

Death 751

Death... and me

Chapter 751: Buying

The twins had just recently finished a mission, so it would take quite some time for the next one to come. With that, they left Celis and the rest behind before traveling to the Demon Beast Continent. Since they already knew the way, it took only a week for them to arrive at the territory of the Demon Beast Alliance. Of course, the place where one could exchange merit points for rewards was inside one of the Demon Beast Cities.

However, the city looked a lot different from when Rean and Roan had last seen it. Before, there were many ZASFINS flying around, trading or selling their things in exchange for the resources the demon beasts had. Now, one couldn't even find the soul of a single ZASFIN in the area. All the shops that were managed by ZASFINS back then were now empty.

That was to be expected, though. Before the war had officially started, these ZASFINS, where most of them were related to the Soul Rulers, were warned to leave the Demon Beast Continent. Otherwise, the Soul Rulers wouldn't take responsibility for whatever might happen to them. Unsurprisingly, with that warning, the ZASFINS present in the five existing cities in the continent left straight away.

Currently, Rean and Roan could only see a bunch of high-level demon beasts, as well as humans. Humans were still quite rare compared to the demon beasts, with their numbers not even reaching a ratio of 1 to 100. Yet, it was a lot easier to notice their presence with the ZASFINS gone.

Rean then asked Kentucky to ask the demon beasts in the area regarding where they could trade their merit points earned during these past four years. "Alright, leave it to me."

Not too long after, Rean's group arrived at a giant building designed to hold almost any size of demon beast. Of course, there was a corner where one could find two humans behind a counter. They were the ones responsible dealing with other humans who got merit points in the war. Well, because of how many humans there were, they seemed to be very bored. "Oh, finally. There's someone. How can I help you two?"

Rean then passed the jade slip used to register their merit points to the attendant before saying, "I'm here to buy something with my points."

The guy nodded and quickly checked if Rean's jade slip was real. In order to prevent fake ones, each mission jade slip had the aura of a Stage Eight or Nine Demon Beast responsible for the war. Also, only the demon beasts with the necessary auras could make modifications to the information inside. The attendant quickly confirmed that it was the real deal and checked the points inside, only to curse soon after in surprise, "Holy shit!"

He quickly looked at Rean and Roan with a lot more respect as he said enthusiastically, "I wonder how many missions you've done and how many Zasfins you've killed." It wasn't strange since the reward for the humans really needed this level of participation. "You have a total of 1493 merit points. Say, what do you want to do with it?"

"Can I take a look at the rewards list?" Rean asked.

"Absolutely." The guy quickly took another jade slip and passed it to Rean. Roan also took the chance and sent his Spiritual Sense inside to check what could be obtained.

"Oh! They even have Spiritual Veins as rewards." Rean was quite surprised by that.

However, Roan shook his head, clarifying, "No. To be more exact, they have territories with Spiritual Veins available since moving Spiritual Veins shouldn't be possible for just any demon beast. Probably only those at Stage Eight and higher would be able to safely move it." Not everyone had a World Swallowing Cedar to help with this kind of task, after all.

Rean nodded before he went to the part where the airships could be found. Sure enough, it was, as Luti mentioned. The cheapest ones cost at least 300 merit points due to the rare materials used on them. Not to mention that those were only Earth High-level ones. Rean quickly ignored the Earth-level ones, though. They wouldn't be able to fly faster than the twins, much less Kentucky. Not to mention that they weren't big enough to fit everyone back in the valley.

"Hmm...this one seems pretty good." Rean's attention was quickly attracted to a Heaven High-level airship that cost 1800 merit points. An airship at the Heaven Initial-level would fly at the speed of a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. As for whether it was at the Early of the Peak Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm, that depended on the Spirit Stones used to feed it.

Following the same train of thought, a Heaven Middle-level airship would fly at the speed of a Soul Transformation Realm cultivator or a Stage Six Demon Beast. Finally, a Heaven High-level airship would move at the same speed as a Saint Realm expert or a Stage Seven Demon Beast. The one Rean was looking at was very big as well. 'It can use Rank Four Spirit Stones to reach the speed of an Initial Stage Saint Realm expert. If I manage to find Rank Five Spirit Stones, the ship can reach the speed of a Late Stage Saint Realm expert.'

Rean then looked at the human behind the counter before asking, "Is there a way to make up for the 307 merit points we're lacking to buy this airship?" Rean then showed which one he wanted on the list.

"This..." The attendant was taken aback by the question. He didn't expect a human to be so adamant about spending their points on an airship with there being so many better and more useful items to choose from. "Are you sure about this? There are many things that would help you a lot more during the war."

Rean nodded, saying in response, "I'm sure. My only problem is the merit points that I don't have."

In the end, the human attendant was there only to make the trades, so he didn't ask Rean anymore. "Alright. Usually, no one can buy anything if they don't have the necessary merit points. However, considering that you want to buy an airship, which demon beasts rarely use, perhaps the demon beasts will accept making an exception."

Following that, the guy asked Rean's group to wait for a moment as he left to ask his supervisor.

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Chapter 752: Exchange

Not too long after, the attendant came back, following behind another human...well, not actually a human. The guy had scales all over his body and sharp eyes. If Gulan was here, he would immediately recognize this man. He was none other than Xaon, one of the Divine Demon Beasts, the Basilisk. Of course, even without Gulan, Kentucky could at least tell that the guy's bloodline was at the same level as his own.

'Rean, Roan, it's a Divine Demon Beast. From the scales on his body, he should be that Basilisk that Phex mentioned when we talked to him,' Kentucky told them through a Spiritual Sense message.

Rean and Roan immediately became more serious as they bowed to the man as Rean said, "It's an honor to see one of the Divine Demon Beasts of our world."

Xaon couldn't help but faintly smile as he looked at Kentucky. Obviously, he noticed that Kentucky was a Divine Demon Beast as well. "Seems like Phex has mentioned me before. In any case, I'm the one responsible for the exchanging of merit points in the entire Demon Beast Alliance. When I heard that a pair of humans wanted to buy the airship, I've become quite intrigued, so I decided to take a look at you."

Of course, the man didn't mention that Kentucky was also a Divine Demon Beast. That was a piece of information that only the other Divine Demon Beasts in the Demon Beast Alliance knew. One could never know who would be listening in a place like this, after all.

The attendant didn't find it strange that the two knew about it. Everyone involved in the merit point system knew that Xaon was responsible for it. Since this city was the closest one to the center of the continent, Xaon administered everything from here. Well, there were only five cities in total, so it wasn't as demanding as one would imagine. Demon beasts always preferred to keep things as simple as possible.

"So you're Kentucky, huh?" Right after, he looked at the twins before continuing, "And you should be his friends."

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky nodded in response. "Yes, senior."

Xaon then looked at Rean's request before asking, "Are you sure you want the airship? That's a lot of merit points you'll be wasting here. We did put them up for trade since we don't really have much to do with them, but I didn't really expect anyone to buy even one."

Rean immediately nodded, saying, "Yes. My brother and I live in a human tribe, and we would like to relocate them. An airship of this level would be extremely convenient for us."

Xaon didn't find it weird. Rean and Roan were humans. He does know that their Demon Beast Continent has a few isolated human tribes. For the twins to live in one was already to be expected. "Well, I've received the reports about the merit points you won. Not only did you complete the missions, but you

also got rid of many Zafins at your level and even those at a higher level than your current realms. In that case, I'll make an exception and take all your merit points in exchange for the airship."

Of course, Xaon was doing that because of Kentucky. He didn't care too much about the twins. It's because he could also feel that link between Kentucky, Rean, and Roan, just as Phex mentioned to him. With that being said, he didn't want to do anything to them either.

Rean's group immediately thanked Xaon, saying, "Thank you, Senior Xaon."

Xaon nodded before looking at the attendant that told him about this exchange. "Remove all their merit points from the jade slip. The airship they want is quite far, so I'll bring them there myself. Give it back to them once they stop by."

"Yes, senior." The human attendant quickly took the jade slip and left right after.

Following that, Xaon enveloped Rean's group with his Spiritual Energy before they disappeared from the building. Once again, all the twins and Kentucky could see was a blur. They couldn't distinguish anything due to Xaon's speed. Eventually, they stopped in front of a grassland.

"This..." Rean's group was quite surprised by what they saw. "Just how many airships do you have here?" The place was filled with them, much to their surprise.

"Who knows? I've never paid attention to it. In any case, most of them are only Earth-level ones, so they've been forgotten here. The Heaven High-Level airship you want is in the middle." Xaon then pointed at one of the biggest airships in the distance.

