

Death 581

Death... and me

Chapter 581: Found Out

Frandin was taken aback by Roan's words.

"Uh? Leave the city? Are you not going back to talk with Rean and the others?"

Roan shook his head as he hastily said.

"There's no need. Let's go!"

Frandin didn't understand but nodded nonetheless.

At the same time, Roan sent Rean a message through their Soul Connection, explaining the situation.

'I see... In that case, there's a good chance that our rented workshop will be checked as well.'

Roan nodded.

'Yes. It seems like this City Lord is going all out to find where we are. If I'm not wrong, the city gates are probably closed already. However, this size of the wall is quite easy to pass over.'

Rean agreed with Roan.

'Do you need me to leave as well?'

'No. You can stay there and keep working. Just make sure to keep your Spiritual Sense bending skill active. If someone with a strong enough Spiritual Sense passes through the workshop's anti-Spiritual Sense Formation, you can just bring everyone into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. After that, just

teleport to my location. I already got the information I wanted anyway. As for the equipment you were planning to sell in this city's auction house, just do that in the next one.'

Rean didn't mind.

'It's fine. We still have a few Rank Two Spirit Stones. Even if we run out of them, it's not like we can't cultivate with the normal Spiritual Energy.'

With that said, Roan moved to the city gate with Frandin. However, Frandin quickly noticed that it had been closed.

"It seems like we really pissed off that City Lord, huh?"

Roan nodded.

"It's fine. Let's not get close there. Even though our appearances have changed and we're only a pair, I can't guarantee that we won't be questioned. Come with me. We're going to jump the city's wall."

Frandin nodded. Usually, doing such a thing would have you spotted straight away by the guards on the walls. However, Frandin already knew about Rean's Light and Spiritual Sense bending skills. That being said, they would be able to do that without alerting anyone. However, he noticed a problem.

"Wait. What about the Protection Formation of the City? Although it's only good enough to fend off the weather outside, we would still be found if we break through it, no?"

Roan faintly smiled.

"So what if they noticed that we broke through the Protection Formation? By the time someone strong enough to stop me appears there, we would have been long gone."

"If you say..."

Roan and Frandin then moved to an area where there wasn't much movement on the walls. Without anyone looking, Roan used Rean's camouflage skill, which made the two of them disappear from normal sight. The two of them quickly jumped on the wall after that, however...

'Shit!'

Bang!

Out of nowhere, Roan sent Frandin flying with a kick, using its counterforce to leave his position as well.

Boom!

In the very next second, an explosion of Spiritual Energy came from there as the elements rampaged.

Roan then landed a few meters away, unscathed. However, his expression didn't show any signs of happiness as the camouflage skill disappeared.

"Oh! He dodged!"

Suddenly, three Zasfin cultivators appeared on both sides at the top of the wall. On the right, a Late Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator was holding a spear. There were two more cultivators on the left, one with a sword and another without any weapon, both at the Initial Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm.

"Truly impressive. It's the first time in my life seeing such a strong human, let alone one that looks so young. It makes me feel quite jealous to see such a thing while I'm already this old. I wonder how much effort his owner put into bringing him to this level. Don't you think, Luvia?"

The guy then looked at the woman by his side.

"That's true. Why would someone waste so many resources on this inferior race? Anyway, Ermio, don't kill him. We still need to find the blonde girl."

The right guy then smiled at Roan.

"Human, I'm Roce Troshi. Tell me. Where's your owner? Don't tell me that weakling down there is him because we're not idiots. Anyone able to train their human to your level can't be so weak. The City Lord is fuming, wishing to kill the one who cut his brother's arm. However, depending on who your owner is, you might still leave this place alive."

Roan then took a deep breath before faintly smiling.

"It has been a long time since I had some fun against something else other than demon beasts."

Right after, a sword as white as snow appeared on Roan's hands. Naturally, it was Roan's new White Star that Rean made for him. He then pointed it at Roce, who was the Late Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator.

"I hope you can entertain me more than those two pieces of trash on the other side."

Roce, Ermio, and Luvia were taken aback by Roan's words. That was also the first time they heard a human talking like that with them. Of course, Luvia and Ermio were even more angered than Roce since they were called trash.

"I don't care who your owner is! Any human who defies the Zasfin Race deserves death!"

"Let me see how you deal with this! There's no escape for you anymore!"

In an instant, Ermio flashed forward with his sword as Wind Element gathered around him. At the same time, Water and Lightning Element gathered in Luvia's hand. As for Roce, he thought that there was no need to intervene now that those two acted. After all, Roan's cultivation was still in the Core Formation Realm. He just focused on Roan to make sure he wouldn't run away.

'Extreme Wing Flash!'

'Lightning Water Blades!'

Ermio's speed had dramatically increased as the Wind Element carried his sword towards Roan's neck. Luvia's Lightning Water Blades were even faster thanks to the Lightning Element imbued in them. Her blades appeared by Ermio's side, trying to close any escape route for Roan.

However, Roan snorted when he saw those attacks.

"Escape? Oh, right! There's an escape route... right in front of me!"

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Chapter 582: Fun Time is Over

Roan's hair changed into a mix of black and white before he attacked. Escape? Such word didn't pass through his mind even for a second. At least, not against an opponent of this level.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

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

In a blink of an eye, Roan disappeared from his position. Even Roce had some difficulty following Roan's trace.

Not good!

"Ermio, dodge!"

Unfortunately, that was too late.

'Death World!'

In an instant, Ermio's vision went black, leaving him only his Spiritual Sense to rely on. However, the chance was too abrupt for him to react in time.

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

Ermio was frightened as he saw Roan's sword coming at him at breakneck speeds. It was simply much faster than his own attack. That being said, Ermio immediately gave up his attack and raised his blade, trying to block that flash of black and white light.

Usually, Roan would be able to avoid Ermio's blade due to his higher speed. However, Roan didn't wish to do so. He wanted to test Rean's new sword, and the best way was to clash it against another weapon.

Swish!

Ermio's face went pale as he saw his Earth High-Level Sword cut in half.

'What kind of weapon is that?!'

Unfortunately for Ermio, that was his last thought before being cleaved in half together with his sword. However, the Crescent Moon was an area attack, so it didn't stop there as the flash of black and white light went straight for Luvia on the back.

'Impossible!'

Luvia had more time to react, though. She immediately gathered her Lightning Element and used her movement skill to dodge... or so she tried.

'Death Style, First Energy Form, Shadow Bind!'

Immediately, several shadow vines came out of her own shadow, locking her body in place.

"What?!"

Shadow Bind wouldn't be enough to hold a cultivator of Luvia's level down. She only had to use her Spiritual Energy and blast the vines away. That's how weak they were. However, she needed time to do that. That was exactly the amount of time Roan's attack took to reach her body.

Luvia saw how Roan's attack cleaved through both sword and Ermio's body. There was no way she would be able to defend against that. All she could do was gather as much Spiritual Energy as possible to create a Spiritual Energy barrier, trying to block Roan's attack. Of course, that would be far from enough.

However, just as the Crescent Moon was about to cleave Luvia in half...

Kabrum!

A spear came down from the skies, cleaving through the Black and White Energy and ultimately stopping Roan's White Star in its tracks. Light and Dark Element clashed with each other before an explosion of Spiritual and Elemental Energy came from the point of contact, forcing Roan to jump back.

A man then fell in front of the Lightning Spear and took it from the ground before looking at Roan. In an instant, Roan noticed the Bloodline Mark on his head, which seemed different from Frandin's mark.

"Human, you dare ignore my presence."

It turned out that it was Roce who had appeared. Roan then narrowed his eyes as he looked at his trembling hands.

'This guy also infuses his attacks with Soul Power. Back in Sunkan, that level of Elemental Power wouldn't have held Rean's sword back, especially since I'm using both his and my elements together. It's impressive that although the Zasfins are weaker when it comes to Spiritual Energy and techniques alone, their Soul Power more than makes up for this gap.'

Luvia sighed in relief before looking at Ermio's bisected corpse on the ground. However, this time, fear ran through her body. If not for Roce, she would have died together with him.

Roan then looked at Roce and was just about to talk when all of a sudden, his attention was occupied by something else.

"Hehe. It seems like the fun times are over."

With Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill, Roan felt a Spiritual Sense far above Roce's. Without a doubt, it was a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. Roan didn't find it strange since a smaller city like Danve also had one. Let alone one as big as Kastran.

Roan then jumped down from the wall, completely ignoring Roce.

Of course, Roce wouldn't just let Roan go that easily.

"Did I say you could leave?"

Roce then grabbed his spear and charged in Roan's direction. Lightning and Wind Element gathered around his body together with his Soul Power. With that, he wasn't any bit slower than Roan himself.

