

## Death 571

Death... and me

Chapter 571: Perhaps...

Frandin held his tears as he looked at Safran after receiving the offer.

"I'm sorry, Senior Safran. I already have a Master, so I can't be your disciple."

Frandin wasn't lying. Roan was, after all, his Master... Even though he wouldn't be teaching him anything else to him now that he had passed the test.

Safran nodded, not finding Frandin's words weird at all.

"As I thought. There's no way someone could make such a good pill in their first try without having a Master. I can only think how happy your master is, knowing that he had obtained a talented student like you."

Frandin smiled bitterly in response. Happy? That's the last word that came to his mind when he thought about Roan. Frandin even wondered if Roan knew what the word happy means. Still, he quickly put those thoughts behind his head.

"Thank you for the compliment, Senior Safran. Would I have access to the alchemist repository now?"

Safran nodded.

"Of course! Come with me so that we can make your token."

Frandin and Roan then followed Safran into another room, where Safran passed the results to the employee there. After confirming that Frandin was a bona fide Earth Low-level Rank Alchemist, the guy ordered a token of the Alchemist Guild to be made. Frandin then received his token around an hour later.

"This is the Alchemist Guild's token. It can be used basically everywhere to prove your status. It gives you access to the Alchemist Repository and the power to buy Alchemy Items as long as you have the necessary Spirit Stones. Remember to keep this token safe since you will have to do the test again if you lose it."

The employee then explained several other rules to Frandin before he let him go. Obviously, Roan told him to bring them to the alchemist repository straight away. Unfortunately, the guard in front of the repository stopped the two of them. Soon after, the employee on the counter on the side said.

"Humans are not permitted inside the repository. There's the risk that they might destroy the information."

Neither Frandin nor Roan were surprised by that. Frandin had already told Roan that this kind of issue might come up when the time came. However, Roan also came up with a way to deal with it.

Frandin then took a bag with a thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones before putting it on the counter.

"Here you go. If my human really destroys anything, you can use these Spirit Stones to replace whatever it is. However, you don't need to worry, my human is very well trained. He wouldn't dare to do anything in my presence. Am I right, rat?"

Roan bowed to Frandin and replied.

"Yes, young master. This slave lives for you and only you."

Frandin nodded, satisfied. It's just that no one noticed his back drenched cold sweat. He wasn't doing that on purpose. Roan was the one who told him to say whatever is needed to get him through. Still, he couldn't help but feel afraid that Roan would get back at him after that."

"This..."

The guard then looked at the guild employee on the counter, waiting for his answer. The employee, of course, didn't know what to say about it. However, rules were rules, so he had to refuse. But just as he was about to say that, a voice came from nearby.

"Let them through. Since this new member is willing to pay for any losses, we don't have any issues about it."

Frandin and Roan looked in the direction of the voice and saw Safran coming their way.

"Thank you, Senior Safran."

Safran didn't mind it. He considered Frandin to be a good talent, so it was better not to lose him just because of something simple. Safran could do it since he was one of the guild's elders, after all.

The employee quickly nodded before passing Safran's token back to him.

"Since Elder Safran allowed you to bring the human, then we have nothing to say. Just remember to keep the human's hands far from our books."

Frandin sighed in relief before nodding.

"Obviously. He will only enter to attend to my needs. There's no need for him to touch the books. Let's go, rat!"

"Yes, young master."

Frandin then entered the repository with Roan right behind him.

Behind, Safran looked at Frandin while thinking.

'I wonder who his master is. Although I said he has good talent, I could see that he just started learning Alchemy not long ago. The main point is that I didn't see him using his Zasfin Soul Power at all. Also, the movements he made while concocting were more than enough proof of that. But lo and behold, he made such a high-quality pill in his first test. If possible, I want to meet him... or her.'

Safran then shook his head and turned around before leaving.

'I'll have someone follow him later.'

Frandin and Roan didn't know what Safran was thinking, and Roan definitely didn't care. Instead, they walked slowly through the Alchemist Repository as Roan used his Spiritual Sense to read through the titles of the books.

'It's so weird... Their alchemy level is so low, so how come they came up with an Affinity Enhancement Pill formula while we didn't? Could it be that Sunkan Planet had it, but it was hidden? Or maybe it's the special conditions of this world that allows one to be made?'

As Roan pondered, he and Frandin quickly reached the stairs to the second floor. So far, Roan didn't find any book related to Elemental Affinity Pills. Well, Roan wasn't surprised since the first floor was mostly filled with Low and Middle-Level Earth Recipes. An Elemental Affinity Pill was bound to be harder than that.

Sure enough, Roan found what he was looking for on the third floor, where the Earth Peak-Level manuals could be found.

-Water Element Enhancement Pill-

-Introduction to Affinity Pills-

-Water and Ice Improvement Pill-

-Yin Enhanced Water Element Pill-

It didn't take long for Roan to find a problem.

'All the books associated with Elemental Affinity Enhancement are for Yin Related Elements. Water, Ice, some variations of Earth, etc...'

Frandin then began to take down the books that Roan told him to. Following that, he sat on the table as Roan stood by his side. They had to keep up an act, so Roan pretended to be the servant, waiting for Frandin's orders. Of course, Frandin was basically browsing through the books while the one who was really reading it was Roan.

Still, Frandin couldn't help but feel shocked at the speed that Roan asked him to pass through the pages.

'Is it possible to read this fast? Or could it be that he's looking for something specific? Still...'

Roan didn't know what Frandin was thinking. However, he was really reading everything in the books. Frandin continued to pass by the pages before changing to the next book. Just like that, Roan had Frandin show him more than several tens of books in a roll. Only by the end of the day did Roan get to a conclusion.

'I see... It's not that there are only Yin Related Elemental Affinity Pills. It's just that most Zafin Alchemists had Water Element Affinity. However, the main issue isn't just that. The problem is that Elemental Affinity Pills use the Soul Power of the Zafins to be made. Not only that, but most pill formulas use Soul Power as well. That's not something a human can copy.'

It was then that a question appeared in Roan's mind.

'First of all, what is Soul Power? I saw Frandin using it during the battles and thought it to be a special trait of his bloodline, so I didn't care too much.'

Roan then looked at Frandin before asking.

'Tell me, how do you use your Soul Power?'

Frandin was taken aback for a second. However, he quickly recovered and answered.

'Hmm... I don't think I can explain it to you.'

Roan narrowed his eyes, which made Frandin feel a cold chill on his back.

'Wait, wait! It's not that I don't want to, but that it's impossible for me to tell you to start with.'

Roan's expression eased a little.

'How come?'

Frandin sighed in relief before continuing.

'As I mentioned before, our Zasfin Race can use our Soul Power. It's our special trait. However, you must understand that this is the same as breathing for us. The Soul Power is there, so we use it. Asking me how to use Soul Power is the same as me asking you how to breathe. Neither you nor I need an explanation. We can simply do it since we were babies. Even while we sleep, we can still do it. It's a natural condition.'

'Our Zasfin Race's Soul Power is pretty much the same thing. There isn't an explanation. Even those without Bloodline Marks can do so, just not to the same extent. Of course, our Bloodline Marks can increase the Soul Power by a lot, so the better the mark, the stronger our Soul Power becomes. Nonetheless, it's still something that we can't exactly explain how it works.'

Roan narrowed his eyes in response. If that was the case, he had reached a dead end. The only way to get Elemental Affinity Pills would be to buy them. After all, Roan wasn't in the mood to make Frandin become an Earth Peak-Level Alchemist. That would take way too long. However, it was then that he noticed something.

'The bloodline marks increases one's Soul Power. ZASFINS are definitely a sub-species of our human race. If that's the case, doesn't that mean that humans also have Soul Power? Perhaps it's just way too weak for them to be able to use. But... If we somehow get one of those marks...'

And just like that, a crazy thought began to take form in Roan's head.

Death... and me

Chapter 572: Soul Power

Roan then looked at Frandin before asking.

'Is there a way to measure one's Soul Power?'

Frandin immediately nodded as he replied.

'Of course! Do you remember those Celestial Lands I've talked about? One of the entrance tests there is the measurement of Soul Power according to one's age.'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'Age? Not cultivation?'

Frandin nodded.

'Exactly. Truth be told, cultivation level has no influence on our Zasfin Race's Soul Power whatsoever. That's why one's talent in Soul Power is based on how strong it is at a certain age.'

Roan didn't expect that.

'In that case, how do you train your Soul Power? You can't be telling me that one's Soul Power is decided by birth with no chance of ever-increasing it, right?'

Frandin nodded as he answered.