Rean couldn't help but sigh in disappointment when he looked at it. Anyone could tell that the airship had been abandoned in this place for a long, long time. Mold was present everywhere. The insides were full of insects and other small creatures. Not to mention that it was really dirty. However, as Rean examined it with his Spiritual Sense, his mood began to improve. The important parts, like the formations, were completely intact. The materials used to make the airship were also pristine behind the dirt and mold. 'As expected of a Heaven High-level airship. Even after being abandoned for this long, it's still 100% ready for use...if you ignore all the cleaning necessary.'

Suddenly, a few demon beasts appeared in the surroundings before one of them came to pay his respect to Xaon, saying, "Senior Basilisk, I didn't expect your visit."

They were the group in charge of protecting this place. After all, even if the demon beasts didn't use the airships, they were still worth a lot.

"Don't mind me. I'm just showing this Demon Bird the airship it has just bought. They will be taking this Heaven High-level airship away, so there's no need to stop them, understood?" the Basilisk said without even batting an eyelid.

The leader of the group immediately nodded, responding, "Yes, senior. We will take our leave, then." As fast as they appeared, they hastily left.

Xaon then turned around to leave as he left a warning to Rean's group, telling them, "This ship can fly at the speed of a Saint Realm cultivator, but it'll expend a lot of Spirit Stones. Also, don't use it to flee since it takes a long time to reach that speed. Understood?"

Rean told Roan and Kentucky about it, so the three of them only nodded in response. "Yes, senior."

And just like that, Rean's group lost all their merit points and got an airship in exchange.

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Chapter 753: Leaving

Kentucky looked at the enormous airship and couldn't help but say, "Even I look small in front of this thing."

Rean nodded with a smile, responding, "Indeed. Anyways, let's start the airship."

Rean then headed to the propulsion room, where all the formations that controlled the airship's speed were located. Sure enough, it was as dirty as the rest of the airship. However, other than that, everything was okay with the formations themselves. Following that, he analyzed the formations, trying to understand their method of operation. 'I see...it's a propulsion formation based on Wind. The last one

Roan and I used was a mix of Wind and Fire, just like turbines. Well, that one could move at the speed of an Elemental Transformation Realm cultivator, so I guess mixing Fire into it was necessary.'

Rean then contacted Roan through their Soul Connection, asking him, 'Are you in the bridge already?'

'Yes. What do you need?' Roan asked in return.

'I'll add the Spirit Stones for it to start moving. Send your Spiritual Sense into the orb in the center, and use it to control the airship,' Rean said as several Rank Three Spirit Stones flew everywhere around with the help of his Spiritual Energy. To reach the speed of a Saint Realm expert, Rean would need Rank Four Spirit Stones. However, that didn't mean the airship wouldn't fly with lower-grade ones. It's just that the top speed of the ship wouldn't be that high.

Rumble!

The sound of metal and wood creaking reverberated everywhere as the airship began to slowly ascend.

Bang!

Sadly, Roan wasn't used to it, so he ended up hitting another airship on the side. Naturally, that annoyed Rean as he cursed, 'Hey, can't you keep it straight? If you break the airships outside, how do you think will we pay for them?'

'Fuck you! This is the first time I'm using this shit, alright?' Roan wasn't any happier either.

Kentucky, who was on the deck above, was just enjoying the view as he shouted with delight, "Hahaha! Look at this! This junk is really moving."

Rean's mouth twitched after hearing that, saying, "It's not junk! It's just dirty, for fuck's sake! I'll have the guys back in the valley thoroughly clean its insides when we're back."

Eventually, the airship had gained enough altitude before it turned in the direction of the Demon Beast City they were in before and began to move. The twins had to go there since they needed to take their reward jade slip back for future missions and battles.

The airship didn't attract that much attention in the city, though. The Zasfins in the past used them to transport the goods traded in there, so airships coming and going were quite common. After all, although there was Spatial Equipment in this world, one that could carry the same amount of items as an airship definitely didn't exist. Even if it did, it would be ridiculously expensive. It would surely cost more than several airships.

"Alright, here is your jade slip. As Senior Xaon mentioned, all the Merit Points have now been removed. I hope you can get more soon." The same human assistant from before soon passed the jade slip back to Rean's group once they had arrived.

The twins didn't have much to do at the moment, so they headed straight back to the airship before departing. Rean pondered if he should have taken the chance to forge more equipment in exchange for Heaven-level materials. But in the end, he already had a lot of them, so he gave up the idea.

The twins didn't make it all the way back to the valley on the airship. After all, even if it was only Rank Three Spirit Stones, it would cost a lot for a trip back. Once they confirmed that there wasn't anyone around anymore, they immediately sent the airship into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. The airship wasn't a living being, so there was no restriction in putting it there.

On Kentucky's back, the twins quickly returned to the valley. This trip ended up being a lot faster, not taking more than two weeks. Nevertheless, two weeks was enough for everyone to prepare. Rean had left orders before they previously left to organize everything for the departure, after all. Once they got back, everyone was ready to be sent away.

However, Rean smiled at everyone below, telling them, "Before we go, I want you all to clean the airship. I'll give you one day."

"Ehhhh?!" Naturally, no one liked the idea. After all, they could clearly see just how bad of a shape the airship was in.

"I don't wanna."

"Me neither."

"It looks terrible!"

"Why do we have such a piece of junk?"

"This thing will be too hard to clean."

Rean couldn't care less what they thought. In any case, he knew that it would be for the better, so he decided to threaten them. "I see...well, since you don't want to clean the airship, I might as well ask Roan to double your training schedule, seeing as how all of you have so much free time."

Immediately, everyone looked a lot more helpful.

"Wait! We will clean!"

"I always liked to clean items!"

"It's our beloved airship, right? Of course, we'll clean it."

"We were just joking."

Rean laughed out loud in response to the words, saying, "Is that so? That's good, that's good. I'll leave everything to you guys, then. Just be careful with the formations in the propulsion room."

Rean then left the airship and went to talk with Celis in the center of the valley, asking, "How are things?"

Celis knew what Rean was talking about, so he hastily responded, "My saplings are everywhere around Koran Forest. It's just as you said, the demon beasts are leaving, heading to where the Demon Beast Alliance is located. The Tribes' Zone is a zone mainly for Zafins, after all. It shouldn't take long for the Zafins to attack this place since it's inside their territory."

Rean nodded, already expecting as much. "That's fine. I'm quite surprised it took four years for this to happen."

Roan, who was also there, agreed with Rean, saying, "In any case, it would probably take a few months before the Zafins would gather the force to attack this place. We have plenty of time to depart."

Kentucky was sitting on his nest above Celis, saying, "It's kinda sad to leave everything behind. This valley was truly a nice place to stay. I hope the alliance can take it back."

Rean nodded since he also became somewhat attached to the valley they spent over four years inside.

The time passed in a flash, and soon, another day went by. With such time passing, the cleaning of the airship was now finished, making it look completely different from what it was before. "Good! That's a lot more like it." Rean then headed to the propulsion room, where he found Poliana and Glennie, two girls from the group of older kids. They were already there, waiting for him. "Did you read the manual I gave you?"

The two girls nodded. "Yes, Rean."

"Good! Now, just do as I say while I head to the bridge." Rean then took out a lot of Rank Four Spirit Stones and laid them in the surroundings before leaving. Not long after, he was already on the bridge. "Now then. Let's see if everything is still working as intended."

Sure enough, Rean's instructions were followed strictly. The formations were activated as he used the orb to control the airship. Not long after, it was already floating in the valley. Rean nodded in satisfaction before landing the airship once again.

Following that, he used his Spiritual Sense to communicate with the people below, telling them, "Everyone, we're now leaving Koran Forest. If it's not a personal item that you can carry on your body,

then leave it on the ground. There's no need to put it in the airship since I can bring it over as I did with you all," Rean said through a Spiritual Sense message.

He then focused his attention on Burio and the others before saying, "Burio, you guys are responsible for arranging everyone inside the airship. I want to be out of this place in an hour at most. Have Malo and the others help you with that."

Burio's group were obviously the adults Rean brought to the valley four years ago. By now, they were able to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm even though their talents were mediocre. That was all thanks to the excellent training and environment. Burio, especially, was already in the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. That showed just how much effort he put into cultivation. Of course, compared to Malo, who was already at the Late Stage of the Core Formation Realm, he seemed quite subpar. That's a Purple Color Talent for you.

