to prepare to receive the enemy. Even though their ranged teams weren't of much use anymore, the melee teams were ready to fight. Besides, they had the support of the Disruption Protection Formation. They weren't afraid of Jialin's forces at all. The two sides would clash anytime now.

However, just as the clash was about to happen, the entire hill began to shine! The Spiritual Energy in the hill started to revolve even more weirdly. The cultivators from Jialin immediately noticed that their control over Spiritual Energy and Elements became even harder. Obviously, it only affected the Jialin Army. Such an effect had no use against Cassen's forces.

Roan, who was observing it from afar, also noticed that.

'It's here!'

Death... and me

Chapter 352: The Turn Point

Suddenly, all of the ancestors and sects representatives looked at Kassie. According to what Kassie explained, she had a way to deal with the Disruption Protection Formation on that hill. It's just that she would need to wait until the Formation increased in power. However, they didn't understand why a stronger formation would be better. Maybe she would make it explode, so the potency of the explosion would be stronger. In any case, she refused to comment.

They couldn't help but feel a little excited. After all, everything Kassie did during this war made them open their eyes. Since she already did so much, then just how incredible would her next method be?

Poor Kassie felt everyone's eyes on her as cold sweat began to come out of her body. What incredible methods? These were all Roan's doings. She was as shocked as they were.

'You are looking at the wrong person, for fuck's sake! If you want to ask something, ask the ice block over there, will ya?'

That's what she wanted to say, but she knew she couldn't. While everyone looked at Kassie with expectation, she looked at Roan with her Spiritual Sense, nervous.

Roan didn't need to think much to know what Kassie was thinking. All he said was that he could deal with the Formation, but not how.

'Sister Orb, you can start.'

[Hahaha! Finally, it's showtime for the Greatest Orb in the Universe!]

The Soul Gem Orb inside the Soul Gem Dimension began to shine like a sun. Sister Orb already finished analyzing the formation and was just waiting for the right moment to take control over it. She quickly connected the Soul Gem System to the outside world, linking it with the Formation Core on that hill.

As mentioned before, the formation was built in a hurry to resist the Jialin Army. Such a huge formation would usually take over a month to be done. The fact that Roren Country could build something like that in such a short time already showed its higher proficiency in formations compared to Jialin and other countries.

Unfortunately, it was completed with way too many flaws. For Sister Orb, it wasn't any harder than the Fort Protection Formation that she used back when the twins went out on their first mission. Of course, it was all thanks to the Soul Gem System that it was possible. Otherwise, others would need to go to the Formation Core to be able to do anything. Cassen, Tolak, and Rorel would never let anyone get close to it, though.

The Formation Core in the hill suddenly began to give off ripples of Spiritual Energy. However, no one noticed it. After all, the Formation didn't stop working.

Jialin's ancestors and the sects' representatives of the ancestors that stayed back in the country began to get nervous. The two armies were just a few seconds away from clashing against each other. Still, nothing happened with the formations at all. The entire hill still shone with the same light as before.

"Kassie!"

"Do something! The armies will clash."

"Didn't you say you could deal with it? Turn it off!"

"At least do something to reduce its power. Otherwise, it will be a slaughter!"

Kassie gritted her teeth before shouting.

"Shut up! Everything is under control. Just observe!"

Roan already told her that everything was fine. Now, she could only trust him.

The Left and Right Wings quickly approached.

100 meters...

50 meters...

30 meters...

10 meters...

Just as the first units on both sides were about to clash, the battlefield changed. Suddenly, the disruption effect on the Jialin Army's side disappeared as if it had never been there. At the same time,

everyone in Cassen's Country's side, including the cultivator armies of the other countries that were increasing their numbers, felt the disruption formation acting on them.

"What?!"

"What's happening?!"

"Ahhh! I can't control my Fire Element skills!"

Gofel and all the other leaders' faces paled in an instant! They were expecting anything to happen except a sudden shift in the formation. However, it was too late to think about a countermeasure.

All the leaders on the Jialin side didn't know what happened. Still, they could tell that the annoying Formation's power had disappeared.

"Quintuple Line Formation! Puuuuush!"

The echelon formation that the Jialin Country immediately changed. The Cultivators formed five lines of forces and connected to each other before clashing head-on!

Boom!

The now much weaker Cassen's Alliance Army was sent flying. The ones who stay on the ground were forces back. Head, limbs, blood, a gruesome sight quickly appeared on the battlefield. The sudden change in the formation's power had created chaos between the Units. Even the leaders couldn't find a way to bring order back.

Jialin's leaders looked at that with wide eyes! Just how did Kassie take control over their formation? Immediately, all their eyes focused on her. They all thought that she would destroy the Formation or find a way to counter-attack its power. But never in their wildest dreams did they think she could take control over the enemy's formation. No wonder nothing happened until the very last moment.

However, that was far from being the main effect of the plan. That's because not everyone got affected by the sudden change in the Formation. All the cultivators from Rorel that were in the middle of the Army didn't feel anything.

All of a sudden, someone began to shout!

"Look! The Rorel Country Army is not affected by the Formation! Those bastards, they allied themselves with Jialin to stab us in the back!"

"The Rorel Army is not an ally! They came to help Jialin destroy our Cassen Country!"

"Rorel scoundrels! We had a deal! How could you betray us?!"

No one knew from where those voices were coming from. But after seeing the situation of the battle, everyone began to feel confused. Did Rorel really betray them? Soon after, a member of the Rorel Country attacked a Cassen Army member. Not only that, but a few other Rorel Army soldiers also stepped out and began to attack the Cassen and Tolak Armies on the sides!

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Chapter 353: Elite Unit Arrives

Everyone was taken aback. After all, they were confused at first, finding it hard to believe that Rorel really betrayed them. However, seeing Rorel Army members attacking their allies changed everything.

"Hahaha! It's the end of your Cassen Army! Today, Rorel and Jialin will take over the entire Cassen Country! Tolak will then be our next target!"

"Cassen is a weak country to start with. Who would join them for real? Hahaha! Idiots!"

"Death to Cassen and Tolak, follow the Jialin Country!"

The weird thing was that there weren't many doing that. Just fifty or so cultivators from Rorel stepped out to do that. However, that was more than enough to convince everyone on the side of the Cassen and Tolak Army.

The Rorel Army felt hopeless. Did they join the Jialin Army? How come they didn't know about that? Obviously, some of them understood that it was all a well-made plot. Those guys weren't members of their Rorel Country at all! Unfortunately, Cassen and Tolak already began to attack their members as well.

The once organized army of the three countries had suddenly fallen into chaos as they killed each other. The leaders' shouts and Spiritual Sense messages couldn't control that anymore. All of that while the Left and Right Wings from Jialin continued to push them back from both sides.

Let alone the other sects' ancestors and representatives, Kassie was feeling even more shocked than them. Any idiot could tell that all of that was premeditated. Those cultivators from Rorel were, in fact, their spies! However, they were there to pass the information. Who could have thought that Roan would use them like that? However, it didn't matter now. That's because Roan's orders began to fall into her mind like torrents.

'Have the 43rd to 57th Units increase their pace.'

'The 165th and 175th Units are too ahead. Tell them to hold so that a gap won't appear in the Quintuple Line Tactical Formation.'

'Ask the units at the very end of the Left and Right Wings to close the wings.'

'Tell the closest units to start the funnel plan.'

'Ask the ranged attacks from...'

Kassie quickly calmed down and used her Spiritual Sense to pass all Roan's messages to the specific Unit Leaders. Just like that, the Left and Right Wings began to fit into the huge war machine.

