

Death 501

Death... and me

Chapter 501: Going Out

Well, they didn't really know if that was her real name or not. However, mentioning her without even using a name was annoying to them, so they gave her one. After that, Rean simply got the two girls to look after the baby every now and then. Since the cave rooms were protected against Spiritual Senses, Rean wasn't afraid of Wano seeing Calina or Malaka disappearing in midair.

With Sister Orb's help, they became quite attached to the kid. Surprisingly, Rean and Roan didn't mind it. After all, that meant less work for themselves. Well, Roan rarely ever did anything for the baby to start with.

'Sana's sleeping right now. She was just a newborn baby when I found her, so she still sleeps a lot.'

Calina nodded. It's just that she was worried about something else.

'What is it?'

Calina then looked at Rean and couldn't help but ask.

'Things are still fine since she's only several months old. But what if we end up staying with her for several years? Are you going to keep her inside the Dimensional Realm forever? Isn't that bad?'

Rean pondered for a bit and shook his head.

'There isn't much we can do about it. After all, we can't have her come out in a place like this. I guess she will have to grow up in the Dimensional Realm for now.'

Calina then added.

'That's not the only problem. She'll eventually start forming permanent memories. What will you do when you bring her out when she's old enough? Will you ask her to keep the Dimensional Realm a secret? I don't think it's that easy.'

Rean had to admit that Calina was right.

'So, what should we do? Just bring her out when she reaches two years old or more? Well, if we do that, she won't remember the Dimensional Realm.'

Calina nodded as she replied.

'In fact, I think we should do it right now before she really starts to understand anything at all. Let's separate for a bit and then come back with her in our hands later. We can simply say we went to the closest city and found her by coincidence.'

After pondering for a bit, Rean shook his head as he spoke his mind.

'No, that won't do. There are several flaws to this plan. First of all, we are discussing the matter of keeping her out of the Dimensional Realm forever. That means we will need to take care of the girl while we head out for training, just like what we're doing now.'

'Second, I don't think Wano would believe it that easily. It would be a different story if he wasn't here, but that's not the case.'

'Third, she would be a big burden when we go into battle. Your idea is to keep her outside so that she won't remember the Dimensional Realm. But if things go south, we can only do that anyway. That would only make things more annoying.'

'In the end, we should just let her grow in the Dimensional Realm for now. She has us and Sister Orb to entertain her. After we leave the natural formation, we can find a place to leave her behind. My Varen Tribe would be a good place.'

Calina couldn't help but ask.

'Would you just leave her like that after so many years?'

Rean nodded without even thinking.

'I would. Don't get carried away, Calina. You should know very well what kind of future is ahead of us. We can't possibly carry a kid around. I saved her, which is already the most of what I can do.'

Roan then intervened.

'Rean's right.'

Rean and Calina's conversation wasn't exactly private. Because that decision affected everyone, they also allowed Sister Orb, Malaka, and Roan to listen in.

'We can't stay with her forever, nor would I allow it. We will need to leave her somewhere else at some point. It is better for you all to not get attached to her too much. As for her knowledge about the Dimensional Realm, that's not an issue. We can simply tell her that we had to move out to a new home or whatever. Even if someone asks us, we can simply deny everything. First of all, who would really believe in the existence of the Dimensional Realm? Remember, she's only staying there temporarily. That's all.'

Malaka couldn't help but feel a bit sad about that.

'Ain't that a bit cruel? We might end up living with her for several years. Then you're telling me that we will simply leave her somewhere and vanish like that? I don't like it.'

Roan's expression went dark as he said.

'You're not her parents, idiots. I will not hear any other complaints. Once we find a place for her to stay, she will leave. If you want, you can go back there to visit her some other time or whatever. This decision is final.'

Although Rean thought that Roan's words were harsher than his, he sided with the ice block this time.

'I agree with Roan. It's not good to have Sana follow us. For her own future, she needs a safe place to stay.'

Calina and Malaka nodded. As much as they didn't want it, they eventually thought that it was for the best.

Roan was already outside, waiting with Wano.

Unlike Rean's group, Wano only had himself to take care of his cultivation. Unexpectedly, he didn't seem to care about that. Every now and then, he would go out and come back with a few injuries. It was obvious that he was carrying a training regimen of his own. There was even a time where he went missing for two days. When he came back, he brought several clothes with him. It turned out that he had gone to the closest city to take a look.

Thanks to that, Roan understood that the Lakure Race members had retreated after wiping out the people in the cities. It looked like most of their experts were in the valley, protecting it.

Nevertheless, this is the first time Wano was going out with everyone to train. After all, Rean's group had been entirely focused on cultivation so far.

"Oh! Congratulations, Illia. You're finally in the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm."

Calina, whose alias was Illia, smiled at Wano.

"I can feel that your cultivation has improved quite a little as well. It seems like it won't be long before you reach the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm."

Wano laughed in response.

"Hahaha! That's quite good to hear. Unfortunately, it won't be that easy. The higher the realm, the longer it takes. Anyway, I'm looking forward to what you can show me today."

Roan nodded.

"It's good that you understand. Indeed. I don't want you to intervene unless it's extremely necessary. Of course, you can go out and fight the other Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemies if you want to."

Wano agreed with Roan as he replied.

"That won't be a problem. You're planning to take one of the Red Crystals for Kentucky, right?"

Wano then looked at the slumbering bird on the side of the cave.

Roan didn't deny that.

"Our demon beast is quite good, so it's a good idea to help it improve its strength."

"Indeed. I'm even more curious about what kind of race it is. Well, then. Shall we depart?"

Everyone nodded in response. Rean then woke Kentucky up before they departed.

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Chapter 502: First Attack

While they made their way to the intended destination, a question popped up in Wano's mind as he didn't understand how their group would resolve it.

"Aren't you afraid of being caught by an enemy at the Nascent Soul Realm? They do have many of those red crystals, that's true. However, they seem to be pretty important to the Lakure Race cultivators. It wouldn't be surprising if they had a few of their high-level cultivators guarding them."

Roan shook his head as he replied.

"Don't worry, we have a way to find out if one of them appears. If that happens, we can retreat straight away."

"What?!"

Wano was taken aback.

"How can you find that out?"

Roan faintly smiled but didn't answer. Obviously, it was Rean's Hidden Radar skill. Contrary to how the cultivation world worked, Rean can feel the other party's Spiritual Sense. It became more potent the higher their cultivation level was. A Nascent Soul's Spiritual Sense might be impossible for Wano and others at his level or below to feel. But for Rean, that would shine like a bright sun.

That's how they were going to select their targets. A Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense could cover several kilometers. That would give them enough time to escape if Rean detected them. Of course, that would only work if the Nascent Soul expert was using his Spiritual Sense. If the enemy suddenly decides to not use it, then even Rean won't detect it. However, Rean's group still had the option to escape into the Dimensional Realm if such a thing happens. Well, the chances of that happening were low since using Spiritual Sense was considered common knowledge.

Because they made their base far away, their group took quite a few hours to arrive. However, the ray of lights in the sky and especially Kentucky's restlessness proved that they were getting close.

Roan then looked at Rean.

"Let's start."

Rean nodded as Light Element quickly gathered around him and Roan. Soon after, the light began to bend around them as Rean's group disappeared in thin air. Rean was the primary user of the skill, but

Roan could use Light Element as well. With the two working together, they could cover more than just themselves in that camouflage skill. Of course, Spiritual Sense would also be bent around them now.

Calina and Malaka were already used to that. However, Wano was really shocked by what he saw. He was the last to be enveloped in the skill, so he saw how everyone simply disappeared in front of him before he was also dragged inside. Only inside Rean's skill could he see their group's presence.

"Impressive! However, what will you do about Spiritual Sense?"

Rean smiled before saying.

"Sight is far from being the only thing my skill can conceal. Don't look down on Light Element users."

Roan ignored Wano's surprise.

"Let's go."

Their group quickly moved in the direction of the Red Crystal while Rean made sure to pay attention to the bending of Spiritual Sense. Eventually, they found the first one.

"There is at least one Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator guarding the crystal. I can feel his Spiritual Sense."

