

## Death 601

Death... and me

Chapter 601: Kentuck's Soul Power

"Wait a second! Are you going to use these people's souls for such a thing?"

Roan snorted after hearing that question.

"Obviously. Can't you see? They're as good as dead. Their souls are locked by the diagram, leaving them all in this vegetative state. I don't know about you, but these people are as good as dead in front of me."

"This..."

Rean sighed after hearing that but had to agree with Roan.

"He isn't wrong. If you want, you can check it yourselves. These people will never wake up again. The diagram and their souls might as well be considered the same thing. They were modified to become Bloodline Marks, so their bodies are nothing more than vessels used to hold the soul until a proper user appears. I'm pretty sure that even if I remove the diagram somehow, they won't wake up. Even if they do, their soul will probably be so damaged that they'd turn into vegetables."

Calina still shook her head as she said.

"But this is wrong! These are human souls!"

Roan found Calina's way of thinking funny, saying.

"Ha! What a joke. Tell me, then. How many people have you killed until now? They all have souls, and they disappeared because of you. Worst of all, unlike these people here, those you killed didn't help you with anything whatsoever. Well, perhaps they helped you with your training, but that's about it."

Calina was taken aback.

"I..."

Roan then continued.

"What? Do you think the situation's different because these people aren't your enemies?"

Calina subconsciously nodded.

"Naive! Sure, they aren't your enemies, but they aren't your friends either. I will tell you the two things that will happen here."

"Number one, we use them to make our Bloodline Marks if possible."

"Number two, we leave them here, and they will become some Zasfin's Bloodline Mark in the future."

"Alright, then. Choose."

Roan was as harsh as ever.

Rean, on the other hand, took a milder approach, as he explained.

"What the ice block means is that if it was possible to save them, we would try it already. However, there's already no hope for them anymore. In a certain way, their sacrifices will at least help other humans, us."

Agis took a deep breath as he looked at all these sacrifices. Eventually, he nodded as well.

"I'll be honest. If I was in their condition, knowing that I will never awaken anymore, I would definitely prefer to become another human's Bloodline Mark. At the very least, I wouldn't become part of the Zasfin Race's strength."

It was then that Malaka thought about something else.

"Wait. We all know that reincarnation is possible, right? However, if we use these people's souls to make the marks, will they have that chance? At least the ones we killed so far had that chance."

Hearing that, Roan narrowed his eyes in response. Even he didn't know as much.

"I have no idea."

In the end, it was all an ethical dilemma.

The room went silent for a moment when suddenly, Rean moved to one of the humans on the walls.

"What are you going to do?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders before he said.

"Well, there's a point you guys failed to consider. If we want to survive in this world, we need power. At the moment, what we need is Soul Power. It's simple as that. I feel sorry for these people. Also, you all know that if it was possible, I would help them. However, it's not. That being said, I will not let this chance slip. I'd rather obtain a better chance of keeping our group safe than dying later on because we lacked the power to protect ourselves."

Rean then smiled at Qia and the others.

"In the end, your lives are more important to me than these people."

Those last words struck Qia's group like lightning. That was all they needed to hear. You fight for those who you can protect. If you can't, then nothing will matter in the end.

Roan, of course, didn't think much about Rean's words. Whether his group would use these humans to make a Bloodline Mark or not didn't matter to him. He would make his Bloodline Mark even if they refused it. That being said, he was the second one to step right on the diagram in front of one of those sleeping people.

As for the rest, Qia was the first to come forward, albeit with a gloomy expression.

It was then that Rean let out a little chuckle.

"Hey, there's no need to feel this sad. Do you know why we can't save them? That's because these diagrams are made with Soul Power. Who knows? Perhaps there's a way around it once we can use Soul Power as well. Think about it like this. These people's sacrifices might save many of them in the future. Hahaha!"

Rean wasn't lying. In the end, their understanding of Soul Power was just too shallow. There were many manuals describing Soul Power Techniques and other things. However, Rean's group simply couldn't understand anything like that. Without Soul Power, those books might as well be considered paperweight.

However, once they acquired Soul Power, there might really be a way out for the people used as sacrifices.

Malaka, Agis, and Calina also selected some of the people and stepped right on the diagrams on the ground in front of them.

Rean shrugged his shoulders after seeing that scene.

"Hey, don't feel so sad. First of all, we don't even know if we can use these people or not. If we can't, then all of the things we've discussed will have been useless."

Rean was right. Nevertheless, they waited to see who would make the first move. Well, it went without saying that Roan was the first one. He was the only one that didn't feel the least bit of pity for them. In his eyes, they can only blame themselves for being too weak and falling into this place. That was a rule that Roan applied to everyone, including himself.

Still, Rean couldn't help but ask.

"By the way, how do we activate this thing?"

There were a few symbols on the walls, showing that one must touch their foreheads with the humans on the wall. They tried to do as the images shown, but nothing happened in the end.

Everyone became silent at that moment. It was not like they received any explanation before coming here.

Roan pondered for a bit before looking at Kentucky.

"Hey, chicken. Come here."

\*Chick?\*

"Use some of the altar's Soul Power on my body."

Rean and the others were taken aback.

"Kentucky can use Soul Power?"

Not long after though, Rean immediately understood what was happening, explaining to the others.

"No, he can't. However, he still hasn't finished digesting the altar's material. That said, there's still some Soul Power present in it. It's a good idea to use Kentucky to redirect that Soul Power out of his body. It might work."

Kentucky didn't understand very well what Roan wanted, though. Kentucky was definitely a lot more intelligent than other Demon Beasts at his level. However, his intelligence wasn't at the level of a human yet.

However, it wasn't a problem. As Kentucky's masters, the twins could use their Spiritual Sense to convey their meaning to Kentucky. It wasn't perfect, but it should suffice for Kentucky to understand what they wanted. They did that many times in the past, so it wasn't anything difficult.

\*Chick!\*

Sure enough, Kentucky received Rean's Spiritual Sense and nodded in response. Soon after, Kentucky concentrated on that strange power coming out of the food in his belly. That power passed through his meridians until it finally manifested on his wings. Before Kentucky touched the diagrams, Roan touched his forehead with the man in front of him. After that, Kentucky channeled that bit of Soul Power into Roan, who also used his Spiritual Sense to guide it into the diagram on the ground and the diagram on the man's forehead.

As soon as that happened, the two diagrams activated, shining brightly.

Rean and the others' eyes lit up.

"It worked! Shall we wait and see what will happen with Roan?"

Rean shook his head.

"We already wasted a lot more time than we should have. We don't know when Frandin and the other guy will finish their own trial, so we should hurry. Don't worry, I told Sister Orb to throw us all inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm if someone appears. Of course, if you're afraid, I won't force any of you. We don't know what might happen, after all. It's up to you if you wish to go ahead with it or not."

Everyone nodded. Rean's group still didn't know how long they would be safe in this place or not. In the end, they all decided to try it out.

Rean then convened his intentions to Kentucky through the Spiritual Sense. Following that, Kentucky channeled that little Soul Power he had into everyone's body. Sure enough, the diagrams lit up for everyone as well.

Following that, the room became silent. Neither one of their group moved anymore. It was as if they had fallen into the same sleeping state as the people locked on the walls.

\*Chick?\*

Seeing how everyone suddenly stopped moving puzzled Kentucky. However, he quickly ignored that as he looked at a woman on the walls. As mentioned before, all these humans were naked, so Kentucky could see everything. His eyes lit up as he looked at the woman's big breasts as he happily made his way to her.

Sure enough, the bird was as perverted as ever. He quickly began to rub against the girl without paying attention to the Soul Power still emanating out of his body. Such happiness could be seen on his face. However, his forehead touched the woman's forehead at some point. Both diagrams activated before Kentucky also fell into the same sleeping state as everyone else.

Death... and me

Chapter 602: A Dream?

