

## Death 661

Death... and me

Chapter 661: Offer

Hudin then continued the test for the other remaining candidates. However, that mattered little for Frandin since he already got what he needed. Besides, he wasn't exactly a fan of formations. Once he got the study materials regarding Soul Runes for Rean and Qia, he wouldn't pursue this side occupation.

Frandin's badge was given to him sometime later, which he immediately used to enter the Formations Guild Repository. There, he obtained a copy of all the things Rean and Qia requested before leaving right after. However, just as he was about to leave the guild with Rean and Qia, he was stopped by Hudin.

"Oh, there you are!" said Hudin as he rushed to catch up to Frandin's group. "Walton, about your master...pass a message to them for me. A few other elders checked your formations just now. Its arrangement, especially the runes that we have never seen before, are really impressive."

He then took a deep breath before continuing, "Tell him that the Formations Guild is willing to pay a heavy price for the knowledge of those runes. Be it Spirit Stones or other things, we can negotiate."

Frandin then glanced at Rean and Qia for a moment. It was not his decision but theirs.

Rean then sent him a Spiritual Sense message, saying, 'Ask him if Rank Four Spirit Stones are involved.'

In the end, Rean wanted to obtain Rank Four Spirit Stones again. He only had a few back in Sunkan Planet and thought it would be even harder to get it here. But if this guild was willing to part with some... he wouldn't mind giving them a few manuals with formations from Sunkan.

'Alright.' Frandin agreed and looked at Hudin as he replied, "Hmm...it's not really out of the question. However, my master has no need for scraps. If you want to buy some of his knowledge, it'll cost you quite a bit. If you don't offer at least Rank Four Spirit Stones, I doubt he would even bat an eye at whatever you may offer."

Hudin couldn't help but feel a bit of tension after hearing that. "Give me a second. I need to talk about this with the Guild Leader."

Rank Four Spirit Stones were no joke, even for a guild like them. However, the formations Frandin showed were probably worth just as much and would help the guild recover this investment sooner or later.

It didn't take long before Hudin came back with an old man and a few guild elders. "This is the Guild Leader of this branch, Kacin Tui."

"I'll get straight to the point," said Kacin with a serious expression. "We're willing to part with Rank Four Spirit Stones, but that'll depend on what your master can show us. That being said, we want to meet him."

Frandin shook his head as he replied, "That wouldn't happen. At most, I can give you the schematics and study materials. However, my master definitely wouldn't come all the way here just for that."

Kacin was taken aback, asking, "You have everything with you?"

"I do." Frandin then took out his bag, which had a few books inside. Well, it was Rean who put them inside by using the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. "You can check for yourselves and decide whether it's worth Rank Four Spirit Stones or not."

Kacin narrowed his eyes as he took the books. At the same time, a few elders sent him Spiritual Sense messages.

'Isn't that a bit too convenient? Maybe he doesn't have a master and found an inheritance.'

'Indeed. If that's the case, we can just force Walton to give the rest of the material.'

'What if he really does have a master, and we're poking a hornet's nest? I don't think buying a fight with someone with such knowledge would be wise.'

'Even if he does have a powerful master, would the guild bother about it? Don't forget that the guild spans through the entire continent. His master would be the one who needs to think twice before acting against us.'

Kacin pondered for a bit, and in the end, shook his head. 'No, we won't force anything. It's not that I'm afraid of what his master could do if he has one. I'm afraid that we might not get anything else after this if we do that. They are valuable, but I'm more fearful of losing the chance of obtaining more knowledge than Spirit Stones,' said Kacin while thinking about the long run. His instincts also told him that if Walton wanted to leave, they probably wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

"Very well, Walton. Let me take a look at everything here first."

Frandin shrugged his shoulders with a smile, seemingly not afraid of being robbed at all.

Kacin then passed a few books to the other elders, and they began to discuss them. The appraisal of the books took over two hours and many Spiritual Sense messages. In the end, they all reached the same conclusion. These books were the real deal but only depicted the low-level formations.

After that, Kacin looked at Walton(Frandin) before asking, "Don't you have anything more elaborated?"

Frandin shook his head in response as he said, "How could I? I have just achieved the Earth Low-Level Rank as a Formation Master. Why would my master give me materials of anything above this level? It's up to you if what I have is worth anything in your eyes or not."

Kacin had to admit it made sense. He then discussed a price with the other elders before coming up with a number and asking, "These books are indeed useful as study materials. However, the level of formations here is just too low. That said, we can't pay you more than 500 Rank Four Spirit Stones."

Frandin smiled as he waited for Rean and Qia's answer. The two had been listening to everything until now, after all.

'Accept it.' Rean and Qia answered straight away.

Frandin then laughed as he nodded, saying, "That's fine. I also believe that such a price is well within these books' value."

With that, Frandin's group left the Formations Guild with 500 Rank Four Spirit Stones. Naturally, the guild tried to tail Frandin's group to find out more about him, but that turned out useless. Unfortunately for them, their group disappeared like smoke.

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#### Chapter 662: Separation

Back in the workshop, Rean and Qia were brightly smiling. "Great! We can leave these Spirit Stones for when someone needs to make an important breakthrough. Rank Three ones would work as well, but it's always better to be safe than sorry."

Naturally, Rean wouldn't use it for normal cultivation. It would be too much of a waste, especially since they weren't at the level where they could absorb everything.

Roan then came out when they arrived and asked, "Did you sell the Demon Cores as well?"

Frandin nodded, responding, "Yes, we passed by the alchemist guild before returning here. The stones are inside the Dimensional Realm."

Roan nodded before spreading his Spiritual Sense to call everyone over. "Gather up. Rean and I will be leaving your sides soon, so you will all need to rely on yourselves for a while."

Those words immediately took everyone aback. Roan hadn't commented about anything like that before, nor did Rean. However, judging by Rean's expression, it seemed that he also knew about it.

Calina was the first one to voice up as she asked, "What are you talking about? Why would we need to separate?"

"What else could it be? If we want to be taken by the Soul Rulers to their base, Rean and I will have to surrender ourselves. We can't bring you together," said Roan as if he was stating a fact.

Qia didn't like that, though. She had just gotten together with Rean as well. Not to mention that she wanted to help rescue Liza and the others just like the others "No can do. Just put us inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, and let's head there together."

Rean was the one to shake his head this time, saying, "That's the point. There's nothing you guys can do to help there. In fact, even I and Roan don't think we can do much in that place other than using the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to bring others inside. That being said, you might as well use this time to train."

"Exactly." Roan nodded. "Besides, I understood after our last training session when we separated. You can all live by yourselves, so it's time for everyone to head out of the nest. At first, I was concerned that the same enemy would appear again, destroying this planet as a result as well. However, a long time has passed, and nothing happened. Obviously, no one knows we came here. That also means we don't need to stay together anymore."

Rean also added, "Besides, we already got ahold of two other Zasfins to move together with all of you, Xiria and Clad. Last but not least, you can use my Light Element equipment to use my skill. Well, at least Agis can."

Agis, Malaka, and Frandin narrowed their eyes after hearing that. As for Calina and Qia, those two were extremely unwilling to part now that they had finally obtained the twins' hearts. "We don't want it. We didn't spend enough time together yet."

Agis also had another reason to not get separated so soon, saying, "What about the Spiritual and Light Element Bending skill? At the moment, other than you two, only I can use it, and only to a very low level. I might be able to enter a city after I practice some more, but Calina and the others can't."

"That's why you have more Zasfins now. They will be the ones doing the city chores for you," replied Rean. Before anyone could complain about it, Rean continued, "Besides, you're all committing a grave mistake here."

"Mistake?" The others couldn't help but feel confused.

Rean then gloomily smiled in response as he said, "If I wasn't here with you, what would you do about this planet's situation? It's just by coincidence that I have the Light and Spiritual Sense bending abilities. However, anyone else wouldn't have this privilege."

He then sighed, continuing, "Can't you see the problem here? All of you have become too dependent on our Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and my skills. That's no good."

Everyone was shocked to hear that. Sure enough, they had to admit that Rean and Roan were right. Even when they were separated to battle alone, it would just be for a few days at most. Besides, they knew that Rean would be there to heal any injuries they had as long as they returned. That kind of mentality was no good for cultivators.

Roan was on the same page as Rean, saying, "That's correct. We're leaving so that you'll go back to when you didn't have to rely on our powers. I already spent a very long time devising your training routines, so you can definitely use them for the realms above without any issues. You already noticed its effect on Soul Power as well."

"But..." Calina dropped her head. As correct as Roan might be, she still didn't want to let him go. After all, she worked very hard to get the ice block's heart. However, she soon showed an expression of determination before looking back at Roan.

"Alright. However, once we meet again, I want a child!" said Calina, not leaving any room for discussion.

Roan narrowed his eyes for a moment. However, he decided to agree with her in the end, saying, "As long as you survive until then, I will fulfill your wish."

