Death 401

Death... and me

Chapter 401: Now Shut Up!

Roan looked through the missions on the board to find a good target. After all, he didn't want to get expelled so that he could keep an eye on the mission board. If someone posted a reward on his or Rean's head, he would know beforehand. That was the main reason he joined the Shadow Reapers.

The second reason was that he could find some good practicing targets. Assassinations were different than head-on combats. They were silent and usually required some planning depending on the target. Rean and Roan's skills were just perfect for both movement in the shadows and hiding from Spiritual Senses.

As for the person marked to die, Roan wouldn't just select anyone. All notes had a description of the target. What they did, what they were known for, why a price was put on their head, etc. Roan might not care about anyone, but that doesn't mean he would go around killing innocent people either. Besides, those types of people usually weren't good targets when you think about their combat abilities. It was a lot easier to find a better challenge when the other side deserved to die since they knew they would have many enemies.

Roan could have waited for when he went to the Shadow Reapers of his home region. After all, there would definitely be enough targets there as well. However, he would stay in the Capital for another month at the very least, so he might as well try things out here.

Finally, Roan found one that caught his attention.

-Earth High Rank-

Target: Nulian Sarsol.

Target's cultivation: Core Formation Realm Middle or High Stage (Needs to be confirmed.)

Location: Capital Inner City, the Favri Bank Supervisor.

Reward: 1500 Rank Three Spirit Stones.

'Hum... This guy used his connections to force many small businesses both inside and outside the city to go bankrupt. I don't know how but it seems like he made a lot of money with that. Quite a few lost their lives as well when they refused to wield after things went wrong. No wonder there's a reward on his head. Most likely, the spirit stones in this reward were put together by his victims.'

Roan then took the mission from the board before nodding.

'It's a mission on my own level, so I won't need to need to care about it until a year has passed at the very least. Alright, this shall be the one.'

Roan then brought the mission note to the counter, where he got the badge.

"This one."

The guy saw that Roan was back already but didn't care.

"Very well, badge."

Roan passed his badge to the guy. A few moments later, he returned the badge to Roan with the mission note as well.

"You have at most three months to conclude the missions. If you see that the task needs more time, you must come back and report the reason so that we can give the client an upgrade. Once again, we only accept the head of the target. As to how you will carry it around, that's your problem."

Roan didn't mind and took his things back. After that, he turned to the exit before leaving the building.

'Now there is only one thing I need to do before taking a look into the information about the Imperial Family.'

Roan then flashed in the distance before arriving in the place where he entered the black market at first. He then showed the black token he got from Gval to the Teleport Formations guy.

"Same formation as before. You will be teleported back to the same place. The first teleportation to the Black Market is free. From now on, you will need to provide the Spirit Stones to activate the Teleport Formation."

Roan didn't care and quickly entered the room. After placing his token and the Spirit Stones in the formation, it flashed with silver light before Roan disappeared.

Sure enough, Roan returned to the same house where he found the old woman. She was still sitting on her chair and didn't even bother to open her eyes to see him out. Roan, too, didn't waste his time as his body flashed away from the house. To make sure he wasn't being followed, he entered a hidden corner and stepped inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. His appearance returned to normal before he used the Circuitry Formation to teleport right back to the save point in his room in the Dalamu Sect Residence.

'Hmph! Let's see if you are faster than me.'

Roan immediately left his room and headed to another one in the Dalamu Sect building. There, he sat down and began to wait patiently. However, he didn't have to do that for long before the person he wanted to see arrived.

"Why are you in my room?"

Roan glanced at the newcomer. Obviously, it was Old Worm.

"It was you, wasn't it?"

Old Worm narrowed his eyes.

"What are you talking about?"

Roan snorted in response. "Don't take me for a fool. How the hell would I get permission to pry into Class A information in the Dark Web Organization? I don't know anyone in this city other than you, Droman, and Rean. Droman doesn't seem the type to have this kind of connection, let alone Rean. It only leaves me with the last possibility, you." Old Worm looked at Roan's eyes. He could see that the boy was absolutely sure of his claim. Finally, Old Worm nodded as if it was nothing. "Indeed. It was me. So what?" Roan then immediately asked. "How did you know that that was me? I completely changed my appearance. Even though others with higher cultivation could tell that it was not my real face or body structure, they shouldn't be able to tell how I look for real." Old Worm then looked at Roan with a faint smile as he pointed at his nose. "The medicinal smell on your body. As much as you tried to get rid of it, it would be almost impossible to completely eliminate. In the end, it was way too easy to identify you." Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that. "There is one point I don't understand. Even if you could identify the medicinal smell on my body, you should be at a certain range to find me. How come you were there in the Dark Web Organization?"

"That was just a coincidence. It wasn't I who found you there, but you who found me instead. I was already there when you arrived. It's just that I was in another room."

Old Worm shook his head.



However, Rean immediately cut Sister Orb.
'Shut up! Can't you keep your mouth shut for even a moment?!'
[Nope! After all, I don't have a mouth.]
Rean almost fainted. That's not what he meant at all!
[Ahem so, where did I stop? Oh, right! Let's now talk about how Rean impregnated a princess of the Empire.]
Even the ice block Roan showed some surprise when he heard that.
'Impregnated a princess?'
Rean was almost crying already.
'You're doing it on purpose!'
[Obviously! Now shut up and let me continue.]
Death and me
Chapter 402: Wasn't Part of the Plan!
After Sister Orb told the story in the worst way possible, Rean finally got some time to focus on the formations in front of him. In any case, Roan just nodded in the end. After all, he knew Sister Orb's personality.
'Alright, we'll talk about it later. Make sure to resolve this thing with that Qia girl.'

Roan said after hearing everything.

Time passed as Rean and Roan did their own things. At some point, Droman closed one of the books on the table they were using before saying to Rean.

"Alright. That concludes the parts you should focus on for the next few hours. Let's take another break. Take this chance and see if you can talk with that girl as well. You said that she usually takes breaks at this time, right?"

Rean sighed but nodded in the end. He had put this issue at the back of his mind while he was studying with Droman. However, he couldn't postpone it for too long.

"Alright, I'm going there now."

Rean got up and returned to the tea shop from before. However, he was quickly stopped by Milo and the others on the way there.

"Ah! Rean! Was that true? Did you really impregnate Qia? For real?"

Rean shook his head vigorously.

"Of course not! Stop spreading these rumors. There is no such thing as a child! I, your grandfather, am a virgin!"

They couldn't help but think.

'Is that something you should be this proud about?'

"Ahem... So there is no child, huh? Does it mean that you are not really getting married? First of all, are you two in a relationship for real?"

"Idiot, is that even a question? Would you kiss someone in front of everyone else if you were not in a relationship?"
"This"
"Milo's right. But Why did you say that Qia might even be pregnant now, then?"
Rean didn't know what to say.
"Cough, cough Well, that was just a joke both of us were playing. Sure enough, look at all of you. You guys fell for it way too easily."
The others felt that something wasn't right with what Rean was telling them. Would someone really try such a joke by using a princess? First of all, would a princess like Qia accept participating in such a prank?
Everyone looked intently at Rean. If looks could kill, Rean would have been dead many times over already.
"Suspicious"
"Very suspicious"
"You are definitely hiding something from us, aren't you?"
Rean scratched the back of his head helplessly.
Sule, another young Formations Master that was going to participate in the exam, asked.
"Alright. Let's assume that there is no such thing as a kid then. However, are you two really not a thing? I still feel like there is something between the two of you."

"This"
Rean didn't know how to answer that either. After all, he hasn't talked with her yet. In the end, he simply smiled before saying.
"Well, you will know the answer to that question real soon. It just so happens that I'm going to talk with Qia now. Anyway, see ya!"
Rean then hastened his steps so that he could arrive at the tea shop faster. Sure enough, he immediately spotted Qia at the same table as before. It was just that she was surrounded by quite a few female cultivators as well. As soon as she saw Rean, she smiled at him.
"Sorry, girls. I can't give you an answer now. You will know more about it in the future."
Qia then quickly grabbed Rean's hand before pulling him away, leaving everyone behind. Naturally, that only made people more certain about their relation.
After they got to a private space, Rean asked her what all of that was about.
"Oh, the girls came to me after hearing that I got engaged. After all, the conversation between our masters was seen by many other Formations Masters in the repository."
Rean nodded.
"Well, women love this kind of talk, after all."
Qia didn't even try to deny it.
"Hahaha! That's true. Those girls looked more like hungry wolves who felt the smell of blood. Not to mention that this is the territory of the Formations Guild, so they didn't need to be afraid of being disrespectful due to my status as a princess. Well, it's not like I'm any better."