'Indeed. It is possible to improve one's Soul Power. In fact, I did train my soul power several times during our travels, didn't I?'

'You did?'

Roan pondered for a bit and finally understood.

'Oh, I see. You are talking about the times when you used your Soul Power during battle.'

Frandin confirmed.

'Correct. The more you use your Soul Power, the stronger it gets. Of course, it isn't so simple as basically discharging your Soul Power. You need the right conditions for that. For example, those battles you had me go through, where I almost died several times, were perfect triggers to increase my Soul Power. My Soul Power had never improved so much before.'

Of course, Frandin would prefer to not have to go through those experiences again. After all, what if he died? His Soul Power would be useless in that case. Still, something told him that Roan won't let him off the hook any time soon.

'I understand. It's pretty much like cultivation. We use battles to help stabilize the energy in our foundation after a breakthrough and keep the foundation sturdy during cultivation. The harder the conditions during fights, the bigger the extracted potential of each individual. Soul Power is very similar in this aspect.'

Frandin agreed with Roan.

'That's basically it. That's why one's Soul Power is measured by how strong it is at a certain age. It shows how much effort each Zasfin has put into training before trying to join a Celestial Land.'

Roan then asked something else.



'The way you are saying it, it seems like even someone without background and an ordinary bloodline purity can make his or her way through.'

Frandin nodded once more.

'That's true. However, I won't lie to you here. The purer your bloodline is, the more potential you can extract from those attempts to increase your Soul Power. In the end, talent is a big deal in our world. That's why you rarely ever see ordinary Zasfins becoming anything in their lives. That's because they have to put twice the effort to get half the result. Don't underestimate the bloodlines' powers.'

Roan didn't mind that.

'The world has never been fair, and it wouldn't start now. First of all, fairness is something that intelligent lifeforms like us invented. Such a word doesn't exist in nature.'

Frandin couldn't agree more with Roan's words.

'Indeed.'

Roan then asked something else.

'Now then. Is it possible to measure Soul Power in this city, or is it only possible in the Celestial Lands?'

Frandin shook his head.

'Don't worry. It can be measured almost anywhere. Only very small cities might not have a Soul Measurement Crystal. It's something that you can buy at any Treasures Hall. Perhaps only small settlements like tribes wouldn't have those for sale. However, it's probably quite expensive, costing around 100 Rank Two Spirit Stones.'

Roan's interest was piqued.

'Soul Measurement Crystal? Is it similar to the Cultivation and Elemental Affinity Orbs?'

Frandin looked back at Roan, puzzled.

'Do you call them Orbs? Well, we call them Crystals. Oh, well. It doesn't matter. The Crystals used to measure ones' Talent and Elemental Affinity are very similar. It's just that it will calculate your Soul Power in numbers instead of colors.'

Roan was quite satisfied by that. He definitely preferred to have some numbers to work with instead of colors.

'Are all Zasfins born with the same Soul Power?'

'No. This is another point where bloodline purity talks. Someone born within an Imperial Family would have a Soul Power several times stronger than a commoner. The commoner would need to train like there's no tomorrow just to catch up to the Soul Power of newborn Imperial Babies. It's not weird to find a fully grown adult Zasfin with a weaker Soul Power than them.'

Roan nodded.

'From what you're telling me, it seems like other than battling, one's Soul Power also increases as they age.'

Frandin confirmed.

'Correct. Even if a Zasfin never goes to battle, his or her Soul Power will still increase as time passes. Of course, it will never compare to someone who trained their Soul Power.'

Roan had to admit that it made sense. Soul Power was the same as normal body growth for the Zasfins. One's body got stronger as one grows, then so would Soul Power. When a person exercises, they would get a stronger body. The same logic applied for Soul Power.

'Alright. In that case, what would be considered the average bloodline power between ordinary Zasfins?'

Frandin pondered for a bit before answering.

'I'm not entirely sure since I've never cared about it too much. However, my father once told me that my Soul Power was seven times stronger than an ordinary Zasfin baby when I was born. He told me that my total number was 73, so I guess an ordinary Zasfin's Soul Power is measured around 10 or so points.'

'That's good enough to work with. Now, you said you have a Rank Two Bloodline Mark, right? How much does it increase your Soul Power?'

Frandin immediately replied.

'It increases my Soul Power by 20%. Don't look down on this number, though. 20% makes a huge difference the higher your Soul Power becomes.'

Of course, Roan agreed with Frandin. It was the same as their Spiritual Energy Absorption Upgrade. It only increases 5% at each level. However, it made a massive difference the longer time passed.

'Alright. I already memorized the contents of the alchemy books. Let's go out and buy a Soul Measurement Crystal.'

Frandin couldn't help but ask.

'Why do you want it? Could it be you want to know how much I've improved since we started to travel?'

Roan glanced at Frandin and remembered something.

'Now that you said that, I'm quite curious. How much Soul Power did you have before Rean captured you?'

Frandin then showed a prideful expression before saying.

'Hehehe! Lo and behold, I had a total of 236 points!'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'Is it a lot?'

Frandin's mouth twitched when he heard that question.

'Oh, right! You don't know the standards of Soul Power in our world. I'm only 23 years old and already have 236. That's a lot for someone of my age. For example, I was in 8th place back in Danve City between those at the age of 23. With my Bloodline Mark, I can even reach 283!'

Roan nodded, not looking surprised at all.

'So be it. Let's go out and find that Crystal.'

Frandin couldn't help but ask.

'You still didn't tell me what you want to do with the Soul Measurement Crystal.'

'Isn't that obvious? I want to measure my own Soul Power.'

Frandin was taken aback.

'Your Soul Power? But humans don't have Soul Power.'

Roan glanced at him before asking.

'Have you ever seen a human testing their Soul Power?'

'This...'

Frandin had to admit that he had never seen that before.

'Even if you have Soul Power, it will be useless if you can't use it, no?'

Roan nodded.

'I know. However, I do have a theory as to why humans can't use Soul Power. First, let's see if humans have any Soul Power whatsoever, then I can continue from there.'

Roan was obviously very interested in Soul Power. After all, it could literally increase everyone's combat abilities. He already checked Frandin's power during their travel. Frandin was in the Middle Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. His cultivation technique paled in comparison to Calina, Malaka, Qia, or Agis' techniques. Last but not least, his own combat ability and techniques are terrible.

Usually, Frandin definitely shouldn't be able to fight anyone with higher cultivation. However, with his Soul Power alone, he could fight a Late-Stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator and at least stay alive against an Initial Stage Three Demon Beast. That's how much Soul Power had helped him.

Frandin shrugged his shoulders and thought it to be a meaningless effort. Still, that was not his problem, so he simply followed Roan.

On their way out, Safran called Frandin, asking if he could meet Frandin's master. Obviously, Frandin had to refuse the idea, much to Safran's disappointment. Safran then had someone following Frandin and Roan to see if he could find something. However, if this kind of thing didn't work with Rean, then let alone Roan. In just a few minutes, Roan and Frandin disappeared without a trace.

Roan's Spiritual Energy bending skill might not be as perfect as Rean's. Still, he can totally make up for it with his own experience.

Around an hour later, Frandin and Roan returned to the workshop where Rean was working. However, they didn't enter the forgery. Instead, they took another free room to not bother Rean's training.

Frandin then took out the Soul Measurement Crystal that Roan had him buy.

"Well, then. Tell me how to test my Soul Power."

Death... and me

Chapter 573: Bloodline Trial

Frandin then explained.

"The most precise tests are the ones where you use your Soul Power on the Crystal. However, you and babies obviously can't do that, so we have to let the Soul Measurement Crystal's power enter the body to check it directly. The only problem is that their results might have a 10 to 20% error margin."

Roan didn't mind as he said.

"It's fine. With an average power of 10 points, a 10 to 20% difference won't mean much. How do I do that?"

Fradin nodded before continuing.

"Just touch your forehead on the Crystal and send in some Spiritual Energy. Usually, it's the parents that send the Spiritual Energy. Well, you obviously don't need your parents to use Spiritual Energy for you."

Roan nodded as he touched the Soul Measurement Crystal with his forehead before sending his Spiritual Energy inside. As soon as he did that, the Crystal seemed to come to life as cool energy came from it and entered his head.

Roan kept his guard up, just in case something went wrong. However, nothing bad happened in the end. After a few minutes, the cool energy came out of his forehead and entered the Crystal once again.

"What now?"

"Just keep providing it with Spiritual Energy. It will calculate the results and show them on the crystal surface in the form of numbers."