The youngest kids, including those who were only babies when they arrived in the valley, were the first to be helped inside. Well, they weren't babies anymore, at the very least. Naturally, they had already begun to cultivate.

While the adults helped put everyone inside, Rean and Roan went around, collecting everything they needed into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. The realm was enormous now, so it fitted all the houses and even the farms they had planted before. Of course, the totem and the building around it were some of the first things they sent inside. After all, they were too important for everyone's cultivation.

As a being connected to Rean and Roan through Kentucky, Celis also had a free pass into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. There was no need to use Destiny Points to put him there. With that said, they waited for Celis to retract its roots from Koran Forest before teleporting it into the Dimensional Realm.

Eventually, the valley became almost empty, leaving only the formations that covered its mountains. Rean then took a deep breath and removed the Anti-Spiritual Sense Formation's core. It wasn't a cheap thing to make, so he used it in the airship. Sure enough, Rean wouldn't let just any Spiritual Sense penetrate it, so he built a similar formation inside.

"With that, we're now ready. Let's go!" Saying that, Rean then sent his Spiritual Sense into the orb in the bridge, as they left the valley behind at last.

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Chapter 754: Steal

Powered by Rank Four Spirit Stones, the airship began to make its way out of Koran Forest. Once again, the twins were reminded why this equipment couldn't be used for fleeing. The time it took to simply reach the speed of a Stage Five Demon Beast already passed ten minutes. If it was just Rean and Roan who were flying on their own, they would reach their maximum speed in mere seconds! Naturally, it was a terrible idea to use the airships for such a thing.

In any case, the airship was still fast. In just half an hour, it was already flying at the speed of an average Initial Stage Saint Realm expert. That was far faster than even Kentucky at his full speed. "Wow, this is the first time I've used Rank Four Spirit Stones to move the airship. As expected, this is freaking fast." Rean, obviously, couldn't help but become excited.

Well, Rean, Roan, and Kentucky were more or less the only ones able to appreciate this speed. That was because, for Malo, Burio, and everyone else, all they could see was a blur due to the high speed. Their cultivations were too low to discern their surroundings at this state.

The airship gained more and more altitude as they continued to move, soon surpassing the range a Nascent Soul Realm could watch through Spiritual Sense from the ground. Of course, they didn't stop there, though. Rean wanted to go high enough to the point that his own Spiritual Sense couldn't even reach the ground below. One must not misunderstand Rean's Anti-Spiritual Sense Formation. It didn't hide them from it. Instead, it only stopped Spiritual Senses from seeing what's inside. For anyone else outside, it would look like a giant black hole was moving around instead. They could see that something was there but wouldn't be able to tell what it is.

Fortunately, the necessary altitude was eventually achieved. At the same time, Rean verified the condition of the airship with his Spiritual Sense. Since he was inside, it wasn't blocked by the formation. "As expected of Heaven-level flying equipment. It's so sturdy that even moving at the speed of a Saint Realm expert can't make it strain itself."

High up in the sky, where the naked eye would have a hard time seeing due to the distance, a streak of light moved at high speeds. It moved out of Koran Forest and the region around it in just an hour. The airship continued to make its way to the Demon Beast Continent until, after a bit more time, the ground was replaced by the sea, leaving the Tribes' Zone behind.

If it took Rean's group one week to fly there with Kentucky, with the airship, only four days were needed. Every now and then, they would pass by some Nascent Soul Realm or some Stage Five Demon

Beast that was flying as well. However, due to the speed of the airship, none of them thought about trying anything, nor could they try anything with their speed anyway. Even Stage Six Demon Beasts and Soul Transformation Realm experts would find it almost impossible to deal with.

Eventually, the sea disappeared as the ground replaced its place once again. Rean and Roan already knew very well where they were heading. Luti had told them that he lived close to the Demon Beast City on the southeast side of the continent. That being said, they took the opportunity to ask him about the place during another mission they had together.

It turns out that the majority of humans who lived in the Demon Beast Continent could be found there. Of course, they were still just miserably few compared to the number of demon beasts there. In any case, it was a lot easier to find humans in that place. With that said, Rean's group of humans would be able to merge in the mix as if nothing had changed.

By the time the city could be seen, the airship began to slow down once again as they approached it. Just like with its acceleration, the airship also needed a lot of time to stop. The sight of the airship made the demon beasts there a little confused, though. Unlike the Demon Beast City at the center of the continent, this one didn't receive many Zasfins for trade. Let alone now that the war was ongoing. No Zasfin would try to get close to the Demon Beast Continent to conduct business.

As the airship got closer to the city, a few high-level demon beasts came out to receive it. If there were really Zasfins inside, they wouldn't let it go that easily. However, the one who came out of it was none other than Kentucky. As he came out, he asked the demon beasts that greeted the airship, "Hey there. Do you know some nice place where I can settle myself down?"

The leader of those demon beasts narrowed his eyes for a moment when his expression changed all of a sudden. As a demon beast taking care of one of the few cities of the continent, he knew very well how to recognize the Demon Beast Alliance's mark. It was the same mark that Phex left inside Kentucky when they first met. "Ahem...a nice place to settle down, huh?"

He looked at the demon beasts around him and sent them a Spiritual Sense, telling them about the mark. Knowing that Kentucky was someone important for the Alliance, they immediately dropped any malicious thoughts and shook their heads in response as one of them replied, "The problem is that most of the areas around the Southeast Demon Beast City are already occupied."

Kentucky then playfully smiled as he replied, "That's not a problem. I can simply challenge the land's ruler to take it for myself. Just let me know the good ones that have Stage Five or Six Demon beasts ruling it."

They all looked at the leading demon beast, who nodded back at them. Soon after, they all sent Kentucky Spiritual Sense messages of places that they considered good. Of course, each demon beast liked a specific environment, so they weren't as good for others. There were swamps, deadlands, huge lakes with almost no land, and other places like that. It all depended on their own races.

Rean and Roan were also there, receiving those ideas. 'Well... we can't judge everyone's tastes,' Rean thought as he read through all of it.

At some point, however, the interest of Rean's group was piqued by a place mentioned by a Stripple Golden Bear. 'You might like the Fruzei Hills. It's mainly inhabited by Stage Three, Four, and Five Demon Beasts. The only Stage Six Demon Beast there is a Blood Rabbit, but he rarely cares about what happens around him, so much so that no one considers him a threat.'

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky looked at each other and nodded after hearing the place mentioned. That was indeed the best option for them. No, to be more exact, it was the best option for the teenagers and kids they had in the airship. A place where they can head out and train themselves. After going through all of the possible choices, Rean's group decided to look at the Fruzei Hills.

Once they entered the airship and left, the demon beasts couldn't help but look at their leader as one of them asked, "Did the Demon Bird really have the Phoenix's Mark of the Demon Beast Alliance?"

The guy immediately nodded, replying, "Yes. I wouldn't miss it at all since I already felt one in the past. That was definitely the Phoenix's Mark, which proves that he's an important asset of the Demon Beast Alliance."

He then looked at the other Demon beasts before continuing, "However, the rules in the Demon Beast Continent are the same for everyone. Once you're outside the cities, anyone can attack you, and you can attack anyone, no questions asked. We are demon beasts, don't forget that. In here, might is right!"

Everyone agreed with him. If that group with a Demon Bird and the two humans wanted to take a territory, they would need to fight for it.

Nevertheless, the news about the newcomer quickly spread in the city. Of course, it wasn't because a demon beast or humans' appearance was strange, but that the Demon Bird was an important member of the Alliance. Luti, who just so happened to be back after another mission, ended up hearing it from one of his team members. One must remember that Luti was paired with two other demon beasts, but he wasn't their master. "Oh, so they came here? I haven't seen those three in a while. Perhaps I'll pay a visit to those guys later."

On their way to Fruzei Hills, they looked around and saw a few demon beasts looking at them from a distance. After all, it wasn't every day an airship passed through a place like this after the war between the two races began. Nevertheless, those Stage Five Demon Beasts saw how they left the Southeast Demon Beast City without being held back, so it definitely didn't have Zasfins inside it. Well, they weren't wrong. There wasn't a single Zasfin there whatsoever.

Rean, Roan, and Kentucky didn't mind it too much. If not because the airship took time to accelerate, they would have left already, ignoring all of that. Then again, once it reached the speed of a Saint Realm expert, nothing mattered anymore.

