

Death 871

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Chapter 871: The Trick

Roan really liked the marathon test back in Dalamu Sect. However, his was different from the very start. After all... there were no roads! The disciples only had a few signals placed in the sky to guide themselves through the forest and other regions. Roan did that because the island was only so big. The sect wasn't the same 300 kilometers away from Freedom City as Dalamu Sect was from Majorias. The lack of roads was used to help with that.

Of course, Freedom Sect made sure that the demon beasts of the island wouldn't intervene with the kids' test. The Energy Gathering and Foundation Establishment Realm kids might still be able to deal with it. However, the majority would only become prey. That wouldn't be a test at all.

Roan accompanied the kids' movements with his Spiritual Sense and quickly noticed a few candidates. However, there were also a lot who simply stopped somewhere, afraid to take an extra step without their relatives watching. Kids were still kids, after all. Most of them were kids of ex-slaves, so they were more used to not being left alone like that.

Nevertheless, the test continued. By the time 12 hours was gone, all five Foundation Establishment kids had already arrived in the sect. No one was surprised by that, though. The fact that they reached that level in this world's condition showed that they received serious training since childhood.

Eighteen hours. That was the time it took for the last of the 200 vacancies for Energy Gathering Realm kids to be filled. The rest of the kids at the Energy Gathering Realm were rescued by the sect's disciples and were given back to their parents.

Body Transformation Realm kids had two days to arrive. Surprisingly, though, only 412 Body Transformation Realm kids had arrived at the sect by the time the two days were up, quite below the 500 vacancies available.

Three days was the time that kids without any cultivation had to complete the test. These kids also received support in the form of food and water every 20 kilometers. It didn't look like much. But when you were walking in the middle of the forest, that was a hell of a distance for the majority of the kids at 8 to 10 years old. Dropouts were most frequent within this group as well. Naturally, they were mostly ex-slaves or the kids of ex-slaves.

There was good news, though. All 4000 vacancies were filled after two days and 21 hours. The fastest male without cultivation was a kid called Jamiro. As for the female, it was a kid called Luana.

Once the test was over, the sect's disciples entered the forest in masses and began to send the kids back to their parents or the ones responsible for them. As for the kids who passed the first test, they were given a day to rest.

During the night, Malo went to see Roan, who was talking about something with Calina. "What do you think? Was it good enough?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit before saying, "Not too bad. It helped us figure out the mindset behind the kids who were slaves compared to the kids who came from the Demon Beast Continent. Sure enough, not a single one of the ex-slave kids topped the charts. We have a lot to do once the test is over."

Malo nodded in response. Although the number of ex-slave kids was definitely much higher than the kids from the Demon Beast Continent, their levels were just too different. "Well, we weren't any better until the moment you and Senior Rean rescued us. Still, under your guidance (and punishments), we turned out quite well, didn't we?"

Calina couldn't help but laugh after hearing that. "Don't blame my ice block too much. This is how he shows his love to those he likes."

Roan's mouth twitched a little after hearing that. "Dream on."

Malo was always impressed with Calina. Only a few other than Rean and Kentucky could talk like that to Roan without receiving backlash. Well, Kentucky was just very fast at running when he pissed Roan off, though. "Ahem...so, will there be any changes in the second test?"

Calina couldn't help but ask, "You told me that your second test back in Dalamu was a demon beast hunt, right? You already copied the marathon...although it was a little different. Are you going to do the same thing for the second test?"

Roan shook his head in response, telling the two, "That won't work. First of all, we have 4000 kids without any cultivation whatsoever. Those who have cultivation are mostly from the Demon Beast Continent, so they are already used to fighting demon beasts since it was part of their daily lives. Such a test would be useless."

Calina's interest was piqued after hearing that. "Oh! Is that so? Then, what will you test them on?"

Roan nodded at Malo, giving him the green light to speak. "We will initiate the Spiritual Energy Pressure Test."

"Wouldn't that be the same as the Marathon Test? I believe the kids' will force have already been tested there, no?" Calina asked straight away.

However, Roan shook his head. "Their will is fine already. What we will be testing is their affinity with Spiritual Energy."

"Affinity? Like...the Talent Color?"

"No. For that, we have the Talent Measurement Orb. What I want to see is which one of them can understand the trick behind it," Roan explained.

"What trick?"

Malo answered that question while showing quite a proud expression. "This is a test that I came up with, and Roan accepted that. It won't just be the usual Spiritual Energy Pressure, but a type of pressure that can be conquered. Simply put, fighting against it won't help. You need to accept and adapt to the pressure. We'll see who will notice this point faster. This is a test where one's cultivation is useless. After all, the one who will be creating the Spiritual Energy Pressure is Roan, who is many times above the kids' cultivation realms."

Calina finally understood after that. "I see...that is indeed fair. Even those five Foundation Establishment Kids wouldn't have any advantage whatsoever here."

Roan agreed with her before he nodded at Malo, saying, "This is a very good idea. It seems like you're understanding your job as a Sect Leader more and more."

Malo scratched the back of his head in response, feeling a little embarrassed. It wasn't every day you received a real compliment from Roan, after all.

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Chapter 872: Second Test

The sect disciples helped those with injuries or those with any other issues while the kids were resting. When the test arrived the next day, all the kids were back to normal condition, ready to do anything. Obviously, their parents or those responsible for them were there as well, cheering for them.

Malo then stepped forward and began to talk with the kids who passed the first test. "Well done with yesterday's test. If you're still here, it shows that you stood out among the majority, so you should be proud of that. However, the tests aren't over. The next test is called the Spiritual Energy Pressure Test. All you have to do is stand up. Those who lie down for more than one hour will be out of the contest."

Malo nodded at Roan, who flew above the field where all the kids were gathered. Soon after, he released his Spiritual Energy Pressure, which immediately assaulted the kids.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud...

In the very first second, all the kids lost their balance and fell. There was no exception for one's cultivation, though. Even the Foundation Establishment candidates had the same issue. Roan, obviously, wouldn't use the same amount of Spiritual Energy on ordinary kids and those who had cultivations. He was using his Spiritual Sense to check each kids' cultivation and assaulting them with the right amount specifically.

Roan kept looking around, waiting to see which kid would be the first one to ask to leave. After all, the problem wasn't just standing up. It was the fact that it also hurt to stay there.

