

Death 881

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Chapter 881: Development

After the disciples asked what the name meant, Rean just smiled in response and didn't explain. Obviously, only Rean could understand the weight of that name. Indeed, it would be very good if it could be as resistant as the real deal.

"Alright, let's do a few more tests and see if it has any other problems. If not, we're going to mass-produce it using the blueprints we've devised. We need to use it to make other circuitry formation machines that can automatically assemble everything together, or at least the most common parts used in them." A good thing about the Minuscule Rune Carver was that it saved a lot of materials. That being said, even though it had a built-in Heaven Initial-level Protection Formation, its cost wasn't that high.

Of course, that was only considering the assets of cultivators at the Core Formation Realm and above. Those below it would probably have a hard time paying for the materials even if it was a lot cheaper than the first version, let alone the finalized product.

Liza immediately replied in place for the other low-level disciples, saying, "Don't worry, Rean. We have been following the instructions carefully. I believe we will have a prototype for the new iteration of the Minuscule Rune Carving Formation in the next few days. Once that is completed, creating those... 'Nokia'...circuitry devices wouldn't be too hard."

Rean was satisfied to hear that. "Very good."

Qia then changed the topic to the next step of the plan, telling the others, "Okay, we finally have a reliable Spiritual Smartphone. What we need now is to expand the coverage of our phone signals. At the moment, we're only active in Fausec Country and nowhere else."

Hearing that, Rean immediately spread his Spiritual Sense, trying to find Malo's location. 'Oh! There you are.'

Malo, who was discussing a few things with Fizer about his cultivation, immediately replied, 'Elder Rean. What is it that you need?'

'Have you finished the preparations I talked about with you?' Rean asked in response.

Malo knew what Rean was talking about, replying without delay, 'Yes. The other new countries that emerged south of Fausec have already received the news. They should come in the next few days to check the communication system. As long as you convince them, you should be able to build the antennas in their territories.'

Rean nodded, saying in response, 'That's good. Well, I would be able to build them even if they didn't want to. The Circuitry Communication System is a must for the future of the human race. On this point alone, I won't let anyone intervene with it, even if I have to use Senior Fizer's influence.'

Fizer, who also heard that conversation, didn't seem to mind. 'Just go ahead and use it. I still intend to be around by the time our thousand years of protection are over. By that time, I hope the human race will have the best tools to defend itself.'

Rean then looked at Qia and the others after that, telling them, "Alright, I already confirmed with Malo that the representatives of the countries below are on their way to Freedom Sect."

Srevil took the chance to add, "In that case, let's separate our Formation Masters into two teams. I'll enter Liza's low-level group that's currently working on the new Minuscule Rune Carving Formation. With my help as a Heaven Initial-Level Formation Master, we should be able to hasten the process."

Dian understood what Srevil wanted to do, stepping up as he said, "In that case, I'll focus on building more version 7.2 antennas. Rean, Qia, I'll need your help with a few things on this part since the controlling circuitry devices have a lot more complicated parts to build."

"Definitely!" Rean and Qia understood that and accepted the idea. Rean was also happy to see that others could take on the main jobs without him having to say anything. Even if Srevil hadn't suggested it, Rean would have done so.

Meanwhile, inside Roan's hut close to the top of the mountain, Zuo was sitting on the ground, controlling his Spiritual Energy and Elemental Gathering. Around him, many pieces of metals, may it be weapons or other things, were floating in midair.

"Concentrate on the steps of the magnetism cultivation manual I've devised," Roan said on his side. "If you feel any discomfort, no matter how negligible it is, tell me straight away. Rare Elemental Affinities are very dangerous since they're usually the first ones to try new cultivation methods. You're different from the five mainstream elements, whose cultivation manuals were refined tens of thousands of times during countless years. They won't need to worry about backlashes anymore, but you do."

"Yes, Master!" Zuo continued to control his cultivation and the magnetism around him without stopping. At first, Zuo felt nervous about being around Roan. The Demon King always had a cold expression, and he was afraid that he would be rebuked at any time. However, that feeling didn't last long since Roan was quite nice to him.

Roan's wife, Calina, often took Zuo all the way to Freedom City to visit his parents. There, he saw that the sect really took good care of them and his siblings.

As for his training, as long as Zuo was serious about it, Roan wouldn't be so harsh when mistakes came out. He just had to learn from those mistakes. Any injury he suffered was healed straight away as well. Simply put, Zuo had a cultivation environment that even the descendants of the Sasamil Royal Family back in Sunkan Planet would envy.

Back then, when Roan took him in as a disciple, Roan helped him break through into the Energy Gathering Realm. After that, Roan instructed him to stop cultivating until a magnetism cultivation manual was created. For that, Roan had Zuo try many different things while checking every corner of Zuo's body, meridians, elemental control, and dantian.

Today, it has been ten days since the first version of the magnetism cultivation manual came out, and it was already at the third version. That was because Zuo found problems with the first two, which Roan instantly discarded without even blinking. Roan was really going all out for his new and only disciple.

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Chapter 882: Zuo's Training

Suddenly, Zuo's eyes twitched slightly. Naturally, Roan noticed straight away as he also felt a disturbance in the flow of Zuo's Spiritual Energy. With that, he asked, "What is it?"

The metal items floating around Zuo soon dropped to the ground before Zuo explained, "I felt a sharp pain in my dantian when I jumped to the fifth step of the manual." Of course, it wasn't as if Zuo could

already read. He was participating in the school's classes every morning. Nevertheless, it was too early for him to suddenly understand everything. Roan was the one who explained to him the steps every time he finished a new magnetism cultivation manual.

"A sharp pain?" Roan pondered over it for a bit. "I know what it is. The fifth step requires you to mix the Magnetic Force into the Spiritual Energy passing through your meridians. I thought that since Magnetism was your Elemental Affinity, your dantian wouldn't suffer from the additional element. Your dantian wasn't very happy with it, though. Too bad. If it had worked, your cultivation speed would have increased by 10% or so."

Roan then took out a booklet from the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and began to use his Spiritual Energy to write a few things while wiping out others. He could use a jade slip, but he preferred to write them instead. There wasn't really a reason for it. It's just that he felt better that way. "Let's see if I can fix this issue without taking this part out of the cultivation manual."

