

## Death 591

Death... and me

Chapter 591: Forget About Killing

"Ahhhh!"

Lucas and Jamil quickly threw the twins away as they used all their power to minimize the damage. In the end, they were Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. Calina and Agis had succeeded in severely injuring them, but they were still able to twist their bodies enough to avoid instant death. Of course, their situation wasn't anything good.

The sword Calina was holding was Roan's one. He passed it to her since she wouldn't be able to use a skill fast enough after being brought out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Even though she didn't have much ability with swords, she had still entered the Core and Soul Fusion Realm recently. Her cultivation could make up for her lack of skill at that moment to thrust. As for Agis, he already had a sword at the same level as Rean and Roan's, so he didn't need one.

Calina and Agis were then forced back by the explosion of Spiritual Energy from Jamil and Lucas' bodies. However, they were already satisfied with the outcome. Soon after, Calina quickly flew to Roan's side, giving his Black Star back.

That wasn't all, though. At the very moment Calina returned the sword back to Roan, the twins had already used Rean's Instant Recovery to heal all their injuries. After all, Lucas and Jamil weren't holding them back anymore. Naturally, they couldn't seal the twins' cultivation either.

Following that, Malaka, Qia, and Kentucky, who recovered by himself, joined the battlefield.

"Attack!"

Jamil and Lucas were enraged. This time, they gave up the idea to capture, with only death being the outcome for the two in their minds. However, Calina and Agis's attacks left horrible gaps in their bodies. They simply couldn't bring forward their Nascent Soul Realm power like they usually could.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

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

'Death World!'

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault!'

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

'Life Fire, Flame Emperor Slash!'

'Water Dragon Strike!'

'Death Water Style, First Form, Flowing Dragon!'

'Chase of the Fire King Sword!'

'Sand Storm!'

\*Creeeeeeeeeeeeee!\*

Rean's group attacked from all sides, with all their best skills, not giving the two Nascent Soul Realm cultivators any chance to escape. To make sure they wouldn't try to fly away, Calina and Kentucky were given the role of the sky. All they needed to do was to prevent those two from leaving.

"Courting death!"

Of course, Lucas and Jamil wouldn't just stand there to be killed.

Lightning and Wind Element gathered around Jamil. At the same time, Ice and Water Element were used by Lucas. Not only that, but Soul Power became tangible due to its concentration as well.

Jamil then brought out his saber and counter-attacked the twins. In his eyes, those two were the most dangerous ones. Even Calina, with her Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivation, didn't give him the same sense of danger.

As for Lucas, he surprisingly used a staff, just like Malaka. While Jamil decided to hold the twins, he went for the rest.

'Infinity Lightning Strike!'

With the twins and their clones coming at him from all sides, Jamil could only use a wide-area attack to fend all of them off. Using his saber as the center point, lightning strikes began to rain down all around him. Any of those lightning bolts were enough to badly injure an Initial Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivator. In fact, it would have been much stronger than that if not for his injuries.

Rean and Roan didn't stop, though.

The Three Claws of the Dragon came from all six of them, four clones and two real bodies, 24 sword strikes in total.

"Come! Let's see if you can survive this!"

\*Bang, bang, bang, bang!\*

The twins completely ignored Jamil's words as they entered the area covered by the lightning strikes. Immediately, their clones and even the twins themselves were caught in that chaotic field of Lightning and Wind Element.

Jamil couldn't help but feel like the twins were crazy.

'Hmph! If you want to die, then I won't stop you.'

Without any regard for his injuries, Jamil increased the power of his attack even more. With that, his lightning bolts now had the power to strike down even Late and Peak Stage Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators.

However, it was then that he noticed something off. Rean and Roan's clones were indeed struck down before they could finish the Three Claws of the Dragon. However, their main bodies seemed to have a huge resistance against his Lightning Element.

"What?!"

Without any other choice, Jamil could only jump away, trying to avoid the twins' strikes.

Unfortunately for him, Calina and Kentucky weren't playing around in the sky.

'Glacial Icicles!'

\*Creeeeee!\*

The moment Jamil jumped, Kentucky and Calina shifted their attention from Lucas, aiming their attacks on Jamil.

"Fuck!"

Jamil was immediately forced back to the ground, where the twins' Three Claws of the Dragon were waiting for him.

"Don't think I can't do anything against you!"

Blood splurged out of Jamil's injury even faster as the output of Spiritual Energy, Soul Power, and Elements increased once more. At the very last moment, he moved his saber as fast as lightning with the help of his Wind Element, counter-attacking all six hits from the twins' swords.

\*Clan, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!\*

Lightning, Light, and Dark Elements interlaced in a big explosion of Spiritual Energy as the weapons collided against each other.

Even in that extremely disadvantaged situation, Jamil was still able to cause the same amount of damage to the twins as they did to himself. However, he was confident that he could hold for much longer with his advantage in cultivation. However, it was then that he saw the same thing playing in front of his eyes again. Light Element burst out the twins' bodies as the injuries on their bodies all healed in just a few moments. It was so fast that Jamil could see them close up with his naked eye.

'What kind of ability is that?!'

Not only that, Rean's Light Element didn't stop on his body. It suddenly spread around the battlefield, affecting all his companions.

'Life Style, Fifth Form, Light Aura Burst!'

Immediately, everyone besides Rean, Roan, and Kentucky felt their combat power increasing by leaps and bounds. Light Aura Burst was the same as the Enhancement skill. It's just that it affected the area around Rean. In exchange, its duration was not great, nor was the increase of combat power. Nonetheless, that was enough to completely turn the tables.

At that moment, Lucas and Jamil had reached the same conclusion. Forget about killing these humans. They needed to flee!

Death... and me

Chapter 592: Outcome

Normally, Lucas and Jamil would have tried to flee the very moment they got that injury. The cultivation difference didn't matter since they had to treat their injuries as fast as possible before it could affect their cultivation. However, their pride as Zafins simply didn't allow them to turn their back to those humans. Humans had always been slaves. How could they swallow such humiliation? That's why they insisted on staying so that they could finish these humans first, even if it cost them their cultivation.

Unfortunately for them, these humans were way stronger than that. Not only that, they even had more of them than the initial three they thought about. Now things were really going south for them.

'Lucas, help me break through their defense line!'

'Alright.'

Jamil and Lucas quickly got together before turning in a specific direction. They couldn't see anything because of Roan's Death World, but their Soul Power and Spiritual Sense still worked just fine. After that, they charged forward with a momentum that even another Nascent Soul Realm cultivator would be forced to get out of the way.

However, it was at this moment that Rean playfully smiled. He already expected that they would try to flee after the last clash. Light Element gathered in his hand as he compressed it as much as possible. Soon after, he appeared in front of the trajectory of Lucas and Jamil's charge.

Jamil and Lucas, obviously, didn't stop just because he appeared there.

"Die!"

They aimed their attacks in Rean's direction while they kept moving forward. They wanted to blast Rean away without stopping at all.

Unfortunately for them...

'Life Style, Flash!'

Out of nowhere, an explosion of extremely bright light swept through Roan's Death World, making everything shine several times more than looking directly at the sun. Lucas and Jamil's eyes had adapted to the total darkness around them. That being said, Rean's Flash immediately causes their eyes to go blind! Intense pain overcame Lucas and Jamil as they closed their eyes and instinctively covered them with their hands.

For a moment, they had lost their bearings over what was happening.

Roan and everyone else, of course, knew what Rean was going to do. Roan even released his Death World Field at the same time Rean used his Flash skill, making it easier to work.

As one could imagine, Roan, Qia, Agis, Malaka, and Kentucky acted at the same time as Rean's skill came forward.

\*Creeee!\*

'Death Style, Second Form, Crescent Moon!'

