

## Death 731

Death... and me

Chapter 731: I Really Don't Like Him

Roan pondered over the question for a bit before saying, "Well, the first thing we should definitely choose is Dragon Bones. I just don't know if it would improve our combat ability as much as the previous bone upgrade did."

[Don't worry, it's definitely worth it. It won't do much for your raw strength, just like in the past. However, it'll definitely increase your raw defense by a lot. Otherwise, it wouldn't be called Dragon Bones for nothing.] Sister Orb explained.

Rean and Roan were satisfied with that explanation as one of them said in response, "Our Dantians' defense is already a lot stronger after we absorbed the Universe Essence. Combining it with the Dragon Bones will definitely improve it even further."

Without wasting any more time, the twins sent their order to the Soul Gem System.

[Dragon Bones - 5000 Destiny Points]

[Confirm Purchase?]

Rean and Roan braced themselves for what was about to come. Every bone upgrade was followed by excruciating pain. Naturally, a bone upgrade called Dragon Bones shouldn't be any better than the previous ones.

"Yes!"

[Purchase confirmed.]

[Destiny Points: 14402]

[Initializing Upgrade...]

Sure enough, another wave of contortion on the ground appeared. Of course, Kentucky wasn't included in this upgrade, so he didn't feel anything. Besides, Kentucky's body became stronger the more Heaven-level metals he ate. His actual bones didn't lose out to the Dragon Bones at all.

After resisting the torture and Sister Orb's nagging for another hour, the pain finally subsided before disappearing completely. They also noticed that no new bone upgrade appeared this time. Noticing this, Rean asked, "Sister Orb, is this the last bone upgrade?"

[Who knows? Don't forget that I can't comment on future upgrades.] Sure enough, Sister Orb dodged the question.

In any case, Rean and Roan were pretty sure that something else would eventually appear again. With that, Roan told Rean, "Forget it. We only have 9402 Destiny Points remaining."

Rean couldn't help but ask, though. "Sister Orb, shouldn't we have more points because of the incoming war? It's happening because of us, after all."

[Nope. It's still included in the 30000 Destiny Point reward from taking Celis away. This is just a side effect of that. That being said, you won't get extra Destiny Points from it.] Sister Orb didn't stop there, though. [However! You can still gain Destiny Points depending on how you intervene in the war itself.]

Roan nodded, already expecting something like that to occur. "Makes sense. The war happened because we took Celis away, but its results are still up in the air. If we change its course in any way, it'll be considered a new intervention."

[Exactly.] Sister Orb confirmed Roan's words.

Kentucky didn't care much about that. "Leave the war aside for now. What will you buy with the remaining Destiny Points?"

Rean pondered over the question a little before saying, "We have two choices, more or less. We're close to 10000 Destiny Points, so we can keep it for the next Spiritual Energy Absorption Upgrade. It'll increase our absorption speed from 10% to 15%."

He then pointed at the second option as he continued, "Or we can upgrade the workshops. Any other option seems unrealistic at the moment."

Roan nodded, saying in response not long after, "True. Which one would you choose?"

Rean immediately answered, "I would go for the workshops. They're kind of cheap at the moment, and they'll help us out in our side occupations. It has been quite a long time since the last time we got something new from them."

Roan thought about the issue before he looked at his herb garden. Celis's saplings had grown quite a lot since they first appeared as they were working on the development of the garden itself. It looked like Celis's presence was great nourishment for the plants there as they were now brimming with life. Naturally, Roan wanted to make good use of them, and an upgrade to the Alchemist Workshop might help out. Of course, he didn't forget that there was also the possibility that he would get something that wouldn't help out much.

"Oh well, whatever." Roan then decided to leave it to fate as he said, "Let's go after the workshop upgrades." In the end, without paying for the upgrades, they would never know what they could get from it.

Rean didn't select the Electrical Formations Repository this time. After all, ever since Sunkan Planet was destroyed, he didn't have time to work on Circuitry Formations like he did in the past. With that said, he opted for the Blacksmith Workshop, which only gave him the Stacking Hammer so far.

[Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop Upgrade Level 2 - 1000 Destiny Points]

[Soul Gem Alchemy Workshop Upgrade Level 3- 3000 Destiny Points]

[Confirm Purchase?]

"Yes!"

[Purchase confirmed.]

[Destiny Points: 9402]

[Initializing Upgrade...]

Rean and Roan saw how the two workshops were suddenly enveloped in a spatial barrier, which they couldn't see inside. The upgrade process lasted for two hours as the Soul Gem Realm absorbed Spiritual Energy from outside nonstop. Although the Soul Gem Realm now generated its own Spiritual Energy, it was far, far behind what Celis could provide. Eventually, the spatial barrier broke apart, showing the new workshops.

"As always, they don't look that different from the outside," Rean said as he looked at the two buildings.

Roan didn't bother what Rean thought as he said to him, "Forget it. Are you buying the Level 3 upgrade for the Blacksmith Workshop? We still have enough Destiny Points for it."

Rean nodded, responding, "Yes. That way, our side occupation workshops are at an even level."

[Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop Upgrade Level 3 - 3000 Destiny Points]

[Confirm Purchase?]

"Yes!"

[Purchase confirmed.]

[Destiny Points: 5402]

[Initializing Upgrade...]

Sure enough, the Blacksmith Workshop was once again enveloped by a spatial barrier as the upgrade started.

Roan ignored that phenomenon as he told Rean, "Well, I'll go take a look at the Alchemist Workshop." Roan had obtained a pestle on the first level, which helped out with the medicinal extraction. He hoped that the mortar would appear this time. That pestle had the ability of not damaging the medicinal properties during that time. However, Roan always had to use it with common mortars, which failed to extract the herbs' properties fully.

Soon, Roan entered the workshop and noticed that the scene had changed a little. At the center was his Soul Gem Cauldron, which had the ability to control the temperature perfectly. There were simply no mistakes in temperature when using it.

The pestle was over the table as always. It was then that Roan's eyes glistened as he saw the thing by its side. "Oh! It's actually a mortar! Finally, this shit system gave me what I wanted."

[Who are you calling a shit system?] Naturally, Sister Orb didn't like Roan's words.

"Shut up! You always give us some bullshit when we need you the most, so what do you want me to think?" Roan didn't back down at all.

[Hmph! You guys really don't know how to appreciate your Sister Orb's help.]

Roan ignored Sister Orb and immediately took out some simple herbs to test his new mortar. He took both the pestle and mortar and began to crush the plants inside. Sure enough, Roan was right in his predictions. When the Soul Gem Pestle and Mortar were together, he could extract 100% of the medicinal liquids without damaging any of the medicinal properties. He still had to eliminate the impurities during the concoction process, but that wasn't much of a problem.

Roan couldn't help but nod in satisfaction from his experiments. "Great stuff. Perhaps I can get an alembic in the next upgrade. If I can place the medicinal properties inside it and separate the properties I need, everything will become much easier."

Roan then worked on a simple Energy Gathering Pill used by Energy Gathering cultivators. At his level, such a pill could be concocted in less than ten minutes. Eventually, a few black and white Energy Gathering Pills came out of the Soul Gem Cauldron. Although Roan only used some simple herbs, he still obtained ten pills in the process. Following that, Roan concocted ten more pills, finishing a total of twenty.

Roan then left the Dimensional Realm before passing the pills to Burio's group of adults. "There are twenty pills here. You guys don't have the same Aptitude Color as the kids you're taking care of, so you can't possibly match them in cultivation speed. However, these pills should give you a boost during cultivation as they clear and repair your meridians a little. It won't allow you to match the kids who are training properly, but it will help out a lot."

