

Death 681

Death... and me

Chapter 681: Time

Roan also warned Rean, saying, 'It doesn't seem like Palaris was lying. However, remember to stay vigilant. You never know what could happen.'

Rean nodded as he made his way back to Sevinia's estate, responding, 'Don't worry. From the very start, we weren't counting on them to help us anyway. Even if they think well about humans or not, that doesn't change the fact that they wouldn't go against the Zasfin Race's culture.'

Roan inwardly nodded as he said in response, 'Exactly. Anyways, Sister Orb will take a long time before she can obtain control over the formations, so let's focus on our cultivation from now on.'

Rean and Roan then left everything for Sister Orb to take care of before starting their routine once again.

And just like that, an entire two years went by in a flash. During these two years, quite a lot has happened. One of them was about Clad, who would be in the excavation sites. Every time the group of Zasfins there were going to be swapped, Rean would use the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to make him disappear. Because there were various groups excavating in different directions, it wasn't hard for Rean to put Clad inside a tunnel different from the previous one.

Thanks to that, Clad was able to break through to the Middle Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm from the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. At first, Clad was afraid of what might happen to him in this place. However, after two years of having his appearance changed by Roan and no one noticing him being swapped, Clad calmed down. Instead, he was excited at just how fast his cultivation rose. Roan's routine had really worked wonders for him.

On Rean's side, he helped improve the state of the Soul Rulers. Of course, they didn't let him touch the Bloodline Trial Control and Soul Stone Formations. At most, he was allowed to see them. Any modification would go through the Soul Rulers themselves. However, they did become interested in the new runes that Sevinia's estate came up with, thanks to Rean's help. That being said, Rean's position there had become quite peculiar thanks to it. He was a human but an important asset at the same time.

Rean didn't care about what others thought. As long as they didn't bother his cultivation, he wouldn't pay attention to it. Rean also asked Roan if he wanted to leave the Bloodline Trial Control Formations. After all, he gathered enough merits that this little request would possibly go through. However, Roan declined the offer.

Roan did not just cultivate during the time he was there. He also made sure to pay attention to all the things happening in the corridor filled with Bloodline Trial Control Formations. Using Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill, Roan had been looking for a gap in the place's surveillance. After all, he planned to bring all the kids out at once.

As mentioned before, the human kids didn't stay in the formations all the time. After all, they didn't have cultivation, so they needed to eat and sleep. Every now and then, they would come out to be treated and have their Soul Purity checked. It was during one of these moments that Roan met Liza and Luna face to face.

He then used his Spiritual Sense to talk with the two girls, which frightened the duo. They couldn't believe that Rean and Roan were really there. Of course, Liza only knew Rean, not Roan. However, because Liza had seen Rean's memories before, she knew who Roan was.

Both Liza and Luna began to cry as they made their way to him. However, before they could take more than a few steps, Roan hastily stopped them. After all, Liza and Luna weren't supposed to know him. After explaining to the two that it would be a risk to get closer to each other, the two girls nodded and held themselves back.

Roan also used that chance to tell them that he would bring everyone out with him when the preparations were ready. The problem was the treatment the Zafins gave to the kids. Liza and Luna were just two of the very few kids that understood that this place wasn't the paradise the other kids believed it to be. The majority truly thought they are doing a good thing since the Zafins always treated them well. That being said, Roan couldn't go around telling the rest that he would bring them away since most of them would denounce his plans.

One of Roan's objectives was to think of a way to deal with it. Then again, he already had a plan, so he was only waiting for Sister Orb to finish analyzing the formations.

Another point that piqued Rean and Roan's interest in this place was the extra tunnel Clad mentioned to always be guarded by many high-level Zafins. According to Clad, he was allowed to enter it once with a group of other Zafins to work inside.

There, he noticed something that looked like a giant tree made of white light. Clad was truly shocked when he saw that since it existed underground. From what Clad mentioned, the tree was several kilometers high and long. He was sure that the huge amount of Spiritual Energy all came from that tree. One could imagine how enormous the cave it was located in was. In fact, Clad's job was to help expand that same cave so that the tree could grow even bigger.

Naturally, it didn't take long for Rean and Roan to understand that the tree was responsible for the lack of Spiritual Energy on the planet. As for how many of those trees existed around the world, they had no clue. It would depend on how many empires, celestial lands, and other equivalent powers existed around the world. Nevertheless, the tree owned by the Soul Rulers was bound to be one of the biggest, if not the biggest, out of all of them.

The only doubt now was whether there was anything they could do with it. They would only find that answer once they teleported inside to check. Fortunately, after coming in and out of the tunnels so many times, Clad was able to pinpoint the exact location of the tunnel that led to the tree. After that, they only needed to use the Soul Gem Teleport Circuitry and keep teleporting in the right direction until they hit the mark. It was basically the same plan they used back to enter that Rank Five Bloodline Trial.

Of course, their discoveries didn't stop there. After two mundane years, Rean had finally heard of the Rank Ten Bloodline Trial!

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Chapter 682: Plans and Cultivation

Roan's interest was immediately piqued to know of that. 'Rank Ten Bloodline Trial? Such a thing really exists?' He soon asked through their Soul Connection.

'Yes,' Rean nodded as he responded. 'However, this Bloodline Trial is only active when a new head is about to be selected. From what Palaris told me, that's the reason the Soul Rulers are the main force controlling the Bloodline Trials around the world.'

He then continued, 'Every time a new head is selected, the previous head will become one of the Soul Rulers' Ancestors and retire from the position. That means the Soul Rulers definitely have a few hidden old monsters with Rank Ten Bloodline Soul Marks. Obviously, none of the other forces outside dare to cause trouble for them.'

Roan nodded, saying in response, 'That makes a lot of sense. They have that weird tree that can gather this ridiculous amount of Spiritual Energy for themselves. Their own members probably have no lack of Rank Nine Bloodline Marks, which only emperors and the like are allowed to have outside this place. On top of that, they also have old monsters with Rank Ten Marks. Whoever comes to bother them will only meet their maker.'

Rean sighed before saying, 'It seems like we finally know who owns those Spiritual Senses.'

Ever since Rean and Roan had arrived in the Soul Rulers' territory, Rean's Spiritual Sense Bending Skill picked up a powerful Spiritual Sense that far surpassed any other sense watching them in the area. Every now and then, that Spiritual Sense would disappear and be swapped by another one of equivalent power, though having a different owner. 'Obviously, those Spiritual Senses are these Ancestors who take turns to watch over their territory.'

Roan agreed with Rean, saying, 'Yes. However, there's a gap between those senses.'

He then pondered on his experience over these two years as he continued, 'Every time a new Ancestor takes place to watch the Soul Rulers' territory, the other disappears way earlier. It does make sense, though. After all, it isn't as if anyone would notice the exact moment one of them leaves, and the other comes in.'

Rean shrugged his shoulders, responding, 'I noticed that as well. There was even a time where we didn't even feel their Spiritual Sense for an entire day. In the end, they've been in power for so long that they became lax. They simply don't believe anyone would be able to notice these gaps and use it against them.'

'However...' Roan warned. 'There are moments when they swap very quickly. That being said, it will be up to our luck when we decide to make use of it. If we try something the moment one disappears just to be caught by the next one, we'll be forced to improvise.'

Rean sighed before changing the topic, asking Sister Orb, 'By the way, how much longer will it take, Sister Orb?'

