

## Death 951

Death... and me

### Chapter 951: Stay or Go

[Hosts must be aware. Due to the damage caused by the demon from the Underworld, the portal is unstable. Well, to be more specific, the formations keeping it open are.]

Rean knew that. After all, not only did he and Roan break a few formations while heading to the floor with the core, Rean also noticed a lot of damaged formations along the way. He did his best to repair them. Unfortunately, there were way too many runes that he didn't know the purpose of or how to fix said runes. 'Well, I'm already surprised that the formation activated to start with,' Rean thought for a moment.

The system continued, [After initial analysis by surpassing the user's limitation, the system predicts that the portal's formations will break apart in 1176 hours. The margin of error is expected to be plus-minus 30 hours. Once that happens, the World Beast Formation will only be able to keep its initial purpose of strengthening the demon beasts of the planet.]

[Hosts must decide whether to use it or find another way to enter the Realm of Gods in the future if the users ever so wish. The system can't predict any possible shortcuts like the World Beast Formation that the users can use in the future. As for the system limitations, they are based on the users' level.

However, these limitations can't be broken even at the Transition Realm. The hosts will have to rely on their own power to break the barrier between the Realm of Mortals and the Realm of Gods if they want to leave later.]

'Limitations?' Rean pondered over it for a bit before telling Roan, 'The limitation the system talked about is probably things like the teleportation to this planet back in Sunkan.'

Roan agreed with Rean, saying, 'Indeed. However, we don't have the authority to demand the system to ignore the limitations. It can only select by itself whether it needs to break the limitations imposed on us because of our level or not. Also, if the system does so, it will be inactive for years again.'

The system didn't say anything else after that. However, Sister Orb could now tell them a lot more than she was allowed before, so she began to explain. [Let me be honest here and say that you should go. However, you must understand that your actual power will be extremely weak in the Realm of Gods. Even Transition Realm and Stage Nine Demon Beasts are nothing to brag about. Just so you know, babies are already born in the Foundation Establishment Realm with perfect foundations. The higher

quality energy of the Realm of Gods also makes it a lot easier to find one's path, so it isn't too hard to see people around their 40 or 50s in the Soul Transformation Realm. It's extremely rare to see teenagers in the Core Formation Realm here in the Realm of Mortals. However, up there, it's a very common thing.]

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes after that. They remember very well how Droman took centuries to find his path, which was all based on pure luck. People like Mia, the Dalamu Sect Leader, were one in a million or maybe even more.

Sister Orb then continued, [Of course, you can also choose to stay here and slowly cultivate all the way to the Transition Realm.] One must remember that Sister Orb was inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, so she wasn't affected by the heavens when she talked about the Transition Realm. [Although it's hard, it's possible to use the Transition Realm's power to break the barrier between realms and enter the Realm of Gods through this method. On the other hand, the speed at which you'll cultivate won't even be a tenth of what you can do up there.]

Rean and Roan understood after Sister Orb was done talking. There were more dangers up there, but the rewards were plentiful as well.

Duran began to approach the portal, thinking whether he should enter it or not. However, Rean called his attention, saying, "It's still too early for you to enter it."

Duran immediately looked back at Rean and asked, "Why?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "I know more about the formation keeping this portal open than anyone else. It should still work for another 40 to 50 days." Of course, Rean simply used the system's numbers to say that. "Shouldn't you and Frin use this chance to go out and explain everything that happened in this realm? Don't forget that all the conflict and enmity between Zafins and demon beasts happened because of the red-eyed being. Of course, it won't prevent wars from happening in the future, but both sides deserve to know the truth. It's just that the Zafins won't believe it if it doesn't come from your mouth. Sure, you can spare that little bit of time to spread the word, right?"

Duran narrowed his eyes after that, responding with a question, "And what stops you from closing the portal to prevent me from leaving?"

Rean laughed out loud in response. "Hahaha! We would need to be true idiots to do such a thing. The only one who can fight you head-on is Senior Frin. If he leaves you here alone, doesn't that mean you can enslave all the other races on your own? That will be the end of the demon beast and human Races."

Frin agreed with Rean, saying, "Not only will I not enter it alone, but I'll also make sure you will enter with me at the same time to prevent exactly that. You should do the same in my case."

Duran had to admit Rean's words made sense. "Very well. Let's go out, then."

After that, their group returned to the chamber where the demon lived and used Divine Demon Beast blood to open the portal. They also made sure that they could come back anytime they wanted. They simply took the rock that could open the portal outside. That was the key to enter, after all.

Outside, their group sighed as they looked behind. "It's finally over, huh?"

Roan shook his head as he brought the dark jade slips out of his spatial ring. "Not yet. It's time to check these things. After all, we can finally use Spiritual Sense again."

Death... and me

Chapter 952: Diary

They all wanted answers. Who or what was that being? Why was it in the Bestial Sacred Ground? What did it have to do with the Realm of Gods? However...

"I can't understand shit!" Duran exclaimed as soon as the content filled his mind.

Frin, Red, Kentucky, Celis, Rean, and Gulan were in the same boat as him. "It's probably the same language that the owner of that skeletal hand used."

Of course, one person did understand the content inside the dark jade slips. Naturally, it was Roan. It's just that he didn't let anyone other than Rean know that he could understand such a thing.

Rean then glanced at Roan for a moment before he talked through their Soul Connection, saying, 'Can you understand the things written inside these jade slips?'

Roan confirmed as he replied, 'Yes. I'll use our Soul Connection to share my knowledge of the Underworld's language, don't block it.'

Rean and Roan could share memories as much as they wanted as long as both sides agreed with it. Thanks to that, Rean received the entire extent of Roan's knowledge regarding the Underworld tongue. Of course, it was one thing for them to share memories. It was another to learn them. Rean would need quite some time before he could organize everything for his own use.

Roan knew that but ignored that point. Instead, he made sure to memorize the entire contents of the dark jade slips first before everyone gave up on checking them.

Eventually, Frin lost his patience and said, "Alright, I'm done trying. Demon beasts aren't good at translating things to start with, let alone the fact that none of us know what kind of language it is. If you want, you can have the jade slips. I have no use for them."