However, before he finished, Zuo had an idea, much to Roan's surprise. "Master. The issue was not the element of Magnetism itself, but the meridian path used to gather it. Do you mind if I try to use the meridians in my hands instead?"

"Your hands?" Roan had made it so that the closest meridians to Zuo's dantians would be the ones responsible for the absorption of that Magnetic Element. Due to their distance, the hands weren't the best part of the body to do that, so Roan didn't even consider it. Nevertheless, Roan didn't see anything wrong with Zuo's idea. He wasn't a Magnetic Elemental Affinity cultivator, so Zuo might be feeling something he couldn't tell. "Alright. Go ahead and try it. If anything goes wrong, I'll cut the absorption of Spiritual Energy with my Dark Element."

Zuo was happy that Roan accepted his idea and immediately started to work. The metal items and equipment around him began to float once more as the Magnetic Element and Spiritual Energy entered Zuo's body. Of course, only the meridians in his hands were used to send the Magnetic Element mixed with Spiritual Energy directly to his dantian.

Roan couldn't help but raise an eye as he checked Zuo's dantian with his Spiritual Energy. Unlike the previous attempt, the dantian seemed to accept Zuo's change quite well. 'I see... so that's why.'

A few minutes later, Zuo took a deep breath as he stopped cultivating, saying with glee, "Master! It actually worked! I can absorb the mixture together, and it really improved my cultivation speed!"

Roan nodded and gave the boy a rare pat on the head as he complimented him, "That was a very good idea. The issue with the path I selected was that there wasn't enough time for the Magnetic Element to mix with the Spiritual Energy. Naturally, your dantian formed a rejection to that half-mixed energy. However, when you used your hands, the meridian path to the dantian was much longer. The mix of energies was completed during that time, and the dantian didn't feel anything wrong in the end."

Zuo giggled a little, feeling overjoyed from the praise as he asked, "Should I continue like this?"

Roan pondered for a bit before shaking his head, telling him, "No, it's time for your classes to start. I'll take your change into consideration and will make a few improvements during it. Once you're back, we can restart."

Seeing Zuo's slightly annoyed face, Roan immediately rebuked him. "If you say you don't like studying, you better be ready for a lot of pain. Also, your subject scores will come out in a week. For your own good, I better not see any result below 90%."

Zuo couldn't help but let out cold sweat after that. Roan had never told him that he would check his scores. That's right. Zuo hated going to school...like most kids around his age. It seems that this trait wasn't different even in a cultivation world.

Zuo then left the cultivation room with a fearful expression, trying to figure out how to increase his subject scores in the final week before the results were out.

Roan naturally noticed Zuo's change and mentally snorted in response. How could he not know Zuo's progress in school? He was taking the kid's cultivation very seriously, and that also included his intellectual improvement. However, he left it for the last week to give Zuo a warning. That way, he wouldn't be able to recover from his faults at school in time. This was Roan's way of making sure that Zuo would take school seriously from the next semester onwards.

Calina then entered the room with a slightly confused expression, asking, "What happened? Zuo looked like he had seen a ghost."

Roan nodded in response, saying, "He probably would have preferred to have seen one."

Calina didn't know what Roan did but could imagine what happened since she was talking about Roan. "Oh well, don't push the kid too hard. He's really putting a lot of effort in his cultivation."

"Hmph! Of course, he is!" Roan made sure of that.

It was then that Roan remembered something. "You left to check on Malaka, right? How's she doing?"

Calina shrugged her shoulders as she replied, "What else? She obviously used the baby as an excuse to avoid training. She was in Kentucky's nest, wasting her time while playing with the dumb bird."

Roan couldn't help but comment, "I really don't know how she reached the Late Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm with that attitude. Even her foundation is perfectly stable."

"Perhaps being like that is the best cultivation method for the happy-go-lucky girl," Calina said in response as she sighed.

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Chapter 883: Entertaining the Guests

That just showed that the same method wasn't exactly the best for everyone. Sure, Roan's training definitely helped out a lot. But considering the difference in effort, Malaka should have been behind the others. "Forget it. Leave her be until the baby is born. After that, I'll have her make up for the lost time. Every second of it."

On top of Celis, where Kentucky's nest was located, a certain girl felt a chill on her back. 'I know this feeling. It's definitely Roan,' Malaka thought for a moment before she disappeared from there, much to Kentucky's confusion.

As Malo mentioned, the representatives of the new countries south of Fausec came to pay a visit to Freedom Sect. This time, the sect didn't look too weak, with only Fizer and Julia holding the fort. Instead, Freedom Sect ended up inviting a few of the Nascent Soul and Soul Transformation Realm cultivators from Freedom City as guest elders. Though, they were accepted after they helped in the city's construction with their own resources, gaining the Sect's recognition.

Naturally, they were amazed at the concentration of Spiritual Energy and Yang Energy that kept falling from above. Not only that, but the formations Rean built for the use of the disciples were also something they had never been in contact with before. After all, they were Circuitry Formations that used Sunkan Planet's formations as a foundation. Even if they weren't changed into Circuitry Formations, they would still be better than the ones found in this world.

Because of that, they were more than happy to be used as scaring tools for the sect. Naturally, the representatives from south of Fausec were a lot more willing to hear what Freedom Sect had to say.

"Hello, everyone. My name is Rean, and I'm one of the elders of the Freedom Sect." Rean then started his speech. "I asked all of you to come here because there's something our Freedom Sect, which is the strongest in the human world, wish to do in your territories."

None of the representatives doubted that. Once they saw the number of experts present, they understood that Freedom Sect could conquer their territories without even needing to fight. Fizer alone would be enough.

Rean continued, "We know that all of you had just created your countries, and the same could be said for our sect or the country we are located in. However, make no mistake. We have no intention of taking control of your territories. What we are about to do is for the betterment of the human world once the protection of the demon beasts is over."

The representative of a country called Suamae couldn't help but urge Rean after that, "Can you tell us why you called us already? We understand that we can't go against a power like yours, so make it quick. What is it? Do you want us to pay tributes for your sect? Or perhaps have us do some of your jobs?"

