

Death 631

Death... and me

Chapter 631: The Final Decision

Laun looked at Xiria with surprise as he instantly rejected the idea.

"What?! No can do! You might not have the necessary talent like Dilan or Tuc, but you're my only daughter. Besides, even though you're just a little worse off than those ones, you're still a very talented member of our clan. There's no way that your mother or I would let that happen! Who knows what that guy will try to do to you? Forget it!"

It turns out that Laun had always been a very protective father. If the Soul Stone wasn't extremely important to the clan and Frandin wasn't a Celestial Land Disciple, he would never allow Xiria to try that. Well... that was regarding his daughter. As for his two sons, he was very strict with the two of them. Dilan just so happened to be Xiria's older brother.

However, Xiria quickly explained.

"Father, he had me right on his palm and could do anything he wanted. For the sake of knowing how to use the Soul Stone, I wouldn't have resisted at all. Also, he understood that we wouldn't do anything to him even if he didn't know the method. However, he still didn't touch me and stopped everyone from continuing. You have to give him this much credit at least."

Laun's dark expression didn't disappear as he said.

"Still..."

However, Sumeri intervened right after.

"What I want to know is whether you think you can trust him or not. Xiria, from what you've seen so far, what can you say about him?"

Xiria pondered over the question a bit and then explained.

"He always acts high and aloof. However, I haven't heard about him doing anything bad in the city. The only thing I can tell is that he got into an argument against Valia from the Portin Clan."

"An argument? Why? Didn't he go to the Portin Clan earlier?"

Laun then explained what they found, which left Sumeri quite surprised.

"I see... he got into an argument for the sake of his humans. That's really unexpected. We don't bring our humans into Zasfin establishments to avoid these kinds of problems, but he didn't care about that. He totally defended his own. Why do I feel like he treats his humans even better than us?"

Xiria and Laun couldn't answer that, deciding to ask.

"What does Ancestor mean by that?"

Sumeri shook her head as she replied.

"Oh, nothing. It's just that these humans accompanying him seem more important to him than what we initially thought. Of course, that's a good thing. At least, our beliefs match each other. I'm especially satisfied that he did say it would be very dangerous to whoever wants to follow him. On top of that, he also gave us the option to refuse if we wanted to."

Laun snorted as he said.

"Ha! That's just because he can recruit anyone in the other clans even if we don't choose anyone."

Sure enough, he still didn't like the idea.

However, Xiria shook her head as she refuted her father's words.

"That's not it. What Gian wants is someone who won't mistreat his humans. How many clans do you know that have Zafins like us?"

"This..."

He could definitely find some poor families who treated their human slaves well. They were rare, but considering the size of the city, they existed. However, finding a clan with as much authority as theirs with the same thoughts was another story. He wouldn't be surprised if they were the only big power in the city that didn't think about humans as nothing but slaves.

Sumeri smiled at Xiria before commenting.

"You seem to trust him quite a lot. Why is that? Could it be that you really took a liking for the man? Don't forget, he's from the Celestial Lands, so you probably wouldn't even have a chance since he has so many better options."

Xiria immediately shook her head. What was it? Love at first sight? Those things only happened in books.

"That's not it!"

Laun was even more displeased now, saying.

"That's right! Anyway, you can't go with him."

Sumeri shrugged her shoulders as she changed the topic.

"Well, if you say so. Then, who would you send in Xiria's stead? Even though it's dangerous, it's also an enormous opportunity. If it allows the selected clan member to join a Celestial Land, that would be even better."

Xiria immediately raised her hand as she said.

"Ancestor's right. I want to go myself!"

Laun was taken aback as he instantly shouted.

"What?! Didn't you hear what I said?!"

Xiria didn't seem to care, though.

"You said it yourself, father. I'm not at the level of Zasfins like Tuc and my older brother. If we put other clans in the mix, I can only be considered good at best, but far from the top. I don't want to let this chance slip from my fingertips! He's someone who passed the Rank Five Bloodline Trial on his own. As long as I survive, I can definitely benefit from accompanying him. Even if you refuse, I won't let it go. My only doubt was whether ancestor would accept it or not."

Laun immediately looked at Sumeri and said.

"Ancestor, you said it yourself. It is indeed a great opportunity. In that case, isn't it better to have one of our top geniuses go? He did say that gender doesn't matter, right? Then, my son, Dilan, would definitely accept it."

Xiria was enraged as she couldn't help but say.

"Father, you're too shameless. You just said that my talent was too high to be wasted, but now you're offering Big Brother Dilan? You're contradicting yourself!"

Laun threw caution to the wind.

"So what? I don't want to give my daughter to the wolves. If I have to be shameless, I will do so with open arms."

Sumeri massaged her forehead. She couldn't say she understood Laun since she had never married. She became the ancestor of the Asume Clan due to her putting all of her time into Soul and Spiritual Energy cultivation. That being said, she didn't have a son or a daughter to lose like him.

"Alright, that's enough, you two. There's an easy way to resolve this."

Luan and Xiria looked at Sumeri, waiting for her idea.

"Have Gian Torio decide. Give him a list of members from our clan who would want to go and have him meet them. Whoever he chooses to take in the end shall be the clan's choice. Understood?"

Laun and Xiria nodded, agreeing with the idea. It's just as Sumeri mentioned. The final decision would still be Gian's. From the looks of it, he didn't care who it was as long as he or she had the Bloodline Soul Mark.

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Chapter 632: Selection

Xiria headed back to Frandin's room and took a deep breath. After some time, she knocked on Frandin's door.

"Come in."

She quickly went inside and saw Frandin sitting in a corner, cultivating. Not only him, but it seemed like his humans were also doing the same, which surprised Xiria. Of course, she still couldn't feel their cultivation due to Roan's Spiritual Sense bending skill.

"Do you also allow your humans to cultivate?"

Frandin smiled at her as he replied with a question.

"Is that a problem? Could it be that you guys like your humans but are afraid of them revolting?"

Xiria immediately shook her head as she responded.

"Of course not. I refuse to believe that you didn't notice that quite a few of our humans are in the Body Transformation Stage. Some have even reached the Energy Gathering Realm. However, I didn't expect that you'd allow your humans to do it. Though, why can't I feel their cultivation?"

Usually, one wouldn't feel someone else's cultivation for two reasons. First, they didn't have any cultivation. Second, their cultivation was much higher. Of course, it was also possible to open your cultivation for viewing, but people normally didn't do that.

The problem was that they were cultivating, but she couldn't feel anything from them. Just like Frandin, she was in the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, so she could feel his cultivation. She definitely didn't believe Roan's group had higher cultivation than her.

Frandin then explained to her.

"You won't be able to feel it. No one will. All I can tell you is that this is a secret technique my elders passed onto me. However, you can guess why I'm doing this, right?"

Xiria was taken aback for a moment and immediately began to ponder over the issue. Sure enough, it only took a second for her to understand.

"I see... If the humans with cultivation walk out in the open, they will attract a lot of attention. Although there are a few who allow their humans to cultivate, they aren't many. The best option is to hide it. It will prevent a lot of problems that way."

Frandin nodded, satisfied with her answer.

"It's good that you know. Anyway, how did it go?"

Frandin didn't tell what cultivation Roan's group was at, nor did Xiria ask. For her, the fact that Frandin had such a high-level cultivation concealing technique was another positive point. It made it more obvious that he was truly from a Celestial Land. Frandin wasn't about to try to fix that notion either.

"Oh, that's right. I talked with our ancestor, and she said that as long as you include the clan in this deal, she will comply with it."

"She? Your ancestor is a woman?"

Xiria nodded as she smiled in response. Although it wasn't anything rare to see high-level female cultivators, they usually didn't like the title of 'Ancestor.' After all, everyone always thought of them as someone very old, and women definitely didn't like to hear that.

"She is. Anyway, she said she has access to the Soul Purity Test for humans you want."

Frandin laughed as he asked her.

"Hahaha! It seems like she told you a little bit about the Soul Rulers, huh?"

Xiria nodded, responding.

"She did. I didn't think that such a thing existed. However, we shouldn't talk about it, right?"

Frandin agreed with her.

"Indeed. Anyway, as long as she accepts it, then so be it. What about my partner?"

Xiria then explained.