[I already took control over the Soul Stone Formation System. However, I can't modify it to your liking. The only thing I can do is mess things up.] Sister Orb replied. As she mentioned in the past, she could only analyze and control formations but not build them. She's like a car driver who could use a car but had no idea how it was made.

Rean was more than satisfied with that, saying, 'That's good enough for me. If I could, I would ask you to do it straight away. Every time I think how many kids have been transformed into Soul Stones while I've been here makes me feel like storming out to kill all those scum.'

Rean quickly calmed down before continuing, 'Don't worry, I didn't have much time to look into the Soul Stone Formation, but I made sure to pay attention to the details that mattered to me. You just need to mess the runes I'll tell you about, and the whole thing will blow apart.'

Rean then showed an evil smile as he said with a malevolent chuckle, 'Anyone close to it at that time better be at the Saint Realm or else. Otherwise, they'll blow to pieces with the formation. Hahaha!'

[Well, the Zasfins in there definitely wouldn't expect something like this to happen. You might even get some of the Saint Realm ones if you catch them off guard. After all, the amount of Spiritual Energy used to operate that thing is simply ridiculously high.] Sister Orb wasn't any happier with what was happening in that place either.

'What about the Bloodline Trial Control Formations?' Rean asked soon after with a hint of optimism.

Sister Orb couldn't help but take on a gloomy tone as she answered, [Those formations aren't so simple. They aren't at the level of a Natural Formation that can control time, but they're really intricate. I believe I'll need at least another half year to finish obtaining control over the overall system.] She was already using the whole Soul Gem System's processing power on it, but it was still far from enough.

Chick! Chick, Chick! Out of nowhere, Kentucky's Spiritual Sense message came out and asked, 'Rean, Roan, can I help when the time comes?'

Sister Orb had been helping Kentucky perfect his vocabulary during these two years. By now, Kentucky could pretty much use Spiritual Sense messages like any experienced Rank Five Demon Beast. It's just that he was still acting like a kid, though...one could only imagine how bored Kentucky felt while still

confined in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Besides, he saw how many girls were being sent to become Soul Stones, which truly angered the perverted bird.

Rean smiled before saying, 'Of course, you can help! As a Demon Bird, and a Divine one at that, you're definitely much faster than Roan or me when it comes to flying. It will be up to your speed to get the kids into the Dimensional Realm as fast as possible.'

Chick! 'Leave it to me! I'll fly faster than any Stage Four Demon Beast!' Kentucky responded as he used his wing to pat his chest.

On the other hand, Roan was thinking about something else, muttering, 'Half a year...it might be enough.'

Rean understood what he was talking about. 'Indeed. The Spiritual Energy here is dense as hell. Not to mention that we can leave our mirages outside to fool the Zafins while Sister Orb keeps watch. Thanks to that, we have time to fight against each other or Kentucky in the Dimensional Realm to get used to our cultivation. If things continue like this, we should be able to enter the Nascent Soul Realm any time soon.'

Indeed, the Nascent Soul Realm! At the moment, Rean and Roan had already achieved the Peak of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm thanks to the environment. That's just how dense the Spiritual Energy concentration in this place was.

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Chapter 683: Nascent Souls

As Sister Orb mentioned, it would take six more months for her to finish taking control over the Bloodline Trial Control Formations. However, that wasn't all. Three years! Once those six months had passed, the three years the Soul Gem System took to recover would finally be up. With that, Rean and Roan would finally be able to buy upgrades, use savepoints, increase their authority level, and so on.

During this time, Roan had reviewed the tunnel where all the kids were located countless times, making sure he knew exactly how to go around it.

On Rean's side, he kept working with Palaris, Ophele, and the other members of their clan. Of course, by now, the speed at which he came up with new ideas decreased. After all, Rean didn't want to teach them too much since his knowledge might be used for the same thing again. Nevertheless, everyone was more than happy with the progress they made so far.

Thanks to that, the Hafel Clan's status had been increased since the discoveries were shared between all the powers inside the Soul Rulers. That just showed how helpful Rean's new rune ideas were. Sevinia was especially happy to see the ugly faces of those who doubted her actions to take Rean in instead of sending him to the Bloodline Trial Control Formations.

"Hahaha! Very good, very good! Rean, you've been of huge help during the last few years. You're a human, so I can't do much for you. However, I can still help your brother get out of that place now. Your achievements are enough to warrant it at the very least," Sevinia said at some point, feeling very satisfied.

However, Rean once again refused the offer, responding, "There's no need. My brother and I aren't exactly on good terms, so we better stay away from each other. I also don't want to be responsible for whatever he might do while he's free."

Sevinia and the others found it strange that Rean would treat his brother like that. However, the idea was to please Rean, so none of them said anything about it.

As time continued to pass, Ophele came to accept that Rean was simply much better than her. Not only her, but he was also much better than most of the geniuses she knew inside the Soul Rulers' territory. She saw how his cultivation skyrocketed with the help of the Spiritual Energy present in this place.

However, at some point, she didn't feel bad about it anymore. That's because she enjoyed the moments she, Rean, Palaris, and other formation masters of the clan worked on Rean's ideas. Without her noticing, respect began to fill her mind.

Another day of working on formations came, with Ophele looking as Rean created the runes of the formation. Somehow, that scene greatly comforted her as Rean talked nonstop about the runes with her and the others around.

"Hey, Ophele. Are you still with us?" Out of nowhere, Rean said this when she noticed Ophele absent-mindedly looking at him nonstop. Palaris and the others also looked at her and had to admit that she was quite silent today.

Only then did Ophele notice how she had been staring at Rean as her face suddenly flushed red. "Hmph! I'm just thinking about the uses of the runes, so I spaced out a little bit. There's no need for you to worry." However, she was feeling restless inside as she thought to herself, 'What the hell am I doing?'

Rean shrugged his shoulder with a smile, saying, "Oh, I see...are you sure it isn't because my charm is so strong that you couldn't take your eyes away from me anymore? Don't worry, I love you too."

"Who the hell loves you?!" Ophele immediately denied it, which made everyone else burst into laughter. By now, Palaris's group had already become used to seeing Rean tease Ophele, to which she always fell for.

Noticing how she was caught in Rean's trap again, she turned around and went to another formation to work on that on her own. It's just that she couldn't help but place a hand on her chest, noticing that her heart was beating much faster than usual. This wasn't anything new. Recently, Rean had made her feel like that nonstop. 'He must have done something to me. I'm sure about it!'

Unfortunately for Ophele, Rean had already noticed her feelings, and so did the others. However, he absolutely had no intention whatsoever of answering it. He only kept teasing her so others wouldn't suspect anything if he suddenly stopped. After all, Rean had Qia, and he intended to stay with her. 'I wonder how Qia and the others are doing right now.'

As Rean thought about that, he sent his mind into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, looking at a white gem glistening with a faint white light. That wasn't the only one, though. There were a total of four gems like that, which were linked to the Light Element Equipment Rean made for Agis and the others. It's just that Agis' group didn't know of it. Rean made those items so that they would link with each of their own life forces. If any of them died, their equipment would break apart, and so would the gem he placed in the Dimensional Realm. As long as the gems were intact, it meant that Qia and the others were at least alive. Of course, Roan knew about that, so he would take a look every now and then as well.

The days continued to pass in that fashion when suddenly, the twins felt like a 'click' resound inside their Dantians. It was during nighttime when the others were resting. Usually, that was the time the twins would be cultivating.