Duran narrowed his eyes before he took out a few jade slips of his own. He quickly made a copy of everything inside before giving up on the dark jade slips as well. "I'm done as well. Perhaps I can find out what they mean in the future. But for now, I'm sure that our Zasfin race doesn't have any language nearly close to what is used here."

Rean nodded in agreement after the two of them, saying, "The same goes for us. I guess the things inside these jade slips will have to wait for another time." Of course, Roan knew what was inside, but he wouldn't talk about it right now. "As far as we know, there might not be anything of much importance inside to start with."

In the end, their group decided to leave things at that and separate. They agreed to meet a few days later to discuss what they found in the Bestial Sacred Ground.

Back in the Freedom Sect, Roan finally began to talk with Rean, Celis, and Kentucky about the contents of the jade slips. Well, Rean had been studying Roan's memories of the language since then, so he could finally understand a bit of it. "Basically, what we have here is just a diary."

"Diary?" Naturally, everyone was interested. "What does it talk about?"

Roan then began to explain what was written...

It started back in the time when the demon beasts and Zafins weren't exactly on bad terms. They weren't friends either, but it definitely wasn't to the point they were at right now. It was at that very time the demon arrived on this planet.

In the jade slips, it didn't explain it very well. All it said was that this demon had offended someone he shouldn't in the Underworld, having to escape to the Realm of Mortals because of that. Naturally, he ended up coming to this planet.

However, demons shouldn't exist in the Realm of Mortals as they would prejudice the balance of the system. Roan understood this part as he also couldn't stay in the Realm of Mortals for too long back when he was a Death Spirit. He had to visit the Underworld frequently before returning to continue his jobs.

"The jade slip says that the demon knew his presence had been felt by the Realm of Gods. It wouldn't be long before someone from there arrived on this planet to investigate. That being said, he began to look for ways to traverse to the Realm of Gods and vice versa. And that's how he found about the Zafins and the demon beasts' portals to the Realm of Gods," Roan explained.

The demon was successful in destroying the Zafins' portal before any god came down. However, he failed to stop an expert from the demon beasts' side from arriving here. The demon wasn't exactly a powerful one. Well, at least not when one compared his strength to the experts of the Realm of Gods or the Underworld. If one compared him to the level of the strongest experts of the Realm of Mortals, then he was obviously far above any of them.

Roan also came to understand that the power the demon showed before dying was far from his peak state. Sure enough, the jade slips proved that the demon was using the souls of demon beasts to recover. That's because the World Beast Formation never had a need for demon beast souls to start with. That was something the demon added later.

"He used the souls to recover?" Rean focused on that part. "In the end, he was injured before reaching the Realm of Mortals, or was it the experts from the demon beast side that caused him that damage?"

"It was both. The fact was that the demon was stronger than the expert from the Realm of Gods Duran talked about. However, he was injured in his escapade, which allowed the expert to have a better chance when he fought against the demon. Unfortunately for the expert, the demon was still stronger, so he had to flee."

Of course, the jade slips didn't mention what happened to the expert from the Realm of Gods since the demon didn't know where he went. All the demon knew was that he left lasting damage that would definitely kill that expert eventually. In the end, that's exactly what happened, and the expert from Realm of Gods died without being able to return home. Later, Duran and Fikin found the expert's final resting place, as Duran explained before.

Death... and me

Chapter 953: Take Part In It

Roan then explained what happened after the expert of the Realm of Gods escaped. "The demon's body lost the capability to maintain stability after receiving injuries from his escapade from the Underworld and the expert from the Realm of Gods. If he wanted to recover, he would need to go back to the Underworld, which you obviously know by now that he wouldn't dare to."

Celis understood what Roan meant. "With that being said, he used the second method available for him, taking high-level souls to recover while staying in the Realm of Mortals."

Roan nodded as he continued where Celis left off. "Exactly. Another point that I found out was that I was right about the type of beings that exist in the Underworld. Back on the other half of the universe, there were only Death Spirits. However, things are different here. From the looks of it, the type of demon this guy was could only absorb demon beast souls. That's why humans would die to his Soul Submission Orbs while demon beasts would be captured and controlled. He had no need for human souls."

Roan continued, "Anyway, after the battle with the expert from the Realm of Gods, he closed the demon beasts' portal as well. After that, he started his plan to capture souls. However, because of his level, even Stage Nine Demon Beast Souls were far enough for him to recover. His only choice was to make up for it with quantity. You could say that he didn't destroy the World Beast Formation completely only because he needed it."

Rean couldn't help but ask after that, "What about that chamber of his? Was that the thing that prevented his body from breaking apart?"

"Yes." Roan nodded in response. "Inside that glass container, he could emulate the environment of the Underworld. Of course, it wasn't real, so it only stopped his body from breaking apart. It didn't have the power to recover it. He needed the souls for that."

"That's when he modified the World Beast Formation to also collect the demon beast souls once they died. The World Beast Formation had no use for souls, only the blood to connect to the Realm of Gods using the demon beasts' method," Rean added.

Things continued normally until the day the demon found out that several Divine Demon Beasts were now present at the same time on the planet. For him, even low-level Divine Demon Beast souls were much more valuable than common demon beast souls. He could have waited longer to gather more souls normally. However, he was overconfident about the power of his Soul Submission Orbs. He thought he could gather enough souls to completely recover from his injuries in a single go.

"The rest of the story you already know," Roan said sometime later. "The jade slips also mention when he gave the Zafins the methods to gather the souls of the humans to create Bloodline Marks. Of course, you already know that and what happened because of it. There were a few more details, but nothing much that really matters to us."

Celis couldn't help but sigh once Roan was done talking. "In the end, we were just unlucky enough to get involved in all this bullshit."

Roan didn't seem to care, though. "Alright, that's enough for now. You guys also got some materials from his chamber, right? Just consider it your war spoils. Well, we still need to call Malo and the others to tell them about it."

Later that day, Rean and Roan summoned all the important members of the sect. Following that, Rean gave them an explanation regarding the events that happened in the Bestial Sacred Ground. He told them how the Zafins got the method to create Bloodline Marks, how it brought the slavery of humans and the war against the demon beasts in the past. Simply put, they explained how everyone played on the demon's hands.

