

Death 1121

Death... and me

Chapter 1121: You Didn't Notice

Someone had to ask, though. "Will there be an explanation of the rules beforehand this time?"

Cassia glanced at the guy, who immediately went silent. "Whether we give an explanation or not is up to us. If you're not satisfied, you are more than welcome to retire your participants." Cassia then looked at everyone else. "The same goes for all of you. Does anyone want to give up? If you do, just tell your participants to stay in the guests' hall."

Cassia continued after that. "Alright, open the spatial gates."

The subordinates and elders there immediately followed Cassia's orders. A moment later, three spatial gates appeared in front of everyone. "Luck can be said to be part of one's strength. With that being said, go ahead and choose a gate. Oh, just so you know, passing through a specific gate would ensure that one would die, regardless of the participant's cultivation."

Sure enough, there were no explanations once again. No one knew what to expect on the other side at all. To make things worse, the unavoidable death sentence in one of the gates didn't make the decision making any easier either. This time, even the Huring Country disciples felt apprehensive about choosing a gate straight away.

However...

Vup, vup...

As soon as these words were said, two guys entered the middle gate without even thinking, much to everyone else's surprise. Everyone recognized those two as well. Obviously, they were Rean and Roan!

Fabio couldn't help but sigh after that. 'Why do they have to do everything differently?'

Cassia, on the other hand, became even more interested in them after that. 'Could it be that they found out? No, I was the one who prepared these Spatial Gates. No one other than me knows what to expect from these gates.' Cassia then faintly smiled after that. 'Quite bold, aren't they?'

The Huring Country elders then looked at their own disciples. That same small fry country once again took the leading position. Didn't that mean that their Huring Country was more afraid of the gates than some weak candidates? The leading elder immediately looked at his country disciples with a dark expression. 'How long are you going to wait? If I see anyone outside of these gates in the next ten seconds, these people will immediately be excluded from our Huring Country!'

Venali, Dissielle, Ricab, and the others gritted their teeth and entered the gates. They didn't go all inside the same one, though. Each one of them selected a different gate according to their own instincts... except Venali, who chose Rean and Roan's gate. 'Since I don't know where to go, I might as well follow that black-haired guy and get rid of him on the other side...if the rules allow it.' He didn't know if the test on the other side involved killing, after all.

The other countries watched the Huring Country participants go through the gates. They were hoping that some clue would appear so that they could select the safer gates. Unfortunately for them, all three gates were simply identical. Even their elders couldn't tell any difference in them.

Without much choice, they all began to enter the gates as well. Unsurprisingly, Milina, Samanta, and Regio decided to follow the twins. In fact, the majority chose to do the same. Around 50% of the remaining participants entered the middle gate, while the rest selected the other two. Rean and Roan choosing a gate straight away was the only clue they got, even if it didn't mean anything.

Well, the fact was that it really didn't mean anything. Rean and Roan simply felt it was useless to ponder over it. That was the Sacred Land. Obviously, they wouldn't leave a clue behind in these spatial gates. Even Sister Orb couldn't see anything different between them. They were just spatial gates that led somewhere. That was all.

People continued to enter the gates nonstop until finally, no one else entered anymore. However, for some, the 33% chance of most likely dying was way too big. Out of the 45,810 remaining participants, only 38519 went through the gates. The rest gave up right there and then as they had underestimated the death rate of the Sacred Land's recruitment. Not that Cassia cared about it, of course.

Eventually, Cassia waved her hands, and the spatial gates disappeared. Only then was the monitoring formations in the guests' hall activated once again so everyone could watch their participants. Of course, Fabio used his Divine Sense to see what was happening to the twins, Samanta, Regio, and Milina.

Rean and Roan followed the same strategy from the previous teleport. They held onto each other and passed through the Spatial Gate together. That was to prevent them from being separated. Once they arrived on the other side, they immediately felt their cultivation disappear completely. No, to be more specific, all the Divine Energy and Soul Power in their body were sealed by some kind of strange force. Even their fused Divine Soul power was no exception.

Rean looked at his body and couldn't help but say, "It had been quite some time since I felt like just a normal human."

Roan snorted in response. "Normal human? Even though our cultivation and soul power are sealed, our bodies are still many times stronger than a normal person. Did you forget about our upgrades with the Soul Gem System?"

Rean shook his head in response. "Of course not. You know that's not what I meant."

The twins then put that behind and looked around. "By the way, where are we at the moment?" The twins could tell that they were in the middle of a city, and a very crowded one at that. However, none of the people there gave them the feeling of being cultivators.

It was then that Sister Orb's voice echoed in their minds. [It seems like you didn't notice it at all, huh?]

The twins' interest was immediately piqued. 'Notice what?'