Rean wasn't surprised by those words. Sure enough, in a world where strength was everything, such a train of thought was common. Rean then looked at the representative of Suamae as if he was an idiot. "Let me ask you, are you a fool?"

"Fool?" The guy's expression turned worse after that. "Are you telling me that you won't do such a thing? Who would believe that?"

Rean sighed before continuing, "It seems like you're blind, then. Did you forget the name of our sect? Freedom! Do you think that forcing you guys to pay taxes or donating your forces for our sake is fit for that? Oh, right! You probably thought that the Freedom in our name meant that we would feel free to do whatever we wanted in Wringan Continent, right?"

Another representative immediately nodded after that, asking in response, "Indeed. Could it be that it isn't the case?"

"It isn't the case," Rean answered straight away. "The Freedom in our name was due to the time our members were locked down by the Zasfins. Now that we got out and can live without being worried about them, the sect's disciples chose the name Freedom for it. It's that simple."

Rean then changed the topic, telling them, "Alright, let's enter the main topic. What I want to build in your countries is a new communication system."

"Communication system? Do you mean exchanging Thoughts Transmission Talismans between ourselves? Or using cultivators to exchange messages?"

Rean immediately shook his head, clarifying the idea as he said, "The first option is too expensive. The second one would take forever to communicate. Our method is cheap, or you might say that there's almost no cost at all compared to the Thoughts Transmission Talisman. Last but not least, it allows instantaneous communication over the entire area of coverage at any time."

Rean then turned around as he asked the disciples on the side, "Give them the Nokias, one for each."

Rean then checked their numbers and used his own Spiritual Smartphone to send each number in the guests' smartphones a message. They all saw when their Nokias started to shine with light.

"Send your Spiritual Senses inside. The message I sent you will echo in your minds."

From then on, Rean went on explaining how the device worked. He also had the guests fly far away, just within the range of the antennas, before they exchanged messages between themselves. As long as they filled the Nokias with Spiritual Energy, which wasn't much, it would stay on.

Later that day, all the guests gathered in the Freedom Sect once more. Sure enough, they all looked at their Nokias as if it was some kind of treasure.

Seeing their expressions, Rean knew that they had taken his bait hook, line, and sinker. "Now then, for these devices to work, there's a need for the antennas to be installed within two to three thousand kilometers away from each other. That's why our sect wants permission to install them in your countries. Remember, communication will be the key to the human race's ascension. The south of Fausec Country is just the start. Our sect intends to cover the entire continent with it."

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Chapter 884: You Better Protect Very Well

Everyone liked the idea. However, they also had another problem. "That's good and all. However, wouldn't your sect be privy to our conversations? If we enter a war against some other country, couldn't our enemies pay your sect to have access to our conversations?"

Rean nodded straight away, answering, "I won't lie. Such a thing is possible. As much as I want to say that our sect won't do such a thing, I don't know what will happen in the future. It's not like we will live forever, after all. However, this shouldn't be that big of a problem."

"How come it's not a problem? It's a huge problem!" Obviously, that's what everyone thought.

Rean shook his head in response, though. "Do you have rocks for brains? Even if someone else has access to your messages, can't you simply use codes? As long as you do that, what will be the point in being able to hear what you're saying? No one will understand anyway. Not only that, if you find out that the enemy is listening to your conversations, can't you prepare a trap with that knowledge?" Rean shrugged his shoulders. "Simply put, there are many ways to work around this problem. So, yeah. It's not a big issue."

Everyone went silent after hearing Rean's reasoning. Sure enough, as long as they used codes or perhaps create a language that only they would understand, that problem would be resolved. Also, while no war was happening, the communication system would be pivotal to their own new countries' development. Just how good would it be if all cities could talk to each other with almost no cost?

"Once again, this is a step that my sect has to do for the sake of the human world. Also, let's be honest here. With our Freedom Sect's power, do we even need to use such underhanded methods? We can

simply invade your territories and take them away from you through raw strength alone. Can any of your countries stop us?" Rean asked that with a serious expression.

Eventually, one of the representatives stepped forward before making the request. "My Oscleri Country wishes to have the new communication systems. When can you install it around our cities?"

As if starting a chain reaction, the other representatives began to ask for the same thing.

"My Wespole Country wants to install it as well."

"The same goes for our Zemup Country."

"We also..."

Sure enough, no one wanted to be a country without an instant and cheap communication method. That would delay them way too much and would be even worse if they began to be attacked by a country with a communication system on their side.

However, Rean lifted his hand, telling them, "Not so fast. We'll obviously install the antennas in your country, but that doesn't mean you will have access to it. As cheap as it is compared to Thoughts Transmission Talismans, our sect will be the one responsible for keeping the system working. Naturally, there'll be a price behind it."

No one was surprised by Rean's request. They were talking about a system that would encompass the entire continent. It would be ridiculous to expect the Freedom Sect to pay for everything while they simply used it.

"That's not a problem. As long as the price isn't unreasonable, our Ditrion Country will pay for the rights to use it."

The Ditrion representative wasn't the only one, as all the other representatives soon followed suit. They were only afraid that Rean might ask for too much.

"That's good. The price will vary accordingly to the countries' size and the number of antennas we will need to install. As for the Nokias, they will be sold separately since that's how we will make our profit. In the future, new versions with more options will be added to the market as well." It was then that Rean remembered. "Oh, right. The communication system will be operating under a company managed by our sect. Its name is Freedom Telecommunications LTD."

Someone couldn't help but ask, "Is there really a need to put another name or create a company for that? We all know it's part of the Freedom Sect anyway."

"There is," Rean replied in confirmation. "That's because the Nokias and future versions of the Spiritual Smartphones will be sold in shops all around the continent. In the end, this is a business, not a sect's type of work. The sect will be responsible for its protection but will be separated from everything else."

"Shops?" Another guy immediately understood Rean's meaning. "Do you mean that anyone with money will be able to buy and use your Nokias to talk to each other?"

Rean nodded as he replied, "Exactly! At the moment, the price for each Nokia is more or less what a Core Formation Realm cultivator would consider tolerable. But we will create cheaper versions in the future for the common people. For ordinary humans, gold, silver, and copper are worth a lot more than spirit stones, so we have to provide them with options for that as well. Of course, their smartphones wouldn't be nearly as good and resistant as yours."

