

Death 621

Death... and me

Chapter 621: Surprise

Well, if it was any other time like a dream, Frandin would've loved to have such high-level girls showing interest in him. However, his situation at the moment was anything but good for that. The last thing he needed in this world at the moment was a relationship.

"Ahem... I guess it's enough already, you two. As I said, I'm going to pay a visit to the Portin Clan. However, I don't mind paying a visit to the Asuma clan after this either. I'm looking for some information after all. Anyway, Lady Xiria, I'll be going there when I finish my business here."

Xiria smiled, not minding it at all.

"Then, we will be waiting for you, Gian."

She winked at him before turning around to leave.

Valia felt like tearing the girl apart. Unfortunately, she couldn't do that with her uncle around. Besides, it wasn't like their clans were enemies with each other. It's just that the two girls were on bad terms. Nevertheless, Valia quickly calmed down before looking at Frandin and apologizing.

"Sorry for this shameful display, Gian. Also, I'm sorry for how I treated you back in the shop. I should have noticed that you had an original Rank Five Bloodline Mark."

Frandin pretended to not care.

"Don't worry about it. So, Lady Valia, should we enter?"

Valia smiled as she nodded. Soon, Frandin entered the Portin Clan estate, followed by Roan and the girls. The guards looked at that and found it weird. After all, no humans should be permitted to enter through the front gate. Nevertheless, Valia showed them a token from her father, which kept their mouths shut.

The estate was very luxurious and wide. Many human slaves could be seen almost everywhere, working on their own tasks. In a certain way, their life didn't seem too bad. Because of the clan's face, they had to wear good clothes and seemed to be healthy. Of course, the slave collars on their necks proved that they didn't receive anything for it.

'Well, I guess they're still better off than most slaves.'

Thought Calina...

Valia then began to introduce the estate for Frandin and didn't say anything else about the humans with him anymore. Every now and then, they would be greeted by the other girls of the clan, who seemed to have quite a lot of interest in Frandin. Of course, Frandin understood why and pretended that he liked it.

Eventually, they arrived in a big hall, where a few elders were discussing something.

"Sorry to interrupt you, elders. This is the friend I talked about, Gian Torio."

The oldest man in the pack looked at Frandin and couldn't help but ask.

"I heard that you've already earned your Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark. Say, how old are you?"

Gian laughed before answering.

"I was just lucky. I'm 24 years old."

Frandin joined Roan's group over half a year ago, so he already had his birthday. Well, the years on Frandin's planet were completely different from Rean's group. They were much longer, so it would put him at around 30 years old back in Sunkan. Then again, that was still very young in the elders' eyes.

Following that, Frandin released his Bloodline Soul Mark, which allowed the elders in the room to confirm that he really earned his Mark.

"Such a promising youth. Gian, let me be honest with you. You're a member of the Celestial Lands, aren't you?"

"This..."

Frandin was taken aback by that question. However, it did make sense that these Zafins thought about that. After all, there should be no records about his Rank Five Trial in the Empire's Trial Grounds. Since that's the case, it could only mean he used the Celestial Lands Trial Grounds, which were separated.

Roan then sent Frandin a Spiritual Sense message before Frandin answered the elder's question.

"I'm sorry, senior. But this isn't something I'm allowed to talk about."

Neither of the old men and women in the room seemed to care about his answer. In a certain way, Frandin's words had already confirmed their suspicion.

"Hahaha! That's fine, that's fine."

The man then looked at Valia and said.

"Valia, make sure to treat him well. You are to attend to all his needs, absolutely all of them. Am I clear?"

Valia slightly blushed in response but nodded in the end.

The man talking was none other than the oldest Rank Five Bloodline Mark Owner of the Portin Clan, Ancestor Ye Portin. His status was even above the clan head. In the Portin Clan, his words were law. Well, he would usually be cultivating, but he came out to see this Gian that the clan head talked about. Sure enough, he was quite satisfied after analyzing Frandin's cultivation and seeing his Bloodline Mark.

Frandin couldn't help but let out a bit of cold sweat. He really didn't want Valia to attend to all his 'needs.' Well, Frandin was still a man, so he also thought that it was a bit of a waste that he couldn't take advantage of such a thing.

Ye then took the chance to change the topic.

"I heard that you accepted our invitation because you wanted information. Go ahead, ask away. As long as it isn't improper, we will make sure to answer them."

Roan and the girls had already discussed with Frandin how he should approach the question regarding the Bloodline Trial's kids, so he knew how to ask.

"I'm out of my home as a test, and I have to arrive in a certain place within a few years at most, or I'll fail. However, my elders didn't give me any information."

Ye nodded after hearing that. They also gave many tests to their youngsters, so he didn't think that it was strange.

Frandin then continued.

"I don't know the name of the place, just that it's the heart of the Trial Grounds. It's also supposed to be the only place with a Rank 10 Bloodline Trial. That's the place I'm looking for."

The moment that these words came out of his mouth, all the elders present showed an expression of shock.

"Rank 10 Bloodline Trial?! Is there such a thing in this world?!"

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Chapter 622: Secret

Frandin was surprised that neither of them seemed to have heard of it before.

After some time, the elders couldn't help but ask.

"Little friend, are you sure your elders said it?"

"I didn't know about it at all."

"It seems unbelievable."

"A rank even higher than the Emperor's Bloodline Soul Mark."

However, the ancestor of the Portin Clan, Ye Portin, had a dark expression on his face as he heard all of that.

"Enough!"

The other elders immediately shut up, waiting for him to continue.

"Gian, this isn't something you should talk about in the open like that."

Everyone was taken aback once more. From the looks of it, Ye Portin seemed to know something about the Rank Ten Bloodline Marks.

"All of you, what was said today can't leave this room. It includes you, Valia."

Valia noticed the seriousness of the situation and immediately nodded in response.

"Yes, ancestor."

Ye nodded before explaining.

"I can't say anything else. Just know that if you start talking about it, I won't be surprised if your body appears on a river the very next day. Well, you'll be fortunate if your body can even be found. Worst case, the entire clan will be destroyed. This is a taboo topic that few dare to touch."

However, the fact that Gian(Frandin) knew about that made the elders and the ancestor of the Portin Clan even more convinced that he was from one of the Celestial Lands. Ye then got up and called Frandin over.

"Come with me. I'll tell you what I know. However, I don't know much to start with, so you better not get your hopes up. Valia, take care of his humans in the meantime."

Frandin glanced at Roan and the girls for a moment before they nodded at him. As long as he could obtain information, that was for the best.

Frandin then left with Ye Portin while Valia was given the responsibility of taking care of Roan's group. Of course, as soon as they left the elder's room, her expression changed, totally showing how disgusted she was to have to deal with them. Since when did she ever have to care about humans? Let alone the ones that made her pass through such humiliation.

"Count yourselves lucky for having such a master. If it was any other situation, I would have cut all of you to pieces."

However, she soon noticed that neither Roan nor the girls seemed to be paying attention to her. It was as if she was nothing but air. Instead, the girls were talking about the clothes they bought a while earlier while Roan just listened. Well, he was ignoring that, to be honest.

"Humans, you dare ignore me?"

Hearing that, Calina looked in Valia's direction before asking.

"That's weird. I didn't know you cared about humans paying attention to you. Don't you hate us?"

Valia was taken aback after hearing Calina's question. That's right, she shouldn't care about them at all.

"That's not it, Calina. She grew up being the center of attention. Even if we're humans, she won't be able to accept it if we don't put her on a pedestal."

"Qia's right. Oh! I have an idea. Let's praise her looks. She should feel happy like that. Besides, she's trying to catch young master's attention, so it should give her some confidence, right?"

"That's a great idea!"

"Miss Valia, you're beautiful!"

"Such nice clothes, even better than the ones we bought in that shop."

"I love your smooth skin. What did you do to become like this?"

Even Roan couldn't help but show a faint smile. It would have been okay if they had just praised her. However, they didn't hide their previous words either, let alone the fact that their expressions didn't look like they meant it at all. Obviously, they were doing it to make the girl even more upset.

Suddenly, Roan saw the red color of killing intent spread around him and the girls.

"You bunch of trash. How dare you treat me, a noble Zasfin, like that? You're courting death."

However, none of them seemed the least bit concerned. They knew that it was all bark but no bite. As much as Valia wanted to kill them all right now, she couldn't do so because of Frandin.

Eventually, Roan opened his mouth as he said.

"That's enough. We're here for the young master, so stop causing trouble."

