

Death 541

Death... and me

Chapter 541: Peak of the Core Formation Realm

Roan decided to simply ignore that.

"Forget that. We still have at least half a year's worth of time to cultivate, so focus on using this time as much as possible. Since you already accepted the political marriage thing, the problem that will come after the selection will be easier to handle."

Everyone nodded in response. The next ones closest to a breakthrough were Rean and Roan. Of course, they were still a few months away from gathering enough energy, even with the help of the Red Crystals. In fact, Malaka could be said to be catching up to them since their Spiritual Pool increased in size with every breakthrough. The others also increased in size, but not at the same level as them. Then again, that was one of the reasons why they can jump so many levels to fight, so they wouldn't complain about it.

As for Wulio, he had just achieved a breakthrough a few years ago into the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Because of that, it would take him much longer to accumulate enough energy for the next one. He was sure that he wouldn't be ready for the next decade at the very least.

And just like that, time continued to pass. Soon, the eight months were up. In fact, it had almost been nine months since Calina's breakthrough. Everyone could tell that the natural formation was practically gone by now. If one looked at the natural formation's core, they would see that it was littered with cracks. The intense red light it had in the past was almost gone, leaving just a faint red... or more like a black ball with a tinge of red.

It had lasted this long because the experts outside were aware that there would be a negotiation after the natural formation came down. That being said, they stopped attacking it, which increased the formation's lifespan near its end.

However, as everyone had their minds filled with those thoughts, the twins' minds were elsewhere.

[Good! This should be enough. As long as you follow the cultivation manual, you should have another easy breakthrough.]

Sister Orb, as always, observed the condition of their cultivation closely. It took longer than expected since they had a breakthrough too quickly last time. Nevertheless, they were still able to keep a very sturdy foundation, thanks to that. Of course, the life-absorbing crystals that Kentucky was eating helped a lot in that process. Unfortunately, there were only fifty over a year ago. Right now, not even a single one remained.

"Alright! Let's do this."

There wasn't much of a secret between stages. After all, they were within the same realm. That being said, the twins were very confident in their breakthrough.

However, Rean wanted to make sure it would work well, so he took out a few of their Rank Four Spiritual Stones. They were rare and hard to replenish, but if they don't use them even in a moment like this, what's the meaning of having them?

Energy rushed into Rean and Roan's Dantian like a torrential storm due to the stones' higher quality. Their Spiritual Pool soon overflowed, forcing it to increase in size once more. Obviously, the core inside their Dantians had increased in size and power as it also absorbed the pool's extra energy.

After some time, a burst of Spiritual Energy came from the twin's body, spreading outwards. As always, everyone around them perceived the breakthrough before ignoring it once more. They had seen way too many of these breakthroughs already.

"Phew... This cultivation technique really makes everything easier."

[Hmph! We're talking about a Cultivation Technique made by the Soul Gem System. Of course, it would work perfectly.]

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. We understand. You don't need to say it every single time."

Roan ignored Rean and Sister Orb as he paid attention to the chaotic energy in his Dantian.

"No Foundation Stabilizing Pills for us. It'll be better for us if we take our time to calm it down the normal way."

Rean didn't mind.

"It's fine. We're only 24 years old (At least our bodies are). Plus, we're already in the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. There's no need to hurry. Don't forget that Core Formation Realm cultivators have 200 years to live."

Roan nodded and shook his head right after.

"That's true, but it's not that reassuring."

"Why is that?"

Sister Orb knew what Roan was talking about, so she answered before he could.

[Roan's right. That's because the higher your cultivation level, the longer you take to cultivate. Don't be fooled by the lifespan you have at the moment. What you're doing is basically accumulating lifespan to spend it in the higher realms.]

Roan agreed with Sister Orb.

"I asked Old Worm before. A Soul Transformation Realm cultivator has a thousand-year lifespan, while a Saint Realm cultivator only increases that to 1600. Do you see the trend here? The bonus in lifespan doesn't cover the time necessary to cultivate it. He told me that almost no Saint Realm cultivator could break through to the Elemental Transformation Realm."

[Exactly. Breaking through to the next realm close to the end of one's lifespan is a terrible idea. You have to accumulate as much lifespan as possible at the start, using your talents and young bodies to push forward. Ideally, I want you two to reach the Saint Realm before you two reach 500 years old. It would give you 1100 years to cultivate through the Saint Realm. Don't forget, your foundations require a lot more energy than others.]

Rean nodded with a serious expression.

"I see... So this extra strength we get from having a bigger Spiritual Pool can also backfire on us in the end."

[Correct. Of course, that doesn't mean you can rush things. If you damage your foundation for a hasty breakthrough, it will lead to worse results. Just as Roan said, let your foundations stabilize naturally this time. Taking too many pills is obviously not a good thing.]

Roan then took his sword out as he looked in the direction of the arenas.

"And the best way to naturally let them stabilize is obviously battle. I'm going ahead!"

Rean laughed in response as he took out his sword as well.

"Guess I'm going with you. This is also a good chance to test the power of someone at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm before the natural formation collapses."

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Chapter 542: Formation Down

However, as soon as the twins left their room, they noticed Kentucky through their connection.

"Oh, right! With our cultivations increased, Kentucky is now free to advance to Peak Stage Three Demon Beast."

Roan ignored that, though.

"I'm heading to the arena anyway. You can go ahead and take a look at that pervert bird."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response.

"Alright, then."

Rean then went to the pervert bird fan club area, where he saw quite a lot of girls with a concerned expression. Rean could be said to be one of the very few men who could get close to the bird. After all, the rest seemed to hate it.

"Is everything alright?"

"Oh! Rean! Come, come! Take a look at Kentucky and check if he's fine."

Rean smiled in response before being guided to where Kentucky was. There, he noticed that Kentucky had a painful expression on his face. However, Rean's mouth twitched at that scene. Many girls were rubbing his feathers, trying to make him feel better.

'You dammed perverted bird. You're even using your breakthrough to call their attention.'

Of course, Rean couldn't tell the girls the truth. First, they wouldn't believe him. Second, they would despise him instead for 'ignoring' Kentucky's plight.

"Ahem... He's fine. It's just that he's breaking through to the Peak Stage Three level. This is just a side effect of becoming stronger. It shouldn't take long before he feels better."

All the girls sighed in relief.

"That's great!"

They all celebrated right after that. After all, their idol was getting even stronger. It was then that Rean noticed Calina arriving there. Immediately, he sent her a Spiritual Sense message.

'How come they didn't notice Kentucky was just pretending? It's so obvious at this point!'

Calina laughed mentally as she replied.

'Hehehe. Don't underestimate the power of love. Many of the girls have definitely noticed that Kentucky isn't really feeling bad or anything. Still, they like him the way he is. You must understand that most girls love fluffy things, especially a cute one like Kentucky. They're more than happy to go along with his act. It's a win-win situation.'

Rean shook his head, not even trying to understand those words.

Calina then smiled at Rean before saying.

"Anyway, congratulations. Did Roan break through as well?"

Rean smiled back as he nodded.

"Yes, Roan did. He should have gone to the arena to try things out now."

Calina nodded and immediately turned around to head to the arenas. As for Kentucky, the other girls would take care of him.

Rean then took a last look at the shameless Minokawa before leaving as well. He also wanted to try the arenas.

Everyone noticed the twins' breakthrough, so there were many eager to give it a try in the arena against them. Well, all of those who wanted to try fighting them were in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm already. Those at the Core Formation Realm gave up on the idea a long time ago.

Calina and Malaka, of course, didn't have a choice. Roan made sure to give them special attention while testing his and the girls' abilities. As for Rean, it wasn't that necessary since they could share memories as long as they wished to. That being said, Rean rarely fought against Roan.

Wulio still gave it a try against Roan and won without much difficulty. After all, he wasn't an ordinary Late Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator. He could also jump stages to fight those stronger than him. Not to mention that unless the twins fought together, it would be too hard to match a Late Core and Soul Fusion Realm's power alone.

Nonetheless, Roan still gave Wulio a run for his money, leaving a few shallow injuries behind with his Death Style. Wulio couldn't help but feel like a knife was on his throat every time they clashed. One mistake and the advantage he had in cultivation would become meaningless.

The one closest to a breakthrough now would be Malaka. However, she was several months to a year away from it, so she definitely wouldn't reach the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm before the natural formation went down.

Sure enough, the formation came down not too long after. Eleven days after Rean, Roan, and Kentucky had their breakthroughs, the formation finally began to crumble apart.

Jana was on the side of the natural formation core with the Formation Masters of her Lakure Race. They observed the core crumble together with the formation. By now, there was no red on it anymore. It was just a giant black sphere that would soon turn into dust.