\*Drip...\*

\*Drip...\*

\*Drip...\*

Rean's eyes began to move as the sound of dripping water echoed in his ears. He was having a very nice nap without any intention of waking up. However, the sound of dripping water slowly took him away from his dream world. Eventually, he slowly opened his eyes as his conscience took over his body. He

then looked in the direction of the restroom and noticed the faucet making an annoying sound through the door.

"Who left the tap open?"

But it was at this moment that he remembered that he lived alone. It was obvious that he was the one who did that. Or perhaps, the faucet was leaking due to overuse. In any case, he might need to call someone to fix it.

However, Rean's expression changed in the next second.

"My.. house?!"

Rean got up as fast as he could. Although that was what he tried to do, he felt that his body was several times slower than it should be. After cultivating to the Core Formation Realm and undergoing various body upgrades, his body would be as light as a feather. But now, it was just too slow and sluggish. Besides, his own point of view seemed to be a little lower than what he was used to while standing.

In the end, Rean stopped in front of a mirror, just to see his old self once again!

"This..."

Rean then felt a cold air blow on his back before taking a look at what it was. Sure enough, the aircon was on, making sure the room stayed cool. There was also the TV, his smartphone on the table, etc...

"I'm actually back on Earth?!"

"Wait! That doesn't make sense! I was hit by truck-kun, so my body was definitely mangled to bits. How come my body is fine?"



That wasn't all. Rean knew very well how his emotions played back on Earth. Because of the Soul Gem System, he was akin to a walking doll. He shouldn't feel surprise, shock, or anything of the sort. However, he truly can feel his emotions playing as normal as when he was in the Cultivation World.

As Rean tried to wrap his head around what was happening, his smartphone began to vibrate on the table. Because Rean didn't care about anything, his smartphone was one of the most basic and cheapest ones out there. Its only use was to read emails if need be or for a sporadic call here and there. Other than that, it wouldn't be wrong to call it a paperweight.

Rean then took the phone and looked at the identity of who was calling.

-Work-

Without any other choice, he took a deep breath and answered the phone.

"Hello?"

"Oh! You finally picked up. Rean, are you okay?"

Rean immediately recognized that voice. It was one of the Metal Engineers that worked in the same company as him. It was not like they were close or anything like that. Rean was basically no one's friend before his death. That being said, he felt that it was weird that his coworker would call him with such concern in his voice.

"I'm... fine. Why do you ask?"

The guy on the other side sighed before answering Rean's question with another.

"What do you mean with 'why do you ask?' You're late as hell for work. You've been working here for many years. This is literally the first time you got late for work. Naturally, the others thought you suffered some accident or something like that."

Rean could understand that logic. The man was correct. Rean was just moving his body as society dictated back then. With that said, he followed a strict routine even though he didn't think too much about it. Society said that becoming late to work was bad, so he had never done that ever since he got his job after graduating. If it did happen, he called in advance and gave a proper reason. For example, if he got sick. But even those occasions only happened three times in his previous life. The fact that he missed work after so many years of diligence worried his coworkers even though they didn't have much of a relationship.

"Oh, sorry. I'm incredibly sick at the moment. I was barely able to move last night, so I failed to call the company about it. I don't think I can go to work today."

Rean then heard his coworker talking on the other side.

"Hey, Luize. Rean said that he's sick. It seems he's feeling pretty bad."

A woman then took over the phone before answering the man's words. Luize was Rean's sector supervisor. She was also his boss back then.

"So that's why. Very well, Rean. Take as long as you need to recover. There's no need for you to give me your medical proof later either."

The coworkers behind the phone immediately complained when they heard that.

"Hey, hey, hey, Luize! Isn't that too unfair?"

Luize snorted straight away.

"Once you become a diligent worker like Rean, who's worthy of ones' trust, you can come to me and say that again. Rean had almost never missed work in the past ten years, but how about you guys? If you want to be treated like Rean, then shut up and go back to work."

Luize then passed the phone back to Rean's coworker, with the latter saying.

"Man... I wish I had such treatment. Well, I would probably pretend to be sick anyway, so I guess I better not have it. Anyway, see you when you get better."

Rean nodded, replying.

"Alright, sorry for the trouble."

Rean then turned off his phone. There was a good thing about Rean's problem with his soul back then, the fact that he would always follow all rules perfectly. It didn't mean that he was an outstanding worker or something like that. If anything, he was pretty average. However, he always completed his tasks and never lacked time when the company needed him. It turned out that ten plus years of good work brought something good to him, after all.

"Sigh... such nostalgic voices. However..."

Rean looked at his hands and his surroundings. The more he looked at it, the more real it seemed. After some time, he decided to sit on his bed and try to check his cultivation.

"As I thought, I have no cultivation whatsoever. First of all, I can't feel the presence of Spiritual Energy either. Roan... I guess his name is simply Death in this world... Anyway, he did tell me that our half of the Universe doesn't have Spiritual Energy. Naturally, there is no way that I have Spiritual Energy now."

Rean began to doubt himself.

"Was everything I passed until now a dream? Or is this the effect of the Bloodline Trial? The trial is about the soul, so I guess it wouldn't be weird for my soul to be trapped in this world. Even though I say that, everything is still too real."

Rean then got up and changed his clothes before opening the door to his house. Outside, the sun shone brightly, and the people around moved as if nothing was happening. Rean passed by the convenience store where he usually bought food and was complimented by the same workers as before. Well, they found it quite weird since Rean saluted back, which never happened.

Rean continued to walk as he looked at everything, looking for some clue that this was all a dream.

"Just what could the Bloodline Trial be about? First of all, did that even happen? I looked into today's date, and this is just one day after my accident. Assuming that I survived and everything is a dream, there's no way my body would be this fine. But then again, what if the accident itself was a dream as well? Wait, can a dream last for decades?"

He could still remember all the years he spent in the cultivation world. If that was a dream, then it was an incredibly long one, that's for sure.

It was then that Rean had an idea.

"Wait! If this is all a dream made out of my memories in the Bloodline Trial, then it shouldn't be able to generate places I have never been before."

Rean quickly ran back to his home and took his car before driving away. He had a single destination, heading out of his city. Obviously, he had never cared about traveling or things like that in the past. Unless he was brought along with his family or had to travel for work, he would definitely be in his city. All he needed to do was to go to one of the nearby cities he had never stepped before.

However, just as he was passing by one of the roads, he remembered something.

"My parents' house... is close to this place."

Rean felt a little conflicted before finally gritting his teeth and entering the next exit.

He only had to drive another twenty minutes before he stopped in front of a common house that could be seen almost anywhere. Nevertheless, he recognized this one with a single glance. He quickly parked his car and came out before touching the doorbell.

"Just one second."

Rean immediately recognized the voice coming from behind the door. That was none other than his mother, that's for sure. Immediately, he began to feel a bit off. How should he act in front of his mother? He didn't know. The previous him never cared about his parents' existence, nor his siblings. In fact, he didn't even care about his own existence to start with.

The old woman then opened the door before showing a surprised expression as she said.

"That's rare. Unless we go out to visit you, we never had the chance to see your face. Weird... did something happen? You look somewhat... different."

Sure enough, a mother was a mother. She caught something unusual in Rean's behavior the moment her eyes saw him.

"Mom..."

Out of nowhere, Rean heard a voice echoing on his mind. No, it would be better to call it a cry, a little girl's cry.

\*sniff, sniff...\*

Death... and me

Chapter 603: Death Spirit

Somewhere in the middle of a gloomy world, an incessant number of large queues could be seen moving towards a ridiculously large building in the distance. The construct was so enormous that it wasn't possible to see where it started or ended on both sides.

Inside that building, there was a nigh-infinite amount of counters, one for each one of the queues outside. As for the ones operating it, they were Spirits. Not only them, but the ones in the queue were also Spirits. Or, to be more specific, Death Spirits.

On the top of the building, several words written in an unknown language could be seen. It didn't matter from where you looked. You could definitely see them. However, for those Death Spirits, reading those letters was simple.

The Universal Transition Organization!

