

## Death 511

Death... and me

### Chapter 511: Your Hands

Rean and Roan then turned around and went back. This time, they used Rean's skill to hide their presence and passed by the area where the red crystals were being placed. Since no Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator got very close to Rean, none of the Lakure Race members noticed their presence.

However, there was one thing that Rean noticed on their way to the valley.

'Say, don't you think that there are more Lakure Race members here than there was one year ago?'

Roan nodded as he replied.

'There are. However, we already know that these members found a way to escape the underground world and are being teleported here. It makes sense that their numbers increased with time as more of them escaped from there.'

Rean agreed with that. Well, there was nothing they could do to change that anyway.

The two moved quickly, ignoring everything until finally, they arrived in the valley. Rean kept using his Hidden Radar skill, looking for any higher level Spiritual Sense. However, the further they went, the less Rean could feel. In fact, it looked more like the average level of the Lakure Race members they saw in the valley was below what they could find in those protecting the red crystals outside.

'What's happening here?'

'No idea. I thought their experts would be all gathered here. But we can't find them. Could it be that they're all refraining from using Spiritual Sense? After all, I can't detect their presence if their Spiritual Sense doesn't touch my bending skill.'

'That seems hard to believe. Unless...'

It was then that Roan thought about a possibility.

'Shit! Let's get out of here.'

Rean didn't know why Roan's expression instantly changed, but he trusted him when it came to these things. Immediately, he turned around with Roan and began to run to the valley entrance.

However...

"Oh! Did the two ants notice it? How amusing... And here I was, thinking that you would go all the way into the valley's core. Did you know? You just made me lose a bet."

"Hahaha! I told you, Hevan. For these two little guys to get this far, they must be intelligent."

"Sigh... I also bet that they would go all the way to the valley's core."

Rean and Roan's expression immediately turned dark. Sure enough, that's what Roan was afraid of. Rean also understood what the problem was.

'They have another way to sense our existence without using Spiritual Sense.'

Roan nodded.

'Exactly. It didn't make sense that no high-level expert was overseeing this place.'

Rean then looked at the ground as he sighed. Most likely, it was a formation that revealed their presence here. Unfortunately, they couldn't use Sister Orb to check it since she was busy with the natural formation instead.

Rean and Roan looked at the experts that appeared in front of them. In total, 27 Lakure Race members were blocking their way out. Just from their aura alone, the twins could tell that all of them were at least at the Nascent Soul Realm. Some even had the same presence that Mia and Droman gave them, possibly being at the Soul Forging Realm.

Of course, the twins were not really concerned with their safety. They could enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm any time they wanted. However, they wanted to see what these guys wanted to do.

'They haven't attacked us straight away, so it's quite convenient.'

Rean nodded.

'Indeed. Let's see what they want.'

One of the Lakure Race experts then came down in front of Rean and Roan. Soon after, Rean's Spiritual Sense and Camouflage skill disappeared, revealing their appearances. Since they could tell where they exactly were, there was no point in keeping it activated.

"Oh! I know you. I got a few reports about a group with five cultivators and one demon beast attacking the Life Energy Crystals. This group had two twins inside that had white and black hairs. I guess those guys are you two?"

Rean smiled in response.

"Well, you could say so. What is it? I heard how much your Lakure Race hates us humans. Are you here to take revenge for the people we killed and the fact that you were sealed in the underground world?"

Everyone couldn't help but laugh after hearing that.

"Hahaha! Indeed. It wouldn't be strange if we decided to take your lives right here and then. To be honest, we very much wish to do so straight away. However, we received orders to not kill anyone at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm and below."

Rean and Roan were instantly taken aback. Why would someone order something like that? Still, that explained why they never saw any Nascent Soul Realm enemy in the areas surrounding the red crystals.

"Is this some kind of joke? Because I can't see what's funny about it. Since when did your Lakure Race become so compassionate?"

Not long after that, a powerful Spiritual Energy pressure assaulted the twins, making the two kneel down almost instantly.

"Brat, the rule only said we couldn't kill you. Nothing's stopping me from taking a few of your limbs away."

The man then came walking in the twins' direction while keeping them locked with his Spiritual Energy. Rean and Roan were pretty sure that this guy wasn't just at the Soul Forging Realm. Even Droman and Mia's pressure couldn't compare to him. They couldn't confirm with their Spiritual Senses due to the difference in cultivation, but they were pretty sure this guy was in the Saint Realm!

Of course, Rean and Roan wouldn't just wait for the guy to cripple them, so they decided to enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. However, just as they were about to do that, the pressure of Spiritual Energy suddenly disappeared!

The man, who was using it, narrowed his eyes as he looked in a particular direction. Rean and Roan followed his eyes and saw a female cultivator flying in their direction.

"Jana, why are you stopping me?"

Rean and Roan didn't need to be geniuses to understand that it was that woman who stopped the guy in front of them.

"I should be the one asking, Xila. Why are you assaulting two Core Formation Realm cultivators? Did you forget the ancestor's new orders?"

Xila was obviously the guy's name.

"Of course not! I wasn't going to kill them, just going to teach them a small lesson. Is that really a problem?"

Jana sighed before saying.

"Xila, you know that I'm not in favor of this either. However, thanks to the ancestor, we were able to live in the underground world up to now. It was also thanks to him that we finally have a chance to leave the underground world. Can't you trust him once again in his decision? You should know that he would never do anything to harm us."

Xila finally calmed down after hearing Jana.

"Fine... It's just that this black-haired brat irritated me."

Jana smiled, satisfied.

"Well, you still can kill the Nascent Soul Realm and higher-level cultivators in case they pass by. It should also be funnier since they would at least be able to present some resistance."

Jana then looked at all the experts around them before asking.

"I trust you all have nothing to say either, right?"

Everyone nodded. In the end, they all trusted their ancestor.

Rean and Roan looked at each other, not knowing what to say. What is this ancestor thing about? What is this rule? It didn't seem like they would try to attack them, but they weren't friends either.

Jana then looked at the twins with a cold expression.

"Now then, about the two of you. The ancestor determined that none of the Nascent Soul Realm and above members of our race could attack those at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm and below. However, that doesn't mean that the Core and Soul Fusion Realm members can't. If I were you, I would start running already."

Sure enough, several shadows began to appear in the distance. Their auras were much weaker than the experts in front of them, but there were quite a few.

However, Rean shook his head as he looked at Jana and Xila.

"Senior Jana and Xila, right? I don't understand. On our way here, we saw how the cities were wiped out. I don't think you would've had such an easy time without the help of Nascent Soul Realm cultivators or higher."

Jana's expression was still cold as she answered Rean's question.

"I have no reason to tell you why that's the case. However, it won't make any difference whether you know it or not. Simply put, the ancestor's orders came a few months after we started our invasion. At that time, we didn't have to follow any rules. It's just that simple."

Roan also took the chance to ask.

"Are you sure you don't want to intervene? Your race's experts are great opponents for us. That's why we are attacking those who are at our level. However, we won't show mercy when we fight them."

Xila snorted when he heard that.

"We don't need your mercy. Don't forget that it goes both ways. You are good training partners for our members as well. I read it in the reports. Your group always attacked even though you were at a disadvantage in terms of numbers and cultivation. If our members die because of that, it's their fault for being too weak."

Still, the experts were quite puzzled with Rean and Roan. Those two could definitely see the lower-level members of their race coming over. Nevertheless, they weren't trying to flee.

Roan then looked at Rean and asked through their Soul Connection.

'Are you sure?'

Rean nodded.

'Yeap. It's worth a try to see how they will react.'

Rean then approached Jana and Xila, much to their confusion. They had their guards up. However, with the difference in cultivation, they didn't bother trying to stop Rean. If he really attacked, then they would have an excuse to kill him.

"What is it, brat?"

Rean smiled before extending his hands.

"Seniors, please give me your hands."

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Chapter 512: Underground Poison

Jana and Xila didn't know what Rean was trying to do. However, they were in front of all the other experts. It would be quite embarrassing to show that they were afraid of Rean.

"What do you want to do?"

Rean laughed, not minding their tones as he responded.

"It's fine. Senior Jana and Xila couldn't be thinking that I would kill you or something like that, right? Don't worry, this is beneficial."

Roan was also beside Rean as he looked at the low-leveled Lakure Race members coming at them. He was ready to enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm if those guys didn't stop.