Burio couldn't help but feel excited after receiving these pills. Of course, not only him but the other adults as well. They were already living a life many times better than they could hope in the past. Their cultivation was slower than the kids, but they were improving steadily. Now, they even got those so-called alchemist pills that neither of them had ever seen before. How could they not be happy? "Thank you, Roan. I'll definitely find a way to pay this debt one day."

Roan didn't seem to care what they thought, though. "I don't expect anything from you. After all, our levels are too different. As long as you take care of the kids until they become adults and allow them to take care of themselves, that will be enough of a payment for me."

Burio and the others nodded, assuring Roan. "Don't worry. We'll do our best."

Malo, one of the five twelve-year-old kids that helped take care of the younger ones, couldn't help but ask with an excited expression after seeing Roan pass the adults some pills. "Can we get some pills as well?!"

\*Pah!\*

However, Roan slapped the back of his head, responding in a stern tone, "Stop your bullshit. These pills would be almost of no help for Purple Color Aptitudes like yours. Instead of wasting my time asking for pills, why don't you train more, huh?"

Malo rubbed the back of his head as he left, thinking to himself, 'I really don't like him.'

Well, except for Liza, none of the kids liked Roan anyway.

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#### Chapter 732: Pulling Each Other's Cultivation

Back inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Rean watched as the upgrade process of the Soul Gem Blacksmith Workshop happened. Well, it wasn't as if he could see anything else other than the Spiritual Energy rushing inside that spatial barrier.

In any case, the Spiritual Energy eventually finished entering it before the barrier shattered to pieces. Only then could Rean enter to see what he obtained from the upgrades, excluding the hammer he had already obtained.

"Hmm?" Rean soon noticed the big machine on the wall. There were many displays to control it. But above all, it was the shape that caught Rean's attention. Soon, he muttered to himself in slight confusion, "An electric furnace? It looks a lot like the one I used back on Earth when I worked as a metallurgist."

Rean got closer to it and soon found out that it indeed used electrical components to operate. However, after using the controls for a while, he soon found out that it was very different. "This is quite nice. This is a furnace that works with both Spiritual Energy and electricity."

Rean then took out a few low-level ores and put them inside for a quick test. "Oh! It uses the circuitry part for precision. However, it allows the infusing of Spiritual Energy and Elements without having to keep the door open. So far, I've used those medieval forgers until now and had to keep the mouths open to send the energies inside."

Rean then looked at several dim orbs by the side of the controlling system, continuing to mutter, "However, this one uses these transfer orbs to send everything inside without even opening the furnace. This is really good."

After that, he tried to use his Light Element and Spiritual Energy on the orbs. The moment he did that, the energies were transferred into the furnace within a split second without anything being wasted. With that, he let out a chuckle as he said, "Truly impressive. Not only was the energy transfer fast, but there wasn't any loss of energy either."

It didn't matter how good Rean was at forging in the past. There would always be a loss of energy and imperfections. That was the nature of the job in a medieval environment like this. However, such a thing was now gone. Well, it wasn't as if true perfection could be achieved, but Rean wouldn't be too far from it with this furnace, at least not in the part that involved the furnace.

Rean worked on the ores he chucked in for some time before finally finishing everything. He then took it out and put it in a dagger mold. Everything went well until the time to temper it arrived. At that moment, Rean noticed a problem. "Eh? Where's the hammer?"

Rean looked around, but the hammer was nowhere to be seen. It was only then that he noticed another machine on the opposite side of the workshop.

"This..." Rean walked around as he touched the machine with a smile on his face. "A Power Hammer! My days of striking metal are over... or so I wish." Rean finally found his hammer by the side of the machine. "Detailed work would still need a more hands-on approach. However, this Power Hammer will definitely save most of the hard work.

Of course, Rean knew that this was a power hammer given by the Soul Gem System, so it definitely wasn't as simple as that. "I see...this Power Hammer strikes the metal while it keeps its head covered in Spiritual Energy. Well, that's to be expected since using a hammer alone would give no results."

With that, Rean took the dagger and began to strike it.

\*Bang, bang, bang, bang...\*

Once it cooled down beyond a certain point, he would send it back to the furnace to heat it up once again. Then, it would go back on the Power Hammer. Only at the very end did Rean use his Soul Gem Hammer to complete the small details. Eventually, he finished the forging process by tempering the dagger in a special liquid he created. "Very good, now I need to make a handle. After that, I just need to polish and sharpen it."

Around an hour later, Rean exited the Blacksmith Workshop with an Earth Middle-level dagger that could absorb Light Element once Spiritual Energy was used on it. "Very good result. I think it can even resist a few strikes of an Earth Peak-level weapon before breaking."



However, Rean couldn't help but sigh as well after using the new tools he had obtained. "I should have waited for the upgrades before forging the new Black and White Stars. Oh well, I'll just make new ones once I reach the Soul Transformation Realm."

Seeing that Rean came out, Roan sent him a message through their Soul Connection, asking, 'Are you done?'

Rean nodded, replying, 'Pretty much. What about you and Kentucky?'

'We are ready to go here,' Roan answered.

Rean smiled and then came down to look for Luna. After that, he passed the dagger to her, telling her soon after, "Keep it safe, and don't use it against the other kids, understood?"

Luna couldn't help but be impressed with the dagger's appearance. Rean's dagger was snow-white, without any specs of dirt on it. For a girl like Luna, it looked very beautiful. Not to mention that Rean had worked on the details to make it look more like a piece of art than a weapon.

"Alright!" Luna quickly sheathed the dagger as she nodded in response and put it on her waist. She had no intention of refusing the gift whatsoever.

Rean laughed as he patted her head after that, telling her, "Good. This is something for you to defend yourself. You can only use it if someone wishes to harm you. Don't forget that."

Luna brightly smiled and nodded.

Rean then turned around, preparing to leave, when suddenly, he noticed hundreds of eyes focused on his body. Sure enough, the other kids were very jealous of Luna's gift. In the end, he bitterly smiled before saying, "Alright, I'll make a few pieces of equipment for all of you later. However, you'll need to wait for me to come back. I have somewhere else to go for now."

Roan saw that and couldn't help but complain, 'Are you crazy? Are you going to give a weapon to each kid? They're already hurting themselves with the wooden weapons I made for them. If you do that, they'll seriously kill each other.'

Rean almost laughed when he heard that, responding, 'To think you would care so much about these kids.'

Roan narrowed his eyes in response, saying, 'What's the point in saving all of them, just for them to die right after?'

Rean shook his head after hearing that. Then, he said with a playful smile, 'All I said was that I was going to make a piece of equipment for each of them. I never said I was going to make them weapons.'

Only then did Roan understand. Rean was going to make defensive equipment like armors, collars, bracelets, and so on. They were all kids, so they wouldn't bother over what kind of equipment they got as long as they looked nice like Luna's. 'I see...that's good enough.'

Rean smiled but didn't say anything else either. After that, the two of them flew above Celis just to see Kentucky sleeping in his nest. "I say, Celis, doesn't it bother you to have this guy living on your branches?"

Celis denied that notion, replying with, "Of course not! Look closer."

Rean and Roan paid attention and soon noticed a very small stream of energy coming and leaving Kentucky's body. It wasn't Spiritual Energy, nor Elemental Energy. It wasn't Yin or Yang Energy either, much less World Essence. "So that's what you meant. Is this energy the one that appears when a Divine Demon Bird forms a bond with a World Swallowing Cedar?"

Celis confirmed Rean's doubts, replying, "Exactly. This is beneficial for him and me. It should help our cultivation increase faster, so it's also helpful for you two. After all, we all have some kind of cultivation connection where our levels can't surpass but can pull everyone's realm together."

Rean and Roan were satisfied to see the results of that bond bearing fruits so early. "That's good."

Roan then approached Kentucky, shouting, "Hey, chicken! wake up!"