"Everything is fine. She agreed to gather the people who wish to go with you. I'll come by later to bring you the list."

Frandin was even more satisfied now.

"Great. Let me know when you're ready."

Later that day, Frandin was brought to another place in the clan. There, he found many ZASFINS who had varying cultivation levels and ages. Sure enough, those were the ones who decided to take the risk to go out with him. Laun, Xiria, and the elders also made sure that these ones were also of the same opinion about humans. After all, it was not because the clan liked humans that everyone had the same ideology. That being said, quite a few, who were influenced by the outside, didn't like humans either. Of course, those ones were definitely not present at the moment.

All of them had their cultivations wide open. That meant that even if some of them had cultivations higher than Frandin, he would be able to tell what level it is. Frandin then used his Spiritual Sense to tell Roan's group about their cultivation.

Xiria then took the chance and brought everyone forward to introduce themselves.

"Hi! I'm Vitan Asume, A Middle Stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator."

"I'm Ophel Asume, 32 years old. I'm in the Initial Stage."

"As for me..."

There was a total of twenty-one ZASFINS present. Quite a few of them were accompanied by their own human servants. Just as Xiria had commented, these humans all had their own cultivation, mostly in the Body Transformation or Energy Gathering Realm. For Roan's group, that was a good sign.

Since Qia was there with them, she was also able to analyze their Slave Collars. All humans she saw in the state so far were using them, including these ones. However, she could tell that they were all fake ones that posed no threat whatsoever. It was all just a pretense for other visitors. After all, the clan also received many ZASFINS for several reasons: business, agreements, discussions, etc. They still had to keep up their appearances.

With that, all of them presented themselves.

"I see, so it's these twenty-one people."

Xiria shook her head as she corrected him.

"It's twenty-two."

She then bowed and once again introduced herself.

"I'm Xiria Asume, Late Stage Foundation Establishment Zasfin, 27 years old."

Frandin's group was surprised to see that. When they asked for a Zasfin to follow them, they were expecting someone with less importance. After all, he didn't say what they would be going through after this.

"Oh! So you're also a candidate, huh? However, that won't give you any type of advantage in this selection. Are you okay with that?"

Xiria nodded as it improved the moods of the others. They thought that because Xiria was there, their chances were low, but it seemed like they were wrong.

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Chapter 633: What Did He Mean By That?

"Selection?"

Frandin nodded as he replied.

"But of course. After all, I have to be fair to everyone, right?"

Fair? That's not exactly a common word in this world.

Frandin then looked at everyone with his prideful expression and began to explain.

"As I mentioned to Xiria before, this task you're going to embark on is anything but easy. There will be dangers, A LOT of them. Truth be told, I would be surprised if you didn't survive for more than a few months."

Someone couldn't help but ask.

"Why is that?"

Frandin snorted before taking out several pieces of paper. On it, one could see nothing more, nothing less than his own training schedule, which Roan wrote with his help. As everyone read through it, their blood went cold. Wasn't that practically suicide?

"Afraid? Unwilling? Unbelievable? Know that I've always been following this type of training. Do you think I have some great Soul Power Talent or amazing Cultivation Aptitude and Elemental Affinity?"

Frandin then pointed to a guy on his side, asking him.

"You, what's your Cultivation Aptitude? Also, how much was your Soul Power when you were born? I'm sure your parents told you that before. A clan of this size would definitely record that."

The guy was taken aback. His name was Maiozen Asume, one of the candidates trying to join Frandin.

"Y-Yes. I have a Blue Color Cultivation Aptitude. Also, I was born with 92 Soul Power Points."

Frandin nodded and pointed at the next one.

"I have a Green Color Cultivation Aptitude and was born with 87 Soul Power Points."

Frandin kept asking everyone there the same question. Xiria obviously had to answer that as well.

"I have a Blue Color Cultivation Aptitude, and I was born with a relatively high Soul Power Point of 102."

Frandin then laughed out as he said.

"So, it turns out that the majority of you have better Cultivation Aptitude and Soul Power Talent than me. I have a Yellow Aptitude Color and was born with 73 Points of Soul Power."

As soon as Frandin said that, everyone's eyes in the room widened. Let alone being considered a genius, Frandin was at most an above-average Zasfin. However, how come he had such high cultivation and Soul Power Points?

"Surprised? Thinking that I'm lying? Definitely not. I only have one thing you all don't have, the will to stake everything into cultivation. By following this kind of training, I have higher cultivation than any of you had or will have at my age."

After that, Frandin's Bloodline Soul Mark, the real earned one, shone on his forehead.

"I was also able to improve my Soul Power enough to pass the Rank Five Bloodline Trial. In the end, it only means that you're all a bunch of scaredy cats. There no such thing as a genius when it comes to my talent. But all of you are not my match."

Bang!

Frandin then hit the table with his palm, right where the paper with his training schedule was located.

"Do you want to follow me? Do you want to get a chance to get stronger? That's fine since I need help. However, you better be prepared. This is the kind of life that awaits you ahead. Hell-like training with a high chance of death at each corner. If you persist, I wouldn't be surprised even if you surpass me. If you don't... Hehe! I don't think the demon beasts out there will refuse a free meal."

The candidates were not the only ones to see that. The clan head, Xiria's father, and a few elders were also present. Surprisingly, even they considered Gian's (Frandin's) training schedule terrifying! Little did

they know that Frandin wasn't the only one. In fact, his training schedule was still quite lenient. Compared to what Roan prepared for the girls, Rean, Agis, and Frandin had it easy. Of course, that was because Roan was adapting the schedule on how to train with Soul Power. Soon enough, Frandin's routine wouldn't be any easier than theirs now that he got Soul Power.

Frandin saw the fear in everyone's eyes, including Xiria. That made him feel very satisfied while he thought.

'Yes! Now you know how much I suffered! Hahaha! I will finally have someone to share my pain with! Today is such a great day!'

Nevertheless, the thing that impressed them more than anything else was that Gian(Frandin) was simply not anyone special. Except for a few, the majority had both cultivation aptitude and soul power talents that were higher than his. Of course, because of that, they thought that Gian might be lying.

Roan noticed what these candidates were thinking, so he sent Frandin a Spiritual Sense Message.

Following that, Frandin took out an Aptitude Measurement Orb and put his hand on it. Sure enough, the yellow color, in the end, proved that he wasn't joking. He really wasn't anything special.

"Now, then. To those who are afraid of dying, step back. I have no intention of helping scaredy cats."

Everyone's expressions changed nonstop. As expected, one Zasfin after another began to retreat. From the twenty-two Zasfins that were there at first, only five of them remained. The rest simply didn't think they could survive such a crazy style of life.

Laun's face went dark when he saw that, though. That's because, between the five that remained, his daughter was also there. However, he couldn't push her back now in front of Gian. The fact that Gian wasn't as talented as they thought only gave them more confidence that he was anything but simple. Perhaps only someone as crazy as him could be accepted in a Celestial Land, so it made a lot more sense.

"Oh! So we still have five of you here, huh? That was five more than I expected. Hahaha! Great! Let me praise you for your determination."

Those who were old already gave up, leaving only the young ones. The oldest in that group of five was only 31. Because of that, all of them were in the same Realm as Frandin, with Xiria and a guy called Kiu being the only ones in the same stage.

Frandin then took out his spear and pointed at the candidates.

"Come, let me test your abilities. You can attack me at the same time."

In that instant, everyone's expressions in the room changed. Wasn't Frandin being way too overbearing? Can he really fight all those five on his own? After all, two of them were also at the same cultivation stage as himself. As for the others, they were at least in the Foundation Establishment Realm as well.

Frandin had extreme confidence on his face, though. However, little did they know he was talking with Roan.

'That was your idea! You must help me read their movement, okay?! Otherwise, I'll definitely be beaten like a dead dog. There's no way I can fight so many of them at the same time!'

Roan mentally snorted in response. Just who do you think has been training him until now?

'My help? Hehe! Fine. Not that it will be necessary, though.'

Frandin was taken aback by Roan's remark. What did he mean by that?

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Chapter 634: One Less!

Xiria and the others looked at each other and nodded after that. Since Gian said that himself, they had no need to refuse. Of course, they still thought he was overestimating himself. Nonetheless, this was a good opportunity to test out Gian's abilities.