Jana narrowed her eyes in response. If she didn't do anything, Rean and Roan would definitely be attacked. However, she felt that something was off about Rean's attitude. At least, she couldn't feel any malice behind that action. Eventually, just as the two were about to be attacked, Jana extended her hand.

"Wait."

Everyone stopped just a couple dozen of meters away from the twins. Unlike those at the Nascent Soul Realm and above, they didn't have to show mercy to the twins. They only stopped because Jana said so.

"Very well, let's see what you want to do."

Xila then looked at Jana as she gave her hand to Rean. Just a little bit, and he would see the twins being torn to shreds, so why was she following his words?

"Are you sure?"

Jana nodded.

"I'm curious to see what he's trying to do to the point that they refused to escape. They're currently surrounded, and they don't even have an inkling of a chance to escape. Don't you think that's odd?"

Xila shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, up to you. I doubt they can run either way. You won't try to protect them against the lower-level cultivators, right?"



Jana shook her head.

"I won't. For now, let's see what he can do."

Rean smiled in gratitude.

"Thank you for the chance, senior."

Rean then grabbed Jana's hands. As for Xila, he didn't seem willing to do so, but he didn't leave Jana's side either.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Rean's body burst out with Light and Dark Elements, quickly entering Jana's body. As always, the Light Element protected her body while the Dark Element eliminated everything that Rean considered harmful to the body.

Back when Rean and Roan captured a Lakure Race member, Rean checked his body to see what was different between them and normal humans. It was then that he found out that there was some kind of poison that he had never seen before running through their bodies. It wasn't enough to kill them, but it was definitely excruciating.

Rean thought that the guy they caught was just an exception. However, during the attacks on the other Red Crystals, he took the chance to examine the enemies' bodies once again. In the end, all of them had one thing in common, that same poison. Nevertheless, since they were enemies, Rean didn't care too much about it. Since that made things worse for the Lakure Race members, then so be it.

However, what happened here in the valley had changed Rean's plans. For some reason, that so-called Ancestor didn't want the high-level Lakure Cultivators to kill the low-level ones. That went against what they had seen in the city before. Why did he give that order? Why didn't he say that before? What was that Ancestor planning to do? Rean thought that running away wouldn't give him that answer. Even if they captured the low-level Lakure Race members, those members wouldn't know anything. That being said, he could only find answers from the top brass like Jana and Xila.

Jana couldn't help but feel the comfort from Rean's Light Element. However, her cultivation was several times higher than Rean's, so his Light Element had a hard time passing through her body. Nevertheless, it felt quite pleasing, just not enough to bring out a moan like what happened to Tiria and the others.

The Dark Element quickly followed suit. Obviously, it targeted the poison that ran through Jana's body. Once again, her cultivation was too high, so the Dark Element also worked very slowly. Of course, that wasn't all. The poison had been inside her for hundreds of years, so it had basically integrated into her cells. High cultivation and time, these two elements, made Rean's work really complicated.

However, Jana immediately noticed what Rean was doing as her eyes widened and her mouth went agape! With her Spiritual Sense, she could tell that the poison that had been running through her body almost her entire life was being eliminated bit by bit. Rean would need at least a few hours at that rate, and she didn't know if he could take care of all of it. Then again, she couldn't help but start to feel excited.

On Rean's side, he began to feel tired just a few minutes into the purification process. In the end, he needed a lot of Spiritual Energy just to be barely able to run his Light and Dark Element into Jana's body. However, just as Rean was about to take a few Spirit Stones out, several Rank Four Spirit Stones appeared in Rean's hands.

He then looked at Jana, who was still shocked by his ability.

"Take it! It doesn't matter how much Spiritual Energy you need. Make sure you see it to the end!"

Rean laughed before nodding his head.

"Oh! That's quite generous. I'll be using these Spirit Stones, then."

Rank Four Spirit Stones. Even Roan was surprised that Jana would go as far as using them for this.

However, all the experts and the waiting low-level Lakure Race cultivators were puzzled. Just what was Rean doing that Jana had decided to even use Rank Four Spirit Stones? Even for them, Rank Four Spirit

Stones were quite hard to come by. All they could see was how Rean and Jana shone due to Rean's Light Element.

Xila couldn't hold his curiosity anymore, though.

"What are you two doing? Why is it taking so long? If you keep me waiting, I'll give the order to attack these brats."

Jana's expression immediately darkened when she heard that statement, responding.

"I'll kill you if you do that. I swear to the heavens that I'll be your eternal enemy for life!"

Xila and everyone else were taken aback by Jana's harsh words. However, Xila's expression darkened in response.

"You...! I might be one stage below you in cultivation, but do you think I'm afraid of you?"

Jana snorted as she said.

"Just shut up and send your Spiritual Energy together with your Spiritual Sense into my body, idiot. I refuse to believe you'll order to kill this brat after seeing what he's doing."

Xila's dark expression changed into that of surprise. Just what could make Jana so certain about it? He knew that she hated the people from the surface as much as he did. Though, he would obtain his answer soon enough.

Rean couldn't help but smile subconsciously. That was the kind of result he was expecting.

Xila immediately put his hand on Jana's shoulder and did as she asked. His Spiritual Energy went into her body, making it easier for his Spiritual Sense to pass through. He examined Jana's body for a few minutes when all of a sudden, Xila's eyes opened wide!

"Impossible! Even Ancestor's power isn't enough to do that! How can this brat do such a thing?!"

Jana nodded before asking.

"Do you still want to kill them?"

"I..."

Xila couldn't answer. The poison had been the Lakure Race's nightmare for way too long. Although it couldn't take their lives, it made them quite miserable. He lost count of how many times he dreamed about getting rid of it.

Jana then looked at the low-level cultivators who were waiting for her order to attack the twins.

"All of you, go back and do your own things. None of you are allowed to attack these twins unless they attack first or do something that could endanger our plans. Make sure everyone else knows about it as well."

Rean and Roan couldn't help but think that things were going better than they thought. Of course, that was a good thing.

Xila, who seemed to be having an internal conflict, didn't say anything. He absolutely didn't want to obtain help from the humans on the surface. However, he definitely wanted to get his poison removed as well.

Soon after that, Jana and Xila began to receive Spiritual Sense messages from the other experts observing the event. After all, they still didn't know what was happening there. Naturally, Jana explained to them what Rean was doing for her.

"What?!"

"He can heal the underground world poison?"

"You're kidding, right?"

"But I don't think Senior Jana would joke about such a thing."

"Hey, they're humans from the surface. Is it really okay to accept their help?"

"I also want to kill them all, but the poison..."

In less than an instant, a conflict arose in everyone's minds. If it was anything else, they would definitely refuse any help from their most hated foes. But when it came to the underground poison, the answer wasn't so easy.

Rean noticed how the experts around them were filled with confused expressions and took the chance to ask.

"Senior Jana, what is this underground poison? My healing skill can indeed take care of it. However, I have studied multiples types of poison in the past, but none of them looked like this thing. It can't kill you if you use your Spiritual Energy to keep it at bay. Unfortunately, this is quite a strong poison that can still cause a lot of pain. How come everyone is affected by it?"

Jana narrowed her eyes as she thought about it. That wasn't a topic their Lakure Race members liked to talk about.

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Chapter 513: Truth or Lies?

"Just thinking about it already makes me feel like breaking both of your necks. If you haven't sealed us, how could we be poisoned?"

Rean was taken aback by the answer as he replied.

"Really? It's not like we were alive when you were sealed in this so-called underground world, you know? First of all, what's the point of being angry at me? We have nothing to do with what happened back then."

Rean then looked at Roan before saying.

"However, I allow you to vent your anger on him. Just make sure you don't kill or cripple this guy."

Roan's mouth twitched in response.

"You were the one who wanted to stay here, so why should I pay for it? Do you want to die?"

Rean wasn't the least bit afraid, as he said.

"Hahaha! I'm the only one who can heal their poison, so I'm totally safe. As for you, it's not so easy. Don't worry, you heard me saying that I asked them to not kill or cripple you. It will be just a little... a lot of pain."

Roan snorted in response.

"Do you want to see how I can make you feel a lot of pain as well? Let's see who can protect you."

Jana and Xila looked at the twins with weird expressions. Aren't they blood brothers? How come their relationship is this bad?

"Enough! I won't hurt neither of you for now."

Jana then pondered for a bit and began to explain.