Qia immediately grabbed Rean's arm after hearing that, soon saying, "I want one too!"

Agis, Malaka, and Frandin wondered if they should just leave the room already. That scene was too bright to watch.

Rean noticed their faces and could help but laugh as he said, "Hahaha! Alright, that's enough. You're making them jealous."

"Who's jealous?!" Obviously, those three denied Rean's words straight away.

Rean shrugged his shoulders before changing the topic. "In that case, we also need a safe place for our family, right?"

Even Roan was taken aback by those words. Safe place? Was there such a thing for humans in this world?

Rean quickly explained what he wanted to say. "What do you expect? We're also going out to rescue Liza's group, aren't we? That being said, we'll need to find a place where they can live. That just so happens to be perfect for anyone's family."

Hearing that, Agis said, "But I doubt there is any place in this world that safe."

Rean didn't deny that, responding, "I know." He then smiled right after as he said, "That's why we need to create it! We need to find a way to create a safe haven for humans on this planet. Only then will it be possible to go forward."

Let alone Roan, everyone else found that idea ridiculous. Unless they reached an extremely high level that would force those Zafins back, such a thing wouldn't happen that easily.

Nonetheless, Rean continued, "What, afraid? Are you already giving up ever reaching the level of a top expert? I'm sorry, but I haven't."

Roan sighed at Rean's idiotic idea. That was just giving them even more problems. However, when he thought about really having a child...he didn't like the idea of having to live hidden with them. "Fine, I'll follow this ridiculous idea of yours. However, for us to have any chance whatsoever, the Nascent Soul Realm is the bare minimum to start. Do all of you think you can reach that level?"

Agis couldn't help but snort as he responded, "Hmph! If even Zafins on a planet with a lack of Spiritual Energy could, then I can obviously do so as well. I'm a cultivator with a Red Color Aptitude. It's a given that I'll reach the Nascent Soul Realm eventually."

Malaka, Calina, and Qia also agreed with that. After coming so far, they knew that Roan's methods worked...even though they were almost suicidal.

Roan then looked at everyone before saying, "I will make lighter training routines for all of you since neither Rean nor I will be close to you anymore. It'll be useless if you can't recover from your injuries." After saying that, he began to take some paper from the Dimensional Realm to write the routines down.

That was quite a surprise coming from Roan. Yet, Calina immediately put her hand over his as she shook her head, saying, "There's no need for it. I want to keep the same routine. I will master it, and I will definitely not die. After all, I know you definitely won't make yours easier," said Calina with a smile.

Agis then put one hand on Malaka's shoulder before laughing as he said, "Hahaha! It comes without saying that the same thing goes for us."

Malaka's expression immediately changed as she complained, "Eh? Me too? But I want the easier one!"

Roan snorted as he responded, "I think I'll just double yours instead."

"Ahem...that won't be necessary. This one is just perfect," answered Malaka in a hurry, her face as pale as a ghost.

Naturally, everyone laughed at that. However, there was someone who didn't seem very happy about it, Frandin.

"You guys are aiming too high for me. Nascent Soul? I've never thought of being able to reach that level. Even my father constantly pointed out that he was extremely lucky to achieve that when he was very close to dying."

Rean shook his head in response as he eased Frandin's worries, saying, "It's fine, it's fine. As long as you don't slack off, Roan's methods will bring you there. Simply put, try not to act like Malaka."

Malaka's mouth twitched as she said, "You're too despicable! Just you wait! I'll be the first one to reach Nascent Soul!"



Everyone looked at Malaka as if they were looking at an idiot. Not a single soul in that room believed those words. Obviously, that made the happy-go-lucky girl even more furious. "Hmph! I'll show you in the future!"

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Chapter 663: Last Preparations

Calina couldn't help but ask after that. "By the way, when did you two decide on that? After all, we all thought that we would keep traveling together."

Rean soon answered Calina's question, saying, "About some time ago. However, we wanted to make sure that everything was prepared for you guys and us. For example, the equipment auction, getting more Zasfins to pretend to be our owners, and things like that."

"I see..." Calina and the others understood that it wasn't a sudden decision.

Rean then laughed in response as he continued, "It's fine, it's fine. Since we're separating now, that means we at least believe you all have the ability to survive on your own even without the support of my skills. Of course, we aren't idiots. Both Roan and I know that there's a good chance that someone might die. Maybe all of us will. In any case, this decision would be for the best for all of us."

"Rean's right." Roan agreed with Rean's words before changing the topic. "Anyway, you all know what will happen, so get ready. The two of us have decided to use the Asume Clan to call out the Soul Rulers after the auction is over."

Malaka then looked at a certain snoring bird on the corner of the room before asking, "What about Kentucky? Are you bringing him with you two?"

Rean pondered a little before looking at Roan, soon responding, "To be honest, we're not that sure. Kentucky is connected to us, so it would be possible to use him to find us in the future. On top of that, we could do the same thing vice versa. However, knowing where we are goes against the idea of everyone separating."

Agis was a lot more straightforward with his words, "What are you talking about? This bird must definitely go with you."

"Why?" Naturally, that was everyone's doubt.

Agis then shrugged his shoulders before pointing at Kentucky, asking everyone else, "Do the rest of you think that you can afford this guy's appetite?"

\*Tch...\*

Everyone heard Rean click his tongue the moment Agis made that question.

At that moment, Malaka, Calina, Qia, and Frandin felt a chill on their backs. Rean's true objective was as clear as day. All of them simultaneously thought, 'He totally planned to leave Kentucky behind so that he didn't need to feed him either!'

Following that, they shook their heads vigorously. Kentucky was almost a black hole that ate nonstop. There was no way they'd be able to sustain him. Besides, Rean and Roan were the only ones with a Dimensional Realm to hide him if necessary. They would go bankrupt very soon if he stayed with them.

"Sigh...fine!" said Rean eventually with a grim expression. "We'll bring him with us. Why can't you at least share a bit of the fat bird's burden?"

Agis and company immediately looked away, pretending they didn't hear anything. As for Roan, well...providing resources had always been Rean's job, so he didn't care about what choice was made.

The auction would happen the next day, so instead of training or doing anything like that, everyone spent the day having fun. Well, Roan was basically dragged along against his will, though. Eventually, the auction day arrived, with Rean and Roan using Clad and Firmel's help to put all his Earth Peak-Level Equipments for sale.

Naturally, that immediately caused an uproar. Well, it wasn't because it was rare to see them, but because there were never so many available at once. Usually, a weapon at that level would only appear

every three or four auctions, and they were always bought by Nascent Soul Realm cultivators. However, there were eight of them, so even the Core and Soul Fusion Realm participants had some hope of acquiring one of them.

Of course, due to the high number of weapons, their price was also less than Rean's first Earth Peak-Level Sword. The one that sold for the highest price was a Water Element Spear, which went for 5200 Rank Three Spirit Stones. In the end, Rean still made a little over 32000 Rank Three Spirit Stones.

Clad couldn't help but feel impressed by that. If there was even a little doubt before, it completely disappeared after today. He wasn't a blacksmith, but he wasn't an idiot either. It was easy to see that the weapons Rean put for auction were brand new ones, forged not too long ago. Unless there was some master blacksmith around helping him, it meant that his group made it by themselves. With that, he thought to himself, 'Their group is definitely part of the Unity Celestial Land. At the very least, he's part of a Celestial Land, even if it isn't Unity.'

Following that, Rean's group headed back to the workshop. There, Rean took 20000 of the 32000 he obtained from the auction and distributed them to everyone. This would ensure that they would be fine for quite a while.

"Alright, I'm going to take my Imperial Bloodline Drop now," said Frandin as he took out the vial with the blood.

Roan also took that opportunity to bring out the Magma Flower from the Dimensional Realm, saying, "In that case, I'm going to concoct the Spiritual Rage Pills. My Soul Power is only barely able to make it, but it'll still out help a lot."

Roan found this recipe when Frandin took the Alchemist Exam and brought him into the repository. The Spiritual Rage Pill was quite an overbearing cultivation assistance pill. Unless one was in the Core Formation Realm at the very least, chances were high that their Dantian would explode. Even at the right level, one had to be sure to be prepared for the great influx of Spiritual Energy. The problem was that one's Spiritual Energy would go chaotic, just like when they finished a breakthrough.

On the other hand, this pill could cut at least two entire months of cultivation for a Peak Core Formation Realm cultivator, or even more if used by someone at a lower cultivation level. Roan was only disappointed that there weren't more Magma Flowers. This kind of herb could only be found in a place with a high concentration of Fire Element and Yang Energy, so it was very rare on a planet dominated by

snow. Nevertheless, anyone could take it as long as the affinity was neutral, even Yin Element and Energy users. That also explained its very high value.