This was the organization that Death was part of before meeting Rean. Death, or Roan, was just one of the countless Death Spirits that guided the souls of the dead to the Path of Reincarnation.

In the middle of these Death Spirits, there was a particular one that seemed to be restless. However, the other Death Spirits around him seemed to ignore it since it wasn't their problem.

"Next!"

The Death Spirit on the counter called the Death Spirit at the front before passing him some kind of small crystal. That Death Spirit absorbed the crystal and immediately disappeared right after.

"Next!"

Another Death Spirit did the same thing and also disappeared.

This situation continued for quite some time until the restless Death Spirit arrived at the counter as well.

"Hmm? What's wrong with you? Your Spirit seems to be in chaos, Tera."

If Rean was here, he would definitely be able to recognize this Death Spirit. Although the shapes were different, that cold behavior was simply too easy to identify. This was Rean's Death, Roan.

"Sigh... Haru, let me ask you something. How long has it been since you saw me last time?"

Tera. That was the name Death went by in the Universal Transition Organization. Roan had never told anyone about it since he didn't feel like it to start with. Even when his 'parents' gave him his name in the cultivation world, he thought nothing of it. At that time, why should a noble Death Spirit like him retort some humans' decision? In the end, Roan simply didn't care.

"Uh... What the hell are you talking about? Didn't you come here to take your next job just 55 years ago? How come you've forgotten already?"

Tera, or Roan, couldn't help but agree with him.

"Indeed, it has been just 55 years... the decades I spent in the other half feels like it has never existed. This also just so happened to be the time I was about to finish my last jobs on Planet VWT19832. Considering that I'm here now, that means I sent all the souls there to the Reincarnation Path without issues, right?"

Haru found Tera's behavior strange.

"Errr... let me check... Yes, you already all sent the Souls into the Reincarnation Path as required. Tera, are you fine? It has been more than 15000 years since you took your last time off. Considering your ranking and the time you spent working, it wouldn't be a problem to give you a break for a few centuries."

Haru's words made Tera feel even worse, though. Tera, or Roan, had already checked his job list. There, he had all the souls he had to send into the Path of Reincarnation. Tera recognized all of them without any issues. They were, without a doubt, the souls he sent into the Path of Reincarnation.

However, there was one missing. Rean's name! It wasn't there anymore. It was as if Rean's name had never been there to start with. Not only that, the time simply didn't match. He spent over two decades in the cultivation world. Also, he didn't even know how long he stayed in the Reincarnation Path, which definitely added to the time number. However, what he was seeing at the moment was that almost no time had passed at all. No more than a few Earth hours had gone by since he went to Earth... or so it seemed.

'Just what is happening here?'

When Roan woke up, he was already in the middle of the queue, waiting for his time to take the next list of souls. Everything was the same, the Death Spirits around him, the organization in the distance, the Death Spirit behind the counter he always used...

'I'm sure I started the Rank Five Bloodline Trial and used Kentucky's Soul Power to go through it. However, I appeared here soon after. Not only that, but I even remember sending the rest of the souls on Planet VWT19832 list into the Reincarnation Path, which shouldn't have happened. After all, I was sent into the Reincarnation Path before I ended the rest of the list.'

Roan continued to ponder.

'Is this part of the Bloodline Trial? However, everything is way too real. The organization, the Death Spirits, everything... Am I really in the middle of the trial, or has everything I've experienced so far in the cultivation world a lie?'

Haru noticed that Tera went silent, so he called his attention once again.

"Hey, Tera. It seems like you have too much in your head at the moment. You always refuse when I tell you to take your break. This time, I'll have to force you to take it."

Roan was taken aback and was just about to refuse when a light shined in front of him out of nowhere. It quickly enveloped Roan's Death Spirit before he disappeared from the organization.

When Roan reappeared again, he was somewhere completely different. The gloomy world had completely disappeared. Instead, a lush world of green could be seen now. Everything looked perfect. The sky, the Earth, the view... It was as if this was a paradise.

Roan also saw many, many Death Spirits running around, doing their own things.

"Fuck you, Haru! I hate this place!"

Most of the Death Spirits liked to be here. It helped them clear their minds, making them ready for the next thousands of years of work. However, there were some exceptions to this rule, and Roan was one of them. He had never been the type to relax and enjoy to start with, so this calm life made him feel as bored as ever. That's why Roan rarely took breaks because he didn't want to be sent to these 'paradises' at all. If anything, Roan felt even more annoyed every time he appeared here.



"Sigh... whatever. I should spend my time thinking about a solution. It's not like I can't leave anyway. It's just that I never have a place in mind I want to go to either."

Roan then began to move around as he pondered about his issue.

'If this is related to the Bloodline Trial, there must be something it wants me to do. This world must be something made through my memories. However, since I never paid attention to the paradises, this place was created based on what I think it is. That meant that coming to this place might be part of the issue. But why? Why would I be sent here out of nowhere?'

Suddenly, Roan heard a voice from behind him.

"Tera! Is that really you?"

Roan quickly looked around and saw another Death Spirit there.

"Instructor Kafan..."

When Roan was 'born,' Kafan was the first Death Spirit he had ever seen. He was also the one who trained him as a Death Spirit before he began to work alone. Of course, Kafan didn't train Roan alone. Roan was just one of the many Death Spirits that Kafan was in charge of back in his training days.

"It's really you! Hahaha! Long time no see, huh? But... I thought you didn't like paradises."

Roan sighed before nodding.

"I don't. Haru... errr... Haru is the Death Spirit I usually talk to when I take jobs. Anyway, he misunderstood my condition and thought I needed a break. Before I could say anything, he sent me here."

Kafan couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Hahaha! I can see why you seem so annoyed now. Nevertheless, I'm happy to see you if anything. After all, you're my best pupil even to this day."

Roan faintly smiled as he nodded. Roan wasn't much different back when he worked as a Death Spirit. He had very few friends, if you could even call them friends at all. Maybe calling them acquaintances would be a better way of putting it. Still, if there was someone he was somewhat close with, it would be Instructor Kafan, who taught him everything. After all, it wasn't like Death Spirits knew what they exactly had to do when they were born.

"Fake or not, it isn't too bad to see you again, instructor."

Roan respected Kafan since he always put everything into his works. He was known for his excellence in teaching, and Roan gained a lot from him. It's just that Roan wasn't very fond of Kafan's bright personality.

"Instructor, who is this Death Spirit?"

Roan then noticed many Death Spirits behind Kafan. They were all newborn ones, definitely not over a hundred years old.

"Oh, this is Tera... Errr... You won't find his registration through this name. Look for a Death Spirit Q2MK09257LB later when you go back. For now, you just need to know that he is a Rank 9 Death Spirit."

\*WOW!\*

All the new Death Spirits felt amazed by those worlds. Roan wasn't lying back then when he said that his position in the organization was quite high. A Rank 9 Death Spirit was definitely an incredible achievement.

Roan was somewhat happy to see Kafan even though he didn't like his personality that much. He decided that he might as well talk to him a little before going back to his plans.

However, just as he was about to say something, he heard a crying voice.

\*Sniff, Sniff...\*

Death... and me

Chapter 604: Liza

Rean and Roan were not the only ones, though. Calina, Qia, Agis, and even Kentucky were also undergoing similar experiences. Calina was seeing her parents on Sunkan Planet. Qia was working in the Formation Masters Guild. As for Agis, he was back at his clan, where he had received the acceptance of the clan head. Even though he was this young, he had already surpassed their clan head. Last but not least, Kentucky was having... a very steamy dream...

Back at Rean's side, the moment he heard that cry, everything around him started to change. It seemed like an illusion that began to distort.

"Wait! Mom, I haven't said anything yet!"

Rean stretched his hands, trying to grab his previous world's mother, but it simply passed through her. Without him noticing, tears flowed out of his eyes.

Unfortunately, the illusion distorted even more until it was simply impossible to see make out anything. Following that, the world changed into a giant space of white as far as Rean's eyes could see.

In the end, Rean could only sigh. Sure enough, nothing was real.