"When your race sealed us in the underground world, they didn't care about what the place we were being sealed in was. The entire area was full of toxic gas from underground activity. By using our

Spiritual Energy, we could keep the effects at bay. However, the poison gas still entered our bodies as time passed. The only good thing was that the Spiritual Energy present down there was plentiful."

"That helped us to continue living even though food was scarce. Basically, all the food was reserved for the low-level cultivators and the newborns who couldn't live with Spiritual Energy alone. We also had several teams that protected the young ones as much as they could so that the toxic gases wouldn't kill them."

"In any case, as time passed, more and more of those poisonous gases entered our bodies even though we tried to keep them out. Because of that, only the very young are still somewhat clean. Of course, that wouldn't last for long since they would have to interact with the poison gases sooner or later. That's the kind of poison you are seeing in our bodies."

Rean nodded in response.

"No wonder your hatred only increased as time passed. I'm well-versed in poisons, so even if I haven't seen this one before, I can tell how tormenting it is. Don't worry, I'll drive it all away from your body."

Xila and Jana narrowed their eyes in response. Jana then asked.

"I won't refuse the treatment, but I still want to ask. Why would you help our race? I might as well tell you this, our hatred against the people of the surface won't disappear just because you healed the poison. Nothing can wipe out the thousands of years we spent down there."

Rean nodded as he replied.

"I don't expect you to forgive us either. However, most of the people who participated in that war for the planet are all dead. Perhaps there are some monsters here and there who are still alive, but how many of them are really here? At the very least, I don't think we should have one out of two sides dying at any cost."

Roan didn't really care about Rean's ideals. However, Rean's words made Roan notice one thing that perplexed him.

"Now that I think about it, something's off. You guys said that we attacked your planet and took it away from you. However, was it really necessary to start that war? I mean, this is an entire world. Wasn't there enough space for everyone? Besides, your race has these special meridians over your skins. Wouldn't it instead increase the world's power? Why exactly did you go into war instead of talking things out?"

Rean was surprised by Roan's words. Indeed, was it really worth going to war?

"Could it be that this world was so packed with your Lakure Race members that there was just no space anymore?"

Jana and Xila looked at each other in response. The fact was, they weren't there when this war happened. Even they, as top experts of their Lakure Race, were only born thousands of years later. After all, both of them were Saint Realm experts. Saint Realm experts can't live more than 1600 years on average. The war happened multiple lifespans of that length earlier than that.

"This... I don't know. Only our Ancestor was alive during that time. However, it doesn't change the fact that we were sealed down there against our wishes."

Rean nodded.

"I understand. That means we don't know whether both sides have tried to negotiate or if one of them attacked straight away without giving any excuses. Very well, how about we go talk with your Ancestor, then? I'm sure he should have the answer, right?"

Xila snorted after hearing that.

"And why should we let a human see our Ancestor? You're lucky that you aren't dead yet."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he answered.

"Because if you don't do that, you will never get the answer. After all of this, don't you think that this is a little strange? Could it be that you're not curious at all?"



Roan followed up where Rean left off, saying.

"Let me ask you. What if our side wanted to negotiate with your race, but you ignored everything and attacked us? In that case, we could only defend ourselves. If that's the case, can you still blame the human race for sealing you down there?"

\*Bang!\*

In an instant, Xila stomped his feet on the ground.

"This was our world! Whatever the reason might be, you had no right to take it from us!"

Rean narrowed his eyes, not feeling the least bit afraid of Xila's anger.

"Bullshit! This is nothing more than an excuse. I can see through your play. All of you never considered that perhaps it wasn't our human race's fault that things turned out this way. No! You probably considered it at some point, but you immediately stopped thinking about it since you were the one living underground."

Rean then continued.

"Sure, living there was hard. I can't even imagine how it was since I've never passed through a similar situation. However, have you ever thought about why you were sealed? Why didn't you get all killed instead? I heard from one of the low-level members of your race that you had the same strength as the 'invaders.' That you were sealed there because the humans couldn't defeat you in battle. However, this was what he was just told. Or perhaps that's what you all wanted to believe."

"I refuse to believe it was that simple! How could an entire race be sealed without even a single one remaining outside when both sides have similar strengths? It doesn't make sense at all! As much as your race might have fallen for a trap or whatever, it couldn't possibly have taken the entire race with it. Stop ignoring the facts and start thinking with your own heads, idiots!"

The entire place went silent after Rean was finished his passionate speech. Sure enough, Rean was right. It wasn't as if none of them had ever thought about that before. In fact, most of them had considered those questions at some point. Nevertheless, life in the underground world was just too terrible. Their hatred overshadowed all reason, so they simply decided to ignore it. It went so deep that no one ever tried to bring this kind of topic for discussion. After all, what was there to discuss?

No, it was worse than that. They were already living a life that some considered worse than death. If they also began to doubt the reason why they were sealed down there, would they truly endure it? In a way, their hatred for the human race on the surface was the propelling force that drove them forward.

Jana, who was still being healed by Rean, couldn't help but think about the Ancestor's last order.

'Ancestor Laro said that we shouldn't attack Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators if we were above that realm. It doesn't matter how much I look at his decision. It feels like he wants the human cultivators and the Lakure Race cultivators to resolve their issues more fairly. Could it be related to what Rean had just speculated?'

The more she pondered about it, the more she thought that Rean might be right.

'Ancestor Laro said that the reason he wanted to escape was so that he could use his strength to negotiate with the humans. He never said he wanted to kill them all. That's something we all thought, not him. He was the only survivor of that time as well.'

Xila, who didn't know how to answer a moment ago, finally came back to himself. He quickly looked around and saw how the other members of his race also began to waver. Obviously, they also began to consider whether Rean's words were right or wrong.

"Are all of you that dumb? Are you going to let a kid play with your mind just like that? Fuck it. So what if I have to live with my poison forever? I will never forgive the human race!"

Without hesitation, Xila attacked Rean! Spiritual Energy rushed out of his Dantian as he aimed his fist at Rean. With their difference in cultivation, Rean would be blasted into thousands of pieces if it hit him. However...

\*Boom!\*

Jana was even closer to Rean than Xila was. Naturally, she had more than enough time to protect him.

"Have you gone mad? Have you really decided to ignore the Ancestor's orders?"

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Chapter 514: Something Wrong With These Two

Xila immediately rebuked Jana.

"I believed he meant that we should not touch those at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm as long as they don't represent a risk to our race. What this brat is doing is exactly that. He's casting a shadow over everyone's minds, which might cause a huge disaster to our race. There's nothing wrong about killing this human!"

Jana obviously disagreed as she refuted.

"Is your will so weak that you think a kid would be enough to change everyone's minds? The fact that you attacked him just now is undeniable proof that you also considered what he said was true. You're not helping the race at all by killing him now—you're just doing the exact opposite. Your actions have just increased everyone's doubts even further, idiot!"

Xila was taken aback. He immediately looked around and saw how everyone seemed to be conflicted. Sure enough, Jana was right.

"Fuck! Since I already did it, it doesn't matter anymore. Let me kill the kid so he won't say anything else to anyone."

Rean and Roan seemed to be ready to flee at any moment as if they could really be killed by the enemy. However, the two of them weren't really worried about Xila at all. After all, they had the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Instead, Rean was thinking about another thing.

'Can't they stop calling us a bunch of kids? Even though our bodies are much younger than them, we're still seventeen years old, you know? The people outside even think that we're nineteen. It kinda irritates me.'

Roan glared at Rean as he said.

'Who the hell cares about how you feel? In fact, let them think that we're kids. The more they underestimate us, the better.'

[Does that mean I can call you two kids as well?]

Rean and Roan immediately shouted inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'NO!'

\*Uwaaaa!\*

Because they were too loud, Sana woke up crying straight away.

[Look what you two have done! Sigh... It's alright, it's alright... Mommy Orb is here.]

Rean and Roan's mouth twitched in response.

'So you really accepted the Mommy Orb thing...'

No one would believe that the twins were having such a discussion in a moment like this, even if they saw it.

Xila then looked at everyone before asking.

"Who here agrees with me? I can't possibly be the only one who thinks this kid is dangerous."

Jana narrowed her eyes as she looked around. A moment later, a few of the Lakure Race cultivators came down and joined Xila's side. Sure enough, it wasn't that easy to make such hatred disappear after so long. However, there were also those who thought that Jana's words made more sense, so they joined her side.

"Xila, are you trying to divide everyone in a moment like this?"

Xila snorted as he said.

"That's my question. Why are you protecting them when it's obvious as to what you should do? I'm not the one siding with the enemy. You are!"