Kentucky slowly opened his eyes, annoyed that someone stopped his siesta time. "What? Is it time to eat already?"

Roan's mouth twitched before he kicked the Minokawa, saying, "Eat your head! Let's go. It's time to go out and challenge those tribes."

Rean agreed with Roan, saying, "Don't forget, Kentucky. The one with the best reward will be the victor."

Only then did Kentucky remember that challenge. "Oh! That's right!" Kentucky looked at Celis right after, telling him, "I'm going now, so take care of the kids."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. Just go and do what you need to do already you three." Celis already knew what it was about. "I don't need combat experience anymore, only energy. Just leave me here, and I can pull you all together with my cultivation."

That wasn't a lie. Just like how Rean and Roan could pull Kentucky's cultivation forward, Kentucky could do the same thing for the twins. Because Celis's cultivation was now limited by its connection with Kentucky, it also meant that pulling Kentucky's cultivation would affect the twins and vice versa. Of course, only one of them cultivating would take much longer than when the four of them did it. That being said, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky didn't stop cultivating either. There was a limit to what Celis could do alone.

Rean and Roan then boarded Kentucky's back and took flight, quickly leaving the protection formation. Following that, Kentucky headed out of Koran Forest, where the three of them finally decided to separate. Who knows what each one of them would bring back later?

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Chapter 733: Training

Rean was flying on his own while looking at the map on his jade slip. "Hmm...there are a total of 321 small tribes, 53 medium tribes, and two big tribes on this side of Koran Forest alone. Visiting the small

tribes will be of no use since they wouldn't have anyone capable of fighting me. The medium tribes should be my targets since they should have some beings at the Nascent Soul Realm."

He then continued thinking out loud as he muttered, "As for big tribes, it's normal for them to have Soul Transformation Protectors, let alone having those at the Nascent Soul Realm present there." At this moment, Rean remembered when he, Roan, and Kentucky visited one of those big tribes. There was no way they could challenge the people there, even with the three of them working together.

"In theory, the closer a tribe is to Koran Forest, the more confident a tribe is in their strength. After all, demon beasts leaving it to attack the surrounding tribes are more or less common events. Of course, the tribes' warriors often enter Koran Forest to train as well, so it isn't unfair." Rean then separated seven tribes in his jade slip map, which he decided to be his targets. "Let's see which one of them has the best treasure."

Somewhere else, Roan was pondering over the same problem. It's just that he didn't care too much about it. "I'll just head to the first medium-sized tribe that appears near Koran Forest. As for what kind of items they have...well, fuck it." That was his train of thought.

Of course, there was also Kentucky. Unlike Rean and Roan, he simply decided to head straight into the medium-sized tribes. His train of thought was to check what they had without paying attention to the Zafins, and only decide if he would fight for it or not after. It was...a very bold approach.

"Oh, there's one!" Out of nowhere, Kentucky dived down like a meteor.

"Who goes there?!" As soon as he entered the range of that tribe expert's Spiritual Sense, they came out to check on him.

However, Kentucky completely ignored them as his body burst into black and white flames. There were three Nascent Soul Realm Zafins in that tribe, and they all attacked Kentucky at the same time without hesitation. Unfortunately, the strongest one there was only at the Middle Stage. On top of that, his Bloodline Soul Mark was only at Rank Three. With Kentucky's Spiritual Energy and Soul Power now fused, their attacks simply couldn't break through his defense.

**\*Boom!\***

Kentucky passed by the ZASFins and slammed into the biggest building in the tribe. It had a Spiritual Sense Blockage Formation, so he had to break it to see what could be found inside. "Eh? Is that all you have?" Kentucky then looked at the ZASFins he knocked aside in his dive as he asked them, "Why are you all so poor?"

The ZASFin leader's mouth twitched as he inwardly cursed, 'You just destroyed my house, and you're complaining that I'm poor?! Fuck you!' Sure enough, the three of them started to attack one more, trying to cut Kentucky down. However...

\*Vup!\*

Before their attacks could land, Kentucky flapped his wings, shooting like a bullet in the distance as he said to them, "Since you don't have anything that interests me, I'm leaving. Until some other day, I guess."

The ZASFins were in a rage as they tried to pursue Kentucky. However, catching up to him was just a pipe dream. Kentucky was a Divine Demon Bird, a Minokawa! Let alone Nascent Soul, even Initial Stage Soul Transformation Realm ZASFins couldn't possibly match him in speed. At least not if they weren't fully focused on speed.

Back on Rean's side, he was more methodical. There wasn't any Soul Transformation Realm ZASFin in the first tribe he visited, only two Nascent Soul ZASFins at the Initial Stage. That being said, they couldn't pierce through Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill. Rean also had the Light bending skill, so literally no one knew that he was there. "Let's see what we can find here. Now...where's the treasure room? Or maybe they have some spatial equipment. Right, they're too poor to have something like that."

Without anyone noticing, Rean walked inside the main building, looking for something good. He was even bold enough to enter one of the Nascent Soul Realm ZASFins' dwellings. Well, that was because the guy inside it wasn't using Spiritual Sense. Otherwise, Rean would be too close to be able to bend it even though their levels were the same.

'Oh...to think that someone from a tribe like this would have Heaven-level equipment.' Rean was looking at a bow on the ZASFin's back. From the looks of it, the guy had never left the bow by his side. 'I wonder if this bow would give me the lead in our competition...'

Rean pondered over it for a bit and decided to mark this tribe as a potential target. After that, he left and headed to the next one on his list. From start to finish, it was as if he had never been there.

As for Roan, he was more straightforward. He covered his body and face so that the opposing side couldn't tell he was a Zasfin. Following that, he used the Spiritual Sense bending skill to make it harder to say whether he was a Zasfin or not. When the enemy saw the humanoid form, he didn't doubt the person in front of him was a Zasfin. After all, where would he have seen a Nascent Soul Realm human? The guy thought that Roan simply didn't want to be recognized so that they wouldn't seek vengeance against his tribe.

Roan then fought against two ZASFINS at the Nascent Soul Realm. One was at the Initial Stage, while the other one was at the Late Stage. Because he decided to not use the Elements Exchange with Rean, his strength was more or less the same as the two enemies' strength...combined.

The other tribe members watched as the battle unfurled in the sky with their eyes wide open. It wasn't every day one would see such a high-level confrontation.

As the battle continued, the Zasfin at the Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm shouted, "Who are you? Why are you attacking us?"

Roan faintly smiled behind his cover, responding, "Training."

Death... and me

#### Chapter 734: Cutting Through!

The two ZASFINS fighting Roan almost vomited blood after hearing that. Soon, one of them shouted in response, "Training...your ass! What is your real objective? Were you sent by the Kalosc Tribe?" One didn't need to think much to understand that this tribe was in a feud with the tribe that Zasfin mentioned.

However, Roan shook his head as he used the Three Claws of the Dragon. While the enemies had a hard time defending against it, Roan spoke, "Well, I'm also looking for some good treasures. I'll take a look at your tribe after we finish this fight. As for this Kalosc you mentioned... I don't even know where they're located. Do you know if they have some good treasures? I might pay a visit to them after I finish things here."

The two ZASFINS couldn't help but be taken aback. Wasn't that the same as saying that he would win this clash and still have enough strength to attack their enemies? "Fuck you!"

The Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm ZASFIN immediately gave up talking and went all out.

'Chaos of the Ice World!'

The other ZASFIN followed the leader as he brandished his greatest move as well.

'Dawn of the Sea!'

Roan was more than satisfied with their reactions since that's how he would test his strength. In any case, he just wanted to see how much the fusion of Spiritual Energy and Soul Power would help him.

'Death Style, Second Movement Form, Shadow Air!'

'Death World!'

'Death Style, Crescent Moon!'