Following that, something resembling the cry of a baby came out of their Soul Core. That was the Core that had taken away a small part of their Soul when they reached the Core and Soul Fusion Realm.

[Finally! Your Nascent Souls are ready to be born!] Sister Orb said with surprise as she felt that change.

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Chapter 684: Clad's Decision

Rean and Roan couldn't help but feel like their bodies were off. It was as if a second copy of them appeared out of nowhere. However, it wasn't a clone or anything, just the Nascent Soul. It was part of them, and not at the same time.

'Sister Orb, does that mean we're ready to breakthrough?' Rean asked as he examined the Soul Core inside his Dantian. He felt like he could make his Nascent Soul break out of its shell anytime he wanted.

Sister Orb confirmed, responding, [Yes. However, I would rather wait than doing it now.]

Roan agreed with her words, saying, 'Sister Orb's right. This isn't the right time to make our breakthrough. If everyone sees that I've achieved the Nascent Soul Realm, the Zasfins guarding this place will become restless. After all, my cultivation is improving too quickly.'

Rean understood where Roan was coming from, asking in response, 'You want to wait until Sister Orb finishes taking control over the Bloodline Trial Control Formations, right?'

[Exactly. You two can have your breakthroughs at the same time and then come out of the Dimensional Realm to take the kids. While you do that, I'll mess with the Bloodline Trial Control Formations and make everything blow apart as you planned with the Soul Stone Formations, Rean. The system for that is just way too complex. It'll take many years before they can create a new one.]

Rean couldn't help but ask, 'What about the Hafel Clan? Once we disappear, it'll become obvious that we were the ones responsible for it. Wouldn't they be punished, maybe even get wiped out because of us?' The Hafel Clan tried to help the humans, so Rean didn't feel like it was right to condemn them.

Roan snorted as he couldn't care less. 'Hmph! So what? They tried to relieve the humans suffering here, but they never tried to save anyone. That's just hypocrisy. Besides, their faction won't just stand by and simply let themselves be destroyed. After all, they are well-versed in the formations of the Soul Rulers. They'll need their help to rebuild everything. That being said, they won't be wiped out as you think.'

Roan then warned Rean, 'Remember, we're already swamped as we are. We can't take care of everything in this world.'

Rean sighed but nodded in the end. 'I was being too naive, sorry. Let's follow the plan.'

He then asked something else, 'Sister Orb, how long until you finish taking control over all the formations?'

Sister Orb checked the current progress before answering, [One month at most. Perhaps I'll be ready in three weeks.]

'Understood.' Rean already knew what to do. 'In that case, I'll take Clad back into the Dimensional Realm once I see him again. His group should surface in the next few days as always.'

Roan and Sister Orb agreed with him. After all, they still needed a Zasfin to play the owner role.

Chick! 'Rean, Roan, when you breakthrough, I'll do the same and reach Stage Five. We have to help Liza, Luna, and the others!' Kentucky seemed quite excited to finally be outside the Dimensional Realm.

Rean smiled in response, saying, 'Obviously.'

Rean's group then discussed their next steps for a while. Eventually, they finished what they had to say and returned to their own things. Obviously, neither Rean nor Roan tried to break through after that.

A few days later, Rean left to do his walk around the territory he was allowed to do as he always did. That had already become a routine of him, so the Zasfins of Sevinia's estate and the others outside didn't care that much anymore. Not to mention that he had become an important human, so no one would touch him unless they had a valid reason to do so.

As Rean passed by the airship dock, he saw a group of ZASFINS coming back from the excavations. That was obviously a ZASFIN Group that was about to be swapped by another one. In the middle of the group, Rean found Clad, who once again had a different appearance thanks to Roan's skills. 'Clad, I'm bringing you away now.'

Clad was taken aback since it was quite earlier than usual. However, his expression didn't show anything as he continued to talk with the ZASFINS around him. It was as if he hadn't even heard anything from Rean. He had become used to do it. Of course, he still answered Rean's Spiritual Sense Message while at it, asking with a hint of confusion, 'Already? Is something wrong?'

'We're about to make our move, so I won't be able to take you back anymore after today. There won't be more excavations going on for a long time after that.' Without revealing what they would do, Rean explained the consequences.

Clad couldn't help but become a little worried. After all, they were still in the Soul Rulers' territory. Clad then took a deep breath before telling Rean something else, 'Rean, the ZASFIN responsible for my group noticed that my cultivation was growing incredibly fast while I was here. He offered me to join the Soul Rulers because of that.'

Rean was surprised to hear that. After all, the Soul Rulers were very strict with their recruitment. Not to mention that he had never heard of any of the excavators being taken in. Once they worked for some time, they would be sent back to wherever they came from, and a new group would take their place.

'Hmm...do you want to stay?' Rean asked that question seriously. 'To be honest, I don't know how the situation will develop after we're done with our part. By now, you should have noticed that our objective here isn't simple and definitely not something the Soul Rulers will like.'

After saying that, Rean warned Clad, 'There's a huge chance you might be caught once they investigate things thoroughly.'

Clad was taken aback as he noticed Rean's way of speaking was slightly different. Soon, he asked, 'Wait. Why does it feel like you would let me escape? I still have your poison in my body.' Sure enough, that was what he thought of first before anything else.

Rean mentally laughed before saying, 'Don't worry. We can find a replacement for you. So far, you've helped us a lot by gathering information, so I don't mind paying you with your freedom. In any case, we'd already be gone before you could denounce us. Well...I wouldn't tell the Zafins about us since they'll definitely blame you as well for what will happen. Chances are you would be killed right after because of their anger. Hahaha!'

Rean was right. Clad understood that fooling the Soul Rulers would end up in harsh punishment. That being said, he didn't intend to talk about it to start with, even if he obtained his freedom and joined the Soul Rulers. 'That's not funny, alright?'

Clad then took a deep breath before saying, 'I didn't expect that you and your brother would let me go. Also, I understand the risks of staying behind even if I don't know what you two want to do. However, being part of the Soul Rulers is exactly what my Imperial Family Branch needs to escape doom, so I want to take the risk.'

One must remember that Clad only joined in this journey to save his family. That was his main objective above anything else.

Rean didn't mind, saying, 'I'll have the full antidote of your poison delivered once our plan starts. Thanks for your help so far.'

Rean then kept walking around as if he hadn't talked with anyone whatsoever.

He quickly went back to his room and was just about to work on a few formation runes when out of nowhere, a robotic voice he and Roan haven't heard in a very long time echoed in their minds.

Pin!

[System Recovery Complete.]

[Soul Gem System Restarting...]

[12%...]

[32%...]

[59%...]

[83%...]

[100%]

[Assessing Situation...]

[New Mission Available: Soul Gem System Processing Power Upgrade.]

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Chapter 685: We Can Start

The twins were taken aback by that. Soon, one of them decided to ask, "Sister Orb, what's happening?"

However, Sister orb didn't answer them this time. Without any other choice, Rean and Roan could only wait and see what the Soul Gem System would come up with.

[The system needs an energy source to operate as it has been reaching its limit. For the system to improve, a new energy source is required. This mission has no failure penalties, but the system highly recommends the hosts to complete it.]

'No failure penalties? That's new...' Rean and Roan thought at the same time as they listened. After that, they allowed the system's robotic voice to continue.

[So far, the system has used the environment's Spiritual Energy to sustain itself. However, a new source of energy has been detected, capable of increasing the system's capability. The hosts' help is required to obtain the new source.]