[This isn't a real environment, but a dream world. Your consciousness was captured and sent into this place. As for your bodies, they are sleeping as if nothing had happened at all.]

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Chapter 1122: Hidden Surprise

Roan found it strange, though. 'Wait, but doesn't the Soul Gem System protect our souls against things like that?'

[It does.] Sister Orb replied. [But when I noticed it was part of the test, I was able to stop the system from intervening. Otherwise, it would be obvious that something isn't right about you two.]

'I see...' Roan had to admit it was a good decision from Sister Orb.

[However, there was one thing I interfered with.]

'What is it?'

[The fact you two are together. I kept your consciences close to each other so that you two would appear in the same place. I have no doubt that the initial idea was to separate everyone.]

Rean liked her actions. 'That's a good thing. Thank you, Sister Orb.'

[No problem. Now, it's up to you to find out what you should be doing in this place.]

Rean then looked around before asking, "Well, that's exactly the problem. What should we do then? Are there no rules again? Maybe we need to escape the city?"

Roan shook his head in response. "Does it look like we're in danger? I don't think escaping this place is the case this time. First of all, it's not like we need to escape anywhere as our bodies are fine in the Sacred Land."

"That's true..." Rean agreed with Roan on that. "Then, what should we do?"

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before he got close to a wall. If his cultivation was the only thing that he couldn't use, then his body should still be much stronger due to the system's upgrade. Of course, it couldn't compare with using Divine Soul Power. However, as long as he punched that wall, it should break apart with his body strength alone.

Nevertheless, because this was a sort of dream world, perhaps Rean was right about having a normal human body again. In that case, Roan would only hurt his hand.

Bang!

The wooden wall on the side trembled a little. However, let alone breaking the wall, Roan simply made his fist turn purple due to the impact. "Forget what I said about our bodies' strength. This dream world truly uses normal human bodies. The same should be the case for the other humanoid races."

Rean nodded after that. "That's fine. Without Divine Energy, all the humanoid races are pretty much similar in strength. Except for a few races that evolved and got stronger bodies, of course. Well, those ones are a lot rarer."

Roan then began to walk after that. "Let's take a look around and see if we find any clues."

Rean didn't mind and quickly followed him.

Back in the guests' hall of the Sacred Land, the people watching found it quite weird. They changed between disciples that had entered different spatial gates, but they all ended up in the same dream city. It didn't look like it was dangerous to any of them. Soon enough, someone got the courage to ask Cassia again. "Errr... shouldn't one of the gates have an almost certain death situation in them?"

Cassia looked at the guy and smiled in response. "I lied. All gates are the same. I just wanted to eliminate the rats who weren't brave enough to even choose a spatial gate. Truth be told, no one can die in this test, only get disqualified."

The participants who stayed behind couldn't help but drop their heads after that. Obviously, she was talking about them. The worst part was that the test didn't have any dangers at all. How embarrassing was that? But then again, if Cassia did that one more time in the next test, would she be lying? No one could tell.

"So...now that they're all inside the gate, would you mind explaining what the rules of this test are?"

Cassia nodded. "Sure, I will also tell everyone inside what they should be doing anyway, so pay attention."

As the twins walked through the city, Cassia's voice suddenly echoed in their minds, and so did in all the other cultivators' minds as well. 'It seems that all of you are ready for what you should do. The rules of this test are very simple. Here, everyone has exactly the same physical strength. Cultivation has absolutely no meaning in this place. Even if you're from a physically stronger race, you will still have the same strength as everyone else.'

Rean's comments about the physically stronger races immediately became useless. Of course, he more than welcomed those words.

Cassia continued, 'For the idiots who haven't noticed yet, you're not using your real bodies. This is an illusionary realm, and only your consciousnesses are here. It wouldn't be wrong to call it a dream world, either. Your bodies are safe in the Sacred Land. As for the talk about the dangers inside one of the gates, that was a lie.'

Many mouths twitched after hearing that. Although they decided to face the gates' danger, it turned out that there wasn't anything dangerous at all. Well, they definitely wouldn't complain about Cassia, though.

'Alright, let's focus on the test. As I mentioned, you aren't any stronger than the fake people walking around you. In the entire city, I left many items called Existence Pearls. As long as you gather ten Existence Pearls, your consciousness will be pulled back into your body, and you will have finished the test.'

Cassia could guess everyone's thoughts. 'There are many ways to get an Existence Pearl, but you will have to find it yourself. Try to detach your head from the everyday cultivator's life and put yourselves in the skins of the common people. I believe many of you don't consider them more than ants. Nevertheless, you must understand that they are the foundation of every city, state, country, and continent. At some point down the line, even royal descendants came from a common lineage.'