Hearing that, Roan continued to provide the Soul Measurement Crystal with Spiritual Energy until finally, it began to show a number inside.

-13-

Frandin was surprised to see that.

"Oh! So humans really have Soul Power! Well, too bad it's way too weak to use."

Roan wasn't disappointed, though.

"That's fine. My only problem was in the case humans had no Soul Power whatsoever. However, it's now more obvious than ever that Zasfins are a sub-species of humans. They changed in a way where their Soul Power became tangible. I've seen a similar thing before. A race evolved in a way where they had higher control over Spiritual Energy."

Frandin was taken aback. Human sub-species? Obviously, it was hard for a Zasfin like him to accept that they had anything to do with humans.

"What, don't you believe me?"

Frandin scratched the back of his head but didn't deny that.

"In that case, let me ask you. Can a human have children with Zasfins?"

Frandin's expression immediately froze when he heard that. This was a world where humans are slaves. That said, there was no lack of owners who forced themselves on their slaves. Of course, there were a lot more female humans who got pregnant in that way. However, there was also a small amount of female Zasfins who also got pregnant because of male humans.

"No, it can't be. It's must be a coincidence."

Roan snorted after seeing Frandin's expression.

"Hmph! It seems like you finally understood the issue. That's right. If both races can procreate, it means they're compatible with each other. It doesn't matter how much your head refuses it. Both Humans and Zasfins' bloodlines accept each other. It's that simple."

Roan then ignored that and went back to the main topic.

"Forget that. From what I've seen, it seems like a human is also born with the same average Soul Power, 10. However, their Soul Power doesn't increase as they get older. I'm already 24, but I'm still around the same number. Tell me one thing. How much Soul Power does an ordinary Zasf in need to manifest it outside their bodies?"

Frandin then took a deep breath as he put those thoughts behind. It wouldn't be of any use to think about whether Roan was right or wrong. Following that, he answered Roan's question.

"They're able to do that once their Soul Power reaches 20 points. That usually happens around the age of 5 for those who were born with an ordinary talent. Of course, I told you I was born with 73 points, so I could use Soul Power from the moment I was born. It's just that I have no memories from my early years."

Roan was sure that humans were born with the same Soul Power as the ordinary Zasfins. However, he had to confirm that first. That said, he left the room for a moment before coming back with Malaka. Frandin, of course, was shocked to see that.

'How did he bring her into the city without my help?'



Of course, Roan wouldn't tell him that.

"Alright, Malaka. Put this Crystal on your forehead and let it analyze your Soul Power."

"Why would you need that?"

"Don't ask and just do it. I'll let you free after that."

Malaka nodded and did as Roan asked. Sometime later, her Soul Power showed on the Crystal as well.

-11-

Roan nodded, satisfied.

"As I thought. Humans and ordinary Zasfin aren't that different. You can go now, Malaka."

Malaka didn't understand much of what Roan was doing. Still, she left right after since she was still helping Rean.

Frandin couldn't help but ask.

"Alright. I now understand that humans have some Soul Power. But then what? They can't improve it past 20 points, so they will never be able to use it. Unless..."

Roan faintly smiled as he nodded.

"Exactly. If I get one of these bloodline marks of yours, I can force my Soul Power past 20 points. From that moment onwards, I can use it in my training, so it will naturally improve."

Frandin thought that Roan was crazy.

"Impossible! Even if this method can be used, you have a huge issue. You only have 13 points of Soul Power. Only a Bloodline Mark of rank 4 or above will allow you to do that."

Roan looked at Frandin, puzzled.

"Rank 4? I thought each rank increased Soul Power by 10%."

Frandin shook his head as he said.

"I've never said that each rank increased 10%. That's something you thought yourself."

Roan was even more satisfied now.

"That's good. It means I won't need a Rank 6 Bloodline Mark to get what I want."

Frandin's mouth twitched in response.

"Are you even listening to yourself? Have you forgotten what I told you before? You need to pass a Bloodline Trial to get the Mark. However, let alone you, not even my father would be able to enter a Rank 4 Bloodline Trial. He doesn't have the rights to do so, let alone you."

Roan shook his head.

"It's fine. I have a plan. However, there's one thing I want to know. Are the Zasfins being monitored during the Trials?"

Frandin shook his head as he replied.

"My father said that they aren't. The Bloodline Trial is an individual Trial targeted to the person only. Others don't have the right to see it, including the Imperial Family. However, my father didn't tell me what he found inside. It seems like one must keep it a secret. Don't ask me why."

Roan nodded as he was even more sure.

"Also, is there a cultivation realm limit for the trials?"

Frandin shook his head, responding.

"My father said that there isn't. The trial adapts to whoever enters it... or so he told me. After all, you never know what cultivation a Zasfin might have when trying it."

Roan then connected his soul to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'Sister Orb, the Circuitry Teleport Formation is still working, right?'

[Of course! I told you before, didn't I? The benefits you got from the Soul Gem System are still active, including the Circuitry Teleport Formation. You just can't get any upgrades at the moment. Of course, the Save Points of the Circuitry Teleport Formation needs Destiny Points to be put down. Obviously, you can't do that either.]

[Wait! Are you planning to teleport straight inside a Bloodline Trial?]

Roan nodded.

'That's the idea.'

[No can do. Did you forget how the Circuitry Teleport Formation works when it doesn't have a save point? It can only control the direction that you're teleporting to. It's not possible to control the location. You might as well appear in the middle of the Sky or several kilometers into the Earth.]

'I know. However, that's enough. My idea is to go for trial and error. I'll first see where a Rank Four Bloodline Trial can be found. Then I will calculate the distance based on the number of Spirit Stones we use to teleport. If I appear in the middle of the Sky on down the Earth, I can simply reenter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and return to Rean's side somewhere else. After that, I can teleport once more.'

[What if you're discovered? Such an important place like a Rank 4 Bloodline Trial is bound to have many formations protecting its surroundings. Besides, even though Frandin said that the candidate can't be seen, it's not guaranteed. There might be Formations inside the trial itself that Frandin's father and the others don't know about. In either case, you would be discovered almost instantly.]

Roan agreed with Sister Orb.

'I know. However, it wouldn't be dangerous since I can retreat to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. It is worth a try. If the trial turns out to not have any monitoring, then I can attempt it without issues. If it does have some monitoring of some kind, I can run away.'

[Sigh... fine. Do as you wish. However, I think you have another problem here.]

'What is it?'

[This trial is aimed at Zafins, right? Wouldn't the trial test your Soul Power abilities? If you can't use Soul Power, how will you pass the trial?]

Roan smiled before saying.

'That's the point here. If the trial really adapts to each candidate, I want to see what it will do to someone without enough Soul Power control. First of all, we don't even know if it's a Soul Power trial or not.'

Sister Orb had to admit that Roan was right.

[Well, so be it. Let me know when you want to try it.]

Death... and me

## Chapter 574: Everyone's Weapons

Frandin, obviously, didn't know that Roan was talking with Sister Orb, only that he went silent for a moment.

"In any case, you won't be able to get close to the trial sites."

Roan then looked at him before nodding.

"Alright."

Roan wasn't in the mood to discuss with him whether or not he could get there. Since Sister Orb confirmed that it was possible, it was enough for him. As mentioned before, the distance of the teleportation was decided by the rank of the Spirit Stone. Rank Two Spirit Stones can only be used for teleporting up to 300 kilometers. Above that, they would need Rank Three ones. However, 300 kilometers was more than enough, in Roan's opinion.

'Soul Power... Let's see how good this thing is.'

Back inside the workshop, Rean continued to practice his blacksmithing. To be more specific, Rean didn't have an issue in becoming an Earth Peak-Level Blacksmith. After all, his knowledge about forging was definitely leagues apart from any other blacksmith on this planet or in the old Sunkan.

His only problem was his cultivation. To create Earth Peak-Level Equipment, he needed a lot of Spiritual Energy, and it had to be his own. It is not possible to use other's Spiritual Energy since you can't control it. Usually, you would need to be a Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator to do that. However, the twins' Spiritual Energy Pools had always been much bigger. Now that he was in the Peak of the Core Formation Realm, his Spiritual Pool was equivalent to a Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator.

With that said, Rean only needed experience. Because he had never worked with Earth Peak-Level Materials before, he couldn't make the weapons straight away. Nonetheless, his problems rapidly disappeared as he got to understand those materials better.

\*Bang, Bang, Bang...\*

Rean hammered the metal as he used both the workshop's and the Soul Gem Realm's tools to work. At the same time, he asked Qia to inject her Earth Element on the equipment. He didn't have Earth Element Affinity, so he was doing the same thing as he did with Roan, using someone's else element. As long as the Spiritual Energy was his, he could drive the element that Qia infused there.