However, one entire minute went by, and nothing happened. The kids were still trying to fight against the Spiritual Energy Pressure. Some seemed to be on the verge of crying. Others had painful expressions, but no one had given up so far. 'Better than I expected,' Roan thought for a moment. 'Let's

see how long they can resist. If you don't understand that fighting against the pressure is bad, you will lose your energy very quickly.'

It took three minutes for the first kid to give up. "I wanna leave! I wanna leave!"

The kid's parents couldn't help but sigh after seeing that. Nevertheless, they waited as a sect's disciple entered the field and brought the kid back to them.

As if a chain reaction started, one kid after another began to give up non-stop. By the time ten minutes had passed, more than 200 of them were gone. Roan didn't care, though. He simply kept increasing the Spiritual Energy Pressure little by little, waiting to see if there would be anyone to notice the trick.

Suddenly, on the corner of the field, a little girl at eight to nine years of age got up to her knees. Obviously, that caught both the attention of the kids around here and the adults watching outside. A few seconds later, she got up with much difficulty. It was obvious that standing up was a very hard task, but she succeeded in the end.

However, before anyone could ask her anything about how she did that, a disciple of the sect appeared on her side and brought her away. At the same time, Suana announced with a loud voice, "Mariana Tulis passed the test."

Around a minute later, it was a boy who understood the problem and stood up as well. Obviously, he was brought away in the next moment as an announcement spread throughout the area once more. "Carvan Fusols has passed the test."

One by one, the kids began to understand that something wasn't right. That's because it wasn't those with the highest cultivations who left first. Instead, it was ordinary kids or those with low cultivations.

Thirty minutes had already passed, and both situations continued to happen. Kids gave up or found the reason why they couldn't stand up. Of course, the ones who failed were much more numerous than those who passed. Understanding the trick was one thing. Applying it was another.

Forty-five minutes had passed, and the near five thousand participants in the field fell to a little more than a thousand. Of those who left, one-fourth succeeded, while the rest failed. Those who were still

there were because they were very stubborn or had difficulty adapting to it before standing. Roan didn't make it easier for them either, as he kept increasing the pressure more and more. In a way, it would help them understand the method to pass the test faster. On the other hand, they would get tired much quicker.

Eventually, Malo stood up and approached the field, saying as he infused his voice with Spiritual Energy, "Only five minutes left. For those who were able to resist Elder Roan's Spiritual Energy Pressure up to now, I have to say that you are quite remarkable. However, those who could adapt to it and stand up were even better. As for those who failed, try again next time."

Malo then smiled before saying, "However, as a token of my appreciation for your resistance, I'll tell you how to do it in case you haven't figured it out yet. This is the sect's recognition of your stubbornness."

Immediately, all the kids paid attention to Malo as he continued, "The trick is not to fight against it. You have to accept the Spiritual Energy Pressure and adapt to it. For those who have a certain level of cultivation, stop using your own Spiritual Energy to fight against it. That only makes things harder. As for those who don't have cultivation, try to feel Elder Roan's Spiritual Energy. Don't treat it as a foreign object. Instead, think of it as part of your body."

Malo then put his hands on his back after that. "That's all I have to say. Good luck in the final moments."

Thanks to Malo, quite a few kids stood up a few moments later. It was obvious that Malo's clue had worked.

Roan also didn't mind Malo's words. After all, he also liked those who didn't give up until the very last moment. Even if they were one of the last ones to pass the test, they at least had the will to put effort into their training.

Up to the last seconds, there were still kids conquering their limits and standing up. However, not everyone succeeded even after the explanation.

Roan's Spiritual Energy Pressure then disappeared as Malo announced, "The test is over!"

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Chapter 873: Meet Roan

Malo looked at the kids who failed the test first, telling them, "You did well to come to our sect to participate in the exam. Don't worry; we know how hard things are for most of you and your families at the moment. Our Freedom Sect will provide you with some clothes and food for you to bring back to the place you live. If you don't want to leave the island, we can let you take residence in Freedom City. I hope you will be back next time we open another wave of recruitment."

The kids and their parents or guardians were delighted to hear that. A lot of them didn't have much. That's why they decided to take this sect gamble. "Thank you, Sect Master."

Malo nodded with a smile after hearing that. "The same has been provided to those who failed the first test, so you don't need to worry about them looking at what you have. The city lords from the towns you came from will also make sure nothing will happen."

After that, Malo looked at the ones who passed the second test. "Now then, 1587 participants understood the trick behind the Spiritual Energy Pressure Test and are standing here now." He then looked at a girl and a boy before saying, "Carvan Fusols, Mariana Tulis, come forward."

The girl and the boy couldn't help but feel nervous when Malo called their names. However, their parents quickly pushed them forward nonetheless.

"H-Here. I'm Carvan Fusols."

"I-I'm Mariana Tulis."

Malo smiled at them, saying, "You two were the first ones to understand the Spiritual Energy Pressure Test. Naturally, you were the first to pass the test as well. Unlike the Marathon Test, you will get a reward. Each of you will get 100 Sect Points, which can be used in several facilities in the sect, like the Spiritual Energy Gathering Formation Tower, pills from the Alchemist Hall, weapons from the Blacksmith Hall, and so on. Don't look down on this number. This is a lot more than you would usually get through a mission at your cultivation level."

The other kids couldn't help but ask, "Does this mean the test is already over?"

Be it the kids or the ones accompanying them, they all thought that there would be a lot more. After all, would just two tests be enough?

Surprisingly though, Malo nodded as he said, "Yes, that's all." He knew what they were thinking, of course. "You want to understand why there are only two tests, right? That's quite simple. Our sect has just taken roots, and most of you don't even have cultivation. More tests could be made, but we already obtained what we needed. Don't worry. Many other trials await you here."

For the first sect recruitment, Roan deemed it to be enough. The rest could be worked out later. He didn't know what would happen in ten months when they entered the Bestial Sacred Land, so he wanted to leave the sect's foundation complete, and so did Rean.

Of course, although it went against everyone's predictions, those who passed the tests were delighted to hear that.

Malo continued, "Alright, that's all for now. For those who failed, our disciples will send you back to Freedom City. You can then decide whether or not to head back to the cities you came from. The airships will be waiting for you there."