Eventually, the airship began to slow down once again. In fact, it was only at full speed for ten minutes or so since Fruzei Hills wasn't that far away...errr...it's not far away when one considered their method of transportation. For Malo and the others, who knew how long it would take for them to make their way to the Demon Beast City without it?

After the airship stopped above the Fruzei Hills' entrance, Rean and Roan jumped on Kentucky and left. They were going to look for a good place to settle themselves down. Or better yet, look for someone's territory to steal.

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Chapter 755: Wait For It

"Quite surprising. We've been traveling for over 1000 kilometers, and it's still a hilly region as far as the eyes can see," Kentucky mentioned as he flew with Rean.

Rean couldn't help but laugh in response, saying, "Hahaha! Just so you know, we're still in the outer region of Fruzei Hills."

"What?!" Kentucky was taken aback after hearing that. "Are you serious?"

Rean nodded straight away, replying, "Yep. You just need to look at the cultivation of the demon beasts below us. There's almost no Stage Four ones, let alone those at Stage Five. Stage Five Demon Beasts wouldn't be living in the outer region, after all."

Kentucky had to admit that Rean was right. "I see...well, that's a good thing. This makes this territory the perfect place for Malo, Burio, and everyone else to train."

"Exactly!" Rean obviously thought of the same thing. "In any case, I've already marked three points in the jade slip map that are quite good prospects to create a settlement. We have less than 4000 members in our group, so we don't need anything too large. Besides, it'll just be some kind of temporary placement."

"Why temporary?" Kentucky asked straight away.

Rean then smiled in response. "Did you forget the reward for helping the demon beasts win the war? It's a small continent for humans. Naturally, I would prefer to move over there if that happens."

Kentucky had to admit that it was true.

Suddenly, Rean's Spiritual Sense noticed something different. "Oh! Look at that, another valley!"

Kentucky saw the same thing and decided to fly down to take a look. "Hmm...this one is quite small compared to the one we had before, don't you think? Celis is pretty big. He alone would probably occupy half of the space here."

Rean agreed with Kentucky, saying, "Yeah...too bad..."

Following that, they took flight once again to look for more places. Rean and Kentucky stayed out for an entire day before returning to the airship at the entrance of Fruzei Hills.

Roan, of course, noticed when they've arrived. "I've seen the areas you found. Which one do you want to occupy?" Naturally, since Rean and Roan hadn't separated for more than 3000 kilometers, they could share their senses as long as they wished the other to see.

"I think the best place is between the Inner and Core Region. There you can find lots of Stage Three Demon Beasts and quite a few Stage Four. In case it becomes necessary, Malo and the others can enter the Core Region as well if they wish to truly challenge themselves," Rean explained.

He then continued, "As for the Outer Region, there are almost no Stage Four Demon beasts there. The majority are Stage Three or Stage Two. That place is very good for our kids and young teenagers. Instead of moving in the direction of the Core Region, they just need to move to the opposite to find them."

Roan nodded, already understanding where the place Rean was talking about. "So you chose those five peaks for the base, right?"

Rean nodded in response. On their search for a good place to live, Rean passed by an area surrounded by five peaks. It couldn't be considered a valley at all, but it still gave a similar feeling of protection by the peaks. There was no river this time, though. "The core of the Anti-Spiritual Sense Formation I created could be used there."

However, Roan shook his head, saying, "No more Anti-Spiritual Sense formations. I don't want any protection formations at all." Roan then looked at Celis in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm before saying, "Also, I want you to play the common tree role. Unless a Stage Five Demon Beast appears, I don't want you to intervene."

Rean couldn't help but ask, "Are you trying to give off the feeling of a common tribe, having the people there defend themselves for any danger that appears?"

Roan nodded, replying, "Exactly. That's how a tribe usually is in this continent. I want everyone there to deal with their problems themselves without the need for our intervention."

Kentucky found it strange, saying, "But what about Celis? He'll be in full view, won't he? I believe that both the demon beasts and the Soul Rulers are looking for any information about him." Sure enough, that would be the main concern while using Roan's plan.

However, Celis immediately answered them through the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Well, it was Sister Orb who allowed him to talk, though. "There's no need to worry. Have you not noticed it yet? I'm only a Stage Five Demon Plant. After all my old bark fell together with my cultivation, I look completely different from what I was before. What everyone is looking for is a Stage Nine Demon Tree, not a Stage Five Demon Tree."

Demon plants were very rare, but that did not mean they didn't exist. If one compared them to the number of human experts in the Zasfin world, they're pretty matched. It's just that they didn't have a Stage Eight Demon Plant like how the humans have someone at the Elemental Transformation Realm. There are a few demon plants at Stage Seven and a lot more of them below, though. Well, there was Celis at Stage Nine, but that was in the past. Rean's group hadn't seen many Demon Plants because they weren't fond of moving, just like Celis. They were much better at protecting themselves instead.

Rean then took a look into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and had to admit that Celis was right. "Indeed, compared to you back then at the Soul Rulers' headquarters, it's like two different trees altogether. Even your white color has disappeared completely. Nevertheless, can't they at least see that you're a World Swallowing Cedar, even if you have lower cultivation?"

Celis denied that notion, answering, "Not possible. Demon plants have basically similar offensive and defensive abilities. Whatever I can do at Stage Five, other Stage Five Demon Trees can do it as well. If there's anything, it's the fact that I still look like a much younger Demon Cedar. But that's easy to fix."

Suddenly, Celis's branches began to change. New ones protruded out of his large trunk as it enlarged itself. The trunk that went all the way to the top suddenly split into two, then three, then four... After Celis was done with his transformation, he looked a lot more like an oak tree. No, anyone would definitely tell that he was an oak tree, not a cedar tree.

"This..." Rean's group was surprised to see that. "Is it fine for you to do that to your body?"

Celis didn't seem to mind at all, responding, "What are you talking about? Do you think I've hurt myself? If anything, I believe only my pride is hurt. To think that a World Swallowing Cedar like me would have to take such an ugly form." Celis couldn't help but feel a little dejected.

"Well, you don't need to worry about injuries or anything like that. As long as my core isn't damaged, I can change my form to a certain extent. It's just that I can't reduce my mass, so I'm still as heavy as I was a moment ago."

Kentucky was more concerned about something else, asking, "What about my nest? You didn't destroy it, right?"

"Of course not! I'm not an idiot!" Celis's branches then opened, revealing a cozy nest lying in the middle. It's just that it was covered by the bushes. "To be honest, it's a lot easier to hold your nest in this form."

Kentucky was more than satisfied with that. "Then that's good."

Rean's mouth twitched, though. "Why didn't you say that earlier? We had to take a lot of precautions to not disclose your location."

Celis found Rean's question quite idiotic. "What are you talking about? Even if you didn't have to hide me, you still had to hide the humans you captured, didn't you? In the end, I would still be kept inside that Anti-Spiritual Sense Formation of yours." Sure enough, Celis was right. After all, they were living in the Zafins' territories. "Besides, I already told you that I don't like to change my form. I'm very proud of being a World Swallowing Cedar, okay? My majestic appearance is best."

Rean scratched the back of his head in response, letting out a sigh as he said, "Sigh...fine. However, from now on, you'll have another name. After all, if someone investigates, it'll be too obvious once they find that your name is still Celis."

Roan and Kentucky nodded in agreement. That made a lot of sense.

Celis then pondered a bit, saying, "Alright. For the three of you, I'm still Celis. As for the rest of them, I'll just say that I'm called Gola. Fortunately, I have never spent much time with them due to Roan's training schedules, so almost none of them know of my real name. Well, I've never cared about answering them when they asked me either."

"Why Gola?" Naturally, Kentucky had to ask.

"That's the name of someone I knew a long time ago when I first reached Stage Five and gained sentience. Anyway, that should be more than enough," Celis replied.

Rean and Roan didn't mind Celis's choice. "Alright. Gola, it will be then."

Last but not least, Celis asked something else. "By the way, although it isn't in the Core Region, that place is bound to be some Stage Five Demon Beast's territory. Have you challenged it for the area already?"

Rean and Kentucky shook their heads, with Rean replying, "We haven't found it. We'll need to wait for whoever it is to appear."

Death... and me

Chapter 756: Huge Headache

The airship soon came down from the sky, right between the five peaks. There were several demon beasts there. However, Rean and Roan didn't move a single finger, nor did Kentucky and Celis. Roan simply floated in front of Malo and everyone else before saying, "Everyone above ten years old will participate in the clean-up. However, I must remind you. Your opponents are demon beasts! They will not show mercy! Neither Rean, Kentucky, Gola, or I will help you either. If you notice that you will die soon, you will die. I've told you about this day many, many times, and now that day has come. It's all up to you now to open a space where you can live without our help."