\*Sniff, sniff...\*

Suddenly, he heard the same crying sound once again as he looked behind himself. A little crying was sitting on the floor with hands wrapped around her knees and head between her legs, crying from time to time. Rean couldn't recognize her, though. At the very least, he was sure that this girl was not the same person he initiated his Bloodline Trial with.

Rean looked around, making sure that this wasn't a trap or anything like that. However, he couldn't feel any malice. Eventually, he took a deep breath and approached the girl.

"Hey, who are you?"

The little girl raised her head, looking at Rean with sorrow.

"I'm sorry... I didn't want to do it. I really didn't."

Rean had a puzzled expression on his face before realizing what the little girl was talking about.

"Are you talking about the illusion just now?"

The little girl nodded.

"I'm sorry..."

Rean sighed once again as he sat by the girl's side. Following that, he patted her head.

"Why are you apologizing? If anything, I should be thanking you instead."

The girl looked back at Rean.

"Thank me? Why?"

Rean laughed as he continued.

"Isn't that obvious? I thought I would never be able to see my mother again. You should know why right?"

The little girl nodded as she replied.

"I didn't know what a Universe, planets, and all of that was. However, I found it out from your memories. You came from another half of this Universe. You can't go back anymore... No, even if you can, too much time has passed already. Your mother has most likely passed away already."

Saying those words made the girl cry even more, though.

Rean didn't mind, though.

"It's fine. I always thought that I didn't have many feelings for my parents in my past life because of the problem in my soul. However, only today did I find out that it wasn't completely true. The moment I saw her, I felt like a hole in my heart had been finally filled up. Well, I wish I had the chance to talk with her a little more than that, though. Hahaha!"

The girl dropped her head again.

"I'm sorry..."

Rean shook his head in response.

"It's fine. Something tells me you didn't do that on purpose."

Eventually, Rean decided to enter the main topic at hand.

"Tell me, who are you? Where am I at the moment? Am I still in the Rank Five Bloodline Trial, or is this another place altogether?"

The girl nodded before explaining.

"You are still in the Rank Five Bloodline Trial. However, there is no need for you to go through any test. I'll give you the Bloodline Mark. It should be more than enough for you to be able to manifest your Soul Power. Sorry for putting you through this. Just pretend I didn't exist."

The little girl then raised her hand as a faint blue light began to gather around it. However...

\*Pah!\*

Rean suddenly grabbed the girl's hand, immediately stopping the process.

"Alright, you can stop that."

The little girl looked at Rean with surprise in her eyes.

"But... You came here for the Rank Five Bloodline Mark."

Rean snorted, though.

"Hmph! So what if I don't get a Bloodline Mark? I'll find another way later. However, I won't be able to forgive myself if I simply let you stay in this place. You were planning to send me back and continue here, right? Like hell would I accept something like that!"

The little girl was taken aback.

"But, weren't you already going to sacrifice the person in front of you for the Bloodline Mark?"

Rean didn't deny that at all.

"Yes. However, that was because I couldn't save that person anymore. If my theory is right, the soul had already fused with the diagrams, making it impossible for him to come back. He wouldn't be able to even think anymore. It's not wrong to say that he was more like an empty sac than a person."

Rean then looked at the girl with an angry expression.

"However! You are obviously different! You can think, you can feel, you can say sorry, you can even realize my desire and give me the Bloodline Mark. You're not just an empty vessel. You're a very cute and gentle little girl. If I go out, then you shall come with me. Otherwise, I'm not leaving!"

Rean said those words with a serious tone. He didn't know what was happening, but he was sure that this girl had no malicious intentions.

The girl's eyes teared up even more before she threw herself into his embrace and wailed even louder.

Rean sighed, seeing that.

'Just what is happening here? What have the Zasfins made this girl pass through?'

However, he quickly shook his head and put those thoughts behind. Following that, he began to laugh once again.

"Hahaha! Alright, alright! Look at you. You're already quite big, so you shouldn't cry that much. By the way, I'm Rean Larks. What's your name?"

The girl softly nodded as she replied.

"I'm... Liza."

Rean nodded with a satisfied expression.

"What a beautiful name. Alright, Liza. Can you explain what's happening here? How come you have the power to give me a Bloodline Mark?"

Liza dropped her head once again before answering.

"That's because I'm the core of the Soul Formation that provides everyone their Bloodline Marks."

Rean was taken aback.

"Wait! The Core of a Soul Formation? No, that's not right. I'm a Light Element user born with Light Element affinity. Even in this illusionary world, I can at least tell that you're definitely a human."

The girl nodded.

"I'm a human. Only humans can control the Bloodline Soul Formations. My body and soul are sealed in the core of the formation to be used as the core."

Rean began to become more confused. Wasn't Soul Power the Zasfin Race's trait? Why would humans be used as the core of a Soul Formation? As far as he knew, humans were supposed to have very weak Soul Powers.

"Do you know why only humans can do it?"

Liza shook her head.

"That's what the big Zasfin Uncles told me. They didn't tell me why even after asking."

Rean nodded, not trying to force the issue.

"Then, can you tell me what those humans are? They were all locked on the walls of the Bloodline Trial."

Liza then explained.



"They are the sacrifices. Their souls will be compressed and transformed into a Bloodline Soul Mark once a compatible host is found."

It was then that a hint of cold light passed through Rean's eyes.

"It's you who compresses their souls and transforms them into Soul Marks, right?"

The girl felt the change in Rean's emotions and felt a bit of fear.

"I... I'm sorry... I didn't want to do it."

Rean noticed that he let his emotions surface for a moment and felt like beating himself up. He wasn't angry at Liza, not at all. He only felt like destroying whoever made Liza pass through this. After all, they forced her to kill who knows how many humans up to this point. His anger had nothing to do with her.

"Hahaha! Why do you look so scared? Do you think I'm angry with you?"

Liza nodded her head, to which Rean hastily replied.

"Bullshit! Your big brother here would never feel angry at you. At least, not because of something like this. I'm angry at the Zasfins that put you there, not you."

"Big brother?"

Rean patted her head again before asking.

"What? Are you disappointed? If you don't want to, I don't mind taking it back."

Liza immediately shook her head. She didn't hate it at all.

"I like it!"

Rean smiled in response.

"Good! Now then, Liza. Tell me where the formation is. I'm going there to take you out."

Rean knew that doing that wouldn't solve the problem. Even if he succeeded, she would simply be swapped by someone else. Still, he couldn't simply leave her there.

However, Liza shook her head. Following that, she showed a smile before faint blue light began to gather around her hands again.

"It's fine, big brother. You shouldn't come. It's too dangerous. Besides, I don't want to leave my sisters behind."

Rean was taken aback and immediately grabbed her hand again.

"Stop right there! Who the hell would accept this kind of conclusion? I told you I'm not leaving you behind! Also, there's no need for any freaking Bloodline Soul Mark. I don't want you to kill any more humans for the sake of others. Don't worry, I'll find a way!"

Liza then hugged Rean once again. However, the faint blue light only intensified.

"Our time is up, Big Brother. Also, I'm not there with you. I'm somewhere else, really far away. Don't worry, I... I'm already used to it."

Rean almost exploded in rage. Used to it? With that trembling body and with tears in her eyes? There's no way in hell would he believe that!

Death... and me

Chapter 605: With Roan

Rean didn't have time to complain, though. Before he could say anything else, his consciousness was pulled out of the white world, being sent back to his body. Following that, the diagram on the man's forehead lit up before condensing a Rank Five Bloodline Mark, shooting into Rean's forehead before he could do anything.

Rean had finally gotten a Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark.

However, his expression was anything but good. He gritted his teeth as he tightened his fists to the point blood came out.

\*Chick!\*

Just as he was about to punch something, Rean heard Kentucky's voice as he looked behind him. Rean wasn't the only one with a Rank Five Bloodline Mark on his forehead. Kentucky also had one.

Kentucky quickly rubbed his head against Rean, seeing that he finally woke up.