"The kids who passed the test can head to the sect's office on the back. Your parents can't come with you, though. This is the limit to how long they can stay inside the sect. I know you also want to stay with your mothers or fathers, so the sect disciples will help them take roots in Freedom City. You can visit them later if you prefer. You have three hours to say your temporary goodbyes before heading to the office if you want."

The parents or the guardians of the kids then took their time to ask the sect disciples about the life in the sect, bid them farewell, and much more. Obviously, many new disciples preferred not to enter the sect and head back to their parents instead...or so they wanted. However, every single one of them was rebuked after voicing those thoughts. Their parents obviously understood the great opportunity behind this recruitment. They wouldn't let such a chance pass up for sure.

Freedom Sect already had its own badge from the time they lived in the Demon Beast Continent. Naturally, they made a lot more for the new disciples. They could hold each disciple's ID and mark their achievements as well as their Sect Points. Not to mention that only those with Rean's authority badges could make alterations to it, preventing disciples from trying anything idiotic.

The kids arrived in the sect's office one after another and had their badges delivered. Soon after, they were sent to a new building in the sect called 'school.' This was also another new thing that Rean and Roan added to the sect. In fact, Rean and Roan took a bunch of smart and older disciples before it even became a sect and taught them a lot. Reading, writing, basic arithmetics, and other fields. After these past few years, those disciples could now be teachers themselves and received quite a good amount of Sect Points to hold classes to the younger ones.

This sect really stood out from others on this point. That's because everyone could both read and write. Even the babies in the past, who were already eight years old or above, knew how to do that.

Education! Both Rean and Roan knew very well what such a foundation could bring to the disciples in the future.

At this point, the ex-slaves and the Demon Beast Continent's kids weren't too different. More than 97% of them didn't know how to write and read, and most of those who knew had poor foundations in this category. Obviously, they needed to start to frequent the school as well. For that, the sect had already made all the necessary preparations.

Last but not least, the kids were told to meet Roan.

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Chapter 874: Roan Asks for Someone

Well, it wasn't just Roan, but Roan and a few of the stronger disciples of the sect. That obviously included Glennie, Falas, Wakaba, Rafin, and quite a few of the Purple and Red Color Talent cultivators. The reason behind that was because Roan wanted to teach them how to guide the younger ones. Checking cultivation manuals, checking their affinities, their habits, their weakness, and whatnot.

"Ruver, right? I can see here that you have Yellow Color Talent. Other than that, what's your Elemental Affinity?" Roan asked as the others watched.

"I-I have an Earth Elemental Affinity, Elder Roan." The kid was obviously nervous, especially after hearing the stories about Roan. He was afraid that Roan would rebuke him straight away and give some harsh punishment.

"Very well." Roan then looked at Vinkin, one of the sect disciples with Purple Color Talent. "Vinkin, you also have an Earth Elemental Affinity, so he would be in your hands. What do you recommend in his case?"

Vinkin pondered over it for a bit before saying, "I would first check his body with my Spiritual Sense and see how his meridian path works. Based on that, I would obtain a few Earth-based cultivation manuals for him to try out. To make sure it's the right choice, I would have him cultivate each one for a day before giving a test of performance with each one."

Roan nodded after hearing that. "Alright. Come here and check his meridians according to what Rean and I taught you."

Rean was the one who excelled at healing and understanding other people's bodies. With that being said, he took his time to tell what he learned during his time acting as a doctor in Dalamu Sect, where he healed many different disciples.

"Yes, Elder Roan."

Vinkin then approached the kid and asked, "Have you ever cultivated before?"

"No, sir."

Immediately, Vinkin saw a problem there. Roan asked him to check the kid's meridians. But since the kid wasn't a cultivator yet, he hadn't opened them yet. That was obviously a test. "Alright, I'll send Spiritual Energy inside your body. Try to feel it."

Vinkin did exactly that for a moment and asked again, "Did you feel it?" The kid nodded and waited for Vinkin to continue. "My Spiritual Energy is different from the environment around you since it was processed by me. However, it's still Spiritual Energy. Now that you know how it is, you should be able to feel the Spiritual Energy around you. You need to use it to enter the first stage of the Body Transformation Realm, Blood Replacement."

Vinkin then gave the kid a few more instructions until the boy finally succeeded in absorbing some Spiritual Energy. After checking the kid's body while he did that, Vinkin thought about the time when he

started to cultivate and the Body Transformation Realm manuals he had available. The kid's constitution was somewhat different from his, but he could imagine which of the manuals he had tried before would be a good fit for him.

Vinkin then looked at Roan before saying, "Elder Roan, he's still an ordinary kid, so his meridians aren't open for me to check. However, after probing his body while he absorbed Spiritual Energy, I reached the conclusion that the Gold Mud Body Transformation Manual would be quite good for him."

Roan closed his eyes for a moment before remembering the contents of that Earth-type manual. It wasn't really an actual cultivation manual since one could only be considered a cultivator when entering the Energy Gathering Realm and creating a dantian. It didn't matter for Roan, though. He was just assessing Vinkin's analysis skills to see if it fit the boy. "Indeed, the Gold Mud Body Transformation Manual would be good for him. It's good to see that you had been paying attention to the classes. Alright, send the kid to the manual repository so that he can get it."

Vinkin sighed in relief, knowing that he did a good job. "Yes, Elder Roan."

After that, Roan looked behind where Malo and the others were waiting. "This is the type of thing I want you to do with the rest of the kids. I'll keep my Spiritual Sense spread while you assess the kids. If you have any doubts, come talk to me. Of course, I'll warn you if I see you making some mistake." Roan then looked at the disciples guarding the door. "Alright, send more kids this time. Ask them their Elemental Affinities so that they can match Malo and the others."

Although there were 1587 kids to be checked, Rean and Roan had also taught more than 40 disciples to become real supporters. Each assessment took around five to ten minutes, so it wasn't like it took very long. Roan would receive questions from everyone every now and then and point out mistakes as well. Nonetheless, by the time the last kid left the building, Roan was quite satisfied with the results.

"It seems like you will be able to hold your own even if I'm not here to tell you what to do. Although you came to me to ask questions, the truth was that some of your peers probably already knew the answers, so you could rely on each other. Alright, that's all from me for now. Except for Suana, the rest of you can leave and go back to your own things."