Roan, Calina, and Malaka nodded as they continued to move forward. Wano became more and more surprised since he couldn't feel anything at all. Well, that made sense. At Wano's cultivation level, he should feel other Core and Soul Fusion cultivators' Spiritual Senses. But because Rean was bending it around them, it wasn't touching his body. Naturally, he couldn't feel it.

After some time, they saw another one of those open fields where the crystal was placed. Sure enough, the Red Crystal continued to absorb the earth's energy while sending it to the valley. From afar, Rean's group began to move slower and slower since nothing could aid the camouflage.

Wano then put those thoughts on the back of his mind as he prepared for the battle. Rean's group wasn't the only one who wanted to use the Lakure Race for training, after all.

"The guy with the red robe should be the Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemy, right?"

Rean looked at Wano with a surprised expression, asking.

"You can tell?"

Wano smiled in response as he replied.

"It's just experience. However, you should pay attention to that woman on the left side of their group. I think she's hiding more under her plain facade."

Rean narrowed his eyes. At the moment, all he could tell was that the woman was not using Spiritual Sense, so he couldn't judge her level.

Roan then looked at the woman before asking Rean.

"Can you tell their levels?"

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

"Not all of them are using Spiritual Sense. But from those who are, I can tell that we have one Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator there at least. It's the same one Wano mentioned. As for Core Formation cultivators, there are at least nine of them. However, the ones not using Spiritual Sense might be at that level as well. The rest seem to be weaklings at Foundation Establishment or below. Their job is obviously to keep the Red Crystal working, so they shouldn't be a problem."

Roan nodded.

"We have the element of surprise. Here's the plan..."

Roan then used his Spiritual Sense and told everyone's job as they crept closer.

"This is the limit. We have too many of us inside my Light and Spiritual Bending skill. If we get closer, they might notice. Everyone, get ready."

Wano immediately assumed an attack stance. Rean, Roan, and Malaka soon did the same thing. As for Calina, she stayed behind them, ready to give support. Of course, Kentucky was ready to take flight. Without any need for words, they attacked!

Roan's sword gathered Dark and Light Element as he shot forward.

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

Rean, on the other hand, tried something new. Light and Fire Element converged around his sword as he followed Roan.

'Life Fire, Flame Emperor Slash!'

He came up with this technique after reading Zuan's Yang Energy Techniques, which he obtained in the last war. Zuan's primary affinity was fire, so his cultivation technique skills were really good for it. Once Rean fused it with his Light Element, he created a White Fire much stronger than the combination of Wind and Fire Element. The fire consumed Rean's Yang Energy and Light Element as it burned stronger than any other Fire Element user at his level.

'Flow of the Dragon Staff!'

'Glacial Icicles!'

Calina and Malaka had gone out on missions together for many years now, so they could work better together than they could with Rean and Roan. Malaka ran forward as many icicles shot out like bullets by her sides. However, Malaka didn't seem to mind. She totally trusted Calina's ability to support her.

'One Sword!'

Wano was the fastest one, though. With his cultivation, it was simply difficult for anyone in Rean's group to beat him. However, he did not head for the Core and Soul Fusion guy. Instead, he aimed at the Core Formation Realm enemies. Not only him, but everyone did the same thing.

Roan's plan was simple. They knew that they would always be at a disadvantage in terms of numbers, so they used the element of surprise to their advantage to reduce the enemies' numbers as much as possible.

After some time, the Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemy finally noticed Rean's group.

"Enemy attack!"

However, it was too late. Rean's group was way too close to them when they came out of the Light and Spiritual Sense Bending skill.

Swish, swish, bang, boom!

Ahhhh!

Split and broken corpses flew everywhere as Rean's group swept through the enemies' ranks. In a single wave, four Core Formation Realm cultivators died before they could even react.

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Chapter 503: Incarnation

"Courting death!"

The leader of this group immediately shot forward, aiming his attack at the twins.

'Splitting Wind!'

Wind Element and Spiritual Energy gathered in an instant before wind blades were shot out at Rean and Roan. With his cultivation, he could definitely kill the twins with that attack. However, Wano wasn't any slower.

'Myriad Flame Blades!'

Wano's sword moved at breakneck speeds, cutting all the wind blades apart. Soon after, he turned in the enemy's direction. Of course, the leader of the group wasn't any slower either. While Wano cut his wind blade, he already prepared his next attack. Wind Element flowed around his body, increasing his speed. At the very next moment, he darted in Wano's direction.

While Wano fought that guy, Rean and Roan didn't waste time and attacked the next Core Formation Realm enemy. However, just as they were about to land a killing blow, the woman Wano told them to be aware of appeared in front of them in a flash.

"Your opponent is me, brats!"

'Dancing Lightning!'

Arcs of lightning came out of the girl's body, aiming at the twins simultaneously. Sure enough, she was in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm as well.

The twins understood that they should go all out, so they didn't hold back.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Four clones immediately appeared around them as quickly as the woman attacked. They quickly dodged the attack and circled around her. Of course, she wouldn't just look at it. If she didn't stop the two, they would definitely kill more of their Core Formation Realm cultivators.

"Do you think I will let you do as you please?"

Lightning Element continued to dance around her as more and more of it spread out, immediately covering several meters around her.

'Rampaging Lightning Impact!'

Kabrum!

Lightning exploded all around her, enveloping the twins and their clones. Without any other choice, Rean and Roan could only retreat. Sure enough, she wouldn't let them get close to the other Core Formation enemies. However, they faintly smiled as they looked at the sky.

Suddenly, the girl opened her eyes wide and immediately looked back. Just now, a meteor covered in black and white flames appeared in her Spiritual Sense, dropping from the skies.

Creeeeeeee!

Malaka and Calina were already fighting the Core Formation enemies and were being pushed back by the number difference. That's why the Core and Soul Fusion Realm woman tried to stop the twins so that the others could get rid of the rest sooner. Once that was done, they could join forces to finish the rest.

She immediately turned around and prepared to attack Kentucky, trying to disrupt his descent. If it continued like that, he would fall right in the middle of her subordinates. She could tell that the power in that attack wasn't something a Core Formation Realm cultivator could stop without preparation.

However, how could the twins let her do that?

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

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

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

The twins and their clones' speed increased as they all used Roan's movement technique. At the same time, they used Stellar Piercer as they shot forward.

The woman noticed six rays of Dark and Light Element coming at her and was taken aback. The twins' speed just now went far above what she thought they could achieve in the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm. If she continued her attack against Kentucky, she would be the one to pay the price. Without any choice, she turned around to defend.

'Devouring Thunder Wall!'

Her lightning arcs changed shape before creating a barrier of pure Lightning Element.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

All six attacks hit it. Because of her quick shift in Spiritual Energy, Rean and Roan could finally tell her cultivation level. She was in the Middle Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Thanks to that, her Devouring Thunder Wall had enough power to stop the twin's attack long enough for her to use her movement skill.

'Divine Lightning Path!'

Her body flashed away from the position she was in before the Stellar Piercers were able to break through her protection.

Unfortunately for her, she now had no time to help her subordinates.

Boom!

Aaargh!

Kentucky's attack blasted three more Core Formation Realm enemies away. In the end, only five remained. It turned out that a few were also at the Core Formation Realm between those there were not using Spiritual Sense, just like Rean had predicted.

Malaka and Calina didn't let the chance slip and immediately counterattacked.

'Tidal Staff Wave!'

'Hydro Blast!'

Malaka immediately used one of Mia's skills as Calina supported her from behind. Kentucky's attack had forced the survivors to defend against his flames, which gave her the necessary opening for the attack.

Bang! Splash!

In the next second, two more Core Formation Realm cultivators were sent flying. It was hard to tell whether they survived or not.

Nevertheless, the rest of them quickly recovered and attacked. Malaka, Calina, and Kentucky focused on the low-level ones first. The remaining ones were all at the Late and Peak Stage of the Core Formation Realm. However, their numbers were around the same.

The woman fighting Rean and Roan gritted her teeth in anger. Even if their side won, their losses would have been terrible. Not to mention that they hadn't even taken down a single one from Rean's group yet. Of course, she couldn't believe the twin's strength when they worked together. She was literally one entire realm above them, but they could fight against her on equal terms. That was ridiculous!