'Hmm... It's almost there. This armor won't turn out to be Earth Peak-Level, but it'll be very close. At least I know where I missed this time. The Duran Ore I mixed with Kalan Power didn't mix as well as I thought when Earth Element was used. However, I can make up for it next time in the refinement process.'

Just like that, the days passed, and soon, another week went by. During this time, Roan and Frandin went out again to buy Alchemy Materials. Roan might not be able to make Elemental Affinity Pills without Soul Power, but he can definitely do other types. That being said, he decided that he might as well breakthrough to the Earth Peak-Level Rank as an Alchemist.

Roan's issue was basically the same as Rean's, the lack of Spiritual Energy due to his cultivation. Now that he was at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm, he had finally achieved the last requirement. In his case, Old Worm made sure to force all the knowledge necessary for the breakthrough into his head.

Just like Rean, one week was all he needed to bring his pills up to the Earth Peak-Level. The only problem was the ability to buy the materials for Earth Peak-Level Pills. After all, Frandin was only at the Earth Low-Level.

However, Safran thought that Frandin was buying the materials for his 'Master,' so he allowed it to pass. Well, truth be told, Safran was right. Roan was Frandin's Master... in a certain way.

The only problem was that the amount of Earth Peak-Level herbs available in the Alchemist Guild was pitifully low. It's not that Sunkan Planet had many of them, but this world definitely lacked it a lot more. As always, the problem was in the lack of Spiritual Energy and the cold environment.

In any case, Roan was successful. Not only that, but Roan had Frandin bring his Earth Peak-Level pills back to the guild to trade for more Earth Peak-Level Materials. That only confirmed Safran's suspicions that Frandin really had an amazing alchemist master.

It would be one thing if the herbs were wasted. However, since Frandin did bring the pills back, Safran had no issues trading the completed product for their materials. Of course, the Alchemist Guild made sure that they obtained profit from these transactions.

\*Shzzzzz\*

Rean had a sword in his hand, which was being immersed in a Spiritual Liquid. That was the special combination that Rean came up with for his refinement process. As for the sword itself, he emanated a searing feeling that felt like it would catch on fire at any point.

Agis, who was observing by the sidelines, couldn't help but feel a little excited.

It turned out that Rean decided that his sword would be the first Earth-Peak Level equipment he would make. So far, Agis had been using an Earth Middle-Level one given to him by his Master. It wasn't a bad sword. At the very least, it was excellent if you considered other swords at the same level out there.

However, compared to Rean's special forging method that allowed one to absorb the surrounding elements with one's weapon, his old sword was several times worse. Let alone the fact that this sword was at Earth Peak-Level instead of Earth Middle-Level. Rean was pretty sure that this sword would be able to rival a piece of Heaven Low-Level Equipment. It's just that it couldn't carry any weapon formation inscriptions due to the material level. Otherwise, he was sure that it would be even stronger.

"Phew... It's finally done. Let's see... What shall be the name..."

Agis had helped during the forging process with his Fire Element since Rean couldn't use it. That being said, Rean smiled before passing the sword to him.

"You go ahead and select a name. You will be the one using it, after all."

Agis looked at his new sword and could feel just how much better it was than his old one. He wouldn't care too much about names in the past, but he had to admit that such a masterpiece deserved a name.

"How about... Flame Thrower?"

Rean's mouth twitched a little as he asked.

"Where did you hear this name?"

"I just came up with it?"

Rean narrowed his eyes.

"You came up with it? Are you sure that a certain orb didn't give you a few ideas?"

Agis looked away, pretending that he didn't hear the last part.

"Ahem... What's wrong with Flame Thrower? It matches the sword's ability perfectly. Once I infuse my Spiritual Energy inside, it gathers Fire Element. My Fire Element Skills combined with my Wind Element manipulation. Both would really be a sea of flames. Flame Thrower seems very cool."

Rean scratched the back of his head. Sure, Flame Thrower was a cool name. It's just that it was the name of a completely different weapon. Who would call a Sword a Flame Thrower? It was just too weird.

Malaka and Calina, on the other hand, nodded at Agis.

"It is indeed a good name."

"I agree. I don't see what Rean has to complain about it."

Sure enough, none of them knew what a Flame Thrower was. However, Rean didn't try to explain. Chances are that they will never see a real flamethrower in their lives, so he might as well leave it be.



"Whatever. As long as you like it, then so be it."

Rean then took it back from Agis to finish the last parts, like the handler, scabbard, and the engraving of his name. Yes, the engraving of his name was definitely the most important part of it... or so Rean thought.

"Alright, it's done."

Agis didn't like it very much to see Rean's name there, but he didn't complain. That's because Rean also put the word 'Flame Thrower' in much bigger letters, much to Agis' satisfaction.

Following that, Rean contacted Roan through their Soul Connection.

'I can already make Earth Peak-Level Equipment. Come to the workshop so that I can reforge our Swords.'

Roan refused, though.

'I can't right now. I'm working on a pill at the moment.'

'Pill? Which one?'

'What else could it be? A Cross-Realm Pill. We got a lot of those Masput Rocks back in the valley. Now that I'm at the Earth Peak-Level, I might as well make a few of them for Malaka, Calina, Qia, and Agis.'

Only now did Rean remember the Masput Rocks in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Because they were forced to stay in the valley for so long, Rean's group made sure to gather those rocks. Now they had quite a few of them since the Lakures didn't seem to care about it.

'That's good, then. In that case, I'll make your sword first since I only need the Light Element for that.'

'Go ahead. I'll let you know when I finish it here.'

Rean then began to work on Roan and Malaka's weapons. Of course, in Malaka's case, he used the Goulam Ore he got in the auction to make the alloy for Malaka's Staff.

Malaka smiled when she noticed that her staff was able to gather even more Water Element than before.

"I love it! Thank you, Rean!"

Rean laughed.

"It's fine. Now, help me make Roan's Sword."

Rean then continued his work to improve everyone's weapons.

Death... and me

Chapter 575: It can't be helped

A few days later, Roan came by the workshop and got his new White Star from Rean. Rean, of course, destroyed Roan's previous White Star since it could gather Element on its own. As mentioned before, this was something Rean came up with. The other blacksmiths could copy Rean in this regard. In a planet like Culo, such a weapon would cause too much of a stir.

After doing that, Rean had Roan help him with his own Black Star Sword. After all, Rean needed Dark Element for that. Just the Dark Element exchange between him and Roan wouldn't be enough, nor as pure as Roan's direct exchange.

"Phew... I finally finished everything. Well, then. It's time to make a few more Earth Peak-Level Equipment to get some Spirit Stones. These ones are going to be much easier to make, though."

Agis couldn't help but ask.

"Why is that? Aren't they the same?"

Rean shook his head as he said.

"No. They won't have the Elemental Gathering ability that our weapons do. We might have a few big shots come after us if such a weapon appears in this world. I'd rather be safe than sorry."

Roan agreed with Rean.

"That's good. If you consider this world's level, your Earth Peak-Level weapons will already catch a lot of attention even without the Elemental Gathering ability. Earth Peak-Level pieces of equipment were already rare back in Sunkan Planet, let alone here. Don't put so many to sell at once. Just three or so will be enough."

Rean nodded.

"Alright."

Roan then changed the topic.

"I'm planning to go to one of the Rank Four Bloodline Trials of the Zasfin Race."

Rean and the others were taken aback.

"What will you do there?"

Roan then explained his plans and the reason to do so.

"Soul Power, huh? Now that you've said that, I found out that they also use it in their Equipment Formation Inscriptions and Runes."

Qia knew where Rean was coming from.

"Are you talking about that weird energy in the runes that we couldn't identify?"

Both Qia and Rean already took a good look at the robe that could gather Yin Energy. As mentioned before, the world's environment made it possible to get Yin Energy from almost everywhere. Such a thing wasn't possible in Sunkan since there were very few places with as much Yin Energy as this planet. However, that wasn't the only reason why the runes and inscriptions on the robe could gather Yin Energy. There was some kind of energy different from anything Qia and Rean saw so far as Formation Masters.

"Exactly. I compared it with Frandin's Soul Power, so I'm pretty sure that's the reason why the Robe worked so well. As you know, the level of the Formation Masters on this planet isn't as good as Sunkan. At the very least, that's what we could tell after analyzing the formations we saw until now. However, those formations could still make up for the lower quality of runes and less Spiritual Energy with the Soul Power alone."

Qia agreed with Rean.