After that, Cassia spoke about the final rules. 'Of course, there is one thing you need to know. You can rob other cultivators of their Existence Pearls. But remember that you're definitely not physically

stronger than then, so think twice about your opponents. Last but not least, there's a hidden surprise in this test. Try to find that out.'

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Chapter 1123: Not so simple

Cassia then told the cultivators in the Dream City, 'There's no actual risk of dying. However, if you die in the Dream City, you will be disqualified straight away. Your consciousness will be pulled back into your bodies, and you will be sent home. The test will last two weeks. Good luck.'

Rean couldn't help but look at Roan with a smile, to which Roan understood why. It was extremely obvious how confident they were with these limitations in place. "Physical strength is exactly the same! Holy shit, I've never thought all that basic training you gave me would come into play like that."

"Hmph!" Roan snorted in response. "If you die, I die. Obviously, I had to prepare you for any possible situation. I did it for me, not for you. I couldn't care less if you died."

Rean didn't mind Roan's words at all. "Hahaha! I also love you, brother. Well, not really. In any case, I'm grateful for the skills you taught me."

Roan nodded. "That's enough. Now, it isn't guaranteed we will fall into a fight anyway. Let's try to find those ten Existence Pearls we need."

Rean nodded in response before he moved to a corner of the street. There, he found an old man who seemed to be having trouble carrying some heavy sacks. "Hello, senior. Let me help you carry it."

The old man looked at Rean and couldn't help but faintly smile in response. "Thank you, young one. My house is ahead."

Roan didn't stop Rean and simply took another one of the sacks before helping the man to carry them back to his house. The man's old wife then offered the twins some food to show her gratitude, which they gladly accepted. Eventually, they left the man's house...or so they tried. "Well, senior. Take care of your body."

"Wait a moment!" The old man suddenly called their attention. After that, he went into his room and came back with a small box. "Take this with you."

Rean opened the box, to which he immediately saw the red pearl inside it. Neither Rean nor Roan had to think twice to know that it was the Existence Pearl. Surprisingly, Rean didn't accept it straight away. "Senior, this is too valuable. All we did was to help you carry a couple of sacks. Please take it back."

The old man was taken aback as Rean stuffed the box back into his hand. Before he could say anything, Rean continued, "Your wife already gave us an excellent meal. That's more than enough gratitude for us. May we meet each other again."

The twins then left the house, not giving a chance for the old man to insist on it.

Roan understood why Rean first helped the old man. After all, Cassia said that they would have to find how to get the pearls by themselves. However, he didn't understand why Rean refused the pearl after he got the old man to give it to him. "Are you sure you want to leave the pearl behind?"

Rean smiled in response, telling Roan, "Cause and effect. Did you notice that a few people were looking at us?" Obviously, Roan nodded. It's just that he didn't care. With the number of participants in this city, they would obviously bump into many of them. He then waited for Rean to continue. "We have our original appearances, so people find it very easy to recognize us, especially after our performance in the last test."

Rean then pointed at the old man's house. "Some followed our steps. Quite a few of them should have noticed when the old man offered his Existence Pearl to us. Do you think they'll stay still after that?"

Roan nodded in understanding. "That's exactly why I asked why you didn't take it. Considering your personality, you definitely wouldn't let the old man continue carrying such a dangerous thing. If it's in our hands, we don't need to be afraid, but the old man is different."

Rean agreed with Roan. "That's true...if things were that simple." Rean and Roan then entered a store and went to the second floor before stopping by a window. The window just so happened to be close enough to watch the old man's house in the distance.

Sure enough, it didn't take long for some of the cultivators who were watching them invade the old man's house, demanding the guy to give the pearl away. They were proud cultivators with important backgrounds. Why should they care about the old man's well-being? Besides, this was all an illusion. It's not like they would really kill anyone.

"Help!!! Guards, help!!!"

The old man and his wife then began to scream, asking for help. At first, the cultivators couldn't care less about their shouts. Well, unfortunately for them, they should have paid more attention.

"What's happening here?!" a strong voice yelled out. In just a few seconds, several city guards dressed in armor entered the house, just in time to see the cultivators trying to steal the old man's pearl.

"Help me! They invaded my house and are trying to steal my things!"

The cultivators looked at the guards and snorted after hearing that. "Get the fuck out before we kill you."

The guards became enraged and immediately attacked the cultivators. The cultivators, on the other hand, used their fighting abilities to retaliate... or so they tried.

Bang! Pah! Pow...

Even faster than the guards arrived was how the cultivators had been beaten down. The cultivators thought that although they couldn't use Divine Energy, they still had the fighting abilities that they got after so much training. Surely some city guards wouldn't be their match, right?