[Destiny Points Reward: 30000]

[Title Reward: Grade 2 Efficiency]

[Authority Level Reward: 13]

[Mission Time: Unlimited]

"30000 Destiny Points!" Rean exclaimed in surprise. "That's even higher than the amount we would have got if we had completed the Sasamil Empire Mission."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he muttered with a hint of suspicion, "With this amount of Destiny Energy, Authority, and even a Title as a reward, the changes it would bring to this world are huge."

Rean understood what Roan meant, responding, "Indeed. If Calina had become the Empress, it would have changed the destiny of Sasamil and the other Empires around it. Even then, it only gave 20000 Destiny Points as a reward. However, this new energy source gives 30000, and Destiny Points are only given if Destiny is changed for others."

"Exactly. In any case, this is a good thing for us. The system came back on before we started our plan or tried to make the breakthrough." Roan then connected to the Soul Gem System before calling out to Sister Orb, asking, "Sister Orb, are you awake already?"

[I am...sigh...when the system restarted, I restarted with it. To be honest, it's a really weird feeling,] Sister Orb said as she continued, [Anyway, let's leave that aside for now. Rean, Roan, we need to obtain that new energy source at all costs. This would improve my ability to take over formations by multiple times.]

Rean nodded before asking, "Let me guess. The energy source is that weird white tree Clad mentioned before, right?" Rean could only think of that thing since the Soul Gem System didn't mention where the source was.

[I believe so. However, the system only felt this new energy source. It doesn't know what it looks like, only the fact that it's nearby. Of course, we might be wrong, and the Soul Rulers have some other treasure hidden somewhere.] Sister Orb warned them, afraid that trying to take that tree would change nothing.

Roan shook his head, saying, "The Soul Gem System can even gather energy for an extreme long-distance teleport capable of bringing us to this planet. I refuse to believe that any simple treasure can make the system crave for it. Only that tree, which we believe to be responsible for the planet's lack of Spiritual Energy, could possibly achieve the system's standards."

Rean agreed with Roan, continuing where Roan left off, "I feel the same way. Of course, we might be wrong, but the chances are very low."

He then continued, pointing out a huge issue, "However, how exactly does the system intend to take it? From Clad's report, the tree is gigantic, much bigger than the space we have in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm."

Sure enough, there was no way they could bring that into the Dimensional Realm.

Chick! Chick! Kentucky, who was also listening to the conversation, intervened as he replied, 'I think I know, Rean!'

"You know?" Obviously, Rean, Roan, and Sister Orb were surprised by it.

Chick! Kentucky nodded before explaining with Spiritual Sense, 'That tree you mentioned...that isn't any ordinary tree, but a Demon Tree! It has a demon core, which is what the system probably wants.'

"Demon Tree?" The twins knew that Demon Plants existed, but they were quite rare to the point that the twins haven't found a single one so far. "To think that the tree was one of those...no, it actually makes sense. It's a Demon Tree that's sucking the planet's Spiritual Energy nonstop."

[Everything makes sense now. Most likely, this demon tree has some agreement with the Soul Rulers to provide them with tons of Spiritual Energy.] Sister Orb muttered after pondering a bit. [It's easy for

Demon Plants to spread, and their own offsprings are linked to themselves. Normally, the powers around them would try to get rid of these kinds of Demon Plants.]

Roan understood where Sister Orb was coming from. "I see...simply put, the empires, celestial lands, and other powers under the Soul Rulers' command should have those offsprings. That's why they also have huge amounts of Spiritual Energy on their own bases."

Rean nodded, saying, "That's also why no one tries to go against the Soul Rulers. After all, not only do they have Rank Ten Bloodline Marks here, but they can also use the main Demon Tree to stop its offsprings from helping the other powers anytime they want. Everything is connected."

Chick! 'No wonder the new mission you got gives so many rewards. The system is now back online, so it'll consider the destiny you're changing once again. Taking that Demon Tree's Core is the same as killing it, which would kill all of its offsprings. There's no doubt it's a world-changing event.'

Rean was more than happy with that, though. "This is perfect! If we stop this demon tree, it also means the Spiritual Energy will come back to the world. It doesn't matter where we go after this. The Spiritual Energy in the environment wouldn't be that bad anymore."

Roan, Sister Orb, and Kentucky agreed with the statement. If upgrading the system's processing power was a good reward already, let alone the fact that they would obtain this extra perk.

"Very well. We just need Sister Orb to finish taking control over the Bloodline Trial Formations."

[There's no need to wait. Now that the system has awakened, it helped a little bit with my job. Well, I was very close to finishing it anyway. So...we can start at any time.]

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Chapter 686: So Sharp

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky were very satisfied to hear that. "Great! First, let's undergo our breakthrough. After that, we'll use the Spiritual Sense Bending Technique to wait for a gap to appear in the Spiritual Sense of those old monsters. Usually, it happens every three months, with the next one probably coming in two weeks."

[That's fine by me. Once Rean is free, head inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to make your breakthroughs.] Sister Orb said, ready to absorb the outside world's energy to help them.

Rean nodded and continued his work with Palaris and Ophele's group for the day. However, everyone noticed that Rean seemed to be quite absent-minded during the next few days, not participating as much as usual. It couldn't be helped since he, Roan, and Kentucky kept rehearsing their own steps time and time again. Palaris asked if everything was okay. Rean obviously nodded, saying that he was pondering over a few new ideas in his mind.

Though, Ophele found it strange. After all, he would use every possible chance to tease her nonstop. She always felt angry about it. However, it made her feel like something was missing now that he stopped it all of a sudden.

The days passed in a flash, with Rean eventually coming back to normal. It's just that he didn't bother Ophele anymore. Eventually, there was only a single day left before the two weeks mentioned before were up. This day, Rean finished his work with Palaris's group once again and headed back to his room. Just like Roan did the last time, he would use the Mirage Assault skill to leave a clone of himself outside while he and Roan broke through in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

However, just as he was about to do that, someone knocked on his door. Rean spread his Spiritual Sense and soon saw that it was Ophele. "Hmm? This is the first time I've seen her come here after my breakthrough two years ago." The weird thing was that Ophele wouldn't waste her time knocking on the door but would barge in straight away. That was her personality. Nevertheless, Rean got up and told Roan, Sister Orb, and Kentucky what was happening. In the end, they could only wait for Rean to see what Ophele wanted.

He quickly got up and to see what she wanted, asking her, "Oh! It's my beloved Ophele! Could it be that you missed your lover and couldn't bear to stay away from me today?"

Ophele's mouth twitched after hearing that. In just one instant, Rean seemed to have returned to his usual self that kept teasing her. "Hmph! As if I would have any feelings for a human." Sure enough, she rebuked him straight away.

"Oh? Is that so? Then, how can I help you this time?" Rean asked with a bright smile, not minding her words a second ago.

However, Ophele definitely minded it as she thought, 'Idiot! Why did you even come here? He's the same perverted human as always. This was a mistake! He's totally fine! No, wait! It's not like I care. Yes! I'm only here because I was afraid that his behavior would affect our work with the formations, that's all. Yes! Definitely!'

Seeing Ophele's expression changing between bright and dark many times made Rean almost laugh. However, he held himself back since he had to send her away. "Well, since it seems like you have something on your mind. With that, I'm going to close the door. See you tomorrow, Ophele."