Rean couldn't help but laugh a little.
"No wonder you could do such a thing as suddenly say that I'm your boyfriend. You quite like to act freely, don't you? Oh! Could it be that you wanted to come to the Formations Guild because you didn't like all that traditional treatment?"
Qia was taken aback for a second.
"Errr I won't deny that it was part of the reason. However, I do really love Formations, okay? It's just that the fact that the side occupations guilds' territories are like this helped make up my mind in becoming a Formations Master."
Rean smiled.
"That's good, then."
Seeing that the mood improved a little, Rean finally decided to talk about why he had come.
"Alright, let's go back to the main topic, shall we?"
Qia took a deep breath in response.
"Yes."
Rean then started first.
"You know very well what I want, information so that my sect can be ready in case a war starts or a new emperor goes up to the throne. I know that the main reason for your Imperial Family to like the

Communication System so much is how good it would be if a war really starts. If we really marry, I will

definitely use this status to pry into the Imperial Family's information."

Qia nodded. She already knew it from the very start. "I know. I also have a proposal for you. As you know, Imperial Family members have very little freedom when it comes to their personal life. Whether it is men or women, we are all expected to live and die for the empire, including political marriages. Gender has no meaning in our family." "I want to confirm something with you. Are you intending to have a family, or do you want to leave me alone if we marry?" Rean was happy to see that they were on the same page. "I intend to leave you alone. If you are afraid of me forcing my way to impregnate you, then you can rest assured. Just the advantages I get from the marriage itself are more than enough. In exchange, you can have your freedom. I don't even mind if you fall in love and start living with the man you like while at it either. You can even start a family with him as far as I'm concerned." Qia was supposed to be happy to hear that. Rean was indeed giving her total and complete freedom to do whatever she wanted. However, she couldn't help but feel angry with that total lack of interest in her. "Do you need to say it like that? I feel like you would rather die than have a family with me." Rean looked at Qia with a puzzled expression as he asked. "Woman, wasn't total freedom what you wanted?" Qia nodded. "It is, but you could put it in a better way. All those details were unnecessary."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response.

"Well, those words are not far from the truth either. That being said, we might as well ignore each other's existence when we don't need to be present together. Of course, your freedom will be limited at the start since I will need your presence when I participate in the Imperial Family's business."

Qia gritted her teeth as she looked at Rean. What does he mean by 'it's not far from the truth?' He already healed her body completely, so she was back to being a beauty both in and out of clothes. He could at least show a little interest, no? As a princess of the Empire, Qia's pride couldn't help but get a little hurt.

Rean didn't notice that as he continued to talk, though.

"But don't worry. Once the issue with the throne succession and the war is over, there will be no need to stay close to each other anymore. People can keep thinking that we are married as much as they want. Both you and I will simply follow our own paths and do whatever we want after that. I simply won't care about what you do at all."

He came from Earth, a modern world where this kind of thing was not a big deal to start with. He simply couldn't care less about what others might think about him since he and Qia would never really be in a real relationship to start with.

However, he soon noticed Qia's dark face as she stared at him.

"Hum? Is there something you didn't like? This should be a pretty good deal between the two of us."

It was at this moment that Rean received a message from Roan.

'Are you not finished yet?'

That sudden question made Rean lose his focus for a moment as he answered Roan.

'I'm almost finished. I should go back s-'

However, that small lack of attention made him fail to notice Qia approaching him.
Pah!
Suddenly, Qia grabbed both of Rean's cheeks, much to his confusion. But just as he was about to ask what she wanted, Qia forced a kiss on him, just like what he did to her back in the Tea Shop!
Rean's eyes opened wide as the girl didn't hold back. As far as he could remember, that wasn't part of the plan.
Death and me
Chapter 403: Information
Only a few seconds later did Qia release Rean before getting away from him.
"This"
Rean's mind was still blank. There was no one around, so why would she do that?
"What's the meaning of this?"
Qia, with a face as red as a tomato, noticed that she had gone too far. It's just that Rean's attitude had really pissed her off. How could he have absolutely no interest in her even after the kiss in the Tea Shop? She couldn't accept that. That's why she forced herself to do that. Of course, she now regretted it very much as she tried to think about an excuse.
"Th-That means I accepted your deal. Since that's the case, we will have to do a marriage ceremony. This ki-ki-kiss was just practice when the kissing part arrives. Yes, that's just it, definitely!"

Rean finally nodded.

"Oh! So that's what it was about..." However, Rean's mouth twitched a second later as he thought. 'Like hell it was! Just practice your head! If that's the case, why are you all red like that? You can't even look at my face correctly!' Roan might have accepted such a lousy excuse due to his denseness, but Rean was different. Still, he didn't say those words out loud. On the surface, he was really accepting that obviously ridiculous excuse. Qia finally turned around and walked away while saying. "An-Anyway, that's it. I'll have to talk with my parents and my Master after this. They will maintain contact with you and Droman later. Oh, right! Since this is a marriage, you will have to bring your parents for the ceremony too." Rean was taken aback. However, he didn't have time to ask more things because Qia dashed away as soon as she said those words. 'This girl... What will I do with her? She didn't seem to have any interest in me a few moments ago, so why did she do it?' Rean pondered a bit before shrugging his shoulders. 'Oh well, whatever. I'll deal with it another time.' Rean could only do that since Roan was already waiting for him back in their room in the Dalamu Residence. With the teleport formations in the city, Rean only took a few minutes to arrive there, though. "Alright, I'm here now."



Roan nodded, and he began to explain. Obviously, Rean was shocked to hear that Old Worm's connections went that deep in the Capital. "Truly... Just who is Old Worm? Well, Mia and Ancestor Zuan probably know something. We can ask them once we go back." Roan shook his head. "Leave it. Something tells me that it would be useless to ask them anyway. As long as Old Worm has nothing against us, then so be it." Rean thought that Roan would be the one most curious about it. "Well... If you say so..." Rean then changed the topic. "Anyway, you also know that Vagro, Calina's Father, was the one who rebelled. It also happened right after she received the information that Calina was attacked in the Profound Abyss. What do we say to Calina?" Roan shook his head. "There's nothing we should say. Make sure you stay quiet so that Calina's training won't be affected." Rean nodded, not finding it too surprising. Although he thought that keeping it a secret was not right, they truly needed her to show results before focusing on something else. Calina seemed to love her parents, so chances were that she would rush back to the Capital if she found out the truth.

"Very well. Nevertheless, Calina will find about it sooner or later. Did the Dark Web Organization know

what happened to Vagro and Calina's mother?"

Roan narrowed his eyes as he threw the Jade Slips to Rean for him to check. Rean then spent some time analyzing the information on them.
"What? How come they disappeared?"
Roan shook his head.
"I have no idea. However, the information says that Vagro encountered the Emperor before the event happened. As to what they talked about, no one knew. I believe it has something to do with the fact that Vagro is married to a woman of the Chrole Empire."
Rean then thought about a possibility.
"Do you think Calina's parents were sent to the Chrole Empire?"
"That's a possibility. I have my doubts whether there was really a rebellion or not. Maybe it was used as an excuse for something else."
"Indeed. If you think about it, the Soul Gem System selected Calina instead of the other princes and princesses. Perhaps this situation with her parents was part of the reason the Soul Gem System chose her. Of course, this is just a possibility."
Roan agreed with Rean.
"In any case, I don't think Calina's parents are dead. That being said, there is no need to alarm the girl just yet."
Rean nodded before changing the topic once again.

"The Jade Slip says that the situation in the Imperial Family isn't that bad yet. It's basically just as we thought after analyzing the Soul Gem System's quest details. However, it seems like we did find something new."

Rean then looked in a particular direction through the window as he continued.

"The Prime Minister, Huan Qelol. He's the one keeping this delicate balance so that an internal war doesn't start."

Surprisingly, the Prime Minister of the Empire wasn't anyone from the Sasamil Family or the Subordinate Clans. Instead, it was a man who came from a middle-class country. From the information available about Huan Qelol, they found out that he controls an immense power inside the court, only losing to the Emperor himself.

All the princes and princesses did their best to curry up Huan's favor on their side. However, he was keeping a neutral position so far. His neutral position wasn't only about who he would support to be the next Emperor or Empress. He also had no opinions about this war against the Chrole Empire.

None of the princes and princesses wanted to provoke this man. If they did that and he decided to support someone else to the throne, their chances of ascending to the throne would be cut by more than half. At the same time, if they can bring him to their side, their ascending chances would be much higher.

Still, the thing that all princes and princesses valued the most on him was his relation to the Emperor. As long as Huan chose one side, there would be a good chance that the Emperor would hear his opinion. The Emperor still had the largest influence in the court and in the Empire. His cultivation was also unfathomable. Few believed that force would be enough to take the throne from him. However, Huan's words could make everything much faster.

"What do you think? Can we get that guy's support?"

Roan snorted.