Roan quickly retreated with Shadow Air, a variation of Shadow Steps but solely made for fights in the skies. He worked on it ever since he entered the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Now that he was in the Nascent Soul Realm and his Spiritual Energy was fused with Soul Power, it increased the effectiveness of the movement skill even more. Not only that, but it was made with Death World in mind, a skill that made an area spanning a kilometer radius around Roan go dark. Without a doubt, those two skills were made for each other.

Roan's fused Spiritual Energy and Soul Power was imbued in his Crescent Moon attack. As mentioned before, Crescent Moon was a wide-area attack. With the fusion of energies and his element together, its attack power was greatly amplified.

\*Boom!\*

All three attacks met in the middle before a huge explosion took form in the skies of the tribe. However, the Crescent Moon wave moved out of the blast radius in the next moment, flying in the direction of the two Nascent Soul Zafins. Not only that, they were slow to react because of Death World.

In any case, Roan wasn't exchanging Elements with Rean, not to mention that one of the enemies was at the Late Stage Nascent Soul realm. He quickly raised his hand forward as a giant wall of ice took form in front of him. It also shielded his tribe member, who was right behind him.

'Ice Aegis!'

\*Bang!\*

The Crescent Moon hit the ice wall head-on. However, because of their slow reaction, it didn't form completely. Part of the attack power still passed through, leaving a few injuries behind on their bodies.

\*Arrrrgh!\*

Normally, such a level of injury wouldn't bother Zafins at the Late Stage Nascent Soul Realm. However, it wasn't just any normal attack. Not only did it have Roan's destructive Dark Element, but it was also amplified by the fusion of Spiritual Energy and Soul Power.

"Chief!" His companion rushed in his direction, but just as he was about to appear by his side, Roan's shadow form took form behind him. Of course, the guy had always kept his Spiritual Sense active, so he instantly noticed when Roan appeared. Nevertheless, Roan was just too fast in using his skills, not to mention that the enemy was at the same level as him. For Roan, who could fight a Late Stage Nascent Soul Zafins head-on, someone at the Initial Stage was of little concern.

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

Roan followed up with his fastest attack, shooting in the Zasfin's direction like a bullet!



"You dare ignore me?!" Of course, the Zasfin chief wasn't out of commission yet. In the end, Roan didn't inflict enough damage to incapacitate a Late Stage Nascent Soul Zasfin. The fact that he delayed the guy with just that little amount of damage was proof of how strong the fusion of Spiritual Energy and Soul Power was.

Hundreds of frozen icicles appeared around Roan, shooting at him from all sides.

'Piercing Hell!'

\*Puchi! Puchi! Puchi! Puchi! Puchi...\*

The icicles passed through Roan's body, leaving numerous holes behind. However, his shadow form disappeared right after, leaving no dead body behind. In an instant, the old Zasfin shouted in slight fear, "Not good!"

Roan's voice then echoed in his ears through a Spiritual Sense Message, saying, 'Too late, old man.'

However, the old Zasfin wasn't going to give up just like that. 'Who said so?'

Not long after, the guy showed his equipment, a pair of vambraces, which he hadn't used until now due to his own ranged style. Then again, it wasn't as if he didn't know how to use it. After all, even if one was used to fighting at long range, one wouldn't allow oneself to become useless if someone got close to them.

However, Roan's faint smile didn't disappear as he launched his next attack.

'Death Style, Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

Three identical dark blades came from three different sides.

It was at this moment that the old Zasfin's experience showed itself. Knowing that he couldn't defend against the three blades at once, he first turned his body slightly to the right, which would allow one of

Roan's blades to miss one of his vital areas. At the same time, he lifted his vambraces, using them to block the remaining dark blades. Normally, this would have been an amazing reaction due to the circumstances. However...

'Hehe! Since I said it was too late, it is too late,' Roan remarked.

The first blade did miss one of the vital areas, just like what the Zasfin predicted. Unfortunately, it was far from enough. The moment the first attack touched his vambrace, its attack power cut it in two! Naturally, the Zasfin's arm was sent flying in the process as well. However, that wasn't all. That's because that dark blade was the illusionary one, which had only 70% of the attack power of the real blade.

The second vambrace was cut through as if it wasn't even there. Following its path, the blade connected with the Zasfin's head, cutting right through it as well. He was dead!

Roan then looked at Rean's new White Star before nodding in satisfaction, thinking to himself, 'That idiot is really good at these things.'

Death... and me

Chapter 735: Totem

Seeing how their tribe leader was killed, the remaining Nascent Soul Realm Zasfin immediately gave up and decided to flee. However, he was simply not as fast as Roan, so it didn't take long until Roan finished him off as well. 'Sure enough, it's just like what Sister Orb said. None of these guys tried to sacrifice their Nascent Soul for more power. Well, that's good for me, I guess.'

Roan didn't even stop to think about the two Zasfins that just died. They thought about humans as nothing more than expendable resources, so why should he care? Besides, it was a lot easier trying to kill than prevent taking someone's life while fighting. Roan, of course, knew that very well.

Soon after, Roan returned to the tribe he left behind while pursuing the last Zasfin. The Zasfins at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm already took flight the moment their tribe leader died and ran away. The others with lower cultivation also didn't waste time before they ran on foot. In the end, only the low-level Zasfins and the human slaves remained there.

'Hmm...what should I do? Should I just get rid of the remaining Zasfins and leave this tribe for the humans to take care of?'

However, Roan immediately shook his head as he soon thought, 'A few Zasfins already ran in several directions while I was pursuing the last guy. It wouldn't take long before other Zasfins arrive to check the situation. Most likely, this tribe would be claimed by some else. The humans here definitely don't have the ability to defend themselves. Well, chances are that instead of being killed, they would just become another tribe's slaves.'

In the end, Roan decided to not do anything before deciding to head inside the main building. The place had a few simple formations to stop trespassers. However, at Roan's level, it wasn't anything too difficult to break through. After that, he began to look around for things he might need.

Roan found quite a few Rank Three Spirit Stones, which seemed to be accumulated by the Zasfin leader throughout his lifetime. Naturally, he sent all of that into the Dimensional Realm. There were also a few pieces of equipment, but they were far from what Rean could forge himself. In any case, Roan might be able to sell them in a Zasfin city's shop for Spirit Stones, so he took them all as well. Last but not least, Roan also found a few useful herbs. It seemed like the Zasfin who lived here knew a little about alchemy, but not that much.

Roan then left the main building before taking flight as he inwardly muttered, 'Nothing that useful. Let's try another one.'

A few days later, a rumor began to spread in the tribes around Koran Forest. Medium-sized tribes were being attacked one after another by a demon beast and a Nascent Soul Realm enemy. However, no one knew what that demon beast was, nor could they see the face of the Nascent Soul Realm attacker.

At some point, over forty Nascent Soul Realm Zasfins died. Some of the tribes had all their experts wiped out. Others had some left, but none of their top ones remained. The only thing that the tribes failed to notice was that no humans died in the process, only Zasfins. Well, even if they had noticed, they would probably think that the enemy didn't care about slaves. After all, who would fight for humans in this world?

Eventually, the remaining medium-sized tribes got scared and asked the big tribes for help, telling them that this might be another ploy by the surrounding Empires. Whether it was true or not, the big tribes in this place wouldn't take chances, so they sent their Soul Transformation Realm warriors out.

Unfortunately for them, by the time they began to investigate, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky had already finished their assaults and returned to the valley. One must not forget that they had a time limit to find the treasures.

The last one to enter the valley was Kentucky, who carried a very big totem on his talons. Rean and Roan, who had arrived earlier, couldn't help but become curious as to what the totem was. "That should be the treasure Kentucky found in the tribes."

Roan nodded and waited for the Minokawa to land before saying, "Alright, these attacks have given us quite a good boost to our Spirit Stone reserves and other uncommon materials. However, it's time to decide on who obtained the best treasure."

