Death 71 Death... and me Chapter 71: New List Juri passed the Jade Slip back to Roan. "Put it on your forehead, then use Spiritual Energy and Spiritual Sense at the same time." Roan did as he was told, and suddenly, a stream of information flowed inside his mind. "Is this... a map?" Rean quickly took the Jade Slip and checked it as well. "It really is a map... wait!" Rean reached inside his bag and took out the map he got from the Jiran Forest. "Look, although this map is only of the outskirts and inner region, it is very similar to the Jade Slip Map corners. There is no doubt that it is the same place, however..." Alanda also took a look and nodded. "It's far deeper in the forest, at the very core of the Jiran Forest. There is no way anyone of us could go there to verify." Juri agreed with Alanda.

"That place is the lair of Stage Three and even Stage Four Demon Beasts. I heard rumors that it might even have Stage Five! Anyway, we would be simply courting death to get close to such a place."

Roan sighed and put the Jade Slip back in the Pendant.
"That bandit was probably keeping it with the hopes of one day being able to go there. Well, I will keep it for the moment. When we get strong enough, we can pay a visit."
Juri would laugh if he heard it from someone else. But if it is the twins, they most likely will reach the level to do such a thing in the future.
"Very well. What are you two planning to do now?"
Rean's eyes shinned before saying.
"It's time to enter the Foundation Establishment! We went to the forest to get used to our powers and stabilize our foundations through battle. Now it is sturdy enough, so we can give it a try."
Roan nodded.
"That is for the best. Our Tribe is too weak, having only the two of you as Foundation Establishment. With this business of the Steel Weapons, there is no doubt that quite a few eyes are on us at the moment. The Zafa Bank will protect the Varen Workshop, but the Tribe is not part of their Deal."
Juri was happy to hear Roan talk like that.
"Still, I think you two are being too fast. It has been only a few months since you entered the Peak of the Energy Gathering. I'm afraid that you might damage your foundations like that. Are you sure that your foundations are really sturdy enough?"
Rean and Roan nodded.
"We are absolutely sure. There is no problem in making a breakthrough now."

In fact, it was not that they are absolutely sure, but that Sister Orb allowed them to do so. She was the one to confirm that it was okay.

The group talked a little more before the Twins returned home with Diakar and Opril. Hamarlia, obviously, was ecstatic to see that they came back safely and didn't let them go from her arms for quite some time.

After three years and the support of Spirit Stones, Hamarlia went from the Bones Enhancement to Muscles Strengthening Stage. Their father, Turen, was in the Organs Change Stage now. Due to their aptitude, even many Spirit Stones wasn't enough for their Cultivation to go much faster. Of course, compared to what they would usually take, they are already ten times quicker.

After eating a meal, the twins returned to their room before entering once more into the Soul Gem Realm.

They looked at sister orb and were able to notice that she seemed more 'energetic' now. Obviously, it was due to the Azure Spiritual Flower. The twins wanted to kick her away but were afraid of getting a beating again.

"Forget it, let's check the reward list."

They touched sister's orb together before sending Spiritual Energy inside before quickly selecting the Reward List. Other than the already available ones, an upgrade for bones and a new option appeared.

[Panther Bones - 50 Destiny Points]

[Spiritual Sense Absorption Upgrade Level 1 - 100 Destiny Points]

[Soul Gem Dimensional Realm Upgrade - 40 Destiny Points]

"Sister Orb, what does this upgrade do?"

[The Soul Gem Dimensional Realm will be able to hold other objects.]
Rean and Roan's eyes lit up! That meant that they wouldn't need to carry a bag of items anymore, it would be too convenient!
"Should we hold the destiny points for this one?"
Roan nodded.
"Panther Bones caught my attention, but I don't think we are weak at the moment. We can get it another time, this Dimensional Realm Upgrade will be much more useful."
"Sister Orb, how many Destiny Points we have?"
[15 Destiny Points.]
Roan sighed.
"We are quite far"
It was then that Rean thought about something.
"Sister Orb, my Steel Weapons had been selling for quite some time. How much more will I need to sell before it starts to make real changes to the city's territory?"
[Ah! That's righ-]
[Cough, cough. Congratulations, Hosts. The Steel Weapons have been spreading and are already regarded as the first choice for most. It is cheaper and stronger than the standard Low-Level Spiritual Equipments. Destiny Points Reward: 35]

Rean and Roan's mouth twitched after hearing that.
"Sister Orb You forgot to check, didn't you?"
The Soul Gem Orb trembled a bit.
[Incorrect, The System only waited for the best moment to inform the hosts.]
"Like hell, you did!"
Roan couldn't help but ask after.
"It's been three years already since I passed my Death Style Manual. There are even a few warriors who can use it quite proficiently. No doubt, the power of the Tribe as a whole increased again, no?"
[]
[Congratulations, Hosts. The power-]
Bam!
"Fuck you!"
Roan couldn't hold himself back and kicked Sister Orb away!
"You really forgot! Here was I thinking that we simply didn't get enough power yet. What kind of crap system are you?"



[What were you expecting? Fireworks? Shining Effects? I just lifted a restriction, that's all. However, it was not possible before I got that Azure Spiritual Flower. So I guess I will thank you for this, at least.]
In the end, Rean couldn't help but laugh out loud.
[What is so funny?]
"Oh, nothing much. It's just that this Sister Orb is a lot easier to talk with. That machine pretense was really annoying."
Suddenly, Rean and Roan were sent outside the Dimensional Realm, which took them by surprise. They then quickly put their clothes back before commenting.
"It seems like Sister Orb can feel embarrassed too."
Still, Rean and Roan could now feel a different type of connection between them and the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Rean took his back of Spirit Stones and focused on it and the Dimensional Realm at the same time.
Vup!
Right in front of his eyes, the bag disappeared. However, he could feel its presence inside the Dimensional Realm. Roan also tried the same thing and sent his bag inside. Seeing that, they couldn't help but feel delighted by it.
"Very well, half of the dimensional realm is mine, and the other half is yours, agreed?"
Rean quickly nodded.
"Agreed. Also, no touching without the other's permission."