"Now you've done it! Zuo, let's go!"

Zuo was the name of the guy fighting Wano. He immediately understood what she meant.

"Alright!"

Soon after, their red meridians over their bodies began to shine brightly as Spiritual Energy gathered around the two like torrents.

'Lightning Incarnation!'

'Flame Incarnation!'

Their power began to increase at an alarming rate, breaking the limits of what they could do before.

Rean and Roan looked at that and understood that the battle had more or less entered the harder second phase.

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Chapter 504: Changing Targets

Wano didn't seem to mind the change, though. He was using the same strategy as always, pretending to be weaker before landing a finishing blow. The fact that his opponent had suddenly increased his power only meant that he would have to use his full power as well.

However, it was different for Rean and Roan, who were already using all their power. Wano understood that, so he sent them a Spiritual Sense message as he asked.

'Do you need help?'

Rean and Roan shook their heads as they replied.

'No. It would not be considered training if it was easy.'

The woman's body crackled with Lightning. Suddenly, she shot forward like an arrow in Rean's direction!

'Lightning Emperor Strike!'

Rean was taken aback by her speed and immediately tried to defend. However, her attack was faster than his defense, so she hit his body head-on!

Kabrum!

Rean's body was sent flying before it turned into specks of Light and Dark Energy. The woman couldn't help but feel impressed. She could swear that the clone was the real one. She had never left them out of her Spiritual Sense from start to finish and paid attention to the real bodies' positions. She really couldn't tell when they had changed place.

"Doesn't matter. I just have to get rid of all of you."

Her body flashed away as she headed in one of the twins' directions once more.

'Lightning Emperor Strike!'

However, Rean and Roan didn't panic, nor did they try to flee. Instead, they also shot forward in her direction. Just as they were about to clash, the twins also used their skills.

Light and Fire Element gathered around Rean and his clone's swords as they attacked together.

'Life Fire, White Stellar Explosion!'

Roan wasn't any slower. Threads of Spiritual Energy and Dark Element spread out of his body, covering an area several meters around his body. Soon after, Dark Element expanded from the threads.

'Death World!'

That was a skill he came up with after acquiring the Dark World skill back in the Capital's black market. He used his own comprehension of the Dark Element to change it into more than just a sight disturbing skill. Anyone inside his Death World would be slowly corroded by the Dark Element and Yin Energy power. Of course, the thing about obstructing one's sight still worked.

Naturally, Roan didn't stop there and used his own offensive skill to help Rean. His clones did the same thing as well.

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

Sure enough, some of the Lightning Emperor Strike's power was affected by Death World. Right after that, Rean and Roan's attacks clashed against the woman.

Boom!

Her attack had a wide range of effect, so even the several slashes from Roan's attack were barred by that. Rean's attacks were done with pure power in mind, so they carried the strongest destructive power between the twins' offensive.

Both sides were then blasted back by the shockwave of the clash. Neither of them could stop their bodies for several tens of meters.

The woman then looked at Rean and Roan with her eyes open wide.

'Impossible! I'm as strong as a Late Core and Soul Fusion Realm now. Even if they're working together, how can they stop my attack?'

She wasn't the only one. Wano and Zuo even stopped their combat for a second, thanks to that. Although the Death World obstructed their sight, it wasn't the same for Spiritual Energy. They could tell what happened during that moment.

'Where did these boys come from?'

'Hehe. These twins are far more interesting than the demon bird. To think that their combined attack can reach such power. And here I was, thinking that I would need to save their asses.'

Zuo quickly recovered from his dismay before sending the woman a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Pata, the black and white kids aren't the only enemies here!'

Obviously, Pata was the woman's name. As soon as she heard that, her eyes shone. The twins could protect themselves, but they couldn't protect the girls on the other side.

'Divine Lightning Path!'

Her body burst with Lightning once again before she used her movement technique. Sure enough, she shot forward in Calina and Malaka's direction.

Rean and Roan understood what she was trying to do, so they also went after her. However, they needed to join hands to resist Pata's strike. When it came to speed alone, they couldn't surpass her speed.

Wano's eyes narrowed as soon as he saw that.

'Not good. The twins won't make it in time.'

Wano was just about to change target when all of a sudden, he received a Spiritual Sense message from Roan.

'No need. I didn't train the two girls so that they would become cannon fodder.'

Calina and Malaka's Spiritual Sense had been spread all along. They knew that they were the weakest members of the group, so they had always been prepared to be targeted. The moment Pata changed direction, the two already reacted accordingly.

Immediately, the two used their own movement skills to move away from their opponents. The guys attacking then noticed that and tried to pursue them, but Kentucky hardened his feathers and scales before blocking the two. It would only last for a second, but that was enough.

Pata looked at that and snorted.

"Trying to run away? Then, don't blame me for taking the bird down first."

Kentucky was even stronger than the girls, so it wasn't a bad trade-off to get rid of it first before the girls.

Lightning Element came forth as Pata used the moment Kentucky was busy blocking the Core Formation Realm guys to land a decisive blow.

'Wrath of the Thunder God!'

The attack was even stronger than the one she used against the twins. It also used a lot more energy and needed time to charge. However, the distance between her and Kentucky gave her the time necessary to channel that attack.

"Evil beast, die!"

However, it was at that moment that Malaka appeared in front of her.

"What?!"

She was sure that the two girls had retreated just a second ago. How come one of them appeared in front of her right now?

The truth was that Malaka and Calina didn't intend to retreat, to begin with. Since Calina and Malaka were much closer to Kentucky, they obviously came back faster than the enemy. They only moved like that to make Pata lose her focus on them. Sure enough, she focused her full power on Kentucky, which gave the two girls the opening they wanted.

'Death Water Style, Second Form, Spinning Dragon Tails!'

Once again, Malaka used the attack that could use the opponent's power against them. Nevertheless, that strike wasn't something that Malaka could possibly revert on her own, nor did she plan to do it.

'Glacial Armor!'

Calina touched Malaka's back as a powerful wave of cold energy enveloped her body, creating a layer of ice armor around Malaka's body made of Ice and Yin Energy. The armor wouldn't last more than a second or two due to its structure and Calina's cultivation, but that was enough.

Calina and Malaka used all the Spiritual and Yin Energy possible in that single moment. Malaka and Calina's sudden appearance disrupted Pata's attack before it reached full power as well. And with that, the two sides clashed.

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Chapter 505: Finally Over

Bang!

The Wrath of the Thunder God hit the Water Dragon Head's projection on Malaka's staff, immediately bending it with its power. Without the help of Calina's Glacial Armor, Malaka's arm would have been blasted away. Fortunately, the two girls held it by a thread with their full strength.

Crack!

Immediately, they heard Malaka's bones cracking together with the Glacial Armor on her arm. Lightning ran through their bodies, which made both Calina and Malaka cough blood straight away. Nonetheless, they gritted their teeth and ignored the pain as Calina did her best to keep the armor whole.

Eventually, the counterforce made Malaka's staff spin its Water Dragon Tail's projection against Pata's head with every ounce of power from her own strike.

Pata couldn't believe that these girls stopped her Wrath of the Thunder God, much less that they would redirect the strength of her attack back at herself. Of course, she still had a higher cultivation level than Malaka and Calina. That gave her enough time to at least react and protect her head with her own arms.

Bang! Kabrum! Crack!

The sound of bones breaking apart came from Pata's arms as she was blasted away by Malaka's Spinning Dragon Tail. However, Pata completely ignored the pain as anger appeared on her face. She was furious that two Core Formation Realm girls from the outside world caused her such damage.

"I'll kill you!"

However...

"No, you won't."

A chill spread throughout Pata's body as she remembered the two guys behind her. She ignored everything and immediately used her defensive skill before even confirming where the twins were coming from.

'Devouring Thunder Wall!'

Unfortunately, something unbelievable happened. Right below where she landed, a giant sphere of water began to take form. The Thunder Wall was disrupted by the water there, not being able to form in time.

'Water Prison!'

On the other side, Calina's hand extended in Pata's direction as she looked at her with a ghastly pale expression. Even after such a huge blow, Calina didn't stop and prepared the following action.