Calina and the others looked at Roan with a smile.

'Wasn't it you who offended her first?'

Well, they still followed his orders and kept silent.

Valia was still fuming, though. However, she really couldn't do anything against them at the moment. It's not that she had no way of doing it, but because she couldn't afford to offend Frandin again.

'Hmph! You just wait! If I succeed in conquering him, the first thing I'll do is get rid of you four.'

Valia didn't say those words out loud, though.

"Forget it. Come with me. I'll leave you in the human's lodge for the time being."

Roan and the girls followed Valia after that.

Somewhere else, in a private room, Frandin and Ye Portin began talking about the Rank Ten Bloodline Trial Grounds.

"Senior Ye, do you know where that place is located?"

Ye shook his head.

"No. I dare say that only the Imperial Family or the biggest organizations like the Celestial Lands know about it."

Frandin found it strange as he asked.

"Then, how did you hear about it?"

Ye waved his hands as he replied.

"That's because there is a need for some of us to know about its existence. After all, that place also needs new blood joining every now and then. The ancestors of the big clans in our city also know about it. Of course, we never discuss it out in the open. That is the rule. For all effects, Rank Nine Bloodline Soul Marks is the limit."

Frandin understood what he meant.

"I see... The requirements to join that place should be sky-high. Still, there's a small chance that someone good enough would be born even in a city like this one. That's why some of you need to know of its existence."

Ye smiled after hearing that.

"It's good to talk with intelligent people. Anyway, go ahead. What else do you want to ask?"

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Chapter 623: Soul Rulers

Frandin didn't waste time and asked straight away.

"You don't know where they're located. However, you do have a way to contact them if someone good enough to join their ranks appears, right? Once that happens, they will most likely send a representative to test the guy or girl out."

Ye didn't deny that, answering.

"That's correct. However, it's not like we can call them over anytime we wanted to. They made it very clear that if we bothered them just because we thought our clan members were good enough, there would be consequences."

Frandin narrowed his eyes as he continued with his queries.

"In that case, there must be a threshold in place. Just how good is good enough?"

Ye smiled before continuing.

"It depends on one's cultivation and Soul Power. Your soul power talent might be amazing for your age, but your cultivation is just above average. That wouldn't be enough to call their attention. 24 years old with a Late Foundation Establishment cultivation is just not enough. If you were already in the Core Formation Realm, then the story would be different."

Frandin was taken aback. Being at the Core Formation Realm at the age of 24 would be way too heaven-defying. Probably powers like the Imperial Family and Celestial Lands would be able to bring someone up to that point.

'Well... that's if you don't consider the twins' group. No, they don't count since they cultivated in another world before this. Then again, Calina is already at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, and I heard from Rean that she's only 25 while he, Roan, and Malaka are 24. Qia is the youngest girl there at 21 years of age. But even then, she's already at the Peak of the Core Formation Realm.'

One must remember that Qia was older than the twins. But after the nine years and something inside the Natural Formation, they surpassed her in age. She had better resources than Calina back in the Sasamil Family, so it was normal for her cultivation to be higher as well. Calina just caught up because of the hellish training that Roan gave her. At the moment, Qia and Calina were more or less at the same level once one considered that Qia was 4 years younger.

'As for Agis, he's just two years younger than Qia. But he's also at the Late Core Formation Realm, just like Malaka.'

In fact, Malaka was far behind Agis when they joined the Dalamu Sect. Then again, she spent several years together with Rean and Roan, so she caught up to him in the Natural Formation. Her age surpassed his for the same reason, though. That showed just how talented Agis was with his Red Color Aptitude. Even without the Natural Formation, he was able to keep up with his cultivation.

Frandin noticed that his mind strayed from the current topic, so he quickly shook his head and put these thoughts behind. It was then that he remembered one thing.

'Right! Rean's group only knows about those girls controlling the Trial Grounds because they're humans. For Zafins, they will never meet humans like Liza and Luna in the illusion trial. Naturally, no Zafin knows about their existence other than the organization controlling it. Even I thought that my Trial only had something to do with the guy I chose back then, not noticing anyone else's presence at all.'

'From what the twins told me, that organization needs humans with high Soul Purity for that to work. They need it so much that only kids are used since those are the moments the souls are in their purest form...'

Frandin then smiled as he had an idea.

'Even though they were using kids, I refuse to believe that kids with high enough Soul Purity can be found easily. That means...'

Frandin looked at Ye before asking.

"Senior Ye, could it be that this organization also entrusted the big shots of this city with an extra task?"

Ye Portin's eyes widened when he heard that. However, he quickly recovered.

"I won't say they didn't, but I won't comment anything about that. Unless... you already know what it is."

Frandin nodded.

"I also can't comment about how I found about this, but I do believe that you should have been tasked with testing humans' Soul Purity, especially children. You should even have some kind of equipment that can test it out."

Ye Portin nodded with a serious expression.

"It seems like your elders also told you this information. Since that's the case, there's no need to hide something you already know about. Indeed, we have been tasked to test humans' souls of five to ten-year-old humans. They're giving huge rewards to those who can find one."

Frandin nodded after hearing that. It was as he expected. However, he also found a problem.

"I've passed by many cities before arriving here. Also, I've been to many more before that as well. Although many shops sold human slaves, it was not like there were huge farms for them. You said that there were huge rewards in case you found a kid with enough Soul Purity, and I believe the other leaders of the other big cities are also aware of this."

Ye Portin nodded, already knowing where Frandin was coming from. Nevertheless, he waited for Frandin(Gian) to conclude his words.

"The rewards are huge, but there are no human farms. From the looks of it, Soul Purity has nothing to do with quantity. Even if you build many human farms, making them reproduce as much as possible, it won't increase the number of kids with high Soul Purity. No, it's more correct to say that this method has already been tested in the past but has failed miserably. Otherwise, that organization wouldn't have a need to ask for you guys to look for those children."

Ye nodded as he replied.

"I've never seen anyone trying to build farms to increase their chances of getting a kid with high Soul Purity. That's because those people warned us that doing so was useless. They didn't explain why, though. However, I'm sure many have tried it before, just to fail, as you have mentioned. Nowadays, it doesn't even happen anymore, as far as I know."

Frandin then commented.

"Now I'm even more sure about it. These kids with high Soul Purity... they are who knows how many times harder to find than it is to discover talented Zasfins to join their ranks."

Ye agreed with Frandin.

"Exactly... or so I believe. I've heard about a few Zasfins who joined them through my connections. However, I've never heard about any of my peers finding a human that matched the conditions. The other lords know about it as well."

Frandin smiled as he asked.

"In that case, do you mind if I borrow your Soul Purity Test equipment?"

Ye narrowed his eyes, slightly suspicious.

"Why would you need it? We already tested all the children in this city and the surrounding smaller ones. Not to mention that we repeat the test without anyone knowing every year. I can guarantee that you won't find a single one in this place."

Frandin shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"Don't worry, I have my own reasons for this."

Roan, Calina, Malaka, and Qia never passed by Ye Portin's mind. After all, they weren't kids anymore. That being said, he was puzzled as to what Frandin(Gian) wanted to do with his Soul Purity Testing Equipment. Unless...

"I can't lend it to you since there's no way to replace it. However, I don't mind testing the humans you want with it. If you really know a human who does have enough Soul Purity, you can bring him or her to me. There's no need to worry. I won't try to rob you of your achievements. I'm not seeking a death wish."

That was to be expected since Ye Portin was already 100% sure that Frandin(Gian) came from the Celestial Lands. Even if he was tens of times more daring, he wouldn't try anything against him. However, as the one who owned Soul Purity Testing Equipment, there might be something in it for him as well.

Frandin pondered for a bit before nodding.

"Very well, I'll think about it. Besides, it's not like I have someone that can fill the criteria anyway. I just have a hunch. As long as it leads me to the place where this organization is located, that will be enough for me to pass my test."

Ye Portin was more than happy to hear that. Not to mention that he still hoped that Valia or any of the other girls in his clan would catch this young man's attention.

"That's for the best."

Ye Portin was an old fox, so he didn't waste that chance.

"By the way, what do you think of our Valia? I've heard you two had quite a heated argument a while ago."

Frandin felt a chill on his back when he heard that question.

"Ahem... Don't worry, I don't hold any grudges against her. I'm aware that I have peculiar tastes because of how I treat my humans."

Ye shook his head with a smile.

"You know very well that I wasn't talking about your humans. I'm talking about you and her at the moment."