"Bullshit! I'm following the ancestor's orders."

"That's what you think. I think you're definitely going against them."

Xila and Jana's emotions began to get more intense, as if they would fight at any moment.

However, Rean took that change to intervene.

"Hehehe. So that's how you're going to act? Senior Xila, can't you see that if you really start a battle against your own members, you would instead be falling into our 'trap?' There would be nothing better for us humans than to have your Lakure Race members killing each other."

Everyone was taken aback by Rean's words. Falling into his trap? What the hell was he talking about? If he really wanted them to fight each other, then he should have stayed silent. It doesn't matter how you see it. Now that he mentioned this 'trap' of his, both sides would never start a battle. It would have been totally different if one of the Lakure Race members said it.

Jana couldn't help but take a deep look at Rean. It was obvious that he said that so that they wouldn't start a battle here.

'Could it be that he's afraid of getting involved in this fight? That makes sense since a battle at the Saint Level could really kill him even if he isn't the target. However...'

The more impressive thing was that he hadn't stopped healing her poison during this argument, even for a second. If he was just afraid of being involved in the battle, would he really waste his time continuing to heal her poison? Besides... how come neither Rean nor Roan seemed to be worried at all? If anything, they seemed really confident.

Nevertheless, she quickly put those thoughts behind her mind before she looked back at Xila.

"You heard him. If we really begin to fight now, that would only benefit the human race. Do you really wish to force your hand? If so, I'll definitely keep you company."

Xila narrowed his eyes and was just about to answer when all of a sudden, Roan mentioned something else.

"Why are you even wasting your time with this discussion? Isn't it thousands of times better to just ask your ancestor which one of you is right? That would make everything much easier."

Xila and Jana became puzzled. Sure, that would immediately make everything clear as to who was right in this argument. However, neither Rean nor Roan were supposed to want it. The reason was simple. In the actual situation, Jana's side would definitely protect them. Not to mention that a battle most likely wouldn't happen anymore after what Rean said. Simply put, this situation kept them safe.

However, if they went to their ancestor and found out that he agreed with Xila, they would die straight away. Even Jana wouldn't be able to protect them. No, Jana would be the first to cut their heads since she also hated humans. She was only protecting them because of the ancestor's words.

They were throwing away a close to 100% chance of survival for a 50-50 chance.

"Are you two idiotic?"

Roan and Rean shook his head as they responded simultaneously.

"Nope. We just wish very much to meet this ancestor of yours."

Jana, Xila, and everyone else was at a loss for words. There must be something wrong with these two.

Death... and me

Chapter 515: Maybe Another Time

However, it felt a bit ridiculous to simply bring two Core Formation Realm cultivators to see the ancestor. Even Jana, who was protecting the two, thought of the same thing.

"Aren't you two getting ahead of yourselves? Why should we allow two weaklings like you to waste our ancestor's time?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"I can heal the poison in everyone's bodies. Isn't that a good enough reason to at least be allowed to have a few words with him?"

Jana laughed in response as she said.

"Hahaha! I think you have the wrong idea here. Sure, I won't allow anyone at the Nascent Soul Realm or above to touch you. However, the Core and Soul Fusion cultivators and below are another story. You two are only alive because I told them to not do anything to you. Don't think that I became your friend or anything like that."

"That being said, your only chance at staying alive is to keep healing everyone. You two have no other choice."

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes in response as they communicated.

'What do you think? Is there anything else to be gained here?'

Roan pondered for a bit before saying.

'You already planted the seed of doubt in them. Even if they don't let us see that so-called ancestor of them, they'll start considering whether what we said is true or not.'

Rean nodded as he responded.

'That's already a good outcome. I don't know if it would be enough to prevent mutual killing between humans and Lakures on a large scale. Still, it's obvious that they would at least consider the possibility of what I said being true. Maybe there's something to gain from it in the future.'

Rean didn't come up with that to generate discord between the Lakure Race members. He genuinely spent a lot of time thinking about the story told by that guy they interrogated. After talking about it with Roan, then obviously noticed those weird points.

Jana didn't know that Rean and Roan were talking, nor did she care. As long as Rean kept healing everyone, that was for the better. As for the thing Rean talked about, she would need to give it further thought in the future. However, it wasn't time for that right now since they were still in a precarious situation.

Jana then looked at Xila and said.

"I guess we're done here, right? However, let's leave aside whether what he said is true or not. He can heal the poison of the underground world. You won't complain about forcing him to heal everyone else, I believe?"

Xila's expression was still dark. However, Rean's words about their race fighting against each other really hit him. That being said, there was no way he or the others on his side would engage in a battle against Jana and the others.



"Fine! At least, we can make him work to his bones forever. I won't attack them as long as they don't open their mouths anymore."

Jana was relieved that Xila accepted that. Soon after, she looked at Rean.

"So, how long will it take to remove the poison in my body?"

Rean pondered for a bit, and out of nowhere, he stopped getting rid of Jana's poison. Roan already knew that Rean would do that, so he said.

"Forget it. Since we can't obtain good treatment, then we'd rather just leave."

Jana and everyone else were taken aback. What were they talking about? There was no way they can escape from here. Their formation in the valley can show their exact position even without Spiritual Sense. They would be surrounded way before they could reach the exit.

Xila then laughed out loud as he said.

"Ha...hahaha! Do you think you can leave that easily? I did agree that I wouldn't attack you, but we have more than enough people at the right level that can do so."

The others also laughed at that. Obviously, they all agreed with Xila on that.

However, Jana was the only one who kept feeling that something wasn't right. Even before, when Xila tried to attack the twins, they didn't seem to be concerned at all. Somehow, she felt like they had some trick up their sleeves. That said, she immediately used Spiritual Energy pressure to lock the two down.

"I don't know what you can do, but there's no way I will let you two leave now that I know you can heal everyone's poison."

Rean and Roan's bodies hit the ground not long after, and they could barely move at all. However, they continued to talk, seemingly unconcerned about it.

"Well, then. It seems like negotiation is impossible at this point. Senior Jana, once you decide that it is worth giving us a chance, I'll help you and the others with the poison in your bodies. Until that time arrives, this is farewell for now."

This time, even Xila and the others noticed that something was off... or the twins were simply hallucinating. However, their expression changed into pure shock in the next second. Right in front of everyone, the twins' bodies began to turn into specks of Dark and Light Energy before drifting away without any signs.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Rean and Roan weren't idiots. If they simply disappeared in midair, it might lead to the discovery of their Dimensional Realm. That being said, they used Mirage Assault to summon clones to take their places. The clones had always been able to use their skills, albeit with some drawbacks like reduced power or a lack of weapons.

Rean and Roan, the real ones, used the clones to perfectly match their bodies' positions before swapping places. That way, the experts outside would think that they had never been actual cultivators to start with. As for their ability to enter the dimensional realm from anywhere, it would continue to be hidden.

"Impossible! How did they do that?"

"I don't know. I couldn't feel anything strange about their bodies."

"Pass the order. Have everyone look for the twins in the valley. I refuse to believe they've gone too far."

"But we can't feel anything from the searching formation."

"The formation isn't omnipotent. Just do it."

Without missing a beat, everyone left to fulfill the order, leaving only Xila and Jana behind.

"Xila, did you notice anything?"

Xila shook his head in response.

"Nothing at all. What about you?"

"Me neither. It seems like we really can't underestimate the human race."

Xila wanted to disagree, but the facts were in front of him.

"Should we send some people outside the valley to look for them?"

Jana shook her head in response.

"That would turn it even worse. Didn't you see how they escaped from the two of us that easily? What could guarantee that someone else can't use the same method to reach the ancestor's chamber?"

Xila nodded in response. Although they disagreed about whether the twins should be killed or not, the two were still loyal to Ancestor Laro.

"Very well. However, Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators and below members wouldn't be of much use anyway. I will spread the range of search outside the valley. Also, you wouldn't mind if I used a few Nascent Soul members, right? Just this little bit shouldn't make any changes. I'll keep my word that they won't kill the twins and will just capture them."

Jana pondered for a bit and nodded.

"Since you gave your word, then I know you'll keep it. You can send a few Nascent Soul Realm members out. However, they can't stray too far out from the valley. After all, there are still two Soul Forging Realm human cultivators out there. Of course, you can't go out either. I want all our top experts to stay in the valley in case anything happens to the Ancestor."