Rean also made sure to spread the news through the communication system. That cast some light on the reason humans had become slaves to start with. The part of the Zasfin territories that received

Rean's news was shocked to hear about that. Of course, at first, they thought that to be some trick the humans were using to cause problems to the Zafins.

Unfortunately, it didn't take long before the Soul Rulers' organization used its power to have all their territories hear about the same thing. Obviously, Duran had gone back and explained the entire situation to them as well. Since even the Soul Rulers had backed up the story, it was most likely true. After all, what would be the point in confirming that they were being played by someone else?

The same thing happened in the demon beast territories. Frin told his subordinates to spread the news and that he was the last Stage Nine Demon Beast alive. Nevertheless, they shouldn't worry since the Zafins only had one last Zafin at the same level as him. Of course, whether the demon beasts or the Zafins really only had them as the remaining being at that level was something only the higher-ups of each side knew.

Three weeks after the events in the Bestial Sacred Ground, the Zafins, humans, and demon beasts met to discuss this issue. As one could expect, the demon beasts blamed the Zafins for falling for the creature's plans. Then again, the Zafins were a proud race, so they also pointed out how the demon beasts were unable to stop the being inside their own Sacred Ground.

Surprisingly, the race that suffered the most by becoming enslaved was the one to mediate both sides. "Compared to what we passed through, you guys have nothing to complain about. There's no point in accusing either side since we were all victims of the same schemer. What matters now is how we will deal with this information. First, we have to end this hostility between us. Otherwise, we would still be playing in that creature's hand even after it's gone. Not to mention that it might be dead already after what we saw."

Both demon beasts and Zafins narrowed their eyes. Neither side liked the idea of being controlled, let alone by something that was probably already dead. Thus, the words from the human side had some weight. Sevinia, the leader of the Soul Rulers organization, was the first one to step forward. "Very well, we're willing to have a talk."

Frin, as the 'only' Stage Nine Demon Beast remained, did the same. "The same goes for us."

Last but not least, Fizer took place as the representative of the humans. After all, he was still the strongest human in the world with his Elemental Transformation Realm cultivation. "Our human race is currently the smallest and weakest out of all of us, so it won't make much of a difference at the moment. Nevertheless, we obviously want to take part in it."



Death... and me

#### Chapter 954: Decisions

Of course, finishing the enmity between the three sides wouldn't put an end to wars and things like that. Even if demon beasts, humans, and Zasfins end up living together at some point, there would still be other reasons for battles. Wars regarding territories, inheritances, or simply because one side doesn't like the other. Then again, that wasn't a problem for Rean's group to resolve, nor would they ever plan to. Battles are necessary in a cultivation world, after all.

Nevertheless, today was the first step for a 'fairer' world, if one could call it that. The humans still had 999 more years of protection from the demon beasts, but if everything goes okay, such a long time won't even be necessary.

The meeting lasted for a day before a few key points had been decided. First, it would be announced to the rest of the world that hasn't heard the whole story yet about the red-eyed being. Nothing was hidden at all. That was the best way to make Zasfins, humans, and demon beasts understand why the next changes would be implemented.

The next point was basically an extension of the agreement made by the Formation Master Guild and the Freedom Sect. There would be humans and Zasfins who would live on each other's territory while the government would guarantee their safety. It would be a way to make each side integrate with one another more nicely.

The Freedom Sect also compromised to release the technology of the communication system once the first steps of the previous agreement were completed. Now that both sides only had a single Transition Realm cultivator or Stage Nine Demon Beast, the demon beasts now had a huge advantage in terms of low-level combat power. The Zasfins would need to think twice if they still harbored the thoughts of enslaving any of the other two forces.

Of course, one could imagine that many Zasfins, humans, and demon beasts didn't like the ideas, but that was to be expected. The point was that they had to start somewhere, and they did exactly that.

One month after Rean's group left the Bestial Sacred Ground, Frin and Duran met up once more. They knew that they still had ten or more so days before Frin and Duran had to enter the Realm of Gods, but they were feeling impatient already. Besides, they already did everything they needed.

There was only one thing that became quite a headache. The portal could basically take anyone up to the Realm of Gods...well, only Rean and Roan knew that that portal was the real thing. Nevertheless, there were many lower-level Zafins and demon beasts who wished to go as well. After all, if the portal was real, they wouldn't need to be afraid of being stuck in the Realm of Mortals when they reached the Transition Realm or Stage Nine.

In the end, Frin and Duran came to a decision right in front of the portal. "Who cares? If you wish to come, so be it. Just don't forget that this is the portal of the demon beasts, so you will probably fall somewhere in their territory. If you think you can survive, neither Frin nor I will stop you."

"Last but not least, we aren't sure if this thing is really the portal to the Realm of Gods or not, so enter at your own risk. That's all!" Before anyone could answer, Frin and Duran entered the portal and disappeared in a flash of silver light inside.

Their words quickly spread, and many Zafins and demon beasts threw themselves inside the portal as well. Considering the few days the portal would still be open, anyone at the Saint Realm or above had more than enough time to arrive. The demon beasts didn't try to stop anyone from using it either.

There was only one rule, those who wished to enter the portal had to be at the Nascent Soul Realm at the very least. Otherwise, it would become a chaotic mess to fit everyone inside. Not to mention that the majority below that level wouldn't even arrive in the Bestial Sacred Ground in time to start with.

A world that had so many Transition Realm and Stage Nine Demon Beasts a little more than a month ago ended up with only a few people at the Saint Realm or above. Only those who thought it was not worth the risk stayed behind, but their cases were very rare.

Surprisingly, Fizer was one of the almost non-existent Elemental Transformation or Stage Eight experts that decided to stay. "I'm just at the Middle Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm. I got to this level by acting carefully and not taking many risks. Simply put, I have no intention of changing that. Besides, this old man still has quite a few thousands of years to live once I enter the next realm, so I'm fine with staying here. Also, Malo is my disciple, but he doesn't fit the cultivation requirement to enter the portal. Naturally, I wouldn't leave him behind after I've just accepted him as my disciple."

For the humans and the Freedom Sect, that was a relief. After all, Fizer was their support. Not to mention that with the disappearance of most of the Elemental Transformation Realm experts, having one watching over the sect would make a huge difference in the future.

The only question that remained was Rean and Roan. Would they stay? Or would they leave?