Roan couldn't help but faintly smile at that sight. That was a lesson he carved into those girls' heads time and time again. Never relax. Always think about what comes next.

The twins wouldn't possibly let this opportune chance slip.

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

'Life Fire, Flame Emperor Slash!'

Pata could only use all her Spiritual Energy to create a barrier around her body before the twins and their clones' strikes hit her. Unfortunately, that was far from enough.

Swish, swish, swish.

Bang! Bang!

Attacked from all sides by the twins' full-strength strikes, not to mention that Rean's swords were being used, how could a simple Spiritual Energy barrier block it? If she was in the Nascent Soul Realm, maybe it would be possible, but that wasn't the case.

Pata's body was mutilated even before Calina's Water Prison finished forming.

However, one must remember that Kentucky couldn't hold all three High-Level Core Formation Realm enemies for more than a second or so. So, the moment Calina finished her attack, two of the guys already got rid of Kentucky's disturbance and attacked Calina while she was unprotected.

'Thunder God Crash!'

'Holy Wind Pierce!'

However, Calina wasn't alone.

'Death Water Style, First Defensive Form, Reversive Arcs!'

Roan's defensive skill then took form through Malaka's hands. However, it wasn't the same. She could use both ends of the staff to create the reversive arcs that Rean and Roan could only do with one blade. There was also the fact that Malaka used only Water Element instead of Light and Dark. It had both its advantages and disadvantages. But at that moment, it was more than enough to protect Calina.

Malaka's body was severely injured by the Lightning Element from Pata, not to mention that one of her arms' bones was broken in several places. That's why neither of the enemies thought that Malaka would be able to recover and defend Calina. However, they underestimated Malaka's perseverance.

"Broken arm? Injured body? This is nothing compared to the ice block's training!"

What the hell was she talking about... or so the two guys thought. Unfortunately, there was nothing they could do about it.

Bang, bang!

Malaka's body was blasted away together with Calina, who was just behind her. The two girls crashed several times on the ground and could barely stand after that. The guys naturally took that chance to kill them once and for all. Unfortunately, it was already too late.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

Roan aimed his Stellar Piercer at the guys while Rean used the Crescent Moon's wide range to force them to retreat.

Clang, clang!

The Lakure Race members could only give up so that they could defend themselves.

On the other side, Zuo saw how everything turned out and felt grievance at the sight of Pata's death. Still, he understood that they couldn't do anything in this situation anymore. Even though those two girls were now out of commission, the twins were much stronger than them. Those Late and Peak Core Formation Realm guys wouldn't be able to hold them. He wanted to help, but even after using his Fire Incarnation, he didn't obtain any advantage against Wano.

Both Fire Incarnation and Lightning Incarnation were skills that increased their power substantially. It looked very much like the Rumbling Core that Rean and Roan saw in the past. Naturally, it consumed a lot of Spiritual Energy as well. If things continued like that, he would also run out of energy. Anyone could imagine what would happen to him after that.

'Retreat!'

Zuo's Spiritual Sense spread forward and reached all the low-level cultivators and the still battling members. The impressive thing was that none of them seemed to be afraid. Instead, they cursed out loud as they followed Zuo's command. If Zuo didn't say anything, they would have fought to the death, but they had to follow orders.

"Don't follow them."

Rean, Kentucky, and Wano nodded. Those were not the only enemies around. They needed to leave straight away before more of them appeared.

Chick!

Crack!

Kentucky immediately pierced the Red Crystal they left behind with his beak before lifting it with his body. Rean and Roan also put the girls on their backs.

"Let's head back."

Wano then went to the front as the twins and Kentucky followed right behind. Their battle was finally over.

Death... and me

Chapter 506: Natural Formation Core's Change

Along the way, Rean used Instant Recovery to heal Malaka and Calina. Although the two girls suffered a lot, it wasn't like they would die even without his help. Of course, if they tried to recover independently, it would take more than just a few minutes. Nothing could beat Rean's Light Element Healing.

After some time, they arrived back at their hidden cave once again.

Calina and Malaka then looked at Roan with expectation.

"What? Do you need something?"

Malaka immediately asked.

"How did we do? I still haven't heard any complaints from you, so it's making me a bit nervous."

Calina nodded vigorously. She also wanted to hear his opinion about that. Wano, who was watching on the side, couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Hahaha! Of course, you did amazingly. Not only did you block a full-strength attack from a Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemy, but you were also even able to hit her back. There's no way this brother here would complain about their achievements, right?"

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that as he said.

"What the hell are you talking about?"

Rean then put his arm over Roan's shoulder before he said anything else.

"Isn't that obvious? We all know they did well. There's no problem in praising them a little bit, you know? Illia, Malaka, you two have really surpassed our expectations. That was a great response to the situation."

Roan's expression darkened before he took Rean's arm away.

"Don't touch me. It's disgusting."

Soon after, he looked at Malaka and Calina. He could obviously tell a few points where they could have done better. However, he also had to admit that they did much better than he expected. He was sure that he taught them enough so that they could at least defend against that last attack. But he didn't expect that they would also be the key to killing that woman. The truth was that Roan was expecting them to defend the first hit before he and Rean arrived. After that, the twins would join hands to fight her.

Eventually, he gave up pointing out the issues for now and began to make his way back to his cave room. On the way, he left a few words behind.

"It wasn't too bad."

Calina's eyes lit up, and she immediately moved in front of him before he could enter his room.

"Do you mean it? Really, really mean it?"

Roan's expression went dark as he asked.

"Do you think I would say something I don't mean?"

Calina completely ignored his cold words and immediately hugged him, much to his surprise.

"Annoying..."

Calina laughed at that, though.

"I don't care. I'm happy that you finally praised me again."

Roan was just about to push her aside when suddenly, she gave him a kiss on the cheek before moving away on her own.

"Thank you."

Wano looked at all of that and couldn't help but ask Malaka and Rean through a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Is this what I think it is? Illia seems pretty straightforward.'

Malaka and Rean nodded.

'It's rather obvious, right? But trust us, the ice block most likely didn't notice anything.'

Wano nodded. He could more or less see that happening.

Calina then turned around and returned to where Malaka was. As for Roan, he simply ignored everything and returned to his room. She was obviously happy.

Rean and Malaka could understand why she was like that. After all, it was a pretty big deal to hear Roan praising them this much. Well, Malaka didn't run over to hug Roan, though.

After that, Rean talked with Sister Orb.

'Isn't Roan being quite nice?'

[Indeed... Since when did ice blocks have emotion? That really opened my eyes... Oh, right, I don't have eyes.]

Sister Orb and Rean didn't try to conceal their mental conversation at all. Naturally, a vein popped out on Roan's head because of that.

'I see. Since Sister Orb has so much time to waste, that means she has already finished analyzing the natural formation and can control it, right? As for Rean, I guess that means he wants me to devise a better set of exercises for his training.'

[Cough, cough... Let's not get ahead of ourselves, okay? I'm just taking a little break, that's all.]

Rean agreed with Sister Orb.

'Same goes for me. I just came back from an intense battle. Naturally, I need to rest as well. Don't worry, the training you devised for me is more than good enough already.'

Roan snorted but didn't say anything else.

Everyone went back to their own cave rooms after that. After all, they needed to spend some time thinking about what they did and recover their energy. Later that day, they came out once again to discuss how things went.

Well, it was more or less Roan telling everyone what they did wrong or not and what they should do to improve their skills. However, Wano also participated and gave quite a few pieces of advice. There were

a few things where only someone with much higher cultivation could point out. Surprisingly, even Roan accepted his words and pondered seriously over them.

Finally, there was Kentucky. The Minokawa drooled over the red crystal. However, Rean and Roan prohibited it from eating the thing. It had way too much energy. They didn't want Kentucky to force all of it into their bodies again, which might destabilize their foundation. They first had to be ready for it. One must remember that they couldn't use most of that energy, which was quite a waste.

Rean then made another formation for him and Roan. This one would be focused on the energy entering their bodies. That would help with the energy they got from the red crystal.

With that, the two allowed Kentucky to eat the crystal. However, he could only eat a third of it each day. That would help the twins refine the energy before taking more of it.