"At the moment? Impossible! Calina is far from being a good enough material for an empress. Even if she was, why would he side with her? In fact, I believe he will keep his neutrality until the very end. Or at least, until the Emperor makes his move."
Rean narrowed his eyes as he looked at Roan.
"You have said the same thing in the past, but you still haven't told me what move is that?"
Roan nodded.
"That's because I don't know what it is. I only have a few guesses. However, I'm even more sure that the Emperor's move will come with the information about this prime minister."
Rean understood where Roan was coming from.
"Are you telling that the Prime Minister is keeping the balance because the Emperor asked him to do so?"
Roan nodded.
"Exactly. Of course, this is just a possibility. Still, I'm pretty sure I'm right. In fact, I think all the princes and princesses who are fighting for the throne already noticed that as well. Nonetheless, they haven't given up yet. They only had to find a way to convince Huan that their side was right."
Rean narrowed his eyes.
"Now that I think about it, the Emperor hasn't selected a Crown Prince or Princess yet, right?"
Roan confirmed.
Death and me

Chapter 404: Personal Spy "Alright. You said that at the moment, it would be impossible to obtain Huan's support. What do you mean by that? I can't see a way to get his support in the future." Roan shook his head. "That's not what I meant. Huan is just a balance keeper. I might be wrong, but he will only support the one the Emperor says to. The other princes and princesses probably know that as well. The good thing about this information is that we know we have time for sure. Before, we were basing our assumptions on the description of the Soul Gem System quest, after all." Rean nodded. "Okay, let's leave Huan aside for now. The information in the Jade Slips mentioned strange movements in the Chrole Empire. That it probably had something to do with the selection of the next Emperor in our own Empire. The Chrole Imperial Family issued an order that all its countries are prohibited from engaging in a war against each other." "I know. There is no doubt that they're saving their forces and resources. As you know, the Chrole Empire already knew about the general circumstances in Sasamil. They are an Empire located in a harsh environment where it snows almost all the time. Naturally, their total combat power is smaller than Sasamil. They can't allow their forces to keep killing each other before a conclusion happens here." Rean and Roan then kept discussing a few more issues and how to proceed. Finally, they settled almost everything except for one thing. "Okay. That's all for now. Let's focus on the exam a month from now before trying anything else."

Rean shook his head in response.

"One more thing? What's it?"

"There is one more thing I would like to try."

Rean then looked in the jail's direction where Tissan was located. Obviously, Roan noticed that.
"What do you want to do?"
Rean then sighed as he scratched the back of his head.
"We can't really kill the guy, right? If he was some trash like that Nulian Sarsol that you got as a target, I wouldn't care less. But he was just suppressed because of his choices and the problem with his Pure Yin Body. We can't really blame him for holding a grudge against the Sasamil Imperial Family."
Roan narrowed his eyes.
"Just keep him locked there until the day we go away. He was not a target given by the Shadow Reapers, so no one can complain if he suddenly appears again. Whatever Gval thinks about it would be his problem. I doubt he will have the guts to come after me because I fooled him."
Rean shook his head.
"I have a much better use for him. As you know, Qia and I will get this fake marriage, but it will not be as if I can stay in the capital all the time. That being said, it would be good if we could leave behind one more contact to check the situation."
Roan understood what Rean meant.
"And how will you do that exactly? Don't forget that his cultivation issue got him expelled from the Imperial Palace. Also, he's a drag, which makes the Imperial Family hate him even more."
Rean nodded.

"Don't worry. Although the cross-dressing thing is not seen as a good thing, the main reason Tissan got expelled was still his cultivation defect. As long as he can normally cultivate again, he will be able to go back. We can also talk with him that he can't show himself like that for the time being."
Roan couldn't help but ask.
"Can you fix his cultivation defect?"
Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.
"I have an idea. In any case, I want your opinion. Do you think Tissan would do the dirty work for us if I could fix his cultivation?"
Roan pondered a bit as he thought about Tissan's reactions so far. He was pretty sure that the guy hated the Imperial Family, so he most likely wouldn't mind gathering information for them.
"There is a good chance that he would. We would need to check his opinion first, though. As for him reporting it back to the Imperial Family about us, I find it unlikely as long as you can really help him."
Rean's eyes lit up before nodding.
"Very well. Let's go get our personal spy."
Rean then turned to look in Sister Orb's direction before asking.
"Sister Orb, the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm is under your control, right? Do you think you can prevent Yin Energy from entering the jail Space? Also, would you be able to send all the Yang Energy inside instead?"
[Oh! If it was outside, it would be extremely difficult. However, as long as you are inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, this is easy. However, I will have to open a passage to the outside world so I can replenish the Yang Energy that I'll send to you to keep the balance in the Realm.]

Rean didn't mind.
"That's good enough. We have our room outside anyway. Just open a passage there. Also, I will need you to allow Spiritual Energy to circulate inside."
[Alright.]
As Rean and Roan entered the concealment formation, Sister Orb opened a small passage to the outside world. Simultaneously, she separated the Yin Energy around the cage and waited for Rean to ask her to start.
Inside, Tissan had been feeling quite bored. Ever since Rean and Roan left, he had nothing else to do. He tried to cultivate, but it was useless since there was no Spiritual Energy available in the Jail. Not that he thought he would succeed this time anyway.
The door opened as the twins entered with their appearances modified again. Seeing that, Tissan couldn't help but feel a little nervous. After all, they might really have decided to simply take his life. There was nothing he could do in that case either, nor there was much he could offer them. Nonetheless, he tried to keep a cheerful expression.
"Oh! It's the two Masters. Is there anything I can do for you? Remember, my golden hands are always free for use."
Rean shook his head as Roan just stayed on the side to hear.
"Ahem that's not why I came here."
Rean's expression then turned serious as he asked.
"Tissan, right? What if I say I have a way to fix your cultivation defect?"

Tissan's smile immediately froze as his eyes opened wide. However, he quickly came back to normal.
"Sigh There is no need for this Master to play such tricks with me. You probably want something from me, and when you get it, you will fix my cultivation, right? I don't want to sound rude, but you will need to do much better than that. I have tried almost everything that you two might come up with. Believe me, they don't work. Not only that, but I got a lot of side effects too."
Rean shook his head.
"Whether I'm lying or not, you will know in a second. Take off your shirt."
Tissan couldn't help but look weirdly at Rean.
"Young Master I might be even more beautiful than a woman, but I'm still a man nonetheless. Don't be fooled just because women's clothes look marvelous in this god's body. Oh~! Being this beautiful is really such a sin!"
Rean's mouth twitched. Can this guy be any more narcissistic?
"Who the hell is interested in your body? I just need to touch the part of your body closest to your dantian, idiot. Shut up and take your shirt off already!"
"Oh! So that's what it was. Why didn't you say that earlier?"
Tissan then took off his clothes, as Rean mentioned. Usually, Rean would only need to hold someone's hands, and that would be enough. But this time, he wanted to make sure he had full control of what he was going to try.
"Sister Orb, send the Yang Energy and release the Spiritual Energy."
[Alright!]

As Sister Orb did that, Rean took several Rank Three Spirit Stones and put them around. Soon after, he controlled and used all the Spiritual Energy to gather the Light Element. Light Element had the purest Yang energy, so the more he manipulated, the more Yang Energy he would get.

Tissan didn't even try to ask what he was going to do. If they wanted him dead, what would be the point of all this commotion? There was simply no reason for him to resist anything that Rean was doing.

Rean then looked at Tissan before saying.

"Don't try to resist me. Keep your foundation as open as possible."

Tissan nodded before taking a deep breath.

Rean then touched the skin close to Tissan's Dantian before all the Light Element rushed inside like torrents. Immediately, Tissan felt his Dantian inflate like a balloon! He even thought it was going to burst apart. However, such a thing didn't happen. Still, he didn't understand what Rean was trying to do.

It was at this moment that his Spiritual Sense saw something incredible coming out of his Dantian. Strands of energy began to come out of his Dantian. They were frigid to the point where they could freeze water in a second!

Fortunately, they didn't spread around his body. Instead, they were immediately absorbed by Rean's hands. Tissan didn't know, but those strands were made of pure Yin Energy, highly concentrated, in fact.

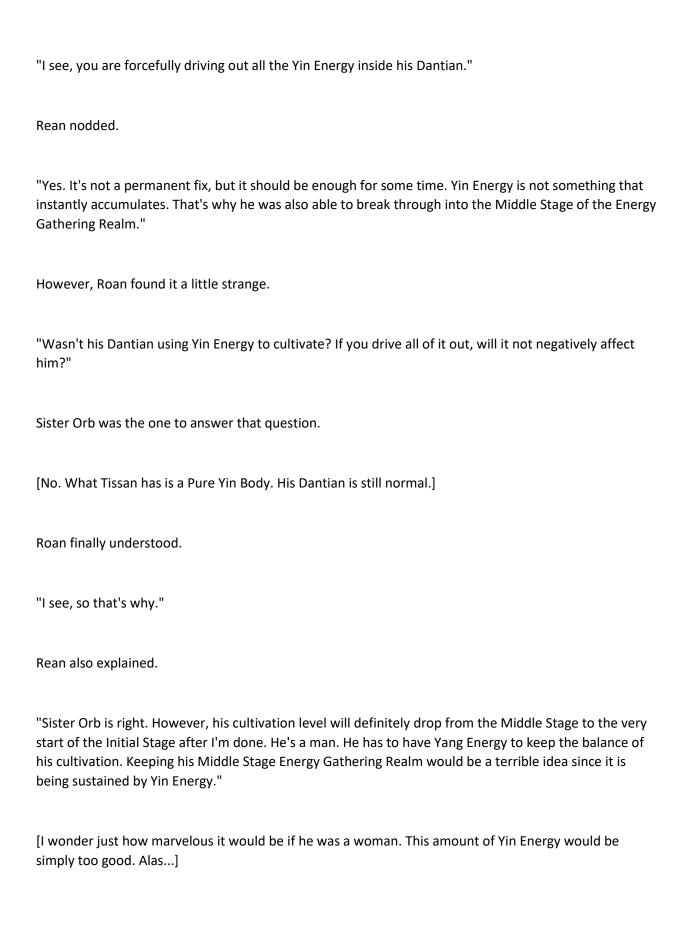
As Rean absorbed that, he nodded.