Frandin was forced to keep his play.

"Hahaha! She is beautiful, of course. Her fiery temperament is quite a sight."

Ye Portin nodded, satisfied.

"Good. As I mentioned before, Valia will take care of all your needs. And I mean all of them... if you know what I mean. By the way, I can guarantee she's still a virgin."

Frandin almost vomited blood at that moment. Isn't that guy being way too direct?

"Ahem... Well, we'll see how things play out in the future. Anyway, I'll take my leave now."

Ye gave Frandin a knowing nod, not trying to stop him.

However, Frandin asked one last thing before leaving the room.

"By the way, what's the name of that organization?"

Ye then turned serious as he uttered two words.

"Soul Rulers."

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Chapter 624: Decisions

Frandin felt like it was quite a fitting name for such an organization. It was obvious that they had very high control over the Soul Power used around the world. For some reason, they also controlled all the trials... or so one would think.

Frandin then met Valia when he came out, who guided him to where Roan's group was staying.

"Gian, did you find what you wanted while talking with our ancestor?"

Frandin glanced at her while keeping his proud expression. Nevertheless, the words 'I can guarantee she's still a virgin' kept playing in his mind. As bad as she might have treated him in the shop back then, it didn't change the fact that Valia was beautiful in the eyes of male Zasfins.

However, Frandin quickly put those thoughts behind before nodding.

"I did. It seems like I'll be seeing your ancestor again sometime later, so I hope your clan won't mind my presence here."

Valia shook her head as she smiled.

"How could we? After what I did to you back then, this is the least we can do."

Frandin then looked at her before laughing.

"However, your opinion about my humans hasn't changed even a bit, am I right?"

Valia was taken aback.

"This..."

Frandin continued.

"It's fine. That's how the majority of Zasfins treat humans anyway. Besides, if my humans really cause big trouble, I definitely wouldn't defend them unless they weren't at fault. What you did was along the lines of what I expected."

Valia couldn't help but sigh. It seemed like the plan of conquering Gian wouldn't work very well. So far, she was the only one allowed to try, so no other girl from the clan came out. After becoming silent for a bit, she had an idea before asking.

"By the way, Gian. Are you staying here tonight?"

Frandin didn't know what to say. He had to talk with Roan and the girls first to see what they would say.

"Perhaps, let me think about a few things first."

Valia nodded and then whispered in his ears right after.

'If it isn't a problem for you, I don't mind paying my debt in other ways.'

Frandin's heart thumped when he heard that as he looked at Valia, whose face was now bright red. In the end, as much as she knew what she had to do, she had never done it before. Obviously, it made her very embarrassed even though she was the one who gave the idea.

"Ahem... We'll see..."

After some time, they arrived at the back of the Portin Clan's residence. It was quite an inconspicuous place when one thought about how magnificent the main estate was. There were several old houses where one could see many humans with their slave collars attached.

The moment Valia appeared, all of them immediately bowed and didn't make a single sound. From the looks of it, it was obvious how nervous they looked. After all, someone with Valia's status would never step in this place. Only the Zasfin employees responsible for taking care of them would come here, and even that was quite rare.

Well, their conditions weren't bad at all. Other than the fact that they were slaves, they were being more or less well treated. They had good warm clothes. None seemed to be suffering from hunger, disease, or anything like that either.

Frandin knew why, though. These humans would work on the main estate every day, so they had to look well not to be an eyesore for the masters or the visits. It was an issue of face, that's all.

Sure enough, Valia seemed somewhat annoyed to come here, but she hid it as well as she could. After all, she was the one who left Roan's group here.

They soon entered a house at the center, where the 'human chief' of the Portin Clan's slaves resided. He was also a butler in the main estate who helped with the management. It could be said that his status was the highest it could be, not that it meant anything for the Zasfins.

The guy quickly came forward and bowed after seeing Valia.

"Lady Valia, welcome."

Valia nodded as she asked.

"Where are they?"

"They are inside."

The butler then guided Valia and Frandin to where Roan's group was waiting. Arriving there, Frandin saw Roan lying against the wall on a corner with his eyes closed. As for the girls, they were playing with a few human kids. The girls seemed to be having quite some fun.

"Ahem... everyone, line up. Lady Valia has come to see you all."

Roan opened his eyes as Frandin nodded in his direction.

Calina, Malaka, and Qia also came forward while holding a kid in their arms. They were too cute, so the girls couldn't let them go. Valia narrowed her eyes since it looked like Roan's group didn't care much about her. Nonetheless, she kept her calm.

"Gian, here they are. Come with me so that I can show you your room. As you can see, your humans are being well treated here. If you want, you can leave them in this place until you decide to leave."

Frandin shook his head as he said.

"No, they will come with me to my room. Let's go."

"Yes, young master!"

Valia couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. If the humans stayed with Gian in his room, how could she take advantage of him? Then again, she had to comply with his wishes.

The girls then put the kids back on the ground before petting their heads. The kids obviously liked them as well, so they didn't want to separate. However, the butler immediately called their attention, which made them give up straight away.

As Valia guided them, Frandin talked about what he and Ye Portin discussed.

'I see... So they don't know where it's located. However, they should be able to call them forth if you find a human with high enough Soul Purity.'

Frandin nodded, saying.

'Exactly. You will need to think about how you want to approach this. That Sister Orb of yours said that you and Rean have the purest soul possible, so you can definitely use this method.'

Valia and the others soon arrived in front of a room. It was quite a luxurious one, obviously prepared for important guests. Before she left, she whispered in Frandin's ears once again.

'Don't forget, I'm always available.'

Frandin let out cold sweat but nodded nonetheless. After that, Valia stepped out of the room as she mentioned that she would come by later.

As she did that, Roan asked Sister Orb to look into the room to see if there was any harmful formation laid down.

[There are a few formations, but they're just formations related to the entire state, not only this room. I can't exactly tell what they do without analyzing them first, but it isn't hard to guess. They're protection and anti-Spiritual Sense Formations. In fact, I think one of them is a formation that blocks Soul Power Scanning as well. Unfortunately, they have Soul Runes, so I can't help much with it.]

Roan nodded, not minding it too much.

'Can you see any monitoring formation?'

[Unless I'm wrong about the Soul Runes in this room's formation, then no.]

Roan nodded. He was still using Rean's Light Bending Skill, so he could tell that no one was using Spiritual Sense to check them. Of course, he didn't drop his guard. After all, there was a chance of these Zasfins checking on what they were doing with a simple Soul Power Scan. Frandin had the highest Soul Power in their group, but it was nothing compared to their elders' power. It wouldn't be a surprise if he couldn't feel their presence.

To make things safe, they decided to not send or bring anyone out of the Dimensional Realm. They would only talk through Spiritual Sense as well.

Qia then took the chance to talk first.

'Roan, are you and Rean planning to use that testing equipment to catch the Soul Rulers' attention?'

Roan nodded together with Rean. They already knew that Rean had a connection with Roan and that he could hear everything Roan did as long as Roan allowed it. The opposite was also possible. Rean also used it to tell Agis, who was in the workshop with him, about what was happening.

'It seems like one of the possible options.'

'In fact, the original plan was to have them inviting us inside, right?'

Calina then thought about something else.

'However, you shouldn't come together. Instead, it would be much better if only one of you was caught while the rest of us stays inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.'

Roan agreed with Calina. Having both of them being captured wouldn't be a good idea. If things turned bad and they put one of them to sleep or something like that, the other could drag the other into the Dimensional Realm. As long as there was no resistance, it would work.

Qia was still worried, though.

'I also want to save those kids. But wouldn't it be too risky?'

Malaka shrugged her shoulders as she replied.

'We don't have much of a choice since we don't know where it's located. Besides, we already discussed that the number of experts there will be too big. Trying to infiltrate it as we did with the Rank Five Bloodline Trial would probably be akin to suicide. Unless, of course, we suddenly increase our cultivations to the Saint Realm and above.'

Everyone immediately shook their heads. Such a thing was obviously impossible in the long term.

Rean then mentioned.

'We can use this method. However, we should first try out other options. Don't you have an invitation from the Asume Clan? You might as well go there and see what they have to say.'

Everyone agreed with that and decided to go pay the Asume Clan a visit the next day.

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Chapter 625: Might Really Work

'There's also that other topic. We need to wait for the auction so Rean can convert his weapons into Spirit Stones. Don't forget that we were supposed to look for those Zasfin nobles that aren't as terrible as that Valia to humans. After all, we need one of them.'