A meeting between Rean, Kentucky, Celis, Roan, and their friends was called out for them to decide. In Qia, Calina, Malaka, Agis, and the others' cases, they could enter the portal even if they didn't meet the cultivation requirement. After all, it was Rean who made the portal work, so he had the privilege to ignore that rule.

"Before Roan and I tell you our decision, we want to hear your opinion. What will you do? Do you want to enter the Realm of Gods?"

Malaka, who had a baby in her arms, was the first one to answer, saying, "I'm not going. That isn't the right place for me to raise my child."

Agis patted her shoulder and nodded in agreement, responding, "Same goes for me. We will find another way in the future. But for now, this world still has a lot of things to offer for people at our level."

Death... and me

Chapter 955: Up We Go

Roan nodded, his expression surprisingly that of satisfaction. "That's good. You have excellent prospects by staying with the Freedom Sect. The same goes for your child. Entering the Realm of Gods when you don't even know if the passage is safe would be a terrible idea when you have such a small child."

Rean agreed with Roan, saying in response, "Indeed. Sister Orb told us that babies are already born in the Foundation Establishment Realm there. Perhaps your kid wouldn't even be able to resist the environment of the Realm of Gods itself. I commend you for choosing to stay."

Kentucky immediately raised his wings, telling everyone, "I want to stay!" Well, it wasn't hard to guess that the pervert bird just wanted to stay close to all the girls in the sect.

Rean then looked at him before shrugging his shoulders. "Is that so? Oh well, this is a decision we gave to all of you. If you want to stay, then so be it."

Roan nodded, saying, "Indeed. You're already big enough to make your own decisions. We won't force anyone to stay or leave."

Surprisingly, Rean and Roan were not against it, much to Kentucky's dismay. "That's unexpected. I thought you would immediately say that I had no choice."

However, the twins shook their heads. "If it was some other situation, we might have forced you to do so. But there's no such thing as 'wrong choice' in your case. You're just a Stage Five Demon Beast. It's like Malaka and Agis's cases. You have very good prospects in the Freedom Sect. Since Frin and the others were able to reach Stage Nine, that means you can do the same. Why should you take such risk by entering the Realm of Gods?"

Kentucky was happy to hear that. "Great, then it's decided!"

Celis glanced at Kentucky before saying, "Since you're staying, then so am I. After all, we're connected."

Rean then looked at Qia and asked, "What about you?"

"I'm leaving," Qia replied without even thinking twice. "Although it's dangerous and unnecessary, I don't know if I would be able to enter the Realm of Gods by myself in the future. I would rather take this chance right now. Besides, I'm just way too curious to see how different that place is."

Calina followed up on Qia's words after that, saying, "Same goes for me. I'm already in the Initial Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm anyway, so I can enter without using Rean's influence."

Rean and Roan were the last ones. "Well, I think it's pretty obvious. But Roan and I will enter the Realm of Gods as well. Although the prospects on this planet are very good, we prefer to have more challenges."

That's how the decisions were made in the end. Roan, Rean, Calina, and Qia would leave, while the rest would stay.

However, there was one extra guy who asked to go as well. "Master! I want to go with you!"

Roan looked at Zuo as he narrowed his eyes. "You have just barely reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. Also, your family is still in Freedom City. Don't forget I can't bring them with me. Why would you ask to follow us when you know the risks you'll have? I'll be honest, you have a very bright future ahead of you as long as you stay in the Freedom Sect."

Even though Zuo was young, he was adamant about his decision. "I want to go! I want to follow Master!"

Calina, who was there with the two, then requested. "That will depend on whether your family agrees to it or not. I don't think your parents will be happy to hear that, though."

Zuo dropped his head, looking sad. "Th-Then, I'll go ask my parents in Freedom City." Without wasting time, Zuo left the room and ran back to Freedom City.

As for Roan, he glanced at Calina, asking, "Why would you say that?"

Calina shrugged her shoulders in response. "Because I know very well that you want to see how that kid will turn out. I can at least tell that much, you know?"

Roan sighed, not denying Calina's words. "Oh well, the minimum level for the Realm of Gods seems to be the Foundation Establishment Realm anyway. Besides, I helped Zuo achieve a perfect nine pillar foundation, so he won't be too behind the kids up there."

"That's considering his parents agree with it, of course," Calina mentioned. "If they say no, then we'll leave him here."

Later that same day, Zuo came back to the sect with his parents. In the end, his parents agreed to let him go since Zuo only got to his position because of Roan's support. Once Roan left, there were no

guarantees about Zuo's future. Calina tried to explain that Zuo's future would most likely be better if he stayed. However, Zuo's parents still preferred Zuo to go with Roan.

"Very well, then I'll bring him together," Roan replied. "But be aware that you might never see him again. Perhaps we'll all die there. As for you, his family, I'll tell the sect to take care of you from now on."

Zuo's parents nodded in response and then bade their farewells. They brought Zuo together to spend one last day with their kid, which Roan didn't mind.

Rean called Malo over and went to the Formation Hall. There, he passed everything he knew about the Circuitry Formations and told their group that the development and use of the communication system would depend on them from now on. Of course, he wasn't an idiot. Rean made sure to save all the information about the system so far. If he needed to start it again in the future, it would be much easier since he already had all the results up to this point tested. Besides, he also stuffed a lot of the equipment necessary to make the more complicated things in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm as well. "It's up to you now. If I come back one day, I want to see how far you guys brought my communication system."

"Yes!" Everyone nodded, accepting Rean's words.

With that, just a few days remained before the portal closed, so Rean and Roan decided to depart.

Death... and me

Chapter 956: Why Didn't You Tell?

After bidding their farewells, Rean, Roan, Calina, Qia, and Zuo made their way outside the Freedom Sect. Kentucky and Celis were there as well, as they wanted to see them pass the portal. Kentucky even offered to carry everyone there, which Rean's group accepted.

Of course, there were a few more people going as well. Malo, Wataba, Liza, Luna, Fizer, and many other members of the Freedom Sect wanted to see them depart. Naturally, they followed Rean's group until the end.

Inside the Bestial Sacred Ground, it was possible to see many cultivators and demon beasts at the Nascent Soul Realm or Stage Five making their way to the portal. After all, many of them were on the

other side of the world when they heard about it. They spent over a week of constant travel, and there was definitely more coming at the current rate.