Xila nodded and immediately departed. Jana then looked at the position Rean and Roan were located a few moments ago and sighed.

'The past not being what we thought... What if it was true...?'

Jana also left soon after.

Death... and me

Chapter 516: Can't Dance

Back in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Rean and Roan looked as everyone left the place. What Xila and Jana didn't know was that Rean and Roan hadn't teleported away from that place yet. That being said, they could still hear what they were talking about.

"So, it was all because of this ancestor of them. No wonder we didn't find a single Nascent Soul during our attacks on their Red Crystals."

Roan nodded in response.

"Indeed. However, you heard them. They'll be sending a few Nascent Soul Realm cultivators to search the area around the valley from now on, that also includes the Red Crystal areas."

Rean didn't mind it too much.

"It's fine. From the very start, we were already expecting to find Nascent Soul Realm cultivators or above there. As long as they're using Spiritual Sense, I can feel them. Besides, I doubt that the region where the Red Crystals are located has this same searching formation. The valley alone is already enormous. It would be a monumental task to expand this kind of formation up to where the Red Crystals were located."

Roan agreed with Rean.

"Indeed. Not to mention that every time the crystals finish absorbing an area's worth of energy, they're moved further away to repeat the same process. The formation area would keep increasing, which isn't good for a formation."

[Talking about formations, I just need a few more days to finish analyzing the natural formation. However, I don't think I can take control of it as fast as I analyzed it. Then again, it will still be a good thing since I'll be able to tell how long the formation's energy will last.]

"That's more than good enough. At least we'll know when the formation will lose its effect over the time flow. After all, we only stayed here because of the time difference related to the outside."

Roan then looked at the Circuitry Teleport Formation before saying.

"Alright, let's get out of here."

Rean and Roan stepped on the Circuitry Formation. Soon after, they were teleported back to the closest save point together with the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Following that, they left the Dimensional Realm and went back to the cave where Wano, Malaka, and Calina were waiting.

"Rean, Roan!"

Malaka and Calina were happy to see that they were fine. As for Wano, he wasn't that close to being 'happy' for them. Then again, it was a good thing, in his opinion.

"So, how was it? Are there any openings for us to go get the Masput Rocks?"

Roan shook his head as he replied.

"They aren't looking at the place with just their Spiritual Senses. They also have a formation covering the entire valley that can detect anyone's presence. Even Rean's skill can't fool it."

Wano couldn't help but ask.

"How do you know that? Did they discover you two out there?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response.

"Well, they did. Fortunately, we succeeded in escaping."

Calina and Malaka sighed in response.

"So we can't get any more of the Masput Rocks, huh? That's a shame."

Rean smiled after hearing that answer.

"That's not entirely true."

In an instant, everyone's attention was piqued. Even one of Roan's eyebrows was raised at that point. He didn't hear anything from Rean about this.

Wano finally lost his patience and asked.

"I'm not very interested in the Masput Rocks since I'm already in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. However, I'm quite curious to hear as to how you intend to get the stones."

Rean laughed before Light Element began to gather around his body. Soon after, several veins began to bulge out of his skin and turn bright red. After a few seconds, Rean's body was full of what seemed to be the same red meridians of the Lakure Race. Calina, Roan, and Wano were taken aback. Even their

Spiritual Senses told them that those were the Lakure Race's red meridians. They could totally feel the Spiritual Energy running through them.

"What?!"

"How did you do that?"

Roan narrowed his eyes in response.

"Why didn't you tell me you could do that?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Because it's not that easy to get to this point. After all, these veins over my body are not true meridians like the Lakure Race's. I'm just driving my Spiritual Energy through these veins, which isn't a simple task. I only achieved it a few weeks ago."

It was more or less the same process as the body-changing skill that Rean used on Calina back in the profound abyss. That being said, it was only temporary. He would need to use more Light Element every now and then to keep that transformation. The good thing was that Rean's ability with the skill had improved many times since then. After all, he was only a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator during that time. Now he was almost in the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. He was pretty sure that even Nascent Soul Realm cultivators' Spiritual Senses wouldn't be able to see through it.

Malaka's eyes lit up as she asked immediately.

"Can you use it on me as well? You can, right? Just like what you did back then!"

Sure enough, she was excited to try entering the valley with a 'disguise.' She had never tried that before. Well, Roan and Wano were also curious if Rean could do that to others.

Rean laughed before nodding.

"I can make you look like me. However, you will need to learn how to drive your Spiritual Energy through these veins on your own. Also, you will need to keep it running all the time if you don't want the Lakure Race experts to find out."

Roan understood and asked in response.

"Simply put, we would need to train with it. Does it give any advantage in power?"

Rean shook his head as he said.

"No. It's purely decoration. If anything, it will make you weaker since you need to pay attention to the Spiritual Energy inside your body while driving some of it through those veins. Also, it doesn't hurt, but it isn't that comfortable either."

Wano couldn't help but ask.

"Is there anything you can't do with Light Element?"

Rean nodded as he replied.

"I can't make the ice block dance."

Roan's mouth twitched as he said.

"Why the hell would you want me to dance?"

Wano, Malaka, and Calina immediately laughed. Sure enough, that would be a hilarious situation.

Death... and me



## Chapter 517: Late Stage

Wano quickly recovered from his laughter and then asked.

"Well, then. We will need you to use it on us so that we can train. Won't it get in the way of your own training?"

Caline and Malaka nodded in response. Only Rean could make that change on their bodies. Besides, it was all fake and would disappear with time if Rean didn't 'recharge' the change. However, Rean didn't mind.

"It's fine. It's quite simple to make it. In fact, it would be better if we start right now. After all, we just came back from one of our attacks, so we need time to rest and ponder over everything."

Roan and the others nodded. Soon after, Rean did the same thing to Calina, Malaka, Wano, and Roan. Malaka and Calina, as women, felt more uncomfortable, though.

"These red veins are really ugly."

Malaka nodded.

"I truly don't want the others outside to see us like this."

Rean shook his head in response.

"Do you think the women of the Lakure Race are ugly with their red meridians?"

Malaka and Calina subconsciously nodded, which made Rean laugh.

"Hahaha! That's where you're mistaken. They aren't ugly at all. Or, to be more specific, they are definitely beautiful... for the Lakure Race's men. Trust me, the same way you feel uncomfortable with the 'fake red meridians,' so do the women of the Lakure Race when they see you don't have them."

Calina and Malaka nodded before saying.

"Sorry."

"It's fine. Now, then. Try to drive your Spiritual Energy through the veins. You won't get it at first, but you will understand after a few days."

Calina and Malaka tried it, and sure enough, it felt incredibly uncomfortable. It was as if they were moving some gel through their veins instead. It was a weird feeling. Wano was no different. He also felt like his veins had some problems when they were fine, in fact.

Rean looked at their attempts with his Spiritual Sense and could feel that they failed several times to drive the Spiritual Energy through their meridians. It's just that they had many of them, so it was complicated to run through all of them evenly like a real Lakure Race member.

However, Roan was different from them. He did fail four times, but with every attempt, he became several times better. On the fifth attempt, he could already use it to an acceptable level.

"You're no fun."

Roan glanced at Rean.

"What are you talking about?"

"Nothing, just forget it."

Well, Roan didn't care to start with, so he ignored Rean's comment.

Around an hour later, Roan finally finished his practice on driving Spiritual Energy through the meridians.

"Alright, I'm done with it. Let's go back and cultivate."

\*Chick!\*

The moment Kentucky heard that, its eyes lit up. They had brought their sixth red crystal back, but Rean and Roan prohibited him from eating it while they were out. Even after they came back, they kept talking about other things instead of letting it eat the crystal.

"Fine, fine! I'll let you eat it in a second. Let me just fill Wano, Illia, and Malaka with the Light Element again."

Rean then sent his Light Element into them and reinforced the change on their bodies. With that, it would take at least four to five hours before they came back to normal.

Rean and Roan then went back to their cave rooms before telling Kentucky that he could eat the red crystal again. As always, Kentucky ate only a third of it, while the twins used Rean's formation to obtain as much energy from the crystal as possible.

When the effect on Calina, Malaka, and Wano's bodies began to disappear, Rean came out once again to help them. They continued that process until the next day when Kentucky was finally allowed to eat the second part of the red crystal.

Rean could also see that the three were getting used to driving Spiritual Energy through their fake red meridians.

'It should take them at most a week to finish understanding how to use it properly.'