'Sky Fall Spear!'

The same attack came in Roan's direction, but far stronger as Roce was holding his spear this time.

Boom!

The spear went straight through Roan's body, not giving him a chance to dodge. However, Roce immediately noticed that the feeling of piercing one's body wasn't right.

Sure enough, Roan's body began to turn into specks of white and black light.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

Once again, Roan used his Mirage Assault to trick his opponent, using the clone to block Roce's sight while he escaped.

Thud!

Roan then landed on the ground on the other side of the wall, right beside Frandin, who was shocked by the battle he just saw. Before he could say anything, Roan grabbed his arm with one hand. As for the other, it was holding his White Star.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Bang! Shatter!

Roan's speed increased even more with the Stellar Piercer, creating a hole through the protection formation of the city. Roce immediately came down and was just about to follow Roce. However, he received a Spiritual Sense message at that moment.

'Leave him. We don't know if he's trying to drag us away from the city. We already lost one Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator. I don't want to lose one more.'

Roce felt a chill on his back when he heard that. He quickly calmed down after that. A few seconds later, a man landed by his side.

"City Lord."

That was obviously Falin's brother, Kastran City's City Lord, Jaliu Umal.

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Chapter 583: Aftermath

Roan noticed how the Spiritual Sense of the City Lord disappeared after he ran for a few kilometers.

'Could it be that he was afraid of coming out? Well, seeing a human with cultivation like mine probably fired a few alarms in his head. Well, whatever... That's good for me.'

Roan then ran for a bit longer, changing his direction here and there every once in a while. Eventually, he stopped in the middle of a snowfield. The visibility was very poor due to the snowstorm happening at the moment. As mentioned before, the cold of this planet could ignore Spiritual Energy Barriers. However, Roan was a master of Yin Energy, so it didn't bother him.

However, the same couldn't be said for Frandin. Obviously, he was having difficulty driving the cold out of his body, especially since he didn't have Water Element affinity as many Zasfins do.

Roan used his Spiritual Sense to find a direction and soon found a small cliff, not more than a few meters high. However, it was enough for him to work. He quickly dug a small cave before entering it with Frandin. Following that, he closed it with a boulder, keeping the storm outside. At his level of cultivation, making something like this was pretty much effortless.

"Drive the cold out of your body with your Spiritual Energy. We'll be waiting here for the time being until things calm down outside."

Frandin, who was trembling, quickly nodded and focused on the task. At the same time, Roan used his Soul Connection with Rean to tell him about what happened.

'They found you? How? Unless someone with a strong enough Spiritual Sense was close to you, they shouldn't have noticed your presence. Not to mention you were using my Light bending skill as well. Wait a second! Did you perhaps spread your own Spiritual Sense? Those guys might have noticed your presence because of that.'

Roan shook his head as he replied.

'Do you take me for an idiot? Obviously, I didn't use Spiritual Sense.'

Rean thought about a possibility.

'I guess it might have been some kind of monitoring formation that doesn't rely on Spiritual Sense or sight. Although you aren't as good as me at the Spiritual Sense and Light bending skills, you should be good enough for a place like this city.'

Roan immediately denied that idea as he answered.

'No, that's unlikely. They knew where I would exactly appear. If it was just a monitoring formation, they would have to first react and come after me. But they attacked the moment I reached the top of the wall. That was a premeditated attack. They knew where I was and mounted that trap for me. It's just that they completely underestimated my strength. Otherwise, things might have been more serious.'

Rean pondered over the matter a bit before saying.

'There's a problem. If that was really the case, why didn't the Nascent Soul Realm guy appear there first? If it was him, you would have been forced to run into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm straight away.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'Correct. That means that they did see me going up the wall, but they only found out when I was close by. That being said, they only noticed my presence when I got close.'

Rean understood what Roan meant.

'I see. That means the enemy expected that you would try to run away from the city, so they set up their forces around the points they thought you would try to escape from. Once you got close, those guys attempted to take you down but didn't have the time to wait for others to come.'

Roan was satisfied that Rean could guess that much.

'Exactly. Still, the main problem remains. How did they find out that I was there?'

Rean insisted, though.

'I still think it might have been a monitoring formation. After all, they set up their forces where they thought you would appear.'

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that. Somehow, he didn't think that to be the case.

He then looked at Frandin, who seemed to have recovered a bit.

"Frandin, do you know why they found our presence there? Could it be that it is possible to scan an area with Soul Power, just like you can do with Spiritual Sense?"

Frandin then opened his eyes after hearing that and thought over the question for a moment.

"Hmm... It should be possible depending on your Soul Power. In my case, for example, I can spread my Soul Power up to more or less ten meters. It doesn't act like Spiritual Sense, though. It's just that the distance can't be compared. My Spiritual Sense goes much, much further away, so I never use Soul Power for such things. In fact, almost no Zasfin uses Soul Power for scanning since Spiritual Sense is much better. Not to mention that Soul Power uses a lot more energy."

Finally, Roan understood how he was found out. However, he couldn't blame Frandin for not telling him that. The reason Soul Power was used to look for him was none other than his fault. Roan then contacted Rean back and explained the situation. Naturally, Rean understood it as well.

'Indeed, that was your fault, then. You were able to hide Calina and your cultivations while you were right in front of Falin. Not to mention that a lot of Zasfins stopped around to watch the show. Until the moment you released my Spiritual Sense bending skill and cut Falin's arm, no one could tell what your cultivations were.'

Rean then continued.

'Naturally, they understood that you had some method of hiding your presence against Spiritual Senses. Especially after you disappeared from everyone's Spiritual Sense with Calina and Fandin on your side. Because of that, they knew that Spiritual Sense was useless, so those Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators went to the points on the wall they thought you would try to use.'

'Because the scanning range of Soul Power is several times smaller than Spiritual Sense, they only noticed your presence once you got close. My Spiritual Sense bending skill works with just Spiritual Sense. I have no idea how to bend Soul Power. First of all, we can't even feel Soul Power unless the Zasfins show its tangible form in front of us. That's why they could tell where you were while you had no idea you were being observed.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'Correct. That being said, your Anti-Spiritual Sense formation won't be of much use if someone checks the workshop with Soul Power instead. Normally no one would use Soul Power, just like I said. However, the times are different now.'

Rean pondered for a bit after hearing that.

'Very well. I already made a few pieces of equipment. Let's move out and sell them in the next city. They only saw you and Frandin leaving the city, so they probably think Calina's still here. If they find my workshop, they won't alert me and call their City Lord or any other Nascent Soul Realm cultivator they might have here first. It's too dangerous if I suffer an attack from such a high-level enemy since I might not be able to react fast enough.'

Roan nodded.

'Correct. I already opened some distance from the city, so just teleport to where I am.'

Following that, Rean told Agis, Qia, and Malaka about the situation. Following that, Rean sent everyone into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm before entering it himself. Naturally, Rean used the location of Roan's body to come out, easily exiting the city.

In the end, Rean was right. Someone had really noticed his and Calina's presence in the workshop. Around a minute later, the workshop was invaded by another Nascent Soul Realm Zasfin from one of the city's powers. They had acted extremely fast, trying to not give Rean the time to react. Unfortunately for them, Rean and everyone else was gone already. Little did Rean's group know that they escaped in the nick of time.

"They're gone. However, they were here just a moment ago. Spread our forces and check the surroundings. Remember, Spiritual Sense is useless against them. Make sure to use your Soul Power."

"Yes!"

The City Lord received the information about the workshop and came to take a look at it. After that, he ran an investigation in the entire city, trying to find any clue about Roan's group. It was then that he discovered something interesting. He discovered that Frandin and Roan might have appeared in the Bloodline Trial Office. Naturally, he checked what they wanted there.

"Bloodline Trial? Could it really have been them? But... why?"

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Chapter 584: He couldn't answer

It was the attendant of the Bloodline Trial Office who warned about Roan and Frandin. When the two of them went there, they didn't ask to obtain the bloodline trial but about the security measures to go there. Not to mention that Frandin didn't try to take the Soul Power test either. It was quite unusual for someone to ask about these things without even being sure if they had the necessary Soul Power. Of course, Roan and Frandin's appearances were different at that time, so the attendant in the Bloodline Trial Office wasn't sure if it was them or not. Still, that was the best clue they found since Rean's group had disappeared from the city as well.

The City Lord pondered over this issue. At the very least, the cultivation of the Zasfin matched Frandin's. Another point was that the attendant didn't feel like Roan cared about his or even his owner's presence. He kept a stern expression and looked directly at her without averting his eyes during the entire time. For a world where humans were slaves, that was not a behavior a human should show, especially in the Bloodline Trial Office.