It was then that Rean remembered something, asking, "Oh, right! Miss Ophele, can I ask you a favor?"

Ophele was taken aback since it was the first time Rean asked her anything. Usually, he would head straight to Palaris. Somehow, it made her feel happy, prompting her to respond, "You're lucky. I'm in a good mood today. Tell me, what do you need help with? As long as it doesn't go overboard, I'll see what I can do."

Rean smiled before passing her a bottle with a pill, asking her, "Can you deliver this pill to a Zasfin named Clad in the excavation teams? He had given it to me after I helped him with a formation for his use. However, I really didn't do much since it was a very simple modification. He insisted that I should take it, but I didn't feel well about doing it. After all, I'm a human, and it's my job to help the Zasfins. I'm already getting way too much from all of you."

Ophele took the pill, which was a mix of black and white hues. She didn't remember to have seen a pill like that before, soon asking her, "What is it for?"

"It's just a cultivation boost pill, nothing impressive. Though, I really have no need for it in this place," Rean said before asking, "Can you promise me you will deliver it to him?"

Ophele nodded straight away. It was a very simple task, so she didn't have much of a reason to refuse. "Since it's just that, I'll help you."

Rean nodded, thanking her, "Thank you, Miss Ophele." He then turned back while letting out a small sigh. Ophele noticed that, feeling that something wasn't right. Just as Rean was about to close the door, she put her foot ahead, preventing it from closing.

Rean looked back with confusion as he asked, "Errr...is there something else?"

Ophele narrowed her eyes as she looked deeply at him. Eventually, she took a deep breath and asked, "What's happening? Why do I feel like you're going to disappear?"

Rean couldn't help but be taken aback. However, he quickly recovered before laughing out loud, saying, "Hahaha! Disappear? Me? We're in the Soul Rulers' headquarters. Unless you guys want me to disappear, how could I do that on my own?"

Ophele agreed with Rean on that. She truly couldn't see how Rean would be able to leave on his own. Still... "No! There's definitely something wrong!" Her instincts were screaming that something was definitely not right. She felt that if she let Rean close the door now, it would be the last time they'd see each other. "Could it be...that someone in the organization is threatening you?"

Rean was speechless. Since when was this female Zasfin that sharp? It wasn't wrong that someone was threatening him. Or, to be more specific, the entire organization would be a threat to him once the plan went into motion.

Death... and me

Chapter 687: Thanks to your Sister Orb

Nevertheless, Rean smiled back before asking, "And why would you care?" That was the best way to send Ophele away in Rean's mind.

Sure enough, Ophele was taken aback by that question. Why should she care? However, she immediately came up with a reason, saying, "Hmph! Isn't that obvious? Your life is too important for our Hafel Clan and the rest of the other forces in the faction. It would be terrible if you were suddenly attacked or even killed."

Rean then began to walk around Ophele with a mysterious smile. "Hmm~..."

As he did that, he looked at Ophele from head to toe as he questioned with a knowing grin, "Are you sure it's just because you're concerned with your clan's position? Isn't there something else more...personal?"

Ophele felt shivers in her spine when Rean did that. "Wh-What are you talking about? There's obviously nothing else!"

Rean laughed in response before saying, "Alright, alright! I'll stop it here. Now, go ahead and leave me alone. I want to cultivate." Rean patted her shoulder, trying to reassure her. "There's no one threatening me, don't worry. Now, you better go back, or I'll truly start to think that you want to have my children."

Ophele's expression went bright red as she stormed out of the room while saying, "Who the hell wants to have your children?" Well, it wasn't very convincing, though.

Rean just faintly smiled and spoke before she disappeared in a corner, "Until we meet again."

Ophele's steps froze for a moment. Didn't those words mean that he would leave? But then again, she didn't have the courage to go back to his room anymore. 'He's definitely trying to tease me again. Yes, that must be it.' She then continued to run away even faster now.

Rean closed the door behind him and sighed after that. As mentioned before, he already noticed her feelings. Well, it was very obvious, even for Palaris. But since he was a human, Palaris didn't worry that something would happen. As for Rean, he had Qia, so he had absolutely no intention of betraying her. 'I hope you can find someone better than me,' Rean thought before putting those thoughts behind.

'Death Style, Fifth Form, Mirage Assault.'

Sure enough, Rean created a clone of Spiritual Energy and swapped himself with it before entering the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm as he said with a chuckle, "Hey everyone, did you miss me?"

Roan completely ignored his words before saying, "Alright. Since you're here, we can start. Sister Orb, let us begin."

[Roger that! Access your cultivation techniques and follow my lead.] Sister Orb then began to absorb the Spiritual Energy from the outside world, using Rean and Roan's last positions as the entrance point.

The two first waited for the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to fill with energy before sending it into their Dantians. From there, it went straight to their Soul Cores.

[Your Nascent Souls are a little different from normal ones. It's a little similar to the Foundation Establishment Realm, where we use the opposite element to balance your affinities. The difference is that you won't create a full Light or a full dark Nascent Soul. Instead, it will carry a 50-50 ratio of both.]

She then continued, [Make sure to balance your elements and exchange them. Feed the Spiritual Energy and the two elements to your Soul Cores at the same time. The Nascent Soul inside will absorb them on its own. As you know, the Light and Dark Cultivation Techniques are perfect, so you have no risk of failing as long as you have enough Spiritual Energy for it. There's no need to worry, especially in a place like the Soul Rulers' headquarters.]

As Sister Orb mentioned, their Soul Cores absorbed both elements and the Spiritual Energy without any issues. Sometime later, they once again heard that baby's cry coming from the cores. Little by little, it began to get louder and louder. Of course, only Rean and Roan could hear that...and Sister Orb.

[Now, would you look at that...I was expecting Roan's Nascent Soul to be dead silent until the very end. To think that it has more emotions than Roan himself. Isn't that great?] Sister Orb said in the middle of their breakthrough process, trying to hold her laughter.

Roan's mouth twitched as he said, "For fuck's sake, can you just shut up for once?"

Even Rean found it hard to keep his concentration. Nevertheless, he didn't hold his laughter. "Come on. Your Soul Core was made with a part of your own Soul. That means you aren't emotionless as we thought. Hahaha!"

If it wasn't because Roan was busy controlling his Spiritual Energy and absorption of Elements, he would definitely send Rean flying with a kick by now.

Creeeeee! 'Oh yeah, baby! Stage Five, make sure to treat papa well!' Kentucky, on the other hand, was enjoying his breakthrough a lot. The remaining Spiritual Energy flowed into his Demon Core nonstop as he muttered, 'At least you two didn't hold me back for too long.'

Does this idiot bird even know how fast they progressed? We went from the Initial Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm to the Nascent Soul Realm in just two years, hey!

[Well, it's Kentucky we're talking about. He is a Minokawa, so you really held him back with this limitation.] Sister Orb said as she sighed...or so she would if she could breathe.

Crack, crack, crack...

After some time, Rean and Roan heard cracking sounds coming from their Soul Cores. By now, the white and black cores were full of Spiritual Energy and Elements, just waiting for the right moment to burst apart.

Boom!

Sure enough, the Nascent Souls inside their Soul Cores destroyed its shell, sending broken pieces everywhere inside their Dantian. However, those broken pieces soon transformed into Spiritual Energy that was absorbed by Rean and Roan's Spiritual Energy Pull that enveloped the Soul Core before. It's just that there was now a Nascent Soul floating around it.