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he said.

'If things come to this, we can try to kidnap one as we did with Frandin. This next Zasfin would just be a backup for when Frandin isn't available. We can leave the more serious parts to be under Frandin's control while we use the other weakling for common things.'

Frandin couldn't help but comment.

'Why do I feel like I'm an object?'

Malaka put a hand on his shoulder as she said.

'Don't worry, you're a useful object.'

Frandin's mouth twitched in response, feeling like kicking Malaka away. Sadly, he was too weak compared to her.

Roan ignored those two and continued.

'In any case, we won't come here to ask for Ye Portin's device anytime soon. We need time to get used to our own Soul Power, get Spirit Stones, train the side occupations, and so on.'

Qia totally agreed with Roan's words.

'I still need Frandin to go to the Formations Guild to take the test. After all, we need access to the records there as Roan did with him in the Alchemist Guild.'

Rean pondered for a bit before saying.

'We can't wait for too long either, though. Not if we intend to save the girls who helped us in the trial. We don't know when they might be swapped and what happens to those who are.'

Calina agreed with Rean as she said.

'At this very moment, one of them might be getting swapped by someone else. However, we can't barge in without being prepared.'

Roan glanced at Calina with a puzzled expression.

'We? It's fine that you know about the plan. However, I have no intention of using any of you except for Rean.'

Calina and the others were taken aback.

'Why?'

Rean agreed with Roan, though.

'Roan's right. Simply put, what good would it be if you come out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm? First of all, chances are that only Roan or I will be outside during the plan's duration. The other one will stay all the time in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm as well. With our cultivation, do you think there's any point in allowing you guys to come out?'

Calina, Qia, Malaka, and Agis immediately shut up. As for Frandin, he wasn't expecting to help with it to start with. If these humans at the Core Formation Realm and above can't do anything, then let alone him

and his Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation. His part was to help to find information that could bring the twins' group there, that's all.

Roan noticed the girls' expressions before saying.

'If you don't like it, we can also leave you behind. After we find a Zasfin to play the role of owner, you can simply go to a more remote place and wait there.'

Rean shook his head as he said in response.

'How will they hide their cultivation, then? Only you and I can use the Spiritual Sense Bending skill since it needs Light Element. Wherever they go, they won't be able to hide it from others. It's because we're here that they can't be felt.'

Roan had to admit that Rean was right.

However, Agis pondered for a bit before asking.

'As you know, my cultivation technique allows me to gather Yang Energy. Like Yin Energy allows you to control some Dark Element, Yang Energy will let me handle a limited amount of Light Element. Is it possible for me to learn how to use Light Element to bend Spiritual Sense?'

Rean pondered a bit over that question. His skill was anything but easy to use. Besides, he incorporated a little of his knowledge from his previous life to understand it. For example, the cultivators of this half of the Universe didn't know that Light was made of photons. That's why he never saw anyone using Light Element to bend Light. As for Spiritual Sense, it was used through one's soul, which had Life Force. Roan could feel that Life Force to a smaller extent because of the connection with Rean, but Frandin was different.

'Hmm... I would need to explain to you many things. Things that you never thought about before in your life. Not only you but no one in this entire world or our previous one either. Besides, even if you can manipulate some Yang Energy thanks to your cultivation technique, it pales to the amount Roan or I can manipulate. Naturally, the amount of Light Element you can pull towards you is limited. Last but not least, you never thought about using Light Element before. Your focus is Fire and Wind.'

However, Rean felt like he was struck by lightning as an idea popped into his mind while saying that.

'Right! That's right! How come I've never thought about that before? Rean, you're an idiot, idiot!'

Everyone became puzzled when they heard that.

'What's wrong?'

Rean couldn't help but feel extremely excited.

'So far, I only used the Element Gathering Smithing Methods for our weapons and armors. However, it doesn't necessarily have to be related to battling. I could, for example, create a collar that will gather Light Element when Spiritual Energy is poured inside. All our weapons already do that, after all.'

Roan understood what Rean wanted to say.

'Still, will Agis be able to control that?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

'Most of his Yang Energy would be used to gather Light Element, so it would be impossible. The fact that he can use his Yang Energy in his Fire Techniques is because he doesn't need it to gather Fire Element in the first place. He can do the same thing with Wind Element, but obviously not to the same extent as Fire Element.'

'However, Light and Dark Elements are considered a separation of the main Five Elements. Without Yang or Yin Energy, it's not possible to control those two. Unless, of course, you're born with their affinities, as did Roan and I. You all know that, right?'

Everyone nodded and waited for Rean to continue.

'That's where the main issue exists. Usually, Agis would use his Yang Energy to increase the power of his Fire Element. However, if he wants to manipulate the Light Element, he will first need to use Yang Energy to gather it. It's not something that comes at him automatically like Fire and Wind Element. Because of that, he will be too busy controlling his Yang Energy to keep gathering Light Element, not to mention that it would be very limited. He wouldn't be able to spare time to control it... Well, at least not to the level necessary to use my skills.'

'However, if he doesn't need to care about gathering the Light Element, he can use all the Yang Energy to control the Light Element instead. That's where Elemental Gathering Equipment comes in. Do you have any ideas how many roads have just opened for my blacksmith skills? Although it wouldn't be at the same level as Roan or me, others can still use them to a certain extent. That means Malaka, Calina, Agis, Qia, and even Frandin could use Spiritual and Light Bending skills. Even Roan's Dark Element Skills aren't out of the question.'

Everyone was shocked by Rean's idea. However, once they thought about it, they had to admit he was right. The problem was the gathering of Elements. If Rean could cut that part out, only the manipulation remained.

Nevertheless, Frandin lifted his hand.

'Errr... You have been talking about Yin and Yang Energy nonstop. However, what's that?'

Only then did they remember that cultivation techniques that allowed one to control Yin and Yang Energy were very rare treasures. In their case, Calina and Malaka got it because of their connection to the Sasamil Imperial Family. Naturally, they had access to it.

As for Agis, his Master was still a Nascent Soul Realm Fire Element user who paid a fortune for his cultivation technique. He then passed it down to Agis because of his Red Color aptitude and his effort into training.

However, Frandin came from a very small city. Not to mention that in this world, there was a lack of Spiritual Energy. That made the techniques that could control those energies far rarer. Someone who came from such a small city couldn't possibly have access to something like that.

Malaka couldn't help but ask.

'Errrr... would he be able to use Agis's cultivation technique? After all, Frandin's Lightning Element Affinity is Yang Type.'

Agis immediately shook his head as he replied.

'Impossible. This Yang Energy Technique of mine needs very high Fire Element Affinity. Without it, I wouldn't be surprised if he got a cultivation backlash instead. No, he will most likely suffer from it, no doubt.'

Rean agreed with Agis.

'The Fire Element and Yang Energy Technique I got from Ancestor Zuan is just as oppressive. He definitely needs a Yang Energy Technique made for Lightning Affinity users. Besides, he's a Zasfin, while our techniques were made for humans. Giving him any of our methods will just be a perfect recipe for disaster.'

Frandin bitterly smiled after hearing that. It seems like that was out of the question for him.

'Well, don't mind me. I can think about something else la-'

It was then that he thought up of a possibility.

'What if... I use my 'status' as a Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark Owner to request it from one of these clans?'

Everyone looked at Frandin in surprise.

'That... might really work...'

Death... and me

Chapter 626: As You Wish!

The day quickly passed. During the night, Valia came to see Frandin. However, because Roan and the girls were still there, she couldn't bring herself to do anything extra. The following day, Frandin bid his farewells to the Portin Clan members and left with Roan's group.

However, there were quite a few people who seemed to be waiting for him outside. After all, it didn't take long for the others to realize that Frandin would come here sooner or later. It's just that Xiria and her uncle had noticed it faster.

Everyone flocked around him, asking to have some time to talk. They all wanted to know more about this 'Celestial Land member.' Roan and the girls ended up being pushed aside due to this.

Fortunately, there was a group from the Asume Clan in the area.

"Young Friend Gian, we came to bring you to the Asume Clan as we've discussed previously."

Everyone was taken aback while Frandin sighed in relief. Of course, he kept his aloof expression as he agreed.

"Good! Bring me there. I have some things to talk about with the Asume Clan as well."

The rest of the people around couldn't help but feel curious. What is it that he needed to talk with Asume? Could it be that the same thing happened with the Portin Clan? In that case, could they also be included if it was a good thing?