Roan then playfully smiled as he continued, "Nevertheless, the one who trained you was no one else than me! Considering the difficulty of this task, you shouldn't have a problem finishing it. With that said, you have one hour to clean this place up. If you guys fail...hehehe!"

There wasn't a single kid or teenager who didn't feel a chill go through their backs. As soon as the airship touched the ground, Malo and the others rushed out of the ship and began to battle the demon beasts for this territory. There were three demon beasts at Stage Four, equivalent to those at the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. As for the rest, they were at Stage Three and below.

Malo and the oldest teenagers were still in the Core Formation Realm. However, they were trained by Roan and had extremely high talents. By joining their strengths, they killed one of those demon beasts and made the other two flee. Though, they weren't able to do so unscathed. Falas, one of the girls, was severely injured during the combat, exposing the huge lack of combat experience everyone had.

Of course, she wasn't the only one. As Malo's group dealt with the Stage Four Demon Beasts, the others had to fight the Stage Three, Two, and One Demon Beasts roaming in the area. Nonetheless, Rean and Roan didn't intervene. Rean saw how five kids ended up dying in the process. However, Roan stopped him as he told him, "This is natural. You can't really expect that all of them will survive. Did you forget the test we took to join the Dalamu Sect? Our death toll right now is already ridiculously low compared to them."

Rean gritted his teeth from the sight but nodded in response. As brutal as the deaths may seem, this would serve as a wake-up call for all the others. After all, they had lived a safe life ever since they entered the valley years ago. However, the world definitely wasn't like that.

Roan then commented, "Don't forget that they know what conditions they were given. Sure, some grew very complacent over the years, thinking that the power they got through our internal training was more than enough. However, with those deaths, they'll definitely think twice about it."

Kentucky watched the fight with a serious face. Most of the people Rean and Roan rescued were women, which he was a lot more fond of. One must remember that high Soul Purity was easier to find in girls, a lot easier at that, not boys. With that being said, they did indeed have a lot more women in this group.

Time passed as 40 minutes went by before finally, all the demon beasts in the area fled or died. Though that wasn't before 25 boys and girls died in the clean-up process. Of course, considering the number of demon beasts that died, one could say that Roan's apprentices pulverized the enemy. Part of the deaths on Roan's side was because none of them could handle killing other beings, so they froze up.

Once the entire issue was done with, Rean finally left the airship and began to heal everyone. He also organized the bodies of those who died to be taken care of. As much as he didn't like Roan's methods, he knew that having everyone living in a safe place would be a lot worse. Once the twins leave and Malo's group starts to live by themselves, no one would be there to heal them like what Rean was doing right now. If anything, one could already say that Roan had made a huge commitment by saying that only those above ten years old should participate.

'If it was back when I first arrived at Sunkan Planet, I definitely wouldn't let this happen. I was really naive at that time,' Rean thought for a moment.

Roan then gathered everyone in the center of the five peaks and began his usual motivational speech. "What the fuck was that shit? I won't even talk about the ones who were too scared to step forward.

The worst ones were those who got ahead of themselves and died or got injured. Between all of you, I can't even commend 10%. And here was I, thinking that no one who received my training would die. Ha! What a joke!" Sure enough, it was very motivational...

There were those who were sad, those who were angry, and those who couldn't help but hate Roan for the death of a close friend. However, they didn't blame him. Roan had never lied about what they would expect from the outside world. That once they were out, they would be on their own. Today's event was the crystallization of his teachings.

After that, Roan took the chance to revise some of the groups' training schedules. He also took time to show most of the errors he saw during that battle. Fortunately for those who participated in the battles, they did finish it in less than one hour, so Roan's famous punishments didn't happen.

As Roan became busy with the kids and the teenagers, Rean went around the peak to build a formation. This time, however, it wasn't a protection or an anti-Spiritual Sense Formation. Instead, it was a sensory formation. It would alert everyone inside if anything entered the range of the five peaks without them knowing. 'Well, it only works against demon beasts or cultivators above Stage Three or the Core Formation Realm, though.'

After that, he took his time to clean the terrain to put the building with the totem down. As for the rest of the buildings, furniture, and so on, he kept everything inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Those things were not for him to use, so Malo and the others would have to prepare the terrain themselves.

And just like that, a few days went by. The terrain was eventually cleaned, and the houses that they built in the past were taken out of the Dimensional Realm. They also opened the field for the farm they had grown back then.

However, be it the twins, Kentucky, or Celis, neither of the four noticed a rabbit walking in the middle of the houses. As a place with a lot more women than men, obviously, it obtained a lot of attention from them. It was completely snow white, its eyes black, and very small. Its length wasn't more than thirty or so centimeters either. Simply put, it was as ordinary as an ordinary rabbit could be.

The girls tried to capture it many times so they could cuddle it. Unfortunately, it was too fast. Every time they got close, it would run away. Well, it ended up making a lot of success in that part of their settlement.

The rabbit then jumped above a house and looked in the distance. Or, to be more specific, the 'Oak' Demon Tree at the center of the settlement. 'Hmph! What terrible security. This lord has been walking all around, and no one noticed my presence,' the rabbit thought. Sure enough, it wasn't just any rabbit, but the only Stage Six Demon Beast residing in Fruzei Hills, the Blood Rabbit!

However, Rean's group couldn't be blamed for that. They never thought that a Stage Six Demon Beast would make such a low-key appearance. First of all, they would never believe that a Stage Six Demon Beast wasn't more than a few dozen centimeters long! After all, demon beasts were only able to change their size once they reached Stage Seven. Obviously, it wasn't the case for this rabbit. Last but not least, was Blood Rabbit really a name one would give to such a white and small creature like this one?

However, one shouldn't underestimate this rabbit. For example, Rean's sensory formation that should work against demon beasts above the Stage Three level didn't detect it at all. Obviously, it could hide its energy extremely well.

"Ah! There it is!"

"It's the little rabbit! Let's catch him!"

"Don't be hasty. Otherwise, it will run again!"

Sure enough, the girls ended up finding it once again. However, the rabbit just snorted and dashed away once again. The reason it hasn't attacked or anything was the same reason explained by the demon beast back in the city. It was indeed the strongest demon beast of this region, but it didn't care too much about it. Even the occupation of its territory didn't upset it enough for it to want to kill others.

As for the demon beasts that died, it couldn't care less. It was a demon beast, and demon beasts constantly died. That was the natural order of things in the Demon Beast Continent.

One of the little girls suddenly noticed that Malo was passing by, so she immediately asked, "Malo, Malo! You need to help us!"

The other girls and boys immediately gathered as well. "Yes, yes! You need to help us, Malo!"

Malo wasn't in that good of a mood. After all, Roan had been very harsh recently. Still, he simply couldn't ignore the puppy eyes directed at him. "Sigh...alright. If it isn't anything hard to do, I'll help you. Say, what is it?"

Little did Malo know, but he was about to receive a huge headache.

Death... and me

Chapter 757: Let's Continue

Wanting to appease the kids asking him, Malo soon spread his Spiritual Sense to look for the rabbit, thinking that it shouldn't take more than a few seconds to capture it. However, this is a Stage Six Demon Beast we're talking about! No way in hell would Malo's Spiritual Sense be enough to feel the rabbit's presence.

"Hmm...?" Malo then looked at the kids before asking, "Are you sure there's a rabbit? I can't feel its presence at all."

All the kids nodded in unison. "We're sure. But our Spiritual Sense doesn't work on it either. We can only find the cutie using your eyes." Obviously, anyone in the Energy Gathering Realm would be able to use Spiritual Sense, albeit with a smaller range depending on the level. With that being said, they also tried to use it to find the rabbit.

Malo narrowed his eyes after hearing their response and pondered whether it was a high-level demon beast or not. He shook his head right after, though. "There's no way it's a high-level demon beast. If it was, Rean's Sensory Formation would have already captured its presence. He told me that the formation will warn us of the entrance of any demon beast above Stage Three or any cultivator above Core Formation. Since it didn't do that, then this demon beast couldn't be high-level."

"Though..." Malo noticed something was off. If it wasn't a high-level demon beast, then why can't he feel its presence? "Oh well. Let's just find it first."

Malo then jumped on top of the roofs and began to do a blanket search. With his speed, it didn't take long for him to cover a big area until suddenly, he noticed a white dot jumping between the roofs of other houses.