Suana was the disciple who took care of the Mission Hall, and she was later made an elder of the sect. Her abilities at administrating things were very good, so she had her own team to help her with those tasks. She was the one responsible for most of the organization and tasks given during this first sect recruitment.

"Suana, there's a boy called Zuo Fin. Bring him to me later," Roan asked.

Suana was surprised to hear that since Roan would never spend more time than he needed with anyone...except Calina, perhaps. Of course, she didn't ask why and simply nodded. "Alright, Elder Roan."

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Chapter 875: Zuo Fin

Zuo Fin was one of the ex-slave kids that came from the Zafins territories. He succeeded in passing the Marathon and Spiritual Energy Pressure test. However, his performance in both was nothing remarkable, which made Suana confused. If there was anything unexpected, it was the fact that he was already in the Body Transformation Realm's Spiritual Vision stage. Of course, that wasn't anything amazing either. 'Why would Elder Roan ask for this boy?'

It was then that she noticed something. 'Wait! I haven't seen this Zuo boy during the evaluation.' Suana quickly browsed through the documents with the disciples who passed by Roan's checking. Sure enough, Zuo Fin was not one of them. However, she found out that Zuo Fin did take his badge. 'Why didn't he come to get a cultivation technique?'

Suana became more curious as she started to ask her subordinates to look for the kid. The sect was big, but not to the point someone could disappear inside. It didn't take long for a disciple to find Zuo Fin sitting on a boulder as he looked out in the distance. It didn't seem like he was doing anything at all. "Hey, are you Zuo Fin?"

Zuo was surprised someone called his name and quickly looked behind. Once he saw the sect disciple, he quickly nodded and replied, "Yes, sir. I'm Zuo Fin."

The disciple then jumped to appear by his side before using his Spiritual Energy to grab Zuo. "There's someone requesting your presence, so you'll have to come with me." Before Zuo could say anything, the disciple already darted in the distance with him on the side. Naturally, that disciple brought Zuo to where Suana was working, the sect's office.

"Is this the boy?" Suana asked the disciples.

"Yes. He's Zuo Fin."

"Very well, you can leave now."

The disciple then left Suana and Zuo together in the room. Eventually, Suana asked what was bothering her. "Why didn't you appear for the evaluation of your abilities? Everyone else already got their cultivation manuals and should start to cultivate anytime soon. You're a new disciple, so you shouldn't let this opportunity pass up."

Zuo scratched the back of his head, clearly with some issues. Nevertheless, he still replied, "Can I... cultivate on my own? I won't bother anyone, nor will I ask for resources without taking missions to earn them. I just prefer to be alone."

Suana narrowed her eyes after hearing that. That wasn't exactly the answer she was expecting. "No can do. Everyone has to take part in the evaluation. It's the sect's duty to make sure its disciples will take the right path." Soon after, she took an Elemental Affinity Orb from one of the shelves in the office. "Let me check your Elemental Affinity first. Once I find out which affinity you have, I can ask the right disciple to help you select a cultivation technique." Well, in fact, the one who would help him is Roan. Suana was just curious to see what was different with this boy.

However, when Zuo saw the orb, he took a few steps back. It was obvious that he didn't want to touch it. "Why are you running away? Have you never seen an Affinity Orb before?"

It was then that a voice echoed inside Suana and Zuo's minds, telling them, 'There's no need to test his affinity. Our sect definitely doesn't have a cultivation technique suitable for it.'

Suana was taken aback as she immediately understood that it was Roan who talked to them. 'E-Elder Roan!'

Zuo, of course, was even more shocked. From the expression on his face, it looked like he knew what Roan was talking about.

Roan didn't care about that, though. 'Stop wasting time and send him to me. I'll deal with it.'

'Yes, Elder Roan,' Suana replied straight away. Roan's words only made Suana even more curious. But with Roan's intervention, she wouldn't dare to wait any longer and quickly brought Zuo to Roan's residence close to Freedom Mountain's peak. It was just a small hut, quite similar to the one he and Old Worm passed their time in the past. Not too far from it, there was a bigger building, which was the place where Rean and Qia lived. Of course, it was empty at the moment since the couple was out installing and testing the antennas. "Elder Roan, I've brought the boy."

As soon as she said that, the door of the hut opened as a woman came out. Suana immediately recognized her. "Senior Calina, Elder Roan asked me to bring this boy to him."

Calina nodded with a smile and patted the boy's head. She could tell that he was very young, around 7 to 8 years of age. "So you're Zuo Fin, huh? My husband is waiting for you inside." Calina then looked at Suana and said, "Thank you for bringing him here. I'll take care of it from here on out."

Suana then looked at Zuo one last time before leaving without saying a word. As for Zuo, it looked more like he wanted to flee from the scene. He was just a kid and had just joined the sect. It was normal for him to feel like that, especially since he was trying to avoid attention.

Calina then brought the kid inside and went to the living room, which wasn't that big. There, she gave him a few snacks while Zuo waited for Roan to come. Roan was working on some potions, so he was quite busy.

Time passed, and two hours went by in a flash. Calina entertained the kid, which made Zuo relax a bit. Eventually, the door of the alchemy room opened, and the smell of spiritual herbs came out, assaulting their noses. "Alright, I'm done with it." Soon after, Roan looked at Zuo and said, "There's no need for you to worry. I know that your Elemental Affinity isn't any of the main five elements. So, how about you show it to me?"

Roan quickly took another Elemental Affinity Orb from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and told Zuo, "Put your hand on it."

Zuo felt somewhat conflicted since he was trying to hide it. Yes, he didn't have any of the mainstream elemental affinities. Basically, he was just like Rean and Roan, but without a system.

Calina then patted his head once again, consoling Zuo, "It's fine. The Demon King isn't too bad. I can protect you if there's a need for that."

Roan's mouth twitched a little, but he didn't say anything.

Nevertheless, Zuo nodded after hearing that and touched the orb.

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Chapter 876: Amazing Power

Suddenly, the Affinity Testing Orb began to shine with a gray color. It wasn't silver, like in the power of space, but gray. Sure enough, that was an Elemental Affinity separated from the five elements. Back in Sunkan Planet, Rean and Roan knew of two cultivators with different Elemental Affinities, although they had never met them. It was the first time they saw someone with a different Elemental Affinity in this world other than Rean and Roan.