"That's true. It seems like Soul Power can be used in almost anything."

Agis pondered for a bit before saying.

"In that case, it should be possible to use it on my talismans. I haven't gone out to check this world's talismans yet. However, from what you're telling me, chances are that they are also made in the same way."

Roan was satisfied that everyone thought like that.

"Good. In that case, we can leave for the nearest Rank Four Bloodline Trial after we finish the things in this city. According to the Jade Slip map that Rean brought before, there should be one three countries away from here. If we focus on traveling without stopping for anything, we should be able to arrive there in two months."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"Isn't it better to simply leave everyone inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and let me fly with Kentucky? These two months could definitely be cut by a lot. We might get there in less than a week if I fly there."

Agis shook his head.

"That's not good. If we do that, we will lose the chance to train in the Demon Beast Regions along the way. The trial place won't go anywhere, so there shouldn't be a need for such hurry."

Malaka playfully grinned at Agis as she commented.

"You just want to test your Flame Thrower, don't you?"

Agis looked away, pretending he didn't hear anything.

"Ahem... I don't know what you're talking about."

Malaka and the others laughed after seeing that. Well, except Roan, as always. Still, Roan agreed with Agis.

"Agis is right. It will be a good experience to keep our two groups moving by foot and battling on the way. Besides, Agis isn't the only one who needs to get used to his new weapon. Rean, Malaka, and I need the same thing."

Everyone agreed with the plan and gave up on using Kentucky to fly there with Rean.

Following that, Roan took out a few pill bottles and passed them to Malaka, Qia, Agis, and Calina.

"What kind of pills are these?"

"Earth Peak-Level Cross-Realm Pills. I finally had the chance to make them with the Masput Rocks we got from the Lakures' valley back then. Use them once you decide to break through to the Core and Soul Fusion Realm."

Obviously, they were shocked by that.

"There are so many!"

Roan nodded.

"I made ten pills for each of you. Make sure to keep them safe. No, you might as well leave it in the Dimensional Realm for the time being. Those are all the pills I concocted, so you better be grateful. Also, I made them through the same method as the ones during the Alchemist Competition. It should be quite above average. Especially for Malaka and Calina, who have Yin Element Affinity."

Calina nodded with a happy smile.

"Of course! I don't think anyone would not be grateful for that."

Malaka then asked.

"However, you said that these are all your pills. What about you and Rean?"

Rean shook his head.

"We don't need it. As long as we follow the Soul Gem System's Light and Dark Element Cultivation Technique, we will never fail a breakthrough... or so Sister Orb said."

[Hmph! What do you mean by that? Have you ever failed before? Just follow the steps in the cultivation technique, and everything will be fine.]

Sure enough, Sister Orb's voice echoed on their minds.

"Yes, yes... So be it."

Roan then turned around and prepared to leave.

"What will you do now that you finished the pills?"

Roan stopped for a moment.

"I'll go out in the city with Agis to gather more information. You still have to make those weapons for sale, after all. Our cultivation only works if we cultivate together. Otherwise, it's too slow. That being said, I better use my time on something else."

Rean nodded, not minding it at all.

"By the way, I'm planning to make a few armors for us. I still have the lightweight ores available for us."

"Wouldn't it hinder our movements? We are a lot more on the speedy side of combat rather than brute strength."

Rean shook his head as he said.

"I'm not making amour plates. Instead, I will make very thin chainmail. Qia has Earth Element Affinity, a very high one at that. With her help, I can forge quite a few good pieces to use under our clothes. There will be almost no difference. Besides, you never know when it might save your life."

Qia was happy to hear that from Rean.

Roan nodded in the end. As long as it didn't impact their speed, that would be a good thing.

Just as Roan was about to leave, Calina asked for his attention.

"Wait, Roan. Can I go out with you? I already finished my cultivation for the day, so I want to take a look in the city."

Roan pondered for a bit about his Spiritual Sense bending ability. He wasn't as good as Rean with it. Still, he was confident that he could keep Spiritual Senses away from his and Calina's Dantians. Of course, that was as long as the Spiritual Sense user's cultivation wasn't too high and they weren't too close to them.

"Fine. The more you and everyone know about this world, the better. Take the fake Binding Collars and come with me. Frandin is in the other room, waiting."

Calina and the others were surprised by that. They didn't think Roan would accept it. Of course, Calina was delighted that Roan did. Soon after, Roan, Calina, and Frandin left the building.

Qia couldn't help but feel a little jealous. She also wanted to go out with Rean.

"Sigh... a single Frandin isn't enough at all."

Agis, who didn't care about Qia's feelings for Rean, still agreed with her on that.

"That's true. Shouldn't we capture someone else to pretend to be our owner, just like Frandin?"

Rean had to admit that they were right.

"I was thinking about that as well. Our movement is too limited with a single Zasfin. I can cover all of us with my Spiritual Sense bending, so having two Zasfins to walk around with would be good since Roan can do that as well. Alright, perhaps we can kidnap someone else before leaving Kastran City."



It was then that Rean felt something was off with his words.

"Err... Do you guys feel like criminals? Or is it only me?"

Somehow, Agis and Qia felt that too.

"It can't be helped... I guess?"

Death... and me

Chapter 576: Who Told You Can Touch?

Roan arrived in the room where Frandin was waiting with Calina. As for Frandin, he couldn't even bother to ask how their group appeared and disappeared every time.

"Alright, we're going to head out and gather some information about the Rank Four Bloodline Trial. You lead the way as before."

Frandin was taken aback for a moment as he looked at Calina.

"Are you sure you want to bring her together with us?"

Roan nodded as he said.

"Don't worry, I can deal with this."

Frandin insisted.

"But it's too dangerous."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he repeated himself with a hint of annoyance.

"I said it's fine. Stop wasting time, and let's head out already."

Roan was confident that he could hide Calina's cultivation together with his own even though it wouldn't be as good as Rean. However, Frandin didn't ask that because of Roan and Calina's cultivation.

'Is he trying to find problems on purpose in the city?'

However, since Roan and Calina seemed to be pretty confident, Frandin didn't say anything. Little did Roan know that hiding Calina's cultivation was the least of his problems.

Calina and Roan then put on the fake binding collars and went out with Frandin.

"So, what do you want to do first?"

Roan pondered for a bit.

"You said that a Rank Four Bloodline Trial would be enough to bring my Soul Power above 20 points. Since that's the case, it means each Bloodline Mark Rank increases the Soul Power more than 10% each level, right?"

Frandin nodded as he explained.

"Rank One gives a 10% boost, Rank Two gives a 20% boost, Rank Three gives 40%, Rank Four gives 70%..."

Calina couldn't help but ask.

"Isn't that a little too random?"

Frandin agreed with her as he said.

"It is. However, it's not like I can do anything about it."

Roan didn't mind as he said.

"It's fine. 70% is more than enough. Now then. You've spent most of your time in Danve City before, so I guess you don't know much about the defenses of the Bloodline Trials, right?"

Frandin nodded, responding.

"Exactly."

Roan continued.

"In that case, let's go find a place where we can obtain this information. Do you have any place in mind?"

"Of course. Bloodline Marks are a vital part of the Zasfin Race. As long as one shows he's worth it, one will get a chance to participate. That said, most average and or bigger cities have offices that deal with it. You can receive a test there to see if you have what it takes. Of course, those who can pass those tests are extremely rare. For example, in my Danve City, only one person other than my father gained the right to participate in the trial, which was a woman named Sia. Well, she moved away a few years ago, though."

Roan and Calina nodded in response, with Roan saying.

"Alright. We can go there to ask more about the place."

Frandin glanced at Calina for a moment but nodded his head in the end.

"The office is always located in the city center, so we should be able to find it there."

Just like that, they made their way to the city center. However, Roan and Calina soon noticed something weird. Every now and then, the ZASFINS would look in their direction.

Seeing that, Calina asked Roan through a Spiritual Sense message.

'Could it be that they can see my cultivation?'

Roan immediately shook his head.

'If someone with a Spiritual Sense strong enough appeared, I would have felt it with Rean's skill. All these ZASFINS are far from being strong enough to pass through the Spiritual Sense bending, though.'

Calina found it even weirder after hearing that.

'Then, why are they all looking at us?'

Roan nodded with his eyes. Sure enough, the number of ZASFINS looking at them increased the closer they got to the city center. Eventually, Roan raised his hand and stopped Calina and Frandin.

'We're surrounded.'

Frandin didn't seem surprised, though.

'Obviously.'

Calina was taken aback as her expression turned dark.

'Did you expose our secrets?'