"The Rank Four Bloodline Trial. Could it be that the real owner of those humans wants to take the Rank Four test? But that doesn't make sense. Those humans had very high cultivation, far surpassing any Zasfin at their age. An owner who could breed humans of that level should have a very high status. There was no need for them to ask for this kind of information regarding the Bloodline Trials since they should know about it already. In fact, someone like that should have a Rank Four or higher ranked Bloodline Mark already."

The more he thought about it, the weirder it felt.

Out of nowhere, the door of his room opened as Falin entered it. He immediately noticed Falin's arm... or what remained of it wrapped in some bandages. Falin had a terrible expression on his face.

"Big brother! I heard you stopped others from pursuing that human outside the barrier. How could you let them go after what they did to me? You need to avenge my grievances! Send everyone who can cope with the storm outside and find them!"

Jamil narrowed his eyes in response. Right after, his Nascent Soul Realm aura spread forward.

"Since when do I receive orders from you?"

Falin felt a chill on his back and immediately calmed down. His brother was one of the strongest experts in Kastran City. He wasn't someone Falin could treat as he pleased. After all, even his status in the city and the resources for his cultivation were because of his brother.

"So-Sorry, big brother. I misspoke."

Jamil's aura disappeared as he nodded.

"That's more like it. First of all, it was your own fault that you lost your arm. A blond female human appeared right in the middle of the city with its owner. Without a strong background, who would be idiotic enough to do such a thing? Not only that, you just so happened to be close by at that time. How could you not see all the alarming clues right in front of your face?"

Of course, Falin thought about that possibility. However, he simply assumed that he would be fine as long as he had the city lord's backing. It had been like that ever since Jamil became the city lord, so he got used to it. Well... Roan's group appeared close to Falin by coincidence, though...

"But... are we going to let them leave just like that?"

Jamil sighed before shaking his head.

"I have a clue about where they're going. It seemed like these guys who cut off your arm went to the Bloodline Trial Office to ask about the Rank Four Bloodline Trial."

Falin was taken aback by that.

"You mean the Gorea Country's Bloodline Trial? That's the closest Rank Four Bloodline Trial, isn't it? However, why would they go there?"

Jamil shook his head.

"I don't know. To be honest, I'm not even sure if it's actually them or not. I just think there's a good chance of that being the case."

Falin nodded.

"I understand. However, what can we do in that place? It is a Bloodline Trial, so only the imperial forces are allowed there. We won't be able to enter without a motive."

Jamil faintly smiled before saying.

"I was already planning to go and try the Rank Four Bloodline Trial to start with. That being said, I can bring you and a few others with me."

Falin was surprised to hear that.

"Big brother, does that mean your Soul Power..."

Jamil nodded.

"Yes. My bloodline purity and nobility rank only allow me to take a Rank Three Bloodline Trial. However, you know I wasn't satisfied with that, so I trained day and night nonstop. Eventually, my Soul Power Points reached the threshold necessary to gain access to the Rank Four Bloodline Trial without needing to care about any of that."

Falin was happy to hear that. After all, he was part of Jamil's family. That meant he would also be able to get a Rank Four Bloodline Mark as long as his brother passes the Trial. Of course, he didn't forget about Roan, Calina, and Frandin.

"I will go with you! Also, I guess we can get the Bloodline Trial's guards to help us. After all, humans are not allowed to come near the trial grounds. That will give us a good excuse to find them."

Jamil shook his head.

"It won't be easy since they have some ability that can hide from Spiritual Sense. Only Soul Power Scanning can perceive them. That being said, we have to do it differently. Don't worry, I have a better idea."

Somewhere far away from Kastran City, Rean and the others just used Roan's position to come out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They then took the boulder of the cave entrance out and entered it. Frandin, once again, didn't even know how Rean's group found them.

'They must have some kind of communication treasure to be able to find each other this easily.'

Rean ignored Frandin as he looked at Roan.

"You started quite a big commotion back in the city, no?"

Roan didn't seem to care, saying.

"It served as a good opportunity to test your White Star."

Rean's eyes lit up when he heard that.

"How was it?"

Roan nodded, satisfied.

"Better than I expected. I cut through an Earth Middle-Level Sword like it was made of butter, cutting the guy in half right after. I would have killed two in a single strike if that Late Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm guy didn't intervene. I had to leave after that because a Nascent Soul Realm guy was coming in my direction, though."

Rean laughed out loud in response.

"Hahaha! That's great! My Elemental Gathering and Refinement methods are really far above anyone else. From what you're telling me, I believe you can cut through an Earth High-Level Sword as long as its owner is at your level. Even an Earth Peak-Level Sword would have a hard time battling against my White Star."

Roan agreed with Rean. It's just that he wasn't as hyped as him.

"I did clash once against a spear that I believe was an Earth High-Level Spiritual Weapon. Its owner filled it with a lot of Spiritual Energy and Element, not to mention Soul Power. Still, your White Star was able to leave a dent on its shaft in that single strike."

"That was the Late Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm guy, right?"

Roan nodded.

"Yes."

Rean expected as much.

"With his cultivation being so much higher than yours, it was to be expected that he could protect his weapon. Well, you used the Crescent Moon on the previous guy, so it had lost some of its power after you got rid of the first enemy. Otherwise, that spear would have suffered a lot more from your strike."

Roan didn't doubt that.

"In any case, I guess I can at least compliment you about this sword. It's very good."

Everyone knew how hard it was to be praised by Roan.

"Oh! That's rare. Well, I accept your full submission to my blacksmith skills."

"Submission your ass!"

Rean didn't mind Roan's words at all.

However, Agis, Qia, and Malaka were more interested in something completely different.

"Forget about the sword. Roan, we want to hear more about the 'My Calina' situation."

Calina didn't say anything, but she was expecting that as well.

Roan narrowed his eyes as if he had heard something foreign.

"What are you talking about?"

Roan's face was as cold as ever. It was as if he had heard such a thing for the first time in his life.

Agis couldn't help but exclaim.

"Shameless! Are you still denying it? Calina told us everything, so spit it out!"

Malaka then pulled Calina to her side.

"Right! Look how red she is. Calina can't even talk right now. It's obvious that she wasn't lying."

After that, Rean appeared in front of Frandin, who was trying to stay as hidden as possible. He truly didn't want anything to do with it. Simply put, Roan was too scary...

"Frandin, you did hear that as well, right?"

Frandin looked away before repeating Roan's words.

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

Qia then kicked his butt.

"Don't know your ass! You aren't convincing at all!"

Roan began to lose his patience, though.

"Enough! Stop wasting time with this bullshit."

After hearing that, Calina's eyes were filled to the brim with tears as she looked at Roan, asking.

"Were my feelings for you... bullshit?"

Roan's words got stuck in his throat. For the first time, he couldn't answer.

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Chapter 585: Poor Sister Orb

However, Roan quickly recovered.

"I won't even waste time answering this question. In any case, let's talk about what really matters. We need to go to Fhanzen City in Gorea Country. That's where the Rank Four Bloodline Trial is located."

Of course, the others didn't like his sudden change of topic.

"Hey, hey, hey! You can't simply leave Calina without an answer like that!"

"Rean's right! Look at her. She's almost crying already!"

"That's not a good thing, Roan."

Roan didn't care, though.

"Say whatever you want. I don't want to get involved in your antics."

Calina then quickly rubbed her eyes before getting up. The surprising thing was that she didn't seem to be sad anymore.

"Alright, let's discuss our program to go to Fhanzen City. Should we separate into two teams as we've planned before?"

Rean and the others were taken aback. She should have been the one most interested in not changing the topic, no? How come she followed Roan's wishes and gave up?

"Ahem... Calina, aren't you interested in knowing what Roan feels about you?"

Roan narrowed his eyes as he replied.

"Can you stop with it already?"

Calina agreed with Roan, saying.

"Exactly. Let's forget it for now."

Malaka, Rean, Agis, and Qia looked at each other, not understanding Calina's sudden change. However, since the person mainly involved didn't want to talk anymore, they couldn't force the issue either.

"Err... I guess we can continue with the two team thing once again?"

As unwilling as Rean and the others were, they moved into the travel topic as well.

Roan mentally sighed in relief while he kept his stern expression.

"That would be the plan. Fortunately, this planet's cities are very far from each other. So it is unlikely that we will find anyone capable of causing us problems along the way. We can fight against the demon beasts in the demon beast regions while we make our way there."

While Roan discussed the next steps with Rean and the others, Malaka still couldn't hold her curiosity. With that in mind, she decided to send Calina a Spiritual Sense message.