Back at the top of the Hill, Gofen roared at Hyinkio.

"Hyinkioooo! What the hell are you doing?!!!"

Hyinkio felt like crying but had no tears.

"Shut up! It's not us! Someone took control over our Disruption Formation! We can't control it at all!"

Gofen and everyone else was taken aback.

"What? Do you take us for five years' old kids? Only your fucking Rorel members were allowed to approach the Formation Core. How the hell could someone take control over it?"

Hyinkio felt even more helpless.

"If I knew even a single fucking thing about it, we wouldn't be in this situation! I've never seen anything like this before! The Formation isn't answering our commands! I already tried to restart it, but it was useless as well!"

"What? Do you think we really joined Jialin?! Are you that idiotic? We are right in the middle of Tolak and Cassen's Armies, for crying out loud! Your Saint Realm experts are here while we didn't bring anyone with cultivations higher than the Nascent Soul Realm! Do you think we could simply betray you and then run away!? This is obviously a plan from Jialin! I have no fucking clue how the hell they pulled that out!"

Gofen's expression changed together with everyone else.

"Fuck! Those Jialin bastards!"

"Can you take the formation back?"

Hyinkio shook his head.

"I don't know. I'm working with everyone at the moment, but I'm not sure what's causing the Formation to act like this."

Suddenly...

Boom!

An enormous explosion hit the Formation's Core, crashing it into dust! Everyone then looked at the source of the attack and soon found out that it was none other than Larael Cassen, the Cassen Royal Family's Ancestor!

"Since we can't use it anymore, then forget it! Focus on calming the army. We have the numbers' advantage, so the situation can still be salvaged."

Gofen and the others quickly nodded and turned back to the army below.

Back on Jialin's sides, everyone noticed that the Formation that was helping them suddenly disappeared. Obviously, Roan was no exception.

[Oh, come on! Why did you destroy the core? Couldn't they let me have my fun for a while longer?]

Roan completely ignored Sister Orb's disappointment as he looked at that development.

'Hehe! Do you think you can take back control of the armies with me here? Keep on dreaming!'

Roan then looked at the elite groups that quickly approached through the middle.

'Just in time!'

Rean, Calina, Malaka, Kentucky, and all the others were there. Right after, Roan sent them a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Calina, Cutting Edge Formation!'

Calina's eyes lit up as she raised her hands.

"All forces, initiate the Cutting Edge Combat Formation!"

As soon as Calina said that, their forces arrived on the battlefield. At the same time, Roan controlled the two wings to push the Alliance Army together.

Suddenly, the six leaders of the elite Unit began to work together. They divided themselves into two circular formations attached to the start of the Right and Left Wings. Soon after, the two Formations started to revolve in the same directions as they moved forward.

Obviously, Gofel and the others noticed the newcomers.

"What is that thing?!"

"It's another one of their weird formations."

"We can't let them do as they wish."

"Take the Units that are close to them and have control over their armies. Send them to intercept the Jialin Army's main body. We have to stop those guys from accomplishing whatever they are aiming to."

Sure enough, the units close by quickly arrived to take care of Calina's forces. However...

'Oh! So it's finally my time to shine, huh?'

Rean smiled as he lifted both his arms to the sky. After that, Light Element began to converge into two Spheres of Energy above them.

'Life Style, Fifth Form, Light Aura Burst!'

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Chapter 354: Escalation

At the moment, Rean was right in the middle of the two cutting wheels. However, he wasn't on the ground, but above it instead. Obviously, he mounted Kentucky and was flying there. Even if some ranged attack came in their direction, with Kentucky's overwhelming defense, only cultivators at the Peak Core Formation Realm and above could pose a threat to it. Thanks to that, Rean wasn't afraid of having to spend a few moments in the open air to gather enough Light Element.

Rean didn't use just a single Light Aura Burst either, but two instead. Each of the two Light Spheres flew above the two groups commanded by Calina. There, they burst apart as soon as the enemy units arrived. Just like in the past, the enemies' eyes went blind for a moment while everyone in the Cutting Edge Formation felt their strength swelling!

The Death Unit's group was already used to it. However, Via, Dillo, and the other groups that joined their Unit later were shocked by what happened. They could tell just how stronger and faster they suddenly became. Not only that, but their perception had increased as well. At the moment, all of them could fight at least one stage higher than before. The closest ones got even greater buffs. Rean's Light Aura Burst was really just that good for large scale battles.

"Death Unit, charge!"

UOHHHH!

The cutting edge formation was created for pure slaughter. The enemy's unit wouldn't have a chance against it even without Rean's move, let alone now.

Swish, swish, swish...

Puchi, puchi, puchi...

Bang, bang, bang...

Swords, sabers, spears. Several skills came out at the same time in a constant flow while the two wheels revolved. The main point of the cutting edge formation was the cooldown time. All cultivators would have some pauses when switching between skills. Even if they didn't, they wouldn't be able to use many skills in a row.

That being said, when the unit attacked, they had to step back at some point to recover. However, the Cutting Edge Formation got rid of that problem. As the Formation revolved, the cultivators that came at the front would have their skills ready. As soon as they let it out, they would keep following the rotation, soon retreating behind it. Naturally, the next cultivators who came behind that one would have their skills ready too.

When they were running behind the wheels, they could recover and prepare to launch the next one. However, frontal skills were not the only focus of this rotation. After all, there were cultivators specializing in melee combat while others were ranged. While the outer edge was made of melee elites, the center was made of ranged ones. The center's main point was the same as the outer edge, a constant flow of skills. That meant that the ranged cultivators also maintained a rotation to prevent the skills from ever stopping.

Last but not least, there was the area between the two revolving groups. The enemies would naturally try to avoid incoming attacks. However, because of the Left and Right Wings, they couldn't escape to the sides. Unfortunately for them, they could only try to avoid it by moving to the middle.

Too bad, what waited for them there wasn't safety. Instead, they would enter the real slaughtering ground. Without the ability to move back due to the army behind them, they were slowly pulled in between the two rotating wheels. That was the point of the formation where the most dangerous attacks came from. Once they fell inside that area, even peak Core Formation Realm cultivators could only wait to die. There were just too many skills coming out at that point, so protecting oneself was out of the question.

Of course, the higher level cultivators would still use their strength to jump back into their own army. However, the ranged cultivators would also be waiting for it. The moment one of them jumped back, trying to escape, he would be bombarded by the center of the Cutting Edge Formation. It's just that it wasn't always guaranteed that they would kill those guys.

"Fall back, fall back!"

"We can't! There are too many cultivators behind us!"

"It's the two wings of the Jialin Army! They are pushing us tighter and tighter!"

That wasn't all. The two wings couldn't move as fast as the elites inside the Cutting Edge Formation. It was thanks to Calina's cooperation with Welloi and the other four leaders that they were able to keep order. Of course, Rean's constant use of Light Aura Burst made a gigantic difference!

Well, not everything worked as perfectly. Back on Roan's side, he could see how the cutting edge formation worked. The cultivators inside constantly tripped on each other. Their own skills would often partially or totally hit their companions. There was no helping it. These elites simply didn't have enough time to train this Formation, nor the chance of using it before. They had to learn and adapt to it on the spot.

'More than 400 of the cultivators in the wheels died already. From this number, more than 150 died to friendly fire. That is already considering that Rean is healing those he can while using the Light Aura Burst every time it goes out.'