"This..." Calina couldn't help but ask, "What does the gray color represent?"

Roan shook his head in response, saying, "I have no idea. It's definitely not dark or light. In any case, it's not space either."

It was then that Calina remembered something. "Then, how did you know he had a different Elemental Affinity?"

"That's because of the Yin Energy circulating in his body. It's very different from other men, and I believe Rean would be able to tell the same thing about his Yang Energy. Usually, the energies are very similar for men and women. When I used my Spiritual Sense to feel all the kids during the Spiritual Energy Pressure test, I noticed the difference." Roan, of course, became even more sure when Zuo missed the evaluation.

Soon after, Zuo took his hand away from the orb and looked at Roan, asking, "Is that a bad thing, sir? Will you throw me away from the sect? My parents just got a place to stay in Freedom City. Please don't expel me."

Roan shook his head, easing his worries as he replied, "I'm not going to kick you, boy. In fact, I'm very interested in this element of yours. Why don't you tell me how you found out about it? Do you know what you're capable of?" Roan knew Zuo was in the Spiritual Vision Stage of the Body Transformation Realm, so he should be able to control a little bit of his Spiritual Energy. Only with that would he know about the peculiarity of his own Elemental Affinity.

Zuo still looked nervous. However, with Calina there, he nodded once again before he raised his hand. The little bit of Spiritual Energy he could control was used to gather that gray element right after. After that, Zuo looked around the room before pointing it at a metal bowl on the table.

Vup!

As if attracted by a mysterious force, the metal bowl flew in his hand's direction, being grabbed by Zuo.

Calina and Roan were surprised to see that outcome. That's because they had their Spiritual Senses activated all the time. If Zuo had used Spiritual Energy to grab the bowl, they would have felt it. However, the amount of Spiritual Energy he could control wouldn't be enough for that. Even if it was, Roan and Calina didn't feel his Spiritual Energy leaving Zuo's body at all.

"What kind of power was that?" Calina asked straight away.

Roan had an idea, though. Muttering, he asked, "Could it be magnetism?"

"Magnetism?" Both Calina and Zuo's attentions were piqued after hearing that. Obviously, even Zuo had no idea what kind of power he had. He simply knew he could do that.

Roan didn't explain. Instead, he took out several pieces of equipment from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. They were several types of metals and alloys, which were perfect for testing Zuo's power. If it was magnetism, he should be able to attract all of them, maybe just varying in force of attraction due to the metal type. "Go ahead and try to take these things with your power one by one. Make sure you keep a distance of at least three meters to check the power's strength as well."

Zuo took a deep breath and then started his work. In the end, it was as Roan imagined. Zuo was able to attract and repulse the metals as he wished. The only differences were due to each metal's varying

levels of ferromagnetism. Some suffered more from it, like pure iron equipment, while others not so much. Nevertheless, it was a success.

"I guess that pretty much confirms it. Zuo's Elemental Affinity is Magnetism." Seeing Calina and Zuo's confused expression, Roan continued his explanation. "Magnetism is the type of force that acts on any metals that are ferromagnetic. If you want a more detailed explanation, you better ask Rean about it. My knowledge of this field is limited. Anyway, because magnetism wasn't a force used in the cultivation world, Rean probably never counted it when making his weapons. That's why all of them are susceptible to this power. Well, he shouldn't anyway since I doubt we would find another person with the same power as Zuo."

In the end, Calina and Zuo only looked more confused, which made Roan give up on explaining. "Anyway, you just need to understand that it works on most metals. At the very least, on most metals used for weapons, especially high-level ones."

Calina nodded and asked the most important thing. "Does that mean it is a strong element?"

Roan shook his head as he replied, "I don't know. It will all depend on how strong it can become and if he can control it or not. For example, if he tries to use the attraction force to steal someone's weapon, it would be very helpful. However, if he can't control and simply use it discriminately, chances are that he would attract a lot of debris from the surroundings. After all, a cultivator would be able to exert a lot of strength to keep his weapon at hand."

Of course, Roan knew that Spiritual Energy changed everything. "Zuo, when you try to attract something, are you able to control which one you can attract?"

Zuo pondered over it for a bit before nodding. "Yes, senior. They are...different." Zuo was still a kid, so he didn't know how to explain it well.

However, Roan understood what he meant. "You want to say that the power of magnetism you feel inside each piece of equipment is different. That's why you can select which one to control with your Spiritual Energy and Elemental Affinity. Is that correct?"

Zuo's expression brightened as he nodded vigorously. "Yes! Yes! That is what I wanted to say!"

Roan immediately understood after hearing that as he could not help but say, "Kid, you have an amazing power in your hands."

Death... and me

Chapter 877: Give Up the Demon King

Calina then asked Roan, "What do you plan to do with him?"

Roan pondered over it for a bit and then looked at the kid, deciding to ask, "Zuo, right? Are you willing to be my personal disciple?"

Calina could not help but widen her eyes after hearing that. Roan had helped all the disciples so far. Although he was strict, he was also respected due to how good his training was. However, Roan had never dedicated too much time to a single person...except Rean. Well, if Rean didn't improve, that would be a risk to his own life, so he had no choice. Otherwise, he might have killed Rean already.

He did put more effort into Calina and the others, but that was more or less it. This was the first time he actively sought someone to train under his wing, a real disciple. Naturally, that went against everything Calina believed.

Well, she wasn't the only one.

[Rean, Rean, Rean! Roan has just asked a kid called Zuo to be his personal disciple! That Roan! Quick, come see it!] Sister Orb exclaimed as she had a hard time believing what she just said.

"What?!" Rean screamed out of nowhere. That obviously caught the attention of Qia and the others. However, before they could ask him what happened, Rean sent them a Spiritual Sense message, telling them, 'Something came up. Continue without me. I'll be back as soon as I resolve it. Don't worry, though. It's nothing bad.' Rean then disappeared right in front of everyone, much to their surprise. Even Govin didn't know how Rean did that as he simply disappeared from his Spiritual Sense's range.

Rean didn't care, though. He used the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm to teleport straight into Roan's living room. One must remember that as long as Rean and Roan were connected, they could enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and leave it in the location where the other was. It's just that Rean would have to make his way back normally after he was done. Well...he didn't mind it at all this time around.