Xiria was the first one to act, bringing out what looked like a pair of claws. It turns out that Xiria was adept at using katars, quite a rare piece of equipment when one thought about it.

Water Element and Soul Power gathered around her body as she moved out.

'Rain Pierce!'

Her hands moved at high speeds. Her katars were covered by both powers, which instantly made them more dangerous than ever before. She was able to use her Water Element to make her string of attacks precise and ruthless. At this moment, she felt like a raging river.

She wasn't the only one, of course. The others also took out their own weapons, surrounding Frandin and brandishing their own moves.

'Sky Pummeling!'

'Thousand Slashes!'

'Unlimited Barrage!'

'Rage of the Salamander!'

Frandin looked at all of that without even flinching. Well, the truth was that he was letting out a ton of cold sweat under his clothes. It's just that no one noticed that. He kept waiting for Roan's orders, but Roan didn't say anything even at the last moment.

However, it was then that he noticed something strange.

His body seemed to automatically move as he shot forward against a guy named Jomawe. Lightning Element and Soul Power ran through his body, increasing his speed even further. He was the guy who used the Thousand Slashes attack. At that moment, everyone's eyes widened. Frandin's body contorted into unbelievable angles as he dodged all the attacks from all sides. Not only that, but Thousand Slashes was an attack that covered a huge area in front of the user. Even with that, Frandin seemed to find a space between each slash, appearing right in front of Jomawe.

Of course, there was a limit as to what Frandin could do in that situation, so a few attacks did hit him. However, he used his Soul Power and Spiritual Energy to create a barrier to barely avoid any serious damage. At most, just a few simple cuts on his skin were left behind. Still, that was a better result compared to most people.

Jomawe was terrified to see Frandin pass through his barrage. If Frandin counter-attacked and overwhelmed him with his skills, that would be okay. But he didn't expect Frandin to truly find a gap in his assault. Because of the delay in his own attacks, the gap Frandin seized left a huge hole in Jomawe's defense. There was no way he could dodge Frandin's spear now.

'I'm dead!'

However, Frandin's spear suddenly changed at the last moment, swapping sides between the spearhead and its back.

Bang!

Jomawe was then sent flying back like a cannonball!

Crash!

Following that, he hit the wall and lost consciousness.

Everyone was shocked by that scene. The fight had just started, but Frandin had already dispatched one of his enemies away. It was a 5v1, but he had shown an overwhelming advantage.

However, no one was as frightened by what just happened as Frandin himself. He couldn't believe what he had just done. When the attacks came from all sides, it was like they moved in slow motion for him. He could clearly see and think about the next action. Because no one here had cultivation higher than his, that helped even more.

'This... It was so easy...'

Roan snorted as he said.

'Hmph! Who the hell trained you up to now? After more than half a year under my teaching and training schedule, this result is more than expected. Compared to what I made you do in the demon beast regions, this is nothing.'

He then continued.

'Besides, these guys are obviously not that great to start with. You don't really think that the Asume Clan sent their best geniuses here, do you? They are above-average members at most. As if you would need my help for this ridiculous challenge. Now, pay attention since the battle hasn't finished yet.'

That conversation was done through Spiritual Sense, so it only lasted a fraction of a second.

Frandin's eyes lit up as his confidence suddenly increased several folds. Right behind him, Xiria and the others attacked, trying to catch him under the delay of his own assault. However, Frandin's Soul Power soon manifested in an even greater amount. Roan noticed that Frandin's Lightning Element flowed through his body thanks to that. The Soul Power seemed to create paths that didn't exist for the manipulation of Lightning Element.

In the next second, Frandin's body turned halfway around as his head dropped back. With that, he avoided the first two attacks. Following that, he jumped back while brandishing his spear in a full arc, deflecting the remaining two. Just like before, the dodge wasn't perfect. The defense didn't completely avoid the last two attacks either. Nevertheless, Frandin avoided any serious damage, if you could call that damage at all.

That only left everyone even more speechless. After all, just what kind of body movement was that? It had nothing to do with his Rank Five Original Bloodline Soul Mark. That was basically his own overwhelming control over both Spiritual Energy, Lightning Element, and Soul Power. That wasn't something a Foundation Establishment cultivator should be able to do.

Frandin felt like he was in a different world. Here, he was unstoppable.

The moment he landed on the ground again, his muscles tensed up before he shot in the direction of another candidate. Frandin's plan was obvious. First, he would take care of the three that had cultivations lower than his. He would leave Xiria and Qarviu Asume, who were at the same stage, for last.

'Snake Lightning Spear!'

It was too fast! Frandin's Lightning Element already gave him an advantage in speed, but he himself had a reaction speed far above the others.

Pioran Asume was his next target. She was frightened. Noticing Frandin coming in her direction, she immediately used an area attack. Earth Element and Spiritual Energy burst out of her body as Soul Power helped increase the damage. The ground around her trembled before hundreds of earth spikes came from all sides. It was a completely indiscriminate attack, which forced her allies back as well.

"One less!"

Or so Frandin thought...

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Chapter 635: So be it!

Frandin laughed as he forcefully broke through the spikes. This time, he simply used his advantage in cultivation to overcome Pioran's defense.

Pioran saw how Frandin broke through her defense and closed her eyes, certain that she was done for. However, at the very last moment, another stream of attacks came from Frandin's side.

'Limitless Slash Storm!'

Another Zasfin appeared from Pioran's side, breaking through the defense of her Earth Spikes with brute force. Frandin was taken aback before he was forced to change the direction of his attack to defend himself.

Clang, clang, clang...

The Snake Lightning Spear and the Limitless Slash Storm attack exchanged several blows, forcing both sides back. Frandin then controlled his body, landing just a few meters away. He received quite a bit of damage from this assault. Unlike before, it was a one-on-one exchange, though the surprise attack was truly effective. He really didn't expect someone would appear there at that moment.

"Hahaha! Xiria, that was very good. It seems like you knew already."

Xiria, who ended up in a condition several times worse than Frandin, smiled with a pale expression. In the end, Frandin showed a far higher control of his strength than her. The only reason she didn't lose straight away in that exchange was that her ambush had truly worked.

"Yes, I understood that you wouldn't back down even in front of that barrage. If I wanted a chance at beating you, I had to take the risk. Well, the end result is still obvious if you look at me."

Her clothes were ragged as blood flowed from several parts of her body. Of course, Frandin controlled his strength so that no fatal injury was left behind. This wasn't a battle to the death, after all.

Pioran then looked at Xiria and immediately thanked her.

"Don't worry. Pay attention, everyone. Gian's coming!"

Sure enough, Frandin's battle spirit rose once more as he attacked one again. He couldn't remember a situation where he felt so good during a battle before.

'It's so fun!'

Roan looked at his face and snorted after that. How could he not tell what Frandin was feeling? Malaka, Qia, and Calina were no different. After all, they had been with Roan for way longer. They could totally understand Frandin's feelings at that moment.

The battle continued for some time. It turned out that Xiria took control of everyone's actions and used it to hold Frandin down. Unfortunately, the difference in experience and strength was just too high.

Frandin didn't fall for any other trick after that either since his Spiritual Sense focused on Xiria and the others 100% of the time. That made him spend a lot of his energy, but that wasn't a problem since he had the advantage.

Pioran was still the first one to come down. Following that, Liuome came next. That only left a guy called Qarviu and Xiria herself. They were the ones at the same realm and stage as Frandin.

Unfortunately for them, even if the others had lower strength, their support was critical. With only the two of them remaining, they were no match for Frandin anymore. Not to mention that Xiria had suffered quite a lot when she first saved Pioran, so she was already feeling the effects of blood loss.

Bang!

Because of that, she was the next one to be sent flying away.

'Sky Fall!'

The last one was Qarviu, who tried to fight with all his might even though he knew he would lose. Sure enough, Frandin avoided his Sky Fall by a ridiculous margin before striking the back of his head with his spear shaft. Lightning Element raged forth, which immediately caused Qarviu to fall unconscious.

Thud.

Qarviu's body fell on the ground like a doll, not moving at all.

As for Frandin, he landed right beside him. Of course, this fight took quite a toll on him. He was just as pale as Xiria was since he also had several injuries everywhere. Nevertheless, he had a satisfied expression on his face.