Kentucky immediately raised his wing as he hastily said, "I go first!" He then pushed the totem forward before sending his Spiritual Energy inside it. As soon as he did that, the totem began to shine with warm light. However, that wasn't the impressive thing about it.

Rean touched the totem and couldn't help but feel impressed as he muttered, "Yang Energy, and such a pure one at that..." He then looked at Kentucky and asked, "Where did you find this?"

Kentucky puffed his chest in pride as he replied, "Isn't that obvious? I got it from one of those medium-sized tribes." Following that, he pointed at the totem and continued, "Both you and I know how good an item that can generate Yang Energy is. That's why I chose this totem as my treasure."

Rean was happy that Kentucky found such a thing, saying, "That's great! Do you know how they crafted it? I would love to make a few more."

Kentucky was taken aback for a moment before he looked away, trying to avoid Rean's gaze as he let out an awkward chuckle. "Well...I killed the Zafins who fought me for the totem, so I don't know."

"Sigh..." Rean couldn't help but feel disappointed, letting out a sigh not long after. "Show me where their tribe was located later. I want to take a look. Maybe they left some blueprints behind."

Roan then moved forward and took out a Soul Stone. "I didn't expect to find one of these things in the Tribes' Zone, especially in a medium-sized tribe. We all know that these stones are also made with the kids' souls."

Roan then shook his head as he continued, "However, the rule was to find the most valuable treasure. Even if we wouldn't use this thing, it doesn't change that it's far rarer than Heaven-level equipment. That's why I selected it."

Rean nodded after hearing Roan's explanation. The Soul Stones were made already, so there was no point in thinking about what they were before. "I understand."

Kentucky also didn't like it, saying with a gloomy expression, "I know we can sell it for quite a fortune. However, I truly don't want to see it being used to increase some Zasfin's Soul Power."

Soon, he asked, "Can we destroy it later?"

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded in agreement. They also didn't like the idea very much, not to mention that they weren't in need of anything at the moment. "Alright, we'll do that."

Roan then looked at the totem Kentucky got. "Nonetheless, I have to admit that this totem is a lot more valuable...at least it is for us."

Kentucky was obviously delighted that Roan said so, prompting him to say, "Right? Right?!"

After that, he looked at Rean and asked, "How about you? Can you bring something better than my totem out?"

Death... and me

Chapter 736: It is decided

Rean scratched the back of his head before he took a bow out of the Dimensional Realm. In the end, Rean didn't find anything better than that bow, so he returned and fought the Zasfins of that tribe. "I was too unlucky. Out of all the tribes I challenged, only one had a piece of Heaven-level equipment. None of the other tribes even had one."

Kentucky then puffed his chest once more as he said with great glee, "Then, I'm the winner! Hahaha!"

Roan didn't care that much about losing, so he changed the topic, asking, "So, how did the fusion of Spiritual Energy and Soul Power affect your combat? In my case, it improved my combat power a lot. I don't think I would have an issue challenging an average Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. I fought a few Zasfins at the Initial and Middle Stages, but they weren't my match. Only Late Stage ones could hold on for some time, but I ultimately won anyway."

Rean agreed with Roan, saying, "We're more or less similar on the combat power side. I also found a Late Nascent Soul Zasfin who had a Middle Stage Zasfin as a subordinate. It was only because of the support of that Middle Stage Zasfin that the Late Stage one was able to fight me on equal grounds. If he was alone, I don't think the battle would have been a draw."

Kentucky then opened his wings as he bragged, "You two are too weak! I won a battle against a Peak Nascent Soul Realm Zasfin. Hahaha!"

Rean and Roan didn't find it strange as Roan responded, "Unsurprising. We refrained from using each other's elements. In your case, you already have both Light and Dark Affinity, so you could use them as you wish. You didn't need us at all."

Rean agreed with Roan, saying in response, "That's true. Don't forget, Kentucky. If we do exchange elements, both Roan and I can even fight an Initial Stage Soul Transformation Realm cultivator and win in most scenarios. We didn't even use my new swords' Elemental Gathering ability since we created a situation where we could only rely on ourselves. Suppose we do use the swords' abilities and exchange elements. In that case, it wouldn't be surprising if we could put up a fight against a Middle Stage Soul Transformation Realm cultivator if we fought together."

Kentucky didn't seem to want to let it go, saying, "So what? It only means that in a situation where we only have our bodies, I'm stronger."

Rean shrugged his shoulders, responding, "You're a Divine Demon Beast and have a certain amount of support from the Soul Gem System. If you didn't win in body-only combat, then your bloodline as a Minokawa would be meaningless. Especially since Minokawas excel in defense more than anything else."

Kentucky finally agreed after hearing that, replying with, "Well, I guess that's true."

Roan ignored the Minokawa and looked at the totem, saying, "Still, what a great treasure. The amount of Yang Energy it gathers isn't that impressive. Rean can do better than that alone. However, if he cultivates with it by his side, it would save him a bit of effort. The same goes for me since Yang complements Yin, which is also part of my cultivation technique manual."

Rean nodded. "Should we go to the Tribe where Kentucky got it?"

Celis, who had been hearing so far, finally talked. "I think it will be useless."

Naturally, the attention of Rean's group was piqued. With that, they waited for Celis to continue talking as he told them, "The wood used in this totem is not something you'll find in this world. In fact, I feel like it was a tremendous waste to use this wood to create the totem. Those who created this thing truly didn't know what they had in their hands. Such a pity, such a pity..."

"So...what kind of wood is this?" Rean asked, voicing everyone else's thoughts.

Celis then explained, "This is Divine Parasol Tree Wood. I'm not talking about the Parasol Trees, but a Parasol Tree that awakened its sentience like me. Not only that, but this one seems to have been nurtured by a real Phoenix. That's why it can gather Yang Energy on its own. This isn't a piece of equipment but a simple carving made out of wood. Its abilities come from the wood itself."

Rean's group couldn't help but think about Phex after hearing that. "Does it have something to do with him?"

Celis, who already heard about their encounter with Gulan's grandfather, wasn't sure as he replied, "I don't know. But chances are high. The only question I have is why would such a rare piece of wood appear in a medium-sized tribe like that. I don't think that Phoenix called Phex would have let the wood go. First of all, I don't think he would have let anyone kill the Divine Parasol Tree in the first place."

"Kill?" Those words took Rean and Roan aback.

Celis understood why, though. "Yes, kill. This wood is part of a dead Parasol Tree. If it was taken from a living Divine Parasol Tree, the main body would be able to feel where it is. It's similar to how I spread my saplings and can watch everything they can. A Divine Parasol Tree's pride wouldn't allow its wood to be used for such an idiotic thing."

He then lifted one of his roots out of the ground as he continued, "As you can see, I can move my body as I wish. If I was still at Stage Ten, I could even take on a human form. That being said, the Divine Parasol Tree would have definitely come after this totem."

Rean pondered a bit before asking Roan, "Do you think we should bring it to Senior Phex?"

Roan understood what Rean was trying to achieve. "You think we can get a few favors from him. Or at the very least, it would prevent future problems if we explain how we found it. After all, if he sees this thing with us, he might have the wrong idea."

Roan then added, "However, that's considering Phex has something to do with this. If he doesn't, giving this Divine Parasol Tree to him might be a big loss for us."

Kentucky couldn't help but ask, "Can't you create some nice equipment from it?"

Rean nodded, replying, "Yes...but I would prefer to keep it intact to help out with our cultivation."

In the end, Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said, "Oh well, let's just keep it with us for the time being. If Phex finds out, let's just say we didn't know what it was. After all, we only know what it is because of Celis."

Roan, Kentucky, and Celis agreed with Rean as Roan said, "Then, it's decided."