They quickly shook their hands and nodded at each other.
"Another thing. Keep an empty bag with you all time. This way, we can pretend to take the stuff from inside. As for the Sword, it obviously wouldn't fit inside the bag, so let's keep it with us outside. It would be annoying to explain from where we took our weapons out."
Rean nodded once more.
"Alright."
Suddenly, Light Element started to gather around Rean and Roan's body. The marks left behind by Sister Orb then quickly disappeared. Sister Orb's attacks were basically painful but didn't leave any real damage. With his Control of the Light Element, Rean could heal them in just a minute or so.
"How should we go with this Foundation Establishment Breakthrough?"
"It is written in the Dark and Light Element Cultivation Manuals. It seems like we need to build some kind of pillars that will support a future Core inside our Dantians."
[Correct.]
Sister Orb suddenly intervened.
[Also, the number of pillars will determine your future accomplishments. That Juri and Alanda, for example, have three pillars each.]
Rean and Roan were taken aback by Sister Orb's voice, but they quickly calmed down.
"How many pillars are possible to be built?"

[Usually, nine. But in your case, it has to be ten]
"Ten?"
[Yes. The nine standard ones, and one extra for Dark and Light Elements. This will put you far above others concerning aptitude and cultivation speed. The cultivation of a Foundation Establishment is given through the absorption of the Spiritual Energy through the Pillars. The more you have, the faster it will be.]
"I see, so Rean will need to make the Light Pillar while I will create the Dark one."
[The opposite. The Light Pillar goes to Roan, and the Dark Pillar goes to Rean. Doing that will allow you two to exchange even more Light and Dark Element between each other. Did you forget, Roan? You already have an affinity with the Dark Element, and it is at the highest level. A Dark Element Pillar would make no difference for you. The same goes for Rean and his Light Element.]
[What you two need is balance, which is why you will build one pillar with the opposite element.]
"Wouldn't it generate a conflict between the two?"
[In someone else's case, probably. But you two already have the connection between your elements. It has already become a natural thing to have the other's element at your control. Your Foundations won't find anything strange to have an opposite element pillar there.]
"What about the other nine pillars? What do they represent them? Do they have elements?"
[No, they are just neutral pillars. That way, they would be able to absorb any other type of element. You can build them with Spiritual Energy. Of course, the more you build, the harder it becomes. So make

The twins nodded. At least it made things easier.

sure to have a lot of Spirit Stones available.]

[When the time comes to build the tenth pillar, I will give you my support the same way I did when you created your light and dark dantains.]

After finishing explaining everything, the twins immediately took out their Spirit Stones. They had a lot of free time and nothing better to do at the moment, so they might as well go ahead with it.

[Concentrate the Spiritual Energy inside your Dantians. Each pillar has to be aligned around the Spiritual Energy Pool. Remember that these pillars will grow and breakthrough the Dantian Shell, arriving on the outside. It is because they have contact with the outside world that they can absorb so much more Spiritual Energy.]

Rean and Roan nodded and followed Sister Orb's order. Suddenly, they felt like something like a lock was open in their Dantians. It was quite a magical feeling.

[That is the proof that you can enter the Foundation Establishment. The acknowledgment of heaven and earth, which allows you to build the pillars. Without that, there would be nothing you could do. That is also why you can't create a foundation the moment you enter the Energy Gathering Realm either.]

The twins nodded. Spiritual Energy started to gather into a single point inside their Spiritual Energy Pool. That is Rean and Roan's Spiritual Energy Reserves. The place where they and all the other Energy Gathering Realm cultivators take Spiritual Energy from. Sure enough, the pillars would be built inside Rean and Roan's pools.

Death... and me

Chapter 73: Success

Suddenly, the Spiritual Energy began to take form. The first Pillar Base grew in size and slowly approached the Shell of the Datian.

[Once the Pillar touches the Shell, gather as much Spiritual Energy as possible and sent it all at once to the Pillar. You need to make the Pillar breakthrough the Shell so it can reach out.]

Rean and Roan followed Sister Orb's instructions and waiting for when the first Pillar reached the Shell. From there, they gathered as much Spiritual Energy as possible and sent it all at once to the almost fully built Pillar.

With that surge of energy, their Pillar acted as if it was on steroids and broke through the Shell of the Datian. However... Sister Orb didn't warn them that when it destroyed the Shell, it was painful as hell! Well, it was not that she didn't inform them, but that she didn't know...

Rean and Roan grunted in pain to the point they almost fainted! Of course, they knew it was not the time to let their consciousness fly away, so they held it. The Pillar grew a little more until it was completely outside.

[Good, now only need to repeat this process another nine times. Easy, no? I'll be cheering for you!]

Rean and Roan.

#@\$%@!%"!#%"@!!!!!

Of course, they only cursed all of that in their minds. If Sister Orb decided to somehow get on them during the breakthrough, they would definitely fail. Even though she is inside the Dimensional Realm and they are out, they didn't dare to risk it.

They concentrated once more and started to build the second Pillar. Once again, another broken shell, and another dispair. Then the third, fourth, fifth, all the way to the ninth!

[Good, now comes the Light and Dark Pillars. From this point, I will give you support to both Elements and Spiritual Energy control. However, don't expect it again in the future unless it is something related to a breakthrough. It uses too much energy of the Soul Gem.]

Rean and Roan nodded. They worked with Sister Orb and started to build the last Pillar. This one appeared in the center of the other nine, which gave the impression that the nine neutral ones existed only to support it. It was okay until this point. But when they saw the size of the last one, their mouths twitched. That Dark and Light Element Pillars were at least three times larger in width than the others.

They could already imagine how hellish the pain will be once this thing broke the Shell of the Dantian.

[Why the black faces? You should thank me that I can create a Pillar of such high quality. Others would be envious of you if they knew what you have.]

The twins wanted to say that they were okay with being ordinary. Unfortunately, the process already began, so it couldn't stop anymore. Soon, the Dark and White Pillars arrived at the Shell of the Dantian.

[Alright. I will help you gather even more Spiritual Energy now. Concentrate!]

Spiritual Energy quickly gathered, and Sister Orb used the 104th Meridian to give them even more. Finally, in one stroke, the Dantians were pierced through one last time, and the Light and Drak pillar came out. However, there was no grunt of pain this time. It was not that it didn't hurt, but that Rean and Roan passed out straight away after it.

[Sigh... In the end, I have to do all the work. Fortunately, I only need to mend the cracks. Since there is enough Spirit Stones, It won't take long.]

The next morning, Hamarlia found Rean and Roan on the ground. She was frightened by that view and quickly helped them. Still, they didn't wake up no matter how many times she called. Without another choice, she put them on their beds and rushed to Juri's House.