"That was a great battle. After I defeated Jomawe, your team had changed completely, and it became a lot harder to take you all out."

Frandin then looked at Xiria, who was still unconscious. Following that, he looked at Laun.

"It was her who took command of everyone with Spiritual Sense Messages, right?"

Laun nodded before the elders around him nodded as well. His heart pained, seeing the state that his daughter was in. However, he knew that she wasn't at any risk of dying or being crippled. She just passed out of exhaustion and because of blood loss. Obviously, Frandin had absolutely no intention of killing her or any of the others.

Of course, he still had a dark expression on his face as he looked at Frandin. His daughter would take several weeks to recover from this fight, and many scars would be left behind.

"Couldn't you have held back a little bit?"

Frandin shook his head as he replied.

"She forced me close to my limit. Besides, you should know very well that fighting to kill is a completely different scenario than fighting to knock down someone. The latter is several times more energy-consuming and difficult. You should be happy. Her commanding ability forced me to take them seriously. How many Zasfins do you think can push me to that extent? She has a good head on her shoulders. I can guarantee that."

Frandin then looked at Roan, who nodded. Following that, he looked back at Laun and said.

"They have all passed out, so bring them to a private room. I'll use a secret technique from my hometown to heal their injuries. Don't worry. There won't be a single scar left behind."

Laun and the elders were taken aback after that. Still, to leave his daughter alone with Gian...

"That won't be necessary."

Frandin(Gian) understood Laun's concern as he said.

"You gave me your daughter on a silver plate, but I didn't eat her. Do you think I'd have the gall to touch her? Stop having the wrong ideas, old man. Or could it be that you really wish for her scars to remain for the rest of her life?"

Laun instantly felt like a spear went through his heart. If not because of the Soul Stone, he would never allow that. Nonetheless, he had to admit Frandin was right.

"Fine, but she better come back to me without any changes."

Frandin waved his hands, not minding Laun's threat at all.

"Yeah, yeah... So be it."

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Chapter 636: Stepping on Feelings

They were then brought into a room with Roan and the girls. Before Laun left, Frandin looked back at him and gave a warning.

"Alright, you guys better stop watching me with Spiritual Sense or Soul Power. By the way, there's a little bird using its Spiritual Sense five hundred and seven meters in that direction. Can you take care of it for me?"

Laun was taken aback after hearing that. That direction was the Ancestor's chamber. Sure enough, as soon as Frandin said those words, Sumeri felt a chill on her back.

"What?! How did he know?"

In less than an instant, she retracted her Spiritual Sense without thinking twice. It was obvious that her cultivation was far from enough to not be detected by Frandin. Soul Power was even more out of the question. That's because, unlike her Spiritual Sense, Soul Power could be felt by anyone who can also use Soul Power. Cultivation difference didn't matter in this case. Naturally, Frandin would feel it the moment someone tried to use it in the room as well.

"Oh! Whoever was looking at us just retracted their Spiritual Sense. Well, that's to be expected."

Obviously, it was Roan, who was using Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill, that noticed Sumeri's Spiritual Sense. Once again, the stronger the Spiritual Sense, the easier it was for Rean's skill to detect it. He then informed Frandin through a Spiritual Sense message, who then told Laun.

Naturally, Laun said that he would check what it was. He already knew that it was Sumeri, so he wouldn't really go there. There's no doubt that Sumeri heard Gian's (Frandin) words with her Spiritual Sense as well. That's why she retracted it. Well, he wouldn't dare complain to their Ancestor in the first place.

Sumeri then sighed back in her chamber.

'As expected of a Celestial Land Member. Even though I'm four realms above him, he could tell straight away where I was and that I was watching him. I wonder what kind of equipment or skill they used to achieve that result.'

Sumeri then shook her head and gave up on watching them. The important thing was that he would heal them all, which was always good.

With that resolved, Frandin sent Laun and the other elders out.

"You can wait outside. It will only take a few minutes at most. Once it's done, I'll call you back inside."

Laun's group was obviously surprised to hear that. Frandin didn't do any lethal damage to Xiria and the others, but he did injure them pretty badly. To heal them all in just a few minutes, was that even possible? In Laun's eyes, they would need at least a few weeks to fully recover.

Well, Frandin just smiled in response to their non-verbal questions and closed the door to the room.

Sister Orb then verified any formation that they should be aware of before Roan began to heal everyone.

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

Light Element burst out of Roan's body as his hair changed into a mix of black and white. He also used his new White Star to help gather more Light Element. As always, he took longer to heal everyone than Rean would have, but he still finished the job on those five around fifteen minutes later. He wasn't afraid that some of them were pretending to be unconscious either. Death was more than experienced enough to see through such a trick.

Eventually, the process was over, and Roan's hair went back to normal. He nodded at Frandin right after.

Outside, Laun saw the door of the room open and immediately stormed inside. As one could expect, Xiria and the other four were completely healed up. Other than their ragged clothes and bloodstains, their bodies had no damage whatsoever. He and the other elders could tell that much through their Spiritual Senses.

"Such a powerful healing ability..."

Frandin snorted, keeping his young master play up.

"Powerful? That's because you've never seen my grandfather. Otherwise, you would be laughing at my face. Hahaha!"

Laun and the others didn't doubt that. If he could already do such a thing at the Foundation Establishment Realm, let alone when he was at a higher level.

Suddenly, Xiria's eyes tightened before they opened. Laun was happy to see that, of course. He immediately hugged her, showing his worries.

"Xiria, how are you doing? Is anything wrong with your body?"

Pah!

Out of nowhere, a woman slapped Laun's backhead as she said.

"Stop making a fool of yourself, idiot. She's my daughter, so she's obviously fine."

Xiria looked at the current situation and couldn't help but feel embarrassed. That woman's name was Latia, her mother. Her mother and her father's antics always caused her trouble. Well, they liked each other, so it was fine... somehow.

It was then that she noticed that all her injuries were gone, without any trace left behind. Obviously, she was shocked by that sight. She knew very well how badly injured she was.

The others were also being attended by their relatives and the elders. Their condition was the same as Xiria, with no injuries whatsoever. Well, Xiria hadn't completely recovered, though. She was still very pale. That being said, Frandin got close before adding.

"By the way, I healed all your injuries, but I can't replenish the blood you lost during the battle. Make sure to eat a lot to recover it."

Obviously, Xiria understood that it was Frandin who healed her and everyone else.

Laun sighed and then bowed to Frandin(Gian).

"Thank you, you really kept your word."

Latia also did the same thing.

Frandin didn't mind it too much, or so it looked on the surface.

"Hahaha! It's fine, it's fine! I'm the one looking for a new subordinate, after all."

Frandin then looked at Xiria with a smug smile as he said.

"By the way, are you sure you don't want to change your clothes? I can see your nipples through some of the gaps my attacks left behind."

Xiria's expression immediately turned bright red as she stormed outside of the room.

As for Laun, his expression turned dark as he looked at Frandin (Gian) and asked.

"You...! You dare say such a thing to my daughter?"

Frandin shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"I was being gentle, you know? If it was really shredded, I could have kept quiet and took my time to admire the beautiful work you and your wife created. But alas, I'm not the type who indulges in these kinds of things. In the end, my training takes precedence above everything else."

Frandin then looked at Latia before saying.

"Still, there's no wonder Xiria is that beautiful. Her mother was definitely the reason behind it. I'm happy she didn't inherit this grumpy guy's features."

At first, Latia was also angry with Frandin's words. However, that praise immediately improved her mood.

"Oh, aren't you quite smooth with your words? I don't hate it, though. I agree with you as well. It was her blessing to not inherit anything from this old man's genes."

Laun felt like crying already. Why was everyone against him? Even his wife and daughter were no exception.

'Hmph! So what? He won't stay for long anyway.'

Well, at least on that point, Laun was right. Roan's group didn't want to stay for long to start with.

Frandin took the opportunity to leave the room with Roan and the girls, going back to his own room. With that, he was finally able to drop his pretense as excitement overflowed on his face.

"That was great! I've never felt like that before! Their attacks were so easy to track. My control was also much higher than I could have expected. I thought it would be impossible for me to beat all of them at once, but I did it! I did it! Hahahaha!"

Pah!