"Found you!" It was moving in the Totem Building's direction, so Malo immediately ran after it. Once he captured the rabbit and gave it to the kids, he could finally go out and do his own things.

The rabbit wasn't moving fast by any means. In fact, it looked more like it was having a leisurely stroll through the settlement. With that said, Malo only needed a few tens of seconds to catch up. For Malo, that was confirmation that the rabbit wasn't really that strong. Otherwise, how could he be so much faster? "Come with brother Malo, will you? There are a lot of little girls and a few boys who want to pet you."

The rabbit, who just heard those words, completely ignored Malo's existence and continued on his way forward. 'Hmph! Since when did this lord have to give attention to humans? I just want to know what that building has,' the rabbit thought. As a male Blood Rabbit, it was also sensitive to Yang Energy, and there was quite a lot emanating from that building.

Malo, of course, couldn't read minds, so he simply thought that the rabbit was trying to flee. He immediately dashed forward while saying with a smile, "Don't run! We won't harm you!" However, just as his hands were about to touch the rabbit, it suddenly turned blurry before disappearing from Malo's sight. "What?!"

Malo was taken aback at the scene. It literally disappeared into thin air. However, Malo quickly noticed that it was just two or three meters away, still leisurely running as if nothing had happened.

"Am I seeing things?" Nevertheless, with Malo's speed, he needed just a second to pounce at the rabbit once again. This time, he took it more seriously, putting at least 30% of his strength in that assault.

Vup!

Once again, the rabbit disappeared in front of his eyes, just to reappear five to six meters in front of him. However, the rabbit looked back at him this time. For a moment, Malo was sure that he saw a mocking smile on the rabbit's face. However, he quickly shook his head as he muttered, "I must be imagining things."

Well, the truth was...he wasn't. The Blood Rabbit felt utter disdain from Malo's attempts. If anything, he was feeling like laughing. 'No, I shouldn't laugh. It would be beneath me to laugh because of such trifling matters.'

"Wait right there!" Malo, however, didn't give up and tried to capture the rabbit again. He put 50% of his full strength on the attempt, just to see the rabbit slip away once again. Though, that wasn't all. The mocking smile on the rabbit's face had become wider, as if he was provoking Malo. "You piece of shit, you think I can't capture you?"

Malo didn't hold back this time and used his full speed to capture the rabbit.

This time though, the Blood Rabbit's eyes changed as he thought, 'So fast! Is this really a human at the Core Formation Realm? His speed definitely doesn't lose out to those at the Peak Stage of Core Formation or even someone at the Initial Stage of Core and Soul Fusion.' However, the Blood Rabbit's surprise ended there. 'Hehe! So what if you're that good? Compared to this lord, you're nothing more than an ant.'

Sure enough, just as Malo was about to capture the Blood Rabbit, it disappeared once again. However, one thing was different this time. Malo was able to at least touch the Blood Rabbit's fur. Well, not that it made him happy anyway. "For fuck's sake! How can a rabbit without any cultivation be this fast?!"

The Blood Rabbit then looked at its own fur, narrowing its eyes in the process. 'Weird. I was sure I left his grasp before he could touch me, so how did he still touch my fur?' It was then that the rabbit noticed some static electricity emanating from Malo's hand. 'I see...he used a technique to increase the speed of his hands at the very last moment. Not bad for a human. He did that in a way that he could capture me without causing any harm.'

Of course, seeing the few strands of white fur in his hands made Malo a little more confident. Feeling slightly more hopeful, Malo said to himself, "Hmph! Do you think this is my full speed? Let's see if you can flee this time!"

Suddenly, Lightning and Yang Energy began to gather around Malo. Thanks to Rean and Roan, Malo's Lightning Affinity was supported by a good Lightning-based cultivation technique. The lightning covered Malo before he flashed ahead like a streak of blue light as the Yang Energy increased his power and speed even more.

The Blood Rabbit was truly shocked this time. 'Forget those at the Initial Stages of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. This guy can definitely make some of those at the Middle Stage eat his dust!'

Malo's hands then closed on the rabbit's body as his eyes shone. He could see that the rabbit seemed to be surprised by his sudden increase in his speed, so he would use that chance to capture it. Well, everything didn't go as Malo expected, though.

Vup!

The rabbit didn't try to flee in the opposite direction this time. Instead, it flashed against Malo's face. The one to fail to react this time was Malo himself. Not only that, but there was simply no chance of dodging the rabbit's attack. If Malo was wrong and this was a very strong demon beast, he would definitely die right now.

Pah!

However, the rabbit suddenly turned around right at the very moment it was going to hit Malo's face, landing on it with its ass! Right after, believe it or not, the rabbit farted on Malo's face before using it as a stepping stone to run away once again.

"This fucker stinks!" Well, the rabbit farted at that opportune moment, so it obviously did. However, that didn't anger Malo more than the moment he looked at the rabbit. Sure enough, the rabbit's mocking smile was way too obvious! There was simply no way that rabbit wasn't doing it on purpose!

"Hehe...hehehe..." Malo's patience finally ran dry. He already had a very bad time at Roan's hands during the past few days due to his poor performance in the battle against demon beasts. It wasn't wrong to say that Malo was a pile of stress at the moment. And now, a small rabbit was mocking him as well. Since when did he stoop so low?

Well, Malo failed to notice a problem. If a demon beast wasn't at least Stage Five, it wouldn't have sentience. Probably only Divine Demon Beasts were exceptions. With that said, there was no way the rabbit would mock him. That was an act of a sentient being, after all.

Suddenly, Malo unsheathed his sword as he pointed at the rabbit, screaming, "If I don't get rabbit stew on my dinner today, my name won't be Malo!"

Too bad for him. The kids had all been looking for the rabbit as well. When they saw Malo trying to capturing it, they were hopeful that he would succeed. With that said, Malo's words definitely affected them.

"Malo, you bully!"

"I'll tell Big Sister Poliana that you are bullying the little rabbit."

"Big Brother Malo, don't hurt Mister Rabbit."

Malo looked around in response to those words as his face changed between black and purple. "Who the hell is bullying him?! Can't you see that I'm the one being bullied?! He's mocking me! That's a demon rabbit!"

Everyone looked at the 'cute and innocent' little rabbit before looking at Malo with weird expressions. They couldn't see any mocking expression at all. Unfortunately for Malo, he was the only one who could see the rabbit's mocking face due to his privileged position. The rabbit didn't look any different in everyone else's eyes. "Big Brother Malo... Rabbits don't know how to mock others..."

Malo almost vomited blood after hearing that! 'How the hell can't you see it? Are you telling me I'm going crazy?!' Well, Malo was definitely not feeling calm, that's for sure.

As for the Blood Rabbit, he was having the time of his life. 'So funny! Let's continue!'

Death... and me

Chapter 758: Red Streak

One couldn't blame the Blood Rabbit for thinking like that. First, he wasn't like most demon beasts that liked to battle and kill. It wasn't in his nature as a Blood Rabbit. Second, he only lived with demon beasts most of the time. He rarely ever interacted with other humans, so his normal life was filled with interactions with ferocious demon beasts. This situation was a first for him. That's why he found it so amusing to keep pulling Malo's leg.

Malo, on the other hand, wasn't having fun at all. "Fine, fine, fine! I won't try to kill it. Just don't go out there telling others that I was bullying rabbits." After that, the tag game restarted. Of course, the rabbit made sure to make Malo's life as miserable as possible. While doing so, the younger kids watched and laughed.

Eventually, Malo understood that he was simply not the rabbit's match and stopped, cursing, "Fuck this shit! I give up! If you want this rabbit, go ahead and catch him yourselves. I'm out!" Malo then turned around and went down from the roof.

The Blood Rabbit saw that and couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. 'Oh well. It was fun while it lasted, I guess. I commend you for entertaining this lord for so long. Now then. Let's take a look at the main building at the center,' the rabbit thought before turning around and left.

It didn't take long for it to reach the building. It looked around to see if there wasn't anything out of the ordinary before coming down. There were many entrances around the building, so he simply selected any random one. However, just as he passed through the door, he froze, cursing inwardly, 'Shit!'

"Catch him!" Malo, together with Falas, Poliana, Wataba, and Glennie, jumped at him from their hidden places. Sure enough, Malo hadn't given up at all. He went out to ask for help!

Usually, such a trap wouldn't work on a Stage Six Demon Beast. After all, its Spiritual Sense could cover the entire settlement if it wanted to. How could someone sneak on it with that advantage? However, it was being careful to not use it. After all, if there were Nascent Soul or Soul Transformation Realm cultivators there, they would feel the presence of its Spiritual Sense.