Roan then looked at Calina. The girl kept shouting right and left without stopping, trying to keep the Formation working. It was clear to see how hard it was for her to keep so many details in mind all the time. There were many times where she made mistakes that ended costing the lives of some of the cultivators in the Cutting Edge Formation.

'Still, this is good. Only in a situation like this will Calina's latent talent come out. Commanding an army from behind is totally different from controlling them on the spot. So far, she is doing a pretty decent job.'

Roan then switched his focus to the Right and Left Wings once more.

As for Rean, he didn't have it easy either.

'This is really hard. My Spiritual Energy Pool won't last forever like this.'

Still, Rean looked ahead and smiled.

'Well, I guess I won't need to anyway.'

The Cutting Edge Formation continued to move forward. They were also much faster than the enemies who tried to retreat. The Right and Left Wings kept pressing their sides while packing them even closer. Of course, the wings' cultivators also killed as many enemies as possible while at it.

Soon, the death count began to soar. It was already quite high, with more than 5000 in the first clash when the formation changed. There were also another 3000 or so who died due to the internal conflict. From there, things only escalated.

10000...

13000...

19000...

23000...

Soon, the advantage in numbers that the three allied countries had disappeared like smoke. The chaos created by Sister Orb and the spies didn't help it either. Many cultivators from Cassen and Tolak were still fighting or acting reserved toward the Roren Country's cultivators.

Gofen, and especially Larael, were gritting their teeth. They kept sending a ton of Spiritual Sense messages, trying to reorganize the army. However, the enemy's strategist seemed to always strike the point where it would break again. They simply reached a point where they didn't know what to do anymore.

Death... and me

Chapter 355: Acknowledgment

More than half of the casualties on the enemy's side was thanks to the cutting edge formation. Calina's control over the six groups making both wheels was a pivotal point for it to work as well. However, the main reason for the efficiency of the cutting edge formation was, in fact, Rean's abilities. The fact that he could increase everyone's average combat power and even heal those who got injured was essential.

When the deaths on Cassen's alliance side surpassed the 30000 mark, their cultivators finally fell into complete chaos. Everyone began to retreat without even asking for orders. Gofen and the rest had a dark expression. They had the greatest advantage, both in number, position, and preparations. Yet, the enemy commander still forced them to this point.

Finally, Tolak's representative issued the order.

"Tolak Army, retreat!"

Gofen and Larael looked at Rurio straight away.

"What? Do you think this war can still be won? Look around! Every second we lose will only bring us more unnecessary deaths. It's over. Focus on getting as much Triliun ore as possible before Jialin arrives at the deposit."

With Rurio's orders, the Aerial Demon beast Army and the cultivators on the ground immediately turned around and started to retreat.

The next one was Hyinkio.

"Roren Army, Retreat!"

Soon after, he looked at Gofen and Larael.

"We tried, but it didn't work. That's how wars are played. I will prioritize reducing the losses from now on. You should do the same since you have the highest number of cultivators in the field."

Gefen and Larael felt like killing this guy. After all, it was the shift in the formation that started all of that. However, it was obvious that it was done by the other side somehow. Besides, Cassen couldn't really attack anyone at the moment.

One should remember that they were already being attacked by Jialin. If they decide to kill the Rorel and Tolak experts who came here to help, they would be making an enemy of those two countries as well. The worst-case scenario would be all three countries attacking Cassen at the same time. Gofen and Larael had to prevent that from happening at all costs.

Gofen then looked at Larael and waited for his decision. Even though he was the Army's main commander, Larael was the Ancestor of Cassen's Royal Family. Only with his consent could he end this war.

Finally, Larael gritted his teeth and nodded at Gofen.

"All forces, retreat! The main units must focus on holding Jialin Country back as the rest make their way out."

Finally, everyone stopped fighting and began to run away. Well, that was not considering the ones who already fled even before that.

Roan looked at the development from afar and gave Kassie his final order.

'Tell everyone to let the enemy go. Priority is to secure the hill and consolidate our forces. This war is our victory, so there is no need to force our way anymore. Anyway, the rest is up to you from now on.'

Roan then looked at Zuan and asked him to put him back on the ground again.

Zuan nodded as he looked at the kid. They really won this war with an overwhelming advantage. He still didn't know how the hell Roan controlled the enemy's formation. Still, he and everyone else had many things to do, so he would leave this aside for now.

After touching the ground, Roan headed to the battlefield to check on Calina and the others.

Back on Rean's side, he looked as the enemy forces' retreated. Finally, he took a deep breath and fell back on his butt. He really worked a lot this time to the point that his Spiritual Energy Pool was empty. At some point, he began to hold Rank Three Spirit Stones in his hand to absorb their power so that he could use his skills a few more times.

Roan's command of the Army really brought them victory. However, if Rean wasn't there to give support to the Cutting Edge Formation, it would be hard to imagine the result. After all, this elite group didn't have time to train it before. Without Rean, the enemy and friendly casualties would probably have made the formation collapse from inside out. It's not wrong to say that half the reason this war went well was because of his Light Element Skills.

"I'm dead tired! I don't want to move anymore!"

Chick?

Kentucky got close to him as it rubbed its head against his body. Kentucky seemed quite worried.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, I'm fine. This just means that my cultivation is too low in the end."

Finally, Rean got up and looked around. Everyone in the Cutting Edge Formation wasn't that much better either. However, he could also see the excitement in their eyes. These elites knew more than anyone else what they had just accomplished.

Malaka then came forward and laid on Calina. She was as tired as everyone else. However, Calina fell to the ground as soon as Malaka did that.

"Ah! Illia, are you okay?"

Calina bitterly smiled as she looked at her trembling hands. How could she be okay? Be it physically or mentally, she was utterly spent. Besides, as a young girl, this Cutting Edge Formation really affected her to some extent. The number of deaths she saw today was higher than all fights she had gone so far.

"Malaka, how can you be so fine?"

Malaka looked at Calina and shook her head. Fine? What fine? Just like everyone else, Malaka had blood marks all over her body. She alone probably killed over 100 enemies. Malaka then hugged Calina before saying.

"I'm not fine. I'm just trying to not think about it."

It was then that Roan appeared in the middle of their group. Other than Calina, Rean, and Malaka, no one knew where he went. He never appeared during the battle. Still, they know that he definitely hasn't fled either, so the Death Unit didn't say anything.

Roan looked at the two girls and could tell what they were thinking.

"Was it hard? It must have been. However, that's how the cultivation world works. There is absolutely no reason to feel bad for the enemies. Cultivators are selfish. If they came here, then they had their reasons and knew what could have happened. It was the same thing for you two."

A rare sincere smile appeared on his face as he patted the two girls' heads.

"You two did well. I'm proud of you."

Malaka and Calina couldn't help but tear up and cry at that point.

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Chapter 356: After Battle

Well, Calina and Malaka were not the only girls present. Although men were still the majority, the cultivation world had a huge number of women too. Between 20% to 30% of the entire army was composed of them. That being said, quite a few were present in the elite Unit.

Rean arrived a moment later, just in time to see Roan patting the girl's heads.

"Give up, impostor! What did you do with the real Roan?!"

Roan's mouth twitched as he looked at Rean.

"Since I'm an impostor, I guess there is no problem in beating a few enemies. What about I start with you? Does it sound a good idea?"

Finally, Rean nodded.

"Oh! Seems like you are the real one. There is no need for that."

Pfft

Hahahaha!

Immediately, everyone around began to laugh, including Malaka and Calina. The bad mood was quickly swept away with that. After that, a few of the leaders, like Dillo and Via, who were not part of the original Death Unit, came forward to say something.