Sure enough, Roan slapped the back of Frandin's head, snapping him back to reality.

"What the hell are you happy about? Only that Xiria had some talent between those five, and it wasn't anything that great to start with. The others were very average. They didn't send a single real genius of their clan for this task since they wouldn't allow the loss of such materials."

Roan's expression became dark after that.

"But even though that was the case, look at you. Just how many hits did you receive during that battle against those pieces of trash? Sure enough, that easy training routine I gave you is way too simple. You embarrassed me with that fucking awful display."

Frandin's excitement immediately died once he heard that. Of course, he knew very well the difference between him and the rest. Malaka, Qia, Agis, Calina, all of them would have done much better than him. Still...

"Aren't you a little too demanding? They had been with you for a long, long time. Besides, I had truly accepted your ways only recently. Obviously, I can make up for the gap quickly. Shouldn't I receive a little bit of praise for that?"

Roan was just about to complain even more when, all of a sudden, the girls nodded together.

"Roan, Frandin's right. He did improve a lot."

"Yea! You're always such an annoying guy."

"Can't you at least admit that he performed well enough? You always do that, even with us!"

Roan's mouth twitched as he said.

"Since when did you all take his side? No, forget it. It's like I care."

Frandin felt emotional. He didn't expect the girls to defend him... or not.

"Of course, he's still terrible, but if you say it in front of his face, he will take even longer to improve."

"Exactly. You must learn how to give some encouraging words, even if they're lies."

"Don't worry, Frandin. As shitty as you might be, we know how you feel."

Frandin's emotions disappeared as fast as they came.

'Hey, wait a minute! Aren't you guys also stepping on my feelings?'

Frandin shook his head and decided to ignore them. He would be happier if he pretended to not hear anything for a while.

Death... and me

Chapter 637: Let's Talk

After that, Malaka then asked Frandin with a slightly furious expression.

"Then again, why did you have to say that you could see Xiria's nipples? That was way too mean, especially since she isn't a bad Zasfin."

Qia and Calina nodded in response. As much as he was keeping up that play, that was a little too much, in their opinion. At the very least, he could have used a Spiritual Sense message to warn her instead of saying that out loud.

As soon as Frandin heard those words, his face began to profusely sweat as it went as red as Xiria's face from before.

"PI-Please, don't remember that. Just thinking about all of this makes me feel like crying. Do you have any idea how hard it is to keep up that pretense in front of so many experts? My head was barely working at all, thinking that they might find out that I'm actually a nobody."

Frandin then curled around his legs on the ground, doing his best to forget everything related to that. In the end, that was simply not his character.

The girls couldn't help but laugh when they looked at Frandin. This guy seemed a lot more naive than they thought. Well, back in Danve City, Frandin was a lot more daring than he was at the moment with Roan's group. It's just that he had never gone that overboard. Poor Frandin felt like throwing his head in a hole due to the awkwardness.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door of Frandin's room a few hours later. Fortunately, those hours were enough for him to recover. By now, he had also changed clothes, and Roan finished healing his body as well.

"Sorry, Young Master Gian. The candidates are back in the hall, waiting for you."

Frandin glanced at Roan and the girls before he nodded at the human servant.

"Very well, I'll be right there."

Frandin, Roan, and the girls then followed the guy to the hall. There, they found Xiria, Pioran, Qarviu, and the other two. Of course, the elders were there as well to see what Gian(Frandin) had to say.

Frandin looked at the five of them and could see that some seemed to fear him now. Frandin couldn't help but mentally feel pleased with himself.

'To think there would come a day that several Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark owners would fear me. Even if their Marks were given marks, that's still several times better than what I was in Danve City.'

Nevertheless, he quickly recovered and restarted his aloof play.

"Ahem... Well, then. I think you've had a small taste of what will be your daily life once you come with me. Once again, I will ask. Are you sure you want to follow me? Also, there's one more thing I need to clear up here."

Frandin then took a black pill from his pocket and held it in front of those five.

"This is a poison pill. It's quite a potent one that I got before leaving for this journey. The only one who knows how to make its antidote is me, no one else. With that, let me say that I'm also an alchemist."

Frandin then continued.

"Anyway, if you decide to come with me, you will have to swallow it. Although you could already probably understand, I'll still tell you why. It's impossible to keep my own training schedule without exposing a few of my own secrets. These secrets are directly linked to my own origins, which must be kept hidden. Not to mention things like my cultivation technique, resources, contacts with my elders, etc."

"I can't run the risk of my new subordinate escaping and then telling everyone about it. That being said, once you swallow this pill, I'll prepare an antidote that can keep the poison at bay. If you stop taking it, you will die!"

The expressions of the elders and the last five candidates changed. It was obvious that Gian didn't trust them at all. However, would they have done something else if they were in Gian's shoes? The answer was, no, they wouldn't. This was the cultivation world. Trust is a rare commodity, and everyone knew that.

Nonetheless, such an action would put their own lives in Gian's hands. They would need to follow his orders whether they liked it or not.

"Don't tell me that I'm being unreasonable. I'm already telling all of you beforehand that this is how I work. My humans here are also under the same effect. I don't treat them badly, but I can't allow them to spread my secrets, either. If any of you, or even all of you, want to give up this chance, I don't care. I'll simply find someone else in another clan. Simple as that. There's no lack of people with a given Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark that would be willing to do that."

With that, everyone's expression had become more solemn. Gian(Frandin) was right. The simple act of warning them already told them a lot about his character. Well, he might just be putting up a display, and that he was, in fact, a wicked guy. Unfortunately, there was no way of checking that. Their decisions simply didn't matter to him due to his many available options.

Qarviu and Pioran then stepped back. For these two, those were way too many conditions. Constant danger while Gian would have their lives at his palm. They decided that it wasn't worth it.

After some time, there were only three remaining ZASFins, including Xiria. As one couldn't expect, Laun immediately sent her a Spiritual Sense Message.

'Step back. You don't need to stoop that low. So what if you are losing out on a great opportunity? That might as well be an opportunity to die instead. You really don't know what this guy will force you to do once you take that pill.'

Similar Spiritual Sense conversations were going on with the other two ZASFins and their relatives. Frandin looked at them and could see the conflict in their faces.

'Hmph! At least you have a choice. Back when I was taken away, that was my only option other than dying.'

Of course, Frandin was here of his own volition now. The twins' group already made it clear that he was welcome to do so if he wanted to leave.

Seeing that no one had stepped forward, Frandin sighed as he decided to put the pill away. However, just as he dropped his hand, determination appeared on Xiria's face as she stepped forward and grabbed the pill from his hand.

Gulp

"Is that all? Hmph! You will need more than that to make me give up!"

Laun and Latia were taken aback. That didn't go as they planned at all. Xiria's position in the clan wasn't high, but she wasn't at the bottom either. They still could provide her with enough resources for decent cultivation. Why would she choose to become someone's slave?

"No can do! Xiria, spit out that pill right now! I won't let you do it!"

Laun quickly stepped forward and demanded.

"That's right, Xiria. Mother doesn't want you to run such a risk with no guarantees."

Said Latia after Laun was finished speaking.

Xiria then looked at them, but her resolve could already be seen.

Nonetheless, Frandin gave her one last chance.

"Hahaha! Now, then. Your parents really love you very much. Very well, I'll give you one last chance in case this was a hurried decision."

Frandin then threw another pill bottle to Xiria, this time containing a pill with black and white colors.

"This is the full antidote. Unlike the one I'll be giving you in the journey, this one can completely heal the poison of that pill. I'll be staying in this city for a few more days, so you can take your time to think. If you want to give up, just take this pill, and you will be cured. Listen to your parents and make sure you three get everything dealt with. Once again, it won't matter if you decide to give up or not. I can simply find someone else. But for now, you will be my first choice since you were the first one to step forward."

Frandin also took another pill bottle. This time, however, these pills were used to keep the poison at bay, not healing it.

"Use these pills if you ever start feeling pain. These pills won't heal you but will keep the poison at bay. It will give you more time to think before I come back. Don't worry, I'll pass by before we need to leave. Besides, I'll need your ancestor's help for that in the first place."

Xiria, Laun, and Latia were surprised by Frandin's words. He left a way out for Xiria from the very start. That made it even harder to believe that he was a wicked Zasfin with that.