"Where? Where?! Where is your personal disciple?! Wait! Did you really take a personal disciple? Are you okay? Did someone hit you in the head?" Rean already appeared in the room, throwing hundreds of questions at once.

Pah!

Ouch!

Roan then hit him on the backhead with a dark expression. "Did we agree that we wouldn't come out in the other's location without warning the other first? What the hell are you thinking?!"

Calina and Zuo looked at that without knowing what to do. Well, Zuo was more interested in how Rean appeared in the middle of the room out of thin air.

Rean rubbed the back of his head as he looked around, just in time to see Zuo looking at him. After that, he asked, "Oh! Could that be your personal disciple?"

Roan shook his head as he replied, "I just asked him if he wanted to be my personal disciple or not. Then, you barged in before the kid could even give me an answer."

"Is that so?" Rean smiled at Zuo and asked, "What is it that caught this ice block's attention? Could it be that you are the reincarnation of a god?"

Zuo felt even more nervous. "I...I don't know what reincarnation is."

Rean shook his head in response. "Forget it. The fact is that you haven't accepted Roan as your master yet." Rean then patted the kid's head before saying, "Give up on that Demon King over there. You should become my disciple instead. I don't know what caught Roan's attention, but it's bound to be really good!"

Bang!

Crack, crack, crack...

Crash!

This time, Roan didn't hold back and sent Rean flying with a kick. "Go fuck yourself! Next time you start saying bullshit, I'll break all your bones!"

Rean then got up while vomiting blood. Roan was really ruthless, so he received quite some damage. However, he still had a smile on his face. "See?! That's the type of master you will get. You better stay with me."

[Hahaha! That's it, kid! Follow your big brother Rean instead.] Sister Orb also added oil to the fire...although Zuo couldn't see where Sister Orb's voice was coming from.

The more Rean and Sister Orb could bother Roan, the happier they would feel. Injuries? Rean had his Instant Recovery skill. As long as he didn't lose his head, he would be back to normal in seconds. Of course, that didn't mean he didn't feel any pain. It's just that Rean thought that it was worth it.

As for Sister Orb? She could trash Roan anytime she wanted to if he entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, so she wasn't afraid at all.

Roan really began to lose his patience. "Perhaps dying with you won't be so bad as long as I kill you first."

While the three idiots kept aiming at each others' throats, Calina sighed and took Zuo's hand. Unsurprisingly, Rean's plan worked very well, and Roan's outburst scared him a lot. "Don't worry, little guy. Rean is basically the only one the Demon King treats like that." Well, there's Kentucky and Malaka, but Calina thought it was better not to mention those two lost cases. "Besides, I'll be here with you as well. If he hurts you, tell big sister. I'll definitely protect you."

Rean, who was in a brawl against Roan while Sister Orb cheered, thought that it was enough already. "Hahaha! Alright, alright! I'll stop." Rean's Light Element then covered his body as it healed his injuries in the blink of an eye.

Finally, he decided to offer some help, saying, "Zuo, I was just joking. I like to make him angry, that's all. However, Roan is indeed a very good master. You and your parents have a lot to gain if you accept his offer."

It was then that Rean remembered, deciding to ask Roan, "Oh, right! Why do you want to take this kid as your first personal disciple?"

Sister Orb quickly summarized the situation through a Spiritual Sense Message.

"Magnetism?!" Rean began to pat Zuo's shoulder with a smile. "Kid, what an amazing power you have. On second thought, I think I really want to take you as my disciple instead."

Death... and me

Chapter 878: Roan's Pill

Roan's expression turned dark again, which made Rean give up on the idea. "Fine! You can have him." Rean then looked at Zuo before saying, "However, don't forget we're around nine months away from the opening of the Bestial Sacred Land. You better make things clear to him."

"You don't say, mister obvious." Roan didn't forget that point.

Soon after, Rean left the hut and bid farewell. "Alright, I need to go back to work. I'm quite far away, after all." Rean knew he would need to fly a few hours to arrive in the city he was working in, but he still thought it was worth the trouble.

Roan finally got some peace after that. "Zuo Fin, it is, as that guy says. I can be your master and teach you as many things as possible. However, there's a task I have to do ten months from now. I don't know if I'll be back from there or not, so you might end up on your own after that."

Calina shook her head in response, saying, "He won't be on his own. He will still have the Freedom Sect to rely on." Calina then smiled at Zuo as she continued, "Of course, I'll be going with Roan as well. You better think well about it."

Zuo didn't understand very well all of that, so he simply asked what mattered for him the most. "What about my parents? Will they be able to live well?"

"Of course!" Calina answered straight away. "All the parents of the disciples that just joined the sect will be taken care of by the sect. You don't need to worry about that."

"Then, I accept." With that, Zuo finally decided to take the offer. He still didn't know what a great opportunity it was, nor how lucky it was Roan who found him. In any case, that would become more apparent in the future.

"Very good," Roan said as he touched Zuo's back. "Now, try to use your Spiritual Energy and Element once again. I want to check your body."

Calina couldn't help but mention, "Isn't it a problem to have a different element? After all, we definitely don't have a cultivation manual for him."

Sure enough, this planet wasn't different regarding this point. There were only cultivation manuals for those of the five mainstream elements. The only exception was the Body Transformation Realm, in which a few generic ones could be acquired. But once Zuo entered the Energy Gathering Realm, he would be clueless on what to do.

However, Roan shook his head, saying, "If there isn't a cultivation manual for Magnetism, then I just need to create one," Roan said that in a very confident tone. He had memorized thousands of different manuals. Not to mention that Roan had modified many of them as well. If he wanted to, he could come up with a cultivation manual for each element.

Zuo then followed Roan's instruction and used his Spiritual Energy and Element. They continued like that for a few minutes before Roan asked, "Alright, which Body Transformation Manual have you been using so far?"

The boy shook his head, replying, "I don't know. It was my parents who taught me how to cultivate. They are also in the Body Transformation Realm...or so they said."

Roan didn't mind that as he said in response, "Alright, then repeat to me the things they told you to do while cultivating." As long as he knew the process, he would be able to identify it.