"You dare to trick this lord?!" Suddenly, the rabbit's color changed. Its snow-white fur seemed to be covered in blood, leaving no white spot whatsoever. Immediately, its Spiritual Sense spread everywhere as it became a red streak of light, moving away from the ambush point. Sure enough, as good as the trap might have been, the difference in cultivation was just too big!

Malo's group was taken aback by that scene. They weren't shocked that the rabbit was able to run. After all, Malo had failed many times and considered the possibility of his trap failing. What surprised them was the fact that the rabbit talked! "You! You're at least a Stage Six Demon Beast!"

The rabbit's eyes narrowed as he looked at Malo's group, responding, "Hmph! Only now you noticed that? You're really slow, not that I expected much from a human, though." The rabbit then playfully smiled in their direction as he said after, "With that, how should I punish you all for tricking me?"

Malo's group felt a chill on their backs. In front of such a demon beast, they couldn't even be considered ants. However...

"Oh! It seems like we have a visitor." Suddenly, a white-haired man appeared in the room as if he had popped out of nowhere. Naturally, that man was Rean, who had just felt the Blood Rabbit's Spiritual Sense.

Well, the rabbit also noticed Rean's presence the very moment he spread his Spiritual Sense. "Two Nascent Souls and two Stage Five Demon Beasts. No, one of them is a Demon Oak Tree, huh? That's quite rare." The rabbit obviously wasn't the least bit afraid. "Still, what a weird bunch. I don't remember ever seeing humans and demon beasts living together."

Rean smiled in response, saying, "Hahaha! Well, that's because there aren't really many doing that in this continent. First of all, it isn't like this continent has that many humans." Following that, his smile disappeared as he continued, "So, what would the Blood Rabbit, the strongest demon beast in Fruzei Hills, be doing here?"

The rabbit checked the other enemies like Roan and Kentucky. However, it didn't seem like they wanted to come to support Rean. 'Are they that confident?'

"What am I doing here? This is my territory, you know? My question is what you're doing here instead. Shouldn't you at least ask for my permission before establishing yourselves here?" Of course, he wasn't afraid.

Rean found it strange as he replied, "This is just the Inner Region, far away from the Core. I would understand why a Stage Five Demon Beast would control this area, but not a demon beast at Stage Six. I thought that as the strongest demon beast, you would be living at the very center of the Core Region."

The rabbit laughed in response as he replied, "Hahaha! Indeed, most demon beasts would be like that. However, I'm not a carnivore, so I go everywhere to look for the best plants to eat. Simply put, I consider the entire Fruzei Hills as my territory, and the Stage Five Demon Beasts don't dare to complain."

Rean had to admit that it was surprising. "I see...anyway, we've established ourselves here because this is a good place to live. It's well surrounded by the five peaks, which makes it easier to protect if necessary. It also has many demon beasts at Stage Two, Three, and Four. That's a very good thing so our tribe members can train."

He then continued, "Besides, it shouldn't be a bad thing for the demon beasts in Fruzei Hills either. After all, demon beasts need battles to improve, and we will definitely give it to them. It's a win-win situation."

The rabbit nodded, saying in response, "That's true. However, I don't like it when someone enters my territory and pretends that it's already theirs."

"Is that so?" Rean pondered for a bit when he got an idea. Suddenly, an orange vegetable appeared in his hand. Back in Sunkan Planet, anyone would easily identify this vegetable. However, in this world that had been covered by ice most of its time, this was a non-existent plant. Naturally, this vegetable was a carrot!

The Blood Rabbit didn't know why, but the moment its eyes saw that divine orange vegetable, its entire body trembled as his mouth drooled nonstop. "Th-Th-This orange thing...what is it? Say it!"

One must remember that Rean and Roan had always kept food inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm in case they needed it later. Naturally, some carrots and their seeds ended up coming to this planet once they were teleported. Later on, they had the kids and teenagers cultivate them together with the other farms in the valley, so they had a lot of them now.

Rean smiled in response to the Blood Rabbit's question, saying, "This is a delicacy called a carrot. It's something that only we possess on this entire planet. It isn't wrong to say that we created it ourselves." Of course, that was a lie...not that Rean would say that. "Here, try one." After that, Rean threw it at the rabbit.

The rabbit narrowed his eyes when he caught the divine orange vegetable called carrot. What if it was poisoned? Wouldn't he die straight away? However, he simply couldn't resist his urges. It was stronger than himself!

Chomp, chomp, chomp, chomp, chomp...

It was hard to believe it was a Stage Six Demon Beast. Even its eating form was the exact same as a common rabbit's. Rean expected a demon Beast of that level to eat the carrot in a single bite, but it acted just like the rodent it was. 'It's kinda...cute,' Rean muttered inwardly.

Nevertheless, it didn't take long for the rabbit to finish eating its food. "Ah!" Only then did it come back to himself. "What kind of skill did you used in that carrot thing? It made me lose my mind for a moment. How despicable!"

Rean's mouth twitched in response, saying, "Despicable your ass! That was just a normal carrot. Nothing more, nothing less. What bullshit skill are you talking about? It was you who couldn't resist the vegetable. Don't blame others for your lack of self-control!"

"Hmph! As if this lord would stoop down that easily just because of food." The Blood Rabbit wasn't buying it, though. Then again... "However, this lord has to admit that that was a nice snack. If you share this...carrot...this lord won't bother your bunch anymore." In the end, he couldn't resist it.

Rean sighed before throwing a small bag at the rabbit, saying, "Take it."

The rabbit used its Spiritual Energy to look inside and saw many seeds there. "What are these? This lord wants the orange one."

Rean shrugged his shoulders, responding, "This is that. Those are carrot seeds. Just plant them and take care until they grow big enough. Usually, it takes between three and four months for them to be ready for harvest. Now then, we have a deal. Don't bother us in our settlement anymore."

The rabbit didn't like it. "Harvest? Plant them? This lord doesn't like to waste time with it. Just do it yourselves, and I'll come by to take them."

Rean was just about to complain when he had an idea. "Well, fine. However, you'll have to guarantee that the Stage Five Demon Beasts of Fruzei Hills won't come here to bother our settlement. Can you do that?"

The rabbit immediately nodded, responding, "Obviously. After all, I can't let them intervene with my carrots."

Rean smiled after hearing that, saying, "That's good. By the way, my name is Rean. What should I call you?"

"This one is Lord Red Streak."

Death... and me

Chapter 759: How Should I Know?

Rean couldn't help but mention, "But...Red Streak isn't exactly a name. It's more like a title, no?"

Red Streak shook his head, saying, "I'm not like you humans, who receive your names from your parents. I had to give myself a name once I reached Stage Five. With that said, I chose Red Streak, that's all."

Rean pondered a bit before saying, "Well, calling you Red Streak is kind of annoying. I'm just going to call you Red from now on."

The Blood Rabbit didn't like the idea at all. "It's Lord Red Streak, human. Where's your respect?"

Rean completely ignored his words, though. "Alright, Red. You should be able to see where the carrot plantation is located with your Spiritual Sense. You can head there and ask our members to give some of the carrots that we've already harvested." Following that, Rean turned around to leave.

"Wait! Are you really going to leave just like that? I could totally kill everyone here once you head out far enough," Red couldn't help but say that. Well, it seemed like he didn't really care about Rean calling him Red in the end.

Rean stopped and looked back at Red, responding, "Worried? Not really. I don't know how you did it, but your hiding skills can't even be detected by my sensory formation. With that said, you could have killed many of us, and I wouldn't even know until it was too late. Since you didn't do that, it's obvious that you have no such intentions to start with."

Red narrowed his eyes, asking in response, "Aren't you going to ask how I hid my presence either?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders, saying, "It's not like we can't do the same thing." Suddenly, Rean's presence disappeared from Red's Spiritual Sense. It was as if he wasn't even there. However, he was definitely right in front of him, so it was impossible. Red was a common demon beast, so Rean's Spiritual Sense bending skill did work on him. Well, Rean was also on the other side of the building, so that helped out as well. Otherwise, Red's Spiritual Sense would be too hard to bend.

Red's eyes widened when he noticed Rean disappear. "For a human, you are truly full of surprises."

Rean nodded, saying, "In any case, I won't tell you how I can do it, nor do I believe you'll tell us how you do it. Since we both have our secrets, let's keep it at that. Just don't forget to prevent the Stage Five Demon Beasts from coming here."