Frandin wasn't surprised when they got surrounded by the Zasfins. However, Calina's words did shake him.

'Wait, what?! I didn't say anything to anyone. What are you talking about?'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'Then, how come you seemed to be expecting this to happen?'

Frandin began to break out in cold sweat before asking.

'Wait! I thought you said you could deal with it when you brought this girl with you.'

Immediately, the three of them understood. They had interpreted the same sentence differently. Roan was thinking about their cultivation when he said that. But it was obvious that Frandin thought about something else.

'Quick, tell us why we are surrounded. A few of these Zasfin are already coming in our direction.'

Calina couldn't help but comment.

'Could it be because I'm a female?'

Frandin nodded before saying.

'That's why I asked if you wanted to bring her with you. The problem isn't the fact that you're female. However, it definitely contributed to this situation. The crux of this problem is your hair. Blond-haired humans are incredibly, stupendously rare, let alone one with such a vivid appearance like yours. You are

what others consider expensive merchandise. Only those with a lot of power and very high cultivation would have a blond-haired female human as a slave.'

Roan felt a headache coming his way.

'Why didn't you say that before?'

'You were the one who said that you could deal with it.'

'I wasn't talking about her hair.'

'But I was!'

Calina immediately stopped the two.

'Enough. So what if they're coming for us? I'm already using my collar, which should mean that I have an owner, right? Are they going to try to rob me away from you?'

Roan agreed with her.

'Just tell them that Calina is not for sale.'

Franklin bitterly smiled when he heard that. The guys approaching him obviously had both status and cultivation higher than his own. Would they accept his refusal that easily?

"Hello there, friend. I'm Falin Umal, a brother of the City Lord. I see that you've got quite a nice pet over there."

Franklin scratched the back of his head before saying.

"Indeed, she is quite beautiful. That's why my father gave her to me. I'm happy to hear that you agree with me. Hahaha!"

Falin nodded with a smile.

"Your father, huh? Would you mind telling me who he is?"

Frandin immediately replied.

"Of course. He's Devou Zais, Danve City's City Lord."

Falin immediately had a puzzled expression on his face. Danve City? What city was that? He had never heard of it. Well, he couldn't be blamed since Danve was a city from another country to start with.

"Oh, is that so? Well, that doesn't matter. Young one, how about you sell your pet to me?"

Frandin immediately shook his head.

"No can do. I haven't nearly used her as much as I wanted yet. Do you think it's easy to find a blonde like her out there? I believe even your brother might not have one as good as mine."

Calina couldn't help but feel disgusted by that conversation. Even though she knew that Frandin was doing that to keep up the ruse, it still infuriated her inside. If not because their cultivation had to be kept a secret, she would have sent their heads flying already.

"Hahaha! Indeed, you're right. My brother does have a blonde, but she's already old and not even close to the quality of yours. However, I don't think you have too much choice here. Look around. I'm not the only one interested in her. The only reason others didn't step forward yet is that I happen to be here."

Falin then put his hand on Frandin's shoulder.

"Trust me, you definitely want to sell her to me. Otherwise, it won't be a problem about whether you wish to sell or not. You won't even have the chance to obtain payment for her. I'll be honest, you're not very smart. This kind of merchandise shouldn't be shown that easily."

Frandin snorted in response.

"So what? Are they going to attack me in the middle of the city? That goes against the City Lord's rules. Or could it be that I'm wrong?"

In fact, Frandin didn't know very much about this country. He's just risking that he might be right about this rule.

Hearing those words made Falin's expression turn dark.

"Indeed, attacking anyone in the middle of the city is against the rules. However, I'm the city lord's brother. Do you think I'm afraid of that rule? At most, I'll be scolded by him. Besides, once he sees what I've got, he might even praise me instead as long as I don't involve the others around."

Falin then pressed on Frandin's shoulder with the help of his Spiritual Energy. Falin was in the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm, so he wasn't someone Frandin could contend against.

"Last warning, idiot. Will you sell her to me, or do you want me to take her by force? Although I won't kill you since I'm not sure about your background, I definitely don't mind giving you a very painful beating."

Frandin looked at Roan at that moment. However, Roan seemed to be as steady as a rock. It was as if the situation didn't bother him at all.

"Wh-What should I do?"

Roan faintly smiled before saying.



"Not for sale."

Frandin let out more sweat as the pain on his shoulder increased. However, Roan had Frandin's life in his hands because of the poison pill. In the end, Frandin could only grit his teeth and blurt out.

"Fuck you, old pervert. Who the hell would follow your wishes?"

\*Bang!\*

With that said, Frandin instantly received a punch, which sent him flying while coughing up blood. Sure enough, he had no chance to even defend himself.

"Hmph! Don't know what's good for yourself."

Falin then moved to take Calina away with him. Calina, obviously, wouldn't just let him do as he wished that easily. However, just as Falin's hand was about to touch her, a voice echoed in his ears.

"Who said you can touch my Calina?"

\*Swish!\*

In the next second, everyone saw an arm flying in the air. At the same time, Roan held a bloodied white sword. In an instant, everyone's faces froze.

Death... and me

Chapter 577: My Calina!

\*Ahhhhh!\*

Falin shrieked in pain as he fell to the ground. Obviously, Roan's actions shocked everyone present. No one ever thought that a human would attack a Zasfin, especially one with such a high status like Falin.

Soon after, Falin looked at his fallen arm. Obviously, rage and despair filled his mind. Not long after, he looked at his subordinates by the side and immediately ordered.

"Kill this little shit! I don't care anymore! I want all of them dead!"

Roan snorted and immediately released his Spiritual Sense Bending Skill, showing his and Calina's cultivation to everyone present.

"Peak Core Formation Realm!"

"Both of them!"

"How can such young humans have this kind of cultivation?!"

Even Falin's subordinates, who were just about to act, stopped in their tracks. Their cultivation was smaller than Falin to start with, so they would basically throwing themselves at death's door if they haphazardly attacked.

Seeing how no one moved, Roan coldly laughed as he pointed his sword towards Falin's neck. Falin, of course, didn't dare to move. He was struck by fear now that he saw how much stronger both of these humans were than him.

"Now then. What should I do with you? You put me in an incredibly shitty mood, which is not a good thing for you."

Falin then felt a mix of humiliation and killing intent. However, his fear of dying was still the greatest. At the very least, no one around them was Roan's match. He would need to wait for reinforcement from the City Lord's state before anything else.

"Wa-Wait! You're not really that guy's property, right? You're most likely here on his father's orders. Let me talk to him. I'm sure we can reach an agreement."

Roan then looked at Frandin.

"Young Master, please come here."

Frandin, who could barely move, gritted his teeth and approached Roan. Seeing that, Roan then said.

"This piece of shit is right. She and I are your father's property, not yours. However, we are under your command at the moment, so it's up to you to decide this guy's destiny."

Frandin felt like crying. What property? If anything, I'm your property, okay? Why are you throwing all the blame over me? ... or so Frandin wanted to say.

In the end, Frandin had to keep up the ruse whether he wanted it or not.

"How dare you talk to me like that? I'll tell my father to thoroughly punish you when we're back. However, leave that aside for now."

Frandin then looked at Falin, who had the sword near his throat.

"How do you want to compensate me for this damage? You better have a very good excuse."

Falin let out cold sweat while looking at Roan. Even the pain of his fallen arm was sent to the back of his mind. At the moment, survival was his first priority.

"I-I'll pay for you to let me go. I have a lot of Spirit Stones with me."

Frandin then asked Roan if that was enough. Roan pondered about it for a bit and confirmed. They wouldn't be able to stay in this place for long before reinforcements arrived, so it was better to end things quickly.

"Alright, give me all your Spirit Stones."

Falin immediately looked at his subordinates, who understood his non-verbal message before passing Frandin the Spirit Stones they were carrying for Falin.

Frandin couldn't help but let out a long breath.

'Seems like he's a big shot. There are at least a thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones here.'

While he verified that, Roan touched his shoulder and used Rean's Instant Recovery Skill to heal his bones and other internal injuries.

'Roan, is that enough?'

Roan nodded.

'Yes. Let's leave this place.'

Frandin then looked at Falin before snorting.

"Aren't you a rich old geezer? Very well. I'll take your Spirit Stones and arm as an apology for now. However, the next time I see you, you better run far away. Otherwise, even your brother won't be able to save your life. Scram!"

Falin immediately got up and ran away with his people. He didn't even dare look back. Of course, as soon as he got far enough, rage overcame his mind as he ordered his subordinates.