'Death Water Style, First Form, Flowing Dragon!'

'Water Dragon Strike!'

'Living Earth!'

'Phoenix Severing!'

Jamil and Lucas understood that they fell for a trap. Unfortunately, there was no stopping the attacks of Rean's group anymore.

\*Boom, boom, swish, bang!\*

Several attacks rained down from everywhere, blasting the two Nascent Soul Zsfins away like ragdolls.

\*Arrrrrgh!\*

The two crashed against the ground, making two small craters and suffering injuries several times worse than the first sword slashes from Calina and Agis. It was a wonder whether they were still alive or not.

Rean then sighed in relief as he looked where the enemies fell.

"It's finally over."

However...

\*Boom!\*

Without any hint whatsoever, an energy storm came from inside the craters, blasting all the snow from the surroundings away. At the same time, the two Zsfins began to float even though their bodies were in no condition to move anymore.

"Impossible!"

Everyone was taken aback, even Roan. He knew very well just how much damage they inflicted on these guys, especially since his Dark Element was rampaging inside their bodies.

It was then that they noticed something strange. Right in the middle of the Zsfins' foreheads, the Bloodline Marks began to separate themselves from their bodies. As it happened, their Soul Power had become so strong that even Roan's group could now feel it.

It was then that the twins received a message from Sister Orb. No, to be more specific, it was Frandin's voice, which Sister Orb was transmitting to them.

[Don't get close. These guys are sacrificing their Soul Power and Bloodline Marks to get this power. It will not last more than a minute. However, during this state, they're definitely much stronger than when they were at their peak.]

Sister Orb was transmitting the images of the battle inside the jail where Frandin was being kept. The moment Lucas and Jamil released that power, he immediately shouted, trying to communicate with the twins. Sister Orb heard his words and then connected him directly.

Jamil and Lucas then looked at Roan's group. It was obvious how much rage they had in their eyes.

Frandin then hastily explained after getting their attention. That skill where they sacrificed their Soul Power and Bloodline Marks had no comeback, so it could only be used once. After it was done, their Soul would not be able to generate Soul Power anymore in their lives. It was a one-time lifesaver with a huge price to be paid.

Rean and the others then assumed a defensive stance. As mentioned before, Roan didn't want to run to the Dimensional Realm every single time. That would definitely be his very last choice. The others could understand how he felt, so they gritted their teeth and waited for the incoming battle.

However...

\*Vup!\*

Jamil and Lucas didn't attack them. Instead, they darted away as fast as they could. Yes, they decided to use that last silver lining to flee rather than attacking. This time, Rean's group couldn't do anything about it. Truth be told, if not because of Jamil and Lucas' pride, it would be almost impossible to hold them back even if they were severely injured. Now that they were releasing a power beyond their peak condition, that was even more of a dream.

Sister Orb saw the speed they were flying away at and couldn't help but comment.

[They could probably put up a fight against a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator with a level of power like that. However, they would die if they didn't finish us off in that minute available for them. You can't blame them for choosing to flee since their surviving chances were higher that way.]

Lucas and Jamil disappeared in the distance in less than ten seconds, moving in two different directions. It was too late for them to catch the two.

Death... and me

Chapter 593: Soul Eater

Roan then sheathed his Black Star and shook his head soon after as he said.

"Leave them. They're way too fast. We won't be able to catch them, nor do we know if they have reinforcements coming in our direction."

The others nodded in response before entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Rean, of course, stayed out and resumed his flight together with Roan and Kentucky. Their main worry at the moment was to get away from this place as fast as possible.

\*Creeee!\*

Kentucky then flapped his wings and began to fly away once again. This time, Rean had him follow a slightly different direction than they were heading a moment ago. At the same time, Roan connected his mind to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'Frandin, can all Zasfins use that kind of skill?'

Frandin shook his head as he answered.

[No. From what I know, you must reach a certain level of Soul Power. Otherwise, you can't activate it. From what I know, you use your entire Soul Power to activate the Bloodline Mark. The Bloodline Mark will then consume it completely, not leaving anything behind. In exchange, it will give you that power. But as I mentioned before, once the energy is spent, you will forever lose your Soul Power, while the Bloodline Mark will disappear.]

'How much Soul Power do you need? Also, does it depend on your age like the trial requirements?'

[It has nothing to do with age. As long as you reach the right amount of Soul Power, you can use it. However, the higher the rank of your Bloodline Mark, the higher your Soul Power must be. For example, those two had Rank Three Bloodline Marks on their foreheads, so they needed 300 points of Soul Power. Of course, they probably had much more than that. It's just that 300 points is the bare minimum for one to use it.]

Roan nodded. That put some light into the situation.

'Now, then. Why didn't you tell us about that?'

[Who the hell would be crazy enough to challenge Nascent Soul Realm Zafins with Core Formation Realm cultivation? I've never thought you would even see such a thing in your life, so it obviously didn't even pass through my mind.]

Roan narrowed his eyes after hearing that but decided to leave it be. The fact that Frandin still contacted them in time at least helped his words. After all, he could have just stayed quiet, but he still warned them in the end before they tried to attack Jamil and Lucas.

[By the way, where the hell am I? Do you really need to imprison me like this? Also, how exactly can I see your fight even though I'm not by your side?]

Rean sighed in response before he used his control over the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to summon Frandin out of jail. Naturally, he appeared right above Kentucky as well.

"Ah!"

He immediately got down and held Kentucky's feather. This sudden action was too unexpected.

"Ho-how did you do that?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Are you an idiot? This is a special technique that only the humans of our world can use. You should have deduced this much at least."

Well, that was obviously a lie. However, Frandin was forced to believe since he had never seen anything like this before. If it wasn't a skill from their world, then what would it be?

"This..."

Eventually, Frandin calmed down and slowly sat on Kentucky's back.

"No wonder your friends appeared and disappeared everywhere. You can carry everyone together with you without anyone noticing. Your world's techniques are really a sight to behold."

Roan ignored his compliment before asking.

"That guy used his Soul Power to track us down. Can he do that again? I could feel my energy inside his body, just a tiny bit. I can tell that he used it to find our location."

Frandin pondered for a bit before saying.

"In theory, as long as it's a Soul Power skill, he should be able to. However, those two lost all their Soul Power after they activated the Soul Eater skill. That being said, they will need to ask someone else to drag the energy of your attacks from their bodies to track you down."

Frandin then continued.

"However, I find it hard to believe they will let anyone do that."

"Why?"

"Because they just lost their Soul Power. The last thing they want in this world is that others know that they can't use Soul Power anymore. The moment they reveal everything, they will lose all their positions. Besides, letting others know that they ended up like that because of humans would definitely consolidate this. If they know what's good for them, they will keep a low profile from now on, never to let anyone know what happened. At the very least, I would do so."

Rean's group had seen just how much the Zasfins disdained the humans, so they could imagine that happening. With a planet lacking Spiritual Energy like this one, Nascent Soul Realm cultivators probably had a much higher position than the Nascent Soul ones from their world, after all.

Frandin hit the bullseye when he said that. After Lucas and Jamil's Soul Power ran out, their Bloodline Marks disappeared together with the rest of their Soul Power Source. Without any other choice, they had to stop somewhere to recover from their injuries a little.

After that, the two returned to Fhanzen City and met up with each other again. Obviously, only the two of them were present. Lucas then looked at Jamil, trying to control his temper.

"Jamil, this is all your fault!"

Jamil wasn't feeling any better either.

"Shut up! Do you think I know what could happen? Don't forget that I also lost my Soul Power forever! I had just reached the necessary Soul Power Points to take the Rank Four Bloodline Trial! But look at me now..."

Lucas was a little surprised to hear that. Still, he quickly recovered since it didn't matter anymore.