Unfortunately for them, it was all useless. Their bodies simply didn't answer as they wished. Their movements, which were perfect with Divine Energy, looked nothing more than children's play without it. Some might even think that they were some clowns. Simply put, any action derived from Divine Energy abilities was just as terrible as it could be.

Twelve cultivators invaded the old man's house, while seven disappeared into specks of light. As for the rest...

"Send them to the prison. I don't want to see their faces on the streets during the next few years," the guard leader ordered.

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Chapter 1124: The City Rules

Of course, those cultivators wouldn't be there for that long. Once the test was over, the illusory or dream city would disappear, so their consciousness would return to their bodies. However, one couldn't say that they were disqualified like the guys who died. If someone set them free, they could still try to find ten Existence Pearls.

Rean smiled from a distance before looking at Roan. "Did you see? We're nothing more than simple humanoid races without any particular strength. Naturally, we can be easily overwhelmed by a larger number. Also, in this city, I noticed a point. It sure does have a lot of guards. You better think twice before trying to steal something forcefully. Other cultivators aren't the real strongest power here. The city's people are."

Roan had to admit Rean made sense. "Quite well perceived. Although if it was the two of us in their place, we could still defeat those guards. It's just that we would need to flee as fast as possible before even more of them come." Roan then stood up before saying, "Let's go to a clothes shop and buy something to hide our faces. Without Divine Sense and Soul Power Scan, a hood should do the job."

Rean didn't mind. "Sure, let's go."

Little did the twins know, it wasn't only Fabio watching their actions. Cassia had also taken quite an interest in them, so she was watching as well. Besides, the twins didn't use their Soul Connection to talk just now but spoke naturally. 'Impressive. Just one look and they already understood most of the mechanics of this city. They even lured other cultivators to test their own theories. If they're this good, how come their cultivation is still so low?' Cassia then shook her head after that. 'Well, they did come from a very small country, after all. It won't be a problem if they succeed in entering the Sacred Land later.'

Well, those guys Rean lured into the old man's house for testing weren't the only ones caught. Many cultivators simply didn't care about the city's people and began to enter places unannounced to look for the Existence Pearls. Unfortunately, not even a single one of them was able to find Existence Pearls. Besides, with the exception of a few lucky ones who escaped after, most of them were killed or thrown into prison.

Fabio had a reason to feel proud again, though. Except for Milina, he didn't have a single Royal Family protege in his group. Rean, Roan, Regio, and Samanta all came from common backgrounds...well, at least Regio and Samanta definitely did. They all had nothing against common people and didn't think about using strength to get what they wanted in the first place.

In Milina's case, well...she simply didn't like these kinds of things to start with. "Hmm...sir, would you mind giving me some food? I'm hungry."

The guy at a stall looked at Milina's fat appearance and waved his hands, telling her, "Go away, go away. If you don't have money, then don't bother me. First of all, you're obviously not someone with a hunger problem."

Milina couldn't help but sigh after hearing that. She didn't get angry as it was common for others to think that she was the typical fat person. No one would believe that her real weight was the same as a slim girl of her age. "Then, do you know how I can make some money?"

That was a problem that the twins immediately found themselves in when they arrived at the clothes store. None of their items came with them as this city and their bodies weren't even real to begin with. "Well, guess we need to change the plans. We can obviously feel hunger as well, so we need money for food."

Roan snorted before walking away from Rean. A few minutes later, he came back and threw a bag with many gold coins inside it. "Let's buy the clothes."

Rean couldn't help but laugh after seeing what he had received. "Hahaha! So the great death himself has some light hands, huh? Well, this is all an illusion, so it matters little how and who you got this bag of coins from."

"Stop the bullshit and let's enter," Roan said in response.

A few minutes later, Rean and Roan left the clothes shop while still using their own clothes. Of course, they knew they were being observed by other cultivators, just like how it was with the old man. That's why they didn't change into new clothes straight away. With that said, they used Roan's experience to leave those guys behind until they finally found a concealed place to change into new clothes.

Roan understood that Rean was better to find those tasks that could give Existence Pearls, so he simply let Rean decide what to do. "So, what now? Should we head back to the old guy to take his pearl?"

Rean pondered in silence for a bit before saying, "Although the old man should still have his Existence Pearl, I'm pretty sure that many participants are watching his house. Let's give up on that one." As Rean and Roan walked through the streets, Rean finally saw something interesting. "Oh, let's join the city guards!"

"The city guards?" Roan was taken aback for a moment before he faintly smiled. "Now, that seems promising."

Meanwhile, the other countries began to understand how the city worked. Venali wasn't an idiot, so he didn't go around attacking or stealing people using force. He waited to find a few of his members from the same country and got them to gather information. "I see...so we are no match to the guards. In fact, even the young people of this illusory city are hard to deal with."