"Immediately have the City Lord State Guards come out. I want them dead, DEAD! No, kill the two men and leave the blonde to me."

Immediately, one of the guys rushed ahead to ask for reinforcements. The city center had many guards of the City Lord's State. However, none of them would be able to do anything to Roan and Calina with their cultivation. They needed to bring out the Core and Soul Fusion Realm experts that stayed close to the City Lord's Mansion.

Back on Roan's side, he immediately ordered with a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Let's leave this place quickly. None of the guys around will try and block us, but it won't take long before someone strong enough appears to block our way.'

Frandin nodded and followed Roan. However, Calina was completely absent-minded at the moment. It was as if she couldn't hear anything they said, nor did she pay attention to all the negotiation. Well, she couldn't be blamed for that. After all, her mind had only one scene playing back and forth.

Who said you could touch my Calina...

You could touch my Calina...

Touch my Calina...

MY CALINA!!!

Calina's face was so red that the cold environment made it possible to see some steam coming out.

Roan then touched her shoulder, which immediately made her come back to herself.

'What the hell are you waiting for? Let's go!'

Before she could react, Roan grabbed her hand and pulled her away. Obviously, that action made her head spin once again. She had never walked holding hands with Roan before. As for whatever was happening around her, she didn't have the mind to process it anymore.

No one tried to block Roan's group, afraid that they would be cut into pieces by him. Roan then pulled Frandin and Calina into a corner. After that, he activated Rean's Spiritual Bending Skill and used the Light Element to change their appearances once again. Just like that, Roan's group disappeared into thin air by the time the City Lord's state elders arrived.

Death... and me

Chapter 578: Falling for the trap

It didn't take long for Roan's group to return to the Blacksmith Workshop. This time, Calina's hair was white due to Rean's appearance-changing skill that used the Light Element. Not only that, her face and body structure were also different. The same could be said for both Roan and Frandin. Thanks to that, they avoided anyone's attention as they made their way back.

Roan then looked at Frandin with a dark expression.

"How should I punish you?"

Frandin felt like crying already.

"That was your fault, not mine. I insisted on not bringing her with us, didn't I?"

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that. Obviously, both of them had interpreted things differently when they talked about Calina coming out with them.

"Sigh... forget it. Next time, be more clear about these kinds of things. How was I supposed to know that blond hair is rare in this place?"

Frandin sighed in relief as he nodded.

"Fine. I thought you knew about that already. After all, you should have noticed that there wasn't a single blond-haired slave between all the human slaves we saw so far."

Roan had to admit that Frandin was right. That was a mistake on his part.

"Anyway, let's go out once more. We still need to obtain information regarding the Bloodline Trials. This time, it will be only you and me while I keep our appearances changed. Calina, you stay here with Rean and the others. Even though your appearance is different now, someone might stop us since Falin's group should be looking for a group of three."

Calina, who was still absent-minded, woke up once again. Obviously, the 'My Calina' incident was still all over her head.

"Eh?! Oh! Yeah... Sure."

However, just as Roan and Frandin were about to leave, Calina came back to herself and immediately stopped them.

"Wait a second!"

Roan and Frandin looked back at Calina, puzzlement on their faces.

"What is it?"

Seeing Roan's indifferent expression made Calina wonder whether she heard those words correctly or not.

"What do you mean by that? Can you repeat what you said when the Falin guy tried to take me as his own?"

Roan then avoided her eyes as he responded with a question of his own.

"What are you talking about?"

Calina was taken aback by that. It was the first time she had ever seen Roan acting like that.

"I'm obviously talking about the 'who said you could touch my... my... my... touch my...'"

The more she thought about it, the harder it became for her to repeat Roan's words.

Roan then took that change to turn around.

"Well, it seems like you don't remember it as well. Frandin, let's go."

Frandin didn't know what to say about that situation.

'Are these two idiots?'

Still, he had to follow Roan's orders.

Calina really felt like an idiot.

'Why are you hesitating right now? Didn't you jump naked right in front of him in the past? Get a hold of yourself, Calina!'

Eventually, she gritted her teeth and grabbed Roan's arm before he could leave.

"I'm talking about when you said 'My Calina!'"

Roan trembled a bit but immediately came back to himself as he responded indifferently.

"My Calina? What are you talking about? I've never said anything like that."

Hearing that, Calina felt her blood boil in rage.



"Like hell, you didn't! Do you think I'm deaf? You said that! You definitely, 100% sure, said that!"

Roan kept up his farce as he said.

"You're imagining things."

Calina snorted in response as she uttered in response.

"Oh, is that so? Then, let's ask our witness."

Calina then looked at Frandin, who didn't want to have anything to do with the actual situation, before asking.

"Back then, Roan said, 'Who said you can touch my Calina?' didn't he?"

Frandin was just about to nod when out of nowhere, he felt a cold aura coming from his side. When Frandin looked over, he could swear that he saw death staring at him. Roan's Dark Element was faintly coming out of his body, making Frandin feel like he plunged into a frozen lake.

'I'll die if I agree with her.'

Frandin bitterly smiled as he looked away before speaking.

"Ahem... I didn't hear anything."

Calina almost vomited blood. Even a kid would be able to tell that Frandin was blatantly lying!

"Fuck you! You're just afraid of Roan."

Frandin then looked outside the window.

"Look, it's such a nice day outside."

Calina was fuming as she shouted.

"Nice day, your head! There's a fucking snowstorm outside the City's protection formation! How the hell do you think that's a nice day?"

Calina then looked at Roan and said.

"I did not hear wrongly. You definitely said that."

Roan, who was satisfied with Frandin's answer, shrugged his shoulders, responding.

"I really don't know what you're talking about. Anyway, we're losing time here. Let's go, Frandin."

Roan didn't even give Calina a chance to answer.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement.'

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

As fast as lightning, Roan grabbed Frandin's arm and disappeared from the room. Calina was then left there, stomping her feet on the ground in anger.

"You just wait!"

Without any other choice, she returned to the forging room where Rean worked on his weapons while Malaka, Qia, and Agis helped. Malaka and Calina had been friends for many years already. With that said, as soon as Calina arrived, Malaka noticed the difference in her behavior.

"Hey, hey, hey! Calina, what is it? How come you look so angry... no, there's anger there, but I can feel that you're also satisfied."

Rean and the others' attention were immediately piqued. Calina's face turned bright red once again after hearing Malaka's words.

"Couldn't you just stay quiet?"

Rean, of course, wouldn't let it pass that easily.

"Oh! It seems like Roan finally made the first move."

Calina was taken aback by Rean's words.

"How did you know?!"

Rean grinned as the others were taken aback.

In an instant, she fell for Rean's trap. Rean didn't know anything whatsoever. He just threw those words out to see what reaction she would show him. However, Rean didn't expect it to work so well.

"Wait! He really made a move?!"

Qia and Malaka quickly pulled Calina to their side.

"Speak, speak! What did he do?!"

Calina didn't know whether to laugh or cry anymore.

Death... and me

Chapter 579: That's True

Rean felt he had heard wrongly.

"Wait! Did he really say... My Calina?"

Calina slightly nodded in response.

However, everyone looked at Calina with weird expressions.

"That couldn't be true, right?"

"I can't see that happening either."

"Calina, could it be that you were so desperate that you started dreaming while awake?"

Calina immediately went from a state of embarrassment to extreme infuriation once again.

"Fuck you! Why would I lie about something like this? I've been in this bland situation for over a decade already."

Qia and Malaka looked at each other before saying.

"That's because you've gotten no reaction for so long that we thought you heard things wrongly."

Rean agreed with the girls.

"Frandin did say he didn't hear anything, didn't he?"

Calina immediately retorted.

"He said that because Roan threatened him."

Calina then explained how Roan and Frandin reacted once she asked them directly. Sure enough, none of them could imagine Roan avoiding someone's eyes. Not to mention that Frandin's behavior when he refused to admit it was obviously because of coercion.

"I thought the ice block had no feelings..."

Rean shook his head as he replied.

"That's not true. Although he is a frozen ice block, there's a bit of melting here and there when it comes to our parents or our sister. Well, he wasn't the type to show that."

Malaka had to admit that it was true.

"Hmm... In that case, what should we do now?"

Qia immediately proclaimed.

"What else? We should help Calina, of course! From the looks of it, there's light at the end of the tunnel. Let's help her pass through it."

Agis, who had been listening by the sides so far, shook his head as he said.

"I don't know Roan as well as you do, but I don't think that breaking through his barrier will be that easy."

Rean was surprised to hear those words.

"That's unexpected. I didn't think you would want to help as well."