"Thank you."

Frandin waved his hands, pretending to not care too much about it.

"Alright, then. Roan, Calina, Qia, Malaka, we're leaving. We have many other things to prepare."

"Yes, young master."

They replied in unison as they followed right behind Frandin's imposing figure.

As one could imagine, Frandin left the Asume Clan after saying that. The other two ZASFins that remained alongside Xiria ended up giving up as well. They couldn't make their heads about having to live with poison in their bodies. Frandin's words implicated that he would eventually let them go, but when would that be? No one knew. Nor did they know if it was the truth.

After Frandin disappeared in the distance, Laun and Latia changed their focus to Xiria. Xiria did the same, but her expression was still as determined as ever.

"Mom, Dad. Let's talk."

Death... and me

Chapter 638: Imperial Guardian

As expected, there were quite a few onlookers when Frandin came out. After all, he did say that he would stay in the Asume Clan for a day, just like the Portin Clan. Frandin quickly received several invites once he got out. Of course, there was no way Frandin could possibly go to each of these clans, organizations, and sects.

He simply laughed it out and said that he might pay a visit to some of them in the future if he got more time. Not too long after, Frandin disappeared with Roan and the girls. The people following him simply couldn't understand how they were able to do that.

Back in the workshop where Rean was working, Roan came out of the Dimensional Realm together with the others. All he needed was to enter the Dimensional Realm, then he could use Rean's position to come out of it other than the position he was previously in.

"Oh, you're back."

Rean looked at them before continuing to work on his weapon. By now, it was basically ready, missing just a few small details. The auction was also scheduled to happen later that day, but Rean wasn't concerned about the time.

"Frandin, get ready to leave again. As soon as I finish this weapon, we're going to the auction house to deliver it. I'll change your appearance to what we used when we went to the auction for the first time."

Frandin nodded as he replied.

"Sure."

Following that, he looked at Roan and asked.

"Though, is it fine to leave the real antidote of the pill with them, Roan? Couldn't she use that chance to analyze the pill and make a copy? That way, she could keep it hidden and pretend that she's under control."

Roan snorted when he heard that, replying.

"Hmph! If they find someone with the ability to copy my pill, then I'm more than willing to see that happening. It used both Dark and Light Elements to a level where Yang and Yin Energy manipulation alone is far from enough. They would really need Zafins with natural affinity regarding these elements."

Frandin instantly understood where Roan was getting his confidence. He had never seen anyone using Dark or Light Element before, let alone someone born with one of their affinities.

"That's good, then."

Rean then smiled as he looked at Roan.

"By the way, I heard from a little bird that a certain someone didn't want Calina to lose her virginity to someone else."

Calina's face went bright red once more, but it didn't seem like she hated it. In Roan's case, his mouth twitched a bit as cold energy spread from his body.

"Are you going to start with this bullshit again?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"Huh? What are you talking about? I've never mentioned any names. Why do you look so pissed all of a sudden?"

Rean looked at him, pretending to be puzzled by Roan's behavior.

Of course, any idiot would be able to tell that he was definitely talking about Roan.

"Hmph!"

Roan then left the room, not looking at anyone. Soon after, Malaka and Qia grabbed Calina by the hand and pulled her to another room. From the looks of it, they wanted to try the new things they had bought.

Agis looked at that and couldn't help but ask Rean.

"Is it really okay to be considering such things in our situation? We might die at any moment if we make a wrong step, you know?"

Rean sighed as he replied.

"It's exactly because of it that they should enjoy. If we could die at any moment, isn't it better to have no regrets?"

Rean then let out a chuckle as he continued.

"Besides, considering everyone's training routine that Roan worked out, we barely have any free time at all when we're out. Let them enjoy their time. Why do you think Roan isn't saying anything? He understands the most out of all of us when it comes to training and battle. That being said, he knows very well how important it is to have a proper rest, both in body and mind."

Frandin and Agis then looked at each other and nodded in the end.

"You didn't stop working ever since you've arrived in this city, though. Are you fine?"

Rean looked at Agis, slightly puzzled.

"What are you talking about? Am I not relaxing right now?"

"Crafting weapons?"

Rean instantly understood where Agis was coming from, so he replied.

"I was a metallurgist back in my previous life. Errr... Metallurgist is basically a term used for those who work with metals at an advanced level. Anyway, working with it is my own way of relaxing."

Agis and Frandin nodded after hearing that. Since that was the case, they had no intention to stop it.

Back in the Portin Clan, Valia was talking with Marau.

"Father, Gian already left the Asume Clan. He also stayed there for just a day."

Marau nodded, saying.

"Very well."

Seeing that her father didn't care too much, she couldn't help but ask.

"Is it really okay to relax like that? What if Gian decided to band up with them instead? That Xiria would definitely try to hook up with him if the chance is given."

Marau sighed as he looked at Valia, responding.

"Don't worry, it won't matter which side he chooses since he won't be free for long."

Valia was taken aback as she asked.

"What do you mean?"

Suddenly, someone knocked on Marau's office door.

"Enter."

Valia was shocked to see the one who came inside.

"This..."

She quickly bowed to show her respect right after.

"Paying respects to Imperial Guardian Firmel."

If Rean and Roan were here, they would definitely recognize this man. He was also the one they saw after the Bloodline Trial was over. At that time, he thought that Maluco was responsible for the destruction of the altar at the entrance of the Bloodline Trial. Maluco was even severely punished due to this issue.

However, they soon found out that Maluco wasn't lying. That's because after they went to check the sacrifice chambers, they noticed that the number of sacrifices didn't match. There were two more chambers that had lost sacrifices and their souls.

One must remember that the trial only allowed one to enter a single path after the entrance. Once one passed through it, the path would close behind you. That being said, it was impossible for two more chambers to lose sacrifices since they weren't used.

One of the chambers had seven sacrifices dead, while another had just one. That's not counting the chamber used by Maluco. Sure enough, more people must have been inside the other chambers for that to happen.

As soon as that happened, the Imperial Guardians of the Bloodline Trial Grounds launched a full investigation. They were guarding both the entrance and exit, but they didn't see anyone whatsoever. It was a huge security breach, one that they didn't even know how it had even happened. How did the intruders get inside? How did they get out? They couldn't tell at all!

In the end, the initial investigation found nothing other than the traces of the Bloodline Trials being used. Without any other choice, they could only expand their search to the city, trying to find any clues. It was then that they heard about a new guy who just appeared in the city. He also happened to have an Earned Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark.

They heard the rumors that the new guy was probably someone from the Celestial Lands, but there was no proof. He also refused to tell anyone about his origins. Firmel wasn't going to buy a fight against a Celestial Land Disciple, but he didn't think Frandin was truly one of them. Simply put, his appearance and the Bloodline Trial Ground breach were too coincidental.

He then found out that Frandin stayed in the Portin Clan for a day, so he decided to pay a visit. That was also the reason why Marau thought that Frandin wouldn't be roaming around for long. After all, it wasn't a good thing to mess with the Imperial Guardians.

"Portin Clan. Clan head, right?"

Marau nodded as he replied.

"Yes. If needed, we can call our ancestor as well, Sir Firmel."

Firmel shook his head as he responded.

"That's not necessary. I just want you to tell me everything about this Gian Torio. The more, the better."

Valia was shocked to hear that. From the looks of it, getting involved with Gian(Frandin) wouldn't be a good idea at all.

'Fortunately, he already left. Perhaps we can get the Asume Clan involved in this.'

Marau Portin then began to explain everything that happened, including the questions asked by Gian.

Obviously, that made Firmel's eyes narrow in response. After all, he wasn't sure either if Gian was part of a Celestial Land or not. However, the fact that he knew about the Soul Rulers beforehand showed that he wasn't simple. Nonetheless, he couldn't let it go either. If things got worse, he could use his connection with the Imperial Family to explain everything to Gian's Celestial Land... if he was part of one, that is.

"The Asume Clan is the next one up, huh? Do you think he'll come back here to do the Soul Purity Check of a human?"

Marau shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Perhaps. The thing is that the city's big powers also have the same way of contacting the Soul Rulers, including the Asume Clan he visited. He might decide to use their methods instead of ours."

Obviously, Marau threw the bomb towards the Asume Clan. Other than Xiria and Valia, it wasn't as if their clans had anything against each other. However, he would definitely prioritize his own.