Venali pondered on whether they should gather everyone and go out on a stealing spree. If the guards came out, they could fight against them together. He could even use the low-level members to escape if necessary. As long as he got the ten pearls, that was enough.

Ricab, who was on his side, then asked, "Cleyg, did you find any way to acquire Existence Pearls?"

Cleyg, who was silent all this time, nodded in response.

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Chapter 1125: Interesting!

Cleyg then began to tell them what he knew. "It seems like there are really many different ways to get Existence Pearls. It's just that these ways can't be repeated. I heard that a guy accepted to do a job for

some store merchant and got paid with an Existence Pearl. However, when he tried to repeat the same job, the owner of the store only paid with gold coins. Other people thought that it might be because a person could only get a single pearl from the same job and tried to do it as well. Unfortunately, everyone who came after the original guy only got gold coins as well."

Venali narrowed his eyes after hearing that. "That means the number of Existence Pearls is limited. Very well, did you get the pearl of that guy?"

Clyg shook his head as he told him, "Our Huring Country disciples weren't the only ones to target him. Because everyone here is basically as strong as any other cultivator, no one really cared as to who we were. Our country does have a lot of people, but it still severely pales in comparison when you put everyone together."

Dissielle, who was there as well, asked something else. "What about the city guards? Did they intervene when the cultivator was attacked?"

"No." Clyg shook his head. "It was possible to hear them laughing at the scene, though. From the looks of it, they consider us outsiders and don't care whether we die or not. However, you better not destroy anything in the process. Otherwise, they will make those responsible for it pay. If you do, you better run."

Venali smiled in response after hearing that. "Cassia wasn't lying when she said we can steal from other cultivators. At least this part won't be a big issue." Venali then looked at everyone before saying, "Alright, you know what to do. Go look for the tasks, but above all, steal any Existence Pearl from other participants if you can. I want to get out of here as soon as possible."

Of course, the Huring Country's participants weren't the only ones. Most of the big countries knew that instead of looking for the necessary tasks, it was even better to steal the pearls from those who got them. Everything was valid as long as they got ten pearls.

However, a problem quickly arose after a few hours...who would be the first to go out of the Dream City? Let alone the small countries, not even the bigger ones, wanted to give the Existence Pearls they got to the other participants. Naturally, Venali, Dissielle, Ricab, Hedoi, and many other leaders of those countries' disciples didn't get their companions to deliver it to them. Why should they? Everyone wanted to enter the Sacred Land! That was especially so for countries like Klacks, whether no one trusted the other party. Powers from evil paths would always have a lot more trouble with these kinds of things.

Of course, there were exceptions.

"Senior Liana, here are the two Existence Pearls we got for you," a young woman said as she passed the pearls to Liana.

Liana was the Tenke Country's Pure Yin Body disciple. In her country, respect and trust were part of the most important qualities. Those girls didn't mind giving their pearls to Liana at all.

Liana, however, was even more adamant than these girls or the few men who were part of their entourage. "No can do. You got these pearls fair and square. Just keep it. If things turn awry for me, then we can talk about it again. However, I wanna try getting them on my own first."

"Yes, Senior Liana."

Meanwhile, the twins arrived at the City Guards' headquarters.

Unsurprisingly, there were a few city guards in front of it. "Halt! This place is out of limits. Go away!"

Rean then approached the guy. "We would like to join the City Guards."

"You?" The guard at the front gate couldn't help but laugh out loud after hearing what Rean said. "Hahaha! Do you think we would accept outsiders to join our ranks? Keep dreaming! Shoo, shoo, go away!"

Rean was taken aback. "We can't join? Why?"

"Because we don't trust you, outsiders," the guard explained. "You have been causing trouble all over the city since you arrived, killing each other even. Why would we want something like that? You were not the first one to ask for it, but the answer was the same for everyone."

Rean pondered in silence for a bit. 'Could it be that the city guards are out of limits in this dream city?'

However, Rean knew that this was one of the best ways to obtain Existence Pearls. It was then that he had an idea.

"How about this? I'm sure you would like to get rid of these inconveniences as soon as possible, right? I also feel ashamed that the other outsiders are behaving this way. In that case, you can let me and my brother join the city guards, and we will only deal with outsiders. We won't mess with any other duty of the City Guards."

The guards at the gate didn't seem very convinced, though. "And you expect us to believe that? First of all, everyone we captured from your people so far was weak as fuck! They only knew how to flee and couldn't pose any threat to our companions. Why should we recruit someone like you?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he smiled. "Oh, then you're severely underestimating the two of us. With that in mind, would you like to test us? You can use your weapons and armors to fight one of us. We will only use our hands."