"I'll warn you. You better not let anyone know what happened."

Jamil nodded as he said.

"Obviously! Do you think I want to lose my position as the Kastran City's City Lord? Make sure you also keep your mouth shut."

Lucas nodded after that. However, just as he was about to ask what they would do, someone had entered the room.

"Big brother! How was it? Did you capture that human?"

It was none other than Falin, Jamil's younger brother. He had an excited expression on his face after hearing that his big brother was back. He had been waiting for too long to take revenge on Roan and Calina, so he couldn't wait to put his hand on them.

However, the moment he asked that question, a light flashed on Jamil's hand before it pierced through Falin's heart.

"Bi-Big brother..."

Falin's eyes widened as he looked at Jamil's weapon on his chest. He couldn't believe Jamil did such a thing.

"All of it just happened because of your actions. Because of you, I can never go up in the ranks again. Just die already, you useless piece of trash!"

Falin wanted to ask why Jamil did that. Unfortunately, his vision began to turn dark before he fell to the ground. He would never know the answer to his doubts.

Jamil then looked in the direction where he and Lucas battled the humans.

"I won't let it end like this."

Death... and me

Chapter 594: Arrival in Vanesi

As Roan had mentioned, their group had traveled on foot for quite some time, which allowed them to battle a lot against demon beasts. The last battle against two Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, though,

put them even more on edge. A single mistake, and any of them might have been killed by a single strike of their enemies.

In exchange, these situations were the type that helped one's foundation out the most. Even Calina's recent breakthrough benefited a lot from that last battle. That being said, they didn't need to go out there to battle more demon beasts or other Zasfin groups anytime soon. All they needed was to consolidate what they learned and cultivate calmly.

With that said, Rean and Roan stayed on top of Kentucky's body with Frandin while the others were in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. All of them were cultivating.

From what Frandin told them, the tracking ability used on them also had a maximum range. Once surpassed, it wouldn't work anymore. Besides, it was only temporary. Sooner than later, the energy used to track them down would dissipate. By now, Frandin was pretty sure that they wouldn't be able to be tracked anymore.

Just like that, another three weeks and a half passed in a more or less relaxed fashion. Every now and then, Rean would come down to let Kentucky rest while Roan would send Frandin out to fight. From their entire group, only Frandin didn't participate in that battle. Well, that was simply Roan's way of getting back at Frandin for warning them about the Soul Eater skill in the last second.

There was a good thing, though. Roan wasn't giving him unreasonable tasks. His cultivation, especially with the Spirit Stones he obtained, was still going up faster than ever. One of the reasons was that Roan wanted to test how his training would fare for someone who used Soul Power. Roan made it very clear for Frandin as well.

'Simply put, I'm being treated as a guinea pig in case Roan really manages to awaken Soul Power.'

Frandin sighed in response, but there was nothing he could do. In any case, this was turning out very well for him. By now, he was pretty sure that he would be considered the top 1 genius in Danve City.

One good point in traveling with Kentucky was that it was simply several times faster. Their next stop was Vanesi City, located close to the border of the Palif and Oclon Empires. It should have taken them at least three months to arrive there on foot. But even though they weren't flying at top speed with the Minokawa, they still made it there in less than a month.

"Wow! That's quite a big city. Even from this distance, I can still see it."

Frandin had never been there, but he could tell why that is.

"That's to be expected. Fhanzen has a Rank Four Bloodline Trial and is already that big. It is only normal that a city with a Rank Five Bloodline Trial, the only one on the west side of the Empire, to be even bigger."

Rean couldn't help but ask.

"Now that you say that, the higher the rank of the bloodline trial, the lesser their numbers, right? In that case, how many Rank Six Bloodline Trials and above are in Palif Empire?"

Frandin nodded as he said.

"Indeed. As far as I know, Palif has two Rank Six Bloodline Trial Grounds, one in the north and another in the south. As for Rank Seven and above, you can only find them close to the Palif Empire's Capital. After all, those are the Bloodline Marks used by the Imperial Family and a scant few who can achieve the necessary Soul Power Points to try it."

Roan then added.

"I guess we can consider the situation to be similar in the other Empires. After all, their Bloodline Trial Grounds are part of their Empire's might against others. They can't afford to have their High-Level Trial Grounds destroyed."

Rean then thought about something else as he asked.

"Wouldn't it be easier to make more of those Trial Grounds, then? Even if one gets destroyed, they would have others to use."

Frandin shook his head as he replied.

"I agree with you, but I don't know how it works. No one knows how you can set a Trial Ground, even the most basic Rank One Bloodline Trials. It's a secret sealed by the powers of each Empire and the Celestial Lands."

Roan agreed with Frandin as he speculated.

"Most likely, there's some kind of mutual agreement between each of these powers regarding the Trial Grounds. In any case, that matters little for us at the moment. If we have the chance, we can check in the future, but let's leave it aside for now."

Frandin and Rean nodded before Rean patted Kentucky on his back. The Minokawa then dived down and landed in a remote area where no one could see it.

"Great job, Kentucky. Here, this is your prize."

Rean then took out a huge chunk of Transten Ore, the Heaven High-Level one. Even though they didn't have that much remaining to feed the Minokawa, Rean thought that Kentucky deserved this much. Kentucky's eyes immediately lit up before he took it from Rean and swallowed it whole. Right after, it sat down and closed its eyes to sleep while digesting the delicacy.

Rean smiled as he patted Kentucky's feathers for a moment. Following that, he used his control over the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to send Kentucky inside.

"Isn't it too much to use two weeks' worth of Transten Ore in a single go?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"Don't be so strict. Kentucky did bring us all the way here, only stopping to rest. You must understand when to criticize and when to reward. In any case, we don't have many Heaven Level ores remaining anymore. That said, it won't make a big difference if we run out of them a few weeks earlier."

Frandin felt like someone had smashed his head with a hammer as he thought.

'They are feeding the demon beast with HEAVEN LEVEL materials!'

That was quite hard for him to process. Well, that was the normal reaction, right?

Death... and me

Chapter 595: Imperial Auction House

Ignoring Frandin's surprise, Roan then asked something else.

"Wouldn't it be better to keep some of the Heaven Level Materials for use?"

Rean shook his head as he replied.

"We are already out of Luminun Ore, which is only a Heaven Middle-Level Material. Think about it. A normal blacksmith would need to be in the Nascent Soul Realm to forge Heaven Low-Level Equipment. In my case, because our Spiritual Energy Pool is much bigger than those at our level, I think I can do that once I reach the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. How long do you think that will take?"

Roan understood where Rean was coming from.

"I see. We only have Heaven High-Level Materials. For that level of equipment, you would need to reach the Peak of the Soul Transformation Realm at the very least. Otherwise, you won't be able to do anything with it."

Rean nodded as he responded.

"Exactly. Just how long do you think it will take for us to reach the Soul Transformation Realm in this world? It's way too out of my league at the moment. That being said, we might as well let Kentucky enjoy these ores. At the very least, it directly increases his power. Also, I don't think we would be able to find more of this level of material once we get to that cultivation realm."

Roan agreed with Rean and decided to not intervene in how he fed Kentucky anymore.

Kentucky had left them behind a hill, so Rean and Roan quickly climbed it before looking in the distance. Even though they were not as high as when they were flying with Kentucky, they could still see just how big Vanesi City was.

Frandin was also on their side, looking at the city. He might be the young master of Danve City. But in a place like this, he might as well be considered a country bumpkin. At the very least, his status wouldn't be as high as in small cities.

"Alright, let's go. Frandin, we're doing the same act again."