Firmel nodded and left right after. He already had a plan in mind.

Death... and me

Chapter 639: Imperial Bloodline Drop

Frandin's group knew nothing regarding Firmel and the talk in the Portin Clan. Instead, they used their time to do their own things. Frandin and Agis helped Rean finish forging his weapons while the girls continued in their room. Roan seemed to be testing his Soul Mark, though.

A few hours later, Rean completed his first Earth Peak Level weapon for sale. As mentioned before, it didn't have the ability to draw Elements, but it was definitely better than common ones. With that said, he could finally go to the auction before it began.

He then contacted Roan through their Soul Connection, telling him that they would be leaving. Agis also asked to go out with Rean and Frandin since he didn't get the chance to go out yet. Roan didn't seem to mind, nor did he want to follow them. Rean could simply send his memories of the items that appeared in the auction and then tell Roan while it happened. If there was something he needed, Rean could bid it for him.

The girls didn't even consider going out either. The three of them were in their own world, playing with the things they got from the shops. And so, only Rean, Frandin, and Agis went to the auction. Of course, Rean made sure to change their appearances to what they used in the auction house, which was different from the appearance Frandin used when he visited the clans. To make sure, Roan also used his incredible make-up skills at the level of a Hollywood crew to make them look exactly as they were before they left.

As their appearance was different and their group consisted of only three males, no one found them suspicious at all. Once they arrived in the Imperial Auction House, they went straight to the appraiser, where Frandin passed him Rean's Earth Peak Level weapon.

This time, the appraiser was quite surprised.

"Oh! This one isn't too bad. Its quality is also above average by quite a lot. Are you sure you want to sell such a good weapon?"

Frandin nodded with a smile, saying.

"Just like before, I'm in dire need of money. I believe the Imperial Auction House is the best place to sell my equipment instead of selling it to the treasure houses. Could it be that I'm wrong?"

The appraiser laughed before saying.

"Hahaha! Indeed, considering the higher quality of your weapons, they're a good fit for our Imperial House. Especially this Earth Peak-Level equipment. There will definitely be a few Nascent Soul Cultivators very interested in it."

The appraiser was quite satisfied with the last item, so he also gave Frandin's group an extra service.

"Now, then. I'll transfer you to one of the private chambers where you can make your bids. The auction is going to start an hour from now, so you can head there already if you want to. Also, I doubt you'll make less than fifty thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones this time around, so you're free to use this amount in the auction. Of course, that is already considering our 30% cut."

Rean then sent a Spiritual Message to Frandin, who quickly asked a question.

"What about the Earth Peak-Level weapon? Is it also worth Rank Two Spirit Stones?"

The appraiser shook his head as he replied.

"Of course not. This is a very high-quality item, so it won't sell for less than Rank Three Spirit Stones. I estimate that the initial bidding will be around 1000 Rank Three Spirit Stones, but it should sell for much more than that."

Frandin smiled and nodded soon after. With that, they went to the chamber, where they waited for the auction to start. Little by little, the auction house was filled with customers. As one could expect, most of them were sent to the benches below. Only the influential ones and those who had very good items in the auction were rewarded with private chambers like Rean's group.

Eventually, the lights were turned off, leaving only the stage illuminated. The host then went up and started the event.

"Welcome, everyone. Our once-a-month Imperial Auction is about to start. This time, we have quite a few good items that most of you will be delighted to bid for. Anyway, I know you're all excited to see the treasures, so let's start!"

A female Zasfin then went up to the stage with a pillow. On top of it, there was a pendant that glistened a beautiful blue. It was quite an exquisite pendant that immediately caught the female customers' attention.

"The first item is an Earth High-Level defensive treasure. It's called Blue Sea. It's capable of creating a barrier of Water Element that reduces around 10 to 20% of the damage received. It operates through Spiritual Energy and Soul Power in unison. Of course, if your opponent's cultivation is higher than yours, the effects will be reduced. Though, the opposite is also valid against weaker enemies. It's a very good item in case you're ambushed by many enemies with lower cultivation, which is pretty common when they know they aren't a match for you alone."

"The initial price is 2000 Rank Two Spirit Stones. Any bidding shall be at least 200 stones above the previous price."

In an instant, several female voices were raised in the auction house. Although it was truly a good item for battles, the ladies were a lot more interested in its appearance.

"2200!"

"2600!"

"3000!"

"3500!"

"4000!"

It wasn't before the price reached 5500 Rank Two Spirit Stones that the bidding war was finally over.

Rean looked at the pendant and could tell that it had a formation with Soul Runes inside.

'Sure enough, Soul Power allows one to use Weapon Arrays in pieces of equipment that aren't at the Heaven Level yet. I have to learn how to use Soul Runes as soon as possible.'

Rean then looked at Frandin before saying.

"After the auction is over, we'll go to the Formation Master Guild. Qia and I already taught you enough for you to pass an Earth Low-Level Test. Once you finish that, make sure to take as much study material as possible, especially the ones related to Soul Runes."

Frandin nodded, not minding it too much. He was already requested for that before, so he was basically waiting for it to happen.

Surprisingly, one of Rean's weapons was already the second item to be auctioned.

"We have here an Earth High-Level saber. This is just one of several of this type in this auction. For those without a good weapon, you've lucked out to have appeared on today's event."

The host then continued.

"We already had our appraiser analyze this saber, and he said that it was of a much higher level than common weapons at the same level. It can almost compete against an Earth Peak-Level weapon on its own, even without a Weapon Array. If you bring it to the Formation Master Guild and have it inscribed, it definitely will reach the level of an Earth Peak Level weapon."

This time, it was the male Zafins that were excited by that. Well, there were a few females that used sabers, so they were ready to give it a try.

"The initial price is 2300 Rank Two Spirit Stones. Each bidding must be of at least 200 Stones or more."

"3000!"

"3400!"

"4000!"

"4200!"

"4400!"

"4800!"

Rean was very satisfied with that outcome. This weapon alone was already worth much more than he expected. In the end, the saber was sold for 5950 Rank Two Spirit Stones, much to Rean, Frandin, and Agis's delight.

The auction continued as more of Rean's Earth High-Level equipment came out. Of course, Rean's group was also captivated by a few items available in the auction house.

"The next item is a drop from the Imperial Bloodline."

WOW!

Immediately, the auction house went into an uproar.

However, Agis and Rean were puzzled.

"Is there any use for that?"

Frandin, who looked as excited as all the other Zafins, immediately nodded as he replied.

"Of course! Did you forget that the thicker the Zasfin Bloodline, the easier it is to use and train Soul Power? Sometimes the Imperial House elders gather some of their bloodlines when they need money.

Obviously, Zasfins can use it to strengthen their own bloodline. You must understand that bloodline is an extremely important issue for us Zasfins. Unfortunately, it's just a drop, though."

Rean and Agis nodded in response after listening to his explanation. It had no use for them, but it might be of good use to Frandin.

"By the way, is a single drop worth it?"

Frandin nodded as he said.

"It's sad that it's just a drop. However, the lower the purity of your bloodline, the higher the drop's effect. That's why most of the Zasfins in the auction house are excited. After all, not everyone is part of a clan with Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark owners. Most of them don't have the talent enough to be accepted into a higher trial."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"It's not that they don't have talent, but that they aren't willing to risk it out. Don't forget how much your Soul Power increased even though you came from a low-nobility rank."

Frandin nodded, responding.

"Of course I know that. Still, my progress would have been even faster if I had that drop before."

Rean and Agis laughed in response as it was obvious that Frandin wanted to get permission to bid for that drop.

"Fine, fine! Considering that this item came in the first part of the auction, it should be a drop of a low member from the Imperial Family, probably those with earned Rank Seven Marks. You can bid for it."

Frandin became excited as he said soon after.

"Thanks!"

On the stage, the host finished talking about the items before finally announcing the starting price.

"The initial value is 3400 Rank Two Spirit Stones. Each bid can't be less than 500 Stones. That's all."

Sure enough, the bidding war started right after.

Death... and me

Chapter 640: Magma Flower

Frandin immediately pressed a small formation in front of him, indicating that he wanted to bid. Because the chambers were private, this thing was made to keep their identities hidden.