It turned out that Kentucky was the very first one to wake up with a Bloodline Mark while everyone was still trapped.

"Kentucky?"

After some time, Rean remembered what Liza said. She wasn't in this place at the moment, so he wouldn't be able to save her even if he wanted to.

Rean then connected to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and showed all his memories to Sister Orb.

[Sniff, sniff... How could they do something like that to her?]

'Sister Orb, can you analyze the Soul Formation in this place and pinpoint her location?'

[Sorry... Soul Formations are different from what we have in the database.]

Rean found it somewhat strange. The Soul Gem System could analyze the normal formations independently of level. It's just that the higher the complexity, the longer it took. Given time, Sister Orb would even be able to take control over the natural formations of the Lakures. In a certain way, it showed that the Soul Gem System had the ability to work with any formation that it was given to. However, how come it couldn't do anything to this type of formation?

It was then that an idea popped into Rean's mind.

'Wait! Sister Orb, could it be that during the time Soul Gem was still alive, Soul Power wasn't something that was used yet?'

Sister Orb was taken aback by Rean's words. However...

[I can't tell you that...]

Rean didn't mind, though. That was more than enough of a confirmation.

'I see... That's what I thought. Then again, I would need to know just how long it has been since Soul Gem had made the Soul Gem System. At least at this moment, I'm inclined to believe that several tens of thousands of years had passed.'

Rean then decided to wait for Roan to wake up before discussing these things with him. Following that, he looked at Kentucky before asking.

"By the way, I didn't expect that Demon Beasts could get Bloodline Marks as well. How did you do that?"

\*Chick! Chick! Chick!\*

Kentucky quickly ran to the big-breasted woman before rubbing his head against her.

\*Chick! Chick!\*

Rean scratched the back of his head as he sighed. He already understood how things played out. Back inside that Illusion World, Liza told him that she couldn't leave her sisters behind. She didn't say siblings, but sisters.

'In the end, Kentucky has always been loved by women as much as he loved them as well. If Liza's sisters were similar to Liza herself, then it was easy to imagine love at first sight when she saw Kentucky.'

That was true. Kentucky had always been great with women, let alone one that looked as young as Liza. He probably played with the girl in his dream until she was satisfied. In the end, she gave Kentucky the mark as a way of saying thanks.

Rean then patted Kentucky's head as he said.

"Thank you for giving one of them some happiness in this situation."

\*Chick!\*

Kentucky couldn't understand what he was saying very well, but he knew that Rean seemed pleased with him. Naturally, it made Kentucky happy too.

Rean then looked at Roan as he waited for him to wake up. However, it was then that an idea popped into his mind again.

On Roan's side, he was indeed inside the same type of illusion world as Rean and the others. Once he heard that crying sound, Kafan and all the Death Spirits around him began to disappear. In the end, he was sent into the same white world as Rean. It's just that the girl in front of him wasn't Liza, but someone of similar age.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he looked at her, asking.

"Who are you?"

The girl trembled a bit and quickly ran away. However, there wasn't anywhere for her to hide to start with. Everything was just an enormous patch of flat white land.

Roan sighed, seeing that he scared the girl.

"Alright, stop running already. I won't do anything to you."

Well, his cold expression didn't help much.

The girl finally stopped before looking at him once again. Nevertheless, she was still trembling.

Just as Roan was about to ask her something, another voice echoed in his mind.

'Errr, errr, testing, testing! Reality to Ice Cube in the illusion, do you copy? If the sac of frigid emotionless water can hear me, please answer. Over!'

Roan's mouth twitched for a moment as he replied to Rean's Soul Connection message.

"Go to hell! Can't you take things seriously?"

"Ah!"

The girl in front of Roan was frightened by Roan's outburst and immediately began to run again. Naturally, Roan felt even worse with that. If he could just kick Rean right about now...

Roan then began to run after the girl while using the Soul Connection to talk to Rean.

'Forget it! I tried to contact you through our Soul Connection many times, but I didn't get an answer. How come we can do it now?'

Rean laughed before answering.

'It's probably because I'm already out of the illusion that we all entered, so I can connect with your sleeping body.'

Rean then ended his jokes and used their Soul Connection to transfer all his memories of what happened with Liza to Roan.

'I see...'

Roan didn't waste time and did the same thing, showing what he was seeing in his illusion world.

'So that's one of Liza's sisters. Alright, you can't let this chance slip. You must obtain as much information from her as possible. From the looks of it, our time in the illusion world is limited.'

Roan pondered for a bit and nodded, responding.

'Very well.'

Death... and me

Chapter 606: No Idea

Roan would be their only chance since Rean couldn't communicate with Qia, Calina, or Agis. Understanding that, Roan increased his pace, trying to catch the little girl. Unfortunately, the girl seemed to have complete control of this place, so she could keep up the same speed as him.

Roan began to lose his patience, though.

"If you don't stop right now, I swear you'll regret it when I get you!"

Rean felt like crying...

'Is that how you try to ease things up?'

'Shut up! Time is limited, and she isn't stopping. Do you have a better idea?'

'What about being more gentle?'

'Me? Gentle? Do you think that's possible?'

Rean sighed.

'Right... forget I said anything.'

Roan pondered for a bit before saying to the girl in the distance.

"I know your sister, Liza."

Hearing that, the girl in the distance stopped.

"Yo-You know Liza?"

Roan sighed in relief and continued.

"You finally stopped. Listen, I wasn't angry at you when I first screamed. It was my idiot brother who talked a lot of shit that made me angry. It had nothing to do with you... Well, I did get angry when you didn't stop, though."



Roan didn't stop, saying.

"Anyway, the one who met your sister was my brother. He's in the same Bloodline Trial as I am now."

Roan then gave a quick explanation about what Rean talked about with Liza.

"Th-Then... how does she look like?"

Roan narrowed his eyes and answered with another question.

"It depends. Do you girls change your appearance when you enter this white world? After all, she might have looked different when she talked with my brother."

The girl quickly shook her head.

"Liza wouldn't do that!"

Roan nodded and then used Rean's memories to describe Liza's features.

"It-It really is Liza. Your brother really talked to her! But how...? No one should be able to talk to you while you're here."

Roan used that chance to get on the girl's side. She was ready to flee at any moment, though. However, Roan didn't do anything. He simply sat down by her side before pointing down.

"Sit. Let's talk. I'm not the type of person who has a lot of patience. However, I'll try to not make things difficult. Besides, I should be the first human you've ever seen in this place, right? Are you sure you want to let this opportunity go?"

The girl seemed to be convinced and immediately sat down as well.

"Yo-You... Who are you?"

Roan shook his head.

"I told you. I'm not someone with patience. My brother tried to get more information about you and your sisters from Liza. However, their time ran out, and he was forced out of this place. What I want from you is information. Otherwise, there's no way we can save you."

The girl was taken aback.

"Save... us? That's impossible. The Zasfin uncles are very strong."

Roan snorted.

"Who cares about their strength? Don't you think it's weird? We're humans, but we're in the Rank Five Bloodline Trials."

The girl was too young, so she took some time to understand what Roan meant.

"What I mean is, all the Bloodline Trials are protected by very strong ZASFINS, but we still entered it without any of them seeing. That means we can also get to where you are at the moment. All we need to know is your location. Liza told my brother that you're not in the Bloodline Trial Grounds that we are at the moment. Is that true?"

The girl nodded.

"It is... I can feel that we are very far away."

"Can you tell where you are at the moment?"

The girl shook her head.

"As far as we can remember, we had always been locked down inside the formations."

Roan nodded, not feeling surprised by that. The Bloodline Trials were way too important for each Empire. Naturally, it would have very high security, including not telling the girls where they are.

"It's fine. You said that you can feel that we're very far away from each other. Can you point the general direction? Oh, right. Since you can control this place, let me use Spiritual Sense as well."

The girl nodded, and Roan began to feel Spiritual Energy once again. Following that, he used his Spiritual Sense to show the girl the place they were in. To be more specific, Roan showed his memory of the outside world.