'Why did you let him escape like that? Just a little more, and I believe we could force him to wield.'

Calina glanced at Malaka before answering.

'Because there's no need anymore. As far as I can see, the answer is already obvious.'

'How come?'

Calina faintly smiled before asking.

'You and Rean had been together with Roan for so long, so you should know why.'

Malaka was taken aback for a moment and then pondered about the issue. Sure enough, she quickly understood what Calina was talking about and smiled as well.

'Hahaha! That's true. The answer was right in front of me. It's just that I was so focused on making Roan talk that I missed it.'

Malaka wasn't the only one who noticed it. Rean was also puzzled by that outcome, so although he was talking about the travel plans, he also thought about what just happened.

'I see... To think that Calina would notice it before Malaka or me.'

Qia then asked him through a Spiritual Sense message.

'What are you talking about?'

Rean explained right after.

'It's simple. When Calina asked Roan if he considered her feelings bullshit, he avoided the question. Not only that, but he went silent for a moment before giving an excuse.'

Qia narrowed her eyes.

'So...?'

Rean continued.

'It's simple. You don't know Roan as much as Malaka and I do. Simply put, Roan would NEVER avoid a question. If he truly thought that Calina's feelings for him were bullshit, he would have answered straight away while keeping an ice-cold expression. However, he didn't. I wonder if that ice block that's far denser than a rock even noticed this problem. In the end, he gave Calina the answer she wanted. He simply didn't know it. At the very least, he liked her enough to not deny that.'

Qia was taken aback. However, she quickly pondered about the time she spent with Roan recently. Sure enough, Roan never meddled with words. He was always straightforward with his answer and didn't give a damn whether it could offend you or not. Even Rean and Malaka were no exception.

Well... Rean definitely was the one Roan would absolutely not care about feelings...

'I see... So without knowing, he already admitted that he considered her important.'

Rean nodded.

'That's why Calina suddenly became happy. She deserves the title of the one who loves the ice block for being able to notice it before anyone else. The only question is how long will it take for Roan to notice it himself.'

Qia nodded. Qia noticed that Agis was still more or less puzzled, so she also sent him a Spiritual Sense message explaining everything. All that conversation through Spiritual Sense occurred in just a few seconds, but the mood of the cave quickly shifted.

Soon, Roan noticed Rean, Malaka, Qia, and Agis grinning at him, which he found creepy.

"What the hell are you smiling about?"

Rean shook his head.

"Nothing much, We're just thinking that this Soul Power plan might be very good for us, so we're happy. Am I right, everyone?"

The others immediately nodded, with the others responding along the lines of...

"Yes. We're also thinking about the Soul Power."

Roan's mouth twitched in response. There was no way in hell that he believed what they said. However, he didn't care, so he let it go.

"Whatever. These are the two routes we will take to go to Gorea Country. Fortunately, Gorea Country is also on the road to Tuvoro Empire, so we won't deviate from our main target."

Rean nodded as he kept his bright smile.

"Good. From what I can see, Fhanzen City is massive. It's even bigger than Kastran City, so they should have auction houses and other businesses. That should be a good place to sell my equipment."

Malaka then asked.

"Is the Bloodline Trial located inside the city?"

Roan shook his head.

"No. It's outside the city. However, the city is used as the entrance to the trial grounds. From what I found out, you can't enter it from any other place. Well, we still have the Circuitry Teleport Formation, so it matters little whatever kind of protection they put in place. Still, I would prefer to go to Fhanzen City first so I can gather some extra information. We can use the Circuitry Teleport Formation after that."

Calina nodded.

"Alright, then. When are we departing?"

Roan looked at Calina, who seemed to have completely given up on the love matter. He was somewhat puzzled why that was the case, but he was satisfied that she did.

"There's a snowstorm outside at the moment, so let's wait for it to subside before we leave."

"Aren't we too close to Kastran? I think we should separate after we open some distance from it."

Roan didn't mind.

"That's fine. After the snowstorm stops, let's move as a group for the next thousand kilometers or so. We can go through the two routes I pointed out from there."

With that said, everyone went to their own corners and sat down to cultivate. At the same time, back in Kastran City, Jamil prepared everything for his departure. In the end, he didn't even wait for the snowstorm to finish before leaving with Falin and a few of his subordinates. Not a single one in his group was below the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. They immediately took flight in the middle of the storm and went in the direction of Gorea Country.

The cold energy of the snowstorm would be a problem in normal circumstances. However, Jamil was using his own Spiritual Energy to help others keep it in control. From the looks of it, he was quite in a hurry to leave in such conditions.

One day and a half later, the snowstorm was finally gone, which allow Rean's group to start their travel to the Gorea Country as well. As they discussed before, they went as a single group for the first thousand kilometers before separating. However, this time, Frandin went with Rean, Agis, and Calina's group, leaving Roan with Qia and Malaka.

Roan had planned the route to avoid the cities along the way while keeping his and Rean's connection inside the 3000-kilometer range. Because they were already used to this kind of travel, everything went smoother than before. They passed through a few Demon Beast Regions, where they got quite a few fierce battles. There were even times that they had to flee due to the demon beasts' numbers or strength. Nonetheless, that was the reason for their on-foot travel.

And just like that, another month and a half passed in a flash. Finally, Rean and Roan agreed to meet once again since they were getting close to Fhanzen City.

"Rean!"

Qia was happy to see Rean again after over a month, so she quickly ran in his direction, much to his helplessness.

"Don't you ever give up?"

Qia shook her head.

"Never!"

Malaka, on the other hand, went straight to the demon bird.

"Kentucky!"

Chick!

The girl and bird hugged each other as if they had been separated during their entire lives.

The reason for so much emotion was that Roan prohibited them from using the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to meet each other. His reasoning was that they would get too comfortable, so that would be bad for their training. Of course, there was an orb which was sad from that as well.

[I couldn't see any of them even once. Don't you feel guilty leaving your Sister Orb alone for so long?]

Roan shook his head.

'Nope.'

Poor Sister Orb wanted to cry... too bad she couldn't shed tears.

Death... and me

Chapter 586: Breakthrough

Now that they've regrouped, Calina decided to tell Rean and Roan about something.

"I think I've already reached the highest level I could in the Core Formation Realm. Do you think I should try a breakthrough?"

Rean and the others were surprised by that. After all, the amount of Spiritual Energy in this world was lacking compared to Sunkan Planet. But then again, Calina had been sharing that robe that helped accumulate Yin Energy from the environment with Malaka. It definitely played a role in her final stretch in the Core Formation Realm.

Roan then put his hand on her shoulder before sending his Spiritual Energy and Sense inside her body. He verified her meridians, dantian, foundation stability, everything. Calina could use her Spiritual Energy to block Roan's view if she wanted to, but she trusted him.

After a few seconds, Rean did the same thing. In Rean's case, it was even easier to check it due to his Light Element Affinity. After he finished, Roan asked him.

"I think she could breakthrough. What do you think?"

Rean agreed with Roan with a smile.

"Yes. Calina's foundation is as sturdy as it could be. In the end, there's an advantage to the lack of Spiritual Energy of this planet. We need to spend a lot more time accumulating the necessary energy, which prevents damage to our foundations. She can go ahead with her breakthrough without a problem."

Calina was happy to hear that. She was pretty sure she was fine, but it was always good to hear a second opinion.

It was then that Malaka intervened.

"In fact, I'm also ready to try to enter the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm."

Rean and Roan weren't surprised by that. Malaka had the lowest cultivation between their group, so it was common sense that she was the fastest one. Agis had already broken through to the Late Stage, after all. Well, that is if you ignore Frandin's existence.

Rean and Roan checked her condition as well and confirmed that Malaka was right. Although she could accumulate a bit more energy, it wouldn't make a difference in this place.

"Core and Soul Fusion Realm, huh? Alright, let Calina try it first."

Qia then looked at Rean before asking.

"Now that I think about it, you passed me in cultivation after you spent those ten years with the Lakures, no?"

Rean shook his head as he replied.

"Not really. When I entered that natural formation, you were already at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. By the time Roan and I left that place, we had just barely broken through into the same realm as you. That being said, you're definitely ahead of us at the moment. As for Calina, she had always been in front of us, so it's normal that she got to the threshold first."

Rean then asked something else.

"By the way, how far do you think you are from the Core and Soul Fusion Realm? Your cultivation technique isn't any worse than Calina, after all. You both got it from the Imperial Repository."

Qia pondered for a bit before saying.

"I probably need another year of cultivation at the very least. However, Calina and Malaka's cultivation will advance a little faster than mine. After all, this world is perfect for Yin-related techniques and elemental affinity. Those two have Water Element Affinity, while my affinity is Earth Element. Well, because I'm a woman, I got an Earth Element cultivation technique that also includes Yin Energy. That being said, it isn't as if I don't get any advantage for being in this world. But it's still not to Calina and Malaka's level."