Some didn't like the idea since they wanted to monopolize communications inside their own countries. Simply put, that would be a way to keep the power in their hands. However, Rean had no intention of letting that happen. Such countries would eventually fall behind in development due to the oppression of their leaders. That's not what Rean wanted.

"Now then, let's start with the discussion of places where we need to install the antennas. Well, my Freedom Sect already obtained all the information about your territories, so we're just telling you in advance where the antennas will be built."

Rean also added one last piece, telling them, "Last but not least, there are the fines."

"Fines?"

Rean nodded, explaining, "Any country that has an antenna destroyed for whatever reason will have to pay ten times the price of the materials used for it. That's an absolute rule."

Everyone was taken aback after that. "Wait! What if some enemy comes and destroys it instead? Isn't that unfair?"

Rean laughed in response, saying, "Then, you better protect the antennas like your lives depend on it."

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Chapter 885: News

Seeing everyone's dark expressions, Rean then gave them a hint. "Well, if an enemy country really tries to do such a thing to you, what stops you from doing the same thing to them?"

Sure enough, everyone began to glance at each other. After all, such a game could be played by both sides.

Rean also added, "Also, I'm not joking about protecting the antennas like your lives depend on it. If you don't do so, it means that someone is aiming for your forces. Often, those who hold the war of information come out on top. Make sure that you're always on peak condition in that regard."

Well, Rean didn't mind it too much. The important thing was for the whole Wringan Continent to have the communication system working in case they were invaded by someone else. Once again, nothing could really guarantee that humans would have a thousand years of peaceful development.

There was a good piece of information for the countries, though. Rean didn't try to rip them off. He only asked for a price slightly above what the communication devices, antennas, routers, and so on cost. That slightly above was going to be used as payment for the disciples and elders working on the project.

With that, Rean and the representatives of other countries agreed on the final details before Rean told them to head back to their countries and talk to their leaders. Surprisingly, one of them decided to ask, "When will we receive more Spiritual Smartphones...or Nokias? You only gave three samples for each one of us. We will need many more than that as soon as possible."

Rean pondered over it for a bit before answering, "According to the actual stage of development of our machines, it should take around a month or two before it enters the mass production stage. Don't worry. We have all your Nokias' phone numbers. Once they're ready to be shipped out, we will let you know."

Later that day, Rean talked with Malo, telling him that his group would head out of the sect to start the installations. Sreivil was already helping Liza and the other lower-level Formation Masters develop the new Minuscule Rune Carvers. Rean was fine with simply leaving the rest of the mass production to them while he, Qia, and Dian went out to build the antennas.

Of course, the antennas and their controlling devices themselves also had to be built in the sect. That being said, Rean's group separated once again into two teams. One would stay and build the antennas and controlling devices before shipping them out. The other group would work on the installations. And just like that, the Formation and Blacksmith Halls had become extremely busy. One must not forget that there were also many wired communication formations, so it only stacked on top of the massive pile of things to do.

As Rean's group worked on the communication system, the sect wasn't staying idle either. A few weeks later, the sect began to use its experts to visit all the other countries appearing on the continent. The reason for that was because way too many battlefields were appearing. Cultivators were vying for power while the common people suffered. If things continued out like that, maybe more than half of the human population would disappear before the countries' borders finally took shape.

Many of those countries didn't like Freedom Sect's intervention, though. Unfortunately for them, they didn't have the power to defy the Freedom Sect's orders. As time passed, some tried to band together and stop the Freedom Sect's experts from intervening in their battles, just to be trashed by Fizer when the situation asked for it.

Half a year had now passed since the end of the war between the demon beasts and Zasfins. Freedom Sect obviously became the recognized strongest power in the continent, with Fizer and the Demon Beast Continent experts on their side. Yes, Rean and Roan could still use their influence in the demon beasts to ask for help.

That way, the borders of each country were settled in a much more peaceful way. Of course, many sacrifices were made here and there. After all, it wasn't like Freedom Sect could see and control everything with its limited number. One must remember that the majority of the sect was still in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm or below. Those above were mostly invited guests and the demon beasts that Rean and Roan got to come here.

The good thing was that none of the invited experts living in the sect as guest elders thought about taking control of it. The shadow of the demon beasts and Zafins were still very strong, after all. Not to mention that all of them understood that Freedom Sect's disciples had ridiculously high talents. One day they would definitely surpass them in cultivation. If that moment came and they were on bad terms, it would be terrible for those who betrayed the sect.

As for getting rid of the highly talented disciples ahead of time? They would have to face Fizer's rage if that happened. In Julia's case, it would be the same if the ones involved were female disciples.

During this time, Qia reached the Peak Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm together with Agis and, surprisingly, Malaka. Roan really began to think that perhaps Malaka was better acting that way. Of course, he forced the girl to do the minimal amount of training possible. Less than that, and Malaka knew she would be in bad waters if Roan caught her.

Naturally, her belly had become quite big after six months. For some reason, Kentucky looked more excited about it than Malaka and Agis themselves as well. "Of course, I am. I can tell it will be another girl through my Spiritual Sense. Naturally, she will be my fan as well!" or so said the Minokawa.

As for Rean and Roan, their cultivation also improved quite a lot even though they had been busy. They obviously had to thank Celis for that since Celis never stopped cultivating, which was quite fast due to Kentucky's nest on top of him.

It was around this time that Rean's group received some news from Frandin.

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Chapter 886: Possible Second Path

"Hmm? Frandin? How come?" Rean asked as he worked on the communication system.

The disciple on his side then explained as he shook his head, "I don't know. The Zasfin guy who came here simply asked to deliver this jade slip to you."

Rean couldn't help but ponder over it, thinking to himself, 'There's no way the demon beasts keeping watch over the Wringan Continent didn't notice this guy. For him to pass through this easily meant that

he wasn't a risk for the humans in the first place. Well, it seems like they sent someone at the Nascent Soul or the Soul Transformation Realm to deliver the message.'