"As I thought. It is really possible to use mine and the ice block's power to force it out."

Death... and me

Chapter 405: Surpassing Expectations

Suddenly, Roan felt some Yin Energy passing through his and Rean's connection.



Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry, Sister Orb. His Pure Yin Body would not be that bad in the end. Once I fill his Dantian with Yang Energy, the Yin Energy that his body naturally produces will definitely complement it. It won't be as good as a woman with a Pure Yin Body, but he will definitely be above ordinary people."

Roan then said.

"I understand what you are doing. You will seal an enormous amount of Yang Energy in his Dantian so that his own body's Natural Yin Energy will interact with it. Because he has a Pure Yin Body, it will help a lot to keep the Yang Energy sealed there for his own use. Naturally, his cultivation will start to progress smoothly as long as there is still Yang Energy remaining. I guess only you, who can control Light Element that can't damage his Datian, can do it."

"However, what will happen after he uses all the Yang Energy available? It's not like you can stay by his side forever, right?"

Rean laughed before answering.

"Isn't that perfect? We need a loyal spy. As long as he keeps gathering information for us, I will keep providing him with Light Element Yang Energy so that he can cultivate. Otherwise, he will definitely stagnate again. Or could it be that you feel bad for him to be trapped in this situation?"

Roan looked at Rean with some surprise in his eyes.

"I didn't expect that you could come up with such an idea. However, you know me enough to understand that I would definitely use this kind of option. Obviously, I won't complain."

Roan then narrowed his eyes.

"However, a naive idiot like you wouldn't do it on purpose, right? Let me guess, it's just a coincidence that it ended like this. Otherwise, you would probably heal him completely since you feel pity for the drag."

Rean then looked in the distance as if he hasn't heard anything. "Today is such a nice day, don't you think?" Roan's mouth twitched. What fucking nice day was he talking about? They were inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. There is no such thing as day or night inside here. Of course, all that conversation was made through their soul connection so that Tissan wouldn't hear. Tissan kept paying attention to his cultivation when all of a sudden, he noticed it dropping. "Ah! My cultivation!" Sure enough, his cultivation dropped from the Middle Stage to the Initial Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm. Not only that, it was quickly regressing even more. "Yo-Young Master..." Tissan felt like crying. It took him an eternity to achieve that breakthrough, but it was now gone, just like that. "Shut up, idiot! Just observe as your grandfather here does his work."

Tissan was feeling gloomy. He thought that Rean's method failed, and he was simply finding some excuse. However, if he was already harmless in the Middle Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm, let alone now in the Initial Stage. He could only look as those strands of frigid energy kept coming out as his cultivation dropped even more.

Rean ignored the guy's tears and concentrated on the job. In the end, Rean spent almost two hours doing that. Finally, Rean noticed that he was almost done.

"Great! Now, for the last push..."

Several more Spirit Stones appeared around Rean as he began to frenziedly absorb them. In fact, he was doing that quite poorly, so a lot of the Spiritual Energy was being lost in the process. That's because Rean didn't want to slowly use them correctly. He just wanted as much as possible in a single go.

Puff, puff, puff, puff, puff...

The Spirit Stones then began to turn into dust one after another.

"This is enough."

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

The Third Form began to clean Tissan's body of all the poison left behind by the many different pills and medicines he tried in the past. The Second Form recovered the damage left behind by them, as for the First Form...

"Alright, you better be ready. A show is about to start."

Sister Orb and Roan looked at Tissan, not understanding what Rean meant by that. Tissan's body faintly shone with Light Element, which obviously showed that he was under the effect of First Form of the Life Style.

Tissan also heard Rean's words and didn't quite understand what he meant with that either. However, his confusion only lasted for a few moments. Suddenly, Tissan's body erupted with a ridiculous amount of Spiritual Energy!

"Argh!"

Immediately, Tissan felt like his body was about to explode. However, Rean kept his hand on Tissan's body as he continued to keep the First Form of the Life Style active. Thanks to the Enhancement of his capabilities, Tissan's body was barely holding itself.

It was then that all that Spiritual Energy began to rush into his Dantian like a torrential wave. Not only that, but because of his Pure Yin Body, that Spiritual Energy was full of Yin Energy as well.

Tissan gritted his teeth as he squeezed the words from his mouth.

"Wh-What is ha-happening?"

Rean then explained.

"You have consumed way too many medicines with powerful effects in your life. However, you simply couldn't absorb it at all because of your cultivation defect. Now that your fault is temporarily fixed, your Dantian is taking it all back. It's just that your Dantian had been hungry for way too long, so it's acting just a little bit overboard."

Just a little bit? Tissan felt like he would die any second now. Of course, with Rean there, it didn't really happen. There was another point as well. As mentioned before, all the Spiritual Energy was full of Yin Energy as always, thanks to his Pure Yin Body. Usually, it would be useless since the same situation as the past would repeat itself.

However, Rean already sealed a ridiculously massive amount of Yang Energy inside Tissan's Dantian. His Pure Yin Body was making sure to not let it escape. The moment that Spiritual Energy full of Yin Energy entered his Dantian, the Yin Energy immediately fused with that Yang Energy available. Yin and Yang complement each other. That being said, Tissan's cultivation began to swell like a balloon as well!

First, Tissan went through the entire Energy Gathering Realm Initial Stage!

Boom!
Without even feeling a bottleneck, he broke through Energy Gathering Realm Middle Stage! But that didn't stop there. A few minutes later
Boom!
Another burst of Spiritual Energy came out of Tissan's body. Late Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm achieved!
Even Rean was surprised with the amount of Spiritual Energy present in his body.
'Perhaps this is also a side effect of his Pure Yin Body.'
Rean then asked Tissan.
"As part of the Imperial Family, you definitely received a good cultivation technique. Do you know the part about the breakthrough to Foundation Establishment?"
Tissan nodded his head with some difficulty.
"Good. Keep that in mind since you will probably need it."
Tissan was delighted to hear that. However, the pain quickly reminded him that it wasn't over yet.
Sure enough
Boom!

One more wave of Spiritual Energy and Tissan's cultivation progressed to the Peak Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm. Finally, the thing Rean said happened. Tissan reached the limit of the Energy Gathering Realm. Immediately, Tissan concentrated on his own cultivation technique as he began his breakthrough.

Rean also took a few Spirit Stones out, afraid that Tissan would run out of Energy during the breakthrough.

Tissan quickly formed the pillar of his cultivation as the Spiritual Pool in his dantian dried up. One had to take their hats off to the Imperial Family's techniques. Tissan's breakthrough went really smoothly. Not only that, but he surpassed Rean's expectations by creating a total of Seven Foundation Pillars! That's an impressive number that would rank him between the top of the Imperial Family's geniuses.

Finally, the Spiritual Energy in Tissan's body ran out. But it was still enough to bring Tissan halfway through the Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment.

Thud!

Right after, Tissan fell to the ground as he lost his consciousness. Rean didn't find it strange since his body went through an enormous burden just now.

"Alright. Let Tissan recover on his own. We can talk to him when he wakes up."

Death... and me

Chapter 406: Let Me Hear

Rean returned to the Formations Guild Repository after that since he had already been out for a few hours. There, he found out that Tulia came to talk with Droman about the marriage. Qia had been faster than Rean and told Tulia that she also accepted that. Of course, on the surface, the two just pretended that this was a marriage full of emotions since others were looking at them.

After explaining to Rean what happened, Droman changed to Spiritual Sense Messages.

'So, she accepted this fake marriage, right?'

Rean didn't know if he should say yes or not.
'I'm not sure. Droman, what do you think about this?'
There wasn't really a reason to hide what happened from Droman, so Rean decided to ask his opinion.
'Well She was obviously angry that you disregarded her this much.'
'But I thought that being disregarded was what she exactly wanted. After all, if I don't care, it means she has her freedom, right?'
Droman sighed
'You are too inexperienced. The problem was that you said way too much. In the end, Qia didn't feel like she was getting her freedom because of the agreement. She probably felt like she had her freedom because you didn't show the least bit of interest in her, especially her body. Rean, you are not your brother, so you can at least understand why right?'
Rean scratched his head as he nodded.
'I understand. I hurt Qia's pride as a young and beautiful woman. That's why she did that.'
Droman nodded.
'Correct, but not entirely.'
'What you mean?'
Droman smiled before saying.