Frandin was the first one to finish his part, absorbing the Imperial Bloodline Drop completely. Because it was a drop of a low-level member, it wasn't that hard to do so.

"How much did your Soul Power increase after that?" asked Rean, curious.

However, Frandin shook his head, replying, "It doesn't increase my Soul Power directly. What it does is improve my talent for it. I should be able to increase my Soul Power even faster from now on."

A few hours later, Roan finished concocting the Spiritual Rage Pills. It was an incredibly difficult pill to make, with high chances of it failing. However, Roan still had the help of his Soul Gem Cauldron, which could control temperature perfectly. Not to mention that he had the pestle as well. Although it didn't have a mortar from the Soul Gem System, it also had its share of Roan's success.

Roan then took a few bottles of the pills and began to pass them to everyone, saying, "Each bottle has three pills. Fortunately, many seeds were present in the Magma Flowers, so I concocted a few good batches. Always remember to make sure that you don't need to use your Spiritual Energy for the next three days after taking the pill. Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to control the chaotic power inside."

Everyone took the bottles as their eyes glistened. Cutting several months' worth of cultivation was obviously very attractive to anyone. If Roan put the pills up for auction, they would definitely go for tremendously high prices, especially because it was neutral.

Calina then put the bottle away and looked at Roan, asking, "Do you want to hear our plans for when you leave?"

"No." Roan shook his head as he replied, "From now on, you'll only rely on yourselves, so I won't comment on what you guys decide to do."

Calina and the others nodded after that, not finding it surprising.

"What now?"

Roan then looked in the direction of the Asume Clan Estate before saying, "We basically only have to use the thing that can test our Soul Purity in the Asume Clan, and they'll call the Soul Rulers over. However, I want you all to be long gone before that happens. That being said, let's head to the Asume Clan and take Xiria first. You guys will all leave the city after that with Frandin. As long as you have Agis, Frandin, and Xiria, obtaining things from other cities should be easy."

Qia was puzzled after hearing that, asking, "What about Clad? Weren't we supposed to use him too?"

Rean nodded as he answered Qia's question, "Yes. However, he will come with Roan and me. After all, it's a lot easier for you guys to use Xiria than Clad. With the Dimensional Realm, we can deal with anything if things get complicated."

Roan also took the opportunity to give Frandin a pill, telling him, "This is the full antidote for Xiria's poison." Following that, he took out several bottles before continuing, "And these ones are used to keep her poison at bay. There are enough pills here to keep the girl under control for at least two years. After that, you can decide whether it's worth letting her keep following you all or let her leave."

Frandin nodded with a serious expression in response, putting the pill bottles away. With that said, the twins sent everyone into the Dimensional Realm, leaving only Calina and Frandin out. Obviously, they headed straight to the Asume Clan soon after. Once they grabbed Xiria, it would be time for them to journey out by themselves and leave the twins behind.

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Chapter 664: Fend For Themselves

By the time they had arrived at the Asume Clan, Rean, Roan, and Frandin were received by Xiria and her parents, who were already waiting for them. Not long after, one of them asked, "Is it about time?"

Frandin nodded, responding, "Yes, we will be leaving shortly after."

Xiria took a deep breath before bowing back to her parents once more, saying, "Dad, Mom, I'll be heading out."

"Sigh...seems like that's the only choice we have," said Xiria's parents with a gloomy expression.

However, Laun, Xiria's father, was puzzled about something else, asking, "What about the thing with the Soul Rulers? Are you not trying it anymore?"

"I am. That's why I'm going to see your ancestor now," Frandin soon answered. "She's probably waiting for me already, no?"

Laun narrowed his eyes but didn't deny that. The ancestor of the Asume Clan had always been watching them every time Frandin's group came to visit with her Spiritual Sense.

"In that case, follow me."

Sometime later, they arrived at Sumeri's room, where she was indeed waiting for them. She then smiled before asking, "Are you finally going to tell me where those high Soul Purity humans you mentioned are?"

Frandin laughed as he nodded, pointing at the twins as he replied, "Of course. Rean, Roan, come forward."

"Yes, young master."

Rean and Roan then stopped in front of Sumeri.

"This..." The sight greatly puzzled her, prompting her to ask, "They're far from being children, don't you think?"

Well, whatever she was thinking, Frandin still shook his head, saying, "No. All your rule says is that your need to find humans with a high enough Soul Purity. There wasn't anything saying that they had to be children. It's just that it was a lot more likely to find children with the right characteristics than adults."

Sumeri was taken aback by that. However, Sumeri had to admit that Gian (Frandin) was right. She never heard anything about only children being accepted.

"Well, that's true." She then brought out some kind of deep blue oval gem before showing it to the twins, telling them, "Touch the gem, and it will automatically check your Soul Purity. If it's high enough, it should shine a faint blue. If not, then nothing will happen."

Rean and Roan touched it straight away. Even if Frandin hadn't left with the others yet, it would take some time before anyone from the Soul Rulers arrives. That should be more than enough time for Frandin's group to leave the city. Especially since Rean and Roan intend to teleport them away with the Soul Gem Circuitry Teleport Formation. That way, no one would be able to follow them.

\*Bzzzz\*

After some time, the gem turned alive as the mentioned faint blue light appeared. Sure enough, Sister Orb was right. No one on this planet would have a higher Soul Purity than the twins. Even kids were no exception. Not only that, but the faint light continued to intensify several times to the point it was even hard to look at. Without a doubt, Rean and Roan's souls were as pure as they could ever be.

"Impressive!" Sumeri looked at the outcome with her mouth agape. "To think that adults could really reach such a level of Soul Purity. I guess I couldn't expect less from a member of a Celestial Land." Naturally, she also considered that to be another perk of a Celestial Land member.

Frandin laughed out loud, not trying to undo the mistake as he asked, "As long as they have the traits, then that's fine by me. By the way, when will you call the Soul Rulers?"

Sumeri shrugged her shoulders in response, saying, "There's no need. The moment the gem was activated, the Soul Rulers had already gotten the message. To be honest, this is the only way to ever call them over for someone like me."

Frandin nodded in satisfaction, saying, "That's more than enough."

His expression then turned solemn as he looked at Rean and Roan, telling them, "You two, you already know what to do. Don't resist and simply let them take you away. I have my own ways of following you later. As long as I arrive at their headquarters, we will have concluded the elders' test."

Rean and Roan immediately bowed to Frandin once again, unanimously saying, "You can count on us, young master."

Frandin then smiled back at Sumeri and mentioned, "Clad should arrive anytime soon. He will follow my two subordinates here when the Soul Rulers arrive. Remember, these twins are part of your family. You found them by coincidence once they were brought from outside for whatever reason you want to think."

Sumeri agreed with Frandin as she replied, "I know how to proceed. However, are you really okay with that? If I say that and you don't appear, all the benefits will be given to my clan instead."

"Hahaha!" Frandin laughed out loud once again, saying in response, "Do you really think I lack benefits? Don't worry, just consider it as payment for following our plan. You should have no concerns if we do it like that, right?"

Sumeri's eyes immediately lit up, responding, "Now we're talking the same language. Very well. I shall not inquire anything and just follow the plan. However, I won't give you anything either if you regret it later."

"Fine by me."

After a while, someone knocked on Sumeri's door before a subordinate of the clan came inside and asked, "Ancestor, there's an Imperial Guardian outside that says he was told to come here. Should we let him enter?"

Sumeri immediately nodded, responding, "Yes, we were waiting for him already."

Not long after, Clad appeared in the room with his father, Firmel. They soon noticed that Frandin and the twins were already there.



"Are the arrangements done?" Firmel asked straight away. Sure enough, he was already told how the twins' group would proceed.

"Yes." Frandin nodded in response, implicating that Sumeri didn't know that the real masters were, in fact, Rean and Roan.

Firmel understood that as he put a hand on Clad's shoulder, telling him, "Alright, Clad, we're counting on you. We can still hold back for a few more years, but the faster you get done with it, the better."

"Yes, father. I will definitely succeed," Clad immediately answered and bowed to his father. They knew very well how important the outcome of this matter would be for them.

Sumeri didn't know what they were talking about, nor did she intend to ask. The Imperial Guardians were also above her position, so she decided that it wasn't worth intervening in whatever was happening there.

Frandin then approached Clad, telling him, "Once you feel a power pulling your body away, don't resist it."

Clad took a deep breath and nodded. Soon after, Rean used the Dimensional Realm and sent Clad inside. Immediately, he appeared inside the jail that Frandin was locked up in the past. The same kail that didn't allow him to see what was outside of it. Nevertheless, he didn't panic. Rean and Roan had explained already that they had their own secrets, so they couldn't let him move around freely in there.

Firmel knew what was going to happen. Nevertheless, he couldn't help but feel impressed as he thought, 'I guessed that it was the case before, but seeing it with my own eyes is another matter. No wonder they could disappear like smoke every single time. With such high-level Spatial Equipment, anyone would be able to move around undetected.'