However, Frandin quickly left with Roan and the girls, ignoring the incessant pleading of the Zafins to talk with him. It was way too much attention to his taste.

In the Portin Clan, Xiria was already waiting at the front gate together with a few more girls of the clan. Alongside them, there were also a few female human assistants that accompanied those female Zafins. They all bowed to Frandin, showing their respect.

"Welcome, Gian."

Frandin's group felt like they were exaggerating a little but decided to not comment on it. Frandin was then the first one to talk.

"Well, then. I came because of your invitation. What is it that you wanted from me?"

Xiria smiled before she looked at her own female human assistant.

"Lilia, give him the item."

"Yes, Lady Xiria."

She then passed it to Frandin before Xiria asked.

"Can you please check if you can recognize this item?"

Frandin and the others had puzzled expressions on their faces.

Frandin then opened the bag and saw a translucent crystal inside. As soon as Frandin saw that, he gasped in shock. That's because he could feel the rich Soul Energy Power inside. However, this was the first time he ever saw something like this. Obviously, he couldn't recognize the item.

Frandin was just about to tell Xiria that he had no idea when suddenly, he received a Spiritual Sense Message from Roan.

'This is a test. The Asume Clan wants to see if you really are who they think you are. Do you remember? The Portin Clan thinks that you came from the Celestial Lands and are pretty sure about it. However, this Asume Clan is being more cautious. If I'm not wrong, they expect you to know what it is.'

Frandin felt a chill on his back. However, he already got used to this kind of situation, so it didn't appear on his face. After some time, he looked at Xiria with a serious expression and used a Spiritual Sense message to talk to her.

'I didn't think I would see something like this in this city. Even with my status, I was only able to get three of them during my life. Tell me, where did you find it?'

That was a huge lie. However, Frandin spoke in a tone that made it hard to believe he was doing that.

Xiria narrowed her eyes for a moment but quickly smiled once again.

'We just found it. It's exactly because of your status that we decided to ask you about it. Can you tell me this item's name and use?'

Frandin nodded, seeming to not care too much.

'I don't know what you call it here, but we call them Soul Stones back in my home. They can help a lot in strengthening your Soul Power as long as you know how to use them. Let me warn you, though. If you try to absorb it directly, you're in for quite some trouble.'

Frandin said all of that without care... or so it seemed on the surface. Deep inside, he was using Roan, the girls, Rean, Agis, and even Sister Orb to help him guess what it was about. In the end, the one who gave him an answer was Sister Orb. Just a moment ago, Sister Orb's voice echoed in his mind thanks to the fact that Roan was close to him.

[I have an idea. I've been watching you using your Soul Power so far, so there's no mistake. After Rean and Roan gained the Soul Mark and manifested their Soul Energy, I could finally use my connection to them to analyze it. Thanks to that, I can now sense Soul Power as well. This Stone is very similar to a Spirit Stone, just that it has Soul Power instead. Rean and Roan could definitely benefit from its use.]

Sister Orb warned Frandin, though.

[However, there's a huge issue with this Stone. The Soul Power inside is too chaotic. I don't know how the Soul Power of Zasfins works. Still, I'm pretty sure that if a Zasfin tries to absorb this, they'll suffer quite a terrible backlash. Malaka, Qia, Calina, and Agis would be no exception. Rean and Roan might be able to do it because they have the Soul Gem System's Support, but it would still be a gamble. I need more time to analyze Soul Power before I can use something like this Stone.]

It was thanks to that Spiritual Sense Message that Frandin was able to say something.

Xiria's eyes brightened when Frandin said that. She wasn't surprised that Frandin could tell that this was a Soul Stone. After all, any Zasfin would understand that it had some relations to Soul Power. They would all feel compelled to absorb its power. If Frandin had said just it, she would definitely doubt he had any background whatsoever.

However, when he said that one needed a correct method to use this Stone, especially that it would cause great damage if used carelessly, she confirmed that he was the real deal. The name of the Stone itself didn't matter since it would be normal for it to have different names in different places. The world was big, after all.

Frandin was right. It was quite a rarity for this Soul Stone to appear in a place like this. Xiria heard from her father that even the Imperial Family would rarely ever get ahold of one. Only their top geniuses would ever have the chance of using it. If not for a stroke of luck from their ancestor, their clan would have never put their hands on it or maybe even heard of this thing.

It was also because one of their clan members tried to use it that they knew about the backlash. It was a very well-known story that the Asume Clan's genius, Byalan Asume, damaged his Soul Power. No one knew how it happened, though. It's just that the genius went from a prominent position in the clan and the city all the way to the bottom feeders.

Of course, Frandin's group didn't know such a thing had happened in the past.

Frandin then concluded his words with his voice this time.

"However, don't ask me how these Stones came to be. I have no idea, nor did I ever ask. The elders back home seemed pretty serious about not disclosing much information about it."

Xiria was more than satisfied with that. To be more specific, she was a lot more interested in the method of usage that Frandin commented. For obvious reasons, they couldn't disclose that they had it here in the Asume Clan. However, if Frandin was someone from the Celestial Lands, he shouldn't low himself to the point where he wanted to rob them of the Stone. As for the other clans, that was more uncertain.

Xiria nodded as she made a decision.

"Please, young master Gian, come inside. We would like to hear more about it if you don't mind."

Frandin nodded and headed inside with Xiria as the guide. Just like the last time in the Portin Clan, Xiria brought Frandin to meet their elders. She also used a Spiritual Sense message to tell them that he passed the test.

The elders' eyes brightened when they heard about it and immediately greeted Frandin back.

"Welcome, young friend. You helped us a lot by telling us what that Stone was about—just one thing. I hope you will keep this information a secret from the other clans and organizations around."

Frandin laughed in response.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, I have no interest in your city's power struggle. I'm not staying for long anyway, so I don't care about what will happen in the future. At the very least, I can guarantee that I won't get involved in your disputes. Nonetheless, I have to congratulate you all. Even I was a little tempted by that item. Well, I don't need to fight for it, though. If I really need it, I have my ways to get another one."

The elders and the clan head sighed in relief after that. Finally, the clan head looked at Xiria before saying.

"Well then, little friend. Stay with us for a day so that we can entertain you. If you need anything, let us know."

Frandin nodded with a smile before Xiria brought him away. Just as they were about to leave the hall, Xiria's father sent her a Spiritual Sense message.

'Find out how to use the Stone. It will be for the clan and your own future.'

Xiria didn't need that message. She was already determined to find out how to use it.

Xiria then guided Frandin's group to a guest room together with her female human slaves. However, Frandin and the others didn't expect what would happen.

As soon as Xiria closed the door, she and the human girls all took their clothes off! They presented themselves clean in front of Frandin and the others. Frandin might have kept up his play so far, but even he couldn't help but gasp at that scene.

However, before he could even ask, Xiria grabbed both of his hands and put one of them on her breasts and the other on her 'special place.'

"Young Master Gian, you can use the other girls and me as you wish, so please tell us how to use the Stone."

She then went closer to his ears before whispering.

"By the way, we're all virgins."

Frandin almost passed out there and then.

Death... and me

Chapter 627: Really Convenient

Calina, Malaka, and Qia looked at the current situation with bright red faces. Those girls did that without even thinking about their presence. Everyone in Frandin's group was at a loss of words... with only one exception. Well, Roan really couldn't care less about it as long as they concluded their objective. As far

as he was concerned, Frandin can totally ravage those girls as much as he wished. He would simply ignore that and focus on something else.

Well, that was how he thought... for a second. Out of nowhere, a few more nude girls appeared behind Malaka, Qia, and... especially Calina.

"What are you waiting for? Join us as well."

The three girls felt like crying.

"Wait! What are you talking about?"

The human girls then laughed and spoke as if stating a fact.

"There's no need for you to pretend. It's obvious that Young Master Gian treats you so well because you take care of his needs every night. Come on, help us show how to please him with your experience."

Frandin wanted to cry already. Just now, he felt death energy coming in his direction. Obviously, that was Roan's cold eyes telling him to do something about it. Who dared to touch his Calina? If he didn't find a way to stop it soon enough, Roan would cut everyone's head.

'Bro! Why are you looking at me like it's my fault? I have nothing to do with it, I swear!'

Frandin quickly calmed down and pulled his hands back from Xiria's body. Well, the 'oh so soft' or the 'oh so wet' sensations covering his hands wouldn't disappear anytime soon. Nevertheless, he had to hold himself back. Why must the world reward and punish him at the same time? Such a cruel fate!