It's just Rean also saw a problem there. 'However, Frandin was one of the Zasfins that helped Roan and me when we were new to this planet. Could it be that they found out about it?'

Rean quickly put those thoughts behind as he looked at the disciple, saying, "Alright, give it to me."

-Rean, Roan, it's Frandin. I'm using this method to contact you since it would be impossible for a Zasfin of my level to get close to your Freedom Sect. Don't worry, the one I asked to deliver the message was my father.-

Rean couldn't help but nod after hearing that. 'Sure enough, it was a Nascent Soul Realm Zasfin that delivered the message.' Back when Rean kidnapped Frandin, his father tried to stop it. That's why Rean knew Frandin's father was at the Nascent Soul Realm. Rean continued to check the message after that.

-He's the only one, other than Xiria, that knows about my time with you guys.- Xiria was the girl from Asume Clan. After Calina's group left the city, Xiria followed them. It's just that she and Frandin separated from Calina's group after the war started. -He obviously decided to keep it a secret and was quite happy with my progress. He intends to make me the next City Lord. Fortunately for us, the continent we lived in wasn't one of the demon beasts' ones. That being said, our city is still more or less intact, with only having a few cultivators dying far away in the war.-

Rean could not help but be happy for Frandin after that. It seemed like everything went fine after they separated. He knew that Frandin went out to fight for the Zasfin race during the war, but the same could be said about him for the humans. 'Still, if everything is fine, why would he send me this jade slip?' Rean thought for a moment before continuing with the message.

-The reason I sent you this message is that I need your help with something. I know I'm not in the position to ask any favors. After all, I did fight on the Zasfins' side. However, I don't know who to ask.- With that, Frandin entered the main topic. -Do you think it's possible for me to be granted a safety pass to your Freedom Sect and Freedom City? I found it out from the news spreading around the Zasfin territories. Something about the fact that humans have created a sect of their own. It's deemed as a joke here. Nevertheless, I knew that it would definitely be connected to you.-

Rean was taken aback after that. 'If your life is already smooth sailing, then why would you want to come here?' Rean asked himself for a second as he continued to read.

-You probably noticed it already, but our Palif Empire is located right above your Wringan Continent.- That was true. Palif Empire was indeed part of the continent of Zasfins closest to Wringan. -Although Wringan Continent wasn't very populated, our Danve City was one of the towns that carried several trades with the cities at the north of Wringan. Many of the materials only found there were sold to us, so be it Danve City or the several others around them, a great part of their income depended on it. I would like to establish a trading agreement with the humans that now occupy that region.-

Rean finally understood what Frandin wanted. 'Sure enough, only with the influence of someone like me would this kind of trading be possible.'

Rean couldn't help but think even further. 'Wait! How come I haven't thought about that yet? I'm such an idiot! Until now, I have always thought about how to protect the human race if the Zasfins decided to attack again. The communication system was one of the methods to help with that. However, why can't we grow amicable relations with them first? Aren't trades a very good first step for smooth relations between sides?'

Rean understood that his idea was very unrealistic. After all, they would at most create friendly relations with the cities and maybe the countries at the south of the Palif Empire. The rest of the Zasfins would still not like humans anyway. There was also the issue with the human race, which definitely didn't have a good opinion about the Zasfins at the moment.

'No, I can't think only on the bad side of things. With the agreement of non-aggression to the humans in Wringan active for a thousand years, this is the perfect time for that. Weren't there Demon Beast Cities where Zasfins and demon beasts traded? If their mortal enemies, the demon beasts, could still create such a thing, why couldn't the humans?'

The more Rean thought about it, the more he thought it was possible. 'Besides, we're talking about a thousand years of ceasefire. Well, at least a ceasefire inside Wringan Continent. People might hate Zasfins now. However, the majority of these people will eventually pass away, and their descendants will remain. These descendants won't understand their parents' grievances. As more generations come and go, the hatred is bound to diminish.'

Of course, Rean wasn't an idiot either. 'Well, it'll be great if it works. However, I should also guarantee that the defenses of the Wringan Continent in the future will be rock solid. I probably won't be here at

that time, so I should do my best to achieve both objectives. I can only hope that the mutual coexistence will be the real outcome of the humans and Zasfins' future.'

Soon after, Rean spread his Spiritual Sense and called Roan, Malo, Fizer, and other members of the sect over. He obviously wanted to share his thoughts.

Death... and me

Chapter 887: The Soul Power Issue

"Peaceful relations?" Malo could not help but ask with a shocked expression. "I'm sorry, Elder Rean. However, I don't think such a thing is possible. Humans hate Zasfins way too much for that."

He then continued, "That wouldn't be a big problem if it was just the Freedom Sect's old members since we weren't exactly ill-treated. Until the day they used our souls to produce Soul Stones, we had comfortable lives. However, the rest of the humans definitely hate them way too much."

Rean nodded in agreement as he said, "I know. That's why I'm saying that this would just be a start. Generations will come and go, and their descendants won't end up like their parents. If no one breaks the agreement, our human race has a thousand years of peace, which should be enough to change the situation. The same thing could be said for the Zasfins since only those who surpass the Nascent Soul Realm would remember the past. Not to mention that even if these people are still alive, holding a grudge for a thousand years isn't exactly that easy."

Rean also added, "Of course, that doesn't mean we won't be prepared. I'll keep working on the communication system to help out with that. Our objective won't change regardless of whether we can get on good terms or not."

Fizer, who had just been listening by the side, decided to say his piece. "As someone who lived outside the Zasfin territories, I can't say much for the human slaves from there. After all, my entire life was mostly spent inside the Demon Beast Continent. However, I do think Rean has a point. I've been around for over two thousand years already, after all."

Julia didn't care too much about it, though. "As long as my female disciples don't get harmed, I don't care. I've also lived most of my life in the Demon Beast Continent, so I don't have that hatred against Zasfins as the ex-slaves do. In fact, I wouldn't mind trying to have a few female Zasfin disciples under my wing. It might be quite interesting."

Roan finally decided to talk. "The issue here is that everyone knows about the humans being used as sacrifices for the Soul Marks. Although the Zafins sent the humans to Wringan Continent, it's no secret that they definitely kept a few for future use. Once those ones die, what will they do? I'm not idiotic enough to believe they would give up using the Soul Marks anymore, even if Duran said that they should stop relying on it."