Agis was taken aback for a moment before he looked away.

"I never said I wanted to help... but I am quite curious as to how the ice block will react."

Well, no one could blame Agis for that. Roan's ice-cold face was something that everyone was used to already. Everyone was interested in seeing it change, even if just a little.

However, there was one person that didn't like the course of this conversation. Obviously, it was Calina.

"Wh-what are you planning to do? No, forget it. Don't do anything, please!"

She already fell for Rean and Malaka's schemes before, so she didn't want that to happen again.

"What are you talking about? We're obviously putting all our effort into it!"

Calina still insisted.

"All you wanted to do was to play with me."

Malaka and Rean nodded.

"That's true."

Calina almost exploded from rage in response. They didn't even bother denying her words.

Rean then smiled before continuing.

"However, now it's different. Back then, we were sure that the ice block wouldn't show any reactions. When you jumped naked in front of Roan in the river together with Luina, you should have seen that his dragon down there had no responses."

Qia and Agis were shocked to hear that, especially Qia. One must remember that both Calina and Qia were members of the Sasamil Imperial Family. She didn't expect Calina would go as far as getting naked in front of Roan just like that.

"Calina, did you really do that?"

Calina's face changed between red and purple with anger and embarrassment as she shouted in rage.

"Rean and Malaka tricked me!"

Agis then asked.

"Is the Luina you're talking about the Lagan Sect Master's daughter?"

Rean and Malaka nodded, with Rean saying.

"The one and the same."

Qia didn't care too much about the Lagan Sect since she was part of the Imperial Family. However, for the people in Dalamu Sect like Agis, the Lagan Sect was very important. After all, they were one of the top five sects at that time.

"I can't believe it."

"Believe what? Do you think we're lying about Luina's presence?"

Agis shook his head.

"No, that's not it. I've seen Luina once when I went with my Master to visit the Lagan Sect. My Master was friends with one of their Core Elders."

Agis then continued.

"Luina was definitely a beauty. Calina, without a doubt, also has a sexy body. However, how could Roan have no reaction whatsoever when seeing both girls naked? Calina, are you sure you looked at his penis correctly?"

Calina felt like dying already. Even Qia felt somewhat embarrassed by that question. As for Malaka, she had seen Rean and Roan naked way too many times, and the same went vice versa. For her, it didn't matter anymore since they consider themselves like siblings.

"Is that the kind of question that you ask a princess?"

Rean and Agis looked at each other before shrugging their shoulders.

"So you didn't look at it?"

"This..."

Calina went silent for a moment before slightly nodding her head.

"I... did. There! Happy now? His... you know what didn't get up at all. It was as if Luina and I weren't there to start with."



Rean and Malaka then laughed out loud, which reminded Calina of one thing.

"Fuck you! You were there as well, so you obviously know. Why must you force me to say such things?"

Malaka then hugged Calina.

"Sorry, sorry. Rean and I just can't help but tease you a little. The only moment you don't act like a super-smart girl is when we're talking about Roan, after all."

Calina then dropped her head helplessly.

Qia then shrugged her shoulders before patting Calina's head.

"Just ignore those two. The fact that I will definitely help you with it still stands. Don't worry, I'm not doing it for fun like those two. I legitimately want to help you."

Rean and Malaka nodded.

"Of course, we also want to help you. It's just that we will have fun during it."

"You two can go to hell! Your wish to tease me is definitely much more important than your wish to help."

Rean and Malaka nodded once more.

"Exactly."

Agis and Qia couldn't help but feel some pity for Calina. Was that how they treated her all this time?

While that was happening, Roan and Frandin had finally arrived at the Bloodline Trials Office in the city center.

Death... and me

Chapter 580: Let's Leave

Inside the office, Frandin went to the counter where he could ask for information. However, this time, he acted very politely, not bringing out his prideful self into the open at all. The Bloodline Trials were the backbone of each Empire, so no one dared to cause problems when it came to it.

On the counter, the female Zasfin looked at Frandin without even looking at Roan.

"How can I help you?"

Frandin then bowed.

"Hi. I would like to know the procedures to go through a Bloodline Trial. To be more specific, what kind of security measures I should pay attention to when trying it out."

The attendant nodded in response before explaining.

"To gain the right to participate, you first need to go through our test. There isn't much of a point in telling you about the security procedures before you can even pass that."

Frandin nodded before he took a deep breath and activated his own Bloodline Mark.

"Hmm? You have a Rank Two Bloodline Mark already? Could it be that you intend to apply for a promotion?"

Frandin nodded as he replied.

"Yes. I would like to try out a Rank Four Bloodline Trial."

The attendant was taken aback.

"Rank Four? Not Rank Three? You do know that the requirements to even gain the rights to try it out are very harsh, right?"

"Yes. I'm aware of that. However, before getting the test, I want to know what I should pay attention to so that I can prepare myself for the previous test. I know I first need to pass the office's test before going through the trial, after all."

The attendant nodded as she explained.

"That's correct. You'll need to reach a certain amount of Soul Power before you can even go there. Very well. There's no problem in telling you since you already have a Rank Two Mark."

The attendant found it weird that they would ask for security procedures. That wasn't normal. She also noticed that Roan... didn't seem as submissive as a human would usually react. He looked straight at her as if he was on equal standing. That bothered her a little, but she thought it to be underneath her status to bother with a human. In the end, she simply continued to give Frandin the information.

"As the bloodline trials' ranks increase, so does the security and rareness of the trials grounds. After all, no Empire wants to give the chances for their enemies to destroy it. If you pass the Soul Power test, we will then do a full background check on you. You'll also need the support of at least one person with the Bloodline Mark Rank you want to try the trial for. You said you wanted to try a Rank Four Bloodline Trial, so your supporter has to have a Rank Four Bloodline Mark."

"The 100 kilometers around the Bloodline Trials are fully guarded. Because of that, you need to make sure to never leave your supporter's side. He will accompany you during the entire process, only leaving your side when you enter the trial itself. If anything wrong happens during your test, your supporter will be held responsible."

"Don't try anything funny around there, or you might get killed without being given a chance to explain."

"Of course, if you have a high enough nobility rank, you can jump all these steps and try the bloodline trial straight away. However, I doubt someone like that would come here to ask for information."

Frandin took a deep breath after hearing all of that. She wasn't even talking about the prerequisites to take the test, just the procedures. Still, they were already that harsh.

'Well, I don't have the necessary Soul Power to try a Rank Four Bloodline Trial anyway.'

Roan, who had just been listening by the sides, was satisfied with the explanation, though.

'That's enough. Tell her that you aren't ready yet, and let's head back.'

Frandin nodded.

"Thank you for the information, miss. I think I know how to go around now. I'll be back once I'm ready for it. By the way, how much Soul Power do I need to take the Rank Four Bloodline Trial?"

The attendant nodded before asking.

"As you know, that depends on your age. How old are you?"

"I'm 23."

"Very well, you will need 310 Soul Power Strength without your Bloodline Mark's help to take this trial."

Frandin bitterly smiled after hearing that.

'Holy shit! 310! I'm not even close to that even when I activate my Bloodline Mark, let alone without it. I don't want to even imagine how much I would need to try a higher rank.'

After that, Roan and Frandin left the Bloodline Office.

"Was that enough?"

Roan nodded.

"Yes. Let's go back to the workshop."

While Roan and Frandin were in the Bloodline Trials Office, a storm was brewing in the city. The information about Roan and Calina's cultivation quickly spread. Not to mention that Roan had cut Falin's arm. The City Lord was enraged by that and sent all his subordinates out to look for Roan's group.

There were even pictures of how Roan, Frandin, and Calina looked. Of course, cutting Falin's arm caught a lot of attention. However, what the others were really interested in were Calina and her blond hair. Some of the powers within the city also dispatched their subordinates in the hopes of finding her. Not only was Calina blond, but she was also young and had high cultivation. She was the perfect female human slave that everyone desired. It wasn't only men, though. Even the powerful Zasfin women in the city wanted her on their side as a way of showing their status.

However, everyone knew Roan and Calina's cultivation now. That being said, only those at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm would have some hope of capturing them. Still, the lower level Zasfin also had a reason to look for them.

On their way back, Roan and Frandin saw the posters with their faces being put everywhere. Sure enough, there was a reward for the information. The City Lord and the influential cultivators in the city were all offering their own bounties for anyone who had any information on them. That being said, it was still worth it for the weaker ones to go out and see if they were lucky.

Of course, Roan and Frandin had a completely different appearance at the moment.

Roan narrowed his eyes after seeing that, though.

'Let's leave the city.'