Red didn't have a way to rebuke Rean, so he didn't try. "Fine. What about the lower-level ones? I can't possibly let them roam around if someone of your level begins to hunt them down."

"What are you talking about? Of course, I wouldn't go out of my way to hunt Stage Four Demon Beasts and below. I can also vouch for the other three that they won't do it. Only the low-level members of our group will head out to train against the demon beasts. As you've probably noticed already, Malo, the guy who tried to capture you, is a Core Formation Realm cultivator. He has the highest cultivation after the four Nascent Souls and Stage Five Demon Beasts. With that said, you shouldn't have a reason to complain."

Red agreed with Rean on that. "As long as that's the case, then we have a deal." Following that, Red dashed to the building's entrance. He was so fast that he truly looked like a streak of red light. However, just as he was about to leave, he looked back at Rean and asked, "Oh, right. What about this wooden equipment of yours? The Yang Energy coming from it is really good."

Rean smiled in response after hearing that, replying, "If you want, you can stay and cultivate close to it as well. We found it by coincidence when we attacked a Zasfin tribe outside the Demon Beast Continent. It's very beneficial."

Soon after, he warned Red. "However, you better not try to take it with you. The protection formation I put in place won't be something you can easily break through."

Red didn't have any intentions to do so anyway. "Whatever. Since it's free to use, I have no need to take it for myself. After all, I would bring it to my own territory. However, we're already inside my territory, so it doesn't matter where it is." Sure enough, he still didn't recognize that Rean's group owned the area.

Rean didn't try to refute him with that either. Something inside him told him that if Red decided to run, even Kentucky's speed wouldn't be enough to catch him. If that happened, having something that fast, strong, and small as an enemy would become a true headache. "That's true. We never had the intention of taking Fruzei Hills for ourselves anyway. It just so happens to be a good place to let our young ones train. In exchange, it will be good for your demon beasts to train as well."

Red nodded and finally disappeared in a flash of red light. A second later, he disappeared from Rean's Spiritual Sense, just like Rean did a moment later. 'Truly, what a weird demon beast. Well, I guess I can't say much about ourselves either.'

Roan, who watched everything, immediately asked, 'Are you sure you want to leave it like that? Although Celis now has a different cultivation realm and appearance, that rabbit might notice something.'

Rean shook his head, saying in response, 'I don't think so. It's like I said, it could have created a massacre way before we noticed its presence, but it didn't. First of all, chances are that this Blood Rabbit doesn't even know about Celis or anything like that. Don't forget, Celis is kind of a secret between the upper echelon of both sides of the war.'

Roan had to admit that Rean was right. 'Very well. Now, go back to cultivate. Leave the settlement for everyone else to take care of.'

Rean nodded, but just as he was about to leave again, Malo called his attention, saying, "Wait, Rean."

"Hmm?" Rean looked back. "What is it?"

Malo scratched the back of his head as he asked, "Are we living here from now on?"

Rean shook his head, saying, "How should I know?"

Malo, Falas, Poliana, and the others were taken aback by his response. What did Rean mean by that?

Death... and me

Chapter 760: Go To Hell!

"You... don't know?" Malo couldn't help but repeat those words.

Rean nodded right after, saying, "Of course, I don't know. All Roan and I did was provide you guys a good place where you can live and train. However, you guys are almost adults already, especially you, Malo. You should be turning 18 next month, right?" In response to Rean's question, Malo nodded absent-mindedly.

Rean then continued, "Then, there you have it. This is the Demon Beast Continent. Here, you can go anywhere you want as long as you have the strength to keep yourself alive. With that said, whether you wish to continue living in Fruzei Hills or not is your and everyone else's problem. Roan and I will stay here, but if you wish to leave, by all means, go ahead. Just so you know, none of you have ever been a prisoner, nor will you ever be while we're in charge."

Malo's group couldn't help but fall into deep thought. It's just that they got used to it already, so they didn't really know what they wanted to do. "I see...I will think about what I want to do."

It was then that Malo had an idea. "By the way, if we really decided to stay, what should we call our settlement? It always bothered me that we didn't have a name for the valley."

Rean shrugged his shoulders, saying, "This place was selected for you to live, so you can choose whatever name you like. This is the start of your independent life, so take the wheels. Go talk with everyone else and see what they have to say." It was then that Rean remembered something. "Oh, right! This is only valid for those that are at least fourteen years old. Anyone else will have to stay until they're old enough to take care of themselves."

Rean finally left them after that, not caring about hearing anything else.

Malo and the others looked at each other and nodded. After that, they ran a poll over the entire settlement, taking everyone's opinions. Even the kids weren't left out. Then again, that wasn't all. They also made sure to tell everyone what Rean said about age restriction. As for whether someone wanted to leave or not, only time will tell.

Eventually, Malo gathered everyone in the main field before announcing the results. "Well, we truly had a lot of names here. But in the end, the one everyone used the most was the Freedom Sect."

Malo couldn't help but sigh when he said that, continuing where he left off. "I do understand why you would use the name Freedom. After all, we were indeed locked up for most of our lives. At least the oldest members of our group were. However, we don't look like a sect at all. We don't have a sect leader. We don't have a proper distribution system. We don't even have missions with rewards. Simply put, we almost don't have anything that could characterize us as a sect."

Poliana touched Malo's shoulder as she smiled, saying, "Well, we at least have some ancestors, don't we? Rean, Roan, Kentucky, and Gola are truly strong. Can't we simply start from there?"

Malo then looked at Burio and the other adults. After all, they were the only ones that could be called 'higher-ups' somehow. That's because Rean left them in charge of taking care of all the kids those years ago. "Senior Burio, can't you say something?"

Burio scratched the back of his head in response, replying, "Well, we were first brought here because Rean and Roan needed someone to take care of all of you. You were just too young at that time. However, quite a few of you have already surpassed 15 years of age, so our help isn't that necessary anymore. With that said, we're just some low-talented humans in the middle of a huge number of real talents. I don't really think we have a say in your decision as to whether you should treat our group as a sect or not."

All the other adults nodded in agreement. If they were to enter a contest of strength, anyone above 15 years old there could definitely trash Burio's group. Their 'authority' was only there because Rean and Roan said so. Well, they all became important existences for Malo and everyone else. They would never do such a thing to Burio's group after all they've done for them.

Falas then raised her hand, suggesting, "Rean gave us a free choice to do whatever we want, didn't he? If so, then let's build this sect system! If we don't have a sect head, we can simply nominate one. If we don't have missions and a reward system in place, then we can create them. It's that simple. I'm sure everyone will put a lot more effort into it if they have an objective in mind."

Immediately, all the kids and teenagers below supported Falas's words.

"Agreed!"

"Rean said we can leave, but none of us want to."

"Roan said that there's no human sect in this world, so we're going to be the first!"

"We can't ask Rean and the others to help more than they did. Let's do it ourselves."

Seeing that everyone really wanted to bring that idea forward, Malo finally gave up. "Alright, alright! But don't think that it'll be easy. There will be a lot of hard and boring tasks to take care of, understood?"

"Yes!"

Burio then playfully smiled before saying, "Alright, everyone. Now, who's gonna be the sect leader? Forget about the other adults and me. The sect leader has to be someone with good future prospects. Our talents are far from being enough."

Glennie immediately pointed at Malo, saying, "If that's the case, then it has to be Malo."

Malo, on the other hand, felt a chill on his back as he replied, "Fuck you! I didn't even want to create this sect. Where the hell did you get this idea of having me as a sect leader? I don't wanna! It's too much work on top of the regime Roan already gives me."

Wataba shrugged her shoulders as she said, "But you're the strongest one between all of us, right?"

All the girls and the few and far between boys nodded. "Agreed!"

Malo's mouth twitched in response. "Just what is wrong with your heads? Look around! Our group is mostly women. If you exclude Burio's group, there are no more than 157 men here, while we have more than 3000 girls! Why would you put a man as the leader of a sect mainly filled with women? That makes no sense! Anyways, I recommend Poliana. Just forget about me."

Malo wasn't trying to sound gender-equal or anything like that. From the bottom of his heart, he truly didn't want to be this so-called sect leader. 'Are they crazy? It's already hard when Burio's group is in charge of most of the things. Who the hell would want to take care of so many women? How many PMS do you think I would need to deal with on a daily basis? Go to hell!'

Fortunately, Malo didn't say those words out loud. Otherwise, he would most likely receive an incessant beating.