The twins immediately felt their connection with it, placing the Nascent Soul under their command. In a certain way, it wasn't wrong that it was another part of themselves. While all that happened, their Spiritual Energy Pools began to increase in size as their cultivation followed suit.

[Congratulations, you are now Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, thanks to your Sister Orb.]

Death... and me

Chapter 688: Now!

On Kentucky's side, his size had increased once again. By now, he was several times bigger than Rean and Roan. His blade-like feathers became sharper as the scales covering them became tougher. The crown of black and white feathers on Kentucky's head had also increased in size, now much easier to see. But above all, the Spiritual Energy and Elemental Pressure he gave off far surpassed his previous self.

"Who's the best? I'm the best! Hahaha!" Kentucky said out loud for the first time. As mentioned before, a Demon Beast gained the capability to think and use Spiritual Sense messages at Stage Five. At Stage Six, they were finally able to talk with words. On the other hand, Kentucky seemed to be always one realm ahead with his abilities, so he could talk at Stage Five!

"Kentucky, make sure to not talk in front of others from now on. It would be too weird if people found out that Stage Five Demon Beasts could talk, alright?" Rean warned, afraid that others might identify Kentucky.

Kentucky quickly nodded, responding, "Alright~! But now that I'm at Stage Five, I'm finally able to use Spiritual Sense without anyone finding it strange that I can do it." Obviously, he didn't want to be completely silent.

Rean nodded with a smile, saying, "That's good enough."

[Alright, how are your Soul Powers at the moment?] Sister Orb asked, waiting to see if it improved with their breakthroughs.

Rean took the Soul Measurement Crystal and put his hand on it before channeling his own Soul Power inside. Not too long after, the result appeared on the top of the crystal.

-Soul Power, 271-

Rean was quite satisfied with that. "Just two years of training, and I've improved by 102 points. Guess I've improved quite well."

Roan was the next one to check his Soul Power Points.

-Soul Power, 263-

"As expected, our Soul Powers follow a similar rate of improvement. It's just that you're the one with a Light Element Affinity, so you're ahead of me by a small margin." Roan seemed quite used to that

already. He noticed that Rean's higher aptitude for Soul Power also pulled him together. Of course, he also cultivated his Soul Power diligently not to drag behind.

Kentucky then puffed his chest as he stepped forward, saying, "Hmph! Behold, the power of this god!" His wings, which were much bigger than the crystal, rested on it as the Minokawa channeled his own Soul Power inside.

-Soul Power, 319-

"Hahaha!" Kentucky laughed out loud. "See, see?! I'm the best demon bird ever!" Kentucky's Light and Dark Element then revolved around him as the Soul Power increased their flow and power. During these last two years, Kentucky had also become used to using his Soul Power.

Roan evilly smiled before asking, "Is that so? Then how about you and I have a little fall out here? I promise I won't hold back before this demon bird god."

Kentucky felt a chill on his spine as he took several steps back, saying, "Ahem...this demon bird god is just a puny little one, nothing worth mentioning. There's no need for you to waste your time with me." As strong as Kentucky might have gotten, he was still no match for Roan. He and Roan had battled many times in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, but he couldn't win against him even once. He had just made a breakthrough, but he doesn't even believe that he would be able to win.

"Hmph! Then stop with your blabbering." Roan then looked at Rean, saying, "We're ready. Liza and Luna already know what will happen as well. Use your Spiritual Sense Bending Skill and check the outside."

Rean nodded and used his control over the Dimensional Realm to open a very tiny opening between it and the outside world. He did the same thing back in the Dalamu Sect when he and Roan were looking for Malaka. Rean filled that small entrance between the two with his skill, trying to feel the presence of the old monsters' Spiritual Sense.

"Yes, here it is. Now we need to wait until their Spiritual Sense disappears. As soon as that happens, we need to go out and start taking all kids inside," Rean said with a serious expression.

Roan nodded as he turned back to Kentucky, reminding him, "Remember, the tunnel where all the Bloodline Trial Control Formations spans 43 kilometers long. I'm located at the very end of it, so that's where you'll appear. As soon as we step outside, you must fly as fast as possible in the direction of the entrance. No one here is faster than you even though we can all fly."

Rean also added, "During that time, Roan and I will focus solely on pulling all the kids inside the Dimensional Realm. The kids don't have any cultivation whatsoever, so they wouldn't be able to resist the pull. Nevertheless, there are a lot of them, so we can't waste time looking ahead."

Kentucky nodded, saying, "I know. The gap between the old monsters' Spiritual Senses are all based on luck. It might be replaced by someone else straight away or take a long time. Of course, I won't risk it and will try to reach the end as fast as possible."

[That's not all. There are many Zasfins guarding this place inside. Roan already found that even Saint Realm Zasfins are present. Rean's Light and Spiritual Sense bending Skills will still be active, keeping you out of sight. However, the moment the kids began to disappear in front of their eyes, they will definitely use Spiritual Sense and Soul Power to try and see what's happening. Once that happens, there is next to no chance of you still being able to keep yourself hidden. Speed is paramount.] Sister Orb reminded, also ready to help the twins pull the kids inside.

Everyone got ready as their Spiritual Energy Reserves reached their peak. Rean and Roan were already on Kentucky's back while the Minokawa kept his wings open, ready to flap with all his might.

After some time, Rean's eyes glistened as he shouted.

"Now!"

Death... and me

Chapter 689: It's fireworks time!

The moment those words came out, Rean's Light and Spiritual Sense Bending Skills enveloped him, Roan, and Kentucky. Following that, the three of them reappeared close to the formation where Roan's clone was located. Naturally, Roan left it there. It's just that he stopped giving it energy, so it would disappear soon. Nevertheless, that was more than enough.

Kentucky's wings, which were already opened, suddenly flapped at a ridiculously high speed. It was so strong that an enormous gale was left behind as his body shot forward. If Roan hadn't taken the kids around them into the Dimensional Realm as soon as they appeared there, Kentucky's action would have sent them flying.

vup, vup, vup, vup...

In less than a second, around ten kids appeared in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They didn't even have the time to notice what happened as Rean's group flew in the direction of the entrance.

Boom!

One more second had passed, and a sonic boom reverberated behind Kentucky's wings. Kentucky had already surpassed the speed of sound! That didn't matter, though. After all, Kentucky was traveling faster than sound, so those in front didn't know what was happening while the others behind became disorientated by the explosion of sound itself. A sonic boom was extremely loud, making all the low-level Zafins behind them deaf as blood came out of their ears.

Rean and Roan were focused on their own jobs, but they still had to admit as they simultaneously thought, 'We really can't beat Kentucky when it comes to flying speed.'

Of course, the high-level Zafins in the place noticed the disappearance of the human kids as the sound reached their ears. Nevertheless, their Spiritual Sense couldn't see anything...though with one exception. The Saint Realm Guards! Only their Spiritual Sense had enough power to pierce through Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill.

"What?!"

"What is that?"

"Enemy attack? It can't be!"

One after another watched with their Spiritual Senses as Kentucky passed by them in a flash. Fortunately, everything played as their group imagined. The Soul Rulers hadn't been challenged for way too long. That being said, even the Saint Realm experts were confused when they saw that, not believing that someone would really be trying something against them. That delay in their reaction was more than enough for Kentucky to disappear in the distance.

Of course, a few seconds later, they finally understood that it wasn't a joke! "Enemy attack, enemy attack! Call the ancestors! Someone's stealing all the human kids!"