Zuo did as Roan asked. Eventually, Roan understood which manual Zuo was using. "From what you told and showed me, you're using the Down to Earth Body Transformation Manual. It's a pretty common manual but has the advantage of being able to be used by anyone." Roan then pondered on which manual he should give Zuo instead.

"Forget it. Just keep using this manual of yours. Its properties will be helpful once you enter the Energy Gathering Realm." Soon after, Roan took a pill out and gave it to Zuo. "Swallow it. I made it with a few rare herbs. Since you're already in the Spiritual Vision Stage of the Body Transformation Realm, it should be enough to allow you to breakthrough."

Zuo was surprised to hear that since he knew how hard it was to breakthrough. Obviously, he didn't think about any possible consequence as a kid and took the pill straight away. Well, that suited Roan's need anyway.

Following that, Zuo felt a surge of medicinal and spiritual power in his body. In just a few moments, he reached the peak of the Spiritual Vision Stage and was ready to open his meridians.

"Follow your cultivation manual. The pill's medicinal power will assault your closed meridians and help you open them. They will also be a lot wider than ordinary meridians, thanks to that. However, brace yourself for some pain. My pill will destroy any impurity in your meridians, and that's quite annoying."

Arrgh!

As soon as Roan said that, Zuo felt the pain. Naturally, he started to cry straight away. "Stop crying! If you don't start opening the meridians, the medicinal power will make your body burst apart. Do you want to blow into thousands of pieces?"

Roan's words scared Zuo out of his mind. He finally understood why the guy was called the Demon King. Zuo then gritted his teeth and tried to remember his parents' teachings.

Roan nodded as he saw that Zuo began to open his meridians with his Spiritual Sense. At the same time, his pill's properties widened them and got rid of all impurities on their paths. Calina, Malaka, Agis, and the others in Roan's group already passed through that once they returned to the sect, so Calina could imagine what Zuo was feeling. 'Well, this is for his future.'

One meridian, two meridians, three...with the help of Roan's pill, Zuo opened his meridians in record time. Usually, that would be enough to kill the kid. However, Roan made that pill using both Dark and Light Element, so Rean's Light Element protected his body in the process. When the final meridian was open, the medicinal power of Roan's pill ran out.

Thud!

Following that, the kid fell to the ground, unconscious.

Death... and me

Chapter 879: Rean Needs Help

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery.'

Roan's hair turned black and white as he healed Zuo's body. With Rean's skill, bringing Zuo back to his shape wasn't anything hard to do, especially since their cultivation difference was so big. However, Zuo was still fatigued, so he wouldn't wake up until the next day.

A few hours later, somewhere else, Rean finally made his way back to the city where his group was working. "How is it? Did you finish setting up the antenna?"

Qia narrowed her eyes in response, saying, "How would we? The person responsible for the critical parts suddenly disappeared and left us hanging. You're the only Heaven-level Formation Master here, you know?"

Rean bitterly smiled after hearing that. "Ahem...of course, I knew that. Let's finish it, shall we?" Rean quickly talked with Qia and the others before beginning to work on his part of the project. Also, he made a mental note to himself. 'I need to help them enter the Nascent Soul Realm as soon as possible so that they can use Heaven-level Formations. As long as they have the cultivation, I'm confident I can let them reach that level. I can't keep working alone on these small runes forever.'

Sometime later, the antenna was finished, and the protection formations were put in place. "Alright, try to send and receive some messages now."

Things continued like that until Rean's group finally got all twenty antennas installed. Once that was done, they returned to the sect with all the disciples to try things out. Sure enough, they found many problems even though the project itself had worked. Well, it was not like they didn't expect it.

However, instead of working on the issues, Rean changed what the group what to do, saying, "I'll ask Roan to make a few Heaven-level Cross-Realm Pills. That will help Dian and Srevil, already in the Peak of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, enter the Nascent Soul Realm." Sure enough, he immediately began to work on creating more Heaven-level Formation Masters.

Rean wanted to do that for Qia as well. Unfortunately, Qia was still in the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. If they forced her cultivation to go up an entire stage with pills, her foundation was bound to suffer the consequences. "Qia, I can only tell you to focus on your cultivation for the next three months. Once you enter the Peak of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm using the right method, we can use a Heaven-level Cross-Realm Pill to let you enter the Nascent Soul Realm."

Qia didn't mind, though. "It's fine. Srevil and Dian should be enough to help you with the formations. Also, since you're helping them enter the Nascent Soul Realm, they will be in even more debt to the sect. Just go ahead and help the two."

Rean smiled in response after that. "Alright."

Dian and Srevil, obviously, couldn't thank Rean enough. Qia was right. They felt to be in great debt with the sect after that. In fact, they didn't mind it. Even if someone asked for them to leave without having to pay anything back, those two wouldn't do so. They understood that this was only the beginning.

Roan didn't like Rean's request, though. "Do you think the materials for Heaven Initial-level Cross-Realm Pills are easy to get? Even if I can concoct them without any issues, I don't have that many herbs. If you want me to do that, go outside and bring me more herbs."

Rean didn't like how Roan worded it either. "What about your herb garden in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm? Can't you use the herbs there? The World Essence Formation should be making them grow quite nicely."

"Forget about the garden," Roan said, unwilling to touch it. "The way the herbs there are growing up, they will definitely become materials above Heaven-level in a few years. I don't want to touch them."

Rean sighed, but Roan was adamant on not touching his own herb garden. "Fine! I'll head to Freedom City and see if I can get the herbs there."

One must remember that Freedom City was still the place where a lot of Nascent Soul and Soul Transformation Realm cultivators gathered, hoping to join the Freedom Sect at some point. There were bound to be a few cultivators there with the herbs Rean needed. He could make Heaven-level equipment, so he could trade for those. 'Dian and Srevil better work to the bones once I get the pills.'

The next day, the Freedom Sect sent some news out. Two Core and Soul Fusion Realm cultivators who had just joined the sect had broken through to the Nascent Soul Realm. That was thanks to one of its elders' pills, which made that bottleneck that haunted so many cultivators as thin as paper. Some of the cultivators outside knew who Dian and Srevil were. That only helped increase everyone's wishes to enter the Freedom Sect at any cost.