"This..." The guard didn't know what to say.

Suddenly, a voice echoed from inside the city guard's headquarters. "Interesting!" Soon after, a bulk man dressed in heavy armor with a huge axe on his back came out. "I would like to see what you can do, then."

"Ca-captain!" The guards at the gate immediately opened the way for the man.

He nodded at them before looking at Rean and Roan. "It's hard to see someone willing to fight in such a disadvantageous position. I don't know whether you're really that good or just plain idiotic. However, I'm willing to give you a chance. You don't even need to defeat me. As long as you last a minute in battle, I'll deem you worthy of joining our ranks."

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Chapter 1126: Rivaldo

"Errr..." Rean couldn't help but look at Roan and talk through their Soul Connection. 'This guy is quite big and looks like a war tank. If it was any of the others, I could take on a few of them simultaneously. But

this guy...' Rean could tell that this guy alone could definitely fight many cultivators in this dream city at once and still trash them. It had nothing to do with cultivation. He was just that strong! 'Oh, right! He just told us that we need to last a minute. If that's the case, then it is easy.'

Roan agreed with Rean's assessment. 'You're correct. He's on another level. However, I don't want to watch you running away from him. Let me give it a shot instead.' Roan didn't seem unhappy at all as he stepped forward.

"Oh, so you're actually going to take on the challenge?" the captain asked.

Roan nodded in response. "I sure am."

The captain didn't care which one it was. It could even be both as far as he was concerned. "Good! By the way, my name is Rivaldo, the captain of the city guards."

Roan was direct. "So, where will we fight?"

However, as soon as Roan finished his question, Rivaldo's axe came crashing down at him.

Bang!

A huge hole opened in the ground, but Roan reacted fast enough to jump back and not be hit. Rivaldo then smiled at him. "When the City Guards need to fight, there's no such thing as a place for fighting. We need to use whatever environment we're thrown into. In any case, the fact you dodged my attack proves that you at least aren't useless. Now then, can you truly last one minute?"

Rivaldo immediately burst forward, moving his axe faster than most of his subordinates could move swords. Roan had to admit the guy was extremely fast for his body's build. However, it was Roan we're talking about here.

Rivaldo's axe went for Roan's head, aiming to take it in one strike. He never said that he wouldn't try to kill Roan in that test, after all. Roan then performed an evasive action, turning his body to avoid the axe and counterattack. However, just as the axe was about to hit Roan's head, Rivaldo's muscles bulged as it

changed direction. That attack on Roan's head was just a feint! Rivaldo's real aim was Roan's body. It was possible for someone as strong as Rivaldo to cut any part of Roan in two, including his torso.

Surprisingly though, the axe wasn't the only thing that changed direction at the last moment. Roan's body also contorted in a ridiculous way as he propelled himself slightly into the air. As soon as he jumped, he brought his legs close to his body, making the axe miss him by a few millimeters!

As strong as Rivaldo might be, that last moment change in his axe direction used up most of his momentum. He couldn't recall his axe back anymore before performing the full swing.

Roan then rotated his body and used the chance to perform a kick on Rivaldo's head...or so he intended to. However, he could tell that Rivaldo wasn't that easy to be hit. Just as his leg was about to hit Rivaldo's head, his other leg kicked the axe passing under him and used that force to jump back.

That was the right decision. That's because when Roan kicked the axe under his body, there was no one holding it. Rivaldo had completely given up on his axe when he noticed he couldn't bring it back in time and aimed to capture Roan with his enormous hands. Unfortunately for him, Roan escaped his range.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Bam!

Rivaldo's axe bounced on the ground a few times before hitting a wall on the side.

The city guards watching the scene had their mouths agape. It was really hard to see someone last this long against Captain Rivaldo. At the very least, no one had ever done so since Rivaldo took up the role of captain.

However, Rivaldo couldn't care less about it. "You...what's your name?"

Roan looked at Rivaldo in response before replying, "Roan."

"Roan, huh?" The minute Rivaldo mentioned wasn't over yet, but Rivaldo didn't pursue Roan anymore. "Forget about the battle. Let me ask you. You had something planned just now, right?"

Roan was surprised to hear that question. With that, he replied, "Impressive, so you noticed." Soon after, Roan threw a dagger he had acquired in a smithy on the ground. "However, don't misunderstand it. I didn't use the dagger because I was not in the perfect position to throw it with the necessary strength. Besides, you're dressed in full armor, so I would need to aim for your eyes. There was a good chance I would have missed, and if that happened, I would have been caught. With your body's strength alone, I'm certain you would be able to break all my bones by simply squeezing me. Even if I had hit the target, you're a seasoned warrior. I'm sure you would have turned your head, using the helmet itself to stop the advancement of the dagger. You would lose the vision in one of your eyes, but you would still most likely catch me. In the end, it would still be my loss."