Juri quickly came to take a look and found the two kids with ashen faces. However, after checking their bodies' condition with his Spiritual Sense and Spiritual Energy, he couldn't find anything wrong with their health. He then proceeded to their Dantians, but what he saw almost made him jump in fright!

"What the hell?"

Hamarlia was taken aback by that reaction.

"Is something wrong with them? Are they badly hurt?"

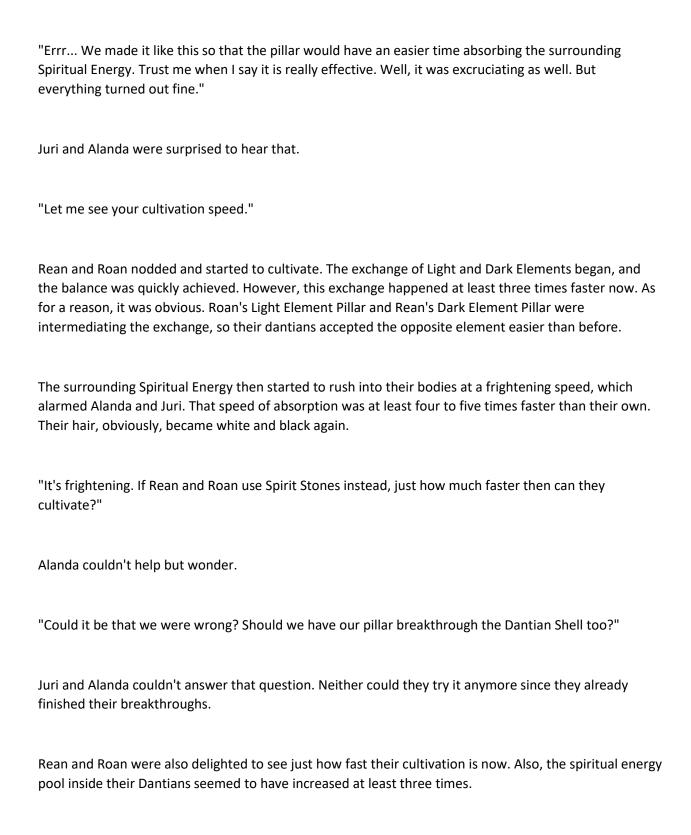
Juri shook his head.

"No, their bodies are fine, it's just... Well, they are now in the Foundation Establishment Realm." Hamarlia and Turen were taken aback. Foundation Establishment, their 8 almost 9 years old kids? Was that a joke? Obviously, there were shocked too. However, Juri wasn't worried about it. Roan had commented that they would try to make the breakthrough soon, so they being in the Foundation Establishment Realm didn't disturb him. What bothered him was something completely different. Juri pondered a bit and then told the twins' parents. "They are fine. It is just that the breakthrough had drained a lot fo their energy. Just leave them in the bed for a few days, and they will wake sooner or later. Also, let me know when that happens, I have something to ask them." Hamarlia and Turen let out a sigh of relief. If Juri is saying that they are fine, then it should be okay. Juri gave one last look at the twins before leaving. The days passed, and soon, five days went by. This morning, Rean was the first to wake up, with Roan following right behind a few minutes later. But as soon as they tried to move, their entire bodies contorted in pain. Hamarlia heard their grunts and rushed inside their room in a flash. "You are awake, finally!" Tears filled her eyes as she jumped to hug them. However, Rean and Roan were frightened when they saw it.

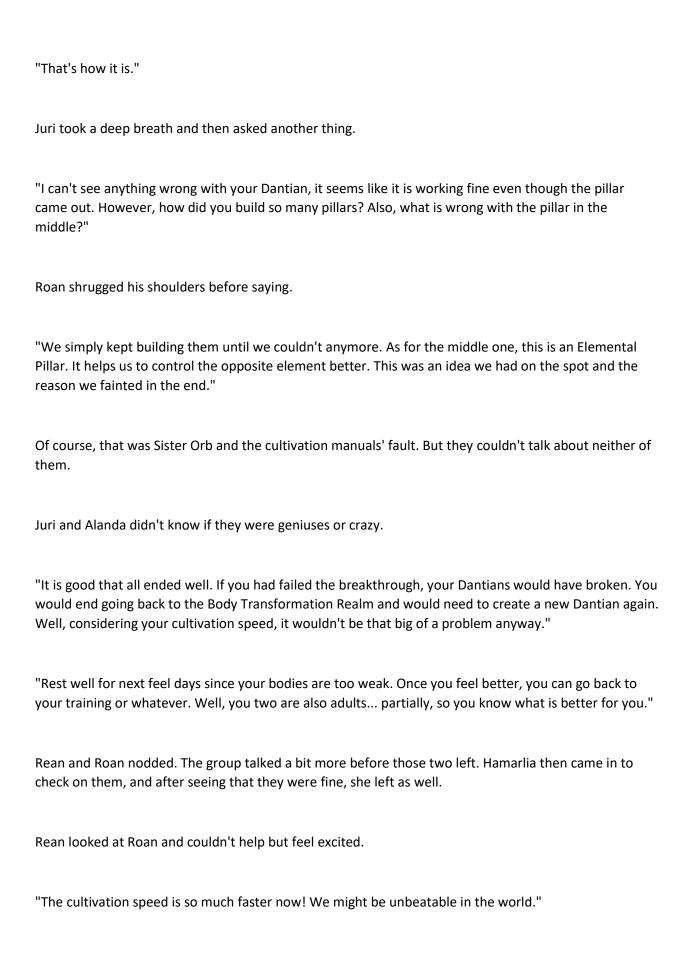
"Stop!"

Too late, she didn't care about their shouts.
"Ahhhhh!"
The pain they felt through that hug was even worse than the nine neutral pillars. They just couldn't tell if it was worse than the Light and Dark ones because they instantly fainted.
"Ah! Sorry!"
She quickly let them go while looking at them, still crying.
Well, now even Rean and Roan were crying too, but for a completely different reason
Death and me
Chapter 74: Advantages
After rebuking the two for over an hour, Hamarlia finally asked Opril to call Juri over. Sometime later, Juri came back with Alanda, and for some reason, Malaka was there too. Rean and Roan looked at Malaka, puzzled.
"Sigh She found out about you two passing out, so insisted thousands of times that she wanted to come."
Rean then laughed out loud.
"I see! It seems like you are missing our fighting lessons. Don't worry, after we recover, we will double the time just for you."
Inna Malaka's face became ashen!
"You bullies!"