The girl was dragged inside that memory and felt like she was really standing on the outside with Roan. She didn't know such a thing was possible.

"Pay attention. Which direction?"

The girl came back to herself and immediately pointed out.

Following that, Roan and the girl went back to the white world.

However, Roan narrowed his eyes once again. That's because she pointed in a direction completely different from what he thought. Roan assumed that they would be located inside the Palif Empire's Capital or at least close to it. However, the direction was completely different.

However, Rean, who was watching everything through Roan, immediately mentioned.

'I'm looking into the Jade Slip Map here. The direction she pointed was straight north. It might be a coincidence, but she was pointing perfectly in that direction.'

Roan nodded.

'Is there anything inside the Jade Slip Map north from here?'

Rean shook his head.

'Not really. There are a few cities, demon beast regions, and things like that. However, there isn't anything that would catch our attention.'

Rean and Roan had puzzled expressions after that as they thought about it.

'Could it be that they're not in Palif?'

'It could be. We know way too little about these Bloodline Trials.'

Rean then thought about something else and told Roan to ask.

"Tell me, is the Palif Empire the only place where this happens?"

However, the girl answered with another question.

"Where is the Palif Empire?"

Rean and Roan became more sure that perhaps, all Bloodline Trials in the world were controlled from the same place.

'There might be some other power above the Celestial Lands that rule this world.'

Death... and me

## Chapter 607: Habit

Of course, that was nothing more than speculation. As far as the twins knew, perhaps she was never told about the Empire before and was indeed somewhere north from this place but still inside Palif. That thought was nothing more than an option between many.

"Okay. If it's possible, we will try to help you. By the way, Liza was very young, just like you. Would you be able to call one of your older sisters?"

If they could talk with someone older, the conversation would progress much faster, after all.

The girl shook her head.

"We don't have any older sister. We are all of similar age to each other."

Rean and Roan found it strange.

"That doesn't make sense. These Bloodline Trials have been going for so long already. How come there are only young girls like you?"

The girl's face turned gloomy all of a sudden. In the twins' eyes, they already had an idea of what was happening.

"I see... So you can only perform these trials while you're young. After a certain age, your sisters are brought away, right?"

The girl nodded.

"Yes..."

After some time, she looked at Roan before pledging.

"Big brother! Can you help my other sisters who disappeared as well? I'll do anything you want! I can give you the Bloodline Mark right now."

Roan sighed before saying.

"Do you know that doing that will have another human killed?"

The girl dropped her head straight away as she replied.

"I do... but I don't know them. I... I... I consider my sisters' lives more important than them!"

Surprisingly, Roan showed a rare smile as he said.

"It's good that you know your priorities."

Roan wasn't any philanthropist. He would do what he could to help those around him. As for others? He didn't have time to care about them. He wouldn't say a naive thing like 'all lives are important.' In his eyes, that's bullshit. Just how many demon beasts have they killed until now? Would one say that their lives were not important, then? Ha! What a joke! The fact that the girl prioritized the ones she liked was definitely the right decision as far as Roan was concerned.

Besides, they already knew that there was no helping to those people in the chamber. At the very least, not until they understood Soul Power more. Without a Bloodline Mark, they would never be able to understand either.

The girl's eyes glistened a little when she heard that.

"Aren't you angry that I'm taking others' lives?"

Roan snorted.

"If you don't do what they say, you will be the one to be punished or maybe even killed, no? What a joke! First, you must survive. If in the future you become able to save the other sacrifices, then that's good. However, if you don't survive now, even thinking about that will be impossible. Besides, if you refuse to do that, they will replace you with someone who will not. You are doing nothing wrong, that's for sure."

Tears began to flow out of the girl's eyes before she hugged Roan. Sure, she had been using those sacrifices' souls to create the Bloodline Marks. However, she was still a little girl. There was no way in hell that she liked to do such a thing.

"He-Hey! Get out! It's annoying!"

Sure enough, Roan wasn't used to these dramatic scenes. He was just saying what he believed, that's all.

\*Pah\*

\*Ouch!\*

Roan slightly knocked the girl's head, who finally let him go.

Rean, who was seeing everything, couldn't help but ask.

'Don't you have a heart at all?'

'Shut up! You know we don't have time for this bullshit!'

Roan then looked at the girl before saying.

"You can cry as much as you want after. For now, I need more information."

Roan continued.

"There's one thing I find strange. You do know that there are nine ranks of Bloodline Trials, right? Are you not present inside either of them?"

The girl shook her head while she rubbed the part where Roan knocked her.

"There's a Bloodline Trial where we are located... but it's a Rank Ten one."

Roan's interest was piqued at that moment.

"So there is a rank higher..."

That pretty much confirmed Rean's theory that a power bigger than the Celestial Lands and the Empires existed on this planet.

"By the way, you always say sisters. However, is there really no man doing the same thing as you?"

The girl pondered for a bit before saying.

"It's not that there isn't any boy, but they are really, really rare. We have a lot of sisters here, but almost no boys."

"Why?"

The girl continued.

"I'm not sure, but I heard the Zasfin uncles and aunties commenting before that it had something to do with purity of our soul. Sorry, big brother. I don't understand very well what it means."



Roan, on the other hand, had an idea. He also understood why only young humans could be used. However, he didn't comment on that and decided to ask something else.

Unfortunately, he didn't have the chance. Suddenly, the world around them began to change, just like what happened to Rean.

"Shit. Is our time up?"

The girl nodded with a sad expression.

"It is... big brother, I'll give you the Bloodline Mark now."

Roan was not Rean, so he didn't say something useless as you don't need to do it or anything like that. He needed the Bloodline Mark, simple as that.

"Very well. However, I can't promise you anything. First of all, I would only give it a try as payment for the Bloodline Mark. After all, I don't know you to the point where I would care much. Well, I guess it's still better than nothing."

The girl smiled as faint blue light gathered around her and intensified. This was her world, so she could feel everything, including Roan's emotions.

"Big brother likes to put up a strong front, but you're very gentle, aren't you?"

Roan narrowed his eyes as everything began to change. However, just before disappearing, he asked one last question.

"What's your name?"

The girl was taken aback for a second and replied softly.

"My name... is Luna."

Death... and me

Chapter 608: Soul Purity

That was the last word Luna said before Roan's consciousness returned to his body. Following that, the same scene played again. The diagram on the person's forehead lit up before condensing a Rank Five Bloodline Mark, heading towards Roan's forehead before he could do anything.

When he opened his eyes again, Roan saw Rean and Kentucky there.

Rean then laughed right after.

"My cute brother likes to put up a strong front, but he's very gentle!"

\*Bang!\*

Rean was laughing so much that he didn't see the moment when Roan kicked out. His body smashed against the wall where there wasn't anyone before sliding down.

"Fuck you! Do you know how bad it would have been if I didn't have Light Element Affinity?"

Roan snorted.

"You asked for it, so stop complaining."

Rean sighed and decided to let it go. Just Roan's reaction was more than good enough as payment.

Rean's expression then changed as he looked at the wall. No, to be more specific, he looked in the direction Luna pointed to.

"I can't let it go."

Roan snorted in response.

"Naive! Then how about all the human slaves we've seen until now? Are you also going to save them all?"

Rean gritted his teeth. He knew Roan was right, but...

Roan then closed his eyes and added.

"First, we need information."

Rean was taken aback as he looked at Roan. It was as if he had heard something wrong.

"Where's my brother? What did you do to him?"

A vein popped out on Roan's head as he asked.

"Seems like one kick wasn't enough, huh?"

"Cough, cough... Force of habit. Force of habit."

Roan made a few things clear, though.

"We don't have the power to save anyone at the moment. Whatever the place they're in, it's definitely protected like a fortress. Even using the Circuitry Teleport Formation won't be enough."

Rean understood what Roan meant.

"I know. Unlike the Bloodline Trial Grounds, I doubt that location has no one overseeing it. First of all, I would put so many detection formations and similar things there that we would be found the moment we put even one foot there."