Sure enough, a way to resolve this problem would be the main issue. A peaceful existence would never come as long as those formations exist.

It was then that Rean suggested an idea. "We just need to make sure that the human soul can't be used for sacrifice anymore, right?" Everyone's attention was piqued after hearing that as they waited for Rean to continue. "In that case, I do have an idea."

"You do?"

Rean nodded, saying, "In fact, it isn't anything hard to accomplish. With a thousand years ahead of us, I'm certain we can make all the humans in Wringan Continent become unsuitable for that."

Even Roan was intrigued by those words, prompting him to ask, "How?"

Rean then explained, "Do you know why Zafins can't use other Zafins to become Soul Sacrifices?"

Roan nodded as he was also there when they found about it. "It's because of their high Soul Power. Their race's trait with high Soul Power makes it too difficult to convert their Souls into Soul Marks. Chances are that the Zafins trying to convert another Zafin Soul into a Soul Mark will receive a backlash and possibly die."

Roan had hit the mark. If that wasn't the case, the Zafins would probably prefer other Zafin Souls. After all, their Souls were stronger, which meant better Soul Marks. Unfortunately for them, it wasn't possible even after thousands of years of using the Bloodline Soul Mark Formations.

Naturally, everyone understood what Rean wanted to do after Roan explained the issues with Zasfins' Soul Marks. "Wait! Are you saying that you intend to increase the Soul Power of all humans in Wringan Continent?"

Rean nodded as he said in response, "Yes. Not only that, I'll make it so that having high Soul Power is a hereditary power. Well, I don't even need to do that. Once a human acquires a high enough level of Soul Power, their descendants will naturally inherit it as well."

Qia couldn't help but ask after hearing that, "How do you know that?"

Rean then pointed at Malaka's belly as he explained, "As I mentioned before, Soul Power has a lot to do with Life Force. For me, who has an affinity with Light Element, it's easy to feel anyone's Soul Power. Malaka's baby is already quite big inside her belly, with its brain formed. Although weak, I can already tell that he has naturally high Soul Power."

Everyone was shocked to hear that, but Rean didn't feel a need for that. "You guys shouldn't be that surprised. Have you forgotten? Hybrids of humans and Zasfins also have Soul Power. Naturally, those half-humans and half-Zasfins inherited Soul Power from Zasfins."

"But those guys have Zasfin bloodlines. It's different from a baby coming from humans."

Rean couldn't help but laugh after that as he continued, "Hahaha! How come? I'm sorry to disappoint you, but the Zasfins are nothing more than an evolution of the human race. Nothing more, nothing less."

Except for Rean's group, those words dropped like a nuclear bomb on everyone's head.

"What?!"

"Are you crazy?"

"Impossible!"

In the end, Rean had to spend some time explaining why both Zafins and humans were two branches of the same race. Of course, some still found it hard to believe, even though Rean did his best trying to make it easy to understand. "Anyway, you just need to understand that this is the truth."

Rean then continued, "That's why now that Agis and Malaka have high Soul Power, their kid inherited it. Their kid, obviously, won't ever become material for Bloodline Soul Marks. The Zafins would need to be suicidal to try it."

Nevertheless, the main question still remained. "That's good and all. However, we obtained our high Soul Power because of the Soul Marks. How are you going to increase everyone's Soul Power without it?"

Rean smiled after hearing that.

Death... and me

Chapter 888: The Plan

"Believe it or not, it isn't that difficult to awaken a human's Soul Power," Rean said. "Ever since I used a Soul Mark to increase my Soul Power, I've known that I would awaken it regardless of whether I had the mark or not. It's just that it would take longer." One must remember that back then, Rean found out his Soul Power was already increasing because of his Light Element Affinity. The only question would be if he would notice it or not. The arrival on this planet could also be called the trigger for that event, as Rean was made aware of the Soul Power of the Zafins.

"As I've mentioned before, the Zafins are nothing more than another branch of the human race that evolved as the years passed. That means all humans have the genes to awaken Soul Power. It's just that their genes wouldn't match the Zafins. Nevertheless, it would be more than enough for the Bloodline Soul Marks to not be made with their Souls anymore."

Rean then continued, "To awaken Soul Power, you need to increase it above 20 points. Without that, no one can manifest Soul Power, and that includes the Zafins. Of course, they're naturally born with more than that. I've devised a method that can use my Light Element to help people awaken their Soul Power. At first, I didn't plan on using it since it's not complete. However, I guess this is a good opportunity to push this plan forward."

As Rean mentioned, Soul Power was directly connected to Life Force. Rean used his time with Frandin and in the Soul Rulers' headquarters to understand it better. "Simply put, as long as you have a source of Light Element close to your head, it will stimulate the Life Force around that region. It's very similar to my Enhancement skill but to a lesser extent. Eventually, the user's Soul Power will grow past the 20 point minimum measured through the Soul Measurement Orb. Once that happens, all you need to do is send some gentle Soul Power into those people. Those people will understand what the feeling is and notice the Soul Power inside their bodies. From then onwards, using Soul Power will be easy."

Malo couldn't help but raise his hand, asking, "Wouldn't that create more friction with the Soul Rulers? After all, we would be using their power."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said in response, "So what? I said I wanted to give a chance for a more peaceful coexistence. For that to happen, humans must become useless materials for the Bloodline Soul Mark Formations. Otherwise, the Zasfins will never forget that their own Soul Power can be enhanced with a human sacrifice. This is a step we must take."

On that point, no one found any fault in Rean's words. He was right, after all.

Roan then glanced at Rean and said, "For that to happen, you'll need to make millions of Light Element equipment to be worn by humans. How do you intend to do that? After all, you're the only Light Element Affinity user we have. Could it be that you want to do it alone?"

Rean couldn't help but laugh out loud after hearing that. "You're making it look harder than it really is. What I have to do is just forge some pieces of metal that can gather Light Element when Spiritual Energy is poured inside."