Rean then returned to his cave room and continued to cultivate with Roan. On the third day, Kentucky ate the last part of the red crystal. However, that was also the moment that the twins had been waiting for.

All of a sudden, Calina, Malaka, and Wano felt a huge burst of Spiritual Energy coming from their rooms. However, because there was a Spiritual Sense formation in place, they couldn't see what was happening. Well, they could guess what had happened anyway.

Around an hour later, the twins came out of the room, allowing Wano, Malaka, and Calina to check their cultivation. Sure enough, Rean and Roan had broken through the bottleneck barring them from the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. They were now at the same level as Calina. Well, it's like Sister Orb had always said. If they followed the Soul Gem's Light and Dark Element cultivation technique, bottlenecks wouldn't really exist for them. The breakthrough for them went very smoothly.

Seeing that, Malaka couldn't help but sigh.

"And now I'm the only one in the lower range of the Core Formation Realm..."

She also looked at Kentucky. Since Kentucky's cultivation was held down by Rean and Roan's existence, the moment the twins broke through, Kentucky also achieved the Late Stage-Three Demon Beast level. That only made her sigh even more.

Rean patted her head as he laughed. Even now that they were seventeen, he never lost this habit, nor did Malaka want him to stop anyway.

"It's fine. We all know that you're very close to reaching the middle stage. How much are you lacking? Like another two or three months?"

Malaka smiled as she nodded.

"Yep! With the ice block looking over me all this time, I really never had any chance to laze- cough cough, rest. At least, that has been improving my cultivation very quickly."

Roan's mouth twitched in response. Any idiot could tell that she was going to say 'laze around.'

However, he ignored that before he looked at Wano.

"It seems like Malaka isn't the only one close to a breakthrough, am I right?"

Wano was taken aback by Roan's words. However, he laughed out loud after that.

"This brother here really has sharp senses. Well, I've been in the Middle Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm for way longer than you guys had been in the same stage of Core Formation. To be more specific, it has been almost sixteen years already. I might look young because of my cultivation, but I'm quite old, you know?"

Rean then patted the man's shoulders as he said.

"Then, I shall congratulate you, Brother Wano. By the way, how about you telling us more about yourself after your breakthrough?"

Wano shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Sure, as long as you tell me more about your demon bird over there."

Wano then looked at Kentucky, who was sound asleep while it digested the red crystal.

Rean laughed out loud in response. He knew it wouldn't work, but it wasn't a bad thing to give it a try.

"Well, maybe another day, then."

Wano didn't mind.

"That's fine. By the way, when do you want to go out and test these fake meridians?"

Roan pondered for a bit.

"This breakthrough happened a little faster than I expected, thanks to the red crystals. Because of that, our foundation isn't 100% stable. Battles would be the best way to get it back on track, especially with the help of my pills. That said, I intend to go out again as soon as you guys finish getting used to the fake skin meridians."

Wano, Malaka, Calina, and Rean nodded in response. That would be the best choice.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 518: Not Staying Still

Their group continued to cultivate for a few more days before departing for another assault on one of the red crystals. However, there was a change this time. Roan expressed that they should aim to not kill anyone as much as possible. Naturally, it would make things even harder. However, with their recent breakthroughs, it shouldn't be impossible. Not to mention that this rule only applied as long as it didn't mean their own deaths.

Wano, Malaka, and Calina were obviously puzzled by that change, though.

"Why are you asking for something like this?"

Roan then explained without trying to hide anything.

"We met up with a few experts of the Lakure Race in the valley when we tried to investigate the place. It turned out that their ancestor ordered that their Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and above couldn't kill those at the Core and Soul Fusion realm and below. From the looks of it, that ancestor is planning something."

"The good thing is that they didn't seem to care about the ones we killed so far. In their race, if you die, that's because you were weaker. Well, most of the cultivation world isn't much different from that anyway. However, I would like to not give them a reason for their ancestor to change this rule."

"Don't forget, this time accelerating natural formation is an excellent opportunity. We should take advantage of it as much as possible. Besides, if we aim to do something even harder, which is not to kill anyone, that will undoubtedly help us much more. After all, I'm sure no one here has any problems with killing anymore, so it's pointless."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"What do you mean by no one having problems with killing anymore? Sure, we'll kill when it's necessary, but don't put us in your shoes. I still hate the feeling of killing people, okay?"

Malaka and Calina nodded as they said.

"The same goes for us."

Roan narrowed his eyes but didn't say anything. As long as they didn't hesitate when necessary, he didn't care if they didn't like it. Well, it's not like Roan liked to kill either. It's just that he didn't care whether he did it or not.

As for Wano, he was much older and had probably gone through much more dangerous situations. There was no need to talk about it with him.

Wano then asked something else.

"By the way, we already got used to the fake meridians. Aren't we going to use it to enter the valley and gather Masput Rocks?"

Roan shook his head as he said.

"There is no need for now. Just keep practicing its use for a few more weeks to be sure. Rean and I had just broken through the Late Stage, so we need battles to help stabilize our foundations."

Wano shrugged his shoulders in response, not minding too much. He didn't need the Masput Rocks anyway. He was just curious.

Rean used his camouflage skill together with the Light and Spiritual Sense bending skill as the group moved forward. However, way before they arrived at the red crystals' location, Rean's expression changed.

"Everyone, stop!"

In an instant, everyone followed Rean's words.

"What is it?"

Rean then looked in a certain direction before saying.

"There is a Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense ahead."

Wano couldn't help but ask after hearing that.

"Shouldn't we escape, then?"

Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry. We're at the very border of the enemy's Spiritual Sense range. It's too weak to pierce through my Spiritual Sense bending, so the enemy doesn't know we're here."

Wano was surprised to hear that. He couldn't help but feel even more interested in Rean's skill.

Roan, on the other hand, commented.

"It's most likely because of our escape last time. You can heal the poison in their bodies, so they just can't ignore your existence."



Wano and the others already heard about the poison a long time ago, so they knew why the Lakure Race would want to capture Rean.

"Most likely, they sent out a few of their Nascent Soul Realm experts to keep an eye out, trying to find us. What should we do?"

Roan lightly smiled in response, not mind it at all.

"There is a limit as to how far a Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense can cover. Unless they send out all their experts, there should be plenty of places where there are no Nascent Soul Realm enemies overseeing the red crystals' locations. Let's go around and look for a few free ones."

Everyone nodded in agreement. Through Rean's perception ability, they soon went in a different direction of that Nascent Soul Realm expert. However, they quickly noticed that getting close to the red crystals wasn't so easy anymore.

"There are more low-leveled cultivators of the Lakure Race patrolling outside the valley now. What should we do?"

Wano laughed at that and said.

"Why would it be a bad thing? At most, we won't get more of those red crystals. However, these new targets are still perfect for training. They are moving in groups, which is quite a good match for ourselves."

Roan agreed with Wano.

"Wano's right. Let's change our plans and leave the red crystals aside. If we have the chance to obtain a red crystal, then that's good. If not, so be it. Our objective is training, not the red crystals."

Rean smiled before pointing in a certain direction.

"The last group we passed by had two Core and Soul Fusion Realm Spiritual Senses and around six Core Formation Realm senses. That should be a good challenge for us."

Roan nodded, satisfied.

"That shall be the first one, then. Stay vigilant. Of course, remember to try and not kill anyone."

A few minutes later, another intense battle began in the middle of nowhere. With Rean's stealth skills, they were able to ambush the group as always, reducing their strength. After that, Rean, Roan, and Wano fought the Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemies while Malaka, Calina, and Kentucky fought the Core Formation ones. The enemies' advantage in numbers and the fact they should try their best to not kill made the battle even harder. Still, their breakthrough was not for naught.

In the end, they succeeded in taking their opponents down while a few decided to run away. Of course, Rean's group paid the price for not killing anyone. Even Kentucky had a deep gash in his wings. Let alone the others, who aren't even close to having Kentucky's defense.

Nonetheless, that helped everyone's training just as Roan wanted.

Death... and me

Chapter 519: Changing Minds

"What do we do with these guys?"

The Lakure Race members were in the group. Some were unconscious, while others glared at them with hatred in their eyes. Unfortunately for them, they wouldn't pose any harm to Rean's group anymore.

Rean and Roan then healed themselves and helped do the same thing to Calina, Malaka, and Wano. As for Kentucky, he could more or less heal himself with his own Light Element.

"Kill us! One day, our race will enact revenge!"