She turned around and dashed away as if there were monsters in that place.
Juri and the others saw that and laughed as well.
"Anyway, I knew you were going to enter the Foundation Establishment Realm, that is okay. But what the hell happened with your Dantians?"
Rean and Roan looked at him, not understanding what he meant.
"You mean the ten pillars coming out?"
Juri nodded.
"How did that happen?"
"Wait! You and Alanda's Dantians don't have pillars?"
Juri shook his head.
"We do have pillars, but they are inside our Dantians. How did it grow to the point of breaking the shell? Also, am I seeing things right? Are there really ten pillars there?"
The twins were taken aback. They followed what was described in their cultivation manual and Sister Orb's instructions. When she said that Juri and Alanda had three pillars each, they thought that this is how their Dantians were supposed to be. However, it seems like the others' pillars stay inside the Dantian instead of coming out.
'We need to ask Sister Orb later.'



The twins then stopped cultivating and looked at Alanda and Juri.





Rean and Roan sighed in relief. At least, their increase in cultivation time was not without advantages.

Death... and me

Chapter 75: Higher Rank Spirit Stones

Just as Juri mentioned, Rean and Roan were already back on their feet a few days later. They also returned to teach the classes after that. Even though they were already at this level, the twins still found it nice to help the kids. Especially when fighting classes started. They could bull- cough, cough, teach the other kids proper weapon combat.

In the end, Roan also made a few other manuals for other weapons like Staff, Spear, Mace, etc... However, there were no skills for them. Creating abilities take a long time. So far, Roan only managed to create those three skills of the Death Sword Style, so he couldn't waste time trying to develop skills for the other weapons too.

The kids would need to rely on themselves in the future is they wanted skills. Of course, the majority of them use Swords, so they could try his Death Sword Style Skills. It's just that Roan's skills were really hard to learn, so no one other than Rean was able to use even one of them. Even the warriors who used Swords and had the manuals had a hard time trying to apply the concepts.

Later on in a training field, Roan asked something that was bothering him.

"All the Spiritual Equipments you made so far were only Low-Level ones. Although they are much stronger than others at the same level, it doesn't change that fact. Why haven't you tried to make a high-level one yet?"

Rean sighed after hearing that.

"Do you think I don't want to? It is because we are poor!"

Roan's eyes opened wide after hearing that.

"Poor? We get at least five thousand Spirit Stones per month, how can you say we are poor?"

Rean shook his head.

"The problem is not the Spirit Stones, but their quality. The Spirit Stones that we are using are considered Rank One Spirit Stones, the lowest level. I only know that because Juri told me about it while discussing a few things about the Varen Workshop. Later on, I tried to look for High-Level material for forging. Do you know how much the cheapest one, a Spiritual Ore called Natin, costs?"

Roan shook his head. He had always left Rean in charge of their weapons, so he had no idea.

Rean smiled bitterly and then said.

"1kg of this ore is worth one thousand Rank Two Spirit Stones. It seems like you need 10 Rank One Spirit Stones just to get a single Rank Two. The problem is, no one wants Rank One Spirit Stones, they all prefer to keep their Rank Two ones. So instead of 10, you would need to offer 12 or so if you want to get it."

Roan was taken aback by that. Indeed, they are really poor. Rean would need to save Spirit Stones for years to get enough material to make other weapons. If it was just 1kg, then Rean could save enough to buy it after two or three months. But that is not the problem.

One must remember that Rean couldn't simply buy the ore and make whatever. He needs loads of it and other types so that he can test several types of alloys. Let alone 1kg, Rean couldn't start anything without at least a hundred of it. Rean spent at least 300kg of Spiritual Kaz Ore to reach the final result of their actual sword. Trial and Failure were a common sight during the creation of this new alloy.

"It seems like Low-Level Spiritual Ores will have to make do for the time being."

Rean nodded.

"Yes. However, you do remember that my Steel Sword, made of ordinary materials, is stronger than most Low-Level Spiritual Weapons, right? If you trust my metallurgist skills, you should know just how much stronger these swords are compared to the normal ones. I dare say that I created an alloy good enough to be compared to the High-Level Spiritual metals already."

Roan didn't doubt that. After all, he already tried an ordinary Spiritual Sword before and could tell that it couldn't even hold a candle to Rean's one. Perhaps, Rean's sword is really at the High-Level side.

"Now that you talked about Spirit Stones, don't you feel like the ones we have are not being able to keep up?"
Rean nodded.
"So you thought that too? I can also feel that I can only take so much from them. Of course, cultivate without them is several times worse."
Roan then pondered a bit and asked Sister Orb about it.
[That is understandable. Your rate of Spiritual Energy Absorption is far above others, after all. Rank One Spirit Stones are indeed just Rank One. It would be much better if you used Rank Two. I dare say that the speed of cultivation might go up by another 50% at the very least.]
Rean couldn't help but sigh.
"Unfortunately, Rank Two Spirit Stones are hard to get. Even if we have enough Rank One to buy them, there are simply not many for sale."
Sometime later, a guard of Juri's house appeared.
"Rean, Roan, Juri is calling you over."
They looked at each other and nodded.
A few minutes later, they arrived at Juri's house.
"Oh, you are here."

Juri then began to explain. "I've been thinking about increase the number of Steel Weapons for sale every month. At first, only Alanda and I were at the Foundation Establishment Realm. I was afraid of inviting problems if I took a bigger slice of the market. But now that the two of you are in the Foundation Establishment Realm, I feel more secure in relation to our Tribe's safety. What do you think?" Roan just shrugged his shoulders. "Ask it to Rean, money issues are not my focus, combat is. If he is okay with that, then I don't give a damn." Rean immediately nodded. "I was also thinking about it. So let's go ahead with your plan." Juri laughed before he and Rean started to discuss the details. Roan only stayed on the side and didn't intervene since he didn't care. As long as he has Spirit Stones to cultivate, then that is fine. Suddenly, an elder barged inside the room like a hurricane. "T-Tribe Leader, you need to come with me quickly!"

Juri and the twins were taken aback. Still, Juri understood that it was urgent, so he immediately followed the elder. Rean and Roan wanted to go together, but the elder looked at Juri as if saying that they should go alone.

"Don't worry about them, just show me the way."

Receiving Juri's confirmation, the elder quickly brought them to the Aptitude test hall. Seeing the place where they arrived, Juri and the Twins already had an idea of what happened.