Govin immediately understood Rean's plan. "I see...if that's the case, Rean can really make millions of Light Gathering Element equipment." Govin noticed everyone's confused expressions, prompting him to explain, "If Rean works on a giant piece of metal, he can simply give it to other blacksmiths to cut and create many collars, for example."

Govin then looked at Rean before asking, "If all you need is a small stream of Light Element, even an Energy Gathering Realm cultivator should be able to provide it constantly. We could make the metals you create into tiaras, collars, earrings, and other accessories. Just a very small piece will be enough."

Rean was really happy to have put Govin as an elder of the Sect and helped him achieve the Heaven level. "That's right. The great thing is that there's no need for expensive materials. The Elemental Gathering Forging Method can be applied to any piece of Spiritual Metal. Obviously, we can simply use a lot of Earth Low-level materials for that."

Julia immediately raised her hand, clarifying her doubts as she asked, "How many earrings would you be able to make in a day? Since we're talking in the scale of tens of millions, or maybe above a billion, this method of yours might still take a very long time."

Rean and Govin looked at each other as they began to exchange Spiritual Sense messages. They considered the size of the Light Gathering metal piece necessary for each accessory. After a few minutes, they came up with a number. "Probably around a million per day."

"What?!" That number scared the listeners. "How can you make that many?"

Govin took the chance to explain. "That's very easy. Rean only needs to work on very big pieces of Light Element Gathering metal. With our Blacksmith Hall's capability, making a few tons of it in a single day isn't anything hard."

Rean nodded as he continued where Govin left off. "However, the point here is that the metal isn't of high quality. That means anyone can cut and reshape it any way they want. That means we can use ordinary human blacksmiths and artisans as well. I alone am obviously not enough. But if we employ the humans of all the cities in Fausec Country, that shouldn't be an issue. I'll add Spiritual Energy Gathering Runes to the metal so that it can absorb and use the energy to gather Light Element on its own. Govin said that Energy Gathering Realm cultivators should be enough. However, the majority of humans aren't cultivators."

Roan didn't see a problem with that, adding his piece. "Once they're finished, we can distribute them around Wringan."

Rean shook his head, saying, "That would make everyone way too suspicious. Instead, I'll sell them as merchandise. Light Element can stimulate Life Force, which helps heal injuries faster. Obviously, I'll sell them as very, very cheap protection equipment that even ordinary humans can buy with copper, silver, and gold."

Sure enough, Rean had already thought about how the plan would unfold.

Death... and me

Chapter 889: First Contact

"Wouldn't that make things expensive for the sect instead?" Poliana asked soon after, who was also there.

Rean then shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "With the amount of income we will get from the communication system, do you really think I will lack the money to make pieces of low-level metal?"

Everyone went silent after Rean said that. Sure enough, let alone money for these earrings or whatever, Rean probably could use Earth Middle or maybe even Earth High-level metal, and he would still have money left over to spend.

Fizer then decided to intervene. "Alright. The plan seems to have a small chance of success. However, you do know that wars and things like that won't disappear, right?" Before Rean could answer, Fizer continued, "This is a cultivation world. In the end, the excess of power will bring conflict between parties. Although humans and Zafins could get along and even mingle with one another in the future, other types of battles for other reasons will still happen."

Roan agreed with Fizer on that, saying, "He's right. In fact, for a cultivation world, no more battles would be very bad instead. You would have no one to train against, no death and life situations to surpass your limits, and so on. For cultivators and demon beasts, it would be akin to slowing down their cultivation speed."

Rean pondered over it for a bit and had to admit that it was true. This was not Earth, after all. 'No, even back on Earth where modern society existed, and Spiritual Energy was nowhere to be found, wars still happened in the Middle East. Spiritual Energy just makes wars more easily doable.'

Rean then shook his head and placed these thoughts behind. "Alright, that won't be a problem. As long as it doesn't become a war between Zafins and humans, other wars aren't our problem. I'm doing it for the survival of the human race so that we won't become slaves anymore. That's all."

Fizer nodded, satisfied. "As long as you understand, then that's fine."

After that, Rean looked at Malo and said, "I'll leave it up to you to start negotiations with the ZASFINS of Palif Empire. As I've mentioned before, I received messages about their intentions of keeping the trades with our region. The demon beasts had the multi-racial Demon Beast Cities. In fact, they're still there, and the ZASFINS will eventually go back to that place to trade. I want you to work with them and the Freedom City cultivators to create a similar area of negotiations."

Malo immediately answered with some hesitation in his voice, saying in response, "The humans we received from the ZASFIN territories won't like this idea very much."

"That's a problem for the city lord to resolve. He has to guarantee the ZASFINS' safety while they're in Freedom City. Unless, of course, these ZASFINS start to cause problems. In that case, just get rid of them," Rean said in response without much concern.

Yes, Freedom City had finally gotten its own City Lord. His name was Pocla Nusvo, one of the Demon Beast Continent cultivators. He was one of the very few Saint Realm experts of the human race, just like Julia. Due to the prospects of Freedom City and the Freedom Sect, he also decided to try and join Fizer's power.

Freedom City needed someone with the strength to keep it under control. That's how Pocla came to be appointed as the City Lord. Fizer accepted Pocla into the sect as a Guest Elder after talking with Malo, so it could be said that he was also part of the sect itself. The good thing was that Fizer knew the guy and trusted him. That's why Malo didn't see a problem in using Pocla to help out with Freedom City.

A few days later...

Palif Empire, Danve City, City Lord's residence. At the moment, a man let out cold sweat as he paced back and forth, muttering to himself, "I can't believe I really went into Wringan Continent and left alive. So it was true that as long as I had no intention to cause problems, the Demon Beast Protectors wouldn't waste their time barring my passage. They just asked my objective in there and kept their Spiritual Senses on me the entire time. In any case, that was still scary as hell." Naturally, that was the City Lord of Danve City, Devou Zais. Well, he was also Frandin's father.

Frandin was also in the room, so he tried to comfort him, saying, "Father, everything is okay. We did receive the terms of the agreement that were set after the war was over, right? As long as we don't send any cultivator at the Saint Realm or above into Wringan Continent, we are allowed to enter it. We

just have to state our intentions and not try to avoid the Spiritual Senses of the demon beasts watching it."