Roan nodded as he said.

"Exactly. Simply put, we don't even have a smidgen of a chance of saving them. If we want to do something, we need strength for that. I'll be honest. Chances are that the girls we talked to today will have long been replaced by many others—the reason's simple. We need strength before doing anything else. Say, how many years, decades, or maybe even centuries do you think it will take us before we have a chance to do anything?"

Rean dropped his head in response. No wonder Roan said that he most likely wouldn't be able to do anything to Luna. It had nothing to do with wanting and not wanting to do something. Simply put, they were way too weak at the moment.

"But... we can't wait this long. How about this? We can use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to keep teleporting from one position to another, eventually reaching the girls' place. We just need enough Spirit Stones for it."

Roan shook his head as he made Rean realize what he was saying.

"Every time we use the Circuitry Teleport Formation, it will teleport us outside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Even if we stay outside for less than a second, we will still be found by whatever detection methods they have there other than Spiritual Sense. They might think that they were imagining things if it happens only once. However, it'll be totally different if we keep doing it without stopping while looking for the girls' location."

"In the end, they'll understand that we are after the girls and will mount a defense and trap us. Because of the difference in cultivation, we might and will probably get killed before we enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm after appearing there. I told you, without strength, we stand almost no chance if we attack or try to enter without being noticed."

Rean obviously didn't like that. But then again, this situation was similar to the human slaves so far. Rean had to ignore a lot of mistreatment so that their cover wouldn't be blown. The difference was that those humans probably wouldn't get killed, nor did they have to kill someone else.

"It's so annoying..."

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"That's how things are. I did what you wanted and got the information necessary to at least start looking for them. However, we will not try attacking nor try teleporting inside. That would be just tantamount to suicide."

Rean nodded when suddenly, he noticed something. Roan mentioned before that they needed to find more information after he came out of his illusion. Why would they need that if they were many years away from being able to try anything? It was then that he noticed...

"Stealth infiltration is out of the question. Unless these Zafins are idiots, there's no way we can get past all the defensive measures that will be put in that place. Attacking is even more out of the question. We aren't talking about Nascent Soul Realm enemies, but Soul Transformation and most likely Saint Realm Zafins. Who knows? There might even be some Elemental Transformation Realm Zafins guarding it."

Roan agreed with him.

"Exactly. None of these methods are feasible."

Roan then continued.

"That's why we will be invited inside."

Soul Purity! Those were the words that would most likely bring them in. Rean and Roan didn't need to attack nor stealthily infiltrate the place. They can have the Zafins themselves do the job for them. All they needed was to be noticed.

Rean immediately contacted the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

'Sister Orb, you mentioned before that our souls are perfect thanks to the Soul Gem System, right?'

[I thought you'd never ask. Yes, your souls will be untaintable as long as the Soul Gem System exists. If Soul Purity is really what those Zafins need, then there's no better material in this world other than you two.]

Death... and me

Chapter 609: Unveil

Sometime later, Qia, Calina, Malaka, and Agis also woke up. Just like Rean and Roan, they met other girls after going through their own illusions. None of them failed in getting a Bloodline Soul Mark either. Nevertheless, the girls were obviously upset with what they found out.

"We need to save them!"

Rean nodded as he replied.

"We know. However, there are many problems."

He then explained everything he and Roan had discussed so far. Although the plan seemed somewhat reckless, that was their only choice. At the very least, they could help once they got inside by coming out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, though.

"Still, there are a lot of questions. First of all, why have none of us failed in getting a Bloodline Soul Mark?"

Calina immediately raised her hand as she replied.

"I asked Juliana about it before our time in the illusion world was up. By the way, that was the name of the girl I met there. Well, in fact, I asked about what I should do to not fail it. Juliana then said that I didn't need to worry about it because she would make sure that the Bloodline Mark was compatible. I

asked her why, and she said that the reason was that my trial was completely different from what it should have been for the ZASFINS."

Rean and the others had puzzled expressions on their faces as one of them asked.

"Different? What do you mean?"

Calina continued.

"Juliana told me that once a ZASFIN starts his or her trial, they don't fall into illusions of their own. Instead, the illusion created is something to do with the sacrifice they chose. They would go through the illusion world of that human and try to convince them to accept becoming their Bloodline Marks. As for Juliana, she was a medium that used her own soul to keep the connection between the ZASFIN and the sacrifice's soul. In our case, because we are also humans, such a medium wasn't necessary. Instead of showing an illusion based on the target's memories, it showed an illusion based on our own. We didn't have to convince anyone to start with."

Rean immediately understood.

"That's probably the reason behind the girls being constantly swapped. Being the medium between both sides also means seeing everything that happens between both ZASFINS and the human sacrifices. There's no way their soul will keep their 'purity' for much longer like that. It's even worse because of how ZASFINS think about humans. What kind of forceful methods had they seen in their lives?"

Roan agreed with Rean.

"That's not all. Being a medium between two different souls. That alone is definitely not an easy feat. If I'm not wrong, it places a huge burden on their souls to maintain that connection. We know that there's a time limit for the illusions, which should be because the girls can't hold it for long until reaching their limits. Chances are that the ZASFINS' tests last even less due to the different types of souls."

Qia couldn't help but ask.

"Wait? Isn't it bad, then? It means that the guy who entered before us should have already finished a long time ago."

Agis shook his head, though.

"Don't worry, that's not a problem."

"Why?"

Agis then pointed at all the humans on the walls.

"Even if he failed once, he can simply go to the next human and try again. As long as his Soul Power doesn't run out, he can keep trying it one after another. In fact, we could do the same thing if we had failed. Of course, it didn't happen because we are also humans."

Malaka didn't look happy after hearing that.

"Do you think... that the failed trials will get the human they chose killed?"

Roan immediately nodded as he answered.

"Most likely."

"How do you know?"

Roan snorted and did the same thing as Agis, pointing at all the human sacrifices around.

"If not, why the hell do you think they have so many sacrifices? We all know that someone rarely enters the trial, so there was definitely no need for so many souls. The reason we can see so many in this chamber alone is proof that the Zasfins who come will fail and waste the sacrifices many times."



Everyone went silent. Rean's group knew that Roan's words were most likely true.

Rean then changed the topic since it would be useless to keep thinking about it.

"By the way, we do know that the girls there and maybe a few boys are selected based on their soul purity. That's most likely because the purer it is, the clearer the connection between the Zasfin and the human sacrifice will be. However, how exactly are the human sacrifices are selected? Look at all their cultivations. They are all in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Wasn't it supposed to be almost impossible for humans to reach this level in the Zasfin world?"

It was then that Agis' expression changed as an idea popped into his head.

"I think we just escaped a calamity here."

Rean and Roan nodded, with Roan saying.

"It seems like you noticed that as well."

Obviously, it only made the rest puzzled until Agis began to explain.

"We were going to Unity Celestial Land because of the rumors of it accepting humans, right? It's a Celestial Land! Why would they take humans? Simple, because they needed high-level sacrifices. Not only that, but it's probably the place where they find the kids with high Soul Purity."

Rean also added.

"That's not all. The Unity Celestial Land is simply the only entity that Frandin knew about. Do you really think that's the only one? There must be many others out there. It's just that letting other Zasfins know that there were many cultivating humans around isn't good, so the information is kept away from the masses."

Calina also thought about something else after hearing that.

"Wait, these places like the Unity Celestial Land are for the high-level sacrifices. The lower the rank of the Bloodline Trial, the more there are in the Empire. That being said, they also need lower-level humans. The Celestial Lands wouldn't waste their time with it. That means..."

Roan nodded.

"For lower-level humans, you have the Decadence Region where humans are thrown inside to fend for themselves. Of course, we already know that many more of these regions also exist around the world. The thing about 'showing the humans' ugly side to the world' is just bullshit. Those are the places where the lower-ranked Bloodline Trial sacrifices are chosen from."