'Hahaha! Well, that's quite simple. Even if her pride had been hurt, would a princess really force herself to kiss you just because you didn't 'see' her? I'll be honest, I find it almost impossible. You told me how you played with Luina and Illia to even undress in front of Roan, which made me laugh for almost an

entire day. However, why do you think that hilarious and ridiculous plan worked out?'

Rean was Droman's direct disciple, so Juvian obviously told him what he saw when the twins left the war zone with the three girls and Kentucky. When Droman asked Rean how he achieved that, Rean laughed out loud and explained. From the very start, Rean and Roan knew that they were being followed, so it was not like what Rean and Malaka did was supposed to be a secret anyway.

Rean then answered Droman's question almost immediately.

'Because the two girls like Ro-'

'...'

'Oh...'

Droman was happy that Rean wasn't as oblivious to this kind of matter as Roan.

'It seems like you understood the reason. I can't tell if Qia is really in deep love with you or if this is just a start. But one thing is certain, there is definitely some feeling behind her actions. Otherwise, she would definitely not have gone that far only because you hurt her pride. At most, she would have argued or started a fight with you.'

Rean sighed as he began to ponder.

'What do I do now? I really don't have an interest in starting a relationship. She is a beautiful girl. However...'

Rean didn't say that, but he still felt like she was way too young for him. It isn't easy to wipe out one's mentality after living 31 years in another world. People saw the huge disparity in ages as a bad thing for

couples in Rean's previous life. Although Rean didn't care about anything due to his soul problem, it didn't change the fact that he knew about it. Droman didn't know what Rean was thinking. 'Well, it's still not late. You said that you pretended to accept that 'marriage ceremony training' excuse, right? Just treat her as if nothing had happened since she was the one who came up with that justification. Make sure to not say things that could hurt her pride again. Perhaps her feelings will die out before it grows into something more serious.' Rean couldn't help but feel grateful to Droman. Even though his two lives together put him above the age of 40, Droman has lived several times more than that amount of time. He was obviously much more experienced than Rean. But it was then that Rean thought about something. 'By the way, I've never heard about you having a wife. Are you single, Elder Droman?' Droman was taken aback for a moment before laughing out loud. 'Hahaha! Well, at the moment, I really am.' Rean looked at him with a slightly puzzled gaze, so Droman explained. 'It's nothing hard to understand. You do know that I'm already close to 500 years old, right? It just so happens that my wife passed away of old age a long time ago. Since then, I didn't really feel like looking for another partner. My memories of her are still in my head, so I can't bring myself to do so.' Rean didn't know what to say as he dropped his head a little. He should have thought this much instead of asking. 'Sorry, Elder Droman.'

However
Pah!
Droman slapped Rean's back head.
"What are you all gloomy about? There had been hardships during our married life. However, my dead wife and I were very happy until the day she died, alright?"
Droman then returned his attention to the books on the table before saying.
Rean rubbed the back of his head as he nodded with a smile.
"Alright!"
In Roan's case, he decided to go check the target he should get rid of. The fastest way would be the Dark Web Organization, but that would cost money. Assassins were in this business to make a profit, not lose money. That being said, Roan investigated the guy all by himself. Besides, Rean couldn't always come out. That being said, Roan wanted to learn more about him first.
The reason for his mission to be considered a High-Level one wasn't his own personal power. Instead, it was the protection he put around him. He never walked around without at least a few guards, all of them in the Core Formation Realm, just like him.
As for his home, it had many formations to warn him about intruders. It was quite a common practice between those with many enemies. Rean's Light and Spiritual Energy bending skills wouldn't be enough to escape the formations.

'If I want him dead, his house will be a problem. Unlike Tissan, who didn't expect that anyone would

attack him, this guy knows what to expect.'

'Sister Orb, can you take control over those formations?'

[That won't work. I can only control one formation at a time. If you want me to do something similar, you will need to wait so that I can analyze all of them and gain access. Then I can try to take control of them one by one and turn them off. However, I'm pretty sure he would notice it as soon as possible. Analyzing the formations and knowing to tell what they do is different from controlling them.]

Roan nodded, not minding too much.

'In that case, I'll need to act outside his house.'

Roan pondered for a bit.

[What are you planning to do?]

'The streets are out of the question since there are always many Spiritual Senses spread around, and not just the target's spiritual sense. It will be difficult to avoid people's attention, especially if their cultivations are high. Nightingale's skills have a limit to the power of the Spiritual Sense that can be bent. If we attack in broad daylight, there is bound to be a few of these Spiritual Senses that would see us.'

'That being said, it has to be a closed space with anti-Spiritual Sense formations, just like Tissan's building. His house has too many Alarming Formations, which leaves us with other places.'

[What other places?]

'This guy is obviously the type who likes to flaunt his riches. After all, he's making a fortune by destroying other businesses. I refuse to believe that he only goes to his own house and to the bank. Let's keep following him from a distance.'

Even without Rean, Roan didn't have much difficulty if all he had to do was follow someone from afar. He then spent the next ten days going everywhere Nulian went. Sure enough, Nulian liked to frequent expensive shops and even brothels. Roan just had to find the one with the least amount of security and that Nulian would be sure to visit.

'This shall be the one.'
[A brothel? Why not a shop instead? This place has much more people than those expensive places Nulian liked to visit.]
Roan snorted but didn't explain. After that, he turned around and returned to the Dalamu Residence.
Surprisingly, Rean was also there when he returned.
"Did Droman finally release you for a while?"
Rean nodded.
"Yes, but that's not all. I came back mainly because Tissan finally woke up. So, wanna go inside to check the guy?"
Roan checked the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and confirmed that Tissan had indeed woke up. In the end, they had to put Sister Orb to take care of him during all this time.
"Alright."
Rean and Roan then entered the concealment formation before getting inside the jail. As soon as they came back, Tissan's eyes lit up. However, he didn't move since his body was aching all over.
"So-Sorry, young masters. I really wanted to thank you properly, but I feel like my body will kill me every time I try to move a muscle."
Rean shook his head.

"We don't care about it. We came to talk about what we want from you."
Tissan's expression didn't even change. He knew his recovery wouldn't come for free.
"Let me hear."
Death and me
Chapter 407: Leaving With Tissan
Rean was quite frank with him as he said.
"We won't be able to stay behind forever, so we need someone who can gather information of what is happening in the Imperial Family. Now that I have helped you recover your ability to cultivate, the Imperial Family shouldn't be able to keep you outside."
"However, you will also need to stop this cross-dressing habit of yours for the time being. At least, until the next Emperor or Empress appears. You can't give them other reasons to expel you from the Imperial Palace anymore."
Tissan couldn't help but laugh.
"Hahaha- Ouch!"
"Even laughing makes my body hurt Anyway, that's everything you want? I didn't think you would ask for something so simple. Of course, that would be simple because I can live in the Imperial Palace once again. However, I told you before, my position in there is quite low, so it's not like I might find anything crucial anytime soon."
Rean shook his head.
"That's not a problem. What we really want to know is if the situation inside starts to get out of control. At the moment, it doesn't seem like it will happen, so it's okay. Of course, if you do find something, you can tell us as well. There might even be a bonus in there for you depending on what you find."



Rean shook his head before he began to explain to Tissan what the cultivation defection he had was. Only then did Tissan finally understood where the root of the problem was located.

"I see... So I got a constitution that appears mostly on women, and that is what is blocking my own cultivation path."

Rean confirmed.

"Exactly. I sealed a huge amount of Yang Energy in your Dantian, which the Yin Energy that you absorb will interact and fuse with to achieve balance. That will allow you to cultivate again. In fact, your talent will even be above what it shows in the color talent test since the Pure Yin Body is still a powerful constitution. Of course, don't expect yourself to be considered the same as a Purple Color Talent. It's not that heaven-defying."

Tissan couldn't care less about that.

"Who cares? I would be happy even if I had brown level talent. Well, there is one problem, though. What will happen once you don't need information from me anymore? Will I get stuck again? After all, you intend to come to see me every now and then to give me more Yang Energy, right?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"How would I know? I thought about this solution on the spot. In fact, I didn't even know if it would work or not. It's just that you and I had nothing to lose. Fortunately, it worked. Perhaps after your cultivation gets higher, you can counterattack this side effect of the Pure Yin Body on your own. Anyway, that's what I can do for you at the moment."

Tissan thought about the chances and found it hard to believe that Rean was lying. After all, he had never heard about a man with a Pure Yin Body, only women. It would indeed be hard to believe he knew the solution beforehand. In any case, it is not like he had a chance.

"So... How long will the Yang Energy inside my Dantian last?"