Death... and me

Chapter 737: Breakthroughs

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky decided to give it a try and sat by the totem's side. Sure enough, because their cultivation used Yang Energy, the totem made things easier for them. After a while, Rean could not



help but say, "I guess our cultivation is around 5% or so faster now that part of the Yang Energy is being gathered by the totem." It didn't seem like much. But over time, this amount would keep accumulating.

Roan and Kentucky nodded in agreement. "Indeed, it's very good."

Celis was the only one who didn't seem to care, so that caught the attention of Rean's group as one of them asked, "Celis, don't you need Yang Energy?"

Celis laughed out loud after hearing that, responding with, "Hahaha! Of course I do! However, my roots are able to penetrate the earth and reach the magma below. Unlike flesh and blood beings like you, that impure Yang Energy is not toxic for me. Don't underestimate a World Swallowing Cedar."

Of course, that was beneficial for Rean's group since Celis's cultivation also pulled their own. "That's good, then."

In the end, Rean asked Kentucky to move the totem and put it right in the middle of where the kids lived. That way, the kids who needed Yang Energy for cultivation would benefit from it. One must remember that Rean obtained a lot of cultivation manuals back in the Soul Rulers' headquarters. Naturally, there was no lack of Yang and Yin type cultivation manuals for all mainstream elemental affinities. Roan then distributed them after revising the manuals for humans to use.

As for the kids who didn't need Yang Energy, the totem wasn't able to gather enough to make that much of a difference. Not to mention that Yang complemented Yin, so it helped Yin Energy users, even if just a little.

After that, Rean built a building with Kentucky's help around the totem before drawing a formation below. That way, the Yang Energy gathered by it, which was completely devoid of impurities, wouldn't escape the range of the kids' living place. Well, that building also had rooms reserved for Rean and Roan. Kentucky also benefited from it since the building was constructed inside Celis's area.

The days passed by in a flash, and the search for the attackers of the tribes continued. Unfortunately, over three months had gone by, and no clues were obtained regarding Rean and Roan, who were currently focused on cultivating and training their side occupations.

During this time, Malo's group had finally reached the peak of the Energy Gathering Realm and were ready to enter the Foundation Establishment Realm. They weren't the only ones, though. At least half of the Purple Color Aptitude Kids had similar cultivation speeds. Some even showed great talent and patience for the art of cultivation.

Roan, knowing that rushing things wasn't beneficial for their foundations, told them to stay at the peak of the Energy Gathering Realm. He also did that so that he could accompany everyone's breakthrough at the same time. That way, those kids and the adults observing them would be able to explain to others who reached that level in the future.

Eventually, a total of 50 kids had reached the peak of the Energy Gathering Realm. Almost half of them, 23 in total, had Purple Color Aptitude. The others were both Red Color or Blue Color. Obviously, those with Blue Color Aptitude were the least present, with just two girls reaching that level with that aptitude. As one could imagine, those two girls with Blue Color Aptitude were none other than Liza and Luna. They had seen part of Rean and Roan's memories, which had been of great help for their own training.

As for the other Purple Color and Red Color kids, they were too young to understand the concept of cultivation or didn't have the necessary patience. After all, asking kids to stay put and absorb energy was anything but easy. Many of them slacked on purpose, and Roan wouldn't keep an eye on the kids 100% of the time. Nevertheless, because Roan had set up a target for each cultivating kid to achieve, none of them were truly falling behind. Or, to be more specific, they wouldn't dare to fall behind since Roan's punishments were anything but gentle.

Roan then gathered those kids and began to explain how breaking through the Foundation Establishment Realm worked. It was already described in their cultivation manuals. In any case, many of them still had several doubts. Roan was very patient, spending several hours with those kids.

Rean didn't help since there was no need for it at this level of cultivation. He just cultivated nearby in case something happened. After all, the one responsible for cultivation issues was Roan, not him. Roan knew that as well, so he only asked for Rean's help when there was an actual need for it.

"Are there any more questions?" Roan asked as he looked at the group of kids. Burio's group was also there, just listening to the explanations. "Good! Malo, come forward. You're the oldest kid between them all, so you go first to set an example."

Malo was twelve years old when he arrived in the valley, but he was the first to turn thirteen after these past few months.

Malo nodded and sat with his back turned to Roan. After that, he took his cultivation manual before deeply breathing. Soon, he began the process of breaking through into the Foundation Establishment Realm. The pillars were created inside his Dantian as his Spiritual Pool increased in size. Everything was going as smoothly as it could be.

Roan looked at that and nodded with satisfaction. 'As expected of a Purple Color Talent. Everything seems so simple for them.'

Fortunately, there was no need for the consumption of Spirit Stones since the Spiritual Energy in the valley was equivalent to Rank Three ones. That was far more than enough for such a level of cultivation.

Eventually, a burst of Spiritual Energy came out of Malo's Dantian, spreading outwards as the other kids looked at him.

"Not bad," Roan said. Naturally, Malo came to understand that receiving praise from Roan was worth more than gold, so he was very happy, replying with, "Thank you, Senior Roan."

Roan slightly nodded as he said, "You created nine pillars, which is the limit of the Foundation Establishment Realm. You can head down now. Focus on calming your foundation down for the next week or two."

Roan then looked at the other kids after that and said, "You don't need to create nine pillars like him. As long as you get at least seven, that's enough. Now, next!"

And just like that, one kid after another moved forward to begin their breakthroughs, feeling excited after Malo's success.

Death... and me

Chapter 738: Mission

There were no failures during the breakthroughs, which was expected considering the resources available for everyone. Once they were done with it, Roan looked at Burio's group and said, "Alright, that's how it goes. If there are any other kids ready for a breakthrough, you can explain it to them yourselves. It will also be useful for you. After all, your aptitudes might be lower, but you have a much better environment to work towards it."

Burio and the other adults nodded in response. They knew that Roan was right. "Don't worry, Roan. Leave the kids to us. Malo and the other older kids will be able to help as well, so it's fine."

Roan nodded before turning around to head back to his room.

Rean also watched the breakthroughs, but in the end, his presence wasn't necessary.

Following that, the twins passed the next few days cultivating. However, they weren't able to keep at it for too long.

\*Tremble!\*

Out of nowhere, the protection formation of the valley began to shake as if someone was attacking it. In fact, that was actually the case. It's just that the strength used to do that was quite small, far from enough to break through it.

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky then rushed outside just to see that it was Gulan who was doing that. "Oh, you finally appeared. Couldn't you at least leave a way for me to communicate with you from the outside? This formation blocks both vision and Spiritual Sense, so I could only attack the formation to catch your attention."

Roan and Kentucky looked at Rean, who couldn't help but scratch the back of his head after hearing that. With an awkward chuckle, he said, "Ahem...I forgot about this detail."

Roan shook his head after hearing that, refusing to comment about it. Following that, he looked back at Gulan and said, "I believe this is the first time we've met, right? At least, this is the first time we've met while I'm not pretending to be a slave."

Gulan agreed with Roan, saying, "That's true. Well, I heard about you already, and I believe you know about me as well. With that said, let's leave the self-introductions aside. I came here with the first mission you guys will take as part of the Demon Beast Alliance."

Rean and the others narrowed their eyes in response as Rean asked, "So, the war is finally starting?"

Gulan nodded, replying, "Yes. It's still not out in the open, but several small skirmishes are already happening in some isolated territories. It won't take long before it escalates." Gulan then used his Spiritual Energy to send a jade slip to Rean's group, telling them, "Your mission is described inside. As for how you will deal with it, that's your problem."

Before Rean and the others could say anything, Gulan already turned around and shot into the distance while saying, "My duty is done. I'm leaving."