Rean nodded, already expecting this much.

"Well, you're still well off. Don't forget that Agis has Fire Element Affinity. He's the one suffering the most among us."

Agis shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"It's fine. At least now I have more time to get used to my own skills. Besides, the Yin and cold energy of this planet aren't totally bad. It helps me become more proficient in using my Fire Element Affinity. You say that I'm fine-tuning my own power. Of course, I would rather be back in Sunkan Planet."

Rean and Qia laughed in response.

"Us as well."

Still, they felt a little gloomy soon after since Sunkan was no more.

Frandin heard all of that and didn't know what to say. He did hear that their world was destroyed. That's something he simply couldn't imagine to be possible. However, it didn't seem like they were lying.

Roan glanced at them before snorting.

"Hmph! There's no point in thinking about the past. Just focus on what you can do in the future. Besides, it's not like everyone is gone forever."

In an instant, everyone's attention was caught by Roan's words.

"Wait! What do you mean by that?"

Roan shook his head.

"If you survive until then, you'll understand."

Rean understood what Roan was talking about, though. So far, they didn't tell that Roan was a Death Spirit back in the other half of the Universe. Obviously, he knew that everyone's souls were sent for reincarnation. Besides, they had heard from the others that reincarnation existed. That it wasn't just the two of them.

'Perhaps Roan knows how to control the souls in the path of reincarnation. He was the one who dealt with that in the past, after all.'

The others insisted that Roan explained his meaning. Still, Roan refused to talk about it. In Roan's eyes, there was no point talking about it since they wouldn't understand. In the end, Qia and the others had to give up.

"Alright, let's leave it aside. Here, take this pill bottle."

Calina grabbed the pills and immediately recognized them.

"Oh, right! The Cross-Realm Pills. Thank you, Roan."

Roan nodded, not minding it too much. He had made those pills for them to start with. If they didn't use it, there would be no point in making them.

Frandin, on the other hand, looked at those pills as if they were treasures.

"Are you talking about the pills that can help in breakthroughs?"

Roan nodded as he said.

"I'm an alchemist, remember? If you work well, perhaps I'll give you a bottle with a few of them in the future. In this world with such a shitty concentration of Spiritual Energy, these pills will be even more sought after."

Frandin nodded, excited. As hard as Roan's training was, Frandin had to admit that he had never cultivated so fast before. He already reached a point whether he didn't know if it was a bad or a good thing to be working for these humans.

"Alright, enough with wasting time. Calina, you know the steps for your breakthrough already, right?"

Calina nodded.

"The Sasamil Imperial Family only uses complete cultivation techniques. There are quite a few partially complete ones in our repositories, but they can only be used for research. Naturally, my own cultivation technique has all the steps for the next cultivation realms up to the Saint Realm."

Qia agreed with Calina, saying.

"She isn't lying. My own cultivation technique is the same."

Roan and the others nodded.

"Alright, Rean, Qia, go ahead."

Rean and Qia smiled in response and immediately began to build a simple Energy Gathering Formation that used Spirit Stones. Even though they only had Rank Two Stones, it should be enough if the formation was in place.

Following that, Roan filled the gaps in the formation with the Spirit Stones before giving Calina some space.

"Well, I'm going ahead."

Calina then took a deep breath before activating the formation. In an instant, the area around her became rich with Spiritual Energy. Calina began to absorb it all as fast as she could while she pushed for the breakthrough.

Once she thought she was ready, she popped Roan's pill into her mouth, which immediately boosted her cultivation. With that, she attacked the bottleneck.

Time passed as Rean and Qia took care to replace the Spirit Stones in the formation as they turned into dust. Unlike Rean and Roan, the others were not certain to succeed in their breakthroughs, so they had to be careful.

Calina then swallowed another Cross-Realm Pill, using its boost to keep attacking the bottleneck. Just like that, time passed.

Five minutes...

Ten minutes...

Fifteen minutes...

Twenty minutes...

Everyone had their eyes glued on Calina while using their Spiritual Sense to check every change in her body. After all, they would also pass through the same process later.

Calina then swallowed one more pill by the 35-minute mark. Suddenly, an enormous burst of Spiritual Energy came out of her body, spreading everywhere around the group, even almost destroying the Energy Gathering Formation.

Following that, Roan threw another pill bottle to Calina.

"Well done. Take one Cultivation Stabilizing Pill for the next three months, one per week. Since you didn't use the Cultivation Stabilizing Pills after entering the Peak of the Core Formation Realm, your body shouldn't reject it now."

Sure enough, Calina was successful. In an instant, she showed a bright smile as she swallowed the first Cultivation Stabilizing Pill. Only after a few minutes did she get up once more.

Malaka and Qia quickly gave the girl a hug while congratulating her. Calina, obviously, was more than happy to let them do so.

"Thank you, everyone."

Rean then glanced at Roan.

"Aren't you going to give her a hug as well?"

Roan snorted in response as he replied.

"Waste of time."

Well, everyone expected such an answer to start with, so they laughed at that.

"Alright. Fix the formation for Malaka. I want to finish these things before we arrive at Fhanzen."

Death... and me

Chapter 587: Fourth Form

Malaka had no problems entering the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Breaking through a stage was definitely much easier than a realm, after all. Not to mention that Malaka used the same cultivation technique as Calina, which had been further revised by Roan. The only things spent during that breakthrough were the Rank Two Spirit Stones.

Roan then nodded after that, satisfied.

"That's about it. Qia said that she would need around another year to breakthrough into the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Rean and I will need two years to do that, at the very least. Agis had just recently entered the Late Stage as well, so he will take much longer to reach the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. Chances are that Malaka will get there first due to her Elemental Affinity and this world's environment."

Everyone nodded after hearing that. That more or less wrapped everything they needed to know. From now on, they needed more Spirit Stones.

"Alright, let's go to Fhanzen."

Once again, Frandin was ignored. Well, he was used to that already.

Their group had gathered because they were close to Fhanzen City in Gorea Country. Without wasting time, they went to the city. Of course, Agis, Malaka, and Calina were sent into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Rean and Roan stayed out, though. After all, they had to follow Frandin.

At some point, Rean's group noticed a few Zasfin cultivators here and there, which showed that they were getting close to the city. The further they went, the greater the movement. Finally, they were able to see the city walls in the distance, especially the thin layer of the Protection Formation. Like most cities in this world, the city used the formation to protect against the weather instead of attacks.

By the time they got to the gate, there was already a giant queue of Zasfins and their humans waiting to pay the fee to enter. As always, Rean could see humans being mistreated by everyone, but he knew he couldn't do anything about it.

Roan, on the other hand, was more interested in the city itself.

'As expected of a City bordering a Bloodline Trial. It's at least ten times bigger than Kastran City.'

Frandin agreed with Roan.

'I believe Fhazen has at least two to three million Zasfin and humans living inside. This is considered a very big city in our world.'

Rean then put the thoughts about the humans behind before adding his piece.

'That's a good thing. I will have no problem selling the Earth High-Level weapons I made in the auction. The only doubt is if they will try to do something to us because Frandin is this weak.'

One must remember that the previous auction house tried to tail Rean and Frandin after they left.

Roan shook his head, though.

'It shouldn't be a problem. Because of its proximity to the Bloodline Trials, the rules in the city are probably very strict. This is directly connected to the Imperial Household's face. At the very least, they won't try anything against us while inside the city.'

Rean and Frandin nodded.

'That's good, then.'

Eventually, Rean's group arrived at the gate, where Frandin had to pay Spirit Stones for him and the twins to enter. Since they were already there, Rean took the chance to have Frandin ask.

"Sorry, sir. Would you mind telling me where I can find an auction house?"

The guard nodded and explained where it was located. Or better yet, where 'they' were located. Because of the city's size, there was more than a single auction house there.

Rean's group then continued on their way to the city center.

However, they failed to notice that someone's Soul Power had been covering the entrance of Fhanzen City all the time. As mentioned before, Rean's Light and Spiritual Sense bending skills didn't work on Soul Power. Also, because the one using it couldn't be seen, it couldn't be blamed that they didn't notice anything.

"They're here!"

Immediately, the guy got up and ordered the subordinate on his side.

"Go tell Senior Jamil that the prey has appeared."

The subordinate quickly left. Following that, the man began to follow Rean and Roan from afar. He heard from Jamil that Spiritual Sense was useless against the twins, so he kept using his Soul Power. Fortunately for him, he was at the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Not only that, but he

had a high Soul Power and a Rank Two Bloodline Mark. That allowed his Soul Power to spread for over 100 meters. With that, he followed Rean's group without ever seeing them with his eyes directly.