And just like that, another week went by. The Lakure Race didn't take the loss of the red crystal seriously. That was only one of many more they had. A few hours after the twins left the battlefield, another group appeared with another one of those red crystals.

Meanwhile, back in the valley where the natural formation core was located...

Jana had been watching over the valley to prevent anyone from getting close when suddenly, she received a Spiritual Message from Vueni. His tone seemed serious, so she immediately returned to the formation's core.

"What is it? Did something happen?"

Vueni nodded as he replied.

"It seems like the Sasamil Empire has begun to act against us."

Vueni then looked at the formation's core. Jana followed his eyes and looked at the core as well. At first, there didn't seem to be anything strange about the core. However, she soon noticed a few ripples of

energy coming from several points of it. They were very small, but she was sure they weren't there before.

"What's happening here?"

Vueni bitterly smiled before saying.

"They can't surpass the formation's defense, but they can force more energy from it. Simply put, the formation is being attacked from several different points. Although the difference is small, they are indeed forcing us to use more energy."

Jana narrowed her eyes. They were already fighting for time, and now the remaining time was going down faster because of it.

"I need to talk with Ancestor."

Death... and me

Chapter 507: What do you want?

Deep below the red core, the same sealed chamber received a hit now and then. If one looked above it, one would be able to see a lot of energy coming down before being absorbed by it. If Rean's group was here, they would know that this was the same energy that was being absorbed and transmitted by the red crystals.

As for the surroundings, it was a spacious cave with many sealing runes all across its surface. Those runes were also attached to the chains that kept the chamber closed. Every time the chamber's gate was struck from inside, those chains and inscriptions on the wall would light up, preventing the gate from opening.

Suddenly, a figure appeared at the entrance of that cave. She gradually made her way, passing over the chains while making sure not to touch them. Naturally, that figure was Jana.

Eventually, she arrived in front of the sealed chamber as she looked at the gate with a gloomy expression. However, she quickly shook her head and sat down in front of it. Following that, she took

what seemed to be a beautifully crafted red dragon pendant around her neck. She then infused her Spiritual Sense and Energy inside, which made the dragon light up.

The dragon's head then looked at the door before shooting out a ray of red light. At the same time, its claws pierced into Jana's flesh. No, to be more specific, they pierced into a few of Jana's red meridians that ran along the surface of her body. It was as if the little dragon pendant was using Jana's meridians to do all of that.

After some time, Jana's Spiritual Sense seemed to catch someone's presence. That presence was not from outside but inside the dragon pendant instead. Not long after, a voice echoed into her mind.

'Child, what is the problem?'

Jana then explained.

'Ancestor, the Sasamil Empire has begun to act. There are a lot of Saint Realm cultivators attacking the already modified natural formation from every side. They will take a long time to break through the barrier, but they will consume the formation core's energy much faster.'

The Ancestor went silent for a moment before asking.

'How much time do we still have? Also, I doubt so but, has Yulian appeared?'

'At first, we expected to have enough energy to last ten to twelve years. Of course, I'm talking about the accelerated time inside the natural formation. However, our time will be cut by a fifth of that if the forces outside continue their assault nonstop.'

'As for Yulian Sasamil, we don't believe he has appeared yet. It wouldn't make sense either since there aren't many who could identify us. We blocked all contact with the outside world, so I doubt anyone has any idea about our existence.'

The Ancestor nodded before sighing.

'It seems like things are never easy for our Lakure Race. Of the ten to twelve years we've had before, now we have eight to ten and a half. And that's considering that there won't be more experts coming in the future to increase the assault at the natural formation.'

Jana couldn't help but say.

'Don't worry, Ancestor. Even if we have to exchange all our Lakure Race members' lives, we will protect this valley until you break the seal. None of us are afraid to die as long as there is hope of escaping the underground world.'

The Ancestor didn't like those words, though.

'Don't be ridiculous! What will happen if all our experts die from defending this place? The ones who stayed behind will have no one to guide them in the off chance we fail. More important than our freedom is to guarantee that our race will still have a chance at escaping in the future. Don't say things like everyone dying for me anymore.'

'But-'

'This is an order!'

Jana bit her lips in indignation but nodded her head in the end.

'Sorry, Ancestor. I won't say something like that again.'

'That's good. Child, I'm nearing the end of my lifespan, so I decided to use this last chance to try getting out. If I'm able to do that, I will have enough power to negotiate for space under the sun for our race. However, I will most likely die before obtaining enough strength to try something like this again.'

'I estimated that I would need at least ten years to breakthrough these seals. However, we obviously don't have that much time anymore. Thank you for telling me the changes to the outside world, child. It will be quite a burden on this old man's body, but I will increase my pace. Remember, make sure you do everything to stay alive. Our race's blood is the most important thing.'

Jana became teary-eyed as she listened, but she held back and nodded.

'Yes, Ancestor. We will live.'

Jana then stood up and deactivated the dragon pendant's ability. After that, she turned around and left the chamber. However, things didn't go back to normal after that. Instead, an even stronger red light came out of the gaps of the gate before it spread over the entire cave where the chamber was sealed inside. Following that, the Ancestor's voice echoed outside.

"Do you think I didn't notice your Spiritual Sense hidden in the Lakure Dragon Pendant? Stop hiding and come out!"

Doing such a thing while sealed consumed a lot of energy. That definitely wasn't good for the Ancestor of the Lakure Race. Still, he ignored that as his power continued to pour outside.

Suddenly, a yellow light flashed at the corner of the cave before a man came walking out of that. As one could imagine, that man was none other than Old Worm. Only he would be able to infiltrate right into the enemy's base without being noticed.

He then connected his own Spiritual Sense to the red light coming out of the gaps on the chamber's gate.

"As expected. You have been sealed for thousands of years and are nearing the end of your lifespan. Even with that, your senses are still as sharp as ever. No, it's better to say that your senses have become even better than back then. After all, you found me even though you're still partially sealed."

The Ancestor was taken aback by those words. He could totally recognize that voice.

"It's you?! No, that doesn't make sense! How did you find out my location?! Just how did you get here?!"

Old Worm sighed in response as he said.

"You probably won't believe it at all, but it was all sheer coincidence. The moment that natural formation activated, I just so happened to be nearby. Thanks to the invention of a clever kid, I was even able to enter the natural formation before it was modified into something different."

Old Worm continued.

"You know, you were right about one thing. If I wasn't close by when everything started, I most likely wouldn't have cared about it even if I received the report. After all, who would be able to identify you guys if not me or the other old geezers?"

The Ancestor gritted his teeth in anger. However, that anger began to disappear soon after. The Ancestor of the Lakure Race understood that things had now gone south, so he couldn't lose his calm now.

"To think that even luck itself abandoned my Lakure Race. Just what were the chances of you being in a remote place like this just when things started?"

Old Worm nodded.

"I won't deny that. Even I didn't believe it when I noticed who you guys were. Laro, the prince of the Lakure Race who dominated the entire Sukan Planet before we arrived. Tell me, what do you think I should do now?"

Laro was obviously the name of the Ancestor. He went silent for a moment before saying.

"I can trade my life as long as you let my Lakure Race children return to the underground world safely. With your power, you shouldn't have an issue doing so. Am I right, Jakiro?"

Old Worm couldn't help but comment.

"Jakiro... Just how many people still remember that name."

However, he quickly put that aside. His expression returned to the same cold demeanor he always used in front of everyone.

"Anyway, why should I do that? When you and your other friends were still alive, we all fought at the same level. In the end, we couldn't defeat you and had to seal your race so that we could conquer this planet. However, there is only you left. Is there any reason for me to not kill all the Lakure Race experts, getting rid of all future problems?"

Old Worm then continued.

"Your race is strong. Those extra meridians running through your skins are really a pain in the ass as well. If I let things be, there might be a day that someone as strong as you will appear. You can imagine just how annoying it would be to deal with a Lakure Race member filled with indignation, seeking revenge for his race."

"That little girl that was here just a moment ago. Do you think I couldn't tell just how deep her hatred was? It's not just her. Everyone who is in this place at the moment is just like her. Did you know? They wiped out seven cities without showing any mercy. It wasn't just cultivators. The ordinary people, may it be old or new, even newborns, were all killed."