"That doesn't make sense! Why aren't the Ancestors here yet? They should have already noticed what's happening here with their Spiritual Senses!"

"How would I know? Stop wasting time and contact them directly!"

"Everyone else, let's go after them!"

In this short timeframe, Kentucky had already covered more than half of the distance. Nevertheless, he didn't slow down even one bit. His eyes were sharp as he looked at all the kids he passed by, disappearing one after another. Most of them were little girls, with very few exceptions for boys. Naturally, that made Kentucky's resolve even stronger. After all, the perverted bird loved women.

Everything was going according to the plan when out of nowhere, Rean felt a new Spiritual Sense slamming against his Spiritual Sense Bending Technique. "Shit!"

Naturally, the swap between Spiritual Senses of the ancestors happened faster than they hoped for, so their actions were immediately seen.

"Who dares to cause trouble in the Soul Rulers' territory?!" a voice said as loud as thunder, making the underground tunnel tremble with its power.

"We have company."

Spiritual Energy filled the entire tunnel, suppressing Kentucky, Rean, and Roan almost immediately.

Argh!

Boom!

Kentucky immediately fell to the ground like a meteor together with the twins. There were still another 5 or so kilometers left until they reached the entrance. Unfortunately, the twins couldn't reach the kids there since it was too far from them.

Roan didn't waste time panicking, shouting, 'Sister Orb!'

[You got it!] Sister Orb immediately connected to all the Bloodline Trial Control Formations and the Soul Stone Formation. As soon as she did that, she messed up with the runes Rean indicated, creating a chain reaction that made the Spiritual Energy in the formations go haywire.

All the formations began to gather the Spiritual Energy around them, charging the remaining runes nonstop. Soon, they began to explode one after another.

"What?!" The ancestor on watch this time had his eyes widened. He was already making his way to where Rean's group was while keeping up his Spiritual Energy Pressure. However, when he saw that, he had to immediately change his plans. Rean's group didn't matter anymore, only the formations. After all, the number of materials necessary to rebuild them would be astronomical.

In an instant, his Spiritual Sense spread back to the other ancestors' dwellings, calling them for backup as he said, "Come out, now! The entire place is a mess!"

Rean felt several other Spiritual Senses at the same level as the guy who stopped them. However, the Spiritual Energy Pressure disappeared at the same time. Sure enough, no one could care about Rean, Roan, and Kentucky at the moment. Well, that was only in the ancestors' case. As for the Saint Realm and below experts in the tunnel, they were still after their group.

"Kentucky, go!"

Creeee! 'On it!'

Kentucky's wings, now free from being held, flapped once again, shooting his body through the air once more. Rean and Roan also held onto his back as they once again started to send the kids into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

"Wait right there!" Unfortunately, the Saint Realm experts who were left behind quickly caught up to them. After all, they stopped for a few seconds whether they wanted or not to due to the ancestor of the Soul Rulers.

Rean immediately stopped using his Spiritual and Light Bending skills as he stood up on Kentucky's back, saying, "Kentucky, keep going. Roan and I will hold them back while Sister Orb grabs everyone."

Creeee! 'Alright! Hold tight!' Now that Rean wasn't concealing them anymore, Kentucky's body began to burn with white and black flames. His speed, which was already frightening, increased even more. However, those flames caused no damage to Rean and Roan since they also had Light and Dark Elements affinities.

The Saint Realm experts behind were taken aback by Kentucky's speed. They could totally tell that Kentucky was still in the Initial Stage Five Level. However, the speed he displayed was definitely equivalent to Stage Six Demon Beasts...very fast ones at that!

"Hmph! Do you think that's enough?!" Of course, the guys pursuing them were Saint Realm experts, so they were still faster.

Rean and Roan smiled in response, ignoring the guy's words as Light and Dark Elements gathered around their swords. Those elements, which usually were kept in harmony by the twins, suddenly lost it. Chaos was thrown into the mix as the energy in the area had intensified by several times.

'Death Style, Sixth Form, Destroyer!'

An attack that the twins haven't used in a very long time. It needed time to gather energy, which usually wasn't possible during the heat of the battle. However, with Kentucky's speed and the initial advantage, they had all the time necessary.

They didn't aim at the Saint Realm experts approaching from behind, though. Instead, they aimed it at the ceiling of the cave and released the attack!

Destroyer was a skill Roan created to deal with Demon Beasts who had very strong defenses. Now that the twins were in the Nascent Soul Realm, one could already imagine just how much stronger they were. Not only that, neither Rean nor Roan held back with their attack. Because of that, their White and Dark Star Swords could not hold the power of the chaos of Light and Dark, Yin and Yang.

Boom!

An enormous explosion of white and dark colors spread out, leaving a shockwave that increased Kentucky's speed even more. As for the Saint Realm Zafins behind, they were forced back by it. Not to mention that the tunnel immediately crumbled in front of them, so they couldn't go forward.

"Fuck!"

Without any other choice, they could only start to excavate their way forward.

As for Rean's group...

Crack, crack, crack... shatter!

Rean looked with a hint of sadness at how his White and Dark Stars broke apart. In the end, it was already time for him to work on Heaven-level Equipment. Using Earth Peak-level Equipment on destructive energy like what Destroyer manifested was too much for them to handle. A cultivator with a piece of equipment below their cultivation level would usually try to protect it with their Spiritual Energy and Elements. However, Rean and Roan couldn't do that, afraid that there wouldn't be enough power to block those Saint Realm experts.

'Sigh... whatever. I can finally start working on Heaven-level Equipment after we're done with this,' Rean thought as he put those thoughts behind.

Although Sister Orb began the sequence to make those formations explode, she obviously started with the formations that Rean and Roan left behind. That gave them enough time to reach the entrance of the tunnel where most of the Zasfins were keeping guard. There were five Saint Realm and even one Elemental Transformation Realm Zasfin there, waiting for them.

In the end, they saw that the twins could only escape through this passage, so they didn't try to stop them on the way but mounted their ambush here.

"Some puny humans and a chicken dared to cause trouble here. Kneel down and accept your death!" the Elemental Transformation Realm Zasfin said as he pressured Rean and Roan with his Spiritual Energy.

However, Rean and Roan just laughed at that sight. They got close enough to the last kid on the line, who disappeared right after before shouting, "Hahaha! Until we meet again, idiots!"

Soon after that, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky disappeared as well, leaving the Zasfins at a loss for words with that scene. Unfortunately for them, that was only the start of their problem. Now that Rean and Roan were gone, Sister Orb didn't hold back as she said.

[It's fireworks time!]

Death... and me

Chapter 690: It Goes Like This

The ancestors were enraged to see that. They tried to control the flow of Spiritual Energy, preventing it from entering the formations so they wouldn't explode. Unfortunately for them, Rean had already accounted for this possibility. Before the plan even began, Rean had already asked Sister Orb to charge the Bloodline Trial Formations with as much energy as possible.

Boom! Boom! Boom...

All the remaining Bloodline Trial Control and Soul Stone Formations exploded at once. There was so much energy released that anyone nearby below the Saint Realm was wiped out almost instantly. Saint Realm Zasfins didn't die straight away, but they definitely had a very bad time.

Of course, Elemental Transformation Realm Zasfins would have been able to resist it. However, this kind of level usually wouldn't be guarding anything but cultivating somewhere else. The only one at that moment was the guy who blocked the path of Rean's group. He, of course, was able to defend himself against it.