Out of nowhere, Laro appeared in their room as he looked at the black sphere as well.

"Ancestor."

Laro nodded before saying.

"It's time. Gather everyone."

Jana nodded and used her Spiritual Sense to pass the order. Obviously, the twins' group heard that as well.

Everyone from the Lakure and human race gathered so Laro could talk to them.

"As you can see, the formation is coming down. The humans can go ahead and leave the valley if they want to. It's not like you were locked here anyway. As for the Lakures, stay here for the moment. We have our defenses mounted in the valley, so it's the best place to stay at the moment if something goes wrong."

As mentioned before, the Lakures already let the humans roam freely if they wanted to. The ones who stayed here had their own reasons. For example, Erbec and Suan stayed so that they could be considered one of the reasons for the negotiation if it went well.

Tiria and Juvian pondered for a bit as they looked at the formation. Juvian came back to the valley after he finished reporting the things to Zuan. Well, that was basically because the twins were here as well.

Sure enough, at least half of the humans took this chance to leave. The other half just stayed because there wasn't anywhere to go with the natural formation running. Now, they could finally go home.

And just like that, Laro waited for the Sasamil Empire's representative to come.

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Chapter 543: The Way Out

The Lakure Race members stayed at the entrance of the valley. At the same time, Laro went high up in the air as he looked in the Sasamil Empire Capital's direction. Erbec, Suan, Tiria, and the others were also there since they decided to stay behind.

Several hours later, Jana's group noticed the presence of several high-level cultivators approaching in their direction.

"Ancestor, they have come."

Laro nodded, not minding it too much. His Spiritual Sense was much stronger than Jana and the others, so he noticed the other side's presence a long time ago.

Eventually, a group of cultivators, both from the Sasamil Imperial Family and the subordinate clans, arrived at their location. Ernian, of course, wasn't the leader of this group anymore. With the new information obtained, the Sasamil Empire finally sent an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator to take a look.

It was an old woman with a proud expression. She used the Sasamil Imperial Family's clothes, though with a few different adornments to them. Those features showed her position in the family, which was obviously very high given her cultivation.

However, the moment her Spiritual Sense had touched Laro, her expression instantly changed. The proud look on her face disappeared as she took a deep breath.

'So it wasn't a joke or a lie. There was really someone in that realm in this place. To think that a Lakure Race ancestor has survived to this day... We definitely can't afford to make an enemy out of him.'

She then bowed to Laro before saying.

"My name is Valeria Sasamil, a member of the Imperial Household. May I ask who this senior is?"

Laro was satisfied with the politeness, so he didn't make things difficult for her.

"I'm Laro. I believe you know that my Lakure Race is coming out of the underworld. Even though many of us still hate the human race, I'm not an idiot. A war between you and us would definitely end with our loss. However, I am more than strong enough to turn this world upside down before we lose. That being said, I've decided to negotiate with you."

Valeria immediately nodded as she replied.

"This junior would also prefer a negotiation, senior."

As old as she might be, she knew very well just how much younger she was compared to the man in front of her.

"Good! In that case, I'll be straightforward. I want my Lakure Race to have the same standing as your human race in this Empire. If they need to enter the capital for whatever reason, they can. If they're going to reside in whatever country, they can. In exchange, we won't break the rules of your Empire. However, I better not hear that they're getting persecuted on purpose."

Valeria narrowed her eyes in response before saying.

"Senior, that would be slightly difficult. The special meridians that your race has would definitely attract the attention of some forces. Even if I accept this offer, I can't guarantee their safety. The best outcome would be if you all stayed in the same place to look after each other."

Laro snorted as he released the pressure of his Spiritual Energy.

"Are you telling me that you want to confine us once again in a place where we can't leave your sights?"

Valeria let out cold sweat as she did her best to resist that assault. As for the others who came with her, they already fell to the ground, unable to fight against it.

"Senior, you've misinterpreted my words. The Lakure Race members can indeed move around as long as they keep within the Empire's borders and rules. It's just that I have no way of guaranteeing their safety. If you think they can take care of themselves, then we can definitely continue this negotiation."

Laro narrowed his eyes as he retracted the pressure of his Spiritual Energy.

Just as they were about to continue talking, a voice came from below the two parties.

"Isn't the answer simple? If being of a different race is the main problem, just go for a political marriage. Why don't you have a few important and single Lakure Race members marry some important and single Sasamil Empire Family members? Once a Lakure Race member becomes part of the Imperial Family and vice versa, no one would have the right to complain about it. It won't completely stop others from hunting the Lakures because of their meridians. Then again, the chances of it happening will be reduced by a lot."

Everyone was taken aback by that proposal. When they looked down, they saw a white-haired man talking. Naturally, that was none other than Rean.

Valeria noticed that the one who had talked just now was a Peak Core Formation Realm cultivator.

"This isn't something a brat like you should put your nose into."

However, that wasn't the real reason why she said that.

'Is this boy crazy? The Sasamil Imperial Family is already a mess because of the Chrole Imperial Family bloodline that entered it. The top princes and princesses in the fight for the throne are advocating for the complete extermination of those with Chrole bloodlines within the Sasamil Imperial Family. Does he think they'll just say yes to another new mix?'

Laro, on the other hand, couldn't help but think.

'If he wasn't Jakiro's protege, I would have kicked him away before he could even start talking. However... I have to admit that his idea isn't bad. Not bad at all...'

Soon after, he spread his Spiritual Sense and found the person he wanted.

Old Worm was watching everything from a hidden corner. Obviously, the only one who found him there was Laro, who sent him a Spiritual Sense message.

'Is this something you came up with?'

Old Worm shook his head.

'That has nothing to do with me. The twins don't even know I'm here.'

Laro nodded in response.

'In that case... What do you think about their proposal? Wouldn't it make things even messier inside your Sasamil Imperial Family?'

Old Worm pondered for a bit and nodded. The original plan was for him to appear at some point and accept Laro's terms. In exchange, he would have the Lakure Race's help if a war really broke out with Chrole. However, Rean's words turned everything upside down.

However, it was then that he recalled his grandfather's prophecy.

'Perhaps... that's the way out...'

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Chapter 544: You Can't Leave

In the end, Laro asked Old Worm.

'So, should we do it or not? I won't lie. Considering the current condition of your Sasamil Family, it might bring you more troubles than relief. However, it'll definitely help my race establish itself in the next few years.'

Old Worm knew that. That's why he was thinking about it it.

'Fuck it! I'll accept the twins' proposal. It's not like things will change as they are at the moment.'

Laro nodded, satisfied.

'Great! However, will there be any member of your family willing to marry people of my Lakure Race?'

Old Worm nodded as he said.

'Don't worry. I'll make sure that there will be some. My family is already used to political marriages, after all. I just need to offer a bit of incentive to those who are only it for the rewards to the point that quite a few of the lower-ranked ones will jump out in a second. Not everyone really cares about love, you know?'

Laro agreed with Old Worm.

'I understand.'

As always, a conversation through Spiritual Sense was over in just a few seconds. Laro then looked at Valeria Sasamil before saying.

"I like his idea. Let's do as he says, and we can consider this negotiation a success."

Valeria began to feel a headache coming after hearing those words. There was no way that the top princes and princesses would take it that easily. However, just as she was about to refuse the offer, another voice echoed in everyone's minds.

"I accept your offer in the name of the Sasamil Family."

Out of nowhere, Old Worm appeared in midair like a ghost. It's just that his appearance and aura were vastly different than what the twins knew.

Of course, although the twins couldn't recognize the guy's appearance, Valeria definitely did.

"An-Ancestor Jakiro! You came out!"

Old Worm nodded.

"I felt some fluctuations in the energy coming from this place, so I decided to take a look. Still, I didn't expect to find you once again, Laro."

Laro obviously played along with Old Worm's pretense.

"Hmph! Did you think you could keep me locked down there forever? Don't forget that we were both Saint Realm experts with similar talent back then. Still, I thought you would be dead by now."

Old Worm shook his head as he said in response.

"I can say the same thing. If you're alive, then so am I. However, we both know what would happen if you decide to rampage around. That's why I'm accepting your offer. However, I have a condition of my own as well."

Laro nodded.

"Speak."

"My Sasamil Family might go into a war against the Chrole Empire in the future. If that really happens, I want your Lakure Race to give us support. Since you're using the Sasamil Family to keep your Lakure Race safe, then I'll use your Lakure Race to keep my Empire safe as well."

Laro pondered a bit before saying.

"I could just ally with the Chrole Empire instead."

Old Worm snorted in response.

"If you think you can convince that crazy woman, then go ahead and try it. I highly doubt it's possible, though."