Rean's group ignored that, though. "Well then. I guess this is it."

Malo and the others stayed in front of the portal to the Realm of Gods as they looked at Rean's group approaching it. "Until another time, Rean, Roan!"

Rean laughed in response, saying, "Definitely! Perhaps we'll see you up there in the future!"

Rean and the others then passed through the portal and were about to be enveloped by the spatial power when suddenly...

\*Pin!\*

[Detected a path to the Realm of Gods. Transfer coordinates secured. Initializing gathering of Soul Gem System links between hosts and other beings.]

It was then that Kentucky and Celis felt spatial power enveloping their bodies as they were dragged into the portal as well. "What the fuck?!"

He and Celis turned into a flash of silver light together with Rean's group before they all disappeared inside the portal. Of course, not before he heard a few words that made him feel like crying.

"Didn't Kentucky say he didn't want to go?" Malo asked, his expression slightly confused.

"Perhaps he couldn't bear to see the twins going away and changed his mind," Poliana said in response.

"Well, that must be the case." Wataba and Glennie nodded their heads in agreement.

Poor Kentucky. Only a tear was left behind as he vanished together with everyone else.

The spatial transfer was much, much longer this time. Besides, the system continued to work while it happened.

[Point of spatial intersection found, changing transfer direction.]

The twins' group could only feel the change in spatial power acting on their bodies as they left the path followed by everyone else. Nevertheless, they couldn't do anything, nor did they want to. At the very least, they knew that the system wouldn't send them into some dangerous situation...or so they believed at least.

Because of the distance and difference between realms, the transfer took more than one hour to finish.

Suddenly, a crack appeared in the middle of the skies as a spatial gate opened. Sadly, this place was in the middle of nowhere, so no one saw it.

\*Vup, vup, vup, vup!\*

Following that, four flashes of silver light came down from it. Those flashes then stopped above the ground before they took the form of two humans, one bird and one Demon Tree in human form. The twins couldn't tell what was happening during the transfer. They could at most talk to each other, so they didn't know how the others were faring.

Rean's group soon opened their eyes, just in time to see the spatial gate above their heads disappearing. There was also some spatial power that remained on their bodies that were quickly fading. However, they didn't care about that. Instead, it was the number of members of their group present that took their attention. "Wait! Where are Calina, Qia, and Zuo?"

Only then did Rean pay attention to the bird, asking in surprise, "Right! Why are you here as well?"

Kentucky continued to cry as he lamented, "I don't know! I didn't want to come. Something grabbed Celis and me and pulled us inside the fucking portal! I wanna go back!"



Celis didn't seem to mind it much. "Oh well, Realm of Gods or not, for me, it's fine." He then patted Kentucky's head, saying, "Don't worry, we will find more girls to worship you here as well."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he spread his Spiritual Sense, completely ignoring Kentucky and Celis. Immediately, he noticed that his Spiritual Sense couldn't go much further than a couple of meters. "Our Spiritual Sense is restrained in this place. However, I can't see the girls and my disciple at all."

Rean put Kentucky's issue on the back of his mind as he became worried about Qia. "Could it be that we were teleported somewhere else?"

Roan nodded, responding, "That's the only possible reason. You do remember that the system said something about finding new coordinates, right? After a while, it said it found the intersection point. That was probably the moment we were separated."

Rean's mind then entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, asking, 'Sister Orb, are you there?'

[Of course!] Sister Orb answered. [However, don't ask me what happened. That was something the system decided by itself. By the way, you guys should brace yourselves. The spatial power protecting your bodies is about to disappear.]

Rean's group was confused to hear that. 'What do you mean by that?'

That spatial power finally disappeared when suddenly...

\*Arrrgh!\*

Rean's group felt like their bodies were assaulted by countless needles. They all fell on the ground and contorted in pain. Surprisingly, even Celis, a Demon Tree, wasn't an exception. Naturally, whatever was happening affected much more than just their bodies.

[Well, there you go. The Divine Energy of the Realm of Gods is now entering your bodies. You can call it a baptism of sorts. It will change your bodies so that your reliance on Spiritual Energy changes to Divine Energy instead. Oh, by the way, there's no Spiritual Energy in the Realm of Gods, only Divine Energy.]

Rean and Roan felt like cracking the orb into a thousand pieces as they simultaneously asked, "What?! Why didn't you tell us that before?"

[Tee-hee!]

"Fuck you!" And so started the process to adapt to the new environment.

Death... and me

Chapter 957: In the Realm of Gods

A great amount of pain later, Rean's group was finally able to get up once again. Fortunately for them, no demon beast or anything like that tried to attack them during the transformation. "Sigh...can you tell where the system brought us at least, Sister Orb?"

[I would love to, but it doesn't seem to have any information available.]

"What do you mean by that? The system was the one who said that it found these coordinates, wasn't it? How come it has no other information?" Rean said in response.

[That's the weird part. It only found the coordinates on its own. It doesn't say why it selected it or if there was even any reason whatsoever. Perhaps the system considered that using the demon beasts' portal wasn't a good idea.]

Kentucky couldn't help but point out...after recovering from his sadness from joining them against his will. "Isn't that bad? If the system brought us here because it wanted to keep us safe, doesn't that mean Calina, Qia, and Zuo are in danger? They weren't transferred to this place like we were."

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes in response.

[As I said, it's only a possibility. There isn't enough information to reach that conclusion. Who knows? They might be in an even better situation than ours.] Sister Orb tried to ease the mood.

Roan then shook his head and put those thoughts behind, saying, "Whatever. Since there's no way to know that for now, we might as well ignore it for the moment." As always, he was very direct. "So, do you at least know where we are, Sister Orb?"

[No idea.] Sister Orb was as useless as ever.

Without much choice, everyone could only take flight and check their surroundings...or so they tried. "We can't fly?" Everyone noticed that they simply couldn't leave the ground at all.

[You can't. Only those above the Transition Realm can fly in the Realm of Gods.] Sister Orb explained.

"Above the Transition Realm?!" Kentucky exclaimed before he immediately closed his beak with his wings. One couldn't talk about the Transition Realm, or they would be punished by the heavens...or that's how it was supposed to be. "Errr...nothing happened?"