Just as Sister Orb mentioned, the entire Soul Rulers' territory seemed to be filled with fireworks. The ground caved in as explosions of colored energy filled the skies. The members of the organization that didn't know what was happening were left in a panic. The ground quaked as multiple buildings collapsed. The area had truly become a hell on ice.

Rean and Roan observed all of that through the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Roan also saw the moment where that Zasfin called Puan, who pissed him off, getting blasted to bits. 'Hmph! I told you there would be a time I'd get payback.'

That guy was the leading researcher of the organization, so he was very close to many unstable Bloodline Trial Control Formations and the likes.

Rean also looked at that and sighed. Once the Zafins there calmed down, it wouldn't take long before they linked everything that happened to them. That meant the Hafel Clan and the others in their faction would have a bad time. 'Oh well, with their own power, I doubt the Zafins would try to wipe them out since they're very strong themselves. If they really go into a fallout, the Soul Rulers will most likely not be able to control the planet anymore due to the number of deaths.'

[Ahem... leaving that aside, would you mind taking a look behind you?] Sister Orb asked.

The twins turned around just to see what Sister Orb wanted. Their Soul Gem Dimensional Realm...was quite crowded now. Kids between five to twelve years old in general could be seen everywhere. They all looked at Rean and Roan, not understanding what was happening.

Of course, many of them were crying. Others were afraid of the enormous demon bird, Kentucky, and so on.

Chick... "Hey, kids. I'm a good birdie. I'm just...big."

Well, there were two exceptions. Liza and Luna, who knew what was going on, came out of the crowd.

"Rean, Roan! You really did it!" The two were smiling happily. They were only a few out of many kids who really understood their situation since the majority were being fooled by the Zasfins.

Rean then patted their heads with a smile, responding, "Hehe! Of course, we did it." Nevertheless, Rean felt a little overwhelmed. He had prepared a lot of food for the moment these kids came inside. Nevertheless, he didn't expect it to be that many.

"3589. That's how many kids were being used inside the Bloodline Trial Control Formations," Roan said, knowing what Rean was thinking. "But we're fine. Sister Orb can infuse Spiritual Energy into their bodies, reducing the amount of food they need to consume by a lot. We should have enough for two or three months."

Roan then turned around and looked at the Circuitry Teleport Formation. Like the buildings and other important places of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, it was protected by a thin Spiritual Energy barrier. That way, the kids couldn't get close to them. "Our work isn't done yet."

Rean sighed before telling Liza and Luna, "We need to do a few more things before we can take care of you. Try to gather the older kids and explain the whole situation to them, okay?"

The two girls nodded as they simultaneously said, "Alright. Be careful~!"

Rean and Roan quickly entered the Circuitry Formation before telling Sister Orb, "Alright, the exact distance from here to that tunnel with the giant tree is 267.3 kilometers in a straight line. Sister Orb, prepare to send us over in that direction."

[Alright. But remember, considering that the place is underground, chances are that you'll fail to teleport inside there. You'll need to keep trying,] Sister Orb warned.

"It's fine." Rean smiled as he said, "With how much Spiritual Energy this place has, we don't even need to use our Spirit Stones."

[Good. Then, I'll start.]

Soon after, the Teleport Circuitry Formation activated before the twins disappeared with a flash of silver light.

Vup!

Sure enough, they missed the first one. Rean and Roan appeared in mid-air on the outside. This time, however, they didn't fall straight away. The two of them were in the Nascent Soul Realm, so flying wasn't an issue to them anymore. "Again!"

They returned to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and stepped on the Circuitry Teleport Formation. After calculating their position, they ordered another teleport before disappearing one more time.

Vup!

Another teleport, another error.

"Again!"

Vup!

"Again!"

Vup!

"Again..."

Seventeen teleports later...

Vup!

Rean and Roan appeared outside of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and were assaulted by a bright white light. They quickly looked at the source of that and saw the majestic tree that Clad mentioned before. "Here we are!"

Rean then concentrated on his Spiritual Sense Bending Skill before saying. "Good! After what happened at the Soul Rulers' headquarters, most of the experts left to give support. There are only a few guards here at the Saint Realm and below at the moment. As long as we don't get too close, they won't be able to pierce through my Spiritual Sense Bending Skill."

These last two years weren't spent by Roan and Rean only on cultivation and battle training. Rean learned how to add Soul Power to his skills, making them even more efficient. Normally, the Soul Forging Realm would be his limit. But with the Soul Power's help, he could even bend Saint Realm Spiritual Senses. Of course, the distance limitation still existed. If he got too close to a Saint Realm expert, their Spiritual Sense would still be too strong for him to bend.

Roan found it weird, though. 'Even if the headquarters was in chaos, they shouldn't leave something as important as this demon tree so unprotected.'

Roan then looked at the big tree as he spread his Spiritual Sense in its direction. He could tell the distance of the others' Spiritual Senses, so as long as he didn't touch the others with his, they wouldn't feel it. However, as soon as his Spiritual Sense touched the giant tree, a voice reverberated in the entire tunnel and said, "How many times do I have to tell everyone to not use Spiritual Sense on me?!"

The tree trembled as the ground quaked. Immediately, Rean and Roan understood why there wasn't much protection here. That's because there was no need. This Demon Tree was just ridiculously powerful. Not even that guy at the Elemental Transformation Realm they found in the tunnel could compare. "It's above the Elemental Transformation Realm!"

Sure enough, Rean and Roan didn't know that the next cultivation level was called Transition Realm. However, they weren't wrong. That giant tree was indeed in the Transition Realm. Well, to be more specific, it was a Stage Nine Demon Tree, which was the equivalent of that realm. Not only that, but it was at the very peak of that stage!

The guards panicked as they immediately knelt down, saying in unison, "We are sorry, senior Heavenly Tree! It was most likely a mistake. Please forgive us!"

Rean and Roan saw similar voices coming from everywhere. Those guards didn't even contemplate that someone might have barged into this place. Instead, they only focused on calming the so-called Heavenly Tree down.

Suddenly, several white vines shot out of the tree, heading towards Rean and Roan's location. "Shit!"

Too fast! Before they knew it, those vines were already in front of their eyes.

Vup!

However, the vines passed by their location and hit nothing more than air. Several more vines shot out, covering the entire place where the twins were standing a split-second ago. In the end, the Heavenly Tree didn't find anything. "Hmm...? Could it be that I was mistaken? I could swear I sensed something with my Spiritual Sense for a moment."

Spiritual Sense! That was the reason Rean and Roan were able to react fast enough. Before the vines shot out, the tree's Spiritual Sense slammed against their Spiritual Sense Bending Skill. Naturally, it shone like a sun in front of that. Rean's skill simply couldn't bend it at all! That being said, the twins didn't waste time and immediately jumped into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. But even so, they were almost caught. That's just how fast the tree reacted once it felt their presence.

"Terrifying!" Rean said as his body was drenched with cold sweat.

Roan nodded, although he was a lot calmer than Rean. "That's not something we can even dream of touching."

However, Sister Orb suddenly had an idea. [I think I know what to do to complete the System's mission.]

"What?!" Rean, Roan, and even Kentucky were taken aback. They needed that thing's Core. Let alone take its Core, they weren't even confident that they can touch it without dying.

[Ahem... It has something to do with the information available in the Soul Gem System. It goes like this...]