Rean smiled before touching Tissan again. Right after, he began to send Yang Energy inside once more. After all, Tissan had already used a lot of the previous Yang Energy he left to achieve all those breakthroughs. Tissan could feel his Dantian more or less swollen as well. Finally, Rean finished the process.
"I'm not entirely sure, but I believe it should last around half a year. You will need to come to me if you want to recharge it again. Well, as a member of the Imperial Family, I don't think you would have a problem to travel around, right?"
Tissan nodded.
"That is simple. But, how do you want me to pass you the information ahead?"
Rean then threw a bag to Tissan.
"Inside, you have quite a few thought transmission talismans. Just use them to send or the gist of what is happening there."
Tissan took a look at the talismans inside and couldn't help but gasp.
"This They are all very expensive talismans. You guys definitely live quite far from the Capital, no? Otherwise, there wouldn't be a need for such a level of talismans."
Rean nodded since there would be no point in denying that.
Tissan then asked something else.
"Where should I go to have my Dantian recharged with Yang Energy?"
Rean smiled.

"Well, it has already reached this point, so I guess there is no point in hiding anymore."

Rean then canceled his skill, and his appearance went back to normal. Roan did the same as well. Rean had already used his Light Element to heal Tissan, so it wouldn't be hard for Tissan to find information about him. After all, he should be the only Light Element user around at the moment.

Of course, the same way some people use Yin Energy to control Dark Element, others would use Yang Energy to control Light. But then again, they are quite rare as well. So far, Rean hasn't seen a single one.

Besides...

"I'm Rean Larks, a disciple of the Dalamu Sect and the direct disciple of Droman. Every time you want to recharge your Yang Energy, come to Jialin Country in disguise. I know about the deal the Imperial Family has with the Zafa Bank to help with fake identities, so just use that. Go to a city called Majorias and then send me a message. I'll come out to see you."

Tissan quickly recorded all the information. Rean was his only chance to continue cultivating. It doesn't matter how difficult it would be. Tissan will definitely make it happen.

"Very well, as for how to contact you in the Dalamu Sect, I'll find a way myself."

Rean couldn't help but note.

"You seem quite more relaxed with all the methods than I thought."

Tissan laughed once again.

"Once you have the world against you, you will be forced to learn a few tricks to survive. It's that simple."

Rean and Roan nodded. Hardships are truly one of the best ways to quickly making someone grow.

"Now then, let's talk about your cultivation. I think there is no need for me to tell you this, but I'll do it anyway. Your breakthroughs happened way too fast, so your foundation is in a deplorable state at the moment. Let alone cultivating, you won't even be able to control your Spiritual Energy correctly for some time."

"From now on during the next two months, you will not cultivate at all. Also, you better get a few cultivation stabilizing pills meant for your Elemental Affinity since the energy inside your Dantian is too chaotic. I fed you with our own pills before, but they were neutral ones, so they aren't as good."

"Oh, right. Since you have a Pure Yin Body, you most likely have a water affinity, right?"

Tissan nodded. At least in Elemental Affinity, his affinity with Water was a lot higher than others.

"I'll get Water Element Cultivating Stabilizing Pills after this."

"Good. Two months later, you can restart your cultivation. However, make sure you take it slowly."

Tissan shook his head, though.

"That won't be necessary. Our Imperial Alchemists also have pills that can help with recovering a lousy foundation. I won't need to wait two months to recover. I should be able to do it in one. I just can't wait anymore to see everyone's expressions. Hahaha!"

Roan agreed with him.

"That's good. If you want to get more involved with the Imperial Family, you will need to show that you deserve such treatment. In your case, keeping a low-profile will only drag you down. The Imperial Family only cares about results, after all."

The three of them discussed a few more points before they finally finished. Although this was a bet, Rean wasn't very concerned even if Tissan decided to tell the truth to the Imperial Family. After all, he now had a backup plan. He was going to be Qia's husband and had Droman's support. That should be enough.

"Well, time to give you some help with your body."
'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'
A burst of Light Element entered Tissan's body, which quickly began to repair the damage. Suddenly
Pah!
Roan knocked Tissan's head, which immediately made him lose his consciousness.
"Alright, let's go out."
The twins then exited the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and went straight to the building where they

had first taken Tissan away. Because Tissan wasn't present anymore, there were very few guards present. After using Rean's skills, they quickly reached the upper floors and pulled Tissan out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They made him sleep since he didn't know he was in a separate space. It was better to keep it like that. With that done, Rean and Roan made their way out without anyone noticing.

Death... and me

Chapter 408: Avoiding

Although there weren't a lot of guards remaining after what happened to Tissan, it didn't mean everyone was gone. There were still workers who kept the place clean as common guards that were already there before Tissan moved in. After all, this was still a building destined for Imperial Family Members.

One of the maids just so happened to come to clean Tissan's room later that day when all of a sudden, she noticed the guy sleeping on the bed. Sure enough, that was Tissan, who hasn't awakened yet.

"Ah!"

She was scared to death when she saw Tissan since it was believed that he was dead. Immediately she
went out and called the others. Sometime later, Uncle Sam, who had been looking for Tissan all this
while, appeared there in a flash.

"Get out of the way!"

Sam entered the room and saw Tissan lying there. He immediately took the other aside and Tissan's hand before sending a wave of Spiritual Energy inside. At the same time, his Spiritual Sense entered Tissan's body to check if there was any serious injury. However...

"What?! Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment!"

Everyone was surprised to hear that since they knew Tissan's cultivation.

Still, Uncle Sam quickly calmed down as he fed Tissan with a healing pill. The swollen part on Tissan's back head slowly disappeared. Finally, Tissan's eyes moved a little until he finally woke up.

"Ouch, my head!"

Uncle Sam sighed in relief as he looked at Tissan.

"Young Master, you're finally back."

Tissan then noticed Uncle Sam in front of him. Following that, he could tell that he was back in his room.

'Those two guys... I wasn't going to escape, you know? Couldn't they have brought me here normally?'

Of course, Tissan knew that there must have been a trick behind it for them to move his body around without anyone noticing. Obviously, that was something he couldn't know about. That was basically Tissan's tantrum due to his pain.

Uncle Sam then quickly asked.
"What happened? You suddenly disappeared out of nowhere! Where did you go? Also, how did your cultivation suddenly jump to the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment?"
Tissan nodded before changing into a Spiritual Sense message.
'Uncle Sam, there is no need to worry. I left on my own volition. It's just that I wasn't certain if everything would work fine. In any case, everything went well, so I recovered my ability to cultivate.'
Sam was surprised to hear that.
'It's great news that you recovered your capability to cultivate. However, was there really a need to keep it hidden from me? If you had told me, I would have given my full support.'
Tissan shook his head.
'This decision wasn't up to me. But because I had nothing else to lose, I went ahead with the arrangement. Sorry, but I can't tell you about their identities due to the agreement between me and the other part. Nonetheless, you just need to know that they aren't people from outside the Empire.'
Uncle Sam narrowed his eyes. After hearing that, the first thought in his head was that one of the princes or princesses had intervened. However, why would they do such a thing for someone like Tissan?
'No, that's not the point here. It couldn't possibly be something for free. What did they ask you in exchange for fixing your cultivation?'
Tissan shook his head.
'That's a secret too. Anyway, there is no need to worry.'

Tissan then got up before looking at Uncle Sam.
'Ask someone to go underground and destroy all my female clothes. I will not be using them anymore.'
Uncle Sam was shocked! He knew that Tissan considered those clothes as important as his life. Still, he had always asked him to get rid of those things, so he wouldn't complain.
'Very well.'
Uncle Sam quickly passed the orders to his subordinate, who left right after to complete that task. Tissan then went to his wardrobe and took out the Sasamil Imperial Family's robe before putting it on.
"Come, Uncle Sam. It's time for this prodigal son to go back home. Hahaha!"
Uncle Sam's eyes immediately lit up! That's right. With his cultivation capabilities recovered, Tissan had the right to go back to the Imperial Palace again.
"Yes, Young Master. We shall go back now."
Back on Rean's side, he returned to the Formation Repository to continuing his practice with Droman.
As for Roan, he practiced his alchemy skills now that he had some free time. Old Worm would oversee it now and then. However, Old Worm was nowhere to be seen most of the time. Well, Roan knew that Old Worm wasn't simple, so he didn't try to pry into anything. Just like that, a few more days went by in a flash.
[Shouldn't you be trying to kill that Nulian guy?]
Roan shook his head.

'It will be safer if I use Nightingale's help. There are other methods where I could do it on my own, but they wouldn't be as practical.' Rean, who heard that through their soul connection, laughed after that. 'Hahaha! It's useless, Sister Orb. Don't forget, Roan will always use everything to get the best result possible. That includes using my abilities even if he hates me to the bones.' [Well, I guess so.] Roan narrowed his eyes when all of a sudden... *Puff!* The smell of burnt medicine spread in the room he was staying. Sure enough, Rean can make death lose his patience quite easily. 'Instead of talking bullshit, shouldn't you have gotten some free time from Droman already? I've been postponing that trash's death for quite some time while waiting for you.' Rean snorted. 'Why do you think I wasted my time saying those things? I'm already out, idiot. Droman finally agreed to give me some time to rest. However, Droman and I only have another free week to use the repository before our time is over. That being said, I won't be coming out after we finish this job.' Roan nodded as he cleaned his cauldron. He could use the Soul Gem System's cauldron. However, he wanted to be able to concoct even without that. Besides, the alchemy guild's exam definitely wouldn't let him use his own cauldron either for the sake of fairness.