Rivaldo looked at Roan with light in his eyes before he burst out into laughter. "Hahaha! Good! Good! Indeed, the moment I saw your hand reaching into a blind position, I knew something was coming. Yes, I was ready to react to whatever you threw at me. However, what superb fighting awareness. You also noticed that you couldn't win in this exchange, so you gave up on the plan and even used my axe as a way to get away from me. That only makes me wonder...if we continued to fight, who would win in the end?"

Rivaldo then walked to the side and grabbed his axe back. "Forget about the one-minute shit. With your strength, I have no reason to deny your entrance to the city guards. Just as your brother said, you will be mainly responsible for the actions of the other outsiders. I'll give you one squad to help with the patrolling. Do whatever you see fit as long as you don't bother the city's people or destroy it."

Rean and Roan were more than satisfied with that.

Rivaldo was just about to leave when he remembered something, "Oh, right!" He then took his helmet off and pulled out a collar from his neck. After that, he threw the collar at Roan. "Take this. For some reason, I feel like you need it."

It was an Existence Pearl! This time, neither Rean nor Roan wanted to give it back.

"Come inside and change into the City Guards' attire. I want you to start your work straight away," Rivaldo told them.

The twins looked at each other and nodded before they followed the other guards inside. Around an hour later, they exited the City Guards' headquarters, followed by twenty more guards.

Rean smiled at the guards before telling them, "Alright, everyone. I know you have let the outsiders fight each other as long as they didn't destroy or hurt anyone. However, that puts a lot of shame on me as an outsider as well. With that being said, if we see any of them fighting, we will immediately act and stop the fight by any means. Understood?"

"Yes, leaders!"

Death... and me

Chapter 1127: That's Convenient

Roan actually fought Rivaldo to the same level! How big was that for the City Guards?! Obviously, they had to acknowledge Roan's strength whether they wanted to or not. At the very least, none of them could do that. They also heard that Rean was almost as strong as his brother. In that case, there's no shame in being under their command, especially since they wanted to get rid of the troublemakers from outside. How many of the city guards could say that they were patrolling with someone as strong as Rivaldo? That was an honor to him as Rivaldo rarely left the headquarters ever since he became the captain.

Rean and Roan's concealment paid off in the end. No one knew that they joined the city guards. Not to mention that they were now using full-body armor. At this point, they looked just like any of the city guards on patrol.

Fabio looked at that and couldn't help but become excited. 'Holy shit! Can't they simply trash everyone with the city guards helping them?'

That wasn't exactly what Rean wanted, though. More than that, Rean wanted to find the so-called surprise that Cassia talked about. Well, in any case, they would need the Existence Pearls for that.

With the cultivators everywhere and a city that wasn't that big, it didn't take long for Rean and Roan to find the first cultivators fighting over an Existence Pearl.

"Get him!"

"He's mine!"

"Get your hands off my Existence Pearl, trash!"

Rean and Roan shook their heads after seeing that scene. It didn't look like the normal refined battle between cultivators, but more like a bar brawl instead. That was the outcome of removing the Divine Energy that cultivators used whenever they fought.

"These outsiders are a disgrace to the outsiders who wish to earn their income properly! Guards, seize them! Show no mercy to anyone who resists!" Rean, obviously, wouldn't let the chance pass up.

Pah! Pow Bang! Clash! Swish...

Cultivators died and got captured one after another. That took the cultivators by surprise as they hadn't hurt anyone from the city or destroyed anything. Nevertheless, most of them tried to flee. Some succeeded, the rest not.

"Leaders, we've got the thing they were fighting over for." One of the guards then passed Rean another Existence Pearl. "So, these are the reason for so much tumult in our beloved city, huh?" Rean said as if he didn't know anything.

Funnily enough, while everyone was struggling to pass the test, Rean enjoyed playing the NPC role. 'This truly reminds me of some game from Earth. It's quite sad that I've never had the chance to play them.'

Soon after, Rean smiled and gave an order. "Everyone, we will target any of those outsiders and seize these items from them so that this bullshit can finally stop."

"Yes, sir!"

Well, Rean and Roan didn't stay put either. Although they were the leaders of that squad, they also joined the fray to fight the cultivators. No one doubted they were real guards either. After all, they were even stronger than common guards, while most cultivators were usually weaker than them.

By the end of the first day, Rean and Roan had obtained...35 Existence Pearls! They only needed 10 Existence Pearls to pass the test, but they didn't use them at all. There was a reason for that, though.