Death... and me

Chapter 76: The Powers of Jialin

Today just so happened to be the day in the month where newborn babies go through the Aptitude Test. Of course, Juri arranged for the aptitude tests to be done in secrecy. He was afraid that if someone like Malaka appears again by some miracle, at least he could hide it. Until today, only Malak's parents, Alanda, Juri, and the Twins know about Malaka's Blue Color aptitude. Even Malaka herself thinks that she has a Green one.

Juri's Tribe policy proved to be correct, and their number of Yellow and even Green aptitudes increased. During the last eight years since Rean and Roan appeared, another three green Aptitude babies were born. That is a fantastic number for a Tribe of their size. Every single one of them had a chance to reach the Foundation Establishment one day.

Their group quickly entered and reached one of the test rooms. There, they found a family of three with the mother holding a small baby boy. The father just so happens to be a warrior of the Tribe as well.

"Tribe Leader."

"Tribe Leader."

The two quickly bowed to Juri, who nodded back at them.

The elder that came to inform Juri then went forward and took another drop of blood from the baby. Right after, he dropped it on the Aptitude Orb, which immediately started to shine with... Purple Color!

Juri's heart... stopped at that moment. If he didn't support himself against the wall, he would have definitely fallen!

"Pur-pur-purple... color..."

Rean and Roan were also shocked! As mentioned before, the aptitudes are divided in Gray, Brown, Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Purple. Malaka is already considered a treasure with her Blue Level Aptitude, but Purple? That is a color that no one in a place like this would ever see during their lives.

"How's that possible? Is our Tribe standing on some type oh holy land? Did a god descend here in the past?" Rean and Roan looked at each other. It doesn't matter how they see it, this level of high aptitude babies appearing shouldn't be normal. There is even a Purple Level one now. Rean concentrated on the Dimensional Realm and asked. "Sister Orb, do you know anything about this? How come even a Purple Aptitude appeared in this place? Wait! Could it be that the fact that Roan and I were born here was because of the same reason?" [Of course not. Otherwise, how do you explain the fact that the Tribe only had an average number of high aptitude babies in the past? The reason you two are looking for is none other than yourselves. Your presence here is balancing the surrounding region's Yin and Yang. The longer you stay, the better it will become. This place is becoming a blessed land because of the two of you.] Rean and Roan were taken aback. This is the first time they hear about it. "Why didn't you tell us?" [I forgot.] The twins felt like kicking Sister Orb once again. [Anyway, it is not like telling you would change anything, right? Or could it be that you would move somewhere else alone? I really doubt so.] Rean and Roan shook their heads and decided to not think much about it. In theory, this should be a good thing for the Tribe... as long as Juri can hide this Purple Toddler well enough.

Still, judging by Juri's face, it didn't seem like he had the confidence to do it.

Juri noticed his own state and quickly recovered.

"Cough, cough. Sorry, it is just that I was too surprised. I've never thought that our Tribe could be blessed by a Purple Aptitude Baby. However, do the two of you understand the implications of his existence?"

The father, who was also a cultivator and a warrior of the Tribe, immediately nodded. He might not be a highly talented one, but he at least understood what that meant.

"We can't let others know about it, so I already talked with my wife. She understands that we must keep it a secret from everyone else, even our child himself. At least, until the day that he can make his own decisions."

Juri nodded, satisfied.

"Indeed, once a family has a warrior in the middle, their views are much broader. You are correct, a purple aptitude baby is only a legend in a place like this. I know a little bit more about the cultivation world, so I can tell that it wouldn't be just a sect being interested in him. Instead, a war between sects might start."

Juri then looked at Rean and Roan.

"Since the two of you are already here, I might as well explain it to you, so listen well."

Roan and Roan's interest was picked, and even Sister Orb seemed to be paying attention now.

"Our country of Jialin is a tiny one, and it is located at the very border of the continent on the North-East side. As for Astreg City, it is even more so. It is considered one of the smallest cities in the country, also on the north-east side."

"Our country has a total of five cultivators' Sects: the Rohe Sect, Lagan Sect, Dalamu Sect, Umbral Sect, and Raskil Sect. From what I know, you need to have at least Yellow Color Aptitude if you wish to join

any of those. There are also another two powers equivalent to the Sects, the Jialin Royal Family and Zafa Bank."

"However, the Zafa bank is present in the entire empire, not only in our Jialin Country. So in a certain way, they are stronger than our Five Sects; it's just that they use the power of money instead. Of course, the Zafa Bank doesn't get involved in any country's affairs. They only care about profit. Whatever happens to the countries is not their problem. So you can eliminate them from the list of interested."

"As for our empire, it covers the north side of our continent, and it is called the Sasamil Empire."

"But let's focus on the Five Sects for now. Usually, the biggest majority of those who wish to enter the five Sects have green Aptitude levels. Those with Yellow rarely pass the tests. Now and then, a Blue Color appears, but they are quite rare. As for Red Color... Well, I won't say that there isn't any, but they are as rare as phoenix feathers. You might find one every two or three annual recruitments. Of course, I'm not totally sure since information is hard to get in the place where we live. There is a very good chance that I might be wrong about something."

Rean and Roan couldn't help but ask.

"What about Purple?"

Juri sighed and said.

"I only know about one, and that is because this information is purposely spread by the nobles. He is the progenitor of the Jialin Royal Family and the Founder of the Jialin Country, Zef Jialin."

Everyone in the room was shocked. A Purple Aptitude person was able to found an entire country!

Death... and me

Chapter 77: The Medium-Sized Tribes Alliance

Juri looked at everyone in the room before asking.



[Hum... I can't be sure about that. It is obvious that you two are far better than Inna Malaka's Blue Color one. Still, I have never seen a Red or Purple Aptitude before. Don't forget that I was also on the other half of the Universe with you before coming here. We would need to pay attention in the future. However, I would say that he is at most at the same level. After all, he can't do the Elements Exchange like you.]

Rean and Roan agreed with her.

"Besides, we do have the tenth pillar too. Anyway, we are almost nine years old at the moment. So by the time his talent starts to show up, we might not even be here anymore."

The twins then started to cultivate once more.

Another year went by in a flash. During this time, Juri expanded the Steel Workshop and started to offer other types of service. Rean also helped to create other types of alloys like aluminum, which couldn't rust. Of course, they registered everything. With that, the income of the Varen Workshop increased even more. Everyone was curious about how they could think about so many new types of metal.