Well, that's basically what the Lakure Race members all said. None of them seemed to be afraid of death at all. However, Rean looked at them, slightly puzzled.

"Kill you? Why? You guys are such nice training partners. I couldn't bear to do so."

Rean then arrived by the side of one of those cultivators of the Lakure Race and touched his shoulder.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Roan's group didn't find anything strange. They knew very well what Rean was doing. He was healing the poison of the underground world from their enemies' bodies. Of course, he didn't heal their injuries since they would definitely attack him if he did that.

"What are you doing?! Are you trying to humiliate me?"

Rean laughed, not minding that at all.

"Hahaha! Of course not! You probably can't feel it now because your injuries are definitely aching in pain. However, you'll understand once you get them treated later. I told you, didn't I? We have no intention of killing you at all."

None of the Lakure Race members cared about that. For them, Rean was being an idiot to not kill them.

Rean only took a few minutes to completely eliminate the poison from the first guy. Well, they were several realms below Jana, so it was much easier to do that on them. After all, their cultivation didn't have the strength to inhibit Rean's elements. Not to mention that they were pretty weak at the moment.

Sometime later, Rean finished healing all their poisons.

"Alright, everyone! I finished healing the underground poison of your bodies. Now, let's-"

"Oh shit! Seems like we don't have much time anymore. Anyway, have a good day. There's no need to thank me either."

The Lakure Race members were taken aback. Heal their poison? Was that even possible? However, before they could say anything, Rean's group retreated in a flash.

A few minutes later, a cultivator came flying in their direction. Sure enough, it was one of the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators of the Lakure Race race. Earlier in the fight, one of the two Core and Soul Fusion Realm guys fled. Rean and Roan couldn't do much about it since they couldn't fly yet. However, their Core and Soul Fusion Realm enemy could. When he saw he didn't have a chance at winning, he immediately left to call reinforcements.

"What happened here?"

The Core and Soul Fusion Realm that fought Wano did his best to get up. He even coughed some blood when he did so.

\*Cough, cough...\*

"W-we were ambushed and defeated. We couldn't capture the white-haired boy as requested. So-sorry, Senior Pulo."

Pulo, the Nascent Soul Realm, narrowed his eyes.

"And how are you still alive?"

The guy shook his head.

"We don't know. That white-haired twin began to say that their group had no intention of killing anyone. He even said..."

Pulo narrowed his eyes.

"What did he say?"

The ones who couldn't escape looked at each other, not sure if what Rean said was true or not.

"He said that he healed all of our underground poison, so it shouldn't affect our bodies anymore. However, the pain of the injuries in our bodies are making it hard to determine if what he said was true or not."

Pulo was taken aback by that. Unlike these guys, Pulo was there when Rean began to heal Jana. That being said, he knew that Rean could really do that. Pulo spread his Spiritual Sense as far as he could, trying to find a trace of Rean's group. However, Rean was too far and was using his hiding skills. Pulo simply couldn't feel their presence at all. In the end, he gave up before he looked at the others.

"Let me help you all."

Pulo just so happened to be a Water Element cultivator. Naturally, he had a few Water Healing Skills of his own. As he healed the members of that defeated group, those members began to understand that there was no pain anymore.

Even with the injuries' pain gone, there was supposed to be the underground poison remaining. The longer you had lived in the sealed underground world, the more your body should have absorbed that. Let alone these members who were at least in the Core Formation Realm, who have lived several decades, if not over a hundred years, there already.

However, there was nothing else after their injuries were healed by Pulo. Nothing at all!

"This..."

"I haven't felt like this ever since I was a kid."

"Did he really heal our poison? Isn't this just some illusory skill?"

"Don't be ridiculous. We have a Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator between us. Do you think a Core Formation Realm's illusion would be strong enough to fool him?"

Pulo couldn't help but narrow his eyes. In fact, he already checked everyone's bodies with his Spiritual Sense. As a Nascent Soul Realm Middle Stage cultivator, he has obviously lived for much longer than any of these guys and girls. His understanding of the poison was far above theirs. Because of that, he was certain. The poison in their bodies was completely gone. In fact, he was feeling quite jealous.

'Just what are those twins trying to do? Not killing anyone? Healing them soon after? Do they think our race will hate them less just because of that?'

However, it was at this moment that he remembered what Rean mentioned during their encounter in the valley.

'What if the past... is not what we thought it was?'

However, he quickly shook his head and put those thoughts behind.

"All of you. I finished healing you already, so go back to your patrol. Try to not get ambushed this time, will you? If anything, try to get one of the Nascent Soul Realm's help. We are also verifying the valley's surroundings. As long as you hold them long enough for one of us to arrive, we can capture them as per Senior Xila and Jana's orders."

"Yes, Senior Pulo!"

Later on, the members of their group that managed to flee returned. When they heard that no one died and their companions had their poison removed, they felt like crying. Some even cursed the fact that they were stronger or luckier and managed to escape. If they had been defeated without being able to escape, wouldn't they be the ones with their poison removed? That's something that every Lakure Race member dreamed about.

That same day, Rean's group had ambushed three more groups. After several difficult battles and multiple injuries, they won in the end. Of course, not everything went according to their plan. There had

been times that they were forced to kill to not be killed. Still, compared to before, the death toll was several times smaller.

Just like Rean had done in the first group, he healed his group with Roan before shifting his attention to the Lakure Race members cursing him on the ground. After healing all their poisons, their group left.

As for the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators who were moving around, they never arrived in time. It was as if Rean's group could always tell that they were coming, so Rean's group was long gone when they appeared.

This kind of event kept happening once every three or four weeks. The Nascent Soul Realm cultivators couldn't help but feel annoyed. After all, they never arrived in time. Just how the hell did Rean's group know that they weren't close to them?

In the end, time began to pass as more and more of these events happened. In the blink of an eye, two more years went by. Malaka reached the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm during this time. Wano also broke through the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm.

Naturally, no more breakthroughs happened after that. After all, the higher one's cultivation was, the longer it took. Calina, who was the first to have a breakthrough in this natural formation, was the closest one to breakthrough again. Still, her breakthrough happened three years ago. It was far from enough to reach the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. According to her calculations, she would need at least two more years to gather enough energy, taking a total of five.

Rean and Roan were no different. They had the red crystals and the perks from the Soul Gem System. However, their foundation's Spiritual Energy Pool had always been much bigger than those at their level. Because of that, they were already happy that they could at least keep the same speed as Calina and the others while they should have been slower instead.

Of course, it was now more difficult to get the red crystals. After all, there were a lot more cultivators on the way. Well, they weren't really discouraged because of that.

However, the actual changes were on the Lakure Race's side. A certain rumor began to spread between the cultivators at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm and below.

"Did you hear? If you get defeated by the Fat Bird Group, your underground poison will be removed."

"But is that true? What if they kill you instead?"

"I heard that there had been a few deaths. However, the white-haired guy always apologized after that and healed everyone's poison even if that happened."

"I heard that as well. I have a friend who was ambushed by them. He told me that one of his group members was killed because the Fat Bird Group had no other choice. Otherwise, one of their members would have died instead."

"So if we don't pose any threat to them, no one will be killed, and the underground poison will be healed?"

"In that case, we might as well not fight at all and simply ask them to heal us?"

"Are you kidding? They're humans! So what if they can heal your poison and have no intention of killing us? Can you forgive them for what they have done to our race?"

"Regarding that, I heard other rumors as well. It's said that what we think we know about the past might not really be what had happened. That... That it was not entirely the human race's fault that we got sealed in the end."

"What?! Bullshit! If you say that again, I'll break your head!"

"Calm down, calm down! I'm just saying what I heard, okay? I'm not saying that it's true or not. What's the point of releasing your anger at me?"

"You two can stop it already. I know a lot more about the Fat Bird Group because my group was one of their targets recently."

"What?! Brother! Did your poison get healed?"



"No."

"See? It's all a lie!"

The man then shook his head as he replied.

"It's not a lie. The reason they didn't heal us is that... that they knew we were holding back to get defeated faster."

"What?! Your piece of shit! You lost to them on purpose!"

"Shut up! I've lived for way longer than you with the poison in my body, okay? Anyway, we did lose to them on purpose. However, the Fat Bird Group hated that."

"What do you mean?"

"Believe it or not, they said this: We are here to train, and the payment for the training you help us with is the curing of your poison. If you lose on purpose, what kind of training would that be? No one will be healed."

"After that, they left without healing even one of us."

"What?! Training? They're using us for training? How dare they?!"