Death... and me

Chapter 610: Leaving the Chamber

Roan continued.

"Of course, we're just making speculations here. We might be wrong about many things. For example, perhaps the regions like the Decadence Region are really aimed to do what they say. Maybe no humans are taken from there. The Unity Celestial Land might really be inviting humans without thinking about using them for the Bloodline Trials. Simply put, we don't know if it's the truth yet."

Qia agreed with him.

"That's true. Nevertheless, I wonder how the souls are selected. You do remember that we had several doors to choose from before, right? We selected our door, thinking that it would be the highest level one. If we're right, what about the humans in the other paths?"

Calina pondered over the question for a bit before saying.

"I think I know what it is."

Everyone immediately looked at Calina before she continued.

"In total, there were seven doors, right? It just so happens that there are seven different aptitude colors. I might be wrong, but the doors are probably separated by aptitudes."

Rean narrowed his eyes as he voiced his opinions.

"Wait, that would be quite ridiculous. If we are in the best door, all the people on these walls have Purple-Color Aptitude. It doesn't matter how I look at it. Such a thing such be impossible. There are way too many of them."

Roan pondered over it for a bit when an idea appeared in his mind.

"Calina isn't totally wrong. All these people are definitely separated by their Aptitude Colors. However, we aren't talking about their Spiritual Energy Cultivation Aptitude, but their Soul Aptitude. Most likely, it isn't as hard to find high-level Soul Aptitudes as it is for cultivation. No, to be more precise, it should be easier for higher-level Soul Aptitudes to appear on this planet."

Everyone looked at Roan, with one of them asking.

"Why do you say that?"

Roan then explained.

"Did you forget? We're certain that the Zafins are an evolution that separated themselves from humans at some point. Rean had already confirmed it with his Light Element."

Rean confirmed.

"Yes. It's very easy to identify this fact with my Light Element when I ran it through the Zafins' bodies. It was the same thing for the Lakures, who evolved to use Spiritual Energy more efficiently. They are, after

all, humans as well. Besides, we did see hybrids of humans and Zafins before. If the races weren't related, no procreation should be possible."

Roan nodded as he continued.

"That said, this planet has favorable conditions to those who use Soul Power. Perhaps the planet's lack of Spiritual Energy is what forced them to evolve their Soul Powers. Naturally, it also affected the Soul of humans even though they didn't become Zafins."

Roan continued.

"That said, the Zafins came up with their own Soul Aptitude test for the humans. The better the aptitude of the Soul, the better the Bloodline Marks that would be condensed. The Zafins use it to determine which chamber the humans should be placed into."

Malaka couldn't help but ask.

"Still, isn't it way too overpowered to have this many Purple Soul Aptitudes?"

However, Rean understood what Roan meant.

"That's not the issue, Agis. They separated the Soul Aptitudes into colors. However, we don't know how high the human's aptitude has to be for it to be considered purple. Most likely, it isn't as strict as it is for us to find Purple Color Cultivation Aptitudes. That's why you can see this many here."

Roan nodded.

"Exactly. Of course, this is another speculation. We might be somewhat wrong about it. However, I do believe we are very close to it. Maybe they don't use colors but numbers or whatever. Also, we just presumed that the chamber we chose was the highest-quality one. Maybe we're wrong, and the opposite side door was the real deal. Well, considering the door Frandin opened, it most likely means we are right that this chamber is the best one."

Qia couldn't help but say.

"The more I think about all of this, the more disgusted I feel. Still, I don't understand. Why would they use humans for the trials? If Soul Aptitudes are what matters for Bloodline Marks, wouldn't it be better to use other Zasfins?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"Most likely, the issue relies on Soul Power. The Zasfins' Soul Power Points are already above 20 when they're born. I believe both the trial taker and the sacrifice's Soul Powers would conflict. Otherwise, I don't doubt that Zasfins would be used instead. Not to mention that Zasfins would definitely prefer to sacrifice humans than their own race."

Everyone had to admit that Rean was right on that point.

Roan then looked at the exit before saying.

"Alright, that's all for now. We shouldn't waste more time in this place. Don't forget that we destroyed the altar, so we don't know how long it will take for the Zasfins outside to notice something off. Perhaps they've already noticed but can't come inside because of the guy who is in the middle of his test."

Calina looked at all the people locked on the walls.

"We really must leave them all here, right?"

Roan nodded.

"Unless you want to kill them straight away, you will have to leave them. There's nothing we can do about it. Also, what would we do with this many people when we already have so many problems just by ourselves?"

Calina nodded and didn't say anything else. Following that, they looked at the other side of the room. As mentioned before, the door they used to enter this chamber was locked, so they couldn't go back. They could only use the exit ahead and see where it would take them.

Of course, Rean and Roan could simply use the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm's Circuitry Teleport Formation to leave straight away. Still, they wanted to see if there wasn't anything else for them further away. Besides, Frandin was still in this place, so they might be able to meet him at some point.

To make things easier to deal with, the twins sent Qia, Calina, Agis, Malaka, and Kentucky back to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. At the same time, Rean made the 'walls' of the Soul Gem Dimensional 'transparent' so that they could see what was happening outside.

"Let's go."

The two brothers quickly made their way out, where they saw the yellow-lit tunnel continuing forward. As one could imagine, the chamber's door behind them closed right after, too, not allowing them to go back. At some point, they noticed that they started to go up again. As always, Rean kept his Spiritual Sense and Light Bending Skills active to keep them hidden.

Eventually, they arrived at what seemed to be another hall with one more altar in the front. It's just that instead of seven doors behind it, there was only one.

"This is most likely the exit."

Rean nodded.

"Most likely. After all, we already got the Bloodline Marks. Although we haven't tried to use it yet."

Roan then pointed at the altar.

"That's not a problem. If this is the exit, then we just need to use Soul Power on that altar. It will open to the door for us regardless of how much Soul Power we use on it... or so I think."

The twins then looked around and noticed that there were six paths other than the one they came from. Without a doubt, those were the paths connected to the other trials, including Frandin's and that Zasfin they don't know about.

"I wonder if Frandin has completed his trial already."

Roan immediately shook his head.

"No. Look at the dust on the ground. All the footsteps here are quite old. No one has passed by this place for a week or two at the very least."

Rean nodded. If Roan was saying so, then it should be true.

"Should we wait or see what is behind the altar's door?"

Roan pondered for a bit before saying.

"Let's wait. We've already accomplished our objective anyway. Besides, we can use that other guy to see what's behind the altar's door if he appears first. Who knows, it might be connected to a place full of Zasfins, waiting to see his result. It would be a terrible idea to be spotted by them."

Rean agreed with Roan, and the two began to wait close to their own path.

According to Sister Orb, they spent just an hour to an hour and a half inside their illusions. That showed that the time inside the illusion was much longer than the outside world. Nevertheless, they didn't know how long Frandin and the other guy would take since they would probably fail many times.

However, something surprising happened a few moments later. Suddenly, Rean and Roan heard someone whispering from another passage on the other side.

'Rean, Roan, are you there?'

The twins were taken aback by that. The voice was none other than Frandin's!

'What?!'

Immediately, they ran to the passage where Frandin should be coming from and finally noticed Frandin there, hidden behind a large rock of the tunnel. Of course, Rean kept his camouflage skills activated.

'Frandin, it really is you!'

Frandin sighed in relief when he saw the two of them.

'I'm glad I wasn't wrong.'

Rean couldn't help but ask.

'How did you finish your test so quickly? We thought you would fail many times before coming out.'

Frandin was also puzzled.

'That goes for you two as well. How come you two appeared here? I thought you were blocked back then.'

Rean shook his head as he replied.

'We were lucky to find another way. Anyway, before you talk about your test, how did you know we were there?'

Frandin nodded.



'I didn't. I simply sent the same whisper to all passages except the one used by that guy before. To my surprise, you were really inside one of them.'

The twins nodded in response. That was a smart way of confirming it.

'Alright, tell us about your trial. Did you pass?'