"Little girl, this Cutting Edge Formation was really something else. I can't believe you really kept it working all the way to the end."

"Indeed. You opened this old man's eyes. I guess one really can't judge a book for its cover."

Other female cultivators also came to compliment Calina.

"You really showed all these guys how things are done."

"Good job, girl. If you need my help in the future, just come to my Sarai Clan. I'll be sure to lend you a hand."

Calina couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed with all those compliments. It's one thing to have the ability, but another to be recognized. She quickly wiped away the tears in her eyes and bowed to everyone.

"Seniors, sorry for the way I treated you before. That was the only way I could use to make everyone work together."

Via just shook his head before saying.

"Don't worry about that. We didn't do any better to start with."

Dillo agreed.

"It would have been the same, whether it was you or any other appointed commander. It's nothing personal. It's just that we believed that keeping our own Unit under our command would be better than some outsiders taking control of all. Any other person on our side would have complained all the same. However, you proved to be able to do it, besides..."

Everyone then looked in the direction that Cassen's Alliance retreated.

"We did something incredible thanks to this Cutting Edge Formation. Although we did lose a few of our members, everyone knew what to expect during this war. I can already imagine the rewards that everyone who participated will receive."

Immediately, everyone's eyes shone. Indeed, they made the highest contribution during this battle. They would all receive a tremendous amount of Merit Points after the calculation was done. One must

not forget that it was only because of these rewards that a significant portion of the cultivators took part in this war.

Calina smiled. However, she knew that the Cutting Edge Formation was passed to her by Roan. The formation didn't collapse under her command. That was true. However, the main factor was still Rean's area of effect Light Element Abilities. Not to mention every time he went around with Kentucky healing everyone who got injured.

However, just as she was about to say that, Rean also stepped forward.

"Indeed. Illia did a really great job. It was all thanks to her commands that everything went okay. Of course, we are all responsible for our success, myself included. Still, we need to be grateful for that."

"Ah? No, That's-"

Roan agreed with Rean.

"Snow White is right. I wasn't even here due to a few problems on the backlines. Fortunately, she was a good apprentice, so she was able to accomplish this independently. I'm really impressed with this formation as well."

Calina was taken aback. Why are they giving all the credits to her? They knew very well that she didn't do it alone. However, Rean and Roan ignored her.

"Who the hell is Snow White?"

"Oh! Don't you like the name? I find it to be perfect."

"Perfect, your ass! Stop coming up with these weird names."

"Ha! Said the guy who uses everything except my name."

"My names are still better than Snow White."

"The hell they are!"

In the end, Calina didn't even have the chance to clarify anything as the twins bickered against each other.

Finally, the two got tired of the argument a few minutes later.

"Whatever. I'm not going to waste my time with you anymore."

Rean then looked at the teams before saying.

"Everyone who is injured, come forward. I'll do something about that."

Roan also ignored Rean and pulled Calina with Malaka away.

"Roan, I didn't do all of that alone, you know that."

Roan shook his head.

"You should take as much support as you can. In the future, it might prove beneficial to you. Do you think the leaders of those Units are idiots? They know that Rean's Light Element was also one of the main factors for the Formation to work until the end. Still, they silently agreed to leave all the credits for you. Just keep quiet and accept it. Otherwise, all our efforts would have been for nothing."

Roan then looked at Malaka.

"You too. Don't go around saying nonsense, understood?"

Malaka felt wronged.

"But I didn't say anything!"

Roan nodded.

"It's good that you didn't."

Roan then changed the topic.

"Alright. Now I want to hear everything you learned. What happened while commanding, your thoughts, why you did what you did, everything. I'll then tell you what I saw from far away and give my opinion based on what I hear."

Calina and Malaka nodded. After every battle, he would take the two girls and give his lectures based on their experiences. As little as it might change, he would never let it pass.

While Rean and Roan got busy, the ancestors and representatives of the various countries gathered together again. As one could imagine, all the eyes were on Kassie and 'her' stupendously great commanding ability. It far surpassed what the other sects and royal family strategists knew about. The thing that caught their attention the most was how 'she' could make everyone work with formations even though it was their first time.

Kassie looked at Dalamu's Ancestor, but Zuan shrugged his shoulders. Right after, he sent her a Spiritual Sense message.

'What do you want me to do? Tell everyone that the real commander was Roan? Let alone whether they will believe it or not. Even if they do, it's a terrible idea to let others know what he did today. Having the Umbral Sect aiming at them is already enough. The twins don't need more enemies. Just come up with some excuse, and that's it. Besides, considering Roan's personality, he probably couldn't care less about fame.'

Kassie sighed as she looked at everyone.

"Ahem... There is no need for everyone to feel this impressed. While I'm not cultivating, I spent most of my time drawing talismans or playing Sisca. After so long, I obviously came up with many strategies. Today I just tried to put them into practice."

"You saw it yourselves, didn't you? There were many, many mistakes which had a lot of our cultivators killed in the process. You are making it look bigger than it really is. I'm happy that we achieved this victory and that we can now take over the Triliun and Transten Ore deposit. We should now focus on it and on the rewards of the survivors."

However, Burin didn't let it go and immediately asked the question in everyone's minds.

"I can understand that your formations worked fine. However, how did you take control of the enemy's formation? If not for that, this war would have been a lot more gruesome. That was truly the turning point of this battle."

Kassie felt like crying. How would she know? The one who made it was Roan, not her. Still, she had already come up with the perfect excuse.

"Hehe! The way I used to take control over their Formation was obviously... a secret!"

Other than the Dalamu Sect members, everyone else cursed Kassie in their minds. The problem here was precisely that. If she could take control over the Formation on the Cassen's Country Side, couldn't she do the same with their sects or Royal Family formations? Still, Kassie couldn't care less about what they were thinking.

Zuan also agreed with Kassie before saying.

"Who would be idiotic enough to tell others about such a thing? Wouldn't it make our Dalamu Sect's advantage disappear? Let alone me, I doubt that any of your sects or the Royal Family would tell the others either. You should just be happy that I used it for us to take control of the enemy's formations, guaranteeing our victory."

No one could find a flaw in Zuan's words. Indeed, if they were the ones to discover a way to pull such a move, they wouldn't say a single word either. In the end, they just made a mental note to have this event thoroughly investigated later. However, for now...

"Let's finish and organize everything as fast as possible. We will depart tomorrow morning for the Palau Mountain Range. That's where the Triliun and Transten deposits are located. I have no doubt that Cassen and the other countries will try to extract as much mineral as possible before we arrive there."

Everyone agreed with those words and immediately left to take care of the arrangements.

Death... and me

Chapter 357: Something Else to Offer

While Roan discussed the past battle with Calina and Malaka, Rean spent the rest of his day healing those with severe injuries. Although there were many Healing Pills, only the most potent ones could compare to what Rean could do. Naturally, the majority couldn't afford such a thing.

In exchange, Rean got several favors and got quite a few interesting items to use in forging later. Even a few Umbral Sect members had to grit their teeth and put their pride away to ask for his help. Rean didn't really mind. Instead of refusing to help, which would create an even greater grudge, he preferred to make them think twice before trying something against him later. Of course, just that wouldn't change the entire Umbral Sect's opinion about his abilities, but it was a start.

At some point that night, Kassie and Zuan came to visit the twins in their encampment. This place was perfect for mounting a temporary base with the terrain advantage until the next morning arrived.