"Ahem... please, everyone. Put your clothes back on."

Xiria was taken aback, and so were the human girls around her. Could it be that he didn't think they were good enough? Well, someone from a Celestial Land shouldn't have issues in acquiring beauties to

sleep with, that's for sure. Nevertheless, Xiria was pretty confident in her looks, so she felt somewhat displeased by his refusal.

"Young Master, why wouldn't you accept this Xiria?"

Frandin let out a hint of cold sweat as he tried to ease his friend down there.

'Not accept you? Are you fucking kidding me?! I wouldn't be able to take a girl like you even in my dreams! Why didn't something like this happen back in Danve City? Oh well. Back then, this kind of noble girl would never offer her body to me, though. By the way, why are there so many human girls here? Do you think I'm one of those Zasfins who likes to sleep with their slave girls? I'm a Zasfin who loves female Zasfins, alright?! I have no interest in human girls!'

Of course, he didn't say those words aloud and kept them deep in his mind alone... together with the sensations in his hands that he wouldn't throw away even if someone killed him.

Frandin then got down and pulled Xiria's clothes up, covering her sensual body again... much to his disappointment. Oh, if only the situation was different...

He quickly recovered, though.

"How could I have no interest in such a beautiful Zasfin like yourself? However, you have committed a mistake here. I have never touched my human slaves. I only like to have them by my side as entertainment. Believe it or not, I'm not the type of Zasfin who likes to discharge their urges on them."

Malaka quickly nodded.

"Yes. So please, put your clothes back. Young Master has never touched us before. Besides, Calina and I are still virgins too!"

Calina's mouth twitched in response. Was there a need to bring out this information? Well, she was proud of the fact that she kept her body for Roan, though. Not that she would say it out loud.

However, the one most affected by Malaka's words was Qia.

'Hey, hey, hey! I'm still a virgin as well! Why are you excluding me from this?'

It was then that the scenes that happened back in the Sasamil Capital played in her head. As her loud and clear moans of pleasure while she was alone with Rean, who would believe that she was still a virgin? Besides, she lived a long time with Rean in the Dalamu Sect after that. To make sure other girls wouldn't try anything with him, Qia never attempted to clear up the misunderstanding that the two of them really didn't have sex.

Xiria was even more surprised when Malaka confirmed it. Everyone thought that Frandin (Gian) liked the human girls as a few Zasfins did. It also went both ways since she also heard of a few females who had a bit of interest in male humans and did it with them. It's just that it was a far rarer occurrence.

The girls around Xiria looked at her and couldn't help but ask.

"Lady Xiria, what should we do?"

Xiria's face suddenly went bright red now that she noticed she had misunderstood Frandin's taste. In the end, the pervert here wasn't Frandin but herself.

"What else? Quickly, put your clothes back on!"

All the human girls sighed in relief. Sure, they were playing the sex act. However, Xiria wasn't lying. They were all virgins. Obviously, they wouldn't do such a thing if it wasn't an order from their masters.

However, she now had a problem. Not only did she not satisfy Frandin, she even offended him by saying he liked to have sex with female humans.

"Young Master Gian, I'm... I'm sorry. I misunderstood you. Please, I'll do anything for you to forgive me."

Frandin wasn't paying attention to her, though. He was looking at Roan as if he was asking for his confirmation.

'Bro, this is okay, right? Please don't start a killing spree here. Your Calina is still pretty much intact, not to mention that they wouldn't be able to force her since she's a Core and Soul Fusion Realm expert.'

Roan then snorted in response but closed his eyes right after. Only then did Frandin sigh in relief. He averted a big crisis just now.

"Ahem... Lady Xiria, I'm not angry or anything. I've long since understood that other Zasfins would think that about me. However, who am I? I'm Gian Torio! Why should I care about what others think about me? I owe no explanation to anyone, so I never tried to clear things up either. Simply put, I don't care. Hahaha!"

Frandin then recovered his aloof instance and held Xiria's chin. He at least had to keep his airs for others to not doubt him.

"Of course, it goes without saying that you're really beautiful with and without clothes. I've been mesmerized."

Xiria, who thought she had everything in control before, almost exploded with embarrassment. Just what was that just now? Her heart raced to the point where she even had problems breathing. She then came back to herself and quickly stepped back.

"S-Stop playing with me. I know I was in the wrong at first, so don't do that, okay? But... Thank you for not taking this shameful action of mine to heart, Young Master Gian."

Deep inside Frandin's mind, only one word surfaced.

'Cute!'

On the outside, he just nodded and laughed.

"Hahaha! I'm joking, I'm joking."

The other human girls then got close to Xiria.

"Young lady, what do we do now?"

Xiria shook her head after that, trying to put the last scene on the back of her head before she patted some of the girls' heads.

"Sorry, girls. I know it was an unpleasant request, but our clan really needed it. I'll make it up for you and your families later even though nothing happened."

The girls shook their heads as one of them replied.

"Lady Xiria, there's no need. We were more than happy to help."

Xiria smiled and then sent the girls away after saying a few soothing words. However, when she looked at Frandin's group once more, she noticed the shocked expressions on their faces.

"Wh-What? Is something wrong?"

Even Roan seemed somewhat surprised. As mentioned in the past, it was useless to pretend in front of Roan. If one was lying, he would be able to tell. That's an ability he obtained after his countless years working as a Death Spirit. How many lies that ended someone's life has he seen? Even he couldn't remember.

Because of that, he could totally tell that Xiria wasn't pretending. She truly and sincerely apologized to the human girls just now. It was all legit!

Frandin couldn't help but ask in the end.

"I didn't know Lady Xiria took a bit of liking for the humans as well?"

Only then did Xiria remember about this issue. That's right. On the surface, she pretended to treat humans like all other high-class Zasfins of the city. But in reality, her clan treated the humans quite well. It's just that because of her failed plan, she forgot to maintain her facade regarding humans as before.

"This..."

However, after looking at Roan and the girls and then thinking about what just happened, she sighed before saying.

"Well... who am I trying to fool here? That's right, you can laugh as much as you want. My clan doesn't like to treat humans as slaves, okay? Not only humans, but we also treat our tamed demon beasts very well. Simply put, we're a clan that likes other living beings. The other powers know this as well. But since we don't stir any trouble, they don't care either."

Frandin's group shook their heads. Isn't this the exact type of clan or organization they had been looking for? Who could have guessed that they would bump into them before even going out to buy the information from the Dark Web?

Frandin then smiled before saying.

"Perhaps, this is fate."

Malaka, Qia, and Calina nodded in response. This was really convenient.

Death... and me

Chapter 628: Did you really care?

Xiria was puzzled by Frandin's words, prompting her to ask.

"What do you mean by that?"

Frandin shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"Oh, it's nothing. I just meant that we're quite similar. I do like my humans as well. Then again, I guess you've noticed that by now."

Xiria nodded as she said.

"I see..."

She then changed the topic as she asked.

"By the way, Young Master Gian. I wasn't lying before. We'll do anything in our power if we can get our hands on the method to use the Soul Stone."

Frandin bitterly smiled in response. Method? What method? He was truly lying about that part. He had no method whatsoever at hand. Well, there probably existed multiple methods out there, but neither of them had any idea on how to do it. The only ones who might be able to use it were Rean and Roan, but Sister Orb made it clear that it would be risky.

"Ahem... I think you're getting the wrong idea here. Sure, there's a method to use these stones, but the ones who know about it are my elders, not me. I only obtained the part regarding the absorption of the Soul Power. I asked them about it in the past, but those old geezers are pretty tight-lipped. Even if you beg, there's nothing I can do. In fact, I thought you guys would know something since you brought one out yourselves."

Xiria was taken aback for a moment. Didn't that mean she almost lost her virginity for nothing? Of course, she also considered that Frandin might be lying. It's just that it didn't look like he was lying that he didn't know the method.

"With that, you indeed bet your body on a lost cause. You should be grateful that I'm a magnanimous Zasfin. Hahaha!"

Xiria's expression went bright red after hearing that. Some anger could also be seen on her face. Then again, he could have put it in a better way, right? She then spread her Soul Power to check Malaka and Calina. She wanted to make sure that those two were also virgins, just like Frandin had mentioned. Obviously, she just checked if their hymens were intact. Sure enough, he was correct. Those two were also virgins.

"Sigh... I feel like an idiot."

Frandin shook his head as he replied.