Sumeri, obviously, was left astonished since she didn't know about that before, thinking to herself, 'Truly, you can't look down on the Celestial Lands.'

Of course, Xiria and Laun were also left speechless by that scene. Xiria had a Spatial Bracelet, but she was well aware that she definitely couldn't send anyone alive inside. 'Too different! Our standings are just too different!'

Frandin noticed Xiria's expression before coming closer to her, asking, "You're the next one. Ready?"

Xiria nodded as a determined look appeared on her face. "Yes!"

Sure enough, that pulling power was felt once again, and Xiria disappeared from the room as well. Laun, not having anything else to do about it anymore, left straight away to tell Xiria's mother about it.

Firmel understood that the Soul Rulers would be coming at some point, so he decided to leave to not arouse any suspicions. "I hope you elder keeps his words," said Firmel as he soon turned around and left.

Sumeri thought that Firmel was talking to Frandin, but Rean and Roan knew that they were the real targets. Well, not that they cared about it anyway.

Last but not least, there was the teleportation issue.

"Senior Sumeri, I'll take my leave with Xiria now. Farewell," said Frandin as he touched Rean's shoulder. Soon after, he and Rean disappeared from the room as well.

This sight puzzled Sumeri, though. With that, she asked, "Weren't the ones supposed to be staying here, you and your brother?"

Roan nodded as he responded, "It is. Rean should be back anytime soon after young master finishes discussing a few issues with him."

Sumeri understood what that meant. Simply put, Gian Torio could send anyone back into her private room anytime he wanted. Clearly, that made her slightly fearful. 'If they can already do that, I wonder how many times more resourceful the Soul Rulers are.'

Little did she know that even the Soul Rulers couldn't do such a thing about it. Rean would only appear there again because Roan was there as well.

In the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Rean could see that both Xiria and Clad had been put inside the same jail. It couldn't be helped since he didn't want them to see the Dimensional Realm. Soon after, he stepped on the Circuitry Teleport Formation before activating it with Rank Three Spirit Stones, instantly teleporting 1000 kilometers away.

Rean appeared quite close to the ground this time, so he didn't need Kentucky to help slow his descent. He then willed them to leave the Dimensional Realm. Soon, Frandin's group came out with Xiria, leaving only the snoring demon bird and Clad in the Dimensional Realm.

Qia then immediately hugged him before giving him a kiss, saying, "We will meet again."

"We definitely will."

After that, Rean disappeared once again, leaving Frandin and the others to fend for themselves from now on.

Death... and me

Chapter 665: I Can Hear You!

Xiria, obviously, was confused over what just happened. She saw Rean appear for a moment, bid farewell, and leave. She knew that Rean had to come back to where Roan was since she was in Sumeri's room during that time.

Even though that was the case, she still could not help but think, 'Still, why does it feel like something is different?' After all, Rean and Qia seemed to be ready to stay apart for a very long time.

Another thing was that this was the first time she saw Agis. Frandin's appearance had also changed once he came out of the Dimensional Realm. Well, the part where Frandin was using a different appearance didn't surprise Xiria. The same could be said for Calina, Qia, and Malaka. After all, Gian told everyone that he couldn't talk about his identity from the very start. Using another face made total sense in that context.

"Gian, you actually had one more human in your group," said Xiria as she looked at Agis.

Frandin nodded, replying, "Yes. He was the last member of my group. Well, you'll see him a lot from now on, so there's no point in keeping him hidden." Following that, Frandin changed the topic as he said, "By the way, you don't need to call me Gian anymore. You already have taken the poison, so I can trust you with my real name at the very least. You can call me Frandin from now on."

Xiria nodded, still feeling a bit lost over everything that was happening. However, the next thing that happened truly surprised her.

\*Clack, clack, clack...\*

One by one, Agis and the others removed their slave collars.

"Sigh...these fake collars are seriously annoying. It feels like someone is grasping my neck all the time," Malaka complained.

Calina and Qia agreed with her as one of them responded, "Indeed. Well, make sure to keep them since we might need to enter a city again."

Agis then came forward and asked everyone, "Shall we go, then? The next city on the map should be Havares. However, I would rather avoid that one and head to the one after that. We need to make sure that we're as far as possible from Vanesi before the Soul Rulers arrive. After all, we don't have Rean and Roan's Dimensional Realm."

Frandin agreed with Agis, saying, "That's true. On the other hand, we have a lot of Spirit Stones now. We can totally avoid all cities in this country and head straight to the next."

Eventually, Xiria couldn't hold her curiosity anymore, asking, "Ahem...what's happening here? Why do I feel like the way your humans are treating you is different now, Gia- I mean, Frandin? Also, what about those fake collars? Could it be that you trust them that much that they don't need it?" In fact, she quite admired it since it proved that Frandin truly liked humans, just like her clan.

Frandin couldn't help but laugh out loud as he replied, "Hahaha! My humans? They had never been my humans to start with. They're just my companions. By the way, it seems like you haven't checked their cultivations with your Spiritual Sense yet. Why don't you give it a try?"

Xiria was taken aback for a moment before she spread her Spiritual Sense. At the very next moment, she looked like she had seen a ghost.

"Co-Core Formation and Co-Core and Soul Fusion!"

Calina and the others didn't try to hide their cultivation, so even Xiria could see it with her Foundation Establishment Realm cultivation. As expected, she was shocked by that sight, prompting her to ask, "Wh-What's happening here?"

Frandin then put a hand on her shoulder, saying, "Hahaha! Don't worry, you will get used to it."

Following that, he explained, "Do you remember when I said that this journey would be very dangerous? This is one of the reasons. There are other problems as well. Then again, you'll come to understand it as time passes."

Xiria couldn't help but ask, "Are you...really a member of the Celestial Lands?" Sure enough, that question appeared, and it surprisingly did not take long to arise.

However, Frandin just shrugged his shoulders while replying, "Have I ever told you that I was part of a Celestial Land?"

Sure enough, Frandin was right. Indeed, he had never said he was part of a Celestial Land to the members of the Asume Clan, not even once. The only ones who got that excuse were the Imperial Guards, or to be more specific, Firmel and Clad.

Immediately, Xiria felt like her clan had been fooled, asking, "What do you intend to do with me?"

"Nothing," said everyone as they answered Xiria's question in unison.

Naturally, that made Xiria confused again. What did they mean by nothing?

Frandin then took a bottle with a pill, the same one Xiria had a few days ago, before giving it to Xiria as he said, "Here you go. This bottle has a pill that can completely cure your poison. Well, you probably know that already."

Following that, he pointed in a certain direction as he continued, "If you follow that path, you will eventually arrive back in the city. After that, you can simply head back to your normal life."

Frandin then moved to everyone else's side and continued, "However! There is one thing I didn't lie to you about. You can definitely become much stronger, far surpassing any of the geniuses of your clan. As long as you follow us and not die, I can guarantee you that much. Remember, great dangers are always followed by great rewards."

None of Frandin's group did anything. Xiria seemed like a nice Zasfin, so they had no intention of making things difficult for her now that they already got what they wanted. If she wanted to give up, she had the freedom to do that.

Xiria narrowed her eyes as she pondered over it. The fact that the humans in front of her were that strong and young was proof enough that Frandin was telling the truth. Not to mention that Frandin himself was already very strong for someone at his level.

Eventually, Xiria remembered why she decided to leave and gritted her teeth, throwing the healing pill back to Frandin again as she said, "Fine! I already expected that things were not totally as I thought they would be. The fact that Calina and the others were much stronger than you or me was truly shocking. Nevertheless, I have an objective to fulfill. If following humans around is what it takes, then I accept."

She then turned around and began to move away from Venasi City, saying, "Let's go. The further away from the city we are, the better. Didn't you say that before? Then, let's pick up the pace."

"Such determination..." Frandin and the others were surprised by that. They truly thought she would turn back as soon as she found out the truth.

It was then that Malaka had an idea as she asked the others, "Do you really think she's determined?" Everyone looked at her, waiting to see what this girl was planning to do. Soon after, Malaka ran ahead and called Xiria's attention, giving her a piece of paper. "Xiria, here's your training routine. It had been prepared for Frandin, with just a few modifications based on your Elemental Affinity."

Immediately, everyone understood. Roan had revised Frandin's routine after they got Soul Power. Now it was even more terrifying than when Frandin showed it when they visited the Asume Clan for the first time.

Seeing that, Frandin sighed as he took the bottle with the healing pill out and murmured, "Well, it was good while it lasted. I better give her the pill already before she forgets it and runs away."

Calina, Qia, and Agis nodded in agreement to Frandin's words.

Soon after, they saw Xiria's expression turn ghastly pale. The more she read the things on that paper Malaka passed to her, the worse it became. She then looked at Frandin and the others while her whole body trembled. That routine couldn't be possible! However, she only saw Frandin and the other holding other pieces of paper, describing their own routines as well.