Rean then activated his Spiritual Sense Bending Skill, covering only his and Roan's Dantians. Others had to at least feel their presence with their Spiritual Senses. Otherwise, Rean and Roan would be like ghosts in the middle of the city. Those using Spiritual Sense couldn't feel their presence, but they were still right in front of them. That would obviously catch a lot of attention. That's why only their Dantians were covered, to only hide their cultivation.

The city was still several kilometers away, so the crowd began to increase as they got close. Every now and then, they would see Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators flying above their heads.

"Still, compared to cities of the same size back in our Sunkan Planet, this city is severely lacking in Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators and above."

"That's the lack of Spiritual Energy for you."

Eventually, they arrived at the city gate before entering the queue. It took them more than one hour to arrive at the guarding post, where Frandin had to pay 10 Rank Two Spirit Stones for himself and five for each human he brought along. Poor Frandin couldn't help but feel a bit of pain in his heart with that price.

'So expensive!'

Rean and Roan didn't seem to care, though. They only paid attention to their surroundings, ready to jump into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm if necessary. They didn't know whether Jamil and Lucas had really not told anyone about them or not. Who knows? Perhaps the surrounding countries were warned about their presence and were waiting for them to fall into the trap.

Fortunately, that didn't seem to be the case. Rean and Roan couldn't feel anyone following them after they passed by the city gates. Even Roan's instincts didn't stir at all.

"Sigh... that's good enough. Frandin, ask around where the City's Auction House is. I need to sell the weapons I made back in Kastran City. It's about time to cash in some Spirit Stones."

Frandin nodded and began to inquire about the auction house in the stalls around. Following that, they went to the City Center as expected. They moved slowly with the crowd to not catch anyone's attention, so they took quite some time to arrive.

After some time, they got to their destination.

This was the biggest one Frandin had heard about. There were a few others, but this one would get the biggest crowds and the highest prices. It was obviously operated by the Imperial Family. Or, to be more precise, the Imperial Guardians who protected the Rank Five Bloodline Trial Grounds.

Of course, not everyone could come and sell their items here. There was a minimal level for anything that was auctioned. However, Rean wasn't the least bit worried about that. He was sure that Earth High-Level Weapons would definitely be accepted.

Frandin then entered the Auction House with Rean and Roan before they went to a private room. There, an appraiser received them, asking.

"Hello, little friend. Is there anything I can help you with today?"

Frandin nodded before placing a big leather bag on the table.

"I need some Spirit Stones quickly, so I want to auction these weapons during the next auction three days from now."

The man nodded and brought the weapons out. Surprisingly though, he didn't seem to be that surprised by them.

"Oh! You have a few good pieces here. All of them are at the Earth High-Level, and their quality is definitely above average. This should go well with the other opening items for this month's opening."

Rean was quite surprised by the elder's indifference. He thought that this level of equipment would make him a lot more excited.

'Well, that plays well for me too. If they don't think much of my weapons, that means they won't try anything on Frandin either.'

The appraiser then took out a token and marked a few things on it before passing the token to Frandin.

"This is your proof of identity. Once the auction is over, you can bring this token here and receive the payment. Remember, the auction house charges 30% over all the items sold. You can also use this token to participate during the next auction. It's just that you will only be able to stay in the lower seats together with the crowd."

Frandin didn't mind that and took his token. After that, he turned around and left the auction house with the twins.

Death... and me

Chapter 596: Frandin's Improvement

Frandin and the twins then went to the Bloodline Trials Office in the city. As always, the place had almost no one present. After all, achieving the necessary Soul Power to try a Rank Five one was way too difficult. Unless, of course, you have the right nobility status.

Not long after, they heard the conditions for the Rank Five Bloodline Trials together with the security procedures if Frandin wanted to try it out. Frandin couldn't help but comment through a Spiritual Sense message.

'For someone at my age, a Soul Power of 420 points is necessary. Also, that's not considering the boost given by the Bloodline Marks, but your raw power alone. That's just way too hard!'

Roan narrowed his eyes before asking.

'You said you had 263 points of Soul Power when I asked you last time, right?'

Frandin nodded.

'I did. However, that was when my Rank Two Bloodline Mark is active. Without it, it's a lot lower. To be more specific, without my Bloodline Mark, it's 20% lower. Why do you ask?'

Roan continued with his train of thought as he asked.

'Have you tested your Soul Power after that? Even after I bought the Soul Measurement Crystal, you didn't try to check your Soul Power even once. However, I have put you through training that far surpasses the quality of the regime you had before. I even tailored it around your Soul Power practice to test how things would be for me if I get the Bloodline Mark. Surely it must have increased, no?'

'This...'

Frandin had to admit that it was true. However, every time he went through Roan's schedule, he would be a half step away from death, so he didn't pay attention to how much it increased. He only knew that it did grow, that's all.

Rean became curious as well, so he took the chance that they were already in the Bloodline Trial Office and told Frandin.

'Ask the attendant if they can test your Soul Power right now. Let's how much you improved in these several months of Death Style Soul Power training.'

Frandin then looked at his hand as he gathered some of his Soul Power there.

'It definitely feels a lot stronger... But, I don't think it's anything worth praising. If I were to guess, I think I got another 40 to 50 points of raw Soul Power. Of course, I'm not looking down on these 40 to 50 points. If it was the time I was in Danve City, I definitely wouldn't have increased my Soul Power so much like that. At most, I would have improved 10 to 20 points in the same period.'

Roan already began to lose his patience as he said.

'Stop coming up with excuses and check it already. I don't care about how much you think you improved. I want raw numbers! Precise measure! Just ask the attendant for the Soul Measurement Crystal already.'

Frandin nodded after that. Without his Bloodline Mark, he had around 210 points of Soul Power when he first met Rean and Roan. It was now time to see how good it became.

"Sorry, sir. Would you mind testing my Soul Power? I want to see how much I've improved until now."

The attendant nodded, not caring too much. His job was to find Zasfins capable of taking the Rank Five test even if they were extremely rare. As much as he thought it would be impossible for Frandin, he had to follow the rules.

Frandin was then brought to a private room with Rean and Roan to test his power. There were also two members of the Bloodline Trial Office there to check the results to make sure no one would cheat the test.

Rean and Roan kept their play of submissive humans as they headed to a corner to wait for Frandin. Of course, their Spiritual Senses were on the Soul Measurement Crystal and Frandin himself.

Frandin then touched the Soul Measurement Crystal and summoned his Soul Power. Unlike Roan, he could manifest it in the outside world, so it gave a much more precise result.

Soon, the Crystal lit up as it absorbed Frandin's power.

The two members of the Bloodline Office weren't expecting much. However, the moment the Crystal lit up, their eyes shone as they looked at Frandin. At the very least, the Crystal was glowing a lot more than their expectations.

It only took a minute before the Crystal finished its job and let Frandin go. Everyone then looked at the surface, waiting for the numbers to appear.

3...

4...

2...

342!

"What?!"

Frandin felt like he was struck by lightning!

"342! How's that possible?!"

Frandin was obviously shocked. That's because his Soul Power almost doubled in half a year he spent with Rean's group. Before, he thought he would have enough power to be the best genius in Danve City. However, with such a number, he was definitely the greatest genius in the several cities around Danve together!

However, the attendants were a little disappointed.

"Sigh... 342. You are still 78 points away from reaching the necessary mark to enter the Rank Five Bloodline Trial. Sorry, little friend. But you will have to try harder."

The other attendant nodded in response. However, he was curious about something.

"He's right. Still, there is one thing I don't understand. You definitely have the necessary Soul Power to try a Rank Four Bloodline Trial, let alone a Rank Three. Why are you still using a Rank Two Bloodline Mark?"

"This..."

Frandin scratched the back of his head before saying.

"I didn't know my Soul Power was this big before..."