"Oh! Ancestor Zuan, Senior Kassie, you're here."

Zuan and Kassie nodded.

"Yes. We came to see how the situation of your Death Unit was. After the battle was over, the extra Units that were part of the Elite Group went back to their own positions. Now you are the same 300 cultivator sized unit as before."

Rean nodded as he looked around.

"Well, that battle was not without losses. From the 307 members that we had before it started, we now have 236. We will need to scout for replacements tomorrow morning before we march to Palau Mountain."

Kassie shook her head.

"Don't worry. I will arrange the replacements for your Unit. With how famous you guys have gotten, I doubt there will be a lack of options for you to chose."

Rean smiled after hearing that.

Zuan then looked at the twins and entered the main topic.

"You two probably know why we are here. It's about the Disruption Protection Formation that covered this hill during the battle. How did you take control over it?"

Rean and Roan were already waiting for that.

"It's not exactly something we can explain. What you need to know is that this isn't something we can pull out anytime we want. It was due to several circumstances that we were able to pull this out. In any other case, it wouldn't work."

Zuan didn't care about that, though.

"That doesn't matter. What I want to know is what you used to do it. You must understand that all the sects are now looking at our sect with suspicion. I can't blame them for that either. After all, I would also be afraid if I was on their side. Who can guarantee that we can't take control of the formations that protect their sects or the royal palace? We want to understand this ability better so that we can act accordingly in the future."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"As I said, we can't explain. Ancestor Zuan must understand that everyone has their own secrets, and so do we. Isn't that good enough to know that we are part of the Dalamu Sect? Obviously, we wouldn't use it against you all. Or could it be that Ancestor Zuan only trusts us this much?"

Zuan shook his head.

"If I thought that you were a real risk to my Dalamu Sect, I would have dealt with you two a long time ago. The fact that you two are alive and kicking is the proof of my trust."

Rean smiled after hearing that.

"Then that's it. Just play the roles correctly. As long as you refuse to tell the other powers anything, they won't be able to do anything to Dalamu. In the end, it all depends on whether Ancestor Zuan and Kassie will tell the others about us or not. It's that simple."

Indeed. Other than Zuan and Kassie, no one else knew about Rean and Roan's feats in this war. As famous as they might be, no one would believe that two Core Formation Realm boys did something like that. Everyone thought that it was Kassie and Zuan who acted back during the battle.

Zuan narrowed his eyes as he looked at the twins. He wasn't an idiot. He knew that they definitely weren't just two teenagers as they looked. Still, it was correct to say that they had done a lot for the sect so far, including achieving this victory.

Although this war helped Dalamu a lot, the fact was that Rean and Roan were doing it to help themselves.

Rean wanted the Transten Ores to have something to feed Kentucky. Roan thought this was the perfect chance to train Malaka and Calina during a real war. In a certain way, their reasons had little to do with Dalamu itself.

In the end, Zuan sighed. The fact was that he already expected that the twins wouldn't tell him what they did.

"Fine... Perhaps this is a good thing that we don't know how you two robbed the formation's control. Such knowledge is helpful and dangerous at the same time. Try not to show this ability to control formations to others from now on. Otherwise, even I would not be able to cover for you two."

Rean nodded, not caring too much.

"Don't worry. We know what we are doing. Only because we were sure that no one would find the truth that we went ahead with this plan."

Zuan nodded, and then they changed the topic.

"The other thing I want to know is about Roan's commanding knowledge. Roan, I will not ask you how you learned that. However, would it be okay if you taught some elders who are good at commanding as well? Of course, if you want something in exchange for it, I'm more than happy to comply."

Roan couldn't help but ask.

"Isn't it a bad idea? If I began to teach all of them, the information would escape someone's lips sooner or later. Umbral Sect is already enough of a bother."

Zuan agreed with him.

"I know. You don't need to worry. I can have Kassie act as the middleman. She would be the one appearing, pretending to be teaching everyone, while you would be communicating with her through Spiritual Sense. I'll make sure that no one in our sect or outside will find out about it. I can give you my word about that."

Roan pondered a bit before nodding.

"If the payment is good, I don't mind giving some help. At the moment, I usually pass by the Blue Orchid Sect to teach the girls there about combat. It will basically be the same thing."

Zuan and Kassie were satisfied to hear that. Kassie was even more delighted since she would learn first than anyone else. As for Zuan, he was just thinking about the future of his Dalamu Sect, nothing more. He wasn't very good at strategies, so he wouldn't participate in the teachings himself.

"Very well, what would you like to receive as payment?"

Roan then looked at Rean, and the two nodded. The answer to that question was already obvious.

"Rank Four Spirit Stones. Would that be possible?"

Zuan and Kassie were taken aback.

"This..."

Zuan quickly calmed down before explaining.

"You two should know better than anyone else just how rare Rank Four Spirit Stones are, no? Even the Nascent Soul Elders and above only have a few tens or maybe hundreds of them at most. And that was the result of several years of accumulation. Those stones are just too hard to acquire. Even I only have a little bit more than a thousand of them."

"Of course, our own personal stashes are separated from the Sects' Treasure. Still, I believe we don't have more than three thousand or so in there. The situation is more or less the same for all the other sects. Only the Royal Family probably has more of it, but it wouldn't be that much."

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes. They didn't have much more things they wanted at the moment, after all. They wanted Rank Four Spirit Stones is obviously to use the Circuitry Teleport Formation if necessary. Back in Laan City, they had to ask Juvian and Tiria for that. Fortunately, there was no need to use them in the end.

Zuan couldn't help but say.

"Rank Four Spirit Stones is hard to provide. However, I might have something of interest for you two. You two already know about cultivation techniques that allow one to use Yang or Yin Energies, right?"

Rean and Roan nodded. In fact, Calina's technique was one of these types. At the moment, Mia and Malaka also switched to it after Calina passed it over.

"My own cultivation technique just so happens to be a Yang Energy type. I don't want to brag, but my technique is quite good. Usually, I definitely wouldn't pass it to anyone else. However, I do think that Roan's commanding and Rean's healing abilities are worth as much. Would you be interested in it?"

Roan didn't say anything as he looked at Rean. In the end, such a technique would be more useful to Rean. However, they already have the Light and Dark Element Cultivation Techniques of the Soul Gem System. Obviously, they wouldn't change cultivation techniques in that case. That being said, Zuan's technique wasn't as appealing as Zuan probably thinks it is.

Rean then asked.

"Does it have some Yang Energy skills included?"

Zuan nodded.

"But of course! Why would one use the Yang Energy Cultivation Technique without the skills that make good use of this energy? It's just that they are all Fire Element ones, so I don't know how good it would be for you."

Rean pondered a bit and nodded in the end.

"Alright, we accept."

Death... and me

Chapter 358: Outcome

Sure enough, by the time they arrived at the Palau Mountain Range, they found it full of cultivators extracting Triliun Ore. However, they didn't try to resist. After all, the deal was that Cassen wouldn't try to stop them anymore. If that really happened, this battle would become a high-level one. Everyone at the Nascent Soul Realm and above would enter the fray. Cassen Country definitely didn't want that to happen.

Jialin quickly scared those cultivators away and took over the Palau Mountain Range. With that, all the Triliun and Transten Ores were now in their hands. Obviously, all the Sects, Royal Family, and Laan City experts were delighted by that.

Still, Cassen and the other two countries didn't hold back when extracting the ores because of the urgency of the matter. They went all out, trying to reach the Transten Ore deposit at the center. Even Saint Realm experts attacked the vein nonstop. Everywhere they looked, there were giant holes and deformations.