Rean also gave those two some Cultivation Stabilizing Pills to help out with the chaotic energy in their dantians. "You have two weeks to get it under control. I know that it's not enough to stabilize it completely, but it should be enough to not get in the way of your work anymore. Once that's done, I'll help you become Heaven Initial-level Formation Masters."

It would be a lie if Qia said she wasn't jealous of those two. Nevertheless, she knew her moment would eventually come.

While those things happened in the Freedom Sect and its territories, the world outside wasn't sitting still either. Many changes were constantly happening in Wringan Continent, with the emergence of new cities and countries led by cultivators. Malo kept receiving news of these places and constantly sent messages out, telling the new powers about the Freedom Sect.

According to Malo's plan, the idea was to make the Freedom Sect the go-to sect in Wringan Continent. With Fizer's name, the cultivators of the Demon Beast Continent immediately recognized it as well. The humans from the Zasfin territories didn't take it seriously, though. However, Malo didn't mind.

"Everything has a start. They will come to understand that this is the center of power of the human world sooner or later."

Death... and me

Chapter 880: Live Up to It's Name

And so, three months had gone by, just like that. Freedom City kept receiving more and more cultivators from the outside, knowing about the Freedom Sect and Fizer's power. Celis had also finished spreading his roots, so the concentration of Spiritual Energy stabilized at the Rank Three level over the entire island.

During this time, Malo combed through the cultivators in Freedom City, taking into the sect as guest elders the ones who could help with its development. As for the ones who stayed in Freedom City, they weren't feeling bad at all. Freedom City had soon become a trade center, where many cultivators who didn't intend to stay there came to trade. Because of that, the cultivators who first arrived on the island and took their pieces of land started to profit a lot from it.

Information from outside kept coming through the sect's efforts as well. Soon, a map of Wringan was drawn out, and the countries that started to emerge were included there. By now, twelve countries, including Fausec, now seemed to have a real foothold in their territory. As for the others, they were going through disputes with other powers, or there were simply not enough cultivators there to guarantee their control.

Back in the sect, Govin, who was already in the Nascent Soul Realm, had finally broken through into a Heaven Initial-level blacksmith. Rean also taught him about the Elemental Gathering Metal. Of course, not only was he taught about it but the best disciples as well. By now, Rean didn't need to be the one crafting to make all the weapons for the disciples of the sect.

The same thing happened in the Formation Hall. Srevil and Dian were as knowledgeable as Qia, but they did succeed in creating a Heaven Initial-level Circuitry Formation. Because of her cultivation, Qia couldn't do that yet. For Rean, that was very good since those two were able to take a lot of the job and research he had into their hands.

Inside one of the rooms of the Formation Hall, Rean used another Circuitry Formation Device to work on something. He was accompanied by Srevil, Qia, Dian, and a few of the other disciples as well. As

mentioned before, the runes had to decrease in size, and the cultivators' hands were already not enough for that anymore. That's why the Minuscule Rune Carving Formation was created.

Dian and Srevil used their Spiritual Senses together with Rean, working on the new piece of equipment. "Dian, move the receptor runes half a millimeter to the left. Srevil can keep holding the current while we test the new position."

Dian nodded, saying in response, "Sure. Just be careful with the connections since I'm too busy to stop them with my Spiritual Energy."

Srevil also added his piece, telling the others, "In fact, it should be better if we spread out the protection runes more sparsely. The Minuscule Rune Carver is already at its limit. We won't be able to keep it like that until the disciples finish developing the next version."

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Rean pondered over it for a bit and nodded, eventually saying, "Alright, let me separate them a little."

A few hours went by when suddenly, a sound echoed in the room.

Plin!

The new device they were working on turned on as it connected to the sect's antenna. That immediately made Rean and everyone else's eyes light up. "Great! It is working!"

Rean's group had been working on the antenna's flaws as well, and they had already found a solution for most of its problems. The remaining issues wouldn't bother them for a while since there were simply not enough communication formations installed for them to occur yet.

Dian couldn't help but say, "Quick, try to send a message with it."

As expected, the new device was a new version of the Spiritual Smartphone. One that had its major flaw fixed.

'Hello! Can you hear me?'

'Yes, Elder Rean! I can hear you!'

Everyone cheered when the messages had been passed through correctly.

"It was about time for it to be done."

"Don't forget to save the information in the jade slip blueprints. Next time we try to make one, it'll be several times faster."

"Say goodbye to the brick era!"

Qia then took it in her hands before asking, "I understand that you wanted to reduce the size of it. However, why did you set a protection formation, and one at the Heaven-level at that? Isn't that a little too overpowered?"

"Of course not!" Rean answered as he shook his head. "We are cultivators who might go into battle at any moment. If we kept the same sturdiness as the brick, it would break with any hard movement, especially at the Nascent Soul level. We needed something that could bear the grunt so that its owner could use it in an emergency."

This wasn't the second version after the brick, though. Rean's group had tried five more different prototypes, but they all failed or did not meet the requirements set by Rean. This one had a higher coverage area, being able to send messages back to the nearest antenna up to a thousand kilometers away as long as one was outside. Considering its size, that was a huge feat and another reason why wireless signals that could bend with Spiritual Energy were so much better. This was the first one that seemed to be able to do that.

Qia looked at it for a moment before she gathered her Spiritual Energy in her fist and punched the new Spiritual Smartphone.

Bang!

She was almost near the Peak of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, so the strength behind that attack was no joke. Of course, she didn't use her full strength since it was just a test.

Bzzzzzzzz!

Just as the energy of her attack was about to hit the device, its thousands of microcircuitry protection runes activated together. The Heaven Initial-level Circuitry Protection Formation inside created a dissipation barrier, protecting the device. The Spiritual Smartphone was still sent flying like a cannonball, though.

Crash!

It hit the wall, creating a small hole in it. Rean then used his Spiritual Energy and took it back to check. He pressed a few of the numbers on it and tried to communicate once again. Sure enough, the message passed through as if nothing had happened at all. "Hahaha! This is the sturdiest communication circuitry formation device ever!"

Everyone nodded until a disciple remembered something, deciding to ask, "By the way, elder Rean. What's the name of this new version?"

Rean pondered over it for a bit before a name popped in his head. "This guy is basically indestructible to those below the Nascent Soul Realm." Rean then smiled as he said in response, "Let's just call it the Nokia 3310. I just hope it can live up to its name."