"It's fine. The fact still stands that nothing happened. Besides, I had the chance to see your figure, so I'm quite happy already."

Roan and the others knew that Frandin was acting. His real personality was a lot more restrained and composed. However, Xiria didn't know that, so she felt a bit more furious as he kept mentioning the last event.

"C-Can you stop saying that? I'm already dying of embarrassment as it is. Anyway, I'm leaving."

Roan then glanced at Frandin, who understood his meaning. Not long after, Frandin called Xiria's attention before she left.

"Oh, by the way. There's something I would like to discuss with you or someone else in the clan with the same mind."

"What do you mean by that?"

Frandin then pointed at Roan and the girls.

"I want to make an offer to someone who treats humans like you do. Gender doesn't matter, but the Zasfin has to be ready to leave this city."

Xiria was taken aback once again, becoming silent after that.

"This..."

To be honest, her clan had no lack of Zasfins who thought the same way she did. Even the clan head was no exception. She realized that what Gian(Frandin) wanted was someone with a Rank Five Bloodline Mark. Whether it was an earned one or passed down by their elders didn't matter. In that case, she was also a possibility. However...

"What do you mean by leaving the city?"

Frandin then continued.

"I meant what I said. It has something to do with a very, very long journey. I told you, didn't I? I'm on a test given by my elders. Whoever I chose, he or she will have to come with me. Of course, I won't force anyone, so make sure that whoever you sent out is willing to move out."

"Also, let me be sincere here. It WILL be dangerous. However, with great risk comes great rewards, especially on the cultivation of Spiritual Energy and the Soul Power side. It's a give-and-take situation."

Xiria pondered over his statement for a bit before nodding.

"I need to talk with my father and the elders. However, we do have a lot of people, so someone would most likely try it. I'll make sure they understand that it will be very dangerous as well."

Frandin was satisfied with that answer.

"Very well. In exchange for this chance, I want to ask something from your clan as well."

Xiria nodded as she responded.

"As long as it isn't too overboard, we can see what we can do for you."

Frandin smiled with a satisfied expression as he said.

"That shouldn't be much of an issue. I have a Lightning Element Affinity, so I'm after a Lightning Element Cultivation Technique that allows gathering of Yang Energy. I'm trying to get as many of these as I can to work on a cultivation technique for myself."

The first part was true, while the second was just him blabbering away. After all, Frandin had no idea how to create a cultivation technique, let alone one with Yang Energy in the mix. Still, the second part was the part that made it look like Frandin's request wasn't a big deal with his status as a 'Celestial Land Member.'

Xiria narrowed her eyes as she pondered over it. Frandin made it look easy, but it was anything but that. If it was a Yin Energy technique, she might be able to do so, but Yang Energy cultivation techniques were rare in this world. As mentioned before, this was a world where everything was covered in ice almost all year long. The living beings adapted to that mostly have Yin-related affinities and elements.

"That... would be complicated. I'll need to talk with the others first."

Frandin wasn't in a hurry, so he just nodded in response. With that out of the way, he then entered the last topic.

"I still have one more thing to ask. I heard from the Portin Clan ancestor that they have a way to call the Soul Rulers out if they find a compatible human. Does your ancestor have something similar to that?"

Xiria was instantly confused. Soul Rulers? Compatible humans? What the hell was he talking about?

Frandin smiled in response, understanding that she was kept in the dark just like the other members of the Portin Clan.

"Don't worry, just tell someone else to pass this message to your ancestor. That's all."

This was a decision made in conjunction with Roan's group. If they could choose which clan to use for that, this Asume Clan was obviously a better choice.

Xiria nodded as she left the room with a pensive expression. She decided that she might as well ask what Frandin was talking about.

Frandin's group was then left alone in the room. Sister Orb already checked the room as well, and it was similar to what they got in the Portin Clan. Nevertheless, they only kept using Spiritual Sense messages just like before.

At the moment Xiria left, Calina couldn't hold back anymore.

'What were they thinking? They wanted Frandin to have sex with everyone?

Roan snorted as he replied.

'What do you think? Sex has always been a very strong driving force in the universe. Not only here, but in the other half as well. As far as I can see, it's a very effective strategy. I've seen it work way too many times. Besides, what's the problem? It's just some useless exchange of fluids with a very high reward if it works. If it doesn't, will you really lose anything?'

Qia immediately exclaimed.

'Of course, you will! She was giving away her virginity!'

Malaka and Calina nodded vigorously in response to Qia's words. For women, that was a very serious topic. Men also understood that point. Unfortunately, Roan had never cared about it before.

'Her virginity? What's the use of that? If you're afraid of losing this useless thing to someone you don't want, just get some hard rod and stick it inside. Done! You'll never have to care about it again. The only reason I have in mind for keeping it is in case you can exchange it like what Xiria was intending to do. As a bargaining chip, then I can agree it has some use.'

The girls, especially Calina, felt helpless.

However, Frandin saw a chance to finally get back at Roan.

'Hey, Roan. That doesn't make sense. If you really thought of it like that, why did you feel like killing everyone when they told Calina to join in on the sex party? When Xiria and the other human girls took off their clothes, you completely ignored all of that, not minding that at all. I don't believe you don't care that 'your' Calina would lose her virginity with just anyone.'

Qia and Malaka couldn't help but show a bright smile in response. As for Calina, she was the one to go bright red this time. Then again... she was happy... really, really happy since she didn't notice it before.

'Well done, Frandin!' thought the three girls in unison.

As for Roan, Dark Element began to radiate out of his body as he looked at Frandin like he was a dead man.

'Did you say something?'

Frandin looked away as if he didn't notice, though.

'The weather's quite nice outside if I do say so myself. Beautiful, right?'

Their room was located inside the Asume Clan estate. There were no windows, so it was obviously impossible to see the weather.

Calina then held Roan's hand while he was paying attention to Frandin.

Roan's killing intent instantly dissipated like smoke when that happened. He quickly changed the topic as if he didn't hear anything as well.

'Indeed, the weather's very nice.'

It was a shame that Rean wasn't here. He definitely would have loved it. Of course, Sister Orb made sure to report everything to him, knowing his personality.

Death... and me

Chapter 629: Soul Stones Creation Method

There are no windows, so how can you see the fucking weather...or so Calina wanted to say... But that more or less answered her question already, so she was still happy. She couldn't help but agree with Roan as she said with a bright smile.

"Indeed. If I remember correctly, it's already spring, no?"

Excluding Roan, who didn't get the remark, everyone understood what Calina meant by that.

Frandin then changed the topic to talk about what was happening here. Of course, he returned to using Spiritual Sense.

'Anyway, what do you think about Xiria?'

Roan mentally sighed in relief as he immediately answered.

'Her performance wasn't a lie. She really cared about those girls who came in with her. I can definitely tell you that much.'

Qia also didn't mind the topic change. It was not good to force things, especially when it came to a 'rock' like Roan.

'The question is whether everyone in that clan thinks like that or not. However, I don't believe Xiria would grow up to be like that in a place where everyone thought differently. You can see that through Valia and the other ZASFINS.'

Malaka agreed with Qia as she responded.

'Exactly. However, it seems like these Soul Stones are really, really important for the Zasfins. Well, at least for the high-level ones who know of its existence.'

Rean was more interested in another thing. Sure enough, he joined in on the conversation when it entered the serious topics through Sister Orb and Roan.

'That's not what I care about at the moment. Instead, I want to know how Soul Stones came to be. Unlike Spirit Stones, Soul Stones don't have a constant supply of Spiritual Energy that allows them to appear over many years of exposure. Soul Power only exists because of the soul, but would someone pour Soul Power into stones for tens, if not hundreds of years, just to create a single stone?'

Rean then asked Frandin.

'Frandin, how long can you keep releasing your Soul Power at maximum power?'

Frandin pondered for a bit and soon manifested his Soul Power around his body. He didn't care about controlling it, releasing as much Soul Power as he could. Around two minutes later, he stopped as his head spun in dizziness. Surprisingly, he was still conscious and lucid enough to answer Rean.

'That's about it. Two minutes. Back then, I couldn't keep it even for 30 seconds, so I've improved a lot.'

Rean nodded as he said.

'As I thought. It seems like such a method of creating Soul Stones is simply not worth it. Many Zasfins with very high Soul Power would be necessary. I don't know how many stones they would be able to nurture, but it wouldn't be many, let alone using Zasfins like Frandin.'

Agis had a puzzled expression on his face as he asked.