Unfortunately, in the end, they did not find where the Heaven Ore Metal was located. It was one thing to know that there would be Transten Ore in this place. However, knowing which part of the deposit held Transten Ore was another thing altogether. After all, this deposit was just too big. Also, Transten Ore would appear anywhere with the highest concentration of Spiritual Energy. To find that place, they would need to make their way inside. Spiritual Sense didn't help much with this point.

Kassie and the others quickly ascertained the situation and began to give orders.

"Senior Droman and the other Formation Masters, please connect the Communication System to this place. Also, start building a protection formation. We don't know if Cassen and their alliance will change their minds, so we need to be prepared."

"Bring the Excavation Team forward and have them begin to look for Transten Ore inside the Triliun Vein. We need to be sure that we take those ores as soon as possible."

"Each power will have a few watchers looking at the excavation to make sure that no one will take everything for themselves. This deposit will also help pay for the costs of the war, so we need to share it equally."

"Spread the Army Units outside around the Palau Mountain Range and have them secure the place. No one can enter without our permission. Tell the vagrant cultivators that they will get extra merit points and some Triliun Ore to forge their own equipment if they stay here. Our own cultivators and disciples will also get the same rewards if they stay longer."

Around one day later, Jialin sent a message to all the surrounding countries. Their conquest of Cassen's territory has now finished. As promised, they would not try to conquer the country, but just a small part of its territory for their own use. A few cultivators of each nearby country entered Cassen to check. They confirmed that the war stopped after Palau Mountain Range was taken.

Cassen, Tolak, and Roren tried to negotiate with Jialin to get some of the Transten Ore in the Mountain Range. After all, it was just too important for all the countries involved. Surprisingly, the main commander of the army, Kassie, accepted their proposal.

Well, the one who really accepted that was Roan. According to what he said, they wanted to guarantee the safety and stability of the new territory. The best way was to reach an agreement with the previous owners. Even though they would lose some of the Transten Ore, it was a fact that this territory would bring them more benefits as time passed.

'One must look at the big picture. By doing this, you can prevent those countries from trying anything funny anytime soon. That will be perfect for Laan Experts to build their own power in this place. Once the entire territory is firmly under their grasp, you won't need to worry anymore.'

Kassie said exactly the same thing to the other powers' representatives. Since they all think it was Kassie who achieved this victory for them, they decided to give her a chance and accept this deal. In exchange for 30% of all Transten Ore found in the Palau Mountain Range, Cassen would officially accept the loss of its territory. Tolak and Rorel would also give up any idea of trying to take the deposit back.

This deal seemed very similar to what they got in the past. However, there was a big difference. Now the Laan Experts had a much bigger territory. Above all, Jialin also had access to a massive amount of Triliun Ore, which wasn't offered in the previous deal.

Of course, this agreement wouldn't last forever. Cassen might very well try to take the territory back one day. That being said, they also agreed about a time frame for peace, fifty years! For the experts at the Nascent Soul Realm and above, this really wasn't much. After that, Cassen would be free to try anything if they wished to. Last but not least, they called a representative of the Imperial Family to seal this deal. This way, neither Cassen nor Jialin would dare to go against the agreement.

With that done, all the vagrant cultivators were finally dispersed. Each of them received five kilograms of Triliun Ore, which had a considerable value for cultivators at the Core Formation Realm and below. Even Core and Soul Fusion Realm considered it a good extra. Of course, they also had their merit points, which they all used to exchange for cultivation resources and other items.

After that, there were the cultivators of the sects and the royal family. In their case, only half of their forces returned home. The other half stayed just in case something happened. After all, the agreement was only between Cassen and Jialin. There was nothing said about other countries who might decide to use this chance to attack.

Roan's Death Unit just so happened to be one of the Units that stayed behind. Well, that was more of a personal request from Kassie. Neither Rean nor Roan thought it was bad since they had to wait for the Transten Ore to be mined. Sure enough, Mia and Zuan promised the two half of their share of Transten Ore.

As for the high-level cultivators, the majority of Laan Experts stayed in the new territory. After all, they would create their home here. The other sects and royal family sent half of their high-level forces back, leaving only the other half to watch over the Ore Deposit.

Time passed as the dust settled down. The news about Cassen's defeat quickly became forgotten as a new sect appeared in the conquered territory, the Laan Sect. The reason that Triliun and Transten Ore appeared in this mountain range was due to the rich Spiritual Energy beneath it. That being said, The Laan Sect was built in the same place.

Around three months later, the Jialin Excavation Force finally found the location of the Transten Deposit. Well, they could have been much faster if the Twins had used Kentucky. But to prevent others from getting suspicious, they didn't let the Minokawa get close to the deposit. Day and night, the demon bird looked at the mountain as its mouth drooled. It turns out that they were right. There was a great amount of Transten Ore present at the moment. Another month was used to slowly and carefully mine it.

In the end, 637 kilograms of it was mined out of the deposit. Don't look down on this number. This is a Heaven High-Level type of metal! 191 kilograms were then given to Cassen, Tolak, and Rorel as per the deal. The other 446 was shared between the six sects and the Royal Family of Jialin.

Dalamu got 74.3 kilograms, which was then divided into two portions once more. Both Dalamu and the twins ended up with 37.15 kilograms each. As Reliance mentioned in the past, Rean only had to give 100 grams of Heaven-Level ore to Kentucky each time. The frequency would depend on the level of the ore.

Low-Level would be once every three days;

Middle-Level every five days;

High-Level every seven days;

Finally, Peak-Level every ten days.

As a High-Level Material, Kentucky would need seven days to digest every 100 grams. With 37.16kg of ore, the twins would be able to feed Kentucky for the next 2601 days! That was the same as seven years worth of food for Kentucky!

Or so Rean thought...

"What? Of course, it's not that easy. Kentucky's level is increasing. Obviously, he can absorb a lot more Heaven-Level ores as well. Have you not checked his digestion time of the Luminun Ore after he entered the Stage Three level?"

Rean shook his head.

"I just kept giving him the same 100g every five days."

Reliance shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, if you want to give him just 100g every seven days, you can do it. But that will also delay his progress."

Rean looked helplessly at the enormous black and white bird on his side.

Chick?

"Oh well, it was you who found the deposit to start with, so I guess it's okay."

Rean threw another 100g to Kentucky, who swallowed it in one go. In the next days, he and Reliance checked Kentucky's body to see how long he took to process that amount. In the end, Kentucky absorbed the entire thing in just four days!

"Oh well, this is still 1486 days worth of food, or a little more than four years. It's more than double of what I had before."

Rean then threw another 100g for Kentucky to eat and left. A few days later, it was decided that Rean and Roan's Death Unit would be dispersed as well. With that, everything related to Laan City was finally settled down.

pin!

[Congratulations, Hosts.]

Death... and me

Chapter 359: Harsh!

[Hosts have successfully intervened in the destiny of Laan citizens and have conquered part of Cassen's Country by introducing a higher level of combat tactics. Hosts have also directly commanded the army in the decisive battle, reducing the number of losses to the minimum. On top of that, the remaining Laan experts have now created their own Sect, which was also annexed to Jialin Country.]

[Calculating rewards.]

Rean and Roan were surprised to hear that.

'Oh! I thought that anything involving Laan Experts would not be counted in the end.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'Indeed. We didn't get anything after leaving Laan City, after all.'

Sister Orb then explained.