However, after walking a few kilometers, Roan narrowed his eyes.

'Something's off.'

Rean immediately looked at him and asked.

'What do you mean? Are we being watched?'

Roan nodded.

'How?'

'I don't know. I have no proof other than my instincts. However, I'm sure that we're being watched.'

Rean didn't doubt it. Roan had seen way too many events like these when he was a Death Spirit. Roan's instincts were far from something Rean could match.

'Hmm... I don't feel anything within my Radar Skill. There are many Spiritual Senses around us, but none of them seem to be repetitive, nor is any of them following us.'

Rean was a lot better with that skill of his, but even he couldn't feel anything. However, Rean and Roan immediately understood why that was.

'Soul Power!'

Still, why do they know that one must use Soul Power if they wanted to follow Rean and Roan?

'Could it be because of what happened in Kastran City?'

'That's hard to say. Perhaps, using Soul Power to watch over those who enter the city is the norm.'

'I find it hard to believe, though.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'I think the same. Let's go to that alley.'

Rean's group then entered an area with less movement before they grabbed Frandin's arm and burst forward.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

In a flash, the two disappeared ahead. To make sure they wouldn't catch anyone's attention, Rean also used his camouflage skill. That being said, no one could see their group's movement unless they were using Soul Power as well.

Sure enough, the man following the two immediately reacted.

"Fuck! How did they find me?"

Nevertheless, he was a Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm Zasfin Cultivator. Although Rean and Roan were fast, he wasn't the least bit slower. Nonetheless, that was more than enough for the twins to find out who was following them.

'Peak Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Someone with cultivation like that is bound to be known in this city.'

'Correct. That means...'

Roan couldn't even finish his sentence when the twins' vision suddenly turned red.

'Killing intent!'

Right in front of them, another Zasfin cultivator had appeared. Just like the one following them, this one was also using Soul Power to see where Rean and Roan were located.

"Where do you think you're going?!"

The guy immediately pounced in the twins' direction as he brandished the halberd in his hands. Earth and Water Element gathered around his body. After that, he unleashed his skill together with his Soul Power.

'Mountain Strike!'

Frandin's face went pale in response. If that strike connected, he would be instantly pulverized. The guy in front of him wasn't hiding his Late Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivation. That wasn't something Frandin's body could ever fight against.

However, Rean and Roan coldly smiled when they saw that. Immediately, they brought out their White and Black Stars before they struck right back at their opponent.

Their hairs changed color as Light and Dark Element gathered around the two. Not only that, but the White and Black Swords increased the amount of Elemental Energy even more. Right after, they assumed a jumping stance.

The Zasfin in front of them was flying in their direction with his attack. Little did he know that he had just put himself in the worst position possible.

Eventually, Light Element burst out of the twins' legs as they soared against their enemy. For the first time in years, the Fourth Form of the Death Style had appeared once again.

'Death Style, Fourth Form, Soaring Dragon!'

Rean's camouflage skill disappeared as the twins became two black and white dragons ascending to the skies! The man was taken aback but didn't panic. In his eyes, there was no way two Core Formation Realm could fight his Mountain Strike head-on. Let alone that they were humans. Most of Zasfin looked down on humans, and he wasn't an exception.

"Die!"

However, what happened next made his face far paler than Frandin's. His Soul Power, together with his Earth and Water Element, was pierced through like a hot knife on butter. His own halberd didn't fare any better. It was only a piece of Earth High-Level Equipment. If it was only Roan or Rean, it could resist the strike.

However, the twins attacked together while exchanging elements. They were finally fighting together after a very long time. Last but not least, there were also Rean's newest Earth Peak-Level Swords, the Black and White Stars. From the moment he decided to fight the twins alone, his fate was decided.

Swish, swish, swish!

Spiritual Energy, Soul Power, Elements, the halberd, and finally, the man's own body was bisected, not giving him the chance to defend himself at all!

'Impossible!'

That was the last thought he had before dropping dead on the ground.

Rean and Roan then landed on the roof of a building before looking around. This time, all the Zasfins saw what happened.

"We need to leave."

Death... and me

Chapter 588: Banyou

The other guy, who was following Rean and Roan, immediately stopped in his tracks. He was one cultivation stage higher than the guy that just died. However, he was absolutely sure he wouldn't be able to kill that guy as quickly as the twins did. In fact, he might have died as well if he was the one who tried to attack the twins.

Without wasting any time, he immediately jumped and flew away. At the very least, the twins were not in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. They wouldn't be able to follow him if he was flying.

'Like hell would I keep close to those demons.'

Rean and Roan didn't try to stop the guy. Instead, they focused on Frandin and immediately jumped down from the roof. Soon after, they grabbed Frandin's arm and flashed away. Rean also activated his Spiritual Sense and Light Bending skill, which made them disappear from everyone's eyes.

Only their pursuers knew that they needed to use Soul Power to track the twins. The rest obviously didn't know how they did that.

Rean and Roan had really acted quickly. That's because it only took a minute for a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator to arrive at the area. He wasn't the only one, though. Jamil also landed by his side as he narrowed his eyes. He could see the guy that was killed on the ground, his body bisected clean.

Together with them was the guy who had just escaped flying. He met up with those two on the way here and explained what had happened.

The other Nascent Soul Zasfin then looked at Jamil before saying.

"Jamil, you didn't tell me the enemy was this strong. You should know very well just how difficult it is to find Core and Soul Fusion Realm subordinates. You told me that a Late-Stage one should be enough to hold them down if they had appeared."

As mentioned before, this world was severely lacking in Spiritual Energy, so it made sense that he was furious.

Jamil, undoubtedly, was as annoyed as the man by his side.

"Sorry, Lucas. I wasn't lying when I told you Roce fought one of those guys for a short moment. At that time, he really did stop the black-haired one. However, I didn't know that there was more than one. As far as I know, there was supposed to be one man and one woman. This new human wasn't part of the reports at all. Also, I didn't know that they were much stronger than their actual cultivation."

Indeed, Lucas had to admit that no one could have foreseen that. They heard from the guy who escaped how Rean and Roan, with nothing more than a Peak Core Formation Realm cultivation, killed their target in one blow. The even harder part to believe was the fact that they were humans. Such a thing completely overturned their knowledge about humans.

"They must be part of a Celestial Land. I can't think about any other place that can raise such monsters."

Jamil didn't want to believe it, though.

"Celestial Lands? I find it hard to believe that Celestial Lands would spend so much on humans. People at that level would be the cream of the crop there. It makes no sense."

Lucas shook his head as he questioned Jamil.

"Then, where do you think they came from? Can you imagine any other place where humans could reach that level at such young age?"

Sure enough, Jamil had no answer to that question. The only thing that made sense was the Celestial Lands.

"Are you talking about those rumors about the Unity Celestial Land in the Tuvoro Empire?"

If even Frandin knew about those stories, it was obvious that Jamil and Lucas would know as well.

"Yes. Of course, I can't guarantee that. Also, I can't imagine why the Unity Celestial Land would send such high-level humans to this place. We're way too far away from them. Well, that is in case they really trained humans to start with. After all, those are nothing more than rumors."

Jamil pondered silently for a bit before shaking his head, saying.

"Thinking about it won't bring us anywhere. However, I'm starting to doubt whether those humans have owners."

"Humans without owners? Is there such a thing in this world?"

Jamil shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"That's the only thing I can think of. If they really had owners, their owners would have a strong background. That being said, what's the point in having humans entering the city? He or she could have taken them back and investigate whatever they wanted through other means. I can't understand what an owner of such high-level humans, including a blonde female, would want by leaving them alone."

Lucas understood what Jamil was trying to say.

"So you think they're fugitives—humans who escaped their owners and banded together."

Jamil nodded, saying.

"Exactly. Of course, this is just pure speculation. In any case, I will need your help with the search, Lucas. You're one of the captains of the city guards. Only with your influence do we have the chance to find them again."

Lucas agreed with Jamil. Before, Lucas didn't care too much about this event. He only moved out because he owed Jamil a favor. But now, even Lucas was curious about what these humans wanted. Above all else, he was really interested in capturing them and turning them into his own slaves.

"I can help you. My battalion has 15 Core and Soul Fusion Realm Zasfins that can help out with the search. However, I want those humans for myself."

Jamil looked at him after hearing that.

"You can't do that with me. I'm on this to get some benefits as well. How about this? You will get one of the two humans while I get the other."

Lucas pondered for a bit before asking.

"What about the blonde female human?"