Laro narrowed his eyes. Of course, that had already been discussed between Old Worm and Laro previously.

"Fine! I'll select a few influential members with a purer Lakure bloodline, so you can obtain a few for your Sasamil Family too."

Valeria didn't know what to do.

'Ancestor, this is a bad idea. The princes and princesses fighting for the throne won't accept it.'

Old Worm shook his head as he replied.

'It's fine. I'll be using a few lower-ranked members of the family with direct bloodlines. You must understand that we need to avoid fighting against the Lakures at all costs. Besides, I also got their ancestor's promise that they will help us if the Chrole Empire comes. The benefits surpass the disadvantages. Go back and tell them to prepare a few members for it. If any of those kids complain, you can ask them to come and talk to me. Well, I doubt they'd have the courage to do so anyway.'

Old Worm then looked back at Laro before saying.

"Laro, one last thing. Anyone at our level of cultivation is prohibited from intervening directly with the secular world. If war really breaks out, you can't enter the fight. The same goes for those at the Elemental Transformation Realm."

Laro nodded, not minding it too much.

"I already expected that. Don't worry. As long as you don't try to use my Lakure Race as cannon fodder, I won't say anything. After all, it would be a perfect chance for the Lakure Race members who had been locked down there for so long to get some real training."

After that, Laro, Jakiro, Jana, Valeria, and a few other cultivators from both sides left to go elsewhere. After all, they had a lot more things to talk about. Since there wasn't going to be a fight anymore, the remaining forces on both sides retreated as well.

Rean's group heard the entire conversation and was surprised that their idea was accepted so easily. The fact was that the one who gave the idea was Calina. However, she couldn't appear in front of them yet. Otherwise, she might have been recognized. That's why Rean was the one who spoke for her.

'It's over? Just like that?'

'Seems like it.'

'It went much smoother than I thought it would.'

'It's fine. It's much better than starting a war against the Lakures here. Jialin is just way too close, so we would definitely be part of those with the worst outcome in this mess.'

Everyone agreed with those words.

Rean then stretched his body before saying.

"Well, that's over. How about we return to the Dalamu Sect? We've been out for quite some time."

However... a hand appeared on Rean's shoulder as soon as he said that. When Rean looked at its owner, he bitterly smiled.

"Ahem... Can I help you with something, Elder Xila?"

Xila snorted in response.

"Of course! You can definitely help a lot... by staying here and healing everyone's poison as always. Don't think you'll be able to leave that easily, brat!"

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Chapter 545: Back to Dalamu

Rean scratched the back of his head as he looked at Xila and replied.

"But Elder Xila, I can leave whenever I want, you know? You should have understood that already."

Xila narrowed his eyes in response. Sure enough, he knew how the twins could simply disappear, leaving only their clones behind.

"Hmph! Still, part of the negotiation is to have you heal everyone, or did you forget about that?"

Rean shook his head as he answered.

"Of course not. However, how can I improve my cultivation by staying here forever? It's imperative that I should go out and explore the world. I have way too many things to do outside as well. If you really want me to heal everyone in my lifetime, I have to go out. Besides, it's not like I won't heal anyone anymore. Just write a list of those who will be healed and have them stay in Majorias City. I can go out every once in a while to heal those ones."

"Just so you know, after my last breakthrough, I'm finally able to heal four Lakure Race members at once as long as their cultivation isn't higher than mine."

Xila had conflicted thoughts after hearing that.

"And why should I believe that you won't run away?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"I can't even if I wanted. My sect is the Dalamu Sect. Also, you said it yourself. Their negotiation probably has me in the mix. I might be able to ignore the Lakures. Though, I can't ignore the Sasamil Imperial Family's order, especially since I'm married to one of their princesses."

Xila sighed and finally let Rean go.

"Fine! However, you better keep your promise if you don't want the tension between the two sides to intensify."

Rean nodded.

"Don't worry! I know what I'm doing."

After that, Rean left with Roan, Malaka, Calina, and Wulio.

Back at the negotiation site, Laro and Old Worm finished discussing the last details of their alliance.

"Very well. I will need your Lakure Race to send those who you want to go through this political marriage to the Sasamil Capital. Let me see... Usually, just a single marriage would be enough to show our position. However, your Lakure Race is an 'extreme.' In that case, I'll have three willing members of the Sasamil Imperial Family marry three of your race's members. How does that sound?"

Laro nodded, satisfied.

"I know they'll be some lower-ranked direct bloodline members. However, that's more than enough for the outside world since what carries weight in this situation is your Sasamil Family's name. That being said, I'll send you a few of our Lakure royal blood of the same level."

Old Worm didn't mind it, saying.

"Alright. Now, there's one thing I need to make clear to you, Laro. I'm only intervening in this situation because you're at the same cultivation level as me. After we are done, you'll have to abide by the same rules as others at our level—no more intervention in the secular world. Is that okay?"

Laro nodded.

"You told that to me many times. I'm fine with it as long as my Lakure Race isn't at risk of extinction or something like that."

Old Worm agreed with him.

"That goes without saying. I would also move out if I saw that the human race was at risk as well."

And with that, the two sides had reached a consensus. Well, as mentioned before, that wasn't something Laro thought about. He had to follow these rules in exchange for Old Worm not killing his race while he was locked. The play they were performing was something they had already talked about a long time ago... except the marriage thing.

In the place where the natural barrier's border was located, Qia was still waiting. Unlike Droman, she had never left this place ever since the natural formation closed. At some point, she was able to spot many human cultivators coming from the valley.

Immediately, she moved there and looked for Rean and Roan. Well, they were not within this batch, so she had to wait for a while longer. Fortunately, she saw the people she wanted to see the most after some time. Of course, she immediately noticed how much taller and older he became. Still, it was way too easy to identify his show-white hair.

"Rean!"

Rean also noticed Qia running in his direction and immediately sighed.

Finally, she jumped at him and hugged Rean. Obviously, she was worried sick. As for Rean...

"Have you been waiting here all this time? I thought you would have given up by now."

Qia shook her head.

"I'll never give up."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"You should know my position in this relationship of ours. Now that I spent nearly eight years inside the natural formation, I've become even more certain of that. I'm telling you, you should really look for someone else."

Qia was taken aback as she looked at Rean's helpless face. He really seemed to be annoyed by her love, which obviously impacted her. Slowly, she pulled away from him as she asked.

"D-Did you find someone else while you were inside the formation?"

Rean couldn't understand how she came up with this idea.

"Of course not! Why should I entangle myself with someone else?"

Wulio and Malaka glanced at him. Wasn't Rean the one who kept forcing Calina to Roan? What you're saying right now is going against what you want for your brother, you know? How can you be this shameless?

Roan didn't have patience for that, though.

"If you're going to waste my time here, then I'm going ahead."

Before anyone said anything, he continued on his way out.

"Wait for us!"

Rean and the others also sped up to catch with Roan. Qia couldn't help but sigh as she did the same. She made several moves on Rean while the two were in the sect working on the new Electrical Formations. However, Rean had dodged every single one of them. The more she tried, the more adamant he

became. Right now, though, after spending several years inside the natural formation, she felt that he had become even colder towards her.

She wasn't wrong. Rean was dead set in making this fake marriage not turn into something tangible. Once again, he was thinking about the day when he would need to depart the planet. As for Roan and Calina, he simply helped Calina because he found it funny to bother death. In the end, he also thought that Roan and Calina's relationship won't turn into anything for the same reason.

Qia then looked at Wulio, who was coming out with Rean's group.

"Errrr... And you are?"

Wulio looked at Qia before smiling. Sure enough, he had also changed his appearance even before coming to Qerlen Country. Naturally, Qia couldn't recognize him, just like Calina.

"Oh! You can call me Wano. I became friends with Rean's group during my time in the natural formation. You can count on me if you need something."

Qia looked at Rean, to which the latter said.

"He is indeed a friend of ours. Don't worry, you can trust him."

Qia nodded.

"Nice to meet you, Senior Wano. I'm Qia Sasamil, a princess of the Sasamil Empire."

"Good for you, I guess."

Surprisingly for Qia, Wano didn't seem impressed by her identity at all. He also didn't act more polite just because of that either. Naturally, she didn't like that too much. Still, since he was a friend of Rean and Roan, she didn't mention it.

With Tiria's help, Rean's group was able to make their way back to the Dalamu Sect within two days. Droman, of course, immediately came out to see them. Then...

Pah!

Ouch!

Rean rubbed the back of his head in pain.

"Brat! How dare you enter the natural formation without permission? You just wait until Sect Master Mia is back. Don't think you'll escape punishment that easily."

Droman then looked at Roan.