"Don't worry. We all know how you feel."

Xiria gulped a bit of saliva as she slowly looked by her side. There, Malaka was also holding another training routine made especially for her. Sure enough, it was as terrifying as everyone else's...

"I...I...I'm fi-fine...I can...do this..." Xiria then sent the training task into her Spatial Bracelet as she said, trying to muster up her courage.

\*wow!\*

Sure enough, her words surprised everyone.

"Now that's what you call courage!"

"Well, it's not like it's any easier for us."

"Yes, but she had never gone through Roan's craziness before."

"Indeed. I totally expected Xiria to put her tail between her legs and run away."

"Perhaps she has a stronger will than we thought."

"I think she's just pretending."

"She might be. If you see Xiria run away a few days from now, we will have our answer."

"I bet 100 Spirit Stones that she'll run away!"

"I bet 200!"

"I bet 300!"

"Hey, hey hey! If everyone bets she'll run, what's the point?"

Xiria's mouth twitched as she could not help but say, "Do you need to say all of that out loud?! I can hear you, you know?!"

Everyone laughed as Malaka and Calina grabbed her arms. "Welcome aboard."

And just like that, they began to make their way through the cold lands. No one other than themselves knew where they'd be going or how long it would take until they met the twins again.

Death... and me



## Chapter 666: Leaving

Back in the Asume Clan, Rean once again appeared on Roan's side. After all, they could use each other's location to come out of the Dimensional Realm as long as they were within 3000km away from one another. Of course, once they do that, they can't return to the place they were before unless they left a save point, which cost Spirit Stones depending on the distance.

Sumeri, seeing that the two were there, asked a few of her subordinates to take care of them for a while. She didn't know how long the Soul Rulers would take to arrive since it was the first time she found humans with the necessary Soul Purity.

The initial plan wasn't for Rean and Roan to appear together, only one of them. However, they decided that they might as well appear together. Because they had Light and Dark Element affinities and were twins, they could use it as an excuse for their high Soul Purity.

Time soon passed, with nothing happening on the first day. But on the second, a few people in the city noticed a shadow appearing in the sky. Slowly, it got bigger and bigger until finally, the shadow attracted everyone's attention. It then broke through the anti-weather formation and stopped right above the Asume Clan's estate.

It was some kind of enormous airship. The ship alone was bigger than the Asume Clan Estate itself. Rean and Roan looked at it and couldn't help but feel amazed. This was the first time they had seen any flying vehicle on both planets. Let alone one as ridiculously big as this one.

"Man, these Soul Rulers are incredibly wealthy," said Rean as he looked up.

"That much is obvious. Still, isn't this too much of a big entrance? Their presence was supposed to be kind of a secret, no?" Roan also could not help but comment.

Well, the powers in the city could simply come up with any excuse for the populace later, and they would have no choice but to accept.

Suddenly, a few Zasfins appeared on the deck of the airship before jumping down. Sumeri was already outside, waiting for the Soul Rulers. Rean and Roan, obviously, were by her side, pretending to be respectful.

"Welcome to my Asume Clan, friends." Sumeri then bowed to them, trying to act as politely as possible.

There were two men and one woman in this small group. They didn't seem very interested in Sumeri. Instead, they looked around, trying to find any human children. However, they couldn't find any, so they finally asked, "Where are the humans with high Soul Purity?"

Sumeri nodded as she pointed to Rean and Roan on her side, replying, "Here they are. These friends can go ahead and check their Soul Purity."

"What?!" In an instant, the aloof expression on the Soul Rulers' faces disappeared as it was replaced by shock. "Impossible! Do you know what it means to fool our organization?"

Sumeri felt a chill on her back but quickly recovered. She then smiled as she took out the deep blue oval gem and passed it to Rean and Roan, telling the two, "Go ahead, touch it."

Rean and Roan, who also pretended to be scared of the Soul Ruler's previous outburst, quickly nodded and touched the gem. Sure enough, it shone brightly with a faint blue color.

"I can't believe it..." the woman was the first one to talk.

"Indeed. Adult humans with high Soul Purity. It's the first time I've seen one, let alone two," one of the men followed.

The second man was even more impressed, saying, "That's not all. Look at how bright the Purity Gem is shining. Have you ever seen any human kid with this level of Soul Purity?"

The woman then took a deep breath and smiled as she landed on the ground, saying, "Sumeri Asume, am I right? I'm Gila Joskri. Excellent job in finding these humans. Tell me, where did they come from?"

Sumeri then glanced at Rean and Roan for a moment before explaining, "My clan doesn't treat humans as badly as others, so we give shelter to them every now and then. These two seemed to hear the rumors about us and asked us to let them stay. Surprisingly, we were doing the human kids' Soul Purity

Check that we do every year. We then asked them to help us and had them bring the gem to the human quarters. However, when one of the twins touched it, the gem immediately activated. Because they were twins, I had the other one try it as well, and sure enough, the same thing happened."

"I see...so you don't know where they came from," said one of the men as he approached the twins. "By the way, you can call me Ren Zolfin." He then smiled at Sumeri, showing his satisfaction.

The last guy didn't seem to care about the reasons, saying in a rush, "Does it matter how they found these humans? The fact is that they have the Soul Purity we need. Whatever they might be, it's not of big concern. Once the Soul Rulers are involved, no one else can do anything about it." It was obvious that he wanted to leave as soon as possible.

The woman then sighed after hearing that, responding, "You aren't wrong, Vio, but we need to understand how these twins came to be. Perhaps we can create a method to give birth to more of them in the future." Soon after, she turned her attention back to Sumeri, asking, "Do you have any idea why they have this level of Soul Purity?"

Sumeri pretended to ponder a bit before mentioning something, "I do have an idea..." She turned to the twins after that and gave them an order. "Show these friends your Elemental Affinity."

Sure enough, Rean and Roan immediately gathered Light and Dark Element around them, which surprised the three Soul Rulers.

"Light and Dark!"

"To think they would be born with a rare Elemental Affinity."

"I have never seen or heard anyone with this kind of Elemental Affinity before."

Gila took a deep breath after her second shock, saying, "That makes things difficult. There's no way we can replicate their situation in the real world since it's extremely rare for anyone to be born outside of the five main elements. Nevertheless, we did get humans with some other Elemental Affinity in the past. However, none of them had advantages in Soul Purity, nor did they keep their Soul Purity until adulthood."

Vio and Ren nodded as one of them continued, "Which means...it might have something to do with the fact that they're twins with uncommon Elemental Affinities. Simply put, there is no way we can replicate such a thing. Of course, we'll need to do a few tests, but I find it very difficult to replicate their case."

Sumeri didn't know what they were talking about. However, she didn't dare to ask either. Rean and Roan, however, knew very well what it was all about. Of course, they also kept quiet and didn't intervene, pretending to be good human slaves.

Gila noticed that they began to talk too much, so she changed the topic. "Oh well, we can check it out later. For now, let's head back to the headquarters with these twins." Soon after, she looked at Sumeri, saying, "You did a very good job in finding these ones. Not only are there two of them, but they're a true rarity! Your rewards will surely be plenty. Becoming the sole ruler of this city wouldn't be hard after that."

Sumeri quickly bowed with an excited expression, responding, "Thank you very much! I wish these friends a safe journey back."

Gila nodded as she enveloped the twins with her Spiritual Energy. Soon after, she and the other two guys flew back to their airship. In the end, those guys simply didn't care where the twins came from or if they had any background. They considered themselves the sole ruling power of the Zasfin World, so they didn't even bother thinking if it could be some trap or anything like that. Even if it was, their organization would simply trample over whoever was trying to find problems with them.

On the ground, close to the Asume Clan, Firmel looked as the Soul Rulers brought the twins away. Deep down, he couldn't help but wish as he thought, 'If we get really lucky, perhaps my son can even join the Soul Rulers, which will be even better than any Celestial Land.'

In other parts of the city, the other clans looked at that with jealousy. Their leaders knew who those Zasfins were. Naturally, they understood that the Asume Clan was lucky enough to find human kids with a high level of Soul Purity. Well, the one that regretted it the most was definitely the Portin Clan. After all, they had the chance to be the ones calling the Soul Ruler. However, they gave up on Frandin as soon as the Imperial Guardians appeared, unlike the Asume Clan.

Ye Portin, who observed all of that, couldn't help but sigh as he thought, 'At least we aren't enemies with the Asume Clan. I better make sure that my clan members don't find a problem with them from now on.'

Other clans also had the same idea, afraid that offending the Asume Clan would also offend the Soul Rulers. And just like that, within just a few minutes, the Asume Clan became an untouchable power in Vanesi City.

Following that, the airship of the Soul Ruler took flight once more, leaving the city's formation as it soon disappeared in the distance.