Jamil shrugged his shoulders as he answered.

"According to Falin and the others who saw then back in my Katran City, she was also at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm. Not only that, but she was as young as the two male humans. Do you really think you would be able to hold onto such high-level merchandise like that? Let alone me and you, none of the experts in this city would be able to keep her for themselves. As soon as Guardian Banyou finds out about it, he will demand to have her for himself."

Lucas couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. He knew that Jamil was telling the truth.

Banyou Palif was a member of the Imperial Family who was sent to guard the Rank Four Bloodline Trial Grounds. He wasn't anything impressive, just at the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. That's because he was already over 400 years old and still hadn't broken through into the Middle Stage. With no more than 100 years left to live, he had no hopes of reaching the Soul Transformation Realm anymore. Because of that, he was sent to guard this place, which could be said to be more or less a cage for him to spend the rest of his life.

Nevertheless, he was a member of the Imperial Bloodline with a Rank 7 Bloodline Mark. As mentioned before, as long as someone in your family had a bloodline mark, your descendants could have it as well. No one in the Palif Imperial Family had bloodline marks below Rank 7. In fact, that was the low-level mark in the family. The more important members like the elders would all have Rank 8 ones. That showed how out of grace Banyou had fallen. Of course, the Emperor was entitled to have a Rank 9 Bloodline Mark, but only him.

The problem was that with Banyou being part of the Imperial Family, he could demand whatever he wanted in a remote place like this. One must remember that blonde humans were extremely rare merchandise. Naturally, Banyou would force anyone who obtained Calina to give her to him.

Lucas then put these thoughts behind before nodding.

"Alright, we'll share them. Guardian Banyou probably won't bother too much about the human males as long as he has the blonde female."

Jamil agreed with Lucas.

"Yes. However, we still have a problem. We found these two human males and the Zasfin that's helping them. The problem is that we have no idea whether the blonde female human is located at the moment. Also, what if they try to escape the city?"

Lucas immediately shook his head as he eased Jamil's worries.

"Don't worry, I've already passed the order to block all entrances. As a captain, I have at least this much authority. The problem will be how to find them. Unlike Spiritual Sense, Soul Power can only scan so far. Besides, this city has plenty of human slaves. Don't forget that I won't be able to keep the gates closed for too long."

Jamil nodded as he moved in the direction of the guy who died.

"Don't worry. This guy's death might have been a blow to your battalion. However, it was not in vain. I can use the lingering energy of the attack in his body to track them down."

Lucas knew what Jamil wanted to do.

"Well, I wouldn't let you mess with my subordinate's body in normal circumstances. However, I guess we have no other choice due to the current situation."

Rean and Roan could hide their cultivation and change their appearances, after all. With so many humans in this city, Lucas didn't have much choice.

As Jamil brought the dead guy's body somewhere, Rean, Roan, and Frandin had reemerged somewhere else in the city.

"First, let's find a place to stay."

Death... and me

Chapter 589: Changing Plans

Rean then looked at Roan before asking.

"Are you sure? I think we should leave and look for another Rank Four Bloodline Trial Ground. There's no point in risking being found out once again. If my speculations are correct, those guys knew about us because you visited the Bloodline Trials Office in Kastran City. Once we leave and head somewhere else, no one will have any idea on who we are."

Roan agreed with Rean as he said.

"I know. Just on the jade slip map of the Palif Continent, we can find seven Rank Four Bloodline Trial Grounds, including this one. However, they head in another direction that deviates from the Tuvoro Empire. We would need several months to arrive at those."

Frandin then mentioned something else as he asked.

"What about the next Empire's Trial Grounds? It should be that hard to buy another map when we get there, right? After that, we can use their Trial Grounds without having to deviate from our destination."

Rean and Roan looked at Frandin with a weird expression in response, causing Frandin to ask.

"Wh-What? Did I say something wrong?"

Rean shook his head as he responded.

"No. It's just that I didn't think you would try to help us. Shouldn't you be hoping that we get captured so that you can heal the poison in your body?"

Frandin was taken aback by that question.

"Well... Something tells me that you wouldn't really be captured even if they tried their hardest."

Roan shook his head as he said.

"It still doesn't answer Rean's question. Even if you think that way, you should at least hope that we won't be able to escape. Helping us like that still makes no sense for a Zasfin like you. Especially one with a bloodline mark, who are obviously prideful. Not to mention the fact that you despise the existence of humans."

Frandin scratched the back of his head as he eventually said.

"Just pretend I didn't say anything."

Rean laughed, though.

"Hahaha! Well, let's leave him alone. Roan, Frandin's right about his idea. We could simply find other Rank Four Bloodline Trial Grounds in the next Empire. There's no doubt that we are being looked for. Besides, the cautious you would definitely have accepted this idea when we're at such a disadvantage."

Roan narrowed his eyes in response. He really didn't want to wait until the next trial. However, Rean and Frandin were right that moving to the next Empire would be safer.

"Very well. I doubt the safety measures of each Bloodline Trial are that different from each other anyway. How are we faring with Spirit Stones?"

Rean shook his head with a light sigh as he replied.

"We don't have much left. But there's no need to worry. We don't know where the next Empire's Rank Four Bloodline Trial Grounds is, but we know where the next city is located. At least, the next big one."

Roan and Frandin knew which city Rean was talking about. It was also the closest city to a Rank Five Bloodline Trial, the only one on this side of the Palif Empire. It was marked very brightly on the jade slip. It was much bigger than the city they were in at the moment, so selling Rean's weapons there wouldn't be an issue.

"Venasi City, huh? That one might be a little risky since there are more experts there. We might bump into someone with cultivation high enough to see through your Spiritual Sense Bending Skill."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"You know very well that just having a strong Spiritual Sense isn't enough. The person will also need to be a certain distance away from me. Don't forget, Spiritual Sense is like the wind of a fan. The closer you are to the fan, the stronger it is. I think our chances are pretty good. Or better yet, we shouldn't be unlucky to that extent."

Roan nodded after listening. As for Frandin, that was the first time he heard how Rean's Anti-Spiritual Sense skill worked.

'What a strange concept. However, Rean's skill indeed works. I better remember that.'

With that decided, Rean's group decided to leave the city at once and head straight to Venasi. However, Rean and Roan passed by the Alchemist Guild and had Frandin sell all the Demon Cores they've gotten

so far. They wouldn't fetch as many Spirit Stones as Rean's weapons, but they were worth quite a decent amount.

The attendants of the Alchemist Guild were frightened by the sheer amount of Demon Cores and quickly arranged for their supervisor to negotiate it with Frandin.

"Are you sure you want to sell all of it? There's even a few Stage Four Demon Cores present here."

Frandin nodded as he answered.

"Yes. I need Spirit Stones as soon as possible, so just quote me a price."

The supervisor took a deep breath and then offered the same price as the market. He didn't dare to scam Frandin because he couldn't risk losing those Stage Four Demon Cores. Although they couldn't be considered any heaven-defying alchemy material, they definitely had many uses and were always in demand.

Of course, just as Rean and Roan thought, that supervisor arranged someone to follow them. However, since he didn't know about Rean's skills, it was quite easy to make them lose sight of them.

Rean was quite satisfied with the amount of Spirit Stones they had received. That guy paid 1120 Rank Two Spirit Stones for everything, which was a good value for this world. That was definitely enough to last until Venasi City, at least.

'Everyone's efforts during our training paid off. At least no one can be considered a burden as long as we keep gathering more of these Cores.'

Following that, Rean's group went to one of the city's exits. Obviously, they soon found out that the gates had been closed, which didn't surprise them. The same thing happened in Kastran City, after all. Not to mention that they really made a show just a while ago.

"There are probably a few guys using Soul Power to look for us around the gates. We can't use them."

Their group then went somewhere else where no one was looking. Of course, Roan didn't try to jump over the walls this time since he didn't want to be ambushed twice.

Ouch!

Suddenly, Frandin felt a sharp pain on the back of his neck before his vision went dark. Following that, Rean and Roan put him into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm before entering it themselves.

"Oh! You two are already back."

Obviously, Malaka and the others noticed when the two of them had appeared.

[I saw everything outside. The Circuitry Teleport Formation is ready for use.]

Rean smiled in response.

"Thank you, Sister Orb."

Rean also took the chance to explain the change in plans to everyone and pass them their share of Spirit Stones.

Rank Two Spirit Stones could only carry them up to 300 kilometers in any direction. However, they didn't need that much. Just enough to appear a few kilometers away from the city.

The Circuitry Teleport Formation then activated, making the twins disappear from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. The next time they looked outside, they were once again falling from the skies. Rean then brought Kentucky out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm for them to fly away.