"As for you, I'll leave that for Old Worm to deal with."

Roan couldn't care less as he shrugged his shoulders.

Droman then grabbed Rean's arm and pulled him along.

"Let's go back to the Formations Hall. There are a lot of things you need to check. Same goes for you, Qia."

Qia nodded and immediately followed those two.

However...

"Wait, Elder Droman. I need to go to my room first. I've been wearing these clothes all this while, after all."

It was then that Qia noticed that she had the same problem.

"Ah! Me too! Come on, Rean. Let's go change."

Droman narrowed his eyes but nodded in the end.

"As long as you don't suddenly decide to do each other and make me wait longer, then that's fine. I'll be waiting for you two in the Formations Hall. Come quickly."

Qia's face suddenly went red, but Rean just shook his head after hearing that. They had never done it after all.

"Alright, alright. I'll stop teasing you two."

Droman then turned around and left. Rean and Qia did the same thing and headed back to their room, leaving Roan, Calina, Malaka, and Wulio behind.

Calina and Malaka then looked at Roan, waiting for his words.

"What? Just do whatever you want. As long as you stick to the training schedule I gave you, there should be no problems."

Calina and Malaka nodded and immediately left after Roan's words. Only Roan and Wulio remained after that.

"What are you planning to do for now?"

Wulio pondered for a bit before saying.

"I guess I'll head back to the Sasamil Capital to check a few things. Your words about one's support not meaning anything have really caught my attention. I want to see if I can find the reason for that."

Roan was surprised that Wulio was that straightforward, not trying to hide his intention at all.

"That's fine by me. By the way, I intend to keep Calina hidden for a few more years. If everything goes well, she should be able to breakthrough in seven to eight years' time. That should also coincide with the time that the fight for the throne really escalates."

Wulio nodded.

"From what that guy called Erbec said, it seems like many of the small countries are already aware of the difficulties in the Imperial Family."

Roan agreed with him.

"The princes and princesses' moves would catch the countries' attention sooner or later anyway. Anyway, let them do as they wish. The end result is far from being set in stone."

Wulio looked at Roan, who seemed to understand everything that was going on.

"Sigh... Whatever. I'm going out. I'll check every now and then to see how Calina is doing."

Wulio then turned around and moved to the Teleport Formation Hall. On the other hand, Roan narrowed his eyes as he headed to Old Worm's hut once again.

Suddenly...

Pin!

[Warning! Soul Gem System's Existence discovered.]

[Attack imminent!]

[Initializing Counter Measure Protocol.]

Death... and me

Chapter 546: Take Everyone!

Rean and Roan immediately stopped what they were doing.

'What?!'

Not long after, Rean and Roan felt some kind of power similar to the one used to move them into the Dimensional Realm. Following that, they looked at the sky and saw giant silver swirls forming.

'This... Isn't it the same energy as the ones used when we move in and out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm?'

'That's not all. This isn't just something happening in the sky. It's a phenomenon happening in outer space. However, it's so big that we can't see from this point.'

However, the system ignored their surprise and continued to release information.

[Warning! The enemy is about to use a super long-distance teleport formation to send an attack at the Soul Gem System's location. Enemy's attack is predicted to be in the next 13 seconds.]

Rean and Roan didn't know what to say? Enemy? What enemy? And what is this attack the Soul Gem System is talking about?

'Sister Orb, what's happening?'

However, Sister Orb didn't answer this time. It was as if she was gone from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

[The Counter Measure Protocol is fully activated. Planet's location is too dangerous—reallocation of system and hosts necessary. All the actual missions have been canceled. Any penalties and bonuses have been negated. Gathering energy for super long-distance emergency teleport.]

The twins felt a chill on their backs. Does that mean their mission to make Calina the Empress was gone, just like that? But then again, they wouldn't be killed if they failed that either, right? However, there was also the reward in Destiny Points that they would get if they succeeded, which was now gone.

Still, the twins cared little about any of that at the moment. In their minds, there was just one question. Just where is the Soul Gem System sending them to?

They weren't the only ones to see the swirl in the sky either. All the cultivators and ordinary people of the world could see the same thing. That's how big it really was. Following that, the eyes of the silver swirl began to shine with a bright red light.

Of course, the twins noticed that as well.

'Is that thing aiming at us? What will happen to the sect if it lands here?'

However, the twins were being way too naive as to what was happening outside the planet. Though, the Soul Gem System woke them up to the reality of the situation.

[Warning! Warning! Total planetary destruction imminent. Now increasing rate of Spiritual Energy absorption to the maximum level!]

'PI-Planet destruction?!'

Rean fell on his knees when he heard that. Is such a thing really possible? It's an entire planet that they're talking about, you know?

However, Roan was more worried about whether they would escape this crisis or not. As for anything else, he could think about that after they left this place alive.

All of that happened in just four to five seconds since the Soul Gem System's first warning.

All of a sudden, all the Spirit Stones in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm had disappeared. Not only that, be it the treasure of the Dalamu Sect or the cultivator's own possessions, anything in over a thousand kilometers that had any Spiritual Energy at all was siphoned dry by the Soul Gem System. Of course, none of them had time to worry about that since they could see what was happening in the sky. Only Rean and Roan knew what that thing meant, though.

However, Rean quickly recovered from his stupor and immediately shouted at the Soul Gem System.

'Soul Gem System! Use all the destiny points available and stop the attack!'

However, the system completely ignored Rean's words.

[Super Long-Distance Emergency Teleport, 70% charged. Estimated to be ready in 6 seconds. Attack estimated to arrive in 8 seconds. Initializing circuitry teleport sequence.]

'What?! That can't be!'

However, Roan immediately shouted back at Rean.

'Shut up! Pull whoever's close to you into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.'

Roan suddenly flashed away as fast as he could in Calina and Malaka's direction.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

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

His speed exploded in a fraction of a second. Calina and Malaka had just left his side a few minutes ago, so he might be able to get them in time. Immediately, he spread his Spiritual Sense as far as he could, aiming to contact Calina and Malaka earlier and make them run in his direction as well.

Rean was taken aback by Roan's words and gritted his teeth. The only person close enough to him at the moment was Qia, who came back to the room to change clothes. Although Rean and Calina didn't have any 'married couple' things going on, they still lived in the same place to keep up appearances. It's just that they slept in different rooms.

Bam!

Suddenly, Rean barged through Qia Room's door, catching the sight of the naked girl once again. Because the events were happening outside, Qia hadn't noticed it yet. Naturally, she was frightened by Rean's sudden appearance.

"Ah! What are you doing?!"

However, Rean didn't have time to explain.

He immediately pounced at Qia while using his Enhancement and Roan's Shadow Steps. In these eight years in the natural formation, Rean had reached the same level of cultivation as Qia. However, he was obviously much stronger and faster than her when exchanging elements with Roan. That being said, Qia couldn't dodge at all as he grabbed her. She was just about to scream when suddenly, she received Rean's Spiritual Sense message.

'We're being attacked! Don't ask anything. You will feel some kind of suction power enveloping your body, don't try to resist it. All I ask from you is to trust me.'

Qia's eyes opened wide as she looked at Rean. It was then that she noticed how desperate he looked. It was obvious that whatever is happening must be hurting him a lot. It wasn't the expression of someone who was trying to take advantage of her. She immediately calmed down as she felt the suction power that Rean talked about around her body.

'I trust you.'

Rean was taken aback at that moment as he looked at Qia's smiling face, leaving her entire being for him to take care of. In the next second, Qia's body disappeared from the surface of the planet.

[Warning! Five seconds until the planet's destruction. Circuitry Formation 90% charged. Circuitry Teleport Sequence completed. Read for teleportation once energy is acquired.]

Rean understood he didn't have time anymore. Immediately, he spread his Spiritual Sense, trying to catch the presence of anyone around his Qia's room. Surprisingly, he found someone he couldn't expect at all. Still, he gritted his teeth as his Black Star appeared in his hand.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Rean then shot through the room's wall, just in time to see the red light in the skies increasing in brightness. From the looks of it, the attack the Soul Gem System talked about had already been teleported to their solar system and was coming down to their planet. Still, Rean ignored that as he used his full speed to attack the person in front of him with the side of his sword, Black Star.

The person was too focused on what was happening in the sky that he didn't notice Rean's presence at first. By the time he heard the wall breaking down on his side, Rean's sword was already at the back of his neck. Still, he wasn't just anyone, so he tried to defend by using his Spiritual Energy to create a Spiritual Energy Barrier on the point of the attack.

Bam!

However, Rean didn't hold back at all either, so that person was still heavily knocked down as his vision went blurry. He couldn't tell right from left since his mind was disorientated from the attack's impact.