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky looked in the direction where Gulan left before looking at the jade slip in their hands. Soon, Rean said, "Well, I guess he had nothing to do with it. Let's take a look at the mission."

Surprisingly, not only was the mission explained there. The Demon Beast Alliance also created a merit point system, aiming to attract more help.

"That's to be expected," Roan said. "You can be sure that the Soul Rulers will use the same system, considering that they haven't done it already."

Rean and Kentucky nodded in agreement with Roan's words as Rean said soon after, "Alright, let's leave that aside and check the mission out."

-Demon Beast in charge: Phex-

-Participants: Minokawa, Rean, Roan-

-The Soul Rulers are starting to build Demon Beast Aura Repression Formations. The territories where these formations are being placed are also considered the points our Alliance has its eyes on. At the

moment, both sides are holding back their main experts, so no one above Stage Six or Soul Transformation Realm is being allowed to take part.-

-Mission: This is just the start of the war. All groups who have received this mission are required to destroy at least 10 of those formations. Considering the amount of materials necessary and the timespan, this is the minimum number in case we don't want to fall back in this run.-

-Each group's attacking area has been decided based on their own affinities and the location of their homes. You can find the specific area designed for your group down below.-

-Minokawa and its group's target: Celesgal Volcano Region, southwest side. It's close to the Perfiq Demon Beast Abyss, one of the demon beast areas outside the Demon Beast Continent. Reports show that 70 to 90 Demon Beast Aura Repression Formations are being built in this area. The means to achieve success will not be considered, only results.-

-We have our eyes in the area, so there's no need to worry about reporting how many formations you destroyed.-

-Mission Reward upon success: 10 Merit Points. One extra point for any additional destroyed formation during the mission.-

Rean couldn't help but ask, "What do they mean by having their eyes in the area? From what I can see on the map, that area is enormous. Also, what if some of the stronger Zafins decide to come out in the end?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before answering, "That's probably done by the demon beasts at Stage Seven and above. They did say that no one above Stage Six or the Soul Transformation Realm is allowed to take part, right? It probably means that those experts are there only to look. If any side decides to make a move first, the others won't stay quiet. They are repressing each other."

Roan then gave them a warning, continuing, "However, you never know what could happen, so you two better be careful. Also, Soul Transformation Realm experts are allowed. That being said, it's still pretty dangerous if a Middle Stage one or above appears."

Rean and Kentucky nodded in response as Rean replied, "In any case, that's still okay. We did want to test our powers more often, right? Now we'll have that chance."

"It's good that you understand," Roan said as he looked into the distance. "Let's head back inside and prepare to leave."

Death... and me

Chapter 739: Surprise

After heading back into the valley, Rean then looked at the World Swallowing Cedar and asked, "What about Celis? Should we leave or bring him inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm?"

Celis already heard what happened through Kentucky, so he immediately answered, "Why? Can't you do such a thing by yourselves? I told you before. I have no need for battle experience, and I know what I need to do to cultivate. In fact, now that I've returned to this stage, I'm being even more thorough, fixing some mistakes I made in the past. Just leave me here unless you're sure you'll be in a precarious situation."

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky didn't mind. They only asked to see what Celis wanted to do. After all, it was true that Celis could keep cultivating while they were on the move. It wouldn't be as good as the four of them cultivating, but it was better than nothing. "Alright, then. We will leave you here. Take care of the kids, Celis."

Celis agreed as he said, "Sure, just go already."

Still, there was one thing that bothered Rean. "We're all leaving except for Celis. What if someone comes while we're out? Celis is still in the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm, after all. If someone similar to Gulan comes around, there won't be much Celis can do."

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "You said that the formation can definitely stop anyone in the Nascent Soul Realm, right? Other than Gulan, there shouldn't be anyone else. In any case, we can't stay here forever to look after the kids, not to mention that we can't put them in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm anymore. In a situation like this, one can only hope."

Celis already began to lose his patience, though. "Why are you still here? Stop worrying about what can't be done and just go. Humans are so complicated."

Kentucky agreed with Celis's sentiments, saying, "I think so too."

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response, replying with, "Well, so be it. Let's go."

Kentucky then bade farewell to Celis before Rean and Roan jumped on his back. Not long after, they left the valley and disappeared in the distance.

Rean then looked at the map, trying to calculate the time necessary to arrive there. Of course, as always, he kept his Spiritual Sense and Light bending skill active. "No wonder they gave this area for us to take care of. It's only three days away from Koran Forest and still in the Tribes' Zone. Sure enough, that would be the best place."

Roan nodded, saying, "That's not all. The region they put us in charge of is full of mountains and high peaks. It's the perfect stage for a Demon Bird to battle. It seems like Phex chose this place with Kentucky in mind."

Rean couldn't help but laugh, responding, "Hahaha! That also means he doesn't care about the two of us at all."

"Obviously." Roan shrugged his shoulders as he said, "Phex cares about Kentucky, not us. Why should he give us an easy time? Besides, we're humans. He has no reason to consider our well-being at all. You could say that this is a battlefield made for Kentucky to train."

Kentucky was quite happy after hearing that, saying, "As expected of another Divine Demon Beast."

Rean then calmed down before sitting on Kentucky's back, shrugging his shoulders as he said, "Oh well, we have three days on our hands until we arrive. Let's not leave all the work for Celis alone." Soon after, he took out several Rank Three Spirit Stones and began to cultivate. While inside the valley, there was no need for these stones. But now that they were outside, the stones finally gained meaning again in their cultivation.



Roan agreed with Rean's idea and took out a few Rank Three Spirit Stones before cultivating. And just like that, three days went by in a flash.

Rean's group could finally see the Celesgal Volcano. However, it did not mean that they were close. This region carried the volcano's name because of how prominent it was. Even though Rean's group was a few hundreds of kilometers away, they could still see its outline. That's just how big it was.

However, they didn't pay much attention to it before heading to the southeast side. However, it didn't take long before Rean noticed a very strong Spiritual Sense touching his Spiritual Sense bending skill. Fortunately, they were at the very border of that Spiritual Sense, so Rean could still bend it.

"Definitely Stage Seven Spiritual Sense, not far from Stage Eight," Rean said with a serious expression.

Of course, they were already expecting something like this. "That's a good thing. As long as it's here, neither side's top experts will intervene." Soon after, Roan asked Rean to turn the skill off. "We can't suddenly appear too close to that Stage Seven Demon Beast's Spiritual Sense. Stop bending his Spiritual Sense so that he knows we're coming."

Rean nodded before both his Spiritual Sense and Light bending skill were deactivated. Sure enough, the Demon Beast responsible for watching this area looked in the twins' direction as it thought, 'One Rank Five Demon Beast and...two humans. So that's the group Senior Phex tasked me to keep a close eye on.'

As Rean and Roan got closer and closer to the area marked on the map, they noticed quite a few Zasfins and Demon Beasts battling on the ground below. There were also some Stage Four Demon Beasts fighting against Core and Soul Fusion Realm Zasfins in the air.

"It seems like the fights have already started at the lower levels," Kentucky commented as he watched things from the skies.

Not too long after, Rean's group landed at the top of one of the mountains. There, they could see a few other groups of Stage Five Demon Beasts. There were also three beasts at Stage Six. As expected, they immediately looked at Rean's group. Or, to be more precise, at Rean and Roan, who were humans.

One of the Rank Six Demon Beasts couldn't help but say, "Oh, it's already very rare for a single Nascent Soul human to appear, and now there are three of them. That's quite interesting."

The other two Rank Six Demon Beasts nodded in agreement, also finding that sight quite peculiar.

However, Rean and Roan were more surprised by what they said as they simultaneously said in surprise, "Three Nascent Soul Realm humans?"