Laro went silent after hearing that. However, he didn't think Old Worm was lying. Although he didn't give such an order, he knew very well how much his race hated to be sealed in the underground world. Simultaneously, the humans walked freely on their ancestral planet under the sun for thousands and thousands of years.

In the end, Laro could only ask.

"What do you want?"

Death... and me

Chapter 508: Shatter the Orb

Old Worm nodded, already expecting that question.

"I won't be a hypocrite. We took over your planet, so you have as much reason to hate the humans who live on the surface now. If I were in your race's shoes, I would probably feel the same. That's one of the reasons why I haven't wiped out your Lakure Race members yet."

Of course, the other reason was that he knew Roan's group was using the time difference in this formation to cultivate. As mentioned before, even he can't do such a thing as a time-accelerating formation. The Lakure Race definitely couldn't either. It was all thanks to the natural formation created by the world itself that it even existed here.

"That being said, I have a proposal for you. However, that will depend on how well you think your control over your race is."

No one knew that Old Worm and Laro talked with each other, nor did they know that Laro and Jakiro had ever met each other. Later that day, the same strikes began to come from inside the chamber where Laro was sealed. As for Old Worm, he was nowhere to be seen. However, there was something different this time. The inscriptions that kept Laro sealed in that chamber had dimmed quite a lot. It was as if several years had passed in a blink of an eye. Laro's job had just become several times easier.

Back where Rean's group was staying, they had finally finished absorbing all the extra energy provided through Kentucky and the red crystal.

"Phew... It was much better this time. I believe we saved at least half a month of cultivation during this last week."

Roan nodded.

"Indeed. We need to take this chance where we can improve Calina's strength drastically while improving our own cultivation. Our Spiritual Pools are much bigger than other cultivators, after all. If we cultivate normally, even Malaka would be faster in making breakthroughs than us."

Rean agreed with him.

"At least this way, we are on the same terms. Of course, the bigger Spiritual Pool is one of the main reasons we can jump so many stages to fight, so it's a good thing."

The two then discussed the topic for a while longer before Rean thought about something else.

"What about buying a few upgrades in the Soul Gem System?"

Sister Orb's interest was immediately piqued.

[I thought you would never ask again. Your Destiny Points have been accumulating for a long time already, you know?]

Roan nodded.

"Obviously. Gathering more Destiny Points is better since we can upgrade more than a single thing at once. That's why we waited all this time before using it. However, the time flow inside this place is at least ten times faster. That means the events outside are happening very slowly for us. There won't be much of a difference even if we wait another ten years inside this place."

[That's good, then. Come inside.]

Rean and Roan then disappeared from their own cave rooms and appeared in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. There, they immediately noticed that Sister Orb, Calina, and Malaka were taking care of Sana.

Malaka noticed that Rean and Roan had arrived there, so she immediately went to greet them.

"Rean, Roan, did you come to see Sana as well?"

Roan narrowed his eyes in response.

"Shouldn't you two be cultivating and pondering about the things we discussed?"

Calina sighed after hearing that.

"We aren't slacking, okay? We just wanted to see how Sana was doing, that's all."

The twins allowed Sister Orb to teleport Calina and Malaka inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm as long as she was sure no one would find out they disappeared. Since Rean had created several anti-Spiritual Sense formations in their cave, that made things very easy for Sister Orb and the two girls. Of course, such a thing was only possible if Rean and Roan were close by, no more than ten or so meters of distance.

Rean shrugged his shoulders after hearing that.

"This is just perfect. Just send Malaka and Calina out with Sana while we take care of our things."

[Alright. Calina, Malaka, I'll send you three out. Be sure to not let Sana fall after you appear in your room.]

Calina and Malaka didn't know what Rean and Roan needed to do, but they didn't ask either. Soon after, Sister Orb controlled the Dimensional Realm's power to send them out with the baby.

[It's done.]

Rean and Roan nodded before touching the Soul Gem Orb. After that, they sent their Spiritual Energy and Sense inside as always. Following that, they accessed the reward list.

[Dragon Bones - 5000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Spiritual Energy Absorption Upgrade Level 3 - 10000 Destiny Points] (15%)

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 3 - 8000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Yin Yang Bathhouse - Reward from Destiny Strugglers Title]

[Soul Connection Range Upgrade level 3 – 20000 Destiny Points] (10000km) (New)

[Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop Upgrade Level 2 - 1000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Alchemy Workshop Upgrade Level 3- 3000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Electrical Formations Repository Upgrade Level 3 - 3000 Destiny Points] (New)

Seeing the rewards available, the twins immediately asked Sister Orb.

"How many Destiny Points do we have now?"

[Let me calculate.]

The Soul Gem Orb shone with Light and Dark Light for a moment before Sister Orb answered.

[It has been over three years since you last used Destiny Points. The Electrical Communication System is still the thing that gives you the majority of the points you have. However, I can already feel that it's beginning to stagnate. It seems like the cap of points available for it is getting close.]

[In any case, you already made another 11781 points since last time. That's mainly due to the acceleration of the communication system's expansion, covering many more cities now. This is already considering any new save point you deployed in the meantime.]

Rean couldn't help but narrow his eyes. That was a lot less than he had expected. After all, the communication system had a lot more time to expand than before.

Sister Orb could tell that Rean was thinking, so she reminded him.

[Don't forget that you two obtained a pretty good bonus from the war back then. This number doesn't have anything to do with that, so it is pretty much within expectations. You can't possibly believe you would get Destiny Points from it forever, right?]

Rean sighed before nodding.

"Alright, then."

Roan looked at the list as he pondered about what to get now.

"If we get Spiritual Energy Absorption Level 3, most of our points will be gone. However, it will be a permanent upgrade."

Rean nodded.

"Indeed. However, we can also take Dragon Bones. It is much cheaper and can also increase our strength by quite a good amount. It's just that it won't increase the speed of our cultivation in the end."

[Both options are good. The difference is that you would get an instant power upgrade or a long-term one. Of course, the long-term one, Spiritual Absorption Upgrade, will help you forever. At some point, it will surpass what you will get from the Dragon Bones. However, this is something that would happen far in the future. However, it's not like your Dragon Bones will disappear. They will still be part of your body and strength in the future as well.]

Rean couldn't help but say.

"I would select Dragon Bones. It's not like we won't get more Destiny Points in the future. Besides, we can use the rest of the points to upgrade something else. Or we can simply keep it for when we complete 10000 again."

Roan nodded in the end. The Spiritual Energy Absorption would take too long to compensate for what the Dragon Bones could do to them right now. With that decided, the two immediately made their purchases.

[Dragon Bones - 5000 Destiny Points]

[Host's Destiny Points - 11781]

[Confirm the Purchase?]

"Yes!"

As soon as they said that, the twins laid down on the ground to wait for the torture. After all, any body part upgrade would always appear out of nowhere, followed by a huge pain that would last very long. However... nothing happened.

"Errrr... Did it fail?"

[No. It just hasn't started yet.]

Rean and Roan became puzzled.

"Why?"

[Dragon Bones are hard to materialize, so the System is gathering energy for it. Oh, it seems the accumulation of energy has finished.]

Suddenly, the twins' bodies began to float out of nowhere, much to their surprise. Soon after, their limbs and legs were stretched to the point that it felt like they were being pulled out by force. Following that, the Soul Gem Orb floated in between the two before it started to release powerful energy into the twins' bodies.

Aaargh!

Sister Orb looked at that and couldn't help but comment.

[Oh! You two look just like Jesus. Wait!]

Suddenly, two crowns made out of thorns appeared on the twins' heads. Well, they weren't real ones, just projections that Sister Orb created with the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm's help.

[That's not quite right. You two don't have long hair. You are also lacking beards.]

Soon, the projection changed as Rean and Roan suddenly grew beards and long hair. Obviously, the colors were black and white. Of course, none of this was real either.

[That's more like it. I'll record it to show Calina and Malaka later. No, wait! Shit! They don't know who Jesus is. How boring...]

[Well, it should still be fun to keep it.]