The attendants felt they had heard wrongly. There was almost no Zasfin that didn't test their own Soul Power regularly. How come this guy hasn't done that?

"Ahem... Well, you do have the talent for that. You should really think about trying a Rank Four Bloodline Trial. It will also increase your status in our Empire."

Frandin nodded absent-mindedly. His head was totally on the number that he had just seen. After some time, Frandin bid farewell to those attendants before leaving the office with Rean and Roan.

Death... and me

Chapter 597: Found it!

After that, Frandin left the Bloodline Trials Office with Rean and Roan.

'As I thought, strict training and near-death experiences are also deeply linked to how much you can improve in a period of time.'

Rean agreed with him as he said.

'It seems like the potential of Frandin's Soul Power was being wasted so far. No, to be more specific, most Zasfins are wasting their potential. After all, we rarely see Zasfins outside, battling demon beasts. Even when we do, they are usually attacking lower-level beasts.'

Roan nodded before looking at Frandin and asking.

'Correct. Frandin, before I put you into your new training schedule, how often did you go through battles that could really kill you?'

Frandin couldn't help but feel a chill on his back when he thought about that. He already lost his count on how many times he was just a hair's breadth away from dying since he had joined Rean's group.

'Errr... My father did send me out to fight the demon beasts nearby Danve City. That day when Rean capture me, I had just come back from one of those training sessions. However...'

Frandin then felt a little embarrassed, not wishing to talk about it. Rean and Roan didn't wait for him either. His expression had already answered their question. Sure enough, Frandin probably didn't fight truly dangerous beasts and didn't go through any life and death experiences. Even if he did, it was only once or twice.

'That's good for us. As long as the Bloodline Mark allows us to use Soul Power, we will be able to increase our power much faster than others. Of course, there are definitely Zasfins out there who know about it and are going through similarly dangerous training like ours. For example, those so-called geniuses that can join the Celestial Lands probably grew up through this method.'

Roan nodded once again.

"That's what I think as well. Simply put, Frandin's dream of joining a Celestial Land was a joke since he never tried to put in the necessary effort to raise his Soul Power. I can't even imagine how much stronger his Soul Power would be if he wasn't such a chicken before meeting us.'

Frandin felt even more embarrassed. Rean and Roan's words were harsh, but they were the absolute truth. Before being captured, his training schedules could be called anything but hard.

Roan then continued.

'Leaving his chicken thoughts aside, his Soul Power is increasing way faster than I predicted.'

Rean knew where Roan was coming from.

'You have the same idea as me, it seems. Most likely, Frandin's power is increasing this quickly because there was a lot of space for growth to start with. Once he uses up all the space available, the improvement in his Soul Power will slow down by a lot even if he keeps up the same training routine.'

Frandin was taken aback by that as he asked.

'Is that true? How come I don't know that?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

'That's because you don't know anyone who has trained seriously. Your father, who is already in the Nascent Soul Realm, couldn't get anything better than a Rank Two Bloodline Mark. That shows that your chicken blood runs in the family. If I'm not wrong, your father is already very old, with no chances of breaking through into the Soul Transformation Realm anymore, right?'

Frandin didn't like how Rean put his words. Then again, he never acted any better when dealing with human slaves. In the end, he just sighed and nodded.

'Ever since father entered the Nascent Soul Realm, he has been in the initial stage. He is already 359 years old and has been in the initial stage for 168 years.'

One must remember that a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's lifespan was nothing more than 500 years.

Rean and Roan were not surprised by that. It seemed like Frandin's father would at most reach the Middle Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm in his life.

'I'm quite impressed that he got to the Nascent Soul Realm at all, especially considering the lack of Spiritual Energy in this world.'

Frandin scratched the back of his head before saying.

'That's because he used the Rank Two Bloodline Trial to give the last push for his breakthrough. If not for that, he probably wouldn't have succeeded. The Bloodline Mark Trial allowed my father to jump from the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm straight to the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm.'

Rean and Roan immediately stopped at that moment.

'Wait, what? You can use the trials to push for a breakthrough?'

Frandin then remembered that he had never commented about that.

'You can, but I don't know the specifics. As I mentioned before, the trial chances according to those taking the trials. I really don't know how it would be if you or I tried it. Of course, it probably isn't too much different, but I can't guarantee that either.'

Rean and Roan were still shocked by that. A trial alone allowed a Zsfin to jump two stages and one realm. How ridiculous was that?

'I'm even more interested in these trials now.'

Rean then pondered for a bit before only asking Roan.

'The Rank Five Bloodline Trial Grounds' security is even more strict than the Rank Four. However, it still follows the same rules as all others. The protection exists only in its surroundings. Once inside, you're alone. We are already intending to enter a Bloodline Trial anyway. That said, why don't we try this Rank Five one?'

Roan had to admit that he had been thinking about it ever since they exited the Bloodline Trial Office.

'However, we don't know the exact location of the Trial Grounds. Without that, we can't teleport there.'

Rean shook his head as he said.

'That's the point. We don't really need to get too close, right? The trial grounds seem to be quite a big place. What about we use my Spiritual Sense and Light Bending Skill to enter the security range and see where it's located? We don't need to get too close, just enough to see where we should teleport to.'

Roan nodded.

'Seems like that's a good idea. Let's find a place to stay and then leave Frandin there. After that, we can try to enter into their defenses without being discovered.'

As always, Rean asked Frandin to find some Blacksmith Workshop to rent. They ended up paying for one far from the city center. However, Rean didn't mind that since the place mattered little for him. After drawing a simple Anti-Spiritual Sense Formation, Rean entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to see the others.

This time, however, Calina had black hair. Sure enough, she used the products to change her hair color once again. Roan had many materials for it from the time Calina was hidden in the Dalamu Sect. She didn't know when she would be going outside, but she wanted to be ready for that.

"What do you guys want to do now?"

Rean then explained their plans to everyone.

"I see... That seems risky but could also bring huge rewards."

Roan then mentioned.

"If things get risky, we will teleport away again. Last time, we only had to care about two Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. This time, the Trial Grounds are filled with Core and Soul Fusion Realm and above cultivators. I wouldn't be surprised if a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator was also present, guarding it. That said, we won't fight and will immediately flee if we're found."

That was to be expected. One thing was fighting against powerful enemies, while the other was simply suicide. Without a doubt, trying to battle in this place could only be suicidal.

"Don't forget, once we get there, I'll bring you guys out as well. This Bloodline Mark might be a very good thing for all of us."

Malaka and the others immediately nodded and began to prepare. Meanwhile, Rean and Roan exited the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Frandin didn't even bother to think how they were doing that anymore after seeing it so many times. Following that, they sent him into the Dimensional Realm before leaving.

The quality of Formations in this world was definitely beneath the Formations in Sunkan Planet. However, the ZASFINS could make up for it with the Soul Power Runes added to them. One of these Formations with Soul Power just so happened to be the protection formation around the Trial Grounds. That being said, there was only one entrance to the area.

Of course, Rean and Roan completely ignored that. Instead, they went to another side of the protection formation without anyone looking. From there, they entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and used a very short teleport to appear on the other side. Besides, the entrance would have Nascent Soul Realm Spiritual Senses watching over. At Rean's cultivation level, he wouldn't be able to fend off those Spiritual Senses at such a close distance. Using the entrance was out of the question from the very start.

Rean and Roan also refrained from using Kentucky or Calina. Little by little, they made their way through the region, trying to find their way to the Trial Grounds. Tens of kilometers later...

'Roan, I can feel several Spiritual Senses already. Core and Soul Fusion Realm ones are the majority. Still, there are already two at the Nascent Soul Realm level.'

Roan wasn't surprised by that.

'This is good. That shows that we are moving in the right direction. Make sure not to let us get too close.'