Juri had to acquire another two workshops to be able to attend the demand. The Zafa bank, of course, was more than happy enough to help. Rean also visited the Workshops quite a few times to make sure everything was going according to his ideas.

Thanks to all of that, Rean was able to obtain another 40 Destiny Points.

On Roan's side, he kept teaching the kids. As for his Death Sword Style, a few Tribe Warriors finally started to show some progress with the skills. Alanda, for example, could use the first form, Stellar Piercer, on a basic level. As for Juri, he put his focus on the second form, Crescent Moon.

With the extra spirit stones for cultivation, the Tribe's overall strength increased, giving Rean and Roan another 20 Destiny Points.

Varen was definitely at the level of a medium-sized one now. Of course, Almost no one knows that the Varen Tribe has two extra Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators, Rean and Roan. Thanks to that,

the other Tribes still considered them to be a Small Tribe. Since the Varen Tribe never looked for trouble with the nearby Tribes, others also couldn't tell exactly how strong they were either.

At the same time, in the Kianme Tribe, Kianme Yisval was in the middle of a meeting with another two Tribe Leaders. Kalan Bokou, from the Medium-Sized Bokou Tribe, and Xinken Hersin, from the Medium-Sized Hersin Tribe.

"Yisval, so you agree that all the spoils will be shared between Xinken and me alone, is that correct?"

Yisval nodded.

"Correct. As long as we wipe out this problem of our territory, you can have everything from there."

Xinken couldn't help but ask.

"But didn't you say before that you were going to wait after ten years had passed? Why are you acting one year earlier?"

Yisval grimaced before saying.

"The Varen Tribe started to receive a lot more Spirit Stones thanks to their Workshops in the Astreg City. It seems like they were even able to create new types of metal again, which increased their income. From what I found from their Tribe, Juri didn't keep all the Spirit Stones for himself as any other Tribe Leader would. He is sharing it with all his warriors nonstop. If I wait any longer, they might become too hard to deal with."

Xinken and Kalan narrowed their eyes. They are Medium-Sized Tribes from other territories, so they don't have much information from the Varen Tribe. Still, they knew about their Workshop, that's why they decided to take this deal and help the Kianme Tribe. They would be able to take all the Spirit Stones that Juri saved for themselves. But they didn't expect that Juri wasn't saving it but giving it all to his Tribe Warriors to cultivate. That meant that their profits would be a lot smaller.

Yisval understood what they were thinking and then said.

"Don't worry. As much as Juri is giving the Spirit Stones to his Warriors, the fact is that he is still a Tribe Leader. Do you really think he wouldn't keep more for himself? If he is giving so much away, you can already imagine just how much more he has with himself there."
Xinken and Kalan's eyes lit up, what Yisval said made a lot of sense.
"Wait, isn't the Zafa Bank their ally? Wouldn't Juri keep all these Spirit Stones in their bank instead?"
Yisval heard that and laughed out loud.
"Would you two really leave all your Spirit Stones in the Zafa bank?"
"Ah!"
They wouldn't. They want to be as close as possible of their own things, so at most, they would keep only half there.
"You are sure that the Zafa Bank will not intervene in this Tribe War, right?"
Yisval nodded once more.
"I already checked, the Zafa Bank will only protect the Workshops, they will not do anything about the Varen Tribe. I can guarantee you that."
"Very well, we are going to gather our warriors. When will the war start?"
Yisval smiled after receiving their agreement.
"In two weeks."

Chapter 78: Preparations
Yisval was right about one thing. Juri was indeed keeping some of the Spirit Stones. But it wasn't for him, he simply kept it there in case the Tribe needed it in an emergency. So, in fact, it isn't as much as they think. Juri had really used almost all the Spirit Stones in the Tribe.
Almost two weeks later, a warrior came into his house to report.
"Tribe Leader, something is happening in the Yisval Tribe."
Juri's attention was picked.
"What is it?"
"We noticed that their warriors are mobilizing. From the looks of it, are Tribe war might start at any moment."
Juri's eyes narrowed.
"A tribe war? Were the Kianme Tribe in bad terms with anyone recently?"
The warrior shook his head.
"We have kept an eye on all the Tribes around us during the past few years as you instructed us. But so far, no other Tribe seems to be acting weird. We also didn't find any sign that they were in bad terms with Kianme. Because of that, we can't ascertain who their target really is."

Death... and me

Juri found it to be a little too fishy.

'Could they be targeting us? But that makes no sense since they would lose too much in that case. Could it be one of the small Tribes around? Or some other Tribe outside our territory?'
"Keep observing their movements. If anything new happens, let me know."
The warrior nodded and quickly left.
Juri then asked another Warrior to call the Elders, Alanda, Rean, and Roan over.
Late that day, everyone was gathered in the Elder's hall at the center of the Tribe. Rean and Roan were also there, but they were not appearing. Juri kept those two hidden so that they would only hear the conversation. After all, they are the Tribe's trump card. The smaller the number of people who know about their real power, the better.
As the elders discussed the news about the Kianme Tribe, Rean and Roan were also doing the same with each other.
"What do you think?"
Roan nodded.
"Considering everything I heard so far, I would say that there is at least an 80% chance that they are coming for us."
Rean was surprised to hear that.
"Didn't they say that it wouldn't be worth it to attack us with the Kianme Tribe's strength?"
Roan nodded once more.

"That's why soon enough, we should get a report of some other Tribes entering our territory. If one Tribe isn't enough, then try two, three, four... As long as the profit is worth it, you can convince others. The same way we keep eyes on the other Tribes, the other Tribes keep eyes on us. So it shouldn't be a secret how our Tribe's strength had been increasing recently."

"That Kianme Tribe is the only Medium-Sized Tribe in our territory, so they can't allow another one to appear. It is that simple."

Sure enough, another warrior appeared a few minutes later to give his report.

"We spotted another two Tribes entering our territory. Judging by their banners, they are the Bokou from the south and Hersin from the west. Both are Medium-Sized Tribes."

Juri was surprised to hear that.

'It was exactly like Roan mentioned.'

Before coming to the Elders Hall, Juri had told Rean, Roan, and Alanda about what was going to be discussed. Hearing that, Roan immediately asked Juri to send warriors to watch the borders of their territory. Juri followed his wishes, and sure enough, it proved helpful.

One of the elders couldn't help but comment.

"Does it mean that they are the ones attacking the Kianme Tribe together?"