"But... The payment for the training is to have your poison removed. I think... I think I would prefer to have it healed."

These kinds of rumors about Rean's group refraining from killing, healing the race's poison, and the humans not being totally at fault kept spreading like wildfire. Slowly but surely, Rean's group was changing the Lakure Race members' opinions about the human cultivators from the bottom of the hierarchy.

However, there were also those who were not happy with that. Xila was obviously one of them.

"What the hell are you doing?! How long will you take to capture that group?!"

He could see the changes happening to the Lakure Race in the valley, but there were just way too many of them. Besides, he couldn't simply start killing anyone who talked about it.

"Sorry, Senior Xila. However, we simply can't understand how the twins always know where the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators are located. We tried several things, but they're always a step ahead."

Xila's expression became even darker.

'I need to do something about it.'

Death... and me

Chapter 520: Perhaps?

However, Xila was facing a problem. That was the fact that the twins' group always knew when their experts were getting closer. It's not like the Lakure Race hadn't thought about Spiritual Sense. After all, that was always the first thing to find where they should be going.

The problem was that the area of coverage was way too big! Without using Spiritual Sense, it would be hard to find a specific place in a world where all high-level experts relied on it. That being said, Xila came up with a new idea.

"Call the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators overseeing the outside. I want them to do something for me."

His subordinate quickly left after receiving the order. A few hours later, everyone gathered in front of Xila.

The days passed in a flash as Rean's group continued their 'attacks' every few weeks. However, Rean quickly noticed something off.

"It's been quite some time since I last felt the presence of a Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense. Could it be that they gave up using high-level experts to look for us?"

Wano shook his head as he said.

"I don't think so. However, I don't think we're getting lucky either."

Roan agreed with him.

"Wano's right. We have been using the same strategy for a long time, after all. It would be weird if they kept being knocked down by us without doing anything. Well, it's not like you can't imagine what they're trying to do."

Calina and Malaka laughed in response. Even they could imagine what the next step to try capturing them would be.

"Without a doubt, their Nascent Soul Realm experts stopped using Spiritual Sense."

Roan faintly smiled.

"Indeed. However, they never had more than a few Nascent Soul Realm experts looking for us simultaneously. That being said, they've begun to rely on pure luck."

Wano narrowed his eyes in response.

"Are you telling me the Nascent Soul Realm experts are hiding inside some of the patrolling groups and are refraining from using their Spiritual Senses?"

Everyone nodded.

"That can be the only explanation. In fact, I think it's way too long for them to try and do that. The cultivators of this world rely on Spiritual Sense way too much."

Wano couldn't help but ask.

"The chances of bumping in a group with one of them is quite small. After all, the area around the valley is just enormous. Unless..."

Roan glanced at Wano.

"Seems like you understood it as well. The number of groups patrolling the outside has gotten a lot smaller. However, they're doing it in a way that would be hard to notice. Little by little, the further away groups would disappear, leaving only the red crystal groups behind like it was at first. There are multiple red crystals, but it would be several times easier to hit the jackpot when we end up with only those targets to deal with. Sooner or later, we would encounter one of those high-level Lakure Race cultivators."

Rean's group was right. That's what Xila had exactly done. Since he can't go and find the twins, he might as well wait for them to come. He knew that no one in Rean's group was in the Nascent Soul Realm. That being said, he only needed one of their own to find Rean's group. At the very least, they should be able to capture someone through that... or at least, that was the idea.

"What do we do now? It's good that we didn't attack a group with one of them. However, even though the chances are small, it's not like we are going to be this lucky forever, right?"

Rean and Roan smiled after hearing that.

"It seems like it's time to go pay the valley a visit."

The fact was that the attacks were going so well that Rean's group put the thought of Masput Rocks on the side. Because of that, they still haven't tried to use Rean's transformation skill that made them look like a Lakure Race member.

However, Rean then looked at Wano, which puzzled him.

"What? Is there something wrong with my face?"

Rean shook his head as he said.

"As I mentioned before, we do have our own ways of escaping in case things go south. That's why I'm not that concerned about entering the valley to look for the Masput Rocks. However, our methods don't include you in the mix. If we really are surrounded by the Lakure Race for some reason, we won't be able to help you escape at all."

Well, they could obviously bring Wano into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. However, that would be the same as revealing their own secrets. They would obviously avoid such a thing.

Wano pondered for a bit about the risks of entering the valley. First of all, he didn't even need Masput Rocks to start with. He just wanted to give it a try and see if Rean's methods really worked to deceive the Lakure Race members.

"Hmm... That would be an unnecessary risk. However, I don't want to lose the show either."

After a few moments, Wano finally decided.

"Alright. I'm going with you anyway since I want to check the valley as well. As for whatever would happen after that, you can simply prioritize yourselves. It's not like I don't have my own ways of escaping anyway."

Wano then looked at Kentucky.

\*Chick?\*

"What will you do about the demon bird? I don't think you can disguise it as a Lakure Race member either."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"I'll simply leave it back in the cave inside the concealing formations. It should be safe until we come back."

Wano nodded, not minding it too much. As for Malaka, Calina, and Roan, they knew very well that Kentucky would simply enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and stay there.

After returning to their cave, they used three more weeks before going out again. Sure enough, Rean's group arrived outside while Kentucky was nowhere to be seen. In Wano's mind, he thought Rean locked the bird inside his cave where the concealment formation was located. However, Kentucky was inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Sana was over three years old now. She was a very energetic girl, so Rean left Kentucky to play with her in the meantime.

"Alright, let's go."

Meanwhile, somewhere far away from the valley, the groups that had entered the Natural Formation with Rean's group were gathered together. That also included the Dalamu Sect.

"It's been over three years inside this place already. However, none of the Lakure Race members have come out looking for us. In the end, spreading our forces was quite useless."

The one talking was Erbec, the Soul Forging Realm cultivator from Jialin Family.

"Have you guys tried to go out of the formation?"

Everyone nodded. Sure enough, they tried to find an opening these last three years.

"Unfortunately, there's no progress. This formation is tightly sealed, with no way of going out."

"Same thing here. Be it ground or air, the dome has no flaws whatsoever."

"My Guntao Country's forces didn't find anything either."

Tiria then added.

"I did notice something, though."

Immediately, everyone's attention focused on her.

"What is it?"

Tiria then pointed at the natural formation barrier before saying.

"Can't you see it? Think about how much energy there was in the barrier when we first entered it. The barrier now seems to be a little duller than before."

Immediately, everyone looked in the barrier's direction. Sure enough, they had to admit that Tiria was right.

"It can only mean one thing, the Formation Core's energy is being used up more quickly."

Juvian, who was beside Tiria, nodded in response.

"Exactly. Also, I don't think the people outside would just look and wait for the barrier to run out of energy. When we were checking the barrier for a way out, we noticed that several places were attracting more energy than others. If we're not mistaken, the experts outside are attacking it without taking a break."

The Lagan Sect's leader, Galo, immediately confirmed that.

"I also noticed the same thing. Since the Dalamu Sect has reached the same conclusion, that's most likely the case."

"The time here passes around much faster, up to ten times more or less. We already spent three years and two months since we entered this place. That means almost four months had gone by outside. The Sasamil Empire's experts should have arrived a long time ago. They should also be the ones who initiated the attacks on the natural formation."

Suan Foil, the Soul Forging Realm of the Guntao Country Forces, then looked at everyone.

"So, what do you all plan to do? Are we going to simply wait until they finish breaking the barrier from outside? We haven't found anything that can be of use ever since we came here. Isn't that way too humiliating?"

Tiria didn't care about Suan's feelings, though.

"It doesn't matter. You know very well the strength of the experts inside the valley. They don't have just one or two Soul Forging Realm experts. We captured a few of their low-level members to interrogate. I'm pretty sure you did the same thing as well. That being said, you should know that they have multiple Soul Forging Realm ones and even Saint Realm experts. If you want to go there and try something, then you better go by yourself."

Some of the cultivators around nodded in response. However, there were also those who agreed with Suan.

Suan then offered.

"I'm not saying we should try to head there like it's suicide because of honor. Instead... Can't we try to negotiate with them?"

Erbec narrowed his eyes as he said.

"Negotiate? They attacked us as soon as we meet up. Can a negotiation even take place?"



Suan shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"Perhaps? At the very least, we haven't tried ever since that battle."

Everyone pondered over it. If possible, it would be good if they could at least talk about it.