[Yeap. The restriction to talk about the Transition Realm only happens in the Realm of Mortals. That's because you need to reach the Transition Realm if you wish to ascend to this place. In the Realm of Gods, the Transition Realm doesn't mean much, so the heavens here simply don't care if you talk about it or not.]

"I see..." Kentucky sighed in relief. He saw how powerful the backlash was once, so he was afraid he wouldn't even survive.

Roan ignored Kentucky as he changed the topic. "So, only those at the Transition Realm are able to fly. I quite like it."

Rean, who was still worried about Qia, couldn't help but ask, "Do you know if there's a way to go where Qia and the others were transported?"

[No. I don't even know where we are. How can I know where they're located? I have no idea whether we were teleported somewhere close or on the other side of the Realm of Gods altogether. Well, at least they have the Golden Droghare with them, so hiding shouldn't be an issue if necessary.]

Roan noticed an important point in Sister Orb's words. "You said 'the other side of the Realm of Gods.' Do you mean that we're on the same planet?"

[Not exactly.] Sister Orb replied. [Well, you aren't totally wrong. The Realm of Gods is a ridiculously huge landmass. Let alone one planet, even if you fit hundreds of thousands of planets worth of land, you wouldn't get even close to the total size of the Realm of Gods. Don't ask me how far it extends because I have no idea. Some even believe the Realm of Gods might be infinite. Of course, I don't think that's true.]

Rean then looked at the skies and finally understood something. "No wonder it's daytime even though I can't see a sun. Does the Realm of Gods have nighttime?"

[It does. It's just that you won't see any stars, just a long and dark sky that extends forever. As for why we have daytime, I have no idea. Maybe it's because of the Divine Energy. Perhaps some power is acting over the land. Who knows?]

Celis waited for Sister Orb to give all that explanation before finally asking about what mattered the most for him. "What is this Divine Energy? Can we use it for cultivation? How good is it? Is there anything we must pay attention to before absorbing this energy? What was the transformation we passed through?"

[That's a lot of questions. Alright, the answer to your first question first. Divine Energy is what you could call the Realm of Gods' Spiritual Energy.]

[The answer to your second question. Yes, you can use it for cultivation.]

[As for the third question, it's infinitely superior to Spiritual Energy. It can keep the foundation a lot sturdier during cultivation. It makes it easy to find one's path. Breakthroughs happen more easily as well. Also, there are no impurities in Divine Energy, so the more, the better.]

[For the fourth question...no, there isn't anything you need to pay attention to while absorbing it. However, I recommend revising your cultivation manual if you have any. You will see that Divine Energy acts very differently inside your body. Oh well, Celis and Kentucky are demon beasts, so I believe they don't even have cultivation manuals to start with. As for Rean and Roan, the system will modify your manuals automatically.]

[If there's anything bad about it, then it's probably the restrictions it applies to one's body. For example, you can't fly without being a bird with wings before the Transition Realm. There's also the issue of Divine Sense not reaching very far. By the way, it's called Divine Sense here, not Spiritual Sense. Roan tried to use Spiritual Sense before the transformation, so if you try to use Spiritual Sense right now, you will see that it changed as well. That's Divine Sense.]

[And lastly, the fifth question. The transformation was done so that your bodies could absorb Divine Energy into your dantians and cores. After all, they were made to hold Spiritual Energy so far. Naturally, they couldn't do the same with Divine Energy. Take a quick look at your meridians, dantians, and cores. You'll see what I'm talking about.]

Rean's group nodded and tried everything Sister Orb talked about.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 958: The Lake

Sister Orb was correct about the first thing about Divine Energy. Rean's group could tell that it moved a lot easier in their meridians. However, because it was a higher type of energy, it was also more powerful. That being said, their dantians and cores couldn't hold more than a third of the amount they could keep before with Spiritual Energy.

Roan then raised his hand and used the Divine Energy to gather Dark Element. Immediately, he noticed the difference, saying, "My speed is just a tenth of what I could do before."

Rean and the others tried to do the same thing and noticed the same issue. "Indeed. It's so hard to gather elements now."

[That's one more restriction of the Realm of Gods' Divine Energy. You must understand that although it's higher quality energy, it's definitely harder to control and use. On the other hand, you definitely can't surpass the Transition Realm without it. In fact, you four are already doing very well for your cultivation level, especially Rean and Roan, who have the system's support.]

Sister Orb gave some good news after that, continuing, [However, there is something good about Divine Energy. The fact that you need a lot less of it than you would need Spiritual Energy to breakthrough.

How long do you think you would take to enter the Peak Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm back in the Realm of Mortals?]

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before answering, "Considering all the help we had with Celis's abilities, I believe it would take around four to five years."

[Hehe! I'll be surprised if you don't break through in less than a year now,] Sister Orb replied with confidence.

Kentucky was happy to hear those words. "That fast? Perhaps it isn't all that bad to come to this place."

"Is there anything else we should know?" Celis asked.

[I don't think so. If I remember anything, I'll let you know.]

Everyone nodded as they quickly jumped on Kentucky's back. In the end, having the Minokawa with them still allowed their group to fly. "Try to go very high, Kentucky. We want to check where we are at the moment."

Kentucky nodded as he flapped his wings. However, it was a lot harder to leave the ground than usual. "So difficult...I feel like my body is being pulled down with a lot more strength."

Roan wasn't surprised by that. "That's because the gravity is a lot higher as well. It's at least twice as high compared to what we felt in the planets in the Realm of Mortals. This is a good thing for physical training, though."

[Oh, right. It's good that you said that. The Realm of Gods' gravity isn't the same everywhere. Some places might be hundreds of times worse, while others would feel akin to moving in space. Of course, you'll need to travel a ridiculously long distance to start feeling the difference between areas, so don't worry about it happening all of a sudden.]

Kentucky kept going higher and higher, finally allowing the twins' group to see more of the place where they landed. "So, we landed in the middle of a wasteland, huh?"

The region they were in seemed to be completely arid. There were a few small plants here and there, but those ones were native to such environments. With the Minokawa's greater vision, Kentucky could spot something in the distance. "There's movement far ahead. Wanna get close to check?"

Rean, Roan, and Celis checked their surroundings a bit more before nodding. "Sure, go ahead."