Juri was just about to answer when he received a Spiritual Sense message from Roan. He immediately changed what he was about to say after that.

"Gather all warriors, our Varen Tribe is going into full war mode."

The elders were taken aback by that.

"Isn't it too early to get into conclusions?"

Juri shook his head and repeated the same words Roan told him.

"The Kianme Tribe is inside their Tribe Territory, those two Tribes have similar strength to them. That means that if they want to win a war against the Kianme Tribe, they will need to pay a huge price. They would probably not be Medium-Size Tribes anymore when everything is over."

"That being said, there is no way that Bokou and Hersin would take this risk. With this line of thought, it is almost guaranteed that they aren't fighting each other. Since they aren't fighting, it could only mean that they are in an alliance. Now then, which Tribe in our territory would the Kianme Tribe need the alliance to deal with?"

All the elders' hearts skipped a bit after hearing that. There is only a single Tribe which the Kianme Tribe would need help to deal with, their own!

Immediately, a bell sound started to resonate in the entire Tribe. When the people heard that, they immediately started to mobilize. Ever since the Varen Workshop began to make money, Juri thought about the possibility of the Tribe being under attack. So he made sure that everyone knew what to do in case this bell was ever used.

All the ordinary people immediately gathered in the center of the village. Surprisingly, they all carried bags full of food and water as if they were ready to go on a travel. Juri then went on the stage to talk.

"It is still not confirmed, but we are almost certain that our Tribe is about to be attacked. That being said, you already know what to do. Everyone who is not related to the Tribe's protection is to immediately move into the Mine to hide. Elder Jasviu and a few warriors under his command will be leading this group."

Jasviu stepped forward and received the order. At the same time, Juri asked him through a Divine Sense message.

"Is that thing ready?"

Jasviu immediately nodded. "We finished it a year ago. No one other than those present in the excavation knows about this." Juri nodded, satisfied. He had put Jasviu in charge of making an escape route that led to the Liman mountain's opposite side. That escape route took more than three years to be done. It couldn't be helped, after all, the mountain expanded for several kilometers and the number of people involved wasn't that big to keep the secret. But in the end, their efforts were compensated. "Very well. In case we lose, you should immediately destroy the entrance and flee to the previously agreed place, understood?" Jasviu nodded, and he began to guide all the common people into the Mines. Juri then looked at Roan in the corner where no one was paying attention. 'Just how far have you seen?' Death... and me Chapter 79: About to Start In Roan's previous life as Death Spirit, he had been everywhere. Obviously, the number of battlefields that he saw is uncountable. The number strategies even more so. Such things like predicting that other Tribes would join the fray was just too easy for him. It couldn't even be considered a strategy, just banding together to overwhelm the other with numbers. Once all the ordinary people left, Juri went to talk with him. "Was that okay?" Roan nodded.

"Give me 20 warriors, they must obey all my orders, is that fine?"
Juri pondered a bit and agreed. Although the warriors would find it weird to follow the orders of a kid, Juri could still convince this amount. A few minutes later, those warriors already appeared.
Roan then looked at Rean and asked.
"Did you prepare what I asked for?"
Rean shrugged his shoulders.
"You gave me too little time, so just a few were ready."
Roan smiled.
"That should do, they won't be coming now anyway, so just make more while I will be taking them."
Rean made an okay sign.
"By the way, don't you need my help with those things?"
Roan snorted.
"Don't forget our roles, equipments, and resources are up to you, but combat is my field. The last thing I need is for you to ruin my plans."
Rean just shook his head and returned to the Tribe's blacksmith workshop.

Roan then took all that he needed and ran around the Tribe with those warriors. The day quickly passed, and night came. It was then that Juri received the message that the enemies were coming. Sure enough, it would be a night raid.

On the top of the Tribe's wall, Juri looked as the three Tribes came over. Together, they had almost a thousand warriors. As for the Varen Tribe, they barely reached two hundred. The Tribe had more than it, but a few of them followed the ordinary Tribe into the mines. In case things go south, they would be responsible for protecting them while they escaped.

Before the battle started, the Kianme Tribe Leader came forward of the Hersin and Bokou Tribes' ones.

Juri smiled at them and asked.

"I didn't expect to get a visit so late at night, much less so many. I guess you didn't come to drink with me, did you?"

Kianme Yasvil laughed after hearing that.

"We did, it's just that the drink will be your tribe members blood. Juri Varen, your Tribe, has become too strong for its own good. This is just my Kianme Tribe, preventing someone else from eating our food later. Don't take it personally, the world is for the strong."

Juri laughed and nodded.

"Indeed, the world is for the strong. So I'll give you a piece of advice, you should leave now while you still can. If not, don't blame my Varen Tribe for being nasty."

Hearing that made the Yaskil, Kalan, and Xinken laugh out loud.

"Then, we want to see just how nasty you can become."

The three leaders then went back to their warriors' group.

On the Varen Tribe side, Juri came down from the wall and landed just beside Roan.
"Is everything prepared?"
Roan nodded.
"As long as our warriors don't forget the locations, it should be fine. Although I can't say that there will be no deaths on our side, you should be strong enough to deal with this amount."
Juri couldn't help but feel impressed with Roan's ingenuity.
"Everyone get ready!"
Outside the Varen's Tribe, the Tribe discussed how they should go with it.
"Neither of us wants to be the ones losing more Tribe members. So each side will first send half of our groups to go together. The Varen tribe is placed against the Liman mountain, which is south, so it will be annoying to enter from there. In that case, let each group attack from North, East, and West. Is there anyone against these rules?"
Xenkin pondered a bit before saying.
"I don't mind it, but the three groups must have mixed warriors of the Three Tribes. After all, what if one side simply decides to not enter? I hope the Kianme and Bokou Tribes have nothing against it."
Kalan and Yisval nodded. That was the best option available. The cultivation world was just like this, filled with mistrust. Each side wants to guarantee its safety first above all.
"Very good, we all brought two Foundation Establishment Realm each counting with us. This first raid, let's give the command of each group to one of them. Alanda and Juri are the only Foundation

Establishment Realms of the Varen Tribe as far as I know. They can only defend two sides, so one of them will be empty."

Back inside the Varen Tribe, Alanda was positioned on the West Side while Juri was on the East. As for Rean and Roan, they stayed in the north.

A few minutes earlier, Roan gave his plans.