Devou glanced at his son, who had improved to the extent that made him feel embarrassed of his own cultivation progress. Of course, he was also extremely happy to have such a strong heir to take over the city in the future. "But I could still be killed by the humans themselves, you know? It's not like humans aren't allowed to attack Zafins in their territories. When I got close to that so-called Freedom Sect, I was able to feel many Spiritual Senses stronger than mine."

Frandin shrugged his shoulders as he said in response, "The fact that they didn't do anything to you is proof that this negotiation might really happen. According to the information we've obtained, we at least know that my friends are part of that sect. let's hope for the best."

"Sigh...alright, let's hope that it won't bring any trouble to our Danve City or the other cities around who are participating in this negotiation." Devou Zais obviously accepted that role due to the prospects of success. He obviously wouldn't step back now that he had already passed through the most dangerous task of delivering the jade slip to the Freedom Sect.

Suddenly, a subordinate entered the room, telling him, "Ci-City Lord. We have a human outside saying that he came from Wringan Continent's Freedom Sect. You told me to warn you if anything like this happened. What should I do?"

Devou and Frandin's eyes lit up after that. "Quick! Let him inside. Make sure that no one mistreats him. The economic future of our Danve City and the other cities around us depends on this."

Death... and me

Chapter 890: Zafins' Visit

Obviously, the human who came to deliver the message had high cultivation, being in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to pass through the middle of the city without the Zafins stopping him at some point. One must remember that all humans from the Zasfin territories were sent to Wringan, so it was a rare sight to even see one now.

After a few hours of discussion, it was decided that a few Zasfin representatives would go to Freedom City to finish the details. The Freedom Sect would guarantee the representatives' safety during the visit. The human who came also said something else, telling them that Rean would like to see Frandin and

Xiria again. Nevertheless, he didn't need to feel forced to come. It would be more like old friends meeting up, after all.

With that, the guy left several badges of the Freedom Sect with Frandin and Devou, telling them that they would be identified through it. Without the badges, the Freedom Sect wouldn't be certain if others would try to attack them or not. The messenger then left a few minutes later.

"Father, I'm heading there with Xiria," Frandin said without leaving much room for discussion.

Devou nodded, knowing that although it wasn't obligatory, Frandin's presence would definitely make things better for their negotiations. "Very well. By the way, where's your girl?"

After going through many battles in the war together, Frandin and Xiria grew close to each other. By now, they didn't bother pretending and simply got together.

Frandin then pondered over it a bit before saying, "She should be training. You know her. She's quite the cultivation maniac. She didn't care if I became the next city lord or not as long as it didn't intervene with her schedule." Well, her training schedule was still mostly the one made by Roan for Frandin. It just had a few tweaks to be used for women instead. Xiria herself had also made a few modifications over the last few years.

"Alright, go and call her out." Devou was even more impressed with how Frandin managed to get close with such a female Zasfin. After all, her cultivation was higher than Frandin even though they were of the same age. Frandin did get a lot closer to her cultivation over time. Nevertheless, he was always at least one stage behind.

Devou then left to talk with the city lords of the cities around Danve. They were the ones who wanted this trade to move forward, after all. The next day, a party of more than thirty ZASFINS was made, and they soon headed to the ocean before starting to cross it. They even had an airship so that they could make this travel faster.

Sure enough, they were stopped by the demon beasts on their way to Freedom Island. After all, the airship did have quite a few Nascent Soul ZASFINS. Such a number could still cause a lot of problems in the new human territory since the majority there didn't have high cultivations. Fortunately, as soon as

they showed the Freedom Sect badges, the demon beasts stopped bothering them and let the group pass. Of course, they still kept their Spiritual Senses over the ship just in case.

This time, however, they didn't head straight to Freedom Sect as Devou did. Instead, they were told to pass by Freedom City first. That's where the trades would be made with the locals, so there was no point in visiting the sect itself.

In Freedom City, the Zasfin airship stopped above the entrance, not proceeding forward. That's because they could feel the Spiritual Senses of humans at the Soul Transformation Realm there, watching them. Someone appeared there a few moments later to receive the representatives. The guy landed on the Zasfin airship's deck as he looked at them with a serious face, saying, "I can see that you brought the badges. You did well. If some of you haven't kept it, I would have to cut their heads."

The guy's cultivation was obviously at the Soul Transformation Realm as well, so he didn't feel afraid of those Nascent Soul ZASFINS at all. In fact, he did want to attack, but Freedom Sect left very clear orders about this event. "Alright, bring the airship to that big tower at the center of the city. That one with the big antenna on the top." The ZASFINS nodded in response before flying the airship once again.

Suddenly, they all heard a ringing sound coming from the human cultivator, putting them on their guard. After all, nothing guaranteed that the humans would keep their word of not harming them. However, that Zasfin simply took a strange device from his pocket before putting it on his ear.

"Hello?"

"Ah, yes. They're all here already."

"Hmm? Alright, let me ask."

The ZASFINS didn't understand who the human was talking to. After all, there wasn't anyone there. However, the human ignored that and asked something else. "Who among you is Devou Zais?"

Devou immediately stepped forward after hearing that.

"I am."

The guy nodded in response, saying, "Alright, you can send your Spiritual Senses into this device of mine. Just think of it as if you are using Spiritual Sense to talk with a person. The others can also do the same thing to listen, but you shouldn't send messages unless asked since only Devou was called."

Naturally, everyone was curious about the device, so they immediately sent their Spiritual Senses inside. It was then that they heard Rean's voice echoing in their minds like a Spiritual Sense message. 'So you're Devou, huh? Welcome to Freedom City. I'll receive you all in the tower later. I'm just a bit busy right now.'

Everyone was taken aback, hearing the message. It was then that Devou remembered the human saying he could use that device as if he was talking to a person through Spiritual Sense. 'Can you hear me?'

Rean immediately replied after that, 'Of course, I can. Don't worry, this is a communication device created by our sect. It's called a Spiritual Smartphone, and we can talk as much as we want. You don't need to be afraid of it burning out like a Thoughts Transmission Talisman.'

Sure enough, those words made all the Zafins on the airship widen their eyes!