Rean nodded as they kept moving forward. Using Rean's Light Bending Skill, they also couldn't be seen by the naked eye. In the end, the twins had to do several turns and retreat many times. Finding a breach where a Nascent Soul Realm's Spiritual Sense wouldn't be too close proved a lot harder than expected. However, those who put in the effort would eventually be rewarded.

'Found it!'

Death... and me

Chapter 598: Earned Ones

It turned out that the Trial Grounds were inside a mountain. Rean and Roan were on top of a hill many kilometers away, at the very limit of what Rean's Spiritual Sense Bending could hide them. In a certain way, it was a risky move since they could be found at any second due to their proximity. Still, this was the only breach they had found so far, so they decided to risk it.

Fortunately, it had paid off. Right now, they could at least see the outline of what would be considered the trial grounds. They could see many Imperial Guards around the entrance, but none of them got close to it. Finally, after making sure to mark down where it was, the two of them retreated into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

"Alright, we found the entrance. Sister Orb, we're going to try teleport in that direction now."

[No problem. The Circuitry Teleport Formation is ready anyway. I also saw where the Trial Grounds entrance is located, so I will adjust the direction of the teleport from here.]

This time, only Rean stepped on the teleport formation. That's because he was the best one at keeping himself hidden with his skills. One must remember that the teleport only controlled the general direction, not the exact point. For that, they would need the save point, which couldn't be used at the moment. That being said, Rean could very well teleport underground and have to make his way up, or even teleport in mid-air. There definitely wouldn't be a lack of Spiritual Senses watching his arriving location in the latter case. Last but not least, the exact distance couldn't be set either. They had to measure it with the amount of Spirit Stones used.

[Are you ready?]

Rean nodded as he activated his Spiritual Sense and Light Bending skill once again. Soon, he disappeared from everyone's sight. Sister Orb then activated the Circuitry Teleport Formation right after. Eventually, with a flash of silver light, Rean was teleported away.

In the next second, a flash of silver light appeared elsewhere before there was nothing there anymore. Naturally, Rean was there with his skill activated. However, everything was dark around him.

Following that, Rean fell on the ground, which was a few meters under the place he teleported. During that time, he also spread his Spiritual Sense, trying to make out the location in his head.

'Nothing?'

Rean then got up after landing as he paid attention to his Spiritual Sense Bending skill.

'There isn't a single Spiritual Sense in this place. Rean was planning to go through the Trial while keeping my Spiritual Sense bending skill active. But from the looks of it, Spiritual Sense can't be used to watch the insides of the Trial Grounds. It's still too early to be certain, but I guess Frandin was right about no one being allowed to watch the Trials.'

Rean then carefully spread his Divine Sense little by little. The last thing he needed was to alert everyone with his own Spiritual Sense. He could bend others' Spiritual Senses with his Light Element. Obviously, he could bend his own as well. However, it only worked up to a few meters away from him. Besides, if he bent his own Spiritual Sense around someone, that meant he won't be able to see them as well, so it wasn't that useful.

However, Rean quickly found out that all the walls around him acted against Spiritual Sense. Not only that, but it seemed like the entire Bloodline Trial Ground had something blocking Spiritual Sense. He couldn't spread it more than five or so meters, and that was already his limit.

'Sure enough, Soul Power is the rule in the Trial Grounds. I believe Soul Power would be able to see much further away than Spiritual Sense... if I had any.'

Rean started to walk right after.

'Now, then. Just where the hell am I on the Trial Grounds? If the entire mountain is the trial grounds, then I should be close to the entrance. After all, we calculated the amount of Spirit Stones to teleport more or less one to three kilometers into the Trial Grounds. The mountain is tens of kilometers long, so I shouldn't be too far into it. Of course, that's considering that the Trial Ground does use the entire mountain.'

Rean didn't run, nor did he jog. He was slowly making his way around, trying to make out his position. After some time, he could finally tell that there was no one around.

Following that, Roan and Frandin were brought out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

"This... I can't see anything. Where are we?"

Rean and Roan didn't tell Frandin of the plan until now, so it was understandable that he was lost.

"We're inside the Rank Five Bloodline Trial Grounds."

"What?!"

Frandin's blood almost froze at that moment. This was the type of place he thought he would never put his feet on in his life.

"You must be kidding!"

\*Pah!\*

Roan then slapped the back of Frandin's head.

"Stop wasting our time. If we say we're here, then we're here. We brought you out as well because we have no Soul Power whatsoever. We will probably need you to pass this thing."

Frandin rubbed the back of his head and nodded. Still, he couldn't help but feel somewhat excited.

'Rank Five Bloodline Trial! If I pass it...'

Rean then asked Frandin.

"Try to use your Soul Power. My Spiritual Sense doesn't go further than five meters in this place. It obviously has some formation or power blocking it."

Frandin took a deep breath and nodded before spreading his Soul Power. Sure enough, it could go much further than Spiritual Sense.

"I can see up to 15 meters. Nothing is blocking it. Unfortunately, my cultivation is just too low, so I can't see further than this by default."

Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry. It's already much better than mine or Roan's. Let's go. The only exit of this room is on the left side. Let us know if you see anything."

Frandin nodded while Rean and Roan took the lead. They finally exited the place where Rean first appeared. Still, everything was dark as always.

"Could it be that because we entered this trial without permission, it's not activated?"

Roan and Frandin nodded in response.

"We don't know how things work inside this place, so there's that possibility."

However, that situation didn't last long. Suddenly, all the walls around them lit up with a yellow light, illuminating the entire thing. Only then did they notice that they entered a big underground hall. Rean had both his Light and Spiritual Sense Bending skills active. Still, they didn't drop their guard as they looked at their surroundings.

'Did they find us out?'

They stayed stationary, not moving a muscle for a few moments. Suddenly, the door to the hall opened. From outside came a man who looked to be in his thirties. Frandin immediately recognized his clothes, so he warned Rean and Roan.

'Can you see his attire? This guy is definitely part of a very influential clan.'

Rean and Roan understood.

'He just so happened to be here for the trial, just like us.'

They could confirm it because the guy didn't seem to be looking in their direction at all. Besides, he was alone. As mentioned before, one could only enter the Trial Grounds alone, which was exactly the case for him. Rean and Roan didn't think that the Zasfins would send just a single person to capture them if they knew they were here.

Rean's group looked at the guy made his way forward. Now that everything was lit up, they could see an altar at the other end of the underground hall. Right behind it, there were a few other doors that they didn't know anything about.

Sure enough, the guy didn't know that Rean's group was there. In a certain way, Rean's group was really lucky.

They didn't know it, but they were right. The fact was that you really needed to activate the trial ground. Otherwise, keeping it working would constantly spend Spirit Stones, which wasn't that abundant on this planet to start with.

'Forget it. Just pay attention to what he's doing.'

Frandin and Rean nodded as they refrained from moving.

Finally, the man put his hands on the altar as he murmured.

"This time, I will definitely succeed. Bloodline Marks received because of your family aren't as good as one earned by yourself. I'm not that kind of trash. I was so close last time. Once I get a real one, my position in the clan will definitely skyrocket!"

Rean and Roan subconsciously looked at Frandin. He was a Zasfin Trash who didn't mind getting his Bloodline Mark because of his family instead of a Bloodline Trial.

Frandin wanted to cry already.

'Can you stop looking at me like that? You're making me want to kill myself already.'

Rean then asked something else.

'How come you didn't tell us Received Bloodline Marks are worse than Earned Bloodline Marks?'

Frandin suddenly dropped his head even more as he responded.

'I... didn't know that.'

Rean and Roan then shook their heads after that. The disappointment on their faces was so obvious that it hurt already. It was as if they had lost any hope in him already.