[The City Events really didn't give you anything. However, once these experts were separated from the City Artifact, their destinies were also divided into two different directions. That being said, while they are the old Laan Citizens, they don't have anything to do with it anymore. That's why their destinies are now part of the reward of destiny change.]

Rean and Roan nodded. However, Rean also noticed something.

'It seems like the City Artifact is not present on this planet anymore.'

Roan understood what Rean meant.

'Indeed. The Soul Gem System is considering their shared destiny with Laan City completely cut. That means that both of them won't have any relation with each other anymore. At the very least, not any time soon.'

Rean nodded.

'Exactly. If they were still on this planet, there was still a chance of meeting each other in the future, just like Latalia did by becoming a descendant. However, it probably means that even their descendants won't have a chance of finding the City again in the future.'

Rean also considered another possibility.

'If I'm not wrong, there is a high chance that Laan City was brought to the higher realms, don't you think?'

Roan became confused.

'Are you talking about those so-called Ancestors that were supposed to come back to bring them away?'

Rean nodded.

'The City simply vanished into thin air. Even the Saint Realm experts didn't think such a thing was possible for them to do. You have to admit that it might have been the intervention of someone from above.'

Roan shook his head in response.

'I find it highly unlikely. There is nothing to prove that the Artifact Spirit couldn't move the City anytime it wanted. Perhaps it only didn't do so because no one had found it in the past.'

Rean had to agree that the possibility existed.

'Then what was the light ray on the top of the four peaks? Couldn't it be some kind of communication system to tell those 'Ancestors' that they are ready to be brought away?'

Roan shook his head.

'If that was the case, why didn't the Artifact Spirit do it earlier? Did you forget what the elders in that City said? The Artifact Spirit has control over everything. Naturally, the light ray should be part of it.'

Rean then shrugged his shoulders as he said.

'Well, we can't confirm any of these theories. In any case, one thing is most likely confirmed. The Laan Citizens that stayed behind will not find Laan City again. I'm almost 100% sure about it.'

Roan nodded. He also thought that Rean's analyses were correct.

It was then that Sister Orb's voice appeared.

[Oh! There comes the reward of the system.]

Sure enough...

[Calculation finished.]

[Destiny Points Reward: 2937.]

[Authority Level: 01]

'Oh! This wasn't even a quest before, but we still got all these points.'

Roan nodded.

'We even got one Authority Level. It was better than I expected. Let's take a good look once we get back to the Sect.'

The twins then returned to their Unit and announced the orders passed by the Sect.

"Alright. Everyone is now free to go anywhere. Don't forget to pass by the rewards building to exchange your Merit Points. From today onwards, the Death Unit is disbanded."

Everyone was taken aback by the sudden announcement.

"That easily? Sigh..."

"Well, wars between countries aren't that easy to happen, after all."

"Exactly. Do you really expect that the sects would continue to give us Merit Points for staying here doing nothing?"

Calina and Malaka had also made a few friends in the Death Unit, especially with the female ones.

"Well, I guess there's no helping it."

Malaka couldn't help but look at the twins.

"Rean, Roan, is there really no way to keep everyone?"

Rean laughed after hearing that.

"Let's not consider that not everyone here would want to stay. Even if they did, how do you expect us to provide for their cultivation? Sure, I have a considerable level of income at the moment, but I'm far from being able to keep a unit of this size. Besides, more than half of our unit is made up of vagrant cultivators. They have their own clans, families, etc."

All the members nodded. They were happy to have been part of the Death Unit. After all, it was one of the strongest units, which gave them many benefits. However, the majority only joined for the rewards of the war. They all had their own plans after this, including the Sect Members.

"Little girl, you should stop being so naive. Hahaha!"

"He's right, Malaka. Maintaining such a large group of cultivators is anything but easy."

"Indeed. Otherwise, do you think the sects or royal family would disband us? They also want to increase their power, but the cultivation world is always lacking resources."

"However, I hope you guys will call us next time when something like this starts again. The Death Unit is bound to bring us many rewards, after all. Hahaha!"

Everyone also laughed after hearing that, including Rean.

However, Roan couldn't help but show a scary smile.

"Hoho~! So you all liked the hellish training of this unit, huh? Very good. I'll be sure to keep your names in mind. Next time, I'll increase the level so that this unit can at least reach a basic level of battle."

Everyone felt a chill on their backs when they heard that. So everything Roan made them pass through still wasn't enough for them to reach the basic level... Then, just how terrifying would it be to become a high-level unit in his eyes?

"Cough, cough... I might... not be available."

"Exactly! My parents are old. I can't make them worry about me like this."

"Didn't you say that your parents died a long time ago?"

"Today is such a beautiful day, don't you think so, guys?"

Roan snorted but didn't say anything. Rean, Calina, and Malaka giggled inside. Their Unit had many cultivators above 40, 60, and even 100 years old, especially those at the Core Formation Realm and above. After all, not everyone was a genius that could breakthrough during their youth. Still, even they felt fear when Roan talked. His status was not made through his commanding alone. He made everyone respect him through brute force!

However, a voice then came from the middle of the Unit.

"I don't mind harsh training. Let me join you!"

Roan looked at the guy who spoke. It was Welloi, one of the cultivators that Roan considered to have some talent for leading. He was also one of the six sub-commanders in his unit.

"Me too!"

"Count me in!"

"Don't forget about me, okay?!"

"I won't stay behind."

Salatis, Juka, Zouei, and Verder. All the cultivators that Roan also taught war tactics stepped forward as well. Roan was especially harsh in their training menu during these 14 months since the start of the war. However, they knew very well just how much they improved thanks to that. He even passed them the basic manual of the Death Style for each of their weapons. Rean was also there to help them all the time. He healed everyone's injuries, giving them an extra layer of safety. Also, his commanding abilities were only behind Roan himself. Although Calina always took control of the Unit and was indeed very good at controlling it, they knew that the real masters of this unit were Rean and Roan.

Calina couldn't help but ask after hearing that.

"Why would you come with us? We can't really help you guys with anything, you know? Besides, only Welloi and Zouei are part of our Dalamu Sect. The rest of you are vagrant cultivators. We don't have the power to bring you inside."

These guys were by no means geniuses. Welloi and Zouei were both at the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. However, they were way past fifty years old. At the moment, they were indeed part of the Dalamu Sect but not disciples. Instead, they were what the Sect called reserve forces. They surpassed the age necessary to enter the Inner Sect but didn't become Outer Sect Elders. For cultivators like these who didn't want to leave the Sect, the reserve forces were created.

Of course, these reserve forces received a lot fewer resources than the actual sect disciples. Otherwise, it wouldn't be possible to keep them. Still, just having the Dalamu Sect emblem was a huge help if you lived in the Dalamu Sect Territory like them. That's why they didn't mind being part of the reserve forces.

Salatis, Juka, and Verder were vagrant cultivators even older than Welloi and Zouei. Salatis was the most senior, 112 years old, and was a Middle Stage Core Formation Realm vagrant cultivator. It was hard to say if any of them would even reach the Core and Soul Fusion Realm one day. It was easy to see how difficult becoming a Core and Soul Fusion cultivator was by looking at Dalamu Sect's forces. In total, Dalamu didn't have even 40 of them. And this was a sect with tens of thousands of members if you counted everyone involved.

Still, they seemed dead set in following these twins.

However, Roan shook his head.

"I don't need dead weight following me."

Death... and me

Chapter 360: Parting Ways

Welloi and the others were taken aback by those words. However, Roan didn't give them a chance to ask questions before continuing.