Rean looked at that and was surprised as well. He didn't expect that this guy would be able to defend against his attack in such a last-minute fashion. Still, he noticed that the guy had lost his bearings, which was enough for Rean. Immediately, the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm's suction power enveloped the guy, quickly pulling him inside as well.

Rean looked around to see if he could bring anyone else. Unfortunately, there wasn't time anymore.

[Circuitry Teleport Charge completed. Initializing Soul Gem System Teleport.]

Against Rean's will, he was brought inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. There, he immediately fell on the others' side. He wasn't the only one, though. Roan also appeared inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm at the same time. In his arms, one could see Calina and Malaka, who couldn't understand what was happening at all.

Last but not least, a confused Kentucky appeared inside of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, much to Rean and Roan's surprise since they weren't close to Kentucky to start with.

The Soul Gem System then activated the teleport sequence. Silver light gathered all around the place before the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm reappeared outside of the planet. Rean and Roan used their authority to make the Dimensional Realm's barrier look like a clear window that showed the outside world. They had done that in the past to watch the surroundings, so it wasn't anything new.

Everyone then saw the planet in front of them. However, what really caught their attention was the ray of red light that was several times the planet's size making its way there.

Before they could breathe even once, the red light hit the planet at a frightening speed. Because they were in space, there was no sound whatsoever. However, they saw how the planet in front of them was suddenly decimated in less than a second.

Malaka, Calina, Qia, and the new guy didn't really understand what they were seeing. Still, they could connect the dots once they thought about the red light they saw in the sky before appearing in this place. Seeing Roan and Rean's expressions had also confirmed their fears. However, the system ignored that as it announced.

[Circuitry Teleport Sequence Stage One completed. Now setting up coordinates. Coordinates confirmed. Activating Teleport Sequence Stage Two.]

After some time, the destination was selected. In the next moment, everyone disappeared from that solar system.

Death... and me

Chapter 547: Lord Eagon

The Soul Gem System was really quick with its maneuvers. When the system teleported to outer space first, part of the ray of red light had detached from the main attack and aimed at it. The Soul Gem System disappeared just a second before it passed where Rean's group was, barely missing its target.

Around a minute later, another spatial phenomenon happened nearby the area where the Soul Gem System was. Suddenly space seemed to be splitting apart, showing a gap in the middle of nothing. Following that, a man walked out of the thing as he looked around.

"Fuck! He escaped again!"

Soon after, another anomaly happened close to him, which brought another person to this place.

"We knew it would be unlikely to destroy it. There's no helping it since teleporting a living body at such a distance takes much longer than sending a wave of energy."

The first guy then calmed down as he nodded.

"Just how did Soul Gem create such a thing? The moment we find its location, it immediately perceives us even before we take action. We tried to attack first this time, but we were still not fast enough. Just how long will it take for us to find it again..."

The second guy shook his head as he said.

"Forget that. It's not like it poses any threat to us now that Soul Gem is gone. Let's just go b- hum?"

Just as they were about to head back, the second man noticed something as he looked in the direction of the destroyed planet.

"Oh! It seems like we have a few survivors."

In less than an instant, his body blinked away. The first man narrowed his eyes in response and quickly followed.

In another place in outer space, Old Worm, Laro, and a woman looked at the area where their planet was located just a moment ago. The woman's name was Palana. She just so happened to be the ancestor of the Chrole Imperial Family, someone who had been alive since the war against the Lakure Race.

All three of them seemed to have suffered severe injuries. Their clothes were totally ragged as they lost any of the previous demeanor they showed in front of others before.

Behind them, there were a few people that they barely had any time to save. They were using their own Spiritual Energy to allow those people to stay alive in outer space as well. However, they weren't any better than Old Worm's group.

Surprisingly, one of them was Mia. Old Worm had stayed behind to deal with the things with Laro back in the Lakure Race. As the Sect Master of the Dalamu Sect, Mia was also there, representing Zuan, who had gone back to the Sect. Old Worm had been living in the Dalamu Sect for so long. When he noticed how bad things were, he immediately enveloped Mia and two more members of his Sasamil Family, Ernian and Valeria. Following that, he shot to the skies as fast as he could.

Laro did the same thing, bringing Jana, Xila, and another elder close to him called Kaman.

Palana did the same thing, but Old Worm and Laro couldn't recognize the people she brought together.

As one could imagine, they had extremely ugly expressions. However, they also didn't know what to do now.

"Just why did that happen?"

Laro, who was gritting his teeth so hard that blood was coming out, shook his head in response.

"I don't know. However, it was definitely not something we can do anything about."

Old Worm, on the other hand, was the only one who didn't seem so angry. In his mind, he could only think about one thing.

'Grandfather sacrifice his life to divine a way out for Sasamil. We knew that Sasamil would go through a great crisis in the future, but we never found out why. After the tension between Sasamil and Clhrole had intensified, I realized that the problem was related to our countries going to war. However, it seems that I was wrong, completely wrong. It wasn't just Sasamil that would confront a calamity, but the entire planet!'

Nevertheless, he also had another doubt.

'However, grandfather also said that the way out for Sasamil could be found in the northeast side of our Sasamil Empire. What was that about? Was there something in the northeast that could prevent what just happened? What could possibly contend against such power in that place?'

As Old Worm and the others thought about everything that happened, they didn't notice the danger approaching them. No, to be more specific, they knew that staying in this place might be extremely dangerous. However, they still can't do something like controlling space. Naturally, they were isolated in the middle of nowhere. If the enemy who attacked the planet decided to capture them, there would be nowhere for them to run to start with, so they didn't even try.

Sure enough, an enormous pressure from Spiritual Energy suddenly assaulted everyone in their group. Even the experts like Old Worm, Palana, and Laro couldn't do anything against it.

"What do we have here...."

The second man from before then appeared in front of Old Worm and everyone else.

"Oh! No wonder you survived the planet's explosion. To think that I would find some Transition Realm cultivators in this forgotten corner of the Universe."

The moment the man said the word 'Transition,' the world around him seemed to come back to life. Out of nowhere, he began to suffer attacks from all sides. However, the man just snorted at that sight.

"Hmph!"

Bang!

In an instant, his body radiated a powerful silver light that negated all the attacks. He looked like a god that no one could touch. Eventually, the attacks ended, not being able to do anything to that man.

Old Worm and the others looked at that with fear in their eyes. That was the reason no one talked about what came after the Elemental Transformation Realm. That's because it was considered a taboo of the Universe. Cultivation had always been regarded as fighting the heavens. What happened was just a small demonstration of what it meant.

Of course, it's not like the word 'Transition' was cursed. One could say that word as many times as he or she wanted. What caused the backlash of the Universe was one's thoughts.

"This annoying shit. Oh well, whatever. It's not like I can do anything against it."

Right after, the first man appeared on his side as well. But that wasn't all. He also brought seven more cultivators with him.

Old Worm, Palana, and Laro recognized two of them straight away. They were Transition Realm cultivators from other regions of the planet. Of course, they also participated in the Lakure War in the past. The man then threw those people towards Old Worm's group.

"Five of them at once? Now that's really surprising."

"I got them from the other side where the planet was located."

"What should we do with them?"

The second figure pondered for a bit as he looked at everyone.

"Well, then. It'll be quite annoying if the word of what happened here spreads. Even though they don't have the power to manipulate space, there's a small chance that someone else will find them by coincidence. Especially after we destroyed a planet. It might have caught someone's attention."

The other guy shrugged his shoulders, though.

"So what? It's not like it would matter anyway."

"I know. Still, it's always better to prevent unnecessary troubles, don't you think?"

"That's true."

The man then looked at Old Worm's group.

"Seems like you guys have run out of luck today. Let me send you guys on your way."

Old Worm's group could only watch as the enemy was about to kill them. The power of space gathered on the guy's hand, which he immediately released on everyone. However...

Bang!

Out of nowhere, a spatial barrier appeared right in front of Old Worm's group.

"Who's there? Come out now!"

The two guys then looked in a particular direction and immediately attacked. Well, that was just a test, though.

Boom, boom, boom!

Unfortunately, their test was also blocked by the same kind of spatial barrier once again.

"Sigh... Why are the Celestial Sect members always so impatient?"

Following that voice, another man materialized in front of Old Worm's group.

"Hmph! Said the guy spying on us just now. Who wouldn't get impatient in such a situation?"

The man smiled in response.

"Alright, alright. How about we end things here, shall we? You already send an entire planet flying, so why insist on killing these weaklings?"

"It has nothing to do with you. Still, since you've decided to intervene, we might as well get rid of you."

However, just as one of the enemies was about to attack, the other one stopped him.