Poor Frandin's pride was nowhere to be seen anymore. All he wanted was a hole to throw himself into. He was probably the first Zasfin to feel so embarrassed in front of humans in a very, very long time.

Death... and me

Chapter 599: Chick!

The guy didn't know that Roan's group was there, so he continued with his own test. He gathered his own Soul Power and sent it into the altar. Following that, the altar lit up with a faint blue light, connecting with the guy's Soul Power Source.

After some time, one of the seven doors at the back began to open as it glowed with the same blue light. However, Rean and Roan immediately noticed that the guy didn't seem to be that pleased with the door given to him. Unfortunately, they couldn't hear what the guy was saying as he entered that door.

Once the shadows had engulfed the guy's silhouette, the door behind him began to close, making it seem like nothing had happened. Rean and Roan didn't try to follow the guy since they didn't know what the doors there meant.

'Frandin, do you know what those doors are about?'

Frandin shook his head as he said.

'Father didn't talk to me about it. First of all, I can't guarantee that the Rank Two Bloodline Trials had them or not.'

Roan had to admit that Frandin was right.

Rean then shook his head and put those questions at the back of his head.

'Forget about it. From the looks of it, this Bloodline Trial will keep working as long as that guy is attempting it. However, we don't know how long he'll take there, so let's hurry up.'

Frandin and Roan nodded in response as they quickly approached the altar. Sure enough, Rean and Roan connected to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and allowed everyone else to come out. The good thing was that there wasn't a need to explain anything to anyone. Sister Orb made sure to tell them what was happening in the outside world during that time.

Frandin, already used to the scene, also ignored everyone before asking Rean and Roan.

"Should I touch the altar first?"

That was the problem. Even if a door opened for Frandin, would it open for the rest of them? Can they even enter the same way? They only had one way to find that out.

"Go ahead. We'll try to follow you into the door that opens after that."

"Well, that's considering Frandin has enough Soul Power to be accepted by it. We still don't know if the Soul Power that the Bloodline Trials Office asks for is necessary here."

Frandin then took a deep breath before touching the altar. Just like the last Zafin, he sent his Soul Power inside before the altar connected to his Soul Power Source. The same faint blue light came out of the Altar a few moments later as another door began to open behind it. This time, it was a different one.

"Seems like it's open. Let's try to enter it."

Frandin then moved together with Rean's group. Just to be sure, he went ahead since he was the one who opened it. He passed through the door without any issues. However, just as Rean and Roan were about to go through, some kind of invisible barrier materialized in front of them.

\*Thud! Thud!\*

Rean and Roan bounced back together with the others. Sure enough, only those who opened the doors could pass through them.

"Sigh... Well, it's not like we didn't think about this possibility."

"Does it mean that only Frandin will be able to try the test?"

"I don't know. We decided to follow Frandin since he was the only one who could manifest Soul Power. We do have Soul Power, but our points of Soul Power are below 20. Without it being at 20 points or higher, we can't manifest it."

"We can only hope that the altar will activate even without manifesting Soul Power."

Frandin then looked at Rean and Roan before asking.

"What should I do then? Should I go forward?"

Rean and Roan pondered if they should let him go or not. But then again, Frandin was behind the barrier, so they couldn't capture him either way. On the other hand, Roan was the only one who knew how to make the antidote for Frandin's poison, so they can demand him to come back.

Suddenly, the door began to close again. If they wanted Frandin to come out, it had to be soon.

As Roan pondered about it a little more, Rean lightly smiled before grabbing a pill bottle that contained a different pill from the ones Frandin had been using so far. Not long after that, he threw it at Frandin.

Roan glanced at him for a moment but didn't say anything. He more or less expected Rean to do that.

Frandin, of course, was taken aback by that.

"Go ahead and see what you can do. Whether you use this chance to escape, attempt to capture us by telling the others, or whatever other idea you have in mind, it's up to you. By the way, this is the final antidote. Once you take it, the poison in your body will be completely healed."

Frandin stopped breathing for a second when he heard that before quickly grabbing the bottle. Was that the truth? Or was it a lie? He didn't know. However, he was certain that only a single pill wouldn't be enough to keep his poison at bay for long. Unfortunately, he didn't have time to ask because the door closed in front of him. From now on, he was on his own.

Back at Rean's group, Qia looked at Rean and asked.

"Are you sure about that?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"Even if I wasn't, it's not like we could use him for much longer. There is a limit as to what a Rank Two Bloodline Mark owner can do for us. We might as well capture someone with a lot more authority next time."

Malaka found it strange as she asked in response.

"What if he decides to spread word of us?"

Agis was the one who answered that question.

"It doesn't matter. The way humans have been treated so far will guarantee that no one will care too much about it. It's just a few humans. Why should they care? If anything, Frandin might be ostracized since he helped us up to this moment. In the end, it's just as Rean mentioned, we don't have much use for him the way he is at the moment anymore."

Roan nodded as he agreed with Agis. That was the reason Roan didn't say anything. The risks were very low. In a certain way, allowing Frandin to try a Rank Five Bloodline Trial seemed to be payment for all the help he had provided so far.

"Forget about it. Let's go to the altar and see what happens. If it doesn't open a door for us, then we might as well leave this place. Or perhaps we can also wait here until Frandin comes out to see how he fared."

They could use the Soul Gem Circuitry Teleport Formation to leave, so leaving unscathed wasn't much of a concern to them.

"If it doesn't work, we can also try and use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to see if we can teleport directly inside of one of those paths."

Everyone nodded after hearing that.

However, as they discussed these topics, no one noticed a certain black and white bird moving around on its own.

\*Chick.\*

It was then that Kentucky paid attention to the altar. Slowly but surely, the Minokawa made its way there before looking at the altar from up close.

At that moment, Rean's group noticed Kentucky's behavior from the other side.

"What's he doing?"

"Who cares? Let's try and use the altar."

However, just as they began to make their way over, Kentucky's eyes lit up before his head moved in a flash!

\*Vup,vup, vup!\*

\*Peck, peck, peck!\*

\*Crunch, crunch, crunch...\*

Kentucky was now eating the altar right in front of everyone. Not only that, but he destroyed one-third of the altar on the first try.

"Ahh! Stop that chicken!"

"No!"

"Stop, Kentucky!"

However, before they could get close to Kentucky, he swallowed the altar and attacked once more.

\*Vup,vup, vup, vup, vup, vup!\*

\*Peck, peck, peck, peck, peck, peck!\*

\*Crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch!\*

This time, he noticed that Rean's group wanted to stop him, so he almost ate the entire altar the second time he pecked at it.

\*Chick! Chick!\*

Kentucky then swallowed the rest of it with a satisfied expression. Well, he was the only one who looked happy at the moment. Rean and the others had a dark expression, especially Roan.

"Perhaps... we could have fried chicken for dinner today."

Kentucky felt a chill on his back before he flashed away and hid behind a boulder. He was obviously afraid of Roan's killing intent. It wasn't a fake one, but the real deal.

\*Ch-c-c-hick...\*

Rean sighed in the end.

"Whatever. If Kentucky ate the altar, it means at least some of it was made of Heaven-Level materials. Now that it's gone, we can't do anything about it. We can try another Bloodline Trial some other time."

Roan's expression was still dark, but he could only nod in the end. Unfortunately, fried chickens couldn't fly, so it would be quite a loss if he cooked Kentucky today.

Rean's group then looked at where the altar was located and could see some kind of energy escaping from it. Well, since they've been with Frandin for quite some time, they knew what it was.

"There's a bit of Soul Power coming out of it."

"There's still the base of the altar left. Perhaps it can still recognize us."

Rean nodded and decided to touch it. However, even before he moved his hands, he heard a sound coming from behind the altar.