The twins' expressions contorted between anger and pain. It was hard to say which feeling was stronger at the moment. They mentally swore that one day, they would definitely shatter that damned orb.

Death... and me

Chapter 509: Doubts

After a lot of suffering, both physically and mentally, the upgrade in their bones had finally ended. They looked at Sister Orb, wanting nothing more than to beat it up. Unfortunately, the same way their power had increased, so did Sister Orb's. As one could imagine, they tried it before, but it didn't end well.

"Whatever. Just thinking about it makes me feel even worse. Let's just take a look at what remained."

Roan nodded before they accessed the Reward System again. Immediately, they noticed that there was no more bone-related upgrade available after the last one.

"Could it be that we need a higher authority to get a new bone-related upgrade?"

"Most likely. There was a time where we went without seeing another bone upgrade, so it might be the case."

[I don't have access to the lists coming later, so I can't guarantee it either. In any case, that's what you have for now. So, will you buy anything else, or will you save the remaining points for Spiritual Energy Absorption Level 3?]

Roan and Roan pondered as they looked at the Rewards List.

[Dragon Bones - 5000 Destiny Points] (Bought)

[Spiritual Energy Absorption Upgrade Level 3 - 10000 Destiny Points] (15%)

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade Level 3 - 8000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Yin Yang Bathhouse - Reward from Destiny Strugglers Title]

[Soul Connection Range Upgrade level 3 – 20000 Destiny Points] (10000km) (New)

[Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop Upgrade Level 2 - 1000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Alchemy Workshop Upgrade Level 3- 3000 Destiny Points] (New)

[Soul Gem Electrical Formations Repository Upgrade Level 3 - 3000 Destiny Points] (New)

"We have 6781 Destiny Points still. It wouldn't be too hard to wait for it to reach 10000."

Rean nodded and then added.

"Indeed. However, we also have enough points to increase the Electrical Formations Repository and Alchemist Workshop's Level by one too. The Electrical Formations specifically might help with extra Destiny Points in the future. Perhaps we should buy those?"

Rean knew that the next level of the Repository Formations would unlock the manuals necessary for him to make wireless circuitry formations. According to what was written in the actual ones, the Spiritual Signal's direction could be controlled mid-air through Spiritual Energy. That would be an entirely new type of communication system.

The Circuitry Formations he was working on with Havek, Droman, and Qia were not considered the same as the communication system that had been built so far. Because of that, the Destiny Points coming from it will be considered a separate issue. Naturally, they would have a different cap of total Destiny Points available to obtain from them. The same thing could be said for the Wireless Circuitry Formations and the Spiritual Energy Signals. They would also be a different type of Circuitry Formation that would give them even more points.

"There's also the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade. The first two upgrades were already great. The first one allowed us to bring things and living beings inside other than ourselves. The second level opened the Circuitry Teleport Formation, which has been of paramount importance during several occasions, as you know. The third one might be something even better."

Roan then looked at Sister Orb and asked.

"Can't you really tell us what we will get in the third level of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm upgrade?"

[I can't. This time, I can't even give you any clue like last time. However, you should know that the Soul Gem System doesn't have bad rewards.]

Rean and Roan's mouth twitched in response.

"Can you be any more shameless? What about the Level 1 Alchemist Workshop and Electrical Formations Repository? They were pretty much useless!"

[How can you say that? They were the basis for the next levels! They're super important!]

"And super useless too."

[...]

[Fine... They might not have that much use at Level 1, but they were important.]

Rean and Roan then ignored Sister Orb's reasoning and focused back on the task at hand.

"So, do you want to wait or go for the next upgrades?"

Roan pondered for a bit before asking Rean.

"How long until you finish the Circuitry Formations of the second level?"

Rean pondered for a bit about their progress before saying.

"I would say we would need at least another year or two to make the first practical versions capable of being shipped out. As for the Spiritual Energy Signal Circuitry Formations, I have no idea how long it would take to create them."

"What about your Alchemist Repository? Do you think you need the upgrade the way you are at the moment?"

Roan also pondered over it.

"I'm already doing as well as I can with what I have. My neutral pills, at least, are of very high quality. The new equipment I might get from the upgrade will most likely improve them, but I doubt it would be something incredible."

Rean nodded.

"Then, I guess we have our answer. It will take a few years until the Circuitry Formation I'm working on to go out and make a difference. It would be useless to work on a Wireless Circuitry Formation since we don't even have a wired practical one ready. The same thing goes for you and your alchemy. In that case, we might as well keep those points for the other upgrades and leave the rest for later."

Roan agreed with that plan.

"The only doubt is whether we will take the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade or the Spiritual Energy Absorption one."

"A possibly good upgrade or a consistent one... The Dimensional Realm Upgrade will come earlier, though."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in the end.

"You know the saying, right? No pain, no gain. Let's just take the Dimensional Realm upgrade. We can always save Destiny Points for the other things later."

Roan pondered over it for a bit and said.

"Very well. I'm also curious to see what the Dimensional Realm will give us. Besides, we are only a little over 1200 Destiny Points away."

[Alright. In that case, you won't buy any other upgrade anymore. Let me bring Sana back inside.]

Suddenly, Malaka and Calina appeared in the Dimensional Realm. Malaka was the one holding Sana at the moment.

Calina and Malaka then looked at Rean and Roan and couldn't help but ask.

"Why are you two all sweaty?"

"You guys stink! Go take a bath!"

It was then that Rean remembered.

"Oh! Talking about baths, it's been a few months since the Yin Yang bathhouse has been accumulating the Yin Yang Energies. We might as well go absorb it before we forget Kentucky inside the Dimensional Realm, and he absorbs all of it instead of us."

Roan nodded. That thing was supposed to be a reward for them from the Destiny Strugglers Title. However, the bird would jump inside it every now and then, taking all the energy for itself.

Rean and Roan disappeared in the bathhouse for some time. As always, absorbing the Yin Yang Energy was quite hard. Roan felt like he was being turned into an icicle, while Rean felt like he was being burned alive. Nevertheless, they knew it was a good thing for their bodies. Besides, they really didn't want Kentucky taking it all away again.

Sometime later, everyone came out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm except for Sana, who stayed with Sister Orb. They all went back to do their own things like cultivating or practicing whatever they thought was necessary. Just like that, a few more days went by before their group gathered once again.

Roan, Rean, Malaka, Calina, and Wano were ready to depart once again. Just like before, they would try to take another red crystal and use the Lakure Race members as training targets. Rean was at the front once more while using his Hidden Radar skill.

A few hours later, they once again arrived in the place where they could see multiple rays of light coming from the ground. Rean kept his skill active all the time. However, he didn't feel the presence of any Spiritual Sense at the Nascent Soul Level or above.

Of course, that was a good thing, so they once again found another target before initiating an attack. Things were not so desperate for Calina and Malaka like last time, but there were more opponents this time. That said, even Rean and Roan got injured during their battle... just to heal themselves while at it, making their opponents feel like crying. At this point, even Wano was starting to feel jealous of the twins.

'Weren't rare elements supposed to be very hard to cultivate or something along those lines? How come they're this heaven-defying?'

Once again, they took the crystal and left. Two more weeks went by, and Rean's group returned. Once again, Rean couldn't feel the presence of any Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense. Taking advantage of their luck, they attacked the Lakure Race Members. This time, however, Wano had a very hard time. There was one Core and Soul Fusion Realm hidden in the middle that even he didn't notice.

Because of that, he was ambushed and almost lost a leg. Rean and Roan had to divert their attention to help Wano. At the same time, Malaka, Kentucky, and Calina held off the rest in a battle of attrition. In the end, both sides didn't obtain the results they expected. Rean's group didn't kill anyone from the Lakure Race. Calina and Wano were badly injured. As for their enemies, they had to retreat in the end while the Core and Soul Fusion Realm leaders covered the retreat.

Well, even though neither side could kill anyone from the other group, it didn't change the fact that this definitely worked as a real Life and Death fight, which was great for training. They even got the red crystal once again since the enemies didn't bother bringing it back with them.

Things followed similar patterns during the next five assaults. To be safe, they waited at least a month or two between their attacks. That being said, they had already been in the natural formation for over an entire year.