'That's good, then. I'll be waiting for you outside.'

Rean then left the repository and passed through the Guild's Main Branch Hall. He also made sure that he didn't meet Qia anywhere. Ever since he talked about the issue with Qia's feelings with Droman, he had been trying to avoid her as much as possible. That was his way to not feed the girl's feelings beyond that starting point.

"Did you hear? It seems like that trash from the Imperial Family came back."

"Oh! I heard about him. Tissan, right?"

"I heard as well. The Sasamil Imperial Family has many direct and indirect descendants, so it's hard to remember everyone. Still, he caught everyone's attention when he was driven out of the Palace."

"Exactly. It seems like not only Tissan couldn't cultivate at all, he also had some kind of weird habit or whatever. Anyway, why would he come back? He's just asking for a beating by doing so."

"That's the weird thing about it. My uncle works as one of the guards in the Imperial Palace. It seems like the trash's cultivation defect has been fixed. In the few months he was out of the Palace, his cultivation soared. It went from the Middle Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm all the way to the Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment!"

"Wait! He was expelled from the Imperial Palace around half a year ago. How did he cultivate that fast?"

"I don't know, but the Imperial Family couldn't really keep him out anymore now that he has recovered his cultivation ability."

"Hmph! So what? It's just at the Initial Stage of the Foundation Establishment. Tissan is already 24 this year, right? He's far behind everyone in his age. Even Imperial Family Members at the same age with Gray Color Talent would be at least an entire realm above him just using the Imperial Family's resources."

Rean smiled as he heard all of that.

'It seems like Tissan is following the plans well. It would be useless if he didn't show his presence for everyone to see. Hehe... With his Pure Yin Body and the Purest Yang Energy possible provided by me, his cultivation will soar even faster. Not to mention that his own Yin Energy is almost as pure as Roan for the same reason. You are all in for a surprise.'

Finally, Rean stepped out of the Formations' Guild. However, just as he was about to accelerate toward the nearest Teleport Formation, a voice called him from the side.

"Stop right there!"

A chill ran through Rean's back before he bitterly smiled. Sure enough, it was Qia, who he had been doing his best to avoid while pretending that it was all coincidence.

He wanted nothing more than to run straight away. However, it was because he ignored the girl before she took an interest in him. Since she already caught his presence, ignoring her would probably hurt her so-called 'woman's pride' again.

'Act normal, act normal... Pretend that you are only considering the fake marriage thing.'

Rean then looked at Qia with a bright smile.

"Oh! My bride, I haven't seen you in some time. That's a great surprise."

Qia narrowed her eyes as she looked at Rean's expression. She didn't feel even a bit of sincerity there.

"You, come with me."

Death... and me

Chapter 409: Mutual Love

Rean scratched the back of his head as he followed Qia. While they walked, she began to talk through Spiritual Sense Message.



"Well, you are a beauty yourself, so you made me feel a little flustered there."
At the same time, Rean was thinking.
'It is really hard to keep a balance between showing interest in her as a woman while keeping feelings like love out of the picture.'
Qia was taken aback by those words. However, Rean did quite well since that was the reaction she was looking for. She then looked away as she proclaimed.
"O-Of course! I also felt somewhat embarrassed, even though it was just practice. You would need to be a stone to not feel anything"
Qia then glanced at Rean at the corner of her eyes.
"So How was it exactly? I mean, the feelings"
Rean felt like crying. It was so obvious that she wanted something extra other than just what he said. It would be hard to keep a status quo like that.
"Ahem That's quite a difficult topic to comment on, you know?"
Qia didn't care.
"Of course I know! You think it isn't hard for me? Still, it is for the sake of practice for the marriage ceremony. Since I'm making this much effort, you should do the same. So how was it? Did you like it?"
[Hoho~! Now, that's what I call a trap question. Go ahead, show me what you can do!]

'Shut up!'
Saying he didn't would once again hurt the girl's pride. Saying that he liked it would also be bad since it would increase her interest in him. What to do, what to do
'It would be bad if she forced herself over me again if I showed no interest'
"Ahem Of course, I liked it. No man in this empire would not like a beautiful woman's kiss, right? Especially since it was a princess' kiss. That's everyone's dream. That was a great feeling."
Rean tried to make it look as if it was a general response. Still, Qia would get the 'liked' answer that she wanted.
[Hey, that was too sly!]
'Hmph! Don't compare me with the ice block! I know how to think about others' feelings, alright?'
Sure enough, Qia nodded, satisfied.
"Hahaha! Exactly! It seems like you finally understood the treasure you got in your hands."
Rean couldn't help but think that Qia was quite narcissistic. Well, any prince or princess would always think about themselves as someone more important. Still, since she accepted that answer, then that was fine.
'Alright, this should keep our status quo while not offending the girl. Rean, you are just way too good! The ice block would never manage to do such a thing.'
Or so he thought, however
"Si-si-since that's the case Let's pra-practice again!"

"Eh?!"
Rean almost vomited blood. There went the status quo Rean worked so hard to keep.
It turned out that the one who liked it the most was Qia herself. In fact, she had been thinking about it ever since they separated that day. Everything up to this point was so that she could do that again. The best thing was that since Rean was already publicly her fiance, there would be nothing wrong with it.
'It's just for practice. Yes, definitely! I absolutely have no other intention other than practicing.'
Qia kept saying that to herself even though any idiot could tell it was a lie.
As for Rean
[Hahaha! Go, go, go! Show all the passion! Let your bodies talk for you! That's how a romance story should go on! By the way, when can I see the real thing?]
'Can you fucking shut up?!'
Rean then looked at Qia.
"Ahem That's not a good thing to do, right? Others will think that we're showing off."
Rean and Qia were still in front of the Formations Guild Entrance, so others could see the two. In fact, they caught some attention since their engagement news was still fresh. Seeing the new couple, which involved a princess, naturally pulled many eyes towards them.

Only then did Qia notice that Rean was right. She was so focused on the 'practicing' part that she forgot

the environment.

"Anyway, I still have many things to do, so we can practice another time, princess." Rean immediately took that chance to escape, so he turned around and began to make his way out without even waiting for an answer. However, something told Qia that if she let Rean disappear again, it would be almost impossible to catch him again before the exam starts. "Wait!" Rean had a bad feeling and was just about to rush out when suddenly, someone appeared right in front of him! Rean was still in the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. So for him to not see the guy to the point of bumping on him, one could already imagine how much faster than Rean he was. *Bang!* Rean hit the man's body and bounced back. As for the man, he didn't even budge. Rean immediately understood that the guy's cultivation was much higher than his own with just this single contact. Rean then finally got up as he looked at the man in front of him. Not only that, but a woman gracefully walked to the man's side as she smiled at him. Right after, Qia arrived by his side, which made Rean afraid that she would try to kiss him again. However, Qia ignored him. Instead, her eyes were glued at the two figures stopped in front of her. "Mom, Dad!" Rean was taken aback by those words. 'Mom, Dad? Then these two are...' Sure enough, they were the Fifth prince's son and daughter-in-law. Also known as Qia's parents!

Rean then quickly bowed as he introduced himself.

"Ahem... Nice to meet you, Sir Nivol, Lady Ariana. I'm Rean Larks. I wanted to go visit you two to make the engagement official, but the Formations Guild Exam took all my time recently."

As much as he wanted to leave, he had to keep the pretense that he wanted to marry Qia. Since he was going to marry Qia, Rean did his homework, so he knew who her parents were. That was also for the sake of entering the Imperial Palace in the future together with her.

Qia's master arrived right after.

"Nivol, Ariana, what do you think? He looks like a nice boy, don't you think?"

Ariana then got close to Rean as she examined him from top to bottom.

"Oh... Very good indeed. Definitely no older than sixteen but already in the Core Formation Realm. Not only that, but he's also a rare element user. I'm puzzled how he could cultivate this fast and keep such a strong foundation since there are no such things as Light Element Cultivation manuals. Still, whatever the reason is, he really did a great job. Besides..."

Ariana then looked at Qia.

"Qia, you really choose quite a cute boy. His snow-white hair and eyes are surprisingly beautiful too. I have to admit, you lucked out to find someone like him. However, mommy didn't know you liked younger boys."

Qia's face went red as a tomato.

"Mom, that's not why I chose him!"

Rean was also quite surprised by the compliments.

"Thank you, Lady Ariana. However, the real lucky one was none other than me. I've never thought Qia would accept my feelings."