\*Rumble...\*

When they all looked over, they noticed that one of the doors into the trials began to open. Soon after, a second one opened as well. Then, a third, a fourth, fifth...

By the end, almost all doors had opened. Only two were closed, the doors used by Frandin and the other guy.

"Uh... Kentucky did a good job... I guess?"

\*Chick!\*

Death... and me

Chapter 600: Roan Doesn't Care

Roan didn't seem to be that happy, though.

"What if we're found? The altar is gone. Surely it should have set some alarms, no?"

Everyone then looked at the place where the first guys appeared, waiting to see if there was any movement. However, even as time passed, not a single soul seemed to be coming inside.

"I wonder, is there no one coming because they don't know what happened to the altar or because of the rule of only one Zasfin entering each time?"

Agis shook his head before looking at the passages.

"Forget it! Let's go before those doors decide to close on us."

Rean agreed with him, saying.

"Since no one's coming, we can only do that. But... which door should we choose?"

Roan pondered for a bit before saying.

"That guy who came in first probably had a higher level of Soul Power even though he was older. Frandin said that he was definitely a member of some big clan due to his clothes. That being said, we can conclude that the door that opened to him was relative to his own talent."

Qia pondered over Roan's words for a bit before saying.

"That might be the case. Or it might not be. They're all the same, after all."

Malaka didn't care, though.

"Let's just enter already. If Roan's right, then the more leftward the door is, then one's talent is considered higher. In that case, let's take the easiest one on the right side. It's that simple."

Malaka's words had some logic in them, even though she was just bored with all the waiting.

However, Calina shook her head right after, saying.

"No. If Roan's right and the left doors are harder, then we should take those."

"Why?"

Calina then pointed at the door where the first guy entered.

"Do you remember that he was quite displeased with his door? That might be because he wanted those on the leftmost portions to open. I might be wrong, but there might be small differences between Rank Five Bloodline Marks. The harder the test you pass through, the better the mark... or so I think."

Rean understood where Calina was coming from.

"I see... We did comment in the past how weird the division of boost between Bloodline Marks was. Rank 1 being 10%, Rank 2 being 20%, and Rank 3 being 40%. And then, it suddenly jumps to 70% instead

of 80%. Frandin didn't know why that was the case either. Perhaps the higher-ranked Bloodline Marks have differences between them."

Agis quite liked the idea.

"Let's take the leftmost one then. Besides, we weren't planning to enter a Rank Five Bloodline Trial to start with. If we fail, we can use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to try some other Bloodline Trial later."

Eventually, everyone agreed with the idea, and they proceeded with the leftmost door. The only doubt was whether it would try to block their passage or not. However, nothing happened in the end. Everyone passed through the door without any issue, including Kentucky.

Soon, the door behind them closed, starting their own Trial.

Rean's group then continued for a few hundreds of meters while they seemed to be heading further down into the earth. After some time, they arrived in a chamber that glowed with the same faint blue light as the altar. Roan took the lead and opened the chamber to see what was inside. However, what they found inside left them shocked!

"This..."

"How could this be...?"

"Aren't they..."

Right in front of them, there were humans, lots of them! However, their situation was quite peculiar. They were all affixed to the wall. The weirdest part was that they weren't locked by chains or anything like that. Instead, it wouldn't be wrong to say that their limbs had fused with the walls themselves, leaving only the rest of their bodies outside.

They were all nude as well, both men and women. In front of each one of them was some kind of diagram on the ground. Not only that, but you could also see it on their foreheads. Last but not least, all of them seemed to be in a deep sleep at the moment.

Rean approached a woman by his side before sending his Light Element and Spiritual Sense inside her body.

"They... are fine. There are no injuries whatsoever. However, the seal on her forehead is preventing this girl from waking up. The others should be in a similar condition as well."

The girls couldn't help but feel disgusted by that.

"Just how could they do this to them? This is sick!"

Roan, on the other hand, only cared about the reason for this existence.

"Weird... What could humans possibly have to do with the Zafins' Bloodline Marks."

His Spiritual Sense couldn't go very far, so he had to pass by each of these people to check their condition.

"It seems like their cultivations are all in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm at the moment."

Gradually, an idea began to form in Roan's mind. However, Rean was even faster than him.

"I might be wrong, but I believe their soul is what's used in the creation of the Bloodline Marks."

"What?!"

Calina and the others were taken aback.

Roan agreed with him.

"It seems like you had the same idea as me, huh?"

Rean nodded.

"That's the only option possible."

Qia immediately asked right after.

"But, how come they all have Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivations? Aren't humans supposed to be weak in this world?"

Rean already had an idea in mind. The reason for that was because each of these humans seemed to have bodies used to combat. They all had their own shares of life and death experiences in their lives. Without a doubt, they cultivated till their bones broke off up to this level.

"I think I know what's happening. However, it will be faster to understand if we wake one of them up and ask directly."

Roan agreed with Rean on that.

Rean then placed his hand on the woman's forehead and channeled Light Element inside. Following that, he also sent Roan's Dark Element.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

Rean's purification ability wasn't only good against poisons. That's because it used Roan's Dark Element to destroy all the harmful things to the body. That being said, nothing was stopping him from destroying those diagrams on their foreheads, even if they were fused with their bodies.

Rean carefully drove the two elements to the woman's head, making sure to protect her brain, eyes, etc., with his Light Element. After some time, he arrived at the core of the diagram. As far as Rean could

see, it worked like some kind of seal. The problem was that it also utilized Soul Power, so he didn't know that much about it.

First, he enveloped the seal with his Light Element until no gaps were left behind. Only then did Roan's Dark Element make its way inside. However, as soon as he started that, the woman began to contort like a worm. It was obvious that she was suffering terrible pain even in her sleeping state.

"Rean, are you sure about what you're doing?"

Rean narrowed his eyes before saying.

"I'm protecting her brain, so it shouldn't be causing any damage to it at the moment. The only thing I can say is that this seal is also fused with her Soul. Unfortunately, that's not something I can protect. First of all, the Soul is too much of an abstract subject. It's not something I can feel with my Spiritual Sense or touch with my Light Element."

Rean then took his hand back once he retracted the Elements. The woman finally stopped struggling before returning to her deep sleep state.

"Is there nothing we can do for them?"

Rean shook his head as he replied.

"If it was only the seal, I could work on it. However, it uses Soul Power. Without Soul Power of my own, there's nothing I can do. Even if I did have Soul Power, I'm still unsure if there's something I could do about it either."

Calina and the others couldn't help but feel some pity for these people.

"Can we at least bring them with us? I don't want to leave them here."

Roan immediately shook his head as he answered.

"Out of the question. Can't you see? The whole issue of the Bloodline Trials hovers around these humans. It would be one thing if one disappeared, but it would be another if all of them were removed."

Rean nodded.

"Roan's right. Qia, get close to the wall and send your Spiritual Sense through it. You won't be able to reach more than a meter inside, but that will be enough for you to see a certain thing."

Qia was taken aback for a moment but nodded. Soon after, she did as Rean mentioned. Sure enough, she found what Rean was talking about.

"Sigh... Removing these people from here will be impossible. There is a linking formation behind each one of them. I'm not entirely sure how it works since there are Soul Runes as well. However, I'm sure that they are linked to the diagrams on their foreheads. It's also this formation that provides them with the supplements that their bodies need. In any case, if we remove them from here, I'm sure the diagram will kill them straight away."

Rean nodded.

"Seems like you've reached the same conclusion as me. These people are fated to stay in this place."

Roan, as always, didn't seem to care about such sentiments.

"Well, I might as well see how I could make a Bloodline Mark for myself, then."

Sure enough, everyone else was taken aback.