"Forget it. Let's leave this place."

Obviously, his friend didn't like those words.

"Why?"

It was then that he began to feel other spatial fluctuations appearing around them.

"Tch... He brought a few friends with him. Oh well, whatever. Our target has already escaped either way. Let's go."

Before reinforcements could even arrive, those two immediately opened a Spatial Gate and left.

With that over, Old Worm's group was finally released from the enemy's Spiritual Pressure. Mia and the others didn't know who had just saved them. However, Old Worm's group immediately recognized the figure.

"Lord Eagon, thank you for this timely help."

Back then, Old Worm mentioned that the Lord of the Sector had sent their human race to the Lakures' planet. This person just so happened to be that person.

Eagon shook his head, not minding it too much.

"Forget it. Let's leave this place first."

Little did Lord Eagon, the twins, or anyone else know, but Sunkan Planet wasn't done for as they imagined.

Death... and me

Chapter 548: It's That Simple

Suddenly, in the place where Sunkan Planet exploded, something began to happen. A small sphere of black and white light took form in the middle of that chaos that the others left behind. That sphere began to accumulate Dark and Light Elements until it reached the size of a fist.

[First point of worlds connection acquired.]

[Initializing merging sequence...]

The black and white orb suddenly grew a few strands that pierced through the fabric of space. Those strands continued to multiply nonstop, doing the same thing. No one knew where these things were connecting to.

[Completed.]

[Initializing Dual Worlds Attachment.]

Suddenly, even more of those strands came out of the black and white orb. However, this time, it didn't pierce through the fabric of space. Instead, they spread all around the area.

[One planet, two worlds.]

[All connections established.]

[Using one World to secure the other.]

[Soul Gem Universal Worlds Attachment Completed.]

Right after, an enormous Spatial Fluctuation took form before everything disappeared without a trace. Every single piece of the Destructed World, up to the last grain of sand, simply vanished! In the end, not even Rean and Roan knew what happened here, let alone where the whole thing moved to. But one thing was certain, Sunkan Planet and its inhabitants were far from being just a memory.

Somewhere else in the cultivator's half of the Universe, there was a planet covered in white. Its name was Culo. In the places where the ground couldn't be seen from space, there were multiple clouds where snowstorms raged. This planet was at the very end of what could be said as the orbit suitable for life in this solar system. Because of that, this planet was mostly covered in snow all year round. The only time it showed a few patches of green was during the first month of its twenty-seven-month-long trip. Yes, this planet takes twenty-seven months to complete one turn around its sun.

Even though the conditions on this planet were harsh, it was far from being lifeless. It had its own cities, countries, and even three Empires. Of course, compared to the Sukan Planet where the twins lived until now, it wasn't as populated, having less than one-tenth of the number of living beings. It couldn't be blamed since life was much harder to thrive in this place.

In the Palif Empire, there was a country called Tasman. It couldn't be said to be a big or a small country as it sat somewhere halfway from the Empire's border on the west side to the Empire's capital in the center. Its influence was also in the middle when compared to others.

In this same country, in the middle of a mountain range close to Danve City, a fluctuation of space suddenly appeared. However, nothing happened after that, and the place returned to the previous peace soon after. After all, there were no snowstorms at the moment.

As one could imagine, it was in this place where the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm reappeared. It's just that the twins and the others were still inside the Dimensional Realm, so no one could see anything.

Inside the Dimensional Realm, no more than a few seconds had passed since they saw Sukan Planet being blasted away. Everyone could now see the scene around them since Rean and Roan didn't turn off the view of the outside world.

"This... What just happened?"

Immediately, everyone looked at the guy who asked this question. It turns out that the person Rean last saved was Agis Kexidor, the Red Color disciple that joined the sect at the same time as Rean, Roan, and Malaka. Agis would usually stay out of the sect, training with his master. However, on that day, he had just returned to the sect to report one of the missions he had concluded.

Agis Kexidor was also a member of the inner sect, just like Rean and Roan. Naturally, his room was also located there. Through sheer coincidence, he was passing by Rean's house when the silver swirl had appeared in outer space before the attack came down. Rean ended up taking him into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm after that.

All of a sudden, Agis got up and stepped back before bringing his sword out.

"Rean! It was you who attacked me, right?"

Rean still had an ugly expression as he nodded.

"I did. However, I had no other choice. If I didn't bring you inside straight away, you would have died back there."

Agis was just about to ask what he meant when out of nowhere, Calina stood up in a flash as well.

"Ah! That, that! The red light, the big spherical thing, the huge explosion that blasted it away. Was that... Was that... Was that our world?!"

Malaka, Calina, Qia, and Agis's complexions immediately paled. Sure enough, one didn't need to be a genius to reach that conclusion. After all, they saw the red light coming at them before Rean and Roan brought everyone into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Still, Agis shook his head.

"Impossible! First of all, how do you know it was our world? Have you ever seen a world from far away before? Can you guarantee that it was really a world?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other, not finding it strange. The cultivation world was quite medieval. Naturally, people like Malaka and the others didn't know what a 'planet' was. For them, the world might as well be completely flat, not round.

'Just what the hell was that?'

Roan shook his head.

'How would I know? We need to ask the Soul Gem System.'

Rean then took a deep breath. He was obviously affected by what had happened since he knew that everyone in Sukan Planet definitely died. Still, he had to think about the actual situation and whether it would happen again or not.

'Let's deal with everyone first.'

However, just as Rean and Roan were about to talk, another voice came out.

[That was indeed your world. Unfortunately, it is now gone.]

"Sister Orb!"

Calina, Malaka, and the twins immediately recognized the black and white orb floating in their direction.

Agis and Qia were taken aback, though. They had never seen anything like that. However, Agis gritted his teeth and ignored that fact for the moment.

"Do you expect me to believe that?"

Sister Orb looked at him before asking.

[Rean, Roan, why did you bring this guy together with you? He's so annoying.]

Agis's expression turned darker as he immediately thrust his sword against Sister Orb.

Seeing that, Rean and Roan shook their heads as they simultaneously thought.

'Brother... that's the wrong move.'

Boom! Bang! Pow! Crash!

Within a few seconds, a pummeled Agis could be found on the ground of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Agis was definitely talented, having reached the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm at his age. However, he was definitely not a match to any of the twins. On the other hand, the twins were definitely not a match to Sister Orb. Naturally, the end result of his actions was already set in stone.

[Hmph! Can't even recognize the difference between Heaven and Earth. You are thousands of years too early if you think you can even fight me.]

Qia immediately stepped back, afraid that the orb might kill her. However, Rean put his hand on her shoulder.

"Don't worry, Sister Orb won't kill anyone. Just don't try to fight her. It's bad for your health."

Malaka and Calina nodded vigorously. The two girls also knew just how strong Sister Orb could be inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Roan ignored all of that, though.

"Sister Orb, what was all of that? How did the planet we came from explode just like that? Was it another Universe Restraint? Also, why didn't you answer our call back then?"

Everyone's interest was immediately piqued, including the unable to move Agis, who was still conscious.

[First, I couldn't answer you two because the Soul Gem System took control of everything as it used everything to save you. It couldn't spare the processing power necessary to let my program work.]

Other than Rean and Roan, no one else knew what Sister Orb was talking about.

[Second, that was not a Universe Restraint. It seems like the power related to what happened back then found the Soul Gem System's location. However, the Soul Gem System can detect danger when it's approaching. That being said, the enemy couldn't come after us straight away since it would give us more than enough time to flee.]

[The enemy then decided to send an attack to try and destroy the system. I must mention that transferring energy through space is several times easier than a living soul. The enemy was basically betting on the fact that the attack would be faster than the Soul Gem System's reaction.]

Roan continued to ask.

"How did the enemy find the system? Also, will it happen again?"

[It shouldn't be possible. The Soul Gem System's concealment abilities are incredibly powerful. Unless the enemy is close to you, there's no way to detect it. Also, the higher your cultivation, the stronger this ability becomes.]

Rean then asked.

"Then, how could th-"

"Ah!"

At that moment, Rean thought about a possibility.

"The Laan City's Artifact Spirit!"

[Correct. Back then, you and Roan did get very close to the Artifact Spirit, who sensed the Soul Gem System's existence. However, since the artifact had no malicious intent, the system didn't do anything. Unfortunately, it seems like someone had used it to find the Soul Gem System's location. That's the only possible explanation.]

If Old Worm was here now, he would be shaken to the core by this revelation. In the end, Old Worm's grandfather was right. The way to save the Sasamil Empire from this calamity was really on the northeast side of the Empire. As long as he had stopped the twins from going to Laan City, the Artifact Spirit wouldn't have left. Naturally, no one would find it, nor would anyone use it to find the Soul Gem System's location. Unfortunately, Old Worm had no way to predict such a thing.