Qia couldn't help but feel a little happy when she heard those words. However, she still thought that Rean was saying that for the sake of appearance.
Rean then turned in Nivol's direction. However
Grab!
Nivol suddenly held Rean's shoulder. Following that, he began to squeeze without care. Naturally, Rean immediately felt the pain. Rean then began to sweat as he looked at Nivol, who had quite a dark expression.
'Did I do something for him to hate me that much?'
[Hahaha! Are you that idiotic? Did you forget that the story going around that Qia might be pregnant because of you?]
'Ah!'
Sure enough, that was true.
"Boy. Let's leave the fact that you took my daughter's virginity aside for now. I do feel like cutting you in pieces, but what is done is done, and you accepted the responsibility of marrying her. However, why do I feel like you tried to flee from her just now?"
Rean's sweat turned cold.
'So you do want to cut me in the end'
Ariana nodded as she looked at her daughter.

"Did something happen, Qia?" Qia didn't dare to lie to them as she explained. "I thought we could have a k-k-kiss... But I believe Rean felt somewhat embarrassed to do it in front of everyone. I-I... I was too harsh. I should have thought about the environment. Rean was right to not want to show off in front of others. Sorry, Dad, Mom." Rean sighed in relief. At least her parents wouldn't have the wrong idea. Ariana looked at her daughter with surprise, though. She did know her and how prideful she was. 'For her to ask this boy such a thing by herself, she must like him quite a lot. Sigh... isn't my daughter way too lucky? Even though it's just a political marriage, she still found something that interested her. That's quite rare.' Rean then quickly confirmed. "Exactly. I was just thinking about the Imperial Family's face. After all, I'm just a nobody compared to Qia, who's a princess." Still, Nivol didn't let it go. "And do you think that rejecting my daughter's request will be good to the Imperial Family's face? That's a good opportunity. You got engaged, so no one has any right to say anything about your mutual love.

Go ahead and kiss her. Or could it be that you don't want to?"

Rean and Qia were taken aback. Neither side thought Nivol would make such a request.

Death... and me

Chapter 410: Meeting the Parents

In the end, Rean understood what Nivol really wanted.

'He's not just doing it for his daughter. He also wants a visual confirmation of our relationship.'

Surprisingly, Rean was right. Nivol heard that they had kissed in front of others before and that Tulia arranged this marriage with Droman. Nevertheless, Nivol wanted to make sure it really happened and that as many people as possible could see it. For Nivol, the Imperial Family's interest comes first. The fact that his daughter seemed to have some feelings for Rean was just a bonus.

However, that was more than enough for Rean. He began to walk in Qia's direction while sending her a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Your father wants to show others that this engagement is real. It's not gonna be anything genuine, so let's get over with it.'

Sure enough, Rean found an excuse where he could go through this without giving Qia any unnecessary hopes.

Qia was taken aback when she heard that. However, she didn't have time to think about it before Rean grabbed her waist once again. And just like before, the same scene where Rean stole a kiss from Qia happened in front of everyone.

"Wow! Now that's what I call attitude!"

"Well, who wouldn't let the chance to kiss a princess pass when even her parents are consenting? Unless you're in a relationship already, such a thing would be impossible."

"Look at Princess Qia, she's so red! Her normal demeanor completely disappeared in that guy's arms."

"I'm so jealous. Why can't I find a man like that?"

"Hey, I'm right here for you."

"Go to hell!"

Qia didn't hear anything. On top of that, she didn't try to shy away from Rean this time. First, she didn't feel like she wanted to. Second, her father said that he wanted to see it, so she had to follow his wishes... Alright, it was mostly because she was craving for it. Her father's wishes just so happened to align with her own feelings. Not that she would admit it, of course.

Rean finally released her while saying with a smile.

"Sorry for making you do such a thing in this place, princess. But know that whether your father asked for it or not, I've also been thinking about it for a long time. Forgive this little one for his wishful needs."

There was quite an uproar when Rean said those words. Ariana and Nivol also nodded to his words, quite satisfied. That's what they exactly wanted to confirm. However, Qia felt like a bucket of cold water had suddenly dropped on her head.

'That's not it... There were no feelings behind his actions at all.'

Qia had talked with Rean in private a few times already. She knew that he wasn't really the type of person who would like to say those words. Soon after, she remembered Rean's Spiritual Sense message, telling her that their actions wouldn't be genuine to start with. Add in the problem that she was also in a dilemma. She simply didn't want to admit that she had feelings for him.

As Qia got lost in her thoughts, Nivol came forward and patted Rean on the shoulder.

"I can see that you know what she wants. Don't worry. This will also be a good thing for you and your Dalamu Sect."

Rean smiled back and nodded.

"This little one knows that. Besides, it was my luck that Princess Qia accepted my feelings. I will definitely not regret it."

Ariana, on the other hand, noticed that his daughter wasn't paying attention to anything. "Qia, is something wrong?" Qia was taken aback for a moment, but she immediately shook her head. "Eh? No... There is nothing wrong. I'm happy that we are this close to each other as well. I was afraid that Mom and Dad wouldn't like him, but it seems like it was an unnecessary thought." Ariana narrowed her eyes. She could tell that something wasn't right about the way her daughter was acting. However, this wasn't the place to talk about it. As for Nivol, he simply turned around before announcing. "Everyone, my Sasamil Imperial Family and the Dalamu Sect will be conducting this marriage after the Formations Guild Exam is over. My father, the Fifth Prince, will also be present during that day. He already received the news and wanted to tell everyone that he was delighted that his granddaughter found her own partner. He will be attending the marriage as well. Everyone is invited to the ceremony that will take place in the Imperial Palace." As soon as the Fifth Prince was mentioned, everyone went in an uproar. The Fifth Prince had a revered status in the Sasamil Empire, so anything involving him would attract a lot of attention. Nivol then continued.

Rean was taken aback by that news. However, he immediately understood that it was an obvious move. The marriage was obviously happening because they thought Droman created the Communication

"We will be announcing the time when we get in contact with little Rean's parents. I already sent people

to go bring them here so that we can discuss their futures. Rean's master, Droman, who's also the creator of the Communication System, will attend the marriage. I'm looking forward to everyone's

presence."

System. And Rean just so happened to be his only direct disciple. However, in the end, Droman wasn't his parent. Naturally, Tuen and Harmalia had to attend the ceremony as well.

'Well, even though the situation made that happen, I'm happy that I'll be able to see them so soon. Even the Ice Block melts a little when they're close. I wonder what they'll think when they find out.'

'Fortunately, they know that Roan and I always say that we are two years older than what we really are. It's not like someone will ask our ages to my parents, but at least they know what they should say. Well, I'm pretty sure that Alanda or Jury will accompany them as tribe representatives, so it will give an extra layer of protection when questions come out.'

Rean then talked with Nivol and Ariana for some time. All the time, he kept his smile while flattering their daughter, much to Nivol's satisfaction. Still, Qia couldn't wrap her head around it. She knew that it was all a ruse. Nonetheless, she couldn't help but feel sad deep down as Rean kept going on with it. At the same time, she couldn't complain with Rean either since that's what they had decided beforehand.

'This is my freedom pass, idiot! I should be happy. Happy!'

Sometime later, Rean finally ended his conversation with Ariana and Nivol.

"Alright, Senior Nivol and Ariana. My master only gave me so much time to take a break. I have some things to do in the Inner City, so I need to take my leave before he calls me back. Nonetheless, it was an honor to finally meet the two people who created the divine existence that is your daughter."

Nivol laughed out loud.

"Hahaha! You aren't wrong. There are no parents in this world who don't think about their kids as divine gifts. Very well, I'll let you go now and won't bother you anymore until the Formations Guild Exam is done."

Ariana also smiled as she said.

"It was good to meet you, Rean. But you better remember. It will be your duty to make Qia happy. If you fail, don't blame this woman for going south if you do."
Rean nodded, not minding it at all.
"Don't worry, such a thing will not happen."
After that, Rean turned around and finally succeeded in leaving the Formations Guild Hall.
'Phew I'm finally over with all of that.'
Roan then said through their Soul Connection.
'As long as you keep the marriage intact, it will be a good result. By the way, the target already went to the brothel I mentioned to you. Don't come to the Dalamu Sect's residence anymore, we can meet near that place. Make sure you change your appearance before coming.'
Rean nodded.
'Alright.'
Back on Qia's side, her father looked at her before saying.
"You did well. This marriage will be a great boost for your grandfather in the fight for the throne. Having the direct disciple of Droman is the same as having the man itself."
Qia nodded.
"Yes, father."

Nivol then patted her head.
"This is how our Imperial Family works. It was the same for your mother and me. If you find any problems, come see me. I need to go back to the palace now."
Nivol then looked at Ariana.
"Are you coming as well?"
Ariana shook her head.
"No. There is something I want to talk about with Qia. You know, women related stuff. You can go ahead and return first."
Nivol nodded, not finding it weird at all.
"Very well. However, it's already night time, so be careful. You know the actual situation."
Ariana agreed with him.
"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."
Nivol then kissed his daughter's forehead before turning around and leaving with his guards.
Seeing that her father left, Qia asked her mother.
"Mom, what is it that you want to talk about?"
Ariana shook her head before grabbing her hand.