As if hearing the twins' words, a man with a large greatsword on his back moved forward, out of the demon beast ranks. In the end, Rean, Roan, and the man couldn't help but look at each other with surprise in their eyes.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 740: The Agreement

The man then looked at the other two Stage Five Demon Beasts by his side before saying something. He was a little far away, so Rean and Roan didn't hear what he was saying. Nevertheless, after he was done, he came to talk with the twins, saying, "Well, well, well...I do know a few humans at the Nascent Soul Realm from the Demon Beast Continent. However, compared to the number of Stage Five Demon Beasts and Nascent Soul Realm Zafins, humans don't amount to even 0.1% of them. To think that there would be three of us in the same mission."

Rean smiled as he nodded, responding, "Indeed. It's also a surprise to see another human at the Nascent Soul Realm, a Late Stage one at that. Say, why are you participating in this mission? The number of human experts is already pitifully low. Wouldn't it be too risky for you? Are the merit points really worth that much?"

The man was taken aback by Rean and Roan's words as he said in response, "Wait a minute...could it be that you don't know about the agreement between humans and the Demon Beast Alliance?"

The twins immediately shook their heads as Rean replied with a question. "What kind of agreement?"

The man sighed before explaining, "First, let me introduce myself. You can call me Luti Franla. Well, as you know, the Demon Beast Continent is basically the only place where humans can live as something else other than slaves. Of course, they also need to be strong to survive. Because the place is infested

with demon beasts, any human cities are doomed to be destroyed, so all you can find are very tiny isolated tribes. Well, even those are extremely rare due to the number of humans who can survive there."

Luti continued, "However, the humans who survive are usually strong. Our numbers there are small, but the few of us who exist can definitely fight fiercely. In this war between Zafins and demon beasts, no one knows who has the advantage. That being said, any extra help is more than welcome."

It was then that Luti smiled as he continued, "That's where the Demon Beast Alliance made their move. Humans would never be idiotic enough to side with Zafins. Not after how we were treated so far. Not to mention that almost all humans who have high cultivations live in the Demon Beast Continent. The top beasts of the alliance sent a message to the entire Demon Beast Continent. If the humans living there decide to help with the war, we would be given one small continent for ourselves."

Rean and Roan were surprised to hear that. However, Rean quickly understood why the alliance gave out that promise, saying, "This planet is gigantic. According to the maps we have, it has a total of 37 continents. As you can imagine, promising a single continent as a reward isn't a bad deal if it turns out that the humans contributed to winning the war. After all, the Demon Beast Alliance would still have another 36 to live on."

Surprisingly, Roan shook his head as he told Rean, "You're incorrect on the last part." He then passed the jade slip with all the maps to Rean and Luti as he told them, "Look inside. I marked the territories that the Demon Beast Alliance will try to take, and the Zafins will try to defend."

Rean and Luti looked at it but still failed to understand. Soon, one of them asked, "What about it?"

Roan then looked at him before looking at Luti in front of him, telling him, "The point is, the forces of both sides are very similar. However, because the territories that are being defended by the Zafins are several times bigger, they wouldn't be able to protect all of them. They're fated to lose quite a few of them."

Roan continued, "However, both sides seem to understand that already. If the Zafins aren't idiots, which I believe they aren't, they won't try too hard to defend some worthless lands. They'll just step back once they see that it's a lost cause and save their strength to defend the territories that really matter."

Rean and Luti had to admit that that was right. Nevertheless, they knew that it wasn't this point that Roan wanted to talk about.

Sure enough, Roan reached the main topic, saying, "Once both territories are balanced, the Zafins will have the most continents with resources to defend themselves. Besides, it's not like they lose to the demon beasts in power. With that being said, this is the point where the real war will start."

Roan finally revealed the issue. "Now then, we've finally arrived at the point where you said that the demon beasts will have 37 continents to choose, leaving one for the humans. That is wrong. I'm not even sure if this war will have a winner or not, let alone the demon beasts being able to take all the continents."

Roan then pointed at the continents that he thought would pose little to no resistance. "These are the continents that the Demon Beast Alliance will most likely have at the end. Of course, depending on how the war goes, they might end up with a few more or a few less. In any case, there's no way for this war to finish with one side taking everything. In the end, this planet will still be shared by both Zafins and demon beasts. The only difference is that the Demon Beasts will have a lot more space to live in than before. Also, you better not hope for too much. Let alone the humans might not get any continent at all in the end. Even if they do get one, it'll be one of those poor continents with not a lot of resources."

Luti was surprised to hear Roan say all of that as he asked, "Are you sure you didn't receive the message from the Demon Beast Alliance?"

Roan, of course, was puzzled by that question as he responded, "I didn't. Why?"

Luti couldn't help but have some respect for Roan, saying in response, "That's because everything you said was said in the agreement. From the very start, all the humans know that the continent they will obtain isn't anything impressive. The Demon Beast Alliance made sure to clarify it profusely so that we wouldn't complain later."

Rean was the one surprised this time. "So they already included these issues into the agreement terms, huh? Well, that's a good thing. It at least shows that they're willing to keep their words. Otherwise, they would definitely avoid talking about it."

Roan had to agree with Rean, saying, "Indeed. Although humans might obtain a poor continent, it's still a free one to live on. They can work on it to make it better in the future."

It was then that Roan noticed a problem. "Right. Although a continent is being given to humans, will demon beasts and Zafins really stay out of it? Also, what if demon beasts just leave the humans on their own to fend for themselves? Wouldn't the Zafins simply come and wipe them out or turn them into slaves? After all, there's no way that one side will be able to subjugate the other. Both will still exist once everything is over."

Luti nodded in response, saying, "You're right, and the human leaders brought this issue to the Demon Beast Alliance. In the end, it was decided that the Demon Beasts would help protect that continent for 1000 years. That was the final term."

With that, everything made sense. "I see...1000 years in the life of those top-ranked experts isn't anything much. Not to mention that it's only meant to defend a poor continent against a race that can't possibly cause any meaningful problem in this small time frame. Humans will have 1000 years to develop and make their own plans, while the Demon Beast Alliance will get the humans' help during this war."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "I wonder what cultivation realm the strongest humans of the Demon Beast Continent are on."

Surprisingly, Luti answered that question, replying with, "As far as I know, we have one senior called Samilia Xue, a female human cultivator who's at the Elemental Transformation Realm. I also know seven other seniors at the Saint Realm. As for the rest, I'm unaware. Well, compared to the demon beasts and Zafins, that number is so pitiful that it isn't even worth mentioning. It also explains why a very small and poor continent is all that the Demon Beast Alliance can agree to give away."

Suddenly, Rean remembered something. "Ah, right!" He then looked at Luti before saying, "I was so focused on this agreement that I forgot to introduce myself as well. My name is Rean Larks. The frozen sea by my side is my brother, Roan Larks."

Kentucky immediately opened his wings, saying, "I'm Kentucky, the two idiots' friend."

Rean's mouth twitched in response, feeling like giving Kentucky a beating. "Just ignore the idiot bird."

Roan wasn't interested in their antics, though. "Do you know who's overseeing this mission?"

Luti nodded, answering, "It's the Stage Seven Dark Spiked Tarantula, Gia."

"An arachnid, huh?" Insect-type demon beasts are quite rare, so it was quite surprising to have one overseeing this mission. "Well, she will only watch to prevent the Zasfins' Saint Realm experts from intervening."

Luti nodded in response, saying, "Although this is an official mission, this place is quite isolated in the grand scheme of things. Having one Saint Realm and one Stage Seven Demon Beast watching it is enough. Of course, although they won't participate in the battles, both sides can still give orders. That being said, make sure you pay attention when Gia's Spiritual Sense Messages reaches you."

As soon as Luti said that, a giant eight-legged shadow appeared in the sky. It quickly made its way down before landing in front of all groups participating in this mission. "Seems like you're all here. Alright, let's start."