Chick? Chick! Chick! Chick!

Kentucky then looked at them with an angry expression. Obviously, he didn't like to be summoned in such a manner.

Pah!

Roan then slapped the back of his head.

"Stop complaining. You just sleep, eat, and sleep again. Shut up and do some work."

Rean couldn't help but laugh as Kentucky begrudgingly opened his wings and began to fly in the distance.

"Alright. Do you want to go to Venasi City by foot again, or should I just head straight there with Kentucky?"

Roan shook his head as he said.

"Just fly with Kentucky. Everyone trained a lot on our way to Fhanzen, so they just need time to cultivate now. Not to mention that Calina and Malaka had just made a breakthrough. They need a few days to get used to their new level of combat prowess."

"Also, even if you are keeping the camouflage skills up while flying with Kentucky, make sure to cultivate as well. We don't need to make our foundation any sturdier for the moment."

Rean didn't mind before Roan sat by his side and began to cultivate as well. As everyone knew, they needed each other's elements to cultivate, so Roan couldn't simply return to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

That being said, Kentucky made its way to Vanesi City high in the skies while Rean kept him camouflaged with his skill.

In Fhanzen City, Jamil had just finished setting up his Soul Power skill to find Rean and Roan's location through the energy left behind in their attacks. Back in Kastran City, he was afraid that Roan was trying to lure him and his subordinates out of the city, so he didn't do it. However, he did have Lucas' forces and his own this time.

Suddenly, some kind of black and white energy began to leave the body of the man Rean and Roan had killed. It hovered in the air for a few seconds before Jamil's Soul Power fused with them. Following that, the energy was compressed into a tiny point and entered his forehead.

Unfortunately for him, the moment the energy made contact with his soul, Jamil felt like he was being eaten alive.

Arrrrghh!

Immediately, he used his Spiritual Energy to block the energy's effects as his forehead let out cold sweat.

'Just what is this energy? It almost eroded my soul. If I delayed a second longer, it definitely would have caused damage.'

Obviously, that was Roan's Dark Element.

Still, Jamil didn't give up and slowly felt the energy. Although the process was a lot slower, he at least succeeded in using his technique.

"So far!"

Jamil then looked at Lucas before saying.

"They escaped the city and are moving away. Quick, before they leave the range of my tracking skill."

Lucas was surprised to hear that his target had escaped after everything had been locked down. However, he put those thoughts behind and took flight. They didn't have time to gather their

subordinates since they left them guarding the city walls. Without any other choice, Jamil and Lucas had to burst forward on their own.

Death... and me

Chapter 590: Pierce Thorough

Rean and Roan were cultivating on top of Kentucky while the others stayed inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. In their eyes, they had already left the danger zone, so they weren't paying much attention. Especially since Rean's camouflage skill was active while they flew.

However, little did they know that danger was approaching them at high speeds. Kentucky was quick at flying, definitely faster than cultivators at his level. He was a demon bird, after all. However, that was far from enough to outrun Nascent Soul Realm cultivators.

Jamil and Lucas also refrained from using Spiritual Sense and kept on using their Soul Power instead.

Sometime later, Jamil looked at Lucas before saying.

"They're pretty close, just two kilometers ahead. From what I can feel, they're flying at the moment."

Lucas looked in the distance. The weather was quite clean at the moment, but he couldn't see anything in the skies. It was completely empty.

"Are you sure? I can't see anything."

Jamil nodded in response.

"Believe me, they're there. Focus your Soul Power with mine so that you will know where to strike."

Lucas nodded, and soon, the two combined their Soul Powers.

"Now!"

Not long after, they shot forward as fast as they could.

On Rean and Roan's side, they were focused on cultivating, not seeing the enemies approaching. Usually, they would feel the killing intent when it was directed at the two. However, Lucas and Jamil had no intention of killing, just capturing them.

Creeeee!

Suddenly, Kentucky's cry reverberated in the twins' ears, which immediately woke them up from their trance. Rean and Roan might not have been paying attention until now, but Kentucky very much was. Seeing the enemy flying in his direction faster than himself, Kentucky didn't waste time as he called the twins. The good thing was that Kentucky knew how to control it with his Spiritual Sense, so only Rean and Roan heard it.

"What is it, Kentucky?"

Rean and Roan then followed Kentucky's eyes, and sure enough, they saw the two rays of light coming at them.

"They can see us!"

"Yes. Also, judging by their speed, they're definitely Nascent Soul Realm cultivators."

Rean and Roan immediately got up and brandished their swords.

"Should we go into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm?"

Roan narrowed his eyes as he replied.

"The problem is that we're together. Once we enter it, we can only leave in the same place. If they don't go anywhere, we'll be sitting ducks."

Rean shook his head, trying to convince Roan.

"But they don't know that. We can simply wait for them to go away."

"That's not a good idea. Can't you see? They already found where we are and are heading straight for us. They obviously have some way of tracking us down. Entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm right now is way too risky."

"Then, what do we do? Get killed by them?"

"No. Look around. Can you see killing intent? They're not coming to kill us but to capture us instead. We can use that to our advantage."

Rean understood where Roan was coming from and asked what was on his mind.

"You want to take them by surprise and launch an attack?"

Roan nodded.

"Correct. I'm already sick of running into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. I didn't even want to come out of Fhanzen City to start with. This time, I will leave the Dimensional Realm as my last choice."

Rean sighed before nodding after that. He had to admit that always counting on the Dimensional Realm wouldn't be good for their progress. Rean then pondered for a bit, and soon, a playful smile appeared on his face.

"I have an idea."

All their conversation went through their Soul Connection, so it only took a few seconds for them to finish it.

Jamil and Lucas quickly approached when suddenly, they noticed the light around them changing. Following that, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky's figures appeared in their eyes. However, Kentucky was calmly flying forward as the twins sat on the Minokawa's back. The twins seemed to be concentrated in cultivation and didn't notice their presence from what they could see.

Immediately, Jamil and Lucas understood. Their camouflage skills only worked after a certain distance. If you were too close, you would be able to see them.

'A good chance!'

Without slowing even for a fraction of a second, Lucas and Jamil attacked, aiming to knock out the twins.

'Pay attention. They have some kind of cloning technique as well. If you feel that you didn't hit a real body, immediately retreat.'

Lucas nodded as both of them released their attack. It wasn't any kind of skill, just a hit with Spiritual Energy infused in it. However, Rean and Roan seemed to have noticed something and quickly looked at their backs.

"Too late, brats!"

Bang, bang!

Immediately, Rean and Roan tried to defend. However, they were hit by that formidable difference in cultivation, which made them and Kentucky plummet from the skies like a rocket. Blood splurged out their mouths as a few bones were broken straight away. Even Kentucky, with his high defense, felt the impact and lost the ability to fly.

As for Lucas and Jamil, their eyes lit up.

'They're the real ones!'

As fast as the twins fell from the sky, so were Lucas and Jamil in following them. Before they could even hit the ground, the twins were already captured by the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators.

"Hahaha! I want to see how you will escape now."

Following that, Lucas and Jamil used their Spiritual Energy to seal the twins' cultivation.

Roan then glared at them before asking.

"How... did you find us?"

Jamil snorted as he replied haughtily.

"Hmph! Puny humans who don't have Soul Power would never understand."

However, Roan didn't need an answer. That's because the twins quickly felt the presence of their own Dark and Light Elements inside Jamil's head. It was extremely faint, but it was there.

"I see... you Zasfin Race can use some technique that can use our lingering power to track us. Clever."

Jamil and Lucas were surprised that the twins could tell that.

"So you can feel it. Well, it's still too late for you now anyway. From now on, you are our slaves."

Rean and Roan looked at those two with anger in their eyes, which delighted Lucas and Jamil. As for Kentucky, they didn't think that demon bird would be able to do much anyway.

"Now, then. If you know what's good for you, tell us where the rest of your group is."

Rean and Roan nodded.

"The victor is the king, after all. They're right behind you."

Suddenly, Lucas and Jamil's blood froze, and two swords came out of literally nowhere. They were only able to feel it because they kept their Soul Power spread all the time. Still, they couldn't tell where they came from.

Unfortunately, it was already too late. Even if Lucas and Jamil were an entire cultivation realm above them, such a point-blank attack was impossible to dodge. All they could do was use the entirety of their power to create a Spiritual Energy barrier behind their backs.

Unfortunately for them, those swords were none other than Rean's swords. Two pieces of equipment that had the power to even contend against a piece of Heaven Low-Level Equipment. A Spiritual Energy Barrier was far from enough to stop them.

Swish, swish!

Immediately, those two swords pierced through Jamil and Lucas' bodies.