Death... and me

Chapter 667: Engine

Inside the airship, Gila went ahead and examined the twins from top to bottom. Sure enough, with her cultivation being several times higher than the twins, it didn't take long for her to notice Rean and Roan's cultivation.

"Peak Core Formation Realm? Well, that's quite surprising..."

Hearing that, Vio was slightly surprised as he decided to also check their cultivation. "Oh! You're right. They really are at the Peak Core Formation Realm."

Ren Zolfin, who was with them, couldn't help but comment, "This kind of high-level cultivation and young age. Celestial Land?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other, then back at those ZASFins as one of them responded, "The Decadence Region."

Gila nodded in response to their words. "So that's why, huh? Well, it makes sense. If you lived there since young and fought your way through, I can more or less accept this level of cultivation and age. However, I'm surprised that you got to escape from there."

As for Vio, he couldn't care less. "There's no point asking. Whether or not they came from the Decadence Region matters little. The good thing is that their Soul Purity hasn't disappeared while their cultivation is at a high level. If it continues like that, they'll be worth hundreds of human kids as time passes. After all, their lifespan increases with their cultivation."

"That's true." Gila and Ren nodded in agreement.

Gila then stopped paying attention to the twins and simply said, "You can move around as much as you want. Just don't try to leave the airship. Remember that all of us are keeping an eye on you two, so there's no chance for you to escape."

After saying those words, Gila left the room, followed by Vio and Ren. Well, that obviously left Rean and Roan slightly confused. Rean soon said to Roan through their connection, 'It seems like they don't think we can cause any problems even with our cultivation.'

Roan agreed with Rean, replying, 'Indeed. That's a good thing for us, though. Have you noticed? They aren't treating us like most of the Zasfins do. Well, it's not that they're treating us well, but it's just that they simply don't seem to care.'

'Now that you say that...' Rean pondered a bit over their current situation as he spoke his thoughts, 'Other than their interest in our Soul Purity, not even our high cultivation was enough to catch their attention. I thought they would treat us more like some extremely rare treasure that must be kept under surveillance at all times. But that doesn't seem the case.'

'Exactly,' Roan said as he continued, 'That being said, I believe humans at our cultivation level might not be as rare as we've thought so far.'

Rean knew where Roan was coming from. 'It seems like we have the same thoughts. These Celestial Lands are always revered by allowing Zasfins to cultivate much faster than anywhere else other than in the Imperial Families' dwellings. I always thought it was strange since it doesn't change the fact that this planet severely lacks Spiritual Energy.'

Roan nodded, saying, 'Indeed. Think of the Asume Clan Ancestor, who was only at the Soul Forging Realm. Vanesi City is one of the important cities of the entire Palif Empire due to the Rank Five Bloodline Trial. Let alone Soul Forging, there are supposed to be several Saint Realm Zasfins there. Even an

Elemental Transformation Realm Zasfin wouldn't be impossible to see there. But even after saying all of that, none of those exist there because of the planet's Spiritual Energy condition.'

Rean and Roan arrived at the same conclusion after that. 'That means there's something special in those Celestial Lands, Imperial Families' Dwellings, and especially in the Soul Rulers' headquarters.'

It was then that Sister Orb's voice echoed in their minds, suggesting to them, [Isn't this guy Clad a member of the Imperial Bloodline? You might as well ask him.]

Rean and Roan had to agree that Sister Orb was right. Following that, the two of them connected their minds to the Dimensional Realm and sent their voice into the jail, asking, 'Clad, we have a question for you.'

Clad, who was feeling quite bored, immediately agreed as he replied, 'Sure! What is it?'

'Can you tell us if the Imperial Family's estate has some kind of high concentration of Spiritual Energy? We mean, some kind of formation or things like that?'

Clad was taken aback for a moment and then began to ponder about it. 'Hmm...as you know, our branch of the Palif Imperial Family was cast away, so I'm not sure about those things since it happened before I was born. However, I did hear my father commenting about something like that before. He said even Rank Four Spirit Stones couldn't compare to having access to the area where the main family members cultivated. Well, I can't guarantee that, though.' While replying to their question, he could not help but think the two should have already known something about that.

Rean and Roan nodded in response to Clad's words before they disconnected from the Dimensional Realm. Not long after, Rean said to Roan, 'It seems there really is something going on in the main powers of this planet.'

Roan then got up as he said, "Forget it. Since we're heading straight to the Soul Rulers' headquarters, we'll eventually find it out. Let's head outside and explore the ship."

Rean's eyes lit up as he said in response, "Then I'm going to the engine room...well, not that I think I'll find an engine, though. Without a doubt, this ship's 'engine' is powered by formations. I want to see how they're made."

Roan couldn't care less as to what Rean did. After all, he was not well-versed in formations. "I'll check the forces around, just in case."

And with that, the twins left the room they were staying in. Of course, they also kept the Spiritual Sense Bending Skill active. That being said, they could see several Spiritual Senses locked on them. If they really tried to escape, there would be no lack of ZASFins coming out to stop them.

'Well, we can simply enter the Dimensional Realm and flee, though,' Rean thought, not minding the vigilance at all.

The ship was enormous. Nevertheless, it wasn't hard for Rean to find the 'engine' room. Surprisingly, the ZASFins in there seemed to ignore Rean completely, only warning him to not touch the formations. The usual disdainful looks that most ZASFins cast at humans was nowhere to be seen on their faces.

Unsurprisingly, Rean ignored that as his attention was completely focused on the formations of the airship. 'Impressive! To think they could use formation in such a manner. I can see many areas that could be improved a lot with my knowledge of formations from Sunkan Planet. Not to mention the Circuitry Formations from the Soul Gem System. Then again, by using Soul Runes to regulate the flow of Spiritual Energy, they were able to make it fly. Soul Runes are really interesting.'

Rean was so focused on those formations that he began to draw them on the floor. Of course, he wasn't using any formation materials, just scribbling them. At the same time, he was fixing the parts that were obviously flawed or had worse efficiency than the runes from Sunkan Planet or the Circuitry Formations.

Some ZASFins saw that and snorted, thinking that Rean was just getting ahead of himself. How could humans truly understand the complexity of their airship formations? However, there was one ZASFin who narrowed his eyes as that ZASFin thought to itself, 'What kind of runes are those? Those are only a few scratches on the ground. However, they don't seem to have been created without reason.'

This ZASFin was none other than the Formation Master responsible for the formations in the airship. He was also a Heaven Middle-Level Formation Master of the Formations Guild.



Eventually, he approached Rean while paying attention to the modifications he made to those formations. Of course, Rean wasn't a Heaven-Level Formation Master, so he was only tinkering with the formations he could deal with. The Heaven-Level parts he didn't even touch.

Out of nowhere, that Zasfin put a hand on Rean's shoulder, which instantly brought him back to reality.

"Ah!" Rean almost jumped when that happened. He was truly focused on the formations of the airship.

The Zasfin then looked at Rean with a serious expression, asking, "Where did you learn about formations?"

Rean noticed that he had gone a little too far, so he tried to come up with an excuse. "Errr...I have the study materials from the Formations Guild from Vanesi City. I was only trying to apply them to these formations. Sorry for making a mess on the ground. I'll clean it up right away."

Rean was just about to use his Spiritual Energy to wipe out the drawing when suddenly, that Zasfin stopped him. "There's no need." He then pulled Rean back before continuing, "I'm very interested in those runes of yours. Does that mean you got them from Vanesi City? Show me those study materials you talked about."

Rean bitterly smiled as he answered, "I don't have them anymore since I already committed everything to mind. However, a few of the runes I used are not present anyway. They're just a few things I came up with."

"Are you saying you created those different runes and thought of the formation arrangement by yourself?" The Zasfin talking to Rean found it really hard to believe. Well, Rean didn't really make a formation, just some random scribbles here and there, so those runes might have no use whatsoever.

Rean scratched the back of his head before continuing, "They're just a few theories. I don't even know which kind of materials I would need to bring my ideas into reality. Hahaha! In the end, I'm just someone who dabbles with formations from time to time. There's no need for senior to pay attention to me."

He then added, "By the way, I'm Rean. I was brought aboard since it seems that I have a very high Soul Purity...although I don't know what that means."

Immediately, the guy's expression changed to that of shock. "High Soul Purity?!"

Sure enough, he didn't expect to hear such a thing from an adult human.

Death... and me

Chapter 668: Luck or Not

Rean looked at the old Zasfin before asking, "Is there a problem with me having high Soul Purity?"

The man quickly recovered before sighing as he replied, "Forget it. Would you like to talk more about those runes you came up with?"

Rean pondered for a bit and thought that this could be a good opportunity. There was nothing wrong with obtaining some more support, especially from a Zasfin. Besides, he was still puzzled as to why these ZASFINS didn't seem to care too much about the humans around them. There were even a few humans in this formation room that kept the airship afloat. It's just that none of them seem to be involved with the formations, but instead were there only to help with a few more menial tasks.