'But Soul Stones do exist, right? Since it exists, it means it's worth making them. Although only the high echelon knows of their existence.'

Sister Orb then added her piece, saying.

[They definitely have a way to use it. To be honest, as long as I finish analyzing the Soul Power, I might use the system to formulate a method. How long have these Zafins and their Soul Power existed? They definitely thought up of a way to use it already.]

Rean agreed with Sister Orb.

'Yes, and that's what makes it even weirder. Since they have a way to use it, then they have a way to create them in bulk at less time.'

It was after this statement that Qia's eyes widened! As a Formation Master who also began to comprehend Soul Runes, she knew where Rean was coming from.

'No, no, no! That can't be! They can't do that! They can't be that crazy, right!'

Other than Qia, Roan was the only other person to understand Rean's train of thought.

'I see... There's no proof, but I agree that it is possible.'

At that point, Calina, Malaka, and Agis had lost their patience, prompting one of them to ask.

'Can you tell us already what you three are talking about? You're putting us in suspense!'

Qia didn't even dare say it, but Roan didn't care about such things, indifferently saying.

'Humans with pure souls are used to control the Bloodline Trial Formations. Once they can't do that anymore, they are swapped, and the kids there never know what happened to them. If Rean's theory is

right, their Souls are used to create these Soul Stones once they're out. In fact, that would explain why the Soul Power inside the Soul Stone was as chaotic as Sister Orb mentioned.'

Roan then continued.

'Without Soul Purity, creating these stones would probably be extremely hard. Also, it has to be human souls since they're a lot weaker than Zasfin souls. Only at such a level of weakness would allow the Soul Power in these stones to be used. Simply put, it's an easier type of Soul Energy to absorb.'

Even Frandin was taken aback by that. It felt far crueler than what happened to the human sacrifices in the Bloodline Trial Grounds. Then again, Frandin already said that he didn't care about other humans because of their predispositions as slaves. That being said, if even he was affected by that information, let alone Calina and the others.

'Th-Then... That Soul Power in the Soul Stone was...'

Rean nodded as he sighed, saying.

'Yes, there's a possibility that one of those kids' souls was used to make it. They have the necessary purity to make the energy easy to be converted into your own. Without impurities, there aren't backlashes. The chaotic part was probably because of the time they spent sacrificing the humans in the Bloodline Trial Grounds. Would you be able to keep your sanity if you kept doing it for years before being swapped?'

Roan nodded as he continued.

'Not to mention that the method of transforming someone into a Soul Stone is anything but pleasant. Only weak and very pure human souls should have the necessary qualifications to become that.'

Calina, Malaka, and Qia gritted their teeth in rage. However, Rean laughed soon after to soothe the mood as he hastily interrupted their trains of thought.

'Hey, hey, hey! You're getting angry for no reason.'

The girls were taken aback.

'What?! How can you say that?!'

Rean then explained the obvious.

'Did you forget? This is just a theory of mine. Chances are high that I'm wrong. After all, I'm just considering the worst-case scenario here. We know way too little about Soul Power, let alone Soul Stones. Who said I was absolutely right?'

That was true. Everything was nothing more than Rean's speculations. Besides, they couldn't confirm it even if they wanted to.

Death... and me

Chapter 630: Was it that obvious?!

They could think about the topic another time. For now, it was better for them to focus on the task in front of them.

'We can verify this theory once we find the place they're being contained in. For now, let's wait and see who the Asume Clan will send out.'

Agis then asked something else.

'How about control? Can you trust the person they select? Sure, I know that they don't hate humans. However, that doesn't mean that they would want to betray the Zasfin Race. You better remember that our path is at odds with their race as well.'

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

'What else can we do? I'll just have whoever they send eat one of my poison pills. If they don't want to die, they'll have to keep quiet.'

Frandin narrowed his eyes as he said in response.

'But if their pride is big enough, they might ignore the fact that they can die and reveal everything regardless.'

Rean didn't seem to care, saying.

'It's fine. After all, we're humans. Zasfins will never put too much attention on us, especially on our cultivation. After all, humans at the Core Formation and Core and Soul Fusion Realms can easily be found in the Decadence Region and similar places. Chances are high that they will think we found a way to escape from there. That's all.'

'Also, we don't need to talk about our plan either. Don't forget that we have a place in the Dimensional Realm to keep the person they chose.'

Frandin sighed as he remembered the jail he was kept in when he was first captured. That thing didn't allow one to see outside, so he didn't even know he was in a separate dimension to start with. Besides, Sister Orb could control the dimension, not allowing any Spiritual Energy to enter that place. Escaping was simply not an option.

'Since you have all of that covered, I won't say anything else.'

Somewhere else in the Asume Clan, there was a woman cultivating in a private chamber. Ripples of Soul Power and Spiritual Energy escaped her body even though she absorbed even more from the Spirit Stones around her. If the twins could see her, they would be able to tell that she was definitely in the Soul Forging Realm.

Just as that woman was deeply engrossed in her cultivation, someone knocked on the door.

"Enter."

The door opened as another girl entered the room together with a man. They were Xiria and her father, who came to talk about Frandin's request.

"Ancestor Sumeri, sorry for bothering you during your cultivation."

Sumeri shook her head, not minding it too much.

"It's fine. I was about to finish it in a few days anyway. Anyway, what is it? Did something happen?"

Xiria's father then looked at Xiria and nodded, letting Xiria talk.

"Ancestor, it's like this..."

Xiria then explained what Frandin(Gian) wanted and his offer to the clan. At first, Sumeri wasn't too concerned. She was even willing to agree since having one of their members following a Celestial Land Disciple might bring them great benefits, especially someone as talented as Frandin(Gian). She was even more satisfied since he identified the Soul Stone and even used it in the past. Unfortunately, he didn't have the method to use it himself.

However, when she heard the request regarding the Soul Rulers and their Soul Purity search, she narrowed her eyes. Obviously, she was also tasked to look for humans who were within the threshold.

"Are you sure that he asked that?"

Xiria nodded as she answered.

"Yes. Gian said that all I needed to do was to pass this message to you."

Sumeri pondered over it for a bit before saying.

"Alright. Tell Gian that we do have a method to call the Soul Rulers as long as he has a compatible human. In fact, this is the same method everyone else uses in the city."

Xiria and her father couldn't help but ask what these Soul Rulers were. Sumeri pondered for a bit and decided to tell them what she knew. Of course, she also warned them not to spread this information. Naturally, those two were shocked that such an organization existed.

Sumeri ignored their surprise, though.

"Also, tell him that we want to take part in it. Such a human would give great benefits to our clan. If he isn't against that, I'll be more than happy to comply."

Xiria was taken aback by that.

"Ancestor, you're speaking as if you don't mind sacrificing one of our servants for that."

Sumeri sighed in response when she heard that.

"It looks terrible, doesn't it? However, you shouldn't underestimate the Soul Rulers. If they find out that we tried to hide a human with the right properties, our clan would be as good as gone. That's not something we can risk even though we like them. Remember, the clan is still the higher priority. Besides, this single human sacrifice would help many others that we would be able to take under our wings. Since that's the case, I might as well get as many benefits from it as possible."

Xiria and her father nodded even though their expressions didn't seem that happy. As much as they treated the humans well, they couldn't risk the clan's existence because of that.

"I understand. I shall inform Gian about it."

Xiria's father, Laun Asume, then asked something else.

"Ancestor, is it fine to trust him that easily?"

Sumeri shrugged her shoulders as she replied.

"Anyone who knows of such information is definitely a bigshot. As you mentioned, I'm pretty sure Gian is part of one of the Celestial Lands. Considering how well he treats his humans, I wouldn't be surprised if he came from the Unity Celestial Land."

Xiria and Laun nodded after hearing that. They also knew the rumors about Unity Celestial Land, the one that accepted humans. That would make a lot of sense considering Frandin's way of treating humans.

Sumeri then smiled at Xiria as she said.

"You're quite lucky, Xiria. You almost lost your virginity for nothing."

Xiria felt embarrassed, so did her father. He also accepted that request from the clan head, after all. Sumeri didn't blame them, though. Getting the method to use the Soul Stone would definitely have been worth it.

Xiria then quickly changed the topic.

"B-By the way, who should we select to follow him? He did ask for someone willing to follow him, after all."

Sumeri looked at Xiria with a puzzled expression as she asked in response.

"Why are you asking that when it's obvious that you want to be the one to follow him?"

Xiria's face went even redder as she asked in a stammering manner.

'W-was it that obvious?!'