"Let's be honest here. You're good at commanding. That's why I taught you guys how to do it. However, your personal powers, and especially your cultivation speeds, are severely lacking. We might be at a similar level for now, but what about five or ten years from now? Wouldn't you just become burdens? You should leave and create your own clans, cultivate peacefully, or whatever."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"Isn't that a little too harsh?"

Roan snorted in response as he replied.

"Harsh? This is the cultivation world. In this war, we were lucky that the big shots decided to not intervene after the agreement. It was also because of their advantage that they offered such a deal. They thought they would win but lost in the end. Otherwise, what do you think would have happened?"

Rean understood what Roan meant and sighed as he uttered.

"Once the Nascent Soul Realm and higher cultivators saw the problem that our commanders were causing to the low-level armies, they would shift their attention to them. Considering the difference in cultivation, they would only need one strike to end the problem."

Roan nodded as he continued where Rean left off.

"We would need to have our own high-level cultivators, constantly keeping them busy for that to not happen. Of course, since they can aim at our units, we can do the same to them."

Calina then added by the side.

"That's why most of these wars are only fought by low-level cultivators for most of it, right?"

"That's pretty much what it is. No side wants to lose all its geniuses, so the high-level cultivators always keep this unspoken agreement of not intervening unless things get heated. But once that moment arrives, neither side will hold back just because the enemy's commander is low-level."

Welloi couldn't help but ask.

"But couldn't we still help before that moment comes? I can't accept that we're just dead weight."

Roan didn't care what they thought, saying.

"It seems like you don't understand. As far as the low-level wars can go, it will ultimately be decided by the high-level cultivators. That's why any commander that wants to be under me has to have a high level of cultivation."

Roan then continued.

"Do you know? I thought that we would lose most of you, leaders, during this battle. The agreement where no high-level cultivators would appear in the end was unexpected, even for me."

Welloi's group finally understood why. Still, they had to ask.

"Illia was also the main commander of this Death Unit during the last battle. Wouldn't she have been killed too?"

Roan nodded.

"She would."

Of course, Roan omitted the fact that Rean would drag her into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm if that situation really happened. Calina and Malaka also knew about it, so they didn't say anything.

"Does it mean you were ready to have us sacrificed during the last battle?"

Roan snorted.

"Sacrifice you? This is war! How many sacrifices have we made already? You could die, Rean could die, Illia could die, everyone could die! Not only you, but all of us are sacrifices, myself included! Then again, I still have the confidence of surviving in that situation, though."

The unit knew that Roan was straightforward, but he could always make things look worse.

Welloi gritted his teeth before asking.

"Is there really no other way? I really like commanding!"

Salatis, Juka, Zouei, and Verder also insisted.

"Us as well!"

Rean was the one to shake his head now. Although he thought Roan was too harsh with his words, he knew that Roan wasn't wrong.

"Unless you guys can suddenly increase your cultivation speed to somewhere similar to me, Illia, or Malaka, that would not be possible."

Roan nodded.

"That's how things are. However..."

That last word immediately took everyone's attention. Everyone looked at Roan, waiting for the continuation.

"It's mostly during the last stage of a war that the high-level cultivators will join the battle. The several months or even years before the critical point is still fought by cultivators at our low-level. If you want to participate during those times, I don't mind giving you all the same type of role again."

Welloi's group immediately shook their heads.

"That's not what we want! We are talking about being taught by you and Rean in the future. If we need to wait for a war to happen again, just how long will it take? Just a moment ago, Jialin and Cassen closed a deal of non-aggression for the next fifty years! We might even die of old age by the time Jialin goes into war again."

Everyone nodded. That would be quite a useless pact since no one knew when they needed to gather the army again.

"Enough!"

Roan began to lose his patience already.

"So what if you want any of that? That's not my problem! If you really want to become a commander, don't rely on me. Go cultivate, go do missions, go study. There might not be any war going around Jialin at the moment, but you can definitely find them around the empire. Just go anywhere. If I need you one day, I'll tell you, and that's all."

Roan then turned around and left. He really had no intention of taking any of the guys in. One Malaka and one Calina was already annoying enough to deal with.

Rean sighed as he looked at Welloi's group's disappointed expressions.

"Well, you can't blame him for it. We have too many things to care about, so we really have no time to spend on you all. Just take this war as a chance and go out practicing on your own. Who knows, there might be a day where we truly need your help."

Rean then looked at Calina and Malaka.

"You two, it's time to go."

The two girls nodded and quickly followed Rean as well.

Chick!

Kentucky, who didn't understand anything that was going on, simply followed as well.

And just like that, the Death Unit was left behind.

However, it was then that Welloi decided.

"He's right. I'm too weak. I thought it was enough to be part of Dalamu's reserve forces and use their name to live in Jialin, but I was wrong."

Salatis shrugged his shoulders.

"You, at the very least, are part of Dalamu's Reserve Forces. I'm just a vagrant cultivator. Not to mention that I'm much older than you."

Zouei couldn't help but laugh.

"Well, this is also a chance, don't you think?"

Verden looked at Zouei and nodded.

"Zouei's right. Didn't Roan already tell us what we need to do? Many wars are happening around the empire. With our cultivation levels ranging around the Core Formation Realm, it wouldn't take too long to arrive in a country where it is happening."

Welloi agreed with him.

"That's what I was thinking. I'm going to leave to cultivate and practice my commanding skills in other countries. Rean and Roan are just teenagers but are already that determined. I won't just sit down and accept the fact that I'm dead weight. I'm going out!"

Salatis quickly decided what he would do.

"This old man might have no cultivation talent, but I can make up for it with effort. I've decided! I'll exchange my merit points for the best cultivation technique possible instead of cultivation resources. I'll then join the wars of other countries and gather the cultivation resources after. Do any of you want to come? Of course, if you have families or anything like that, you better consider it carefully. I'm a lonely cultivator, so I'm okay."

Verden, Zouei, and Juka also agreed to go out together. They already got familiar with each other's strength and knew how to combine their forces.

Surprisingly, a few more cultivators of the Death Unit also joined those five and decided to go out as well. Of course, most of the Death Unit still decided to go back to the sect or go out to do their own things. Not everyone was that passionate about the Death Unit as them.

Back on Roan's group side, Rean couldn't help but ask.

"You did all of that on purpose, right?"

Calina and Malaka got confused.

"What do you mean?"

Roan glanced at the two girls before saying.

"They wanted to follow Rean and me to learn more about being an Army Leader. However, I already taught them enough about it. I wasn't lying. I can't waste more time with them since I already have you two. From now on, they need to rely on themselves, not me or Nightingale here. It would be complicated and above all, extremely annoying."

Rean smiled as he said.

"Well, that's how cultivators are. They have to rely on themselves. It will all depend on how well they can put what they learned into practice."

Calina narrowed her eyes in response.

"Hey, wait! Are you saying that teaching this princess is annoying too?"

Roan snorted.

"Not just annoying. Extremely annoying!"

Malaka didn't seem to care as she uttered.

"Hahaha! I don't mind not receiving any more training from now on, then?"

Rean was the one to shake his head as he said.

"That would make things even more annoying. Who knows what kind of calamity you'd bring if we don't teach you properly. Sigh... such a burden."

Roan immediately agreed with Rean.

"It's rare for us to agree so much with something, but I guess this is definitely one of those. In that case, let's increase Malaka's tasks once we go back."

Calina couldn't help but laugh as Malaka showed a frustrated expression. Even though Roan said it was incredibly annoying to teach her, he didn't seem to care that much anymore.