"Well...is it really okay for senior to listen to the theories of a human? I thought all ZASFINS would never care about even getting involved with us," Rean asked with a hint of confusion on his face.

The old Zasfin was taken aback for a moment before remembering that Rean was right. It wouldn't be easy to see a Zasfin willing to listen to a human on this planet. However, things were a little different in the Soul Rulers' territory. Humans were still considered slaves there, but because of how human kids with high Soul Purity were used, the ZASFINS tried to not put too much burden on them. That's because doing so would accelerate the speed at which those kids' Soul Purity would deteriorate. Of course, deep down, they still looked down on all humans.

"Sigh...it's fine," Palaris replied as he introduced himself. "By the way, you can call me Palaris. Don't worry. I just want to hear more regarding these rune theories of yours. Whether you're a human or not won't matter as long as your words make sense." He was only interested in the formations, after all. However, he also had an idea in mind depending on what Rean had to add.

Rean faintly smiled in response, knowing that he had the old man take his bait. Following that, he began to 'more or less' explain 'his' concepts of runes. Of course, those runes were basically the ones used in Sunkan Planet. It's just that Rean wouldn't mention that. "Alright, let me start with the Three Phases Spiritual Regulation Rune. If what I'm thinking works out, we can control the..."

And just like that, Rean began to explain the runes he drew on the ground. He told the concepts and what he would need to make them work out...if they worked. Of course, he didn't give a perfect explanation. Rean had left several flaws on purpose regarding what he used. That's because it would be way too suspicious if his runes that he 'just theorized' worked perfectly from the very start.

Even with that, Palaris became more and more shocked as he listened to Rean's ideas. Even though he could also find a few problems there, he could tell that they were still feasible once he took some time to work on them. 'A Formation Master genius! Who could have thought that a human would show such proficiency.'

However, that thought also pained him since Rean had high Soul Purity. After all, he knew what he would be used for once they arrived at the Soul Rulers' headquarters. With that, he asked, "Rean, right? Tell me, where did you learn about formations? Even if you came up with these theories, you had to first learn the basics from someone. I doubt there were many Zasfins out there willing to spend their time teaching a human."

"Senior's right." Rean already expected that question, responding, "I lived outside the city with my brother during most of my lifetime. Our father...well, not really our father since he was a Zasfin. Anyway, he was the one who taught me about formations. Unfortunately..." Rean then showed a sad expression as if remembering a painful memory.

At the same time, Roan's voice echoed in Rean's mind, telling him, 'What kind of shitty excuse is that? Can you be any worse at creating stories? Not even a kid would believ-'

\*Sniff, sniff...\*

"I see, I see! Don't worry, young man. I'm sure your father is very happy with what you've accomplished so far," Palaris said as tears fell down from his eyes, trying to console Rean.

Roan, who was somewhere else in the airship, twitched his mouth as he could not help but say, 'What are you? A fucking baby?! First of all, should this idiot even feel sad because of a human? What the hell is happening here?'

Rean laughed mentally, though. 'Hahaha! Isn't that obvious? My acting skills are just that good!'

'Good, your ass!' Roan immediately replied. 'This guy must be mentally ill. That's the only way you could convince someone with that story of yours.'

Rean couldn't care less, though. 'So what? It worked, didn't it? That's enough for now.'

Roan sighed but didn't say anything else. Since it worked, then that was good. Perhaps Rean could get some crucial information from the old Zasfin.

"Hey, Elder Palaris is crying again."

"What? How many times has it been this week already?"

"Someone, go call his granddaughter."

Sure enough, the other Zasfins quickly noticed the changes in Palaris. From the looks of it, this guy was quite the crybaby even before Rean appeared.

'Is it really fine to have someone like him taking care of the formations keeping this airship afloat?' Rean could not help but think. 'Oh well, that plays well for me.'

Rena then put a hand on the man's shoulder before saying, "Ahem...Elder Palaris, you don't need to worry. Our father died a long time ago, so my brother and I have already gotten over it."

Palaris nodded, but his tears continued to flow. "Alright, alright. I understand. That's the way of life, I know." He then patted Rean's head as if he was a kid. Well, considering their age difference, Rean might as well be considered a baby.

Sometime later, a female Zasfin entered the room and quickly made her way to Palaris, telling him, "Grandfather, how many times did I tell you to not get too involved with others? Look at you! Is that how an Elemental Transformation Realm Zasfin should act?"

Rean's heart froze for a moment after hearing that. Elemental Transformation Realm! The Formation Master taking care of this ship is that strong?!

'This guy is a monster!' Rean thought as he felt a chill on his back. The man in front of him could wipe him out with a finger, and he wouldn't even have the time to think about entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

Eventually, the girl was able to calm down Palaris, much to Rean's relief. However, she quickly looked in his direction with a dark expression and asked him, "Was it you who made him cry this time?"

Rean was taken aback for a moment but nodded in the end, responding, "Well...you could say so. I was just talking about my deceased father when he suddenly started to cry. I didn't expect that to happen, though."

Palaris then patted the girl's head as he shook his head, saying with still teary eyes, "It's fine, Ophele. I'm just not very good at controlling my emotions." Palaris then came forward and looked at the runes on the ground, soon muttering, "Sigh...such a waste. So many good ideas, but he won't have the time to work on them."

Rean narrowed his eyes for a moment but came back to himself right after. "It's fine. I know my status as a human slave. It's good to hear that someone else other than my father has recognized my abilities in the end, especially someone like you, senior." Rean then began to wipe out the scribbles on the ground...or so he tried.

However, Palaris held him back before he could do so. "Leave them be. I want to think a little more about your theories."

Naturally, that caught Ophele's attention. She was Palaris's granddaughter, so she was also well-versed in formations. "What theories, grandfather? Eh?! What kind of runes are those? I've never seen them before."

Palaris finally laughed after hearing that. "Hahaha! Right? These are a few theories this human came up with. He and his brother were raised by a Zasfin Formation Master outside the cities, so he knows a lot about them. These runes were his doing."

"But..." Ophele couldn't help but ask, "What do they even mean? Do they have any use whatsoever?" From the looks of it, neither she nor any of the other Zasfins gave a damn to Rean's story. She only wanted to hear about those runes. Sure enough, she was like the others. Ophele didn't care about who or from where Rean came because she was part of the Soul Rulers. Whatever he might be, it wasn't a problem for them.

Palaris nodded as he looked at Rean before asking, "Would you mind explaining everything once more?"

Rean nodded, noticing that only Palaris seemed to give some importance to him. Though, he could not help but think as he explained once more, 'Well, he might just be pretending to care, though.'

Roan, on the other hand, narrowed his eyes. He and Rean were sharing their vision of what was happening in their surroundings through their Soul Connection. That being said, Roan also saw the scene where Palaris wept. 'Unless he's one of the best actors of all time, that definitely wasn't faked. However, it seems like Palaris is an exception as the others around him don't seem to care. Is he really mentally ill? But then again, Elemental Transformation Realm. That's not just any cultivation realm.'

Roan then shook his head. Luck or not, everything worked out for the twins.

Death... and me

Chapter 669: Rean was right

By the time Rean had finished explaining 'his' theories again, everyone had dropped their disdain for Rean's abilities. Although some could also tell that portions of those runes would need to be revised, his theories seemed feasible. Not only that, but they could truly increase the efficiency of their airship if they really worked.

Suddenly, one of the subordinates of the airship looked at Palaris and asking, "Elder Palaris, we can't let such an opportunity like this pass up. I don't know how he has such a high Soul Purity even though he's an adult. However, his talent in formations is definitely worth a lot more than his capability of controlling the trials."

Even Ophele, who was angry at Rean because he made her grandfather cry again, had to admit that his formation talent was terrifying. Well, little did they know that Rean was just showing them what he learned somewhere else.

Nevertheless, Rean took that opportunity to ask, "Controlling the Bloodline Trials? What do you mean?"

Palaris narrowed his eyes as he fell into deep thought. 'Perhaps I should make a request to the high elders? However, they'll definitely want to check why he and his brother have high Soul Purity at their age. If he was just another normal kid...'

Palaris then shook his head as he said, "Forget it. We can't get involved in this problem. Don't forget, I'm only someone responsible for an airship's formation."

Rean didn't care about it, though. Their meeting was nothing but a coincidence to start with. However...

"Grandfather, that won't do. I'll ask mother to make an exception." As soon as Ophele said those words, everyone's expression changed.

Naturally, that caught Rean's attention. 'Her mother? Could it be that she's some sort of bigshot?'

'Probably,' Roan replied through their Soul Connection. 'Seems like this mistake of yours will be of some use now. If we can stay in two different places inside their headquarters, it will help us understand everything much better.'