Finally, Qia couldn't hold back anymore.

"But, but... Was that really our world? I don't care about all the things you guys were talking about. I just want to know if everyone really died as we've seen. That can't be true, right?"

"This..."

Rean didn't know what to say. In a certain way, it was their fault that Sukan Planet ended like that.

Roan seemed to not care. However, if one looked closely, they would see him pressing his fingers so hard against the skin of his palm that the nails pierced the skin. He might not show it, but he cared about his parents in that world. Not to mention his little sister, who also died there.

Sister Orb knew that staying silent wouldn't help, so...

[Let's not pretend that nothing happened. Yes, that world was destroyed.] or so they thought since even Sister Orb didn't know the truth. [Nothing more, nothing less.]

Death... and me

Chapter 549: Not Infallible

Back where Sunkan Planet exploded, everyone who survived had already left, leaving just an empty space with many debris of the now destroyed world... or so it was supposed to be. However, no one noticed as a small sphere of black and white light took form in the middle of that chaos. That sphere began to accumulate Dark and Light Element until it reached the size of a fist.

[First point of souls connection acquired.]

[Initializing merging sequence...]

The black and white orb suddenly grew a few strands that pierce through the fabric of space. No one knew where these things were connecting to.

[Completed.]

[Initializing Dual Souls Attachment.]

Even more strands came out of the black and white orb. However, this time it didn't pierce through the fabric of space, but spread all around the place.

[One owner, two souls.]

[All connections established.]

[Using one Soul to secure the other.]

[Soul Gem Universal Souls Attachment Completed.]

Right after, everything disappeared without a trace. Not even Rean and Roan knew what happened here.

Back in the Soul Gem Dimensional, Agis had recovered a bit of energy, just enough to sit down once again. However, he ignored the pain on his body as he looked at the people around him.

"Hey, talking ball. Care to explain?"

[Talking... ball?]

Sister Orb began to emanate a dark and white aura as she looked at Agis. In an instant, Agis felt a chill on his back, forcing him to change his words.

"Ahem... I mean, beautiful sphere sister."

[Hmph! That's more like it.]

Sister Orb then looked at Rean and Roan before asking.

[Should I tell them? After all, I believe you'll talk even if I don't, right?]

Rean nodded. He thought that what happened was because of their presence on the Sukan Planet, so they owed the others an explanation at the very least. Malaka and Calina knew about Sister Orb and the Dimensional Realm. Still, they didn't know much about the situation regarding the twins and the Soul Gem System.

Qia and the others then calmed down and looked at Sister Orb.

[Well, then. The story goes like this...]

Of course, there were a few things Sister Orb had concealed. However, everyone could finally understand what was happening there.

Qia and Agis, of course, were the most shocked by it all.

"Rean and Roan were reincarnated? I see... no wonder you were this advanced in cultivation. You always had adult minds from the time you were born. No kid could possibly match an adult's dedication and comprehension."

However, Sister Orb didn't tell that Rean and Roan came from another half of the Universe. That was because other than the three of them, the rest didn't even know what a universe was.

Qia then took a deep breath before asking.

"So, Sister Orb was the one who took your souls the day you died and made you reincarnate in our world or... errr... 'planet'... is it?"

Rean nodded.

"That's... more or less how it is."

Roan glared at Rean but didn't say anything. Well, the only one who died was Rean, not Roan. Rean basically dragged death down with him.

Agis then glared at Rean and Roan.

"All I learned from the explanation is that you two were the culprit for the destruction of our world."

[Aren't you being way too annoying? You better remember that if Rean hadn't taken you in, you would be dead by now. You wouldn't even have the chance to complain to start with.]

Agis wanted to refute her words, but he knew better not to piss off Sister Orb.

Chick!

Kentucky was the only one who didn't understand anything. However, he noticed Malaka and Calina's expressions, so he tried to comfort them.

"By the way, Roan. Did you bring Kentucky inside as well?"

Roan shook his head.

"I was too far away to do such a thing. He appeared in the Dimensional Realm by himself."

[The Soul Gem System did. Kentucky has a connection with you two, so he was dragged inside by the same power that the system used to bring you two inside. It was pretty much a coincidence.]

Rean and Roan more or less expected something like that.

Malaka and Calina petted the Minokawa.

"Thank you, Kentucky."

Chick!

"What should we do now? Are we going to be targeted again?"

[Didn't you hear what I said a while ago? The Soul Gem System's concealment abilities are powerful. If not because of the artifact spirit, we wouldn't have been found. Don't worry. If the enemy knew where we were, they would have already come after us.]

Agis finally put the matter behind and decided to ask some other things.

"Alright. Since that's the case, I want you to explain to me a few more things."

Qia, Malaka, and Calina also nodded. They were curious about many points in that conversation. From there onwards, Rean and Sister Orb took turns explaining things like the Universe, planets, solar system, etc... Those were things that they wouldn't even probably know even on their deathbed.

As for Roan, he looked at the terrain outside, trying to understand more about the place they were sent to.

A few hours later, Rean and Sister Orb finished talking with the others. They now had a basic understanding of what they were and where they were situated in this situation.

"To think that our world was nothing more than a grain of sand in a beach. No, we might not even be considered that much."

Roan didn't want to wait for all of that, so he shifted the topic straight to another one. However, he made it so only he, Rean, and Sister Orb could hear what he was saying.

'Sister Orb, how's the system? Is it damaged? Also, what about the missions? Did everything really just get canceled as the system had mentioned?'

Naturally, Sister Orb also kept it a secret to the others as she replied.

[The system is fine. However, it won't be able to process any Destiny Points for some time.]

Rean couldn't help but ask.

'I feel bad for asking this, but this is something we need to know. An entire planet was destroyed because of our presence. Doesn't that mean that the destiny of billions of people and demon beasts had changed? Shouldn't it give us a ridiculously massive amount of destiny points?'

[It can't. The system had entered counter-measure mode when it felt the incoming danger. At that point, it completely turned off any part of the system that couldn't help with the escapade. Naturally, any destiny changes were also not recorded by it. You won't get a single Destiny Point from it. Instead, you won't get any more points from the Sukan Planet's changes now that it's gone.]

Instead of feeling sad, Rean felt relieved instead. He didn't want to be rewarded because of the world's destruction at all. After all, it also included his parents, sister, and friends.

Surprisingly, Roan also had the same opinion, which was a once-in-a-lifetime event for someone like him.

[Still, don't worry. The upgrades you guys bought from the system are still available. It's not like your bones would suddenly disappear.]

Rean and Roan nodded in response.

'How long till the system starts to count Destiny Points again?'

[At least three years. The same goes for further upgrades. You won't be able to buy any new abilities or upgrades until the system comes back online.]

It was then that Rean thought about something else.

'By the way, how many Destiny Points did we have before this event?'

[That I can check. After you did the last upgrades, you didn't use the remaining 6781 Destiny Points. Counting the years you spent inside the sect, as well as the few months that passed outside of the natural formation, you accumulated another 5621 points. In short, you have 12402 points at the moment. Well, it's not like you can use them anyway.]

Rean nodded. After that, the twins discussed a few more things with Sister Orb through their Soul Connection.

Agis noticed that Rean, Roan, and Sister Orb went quiet, so he immediately asked.

"What are you talking about? Don't think I can't tell you're hiding more things from us."

Roan didn't try to deny it at all.

"You're right. There are a few things we haven't told you, nor will we ever tell you."

Agis narrowed his eyes as he responded.

"Is that so?"

He then tried to get up but fell on his butt once again. Seeing the injuries left behind by Sister Orb, Rean then got close to him.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery.'

"What are you doing?" said Agis while glaring at Rean.

"You won't go anywhere with your body like that. The least I can do is heal your injuries."

"I don't need your help."

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

"Unfortunately, you can't escape from me either. Anyway, just make sure you don't piss off Sister Orb anymore."

Agis didn't like it but decided to think that he was also injured because of them. That said, it was their duty to help him heal... or at least that's what he said to himself.

Sure enough, Rean's cultivation was higher than Agis's, so he finished healing the guys in just a few dozens of seconds. Following that, Agis looked at the terrain around them before asking.

"Where the hell are we?"

[I don't know. The system only showed these coordinates during the time of the teleportation. It didn't have any information about the place itself. As far as I know, the system might have decided on these coordinates at the very last second.]

"Coordinates? What is that?"

[Think about it as an address. However, it is used to find your location in the Universe instead of your world. As long as you have it, you can go anywhere you want. Of course, as long as you have the methods to do that in the first place.]