Sometime later, they finally got close to the creature. It looked like an armadillo but had three tails and a horn. It was also several times bigger than a normal armadillo. As soon as the armadillo noticed the arrival of Rean's group, it began to excavate before disappearing into the ground.

Rean's group didn't mind it too much, saying, "Well, at least it served to test out Divine Sense."

Celis agreed as he could not help but say, "Indeed. Divine Sense makes us view our surroundings a lot clearer. However, I couldn't see more than ten or so meters ahead of myself. It was good that Kentucky got close enough before it left completely."

Rean and Roan were a little better. After all, everyone knew that Spiritual Sense, or Divine Sense, in this case, had never been the forte of demon beasts. "We can see as far as 15 and a half meters, but nothing more than that. I wonder if a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator can see anything at all."

[Hmm...I would say they can see up to half a meter if they have very strong souls.] Sister Orb mentioned as they asked that question.

Kentucky once again took to the skies and flew forward, trying to find anything else. Eventually, it spotted something in the distance. "I think I can see a lake there."

"A lake? Here? It's probably an oasis then, no?"

Kentucky shook his head, saying, "I don't know. I'll get closer to take a look."

As Kentucky flew in the lake's direction, he began to see more. "There seems to be a lot of demon beasts around it. Can't tell what their levels are, though."

Roan then noticed something else. "They seem to be waiting for something."

Indeed. All the demon beasts waited outside of the water, looking at the lake and nothing else. Even when Kentucky approached, their attention didn't focus on the newcomers. Yes, they completely ignored the arrival of Rean's group. "Seems like it's normal for more competition to appear as they don't seem to care about us."

The majority of the demon beasts were either at Stage Two or three. At least that was as far as their Divine Sense could check. However, it didn't matter as their group quickly noticed that this place didn't only have demon beasts. On the other side of the water... "Oh! There's a caravan there."

"A caravan?" The attention of Rean's group was immediately piqued as they looked where Kentucky was pointed. "Hey, there're humans here as well. Let's go there take a look."

However, just as Kentucky was about to fly above the water, Rean and Roan saw the red color of killing intent.

Death... and me

Chapter 959: Divine Stream Lake

"Stop, Kentucky!" Roan exclaimed, immediately forcing Kentucky into a halt.

"What? What happened?" Kentucky was obviously confused to hear Roan shout all of a sudden.

Roan didn't explain and simply told him what to do. "Don't go above the lake. Retreat slowly. Understood?"

Kentucky nodded and flapped his wings back, leaving from the side he came. He soon left the lake area, which gradually made the killing intent disappear. Only then did Kentucky see that all the demon beasts around the lake were looking at him. "This..."

Once Kentucky got far enough from the lake, the demon beasts finally turned their attention back to the water, ignoring his existence.



"From the looks of it, the demon beasts don't want anyone to enter the lake. Even though you were going to fly above it, they thought you wanted to enter instead," Roan explained why the demon beasts acted like that.

"I see..." Kentucky then looked at the caravan on the other side of the lake. " Alright, I'll go around it then."

This time, none of the demon beasts cared about Kentucky flying above them. Surprisingly, Rean and Roan's Divine Sense felt the presence of an Initial Stage Five Demon Beast that looked like a lizard. Nevertheless, it also ignored their existence.

Eventually, Kentucky landed close to the caravan, where Rean's group could now see a few more humans. That wasn't all, though. Other than humans, there seemed to be other humanoid races in that group, with one looking very much like Lakures! 'To think we would find Lakures in this place...'

Of course, due to Kentucky's size, the group also noticed their presence. Rean then approached the caravan before the guards barred his path. One of them asked coldly, "What do you want?"

Rean smiled in response, saying, "Hello, my friends. We don't want to create any problems. It's just that my friends and I are lost and would like a little bit of information. Would you mind telling us about this place and if there's a city nearby?"

The guards looked at each other for a moment and were just about to drive Rean out when suddenly, a female voice came from inside one of the caravans. "Let him and his human friend pass. Just tell your demon beast and tree to stay outside."

The guards were taken aback by those words, muttering, "But, Lady Cyntia..."

"Enough." The voice stopped them from continuing. "You can't feel their cultivation with your Divine Senses because the difference is too big. These two men are both in the Late Stage of the Nascent Soul Realm. Do you think you can stop them if they want to force their way in?"

The guards let out cold sweat as they looked at Rean and Roan. Sure, it was easier to cultivate in the Realm of Gods. However, it didn't mean every single person could reach the Nascent Soul Realm. Well, this was obviously a desolate place, and two simple guards were already in the Late and Peak Stage of the Core Formation Realm, respectively. If it was on the planet with the Zasfins or even Sunkan, Core Formation Realm experts wouldn't do such common jobs.

Rean immediately bowed in the caravan's direction. "Thank you for receiving us. Know that we have no intention of doing anything against your group. We really are just lost."

"I know." Suddenly, an old woman came out of the caravan as she looked at Rean and Roan. "I already noticed when your demon beast tried to fly above the Divine Stream Lake. Only an idiot or someone who doesn't know what's happening would try to do that when the lake is about to transform. You were lucky to have noticed the issue fast enough and retreat. Otherwise, all the demon beasts here would have attacked you without mercy."

"Divine Stream Lake? Transformation What is that?" Naturally, Rean and Roan were curious.

"Didn't you say you only wanted to know how to reach the nearest city?" the woman asked in response to Rean's question.

Rean scratched the back of his head and nodded. "Well, that's true." Noticing that the other humans of the caravan weren't looking at him and Roan with good eyes, Rean gave up the idea of asking more about the lake. It was then that the woman finally got close enough to the twins for them to see her cultivation.

'Late Stage Soul Transformation!'

Rean and Roan couldn't help but remember Sister Orb's words about this place having a better cultivation environment. It was the first time talking with humans in the Realm of Gods, and on top of that, they were in the middle of nowhere. Nevertheless, a Soul Transformation Stage already appeared in front of them. 'No wonder she knew our cultivation beforehand. With her cultivation, her Divine Sense could obviously go further than ours.'

The woman then looked at the lake and sighed, saying, "Oh well, whatever. It's not like this is any secret to start with. Instead, it would be a lot harder to find someone who doesn't know about the Divine Stream Lake like your group."