Rean slightly nodded, responding, 'Alright, I'll try to make things work on my side. Though, are you okay being the only one sent to the Bloodline Trial formations?' Rean was still somewhat concerned about what would happen there.

'It's fine. They won't suddenly attack me or kill me. Besides, we have the idiot orb to pull us out if the situation turns awry.'

The idiot orb immediately complained in response, asking, [Who the hell is the idiot orb?]

Rean faintly smiled as he looked at Palaris and Ophele discussing.

"Grandfather. You know that the head favors her a lot. Besides, we have two twins with the same ability. She should be able to convince the head to leave this one for us at the very least." Ophele was truly interested in Rean's skill in formations.

The other Zasfins around them also agreed with her, saying that they also wanted to learn more about Rean's theories. If they did well, the position of their group inside the Soul Rulers would increase a lot.

Eventually, Palaris nodded as he looked at Ophele, saying, "Alright, then. However, she definitely won't listen to this old man's words, so it has to be you. Are you fine with that?"

Ophele immediately nodded with confidence as she said, "Yes! Leave mother to me."

Rean then pretended to be confused at the situation as he asked, "Ahem...can someone explain what's going on? What do you mean by controlling the bloodline trials? Is there any danger when you do that?"

Palaris pondered for a bit before deciding that it wouldn't make much of a difference even if Rean knew about it. Not long after, he explained, "The others outside don't know about it, but the Bloodline Trials of the world are controlled by us, the Soul Rulers. However, the core of the formations that operate the Bloodline Trials are humans with very high Soul Purity. That being said, once you're sent inside, you will have to work on it until the day your Soul loses its purity."

Rean nodded after hearing that. He had to take this chance to know as much as possible, so he continued to ask, "You said that I would do it until my Soul Purity disappears. Well, to be more specific, I'll have to work until it reaches the level of common humans, right? Isn't that fine, then? I can come back once I'm done with this job."

Everyone else's expression changed after hearing that. "There's no coming back. Once you can't do your job anymore, you are done for."

Rean pretended to be taken aback as he replied, "Co-Could it be that they will kill me? Why? I can still work like a normal human after that!" Of course, Rean had theorized back then that the human kids that



finished their tasks at the Bloodline Trials were used for something else after that, the Soul Stones. Of course, he wouldn't say it aloud.

"You will die, however...not in the way you think."

"Grandfather!" Suddenly, Ophele stopped her grandfather's words, saying, "You can't talk about that."

Palaris was taken aback for a moment and nodded, apologizing, "Oh, sorry, sorry. You're right."

Rean took that moment to ask Roan, 'Should I push forward?'

Roan knew what he was talking about and pondered for a second before giving the green light, saying, 'Go for it. From what I can see from the other Zasfins' expressions, this is not a big secret between them. Ophele only stopped Palaris because she thought it would affect you. They want your expertise as a Formation Master, after all. So, they can't allow you to hate them too much. This is the perfect moment to bring that topic out.'

Rean nodded and took a deep breath before asking, "It seems like that once I'm done with my task at the Bloodline Trials, I won't just simply die, huh?"

Ophele shook her head, responding, "You better not know about it. You won't like it."

Rean snorted in response as he asked, "Are you talking about the Soul Stones?"

Immediately, everyone's expression in the room changed as one of them asked, "How do you know about that?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders before continuing, "That's because I have seen one of them before. I'm not an idiot, you know. Soul Power is different from Spiritual Energy. It only exists because souls exist...or so my deceased master mentioned. That being said, I always wondered how that thing was created. Once you refused to talk about what happens to the human kids after they finish their tasks at the Bloodline Trials, it wasn't hard to guess the rest."

Sure enough, it seemed like Rean was right.

Death... and me

Chapter 670: Sister Orb's Help

Palaris couldn't help but lament, "Sigh... yes, that's exactly it. So, what will you do with this information?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "Does it look like I can do anything about it? I'm just a human, so I'll just follow the flow and see what happens."

Palaris and the others were slightly surprised by Rean's words. Then again, he was right. As a human, there was nothing he could do. In fact, even if he was a Zasfin, unless he had a high position in the organization, he would still be powerless to do anything.

Ophele then shook her head before continuing, "It doesn't matter if he knows or not. It's not like he can spread this information outside anyway. Even if he did, who would believe a human? Last but not least, only the higher-ups know how to use those humans to create Soul Stones. In the end, it's a piece of useless knowledge for him." Ophele was quite full of herself when she mentioned that.

Surprisingly, Rean simply agreed with her, saying, "Miss is right."

Palaris then looked at Ophele before asking, "I'm counting on you to convince your mother, alright?" He still wanted to find out what more Rean could do with formations. Of course, the same went for Ophele.

Roan, who had been listening to everything so far, had a dark expression on his face as he said, 'So, the Soul Stones are really made out of human souls.'

'Yes. It seems like we won't be able to do much about this issue. At most, we will only be able to save those who are there now. Then again, these Zasfins will eventually find more human kids to continue the process.' Although Rean wasn't showing it on the surface, he felt incredibly indignant.

Roan pondered for a bit before thinking about something else, saying not long after, 'At least, we should be able to prevent this process from happening for a long time.'

'Could it be...getting rid of the formation that controls the Bloodline Trials?' Sure enough, Rean understood what Roan meant. 'Now that I think about it, a formation capable of doing such a thing should be enormous and extremely complex.'

Rean continued to analyze the possibilities. 'But then again, there's also the method of transforming human souls into Soul Stones. Suppose the formation used to control the Bloodline Trials is destroyed and can't be restored for a few years. In that case, the Zasfin will not waste time making the kids wait. I'm certain that they will transform them into Soul Stones straight away.'

Roan then asked something else, 'Do you think they also use formations to transform their soul?'

Rean pondered for a bit and nodded, replying, 'Most likely. However, I doubt it's as complex as the formation controlling the planet's Bloodline Trials. Even if we manage to destroy them, the Zasfins should take some time to fix up those formations. In my opinion, as a Formation Master, I believe that the Zasfins' main issue with Soul Stones is to find humans with high Soul Purity.'

Roan shook his head in the end, saying, 'That means we can't do anything in that regard. In that case, we might as well not destroy the formation controlling the Bloodline Trials. At the very least, it will prevent those kids from being used for Soul Stones straight away.'

In the end, there's just so much they can do with their power. They could bring the kids they found into the dimensional realm, but they would have to leave straight away. Other than that, their actions were limited. That was the difference brought by their cultivation level.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he soon muttered, 'It seems we can only rely on her...'

[Hey, are you really THAT unwilling to have your beloved Sister Orb's help?]

Roan's mouth twitched as he replied, 'Beloved your ass!'

[I don't have an ass. Haha!]

Rean let out a quick chuckle before heading back to the main topic. 'Anyway. How would Sister Orb help with something like that? Such a formation is definitely at a very high level. Just how long would it take before she could take control over it?'

As mentioned in the past, Sister Orb's power at controlling formations depended on the formation's level and the Soul Gem System's processing power. Rean and Roan still didn't have any direct method to increase the processing power of the system, though they did have a passive method to increase it. That method was based on their current cultivation level.

[Hmm...indeed. Such formations would be ridiculously hard to crack. Nonetheless, they wouldn't be as terrifying as the natural formation that controlled time back in Sunkan Planet. Don't forget that I finished analyzing Soul Power, so I don't have problems analyzing Soul Runes anymore.] Sister Orb seemed somewhat very confident.

Roan ignored her smugness, though. 'Alright, then. In that case, we might as well stay there for some time. Besides, if our guess is correct, that area should be heaven for cultivators.'

Rean nodded and asked something else, 'But what will we do if we find out that one of the kids is about to be taken away?'

'Ignore them!' Roan didn't even need to think before answering. 'Are you really willing to sacrifice the big picture just to save a few? In the end, that will simply increase the number of sacrifices.'

He then continued, 'If we suddenly appear, and the kids that don't have the requirements to control the Bloodline Trials anymore began to disappear, what do you think the Zafins would have in their minds?'

Rean couldn't help but show a dark expression after hearing that. However, he understood that Roan was right. They could secretly use the Soul Gem System to bring the kids inside. But their disappearance would raise many suspicions around them. After all, it would start happening right after they were brought in. The Zafins would need to be idiots to not connect the dots.

However, it was then that Rean had an idea. 'Oh, right! In that case, let's not touch the Bloodline Trial Control Formation. Instead, Sister Orb, use your time to analyze the Soul Stone Formation. Make sure it won't work.'

Sister Orb didn't mind, however...

[I can try to do that, but I will at least need to be somewhat close to it. Also, you still don't know whether they really use a formation to create Soul Stones or not. If that's not the case...] Sister Orb stopped talking after that.

Rean sighed, knowing that Sister Orb had a point. Soon, he replied, 'Well, I'll see what I can do.'