"They definitely have more Foundation Establishment than us, but they only know about Alanda and Juri. Rean and I will use this chance to get rid of one of them straight away. The leaders will most likely not attack at first, and I doubt they will send everyone at once. They are completely underestimating our forces just because they have more than double our numbers. Don't miss this chance and kill as much as possible. Also, don't forget everything I prepared. That is the first phase."

Sure enough, it was just as Roan mentioned. From the top of the wall, it was easy to see only half of the thousand warriors moving to the three sides. The walls of the Varen Tribe were nothing impressive. Even Energy Gathering Realm cultivators could jump it as long as they put enough effort. They only had between 6 to 7 meters, which was mostly used to keep demon beasts away, not humans. Also, except for a few guarding points, there was no space for a person to stay on the walls' top since the walls are palisades. That being said, Roan gave up defending the walls. Instead, he decided to use the Houses of the Tribe as cover for his plans. Of course, it is not like he didn't leave a surprise behind.

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Chapter 80: Darkness

Without further delay, the enemy warriors started to jump the walls. As mentioned before, there wasn't space for you to stand on top of it since they are palisades. It's just that the Tribe had used really thick trees to build them, so an Energy Gathering Realm cultivator would take just too long to break through it.

First of all, the three tribes alliance didn't think that it was necessary. However, as soon as they started to land, the ground under them caved into, and they fell. Under them, several metal stakes were placed. Rean didn't have enough time to make enough stakes to cover the entire length of the walls. However, Roan guessed that they would attack from those three points, and so they did.

But that wasn't the trick behind it. Considering that they are all at least in the Energy Gathering Realm, those warriors could still react fast enough. They could turn their bodies in a position where they would fall between the gaps of those metal stakes. Although not all of them would be able to do it, Roan was sure that the majority would. But they committed a mistake when they decided to do a night raid.

Outside the Varen Tribe wall, you could see the lit torches, which illuminated the outside. However, as soon as you landed on the inside, everything was pitch black! There wasn't a single torch or any other light source available. The warriors could still use their Spiritual Sense to feel the metal stakes under the ground. However, the Spiritual Sense of Energy Gathering Realm cultivators isn't anything impressive. It was far from being able to substitute the vision.

Soon, several screams could be heard coming from North, East, and West. In this little time, about 80 or so warriors were impaled. The Foundation Establishment leaders of each group grimaced. Their Spiritual Sense is a lot stronger than the Energy Gathering Realm ones. Thanks to that, they could see what was happening once they got close enough to the walls.

"There are Metal Stakes on the other side. Don't just fall close to the wall. After you jump over it, use the wall to push yourselves ahead to avoid the pit."

Everyone immediately followed the orders, and they were able to avoid being impaled by the metal stakes. Those who landed on the other side didn't advance straight away but waited for the others to gather close. Some of them brought the torches from outside the walls so that they could see what was in front of them.

The East, West, and North were different. The North was the main entrance of the Tribe, so the first houses available were a few tens of meters away from it. The area in between was basically empty space so that the merchants that came once per month could park their carriages where the goods would be moved.

Because of that, Roan used a different approach to it. The North Enemy group noticed that there were around 50 Varen Tribe Warriors in front. They were positioned in a formation with their weapons in hand. The Foundation Establishment enemy warrior finally landed on the other side as well and looked at those warriors in front. They were just 50 or so, while his forces had around 150 warriors. Although he lost a few for the stakes earlier, he didn't mind it.

He then spread his Spiritual Sense forward and noticed that the two men called Alanda and Juri were not present. Yasvil Kianme had told them how they look like, but those two were not present.

"Hehe! Seems like we won the lottery."
Both sides stared at each other and didn't move. Once enough enemy warriors gathered, their leader gave the order.
"Attack!"
The North enemies dashed forward in that dark environment illuminated only by the 10 or so torches that they got from outside. But they didn't care, they couldn't see well, but so did the Varen Tribe warriors. With their number and no Foundation Establishment to give support, those 50 or so Varen Tribe warriors would be wiped out very soon.
From behind the Varen Tribe Warriors, a childish voice came out as well.
"Attack!"
The Varen Tribe Warriors immediately dashed forward.
As for the voice, it was none other than Rean's. At the moment, his hands were closed against each other, as if he was holding something inside them. There were just a few tens of meters between both sides, so this distance was covered in a second.
Just as both sides were about to clash against each other, Rean smiled and jumped behind his Tribe Warrior members. The enemies couldn't see well, but there were sure that whoever jumped was quite small, just like a kid. Even the Foundation Establishment warrior was puzzled at that view.
Suddenly, Rean opened his hands behind the Varen Tribe Warriors at the very moment of the clash.
Flash!

The almost pitch black world suddenly brightened as if a Sun appeared out of nowhere! All the enemies warriors' eyes that had got used to the dark went blind! Even the Foundation Establishment Enemy warrior was no exception.

Obviously, that was Rean's Light Element Flash! He had used this trick in the past against the demon beasts, and Roan made sure to have it played again. Now that Rean is in the Foundation Establishment Realm, one can only imagine just how much Light Element he could use. Rean kept gathering Light Element ever since the warriors started to jump the walls, compressing it as much as possible. All for the sake of this single moment.

All of the enemies instinctively covered their eyes with their arms. As for the Varen Tribe Warriors, they did not lose this chance! The Varen Tribe warriors had their backs against the light, so it simply didn't affect them as much. Although it was bright, they could still see.

Every single one of them had Steel Weapons. All of them had been cultivating with a lot more Spiritual Stones in the past years. They had access to the Death Style Manuals too. One must remember that Roan's Death Style had only one objective, kill as fast as possible! Use every chance available to give a fatal blow!

What happened after was a massacre. In a second, the enemy warriors in the front were cut through like cabbages.

The Foundation Establishment warrior was the first to recover from his blindness and was enraged with what he saw. Over half of his subordinates were killed in that one clash, and the rampage didn't stop. But just as he was about to dash forward to kill all those Varen Tribe warriors, he heard a childish voice from behind.

"Shouldn't you pay more attention to yourself?."

Three black and white swords appeared in his vision in an instant. He was distracted by what was happening with his subordinates that he didn't notice this threat approaching with his Spiritual Sense. First of all, how did this kid even appear behind him? There was simply not enough time for someone to circle around their group and reach his back. Unfortunately, he would never know the answer.

The guy tried to raise his weapon to defend, but it was already too late.

'Death Style, Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'
Swish, swish!
Next thing he knew, his body was cut in three! The first Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator was dead!