Rean immediately bowed to the old woman and replied, "Thank you, Lady Cyntia. By the way, my name is Rean, and the dead body on my side is my brother, Roan."

Cyntia nodded before explaining, "The Divine Stream Lake appears randomly in our Yukirrom Region. Every time one is spotted, it will attract all the demon beasts around it. Although it looks like it, the lake isn't really made of water. Instead, it's concentrated Divine Energy, or liquid Divine Energy, as some would like to say. However, one can't use it for cultivation in that state. It's also impossible to store it. One has to wait until the lake transforms and use that moment to cultivate."

"What do you mean by transformation?" Roan asked.

"As I said, it appears randomly, but it disappears eventually. When that happens, the lake will turn back into normal Divine Energy. It's just that there will be a lot of it at once. All the demon beasts here are waiting for it. Obviously, we are the same. We were just lucky to have bumped onto it."

Celis, who was currently far away, had his eyes lit up after that. Even though he wasn't close, he could hear their words. 'Interesting.'

Death... and me

Chapter 960: Talking Demon Beasts

"When will it happen?" Rean asked, who was obviously interested as well.

"Who knows?" Unfortunately, Cynthia didn't know either. "Usually, it happens between one to two weeks, but it isn't guaranteed. By the way, we have already been waiting for five days. As for how long this Divine Stream Lake has been here, we don't know. It could have been an hour, or it could have been an entire week."

Roan, on the other hand, was more interested in the information regarding this region. "Can you tell us a bit more about the Yukirrom Region?"

Cynthia found it strange, saying in response, "Wait, you don't even know that? Just where have you been living until now? Even if you lived in the neighboring regions, you should at least have heard about us."

Roan shook his head in response, coming up with a quick excuse. "Because of some circumstances, we were teleported away from our own region. Perhaps you know the direction for us to go back. Have you heard about the Turis Region?"

Hearing Roan's words, Rean couldn't help but ask him through their soul connection, 'Turis Region? What's that?'

Roan snorted in response, replying, 'There's no such thing as Turis Region, idiot. However, considering the size of the Realm of Gods, I doubt she knows all regions in existence. This is just an excuse.'

Sure enough, Cynthia shook her head. "No, I don't. But if you really got teleported away, then you might have come from somewhere extremely far away. Well, if you want to find more about it, you better go to Cosec City. It just so happens that we're heading there as well. If you want, you can join us. I will only just ask you to help protect the caravan in case something happens."

Rean and Roan didn't find an issue with that. "Sure, that will help us out a lot."

"By the way, is it okay if I let our demon beast and tree friends enter the caravan's range?" Rean asked as he looked at the excited Celis in the Distance. "Don't worry. They won't cause any trouble."

Cynthia nodded, telling Rean, "As long as you keep them under control, I don't mind."

Rean then turned around and waved to those two to come in.

Cynthia was curious about one thing, though. "Then again, I'm surprised you can keep demon beasts of that level so close. Aren't you worried about them going berserk during the night before trying to attack you? I have to say, you must have some very good taming skills."

Kentucky, who had just arrived, couldn't help but ask, "Going berserk? Why would that happen to us?"

Celis agreed. "Indeed. Maybe there's some kind of force that can make us go berserk or something. If that's the case, please let us know more about it."

That was the same question in Rean and Roan's minds. However, at the very moment Kentucky and Celis opened their mouths to talk, all the cultivators around them looked at the two with eyes wide open. That also included Cynthia, who seemed to not believe what she was seeing. "Th-th-they talked?!!!"

Obviously, Rean's group noticed the problem as soon as Cynthia asked that question.

"Could it be you have never seen a demon beast or tree talk before?" Rean asked in response. By now, it would be impossible to hide the fact that Kentucky and Celis were sentient since they've already shown it.

Cynthia tried to calm down as she nodded. "Obviously! No, to be more precise, I've never seen a demon beast at Stage Five talk before. Shouldn't only demon beasts at the Transition Realm be able to talk and gain sentience?" One must remember that only eight stages existed for the demon beasts. Stage Nine was basically a name the demon beasts of the Realm of Mortals used instead of saying Transition Realm. After all, talking about this realm down there would end up in punishment from the heavens. Both demon beasts and all the other races must pass by the Transition Realm.

Rean couldn't help but contact Sister Orb in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, 'Did you know about that?'

[Ahem...I might have let it slip off my mind for a moment. Rean, Roan, demon beasts don't have sentience before the Transition Realm. Be careful when traveling with Kentucky and Celis.]

Rean and Roan's mouths twitched in response. 'Can an AI be any more useless than that? No, I refuse to believe that!'

Rean then looked at Cynthia before giving an excuse, saying with a light cough, "Ahem...we're the surprised ones. Demon beasts in the Turis Region already have sentience at Stage Four and can already talk at Stage Five. It's the first time we've heard of demon beasts not talking before the Transition Realm."

Cynthia narrowed her eyes in response. Then again, she couldn't find fault with Rean's words. "Well, the Realm of Gods is just too big. No one knows all its wonders. Still, I can at least confirm that you two aren't from anywhere close to Yukirrom Region. Otherwise, I would definitely have heard of demon beasts talking at Stage Five."

Rean sighed in relief in his mind before asking, before asking, "Should we keep it a secret or something like that? As we mentioned, we were teleported to this place because of the circumstances back in Turis Region. We know nothing about this area."

Cynthia then looked at the guards and other cultivators around them before saying, "Well, I wouldn't say it's some kind of huge issue. Even if they have sentience or can talk, in the end, that's just it. Their cultivations are still Stage Five, so it's the same as those at the Nascent Soul Realm, nothing that people would feel afraid of."

Cynthia then added, "However, it's also not something I would go around showing to everyone. Who knows, some people might think of using them as an attraction or whatever. Then again, I'm very interested in this situation of yours. Just what kind of teleport formation could send you two this far away? Were you inside some expert's inheritance or something like that?"

Rean scratched the back of his head in response. "Not quite..."

Cynthia also understood that everyone had their own secrets, so she didn't insist. "Anyways, as long as you keep your part of the deal and help protect the caravan, I will do the same."

"Understood," Rean's group answered in unison.