However, Rean's group understood a long time ago that something definitely wasn't right. The more they attacked, the more they became sure about it.

Rean's group was heading back from their last assault when Rean suddenly commented.

"That's not right. We already attacked those guys six times in total. There were easier and harder times. However, how come I haven't felt the presence of a single Nascent Soul Realm enemy so far? Will they really just leave the red crystals unprotected after we've robbed six? They should have understood that Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators can at most force us to flee, but that's all."

Roan and the others agreed with Rean. If it was them, they would definitely have increased the defense on the red crystals and even put a few Nascent Soul experts patrolling it. How come it's always more or less the same?

Death... and me

Chapter 510: Reasons

"That's not the only problem. You should remember that there are a lot more cultivators who've entered the natural formation back then. Unless the Lakure Race members killed all of them, we shouldn't be the only ones present testing their defenses at the moment."

Roan was right. The sects and the Jialin Royal Family entered the formation before. There were even the Guntao Country's forces that Rean's group didn't know. Could it be that none of them were testing the defenses in the valley or attacking the crystals?

Groups like Elder Tiria and Juvian's had come to check the valley defenses before. As mentioned before, they were then forced to flee since the valley's defenses were too strong. Juvian and Tiria, for example, were the strongest members of Dalamu in this place. Nevertheless, they were only in the Nascent Soul Realm. The valley where the Lakure Race experts were located had no lack of Soul Forging Realm ones. Naturally, they had no chance of achieving anything and even lost a few of their lower-level members while fleeing.

Now, there were red crystals absorbing the life force of the areas they were placed in. Those crystals were placed further away from the valley. The other group had indeed attacked those Lakure Race members and even obtained the crystal for themselves.

However, there was a problem with it. Unlike Rean's group, the others didn't have a Kentucky, who could eat the crystal and transform it into energy. Simply put, the red crystals turned out to be useless for Tiria, Juvia, Erbec Jialin, and everyone else.

From the looks of it, only the Lakure Race members, with their special meridians, could absorb the crystal's energy. Not only that, but you had to be at a very high level of cultivation to be able to convert it. In the end, Kentucky was just an anomaly.

Well, in the end, there wasn't much of a point in attacking the groups with the red crystals. Besides, if they really started exterminating all the groups, the Lakure Race experts wouldn't just dawdle in the valley and would definitely come out to hunt them. They knew that they weren't at the same level, so they didn't want to force the other side's hand. They had to wait for the time the natural barrier opened again so that they could join hands with their forces outside before thinking about attacking the valley.

Wano then shook his head.

"The fact is that there's just too many of these crystals. Perhaps the six we robbed so far to feed the demon bird are simply not worth caring about. In any case, these groups controlling the red crystals usually have a similar level of strength to ours, which is a perfect match for life and death combat. Cultivation wise, this is a good thing for us."

Rean, Roan, Malaka, and Calina nodded. As weird as it might be, it was a fact that they were benefiting a lot from it, especially Kentucky and the twins. Rean and Roan took ten Rank Four Spirit Stones to test how good it was to cultivate with them. Surprisingly, the red crystals offered similar benefits, saving them a lot of Rank Four Spirit Stones. Well, they only tested those Rank Four Spirit Stones. They wouldn't use the rest for cultivation since they were worth a lot more in trading.

However, Malaka also remembered something else.

"In that case, how about we try to check the valley itself? After all, Illia and I came here for the Masput Rocks of the Masput Vein. Perhaps it will be easier to find it this time?"

Roan had to admit that Malaka was right.

"That makes sense."

Wano thought that it was too dangerous, though.

"I don't think we should push our luck. If there are no high-level experts overseeing the red crystals, that probably means they're protecting the valley instead. Most likely, the valley is a lot more important to them than the red crystals."

Rean agreed with Wano, but he also added another point.

"Wano's right. However, it wouldn't be much of a problem for me. As long as there's a high-level cultivator using Spiritual Sense to check the area I'm in, I'll feel their presence straight away. We just need to get close to the valley to be sure."

Wano narrowed his eyes. That's the thing he couldn't understand. The higher the difference in cultivation, the harder it was to feel the opponent's Spiritual Sense. At first, he thought that Rean and the others were exaggerating about Rean's ability. However, after heading out to look for targets for their training, he found out that Rean was always right. That was really a fantastic ability that he would very much want to learn.

"Rean, are you willing to sell this skill of yours that can feel stronger Spiritual Senses easily? I'm willing to pay with Rank Four Spirit Stones. Also, I'm interested in the ability that can hide one from Spiritual Senses. I have one myself, but yours seem to be even better."

Rean and the others were taken aback by that. They knew that Wano wasn't simple, but they didn't think that he would be so rich to the point of having that rank of Spirit Stones.

Rean then laughed before saying.

"Sure. However, it would be a useless skill for you. For it to work, you need an extremely high-level of Light Element control. Trust me, unless you want this skill to be used for simple reference, I'm at least 99% sure you won't be able to use it. Not just you, but even anyone else for that matter."

Well, that person wouldn't just need a high level of Light Element Control. Rean was pretty much sure that only someone with a natural affinity for Light Element like him would be able to pull it off. The reason was simple. The usage of Rean's Fourth Form, Hidden Radar, was deeply related to one's ability to feel Life Force. That's not something you can get by simply using Yang Energy Cultivation Techniques

to control Light Element. Even Roan, who shared a connection with Rean and his Light Element, couldn't reach Rean's level at all. At must, he could support him.

Wano was surprised to hear that. He wasn't concerned about the almost impossible chance of him being able to use the skill. Instead, he was surprised that Rean didn't seem to care about selling it at all.

"So, if I pay, will you sell it to me?"

Rean nodded.

"If you want to throw your Spirit Stones away, be my guest. Rank Four Spirit Stones are incredibly hard to obtain, so any extra amount is more than welcome. Since you helped Malaka and Illia flee from the valley in the past, I'll give you a good price. Give me 500 Rank Four Spirit Stones, and the skill is yours."

Wano's mouth twitched in response. Even in the black market, skills that needed Light or Dark Element wouldn't cost that much. Roan's Dark World, for example, cost only 200.

"Isn't that way too much?"

Rean shook his head as he said.

"It's not. I'm not saying it's cheap. Instead, it's very expensive. However, I also think this is a nice price, but not for the reason you think. Truth be told, it's just because I don't want you to buy it. That's why I gave you this 'nice' and ridiculous price."

Wano became even more puzzled now.

"Why?"

Rean laughed in response as he said.

"Hahaha! I don't mind selling it, but I really don't want to give you a skill you definitely can't use. I'll feel like I'm robbing you of your Spirit Stones. Anyway, just give up the idea. Trust me, I'm doing it for your own good."

Wano narrowed his eyes. His cultivation technique also had Yang Element cultivation in it. Naturally, he can use it to control the Light Element. It's just that he would never reach Rean's level. Still, how can Rean be so sure that he wouldn't be able to use it?

'Could it be that Rean is provoking me so that I will pay that enormous amount? No... Something tells me that he truly believes I can't use that skill of his at all.'

Wano pondered for a while before he shook his head in the end. It was indeed a value way too high for something that he didn't know if it would even work.

"Alright, forget it."

Rean smiled, satisfied. After that, he looked at Roan before saying.

"Roan, since we're already here, we might as well pass by the valley. If it's only the two of us, it should be much easier to see if it's possible to look for Masput Rocks."

Roan nodded.

"That was my intention as well. Wano, Malaka, Illia, you three go back to the cave with Kentucky. Rean and I will go check the valley."

Calina and Malaka nodded. They knew that Rean and Roan had the Circuitry Teleport Formation and the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Escaping was very easy for them. However, Wano couldn't help but ask.

"Are you sure you don't need help? You should know that I'm strong enough to fight a Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemy at my level. If we are talking about running away, I'm pretty confident to flee from someone at the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm or maybe a weak Middle Stage one."

Rean smiled but shook his head.

"Don't worry. It's almost impossible for us to be caught. Besides, the moment I feel the presence of a high-level cultivator, we will immediately leave. We'll be fine."

Wano sighed but nodded in the end. For some reason, he truly believed that the twins could escape from any situation.