Agis didn't want to stay there anymore, so he immediately asked.

"Let me out. I don't want to waste time with any of you anymore."

Sister Orb then looked at Rean and Roan.

[Is it really fine to let him go? He might bring problems for us later.]

Roan narrowed his eyes. However, Rean didn't even think twice.

"Let him go."

Rean then looked at Agis before saying.

"However, Agis, I truly believe you shouldn't leave our side. That is if you wish to survive."

"What do you mean?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"Did you forget what kind of power the enemy had? If the system finds that we're being targeted again, I don't think you'd want to stay far away. I can't guarantee that this planet won't be blasted away either. Sister Orb only said that the system's concealment ability is powerful, not infallible."

Agis gritted his teeth in response after hearing that. As much as he wanted to refuse, he had no way to guarantee that Rean's words were lies.

"Fuck!"

Death... and me

Chapter 550: Is He Really Human?

Roan kept looking outside.

"That's enough for now. Let's head outside and try to understand where we have been sent to."

The twins then used the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm's power to send everyone out. Obviously, they fell on the snow of the mountain range.

"So cold..."

"Use your Spiritual Energy to block the cold. Otherwise, it'll be hard to keep going."

Agis couldn't help but ask.

"What about that thing called Dimensional Realm? Are we leaving it here?"

Rean shook his head as he replied.

"Although you can't see it, it always follows Roan and me. As long as the two of us aren't way too far from each other, we can enter it at any time."

"That convenient? Isn't it the same as having a second chance at life?"

Rean and Roan nodded. However, they also knew that this situation was only temporary. Obviously, once one reached a certain level of cultivation, one could detect and even attack the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They could only hope that this world didn't have anyone who could notice it.

"Which side should we head towards?"

"Just a second."

Rean then closed his eyes as Light Element gathered around him. However, he immediately noticed another problem.

"This... The concentration of Spiritual Energy in this planet is less than half of our previous world."

Roan and the others tried to absorb the Spiritual Energy, and soon enough, their expressions turned ugly. Sure enough, this place was much worse for those following the cultivation path.

"This might not be a bad thing. If this is a place where it's difficult to cultivate, it also means that there's a smaller chance of finding anyone capable of detecting the Dimensional Realm."

Rean knew that Roan was just finding excuses. After all, they had never been found in the Sukan Planet. If not because of that artifact spirit, they would be able to cultivate there for much longer.

Rean then put those thoughts behind and continued what he was doing. Light Element continued to gather around him until finally, he felt something.

"How is it?"

Rean then looked in a particular direction before saying.

"It's very faint, but there is more concentration of life force in that direction."

"Kentucky!"

Chick!

Rean immediately jumped on Kentucky's back and took flight.

"I'll be back soon. Let me check out what we have there."

Roan nodded. It was better for Rean to go on first since he could also conceal Kentucky's existence with his Light and Spiritual Bending ability.

"Just make sure you stay within the range."

"Alright."

In an instant, Kentucky and Rean's figures disappeared as if there was nothing there. Agis and Qia were taken aback by that since they had never seen Rean using it before. Even their Spiritual Senses couldn't detect Rean, who was there just a second ago.

Roan ignored their surprise, though.

"Let's not waste time either and move in the direction Rean pointed out. If anything happens, I'll send you all back into the Dimensional Realm."

As Roan's group moved by foot, Rean flew ahead. Sure enough, he moved in Danve City's direction, the closest city to the mountain range they were sent to. Around two hours later, Rean finally spotted the city.

The city wasn't that big. Perhaps two or three times bigger than Astreg City. It was surrounded by what seemed to be a giant ice wall. Above the wall, Rean could tell that there was a formation. However, the formation wasn't there to protect against attacks. It was way too weak for that to the point that even Rean could destroy it with brute force. Its purpose was to simply prevent the snowstorms from hitting the city.

Rean also noticed that there were a few figures waiting in front of the city gates. However, compared to the queues Rean saw back in Sukan Planet's cities, this one wasn't even worth mentioning. That showed just how less this planet had in terms of population.

"Kentucky, let's go down and take a look."

Chick!

Kentucky immediately descended from the skies and stopped just a few tens of meters above the crowd. So far, Rean couldn't feel any Spiritual Sense hitting his bending skills. However, Rean had little time to pay attention to that. That's because the people down there were very different from normal humans. No, there were humans in the crowd as well, but they were definitely the minority.

Immediately, Rean thought about the Lakure Race, who had humanoid forms but weren't really humans. These ones, however, didn't have the special meridians over their skins. Instead, their skin seemed to be covered with several shards of ice crystals. However, his Spiritual Sense immediately detected that those things were not really ice. That's because the temperature of these people was the same as an average human, including the shards.

'A variation of a human? Well, I do remember Jana commenting before that Lakures were also a type of evolution of humans due to the environment or something. She even said that both races could procreate with each other, although with a bit of difficulty. Perhaps these people are the same. At the very least, they would be perfect humans if you took those shards out of their skins. Not to mention that their bodies aren't completely covered in it, just a few areas.'

After pondering for a bit, Rean put those thoughts behind.

'Well, I guess that's Darwin for you.'

Nevertheless, Rean's eyes narrowed as he looked at the humans. There weren't many, but most of them were in chains. The ones who were free seemed to be someone's subordinates. Rean also noticed that each and every single one of them had what appeared to be a black collar. After sweeping his Spiritual Sense over it, he immediately identified the inscriptions.

'Hum? Lightning Type Equipment Formation? It seems like that's what this race uses to keep humans under control. However...'

As far as Rean could see with his Spiritual Sense, not a single Core Formation Realm figure could be found. The highest cultivation was from the gate guards, which were between the Initial and Late Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm. As for Foundation Establishment and above, Rean couldn't spot anyone.

Usually, Rean wouldn't like to see the humans being treated like that. However, he also remembered what happened to the Lakures. That being said, was the actual situation of the humans really unjust or something they brought upon them by themselves? Besides, it's not like humans were good or anything. Naturally, Rean refrained from making any moves. He even ignored some of the humans who were being punished for whatever reason.

'It's not time to be harsh. First, I need to gather information.'

Soon after, Rean gave Kentucky an order.

"Kentucky, fly down and grab that person over there."

There was one of the human subordinates who seemed to have separated from the group. However, he wasn't fleeing. Instead, he went to a pond near the gate that didn't freeze like everything else for some reason. From its looks, the guy was going there because he was ordered to do something in the pond.

Kentucky immediately understood the order and dived down. Thanks to Rean's concealment abilities, no one noticed anything.

Vup!

Without anyone noticing, Kentucky grabbed the guy as he dived to the ground.

"Ah!"

Obviously, the guy was frightened when he suddenly began to shoot up into the skies.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Whatever I might have done, I won't do anymore! Please, don't kill me!"

Well, anyone would think of something similar in this situation...

"Hey, hey! It's fine. I have no intention of killing you."

Rean then popped his head out the side of Kentucky's back, which allowed the man to take a look at him from below.

"This! Are you... a human? No, that can't be. All humans must use the enforcement collars."

But it was then that the guy remembered something.

"No! Please, go back! I will die if you fly further away! Go back! Please!"

Rean narrowed his eyes as he patted Kentucky's back. Soon after, Kentucky stopped in mid-air while he held that guy.

"Send him up, Kentucky."

Chick!

With a single move, the guy was thrown in the air before Kentucky flew under him.

"Ahhh!"

Thud.

Sure enough, he fell right on Kentucky's back before Kentucky stopped in mid-air once again.

Only then did he notice that he wasn't falling, but he was on the back of the demon bird instead.

"This..."

The guy then looked at Rean, who definitely looked like a human.

"Wh-What do-does sir want from me?"

"First, what's your name?"

"Me? I-I'm Guan Lin."

Rean smiled before touching the guy's collar.

"Don't worry. I have no bad intentions. Let me take a look at it."

"No! It will immediately kill me if anyone tries to remove it."

Guan tried to move away, but he noticed that he didn't have the strength to stop Rean. Just as he thought he would die and closed his eyes, he heard a sound coming from his neck.

Clack!

Nothing happened after that. When Guan opened his eyes again and looked over, he noticed his collar in Rean's hands, which was now open.

"Such a crude Lightning Type Formation Equipment... It's only dangerous for those without any cultivation at all. Its connection with its core is terrible as well. As long as one goes too far, the collar immediately activates. However, it uses its full power in one go. Chances are that the one using it might even die if he or she had nothing to protect themselves. Of course, once again, it's only effective on those without any cultivation."

Guan looked at Rean with his eyes wide open. He couldn't believe that his collar was removed that easily.

'Just... who is this guy? Is he really human?'