"4000!"

Frandin already jumped to that value, knowing that it would become higher soon. Sure enough, the other people who were interested also jumped right in.

"4500!"

"5500!"

"7000!"

"8500!"

"10000!"

Rean narrowed his eyes after seeing this. In just a few seconds, the bidding war had already jumped to over 10000 Rank Two Spirit Stones. That was already the price of two of the Earth High-Level weapons he put for auction. Not to mention that it didn't seem to be slowing down.

"11000!"

"12000!"

"13500!"

"14000!"

Frandin looked at the formation in front of him, but he was hesitating to press it. He understood that it was getting way too expensive.

"Sigh... forget it. It's not worth this much Spirit Stones."

However, as soon as he said that, Rean pressed the formation for him.

"20000!"

Frandin and Agis were taken aback. They didn't expect Rean to do such a thing.

"Hahaha! If I told you to bid, then bid. So what if we use part of the Spirit Stones we got? I can get more Spirit Stones, so don't worry. Besides, this is still not even half of what we can make today."

Frandin couldn't help but feel a little emotional.

"Thanks..."

The moment the 20000 Spirit Stone bid came out, the auction house went silent. It was obvious that whoever was inside that chamber wanted to have this Imperial Blood. However, not everyone was afraid.

"21000!"

Frandin immediately replied, though.

"22000!"

"23000!"

"24000!"

Inside another private chamber, a man narrowed his eyes as he looked in the direction of Rean's group. Well, he could only see the room.

"Who's the guy that's residing there?"

The subordinate on his side shook his head, replying.

"I don't know. Should I investigate?"

"No. Our main objective isn't the Imperial Blood, so let's focus."

Suddenly, a young man beside him said.

"Father, you need to get that drop for me. It isn't much, but we don't know when another one will appear for sale."

The old man narrowed his eyes as he soon ordered.

"Offer 30000. If the guy there bids anything higher, then give up. We need money for that item."

His son's eyes lit up as he immediately put up the bid. He doubted Frandin's group would go that far. After all, the drop of Imperial Blood definitely wasn't worth that much.

"30000!"

wow!

Immediately, everyone looked at the bid panel. This turned out to be a lot more exciting than they thought.

However, they had underestimated Rean's group. Sure, the drop of Imperial Bloodline wasn't worth that much... for Zasfins of this city's level. Frandin came from a very low nobility rank. For him, that drop was worth every single stone since it would largely boost his Soul Power cultivation speed. He guessed that his Soul Cultivation speed would go up by at least 10% after he finished absorbing it. That was really impressive.

Once again, the lower one's bloodline level was, the higher the effect of the blood.

"31000!"

The young man in the other chamber immediately raged. Following that, his voice stormed into the auction house.

"Who the hell are you? Are you doing it on purpose? I don't know why you're doing it, but you better retract your offer."

Frandin was taken aback, but he immediately replied right after.

"Who am I doesn't matter. Also, I don't even know who you are, so why would I target you? If I'm bidding for this drop of Imperial Blood, that's because I need it. Now shut up and place your bid. If you don't, then stay quiet and don't bother everyone else."

"You!"

"Silence!"

All of a sudden, the host shouted in the direction of the young man's room.

"Everyone has the right to bid for whatever they want. If you continue to cause problems, I'll send you out of the auction. Don't forget, this is the Imperial Auction House."

The young man's father narrowed his eyes as he looked at him, ordering the young man.

"Maluco, sit down."

Maluco gritted his teeth but followed his father's orders. It turns out that this was the same guy who was accused of destroying the altar in that Bloodline Trial. Of course, it was found later that he had nothing to do with it. Though, because of the punishment, he was injured quite badly. This drop of Imperial Blood would be perfect since it would help him recover from his injuries, especially the damage in his Soul Power.

On the stage, the host continued the auction.

"31000 Rank Two Spirit Stones! Does anyone have a higher bid?"

The auction house was silent. Sure enough, no one thought of the drop as much as that, especially since it came from a low-level member of the Imperial Family.

"Sold to the guests in private chamber 304. Now, for our next item..."

Frandin couldn't help but feel excited. He completely ignored the auction as he waited for the Imperial Blood to be delivered. A few minutes later, a female Zasfin came into the chamber.

"Here is your drop of Imperial Bloodline, little friend. As mentioned before, it will be discounted from the total amount of Spirit Stones you earn in this auction."

Frandin nodded as he responded.

"Very well. You can leave now."

The female Zasfin nodded before retreating.

"Alright, I know you're excited. Though, remember that this is not the right time to absorb it."

Rean then took the bottle and sent it into the Dimensional Realm.

"Sigh... fine. I'll wait."

Soon, all of Rean's weapons were sold out, none of them going for less than 5000 Rank Two Spirit Stones. Then again, that made Rean very aware of the difference between this and his previous world. If his weapons were sold there, those weapons of his would go for many more and higher-rank Spirit Stones. That just showed how much more difficult it is for Spirit Stones to appear on this planet.

Nonetheless, all of Rean's weapons gave him a profit of over 70000 Rank Two Spirit Stones, even when factoring in that 30% of the auction house. Taking out the 31000 from the Imperial Bloodline drop, Rean still had more than 39000 Spirit Stones, which would last them for a few months.

After that, the auction entered the next phase as the host announced.

"From now on, only Rank Three Spirit Stones are acceptable unless you exchange in the end. If you wish to use your Rank Two Spirit Stones, be aware that the exchange rate is 6 to 1."

Everyone knew that a Rank Three Spirit Stone had the equivalent energy of three Rank Two Stones. However, no one would make such a trade since it was much easier to absorb a Rank Three Spirit Stone's Spiritual Energy than using three Rank Two Stones. It was much better for cultivation. That being said, the exchange rate was always higher than the total amount, usually being 4 to 1. One must remember that this was a different planet, so the exchange rates are also different from before. Nonetheless, it was very hard for some to trade for that amount. Only at 6 to 1 would the Auction House be guaranteed to receive their Rank Three Spirit Stones.

Of course, they were basically ripping them off anyway. But no one complained since they were an official institution of the Imperial Family.

Rean pondered about his total amount of Rank Two Spirit Stones remaining before saying.

"Without considering my Earth Peak-Level Weapon, we have equivalent to 6600 Rank Three Spirit Stones."

Agis shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"It's not like we really need to buy anything. However, you might consider exchanging the Rank Two Spirit Stones anyway. After all, Rank Three Stones are much better for cultivation."

Rean and Frandin nodded in response to Agis's words. Of course, Rean wouldn't make the exchange here in the Imperial Auction House. After all, even though it would still be expensive, he could at least get it with a 5 to 1 rate outside.

On the stage, the auction continued as a few more items continued to go out. Sure enough, the numbers dropped a lot since the rank of the Spirit Stones had increased.

"Our next item is a Magma Flower. For those who don't know, this item is used for energy cultivation pills. The initial bidding price is 400 Rank Three Spirit Stones."

Roan, who was also watching the auction through his connection with Rean, immediately said.

"Try to get this Magma Flower. I can make a few good cultivation pills for us with it."

Rean nodded in response. For a planet with little Spiritual Energy like this one, any advantage helped out.

Rean nodded and asked Frandin to make the biddings. He would lose Spirit Stones for the flower, but it would help their cultivation a lot more than the Spirit Stones themselves. Even if they had to use the 6 to 1 exchange of the auction house, it was worth it. Of course, Rean's weapon was still there, so it wouldn't be necessary since he believed it would be worth more.

"450!"

"500!"

"550!"

"650!"

In the end, Frandin acquired the flower for 700 Rank Three Spirit Stones, which was delivered to his group's room a few minutes later.

The items continued to come out until finally, Rean's weapon entered the stage.

"Our next item is an Earth Peak-Level sword. Be aware that it was made by the same blacksmith as the weapons of the first phase of the auction. That being said, it doesn't have any inscription on it. Nonetheless, it does have the same quality, which means it's far better than common Earth Peak-Level weapons. In a certain way, this sword is free for you to inscribe any weapon array you want, a true masterpiece!"

"The initial price is 3000 Rank Three Spirit Stones!"

Rean's group was surprised. They knew it would be worth a lot more than his Earth High-Level weapons, but not by that much. And that was only the base value.