Going back a few hours ago, Rean and Roan had gotten their tenth pearl from the cultivators fighting. As soon as they held the tenth one in their hands, something appeared in their minds.

-Ranking of Dream City-

1st: Rean Larks, 10 Existence Pearls.

2nd: Roan Larks, 9 Existence Pearls.

3rd: Venali Petsys, 5 Existence Pearls.

4th: Hedoi Garaizabal, 4 Existence Pearls.

5th: Liana Turin, 4 Existence Pearls.

6th: Ricab Guto, 4 Existence Pearls.

7th...

An entire ranking board appeared in their minds. Well, to be more specific, it only appeared on Rean's mind as he was the only one who got ten pearls. Roan only saw that because Rean shared his memory with him.

'A ranking system?' Roan could not help but say.

Rean nodded in response. 'Indeed. This should be the hidden surprise that Cassia talked about.'

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before asking, 'What do you think the first places will get?'

'Who knows?' Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. 'When I asked for a reward before, she told me that the only reward was getting accepted into the Sacred Land. There wasn't anything else.'

Rean and Roan's expressions immediately changed when they thought about that. 'Wait! Could it be that we can be accepted into the Sacred Land straight away if we win this thing?'

The twins weren't sure if that would really happen or not. Perhaps Cassia was only trying to create more chaos with this hidden surprise. She never said that anyone would get anything extra for passing this test in the first place.

'Should we stay and gather more Existence Pearls, or should we leave straight away after getting your tenth one?' Rean asked.

Roan shook his head after hearing that. 'We're part of the city guards, and all these idiots have no idea how to fight without Divine Energy or their strong cultivators' bodies. What do we have to fear? Let's keep going.'

Rean laughed in response when he heard that. 'Hahaha! That's true. Hey, we can even help our own group if we find them. At this pace, it won't be a problem to gather many more Existence Pearls. These guys are starting to understand the tasks needed to gain them.'

Roan didn't see a problem with that.

And that's how the twins gathered 35 pearls by the end of the day. Rean was holding 17 while Roan had 16 of them. With that, they noticed one more point when they both got more than 10 pearls. In their minds... they could now see the position of each other in the city. It was as if a map showed the location of anyone holding ten or more pearls.

Rean and even Roan couldn't help but show a grin at that moment. 'Now, that's convenient.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1128: I'm Going Out

At the moment, Rean and Roan were basically the only ones who had over 10 Existence Pearls. All the others were having a much harder time doing that. In any case, the big countries were still the big countries. Huring, Klacks, Volava, and the other big countries had quite a few of its members refusing to give away their own Existence Pearls to the top participants like Venale, Hedoi, and others. However, after some negotiations and promises, those top participants still convinced some of their members to hand over their pearls.

At the end of the third day, the third, fourth and fifth person to gather 10 Existence Pearls had finally appeared. However, it was still not someone from the top countries. Instead...it was Samanta, Regio, and Milina out of everyone. Why? Because the twins had struck gold by being squad leaders of the city guards!

Using the city guards' connections, they quickly found those three after some investigation. Well, Rean did. Roan didn't seem to care that much. "Come on, let's help our friends. Look at this." Rean then showed a bag with many Existence Pearls inside it. "I alone have 53 Existence Pearls. It won't hurt to let them leave the city first."

Roan nodded. "Fine. Perhaps the surprise Cassia talked about was for someone who exits first, and not those who got more Existence Pearls."

Naturally, Samanta, Regio, and Milina were surprised to be stopped by the city guards all of a sudden. But when they heard who sent the guards, they complied and followed them back. It was then that they finally saw the twins. "How the hell did you two become city guards?" Milina asked in disbelief.

Samanta nodded in agreement as she told them, "I've heard about people trying to enter the city guards, but they were all refused. Those who insisted got beaten up or even died. Rumor says that a strong as hell captain is the one testing the cultivators who appear, wishing to join them."

Rean shrugged his shoulders after hearing that. "How else do you think we did it? Roan obviously fought that guy, and they ended up in a draw after a few exchanges."

"You achieved a draw with that monster?" Regio, who usually didn't talk much, felt that to be unbelievable. That's because he had the idea to join the city guards as well, so he went to take a look and saw a few cultivators doing the same. Well, when he saw that monster cleaving people right and left, he completely gave up. There was no way he and anyone else could win.

"Roan did, but that's not why I called you here," Rean said in response. "How many Existence Pearls have you guys gotten so far?"

Samanta narrowed her eyes a bit but decided to go ahead and show them. In this place with the city guards, she wouldn't have much of a chance to escape anyway. Besides, Gulia seemed to trust these two quite a lot before she fell in the second test. "I only got two."

Regio and Milina also showed their own pearls. "I've only got one, and it was hard as hell to get it."

"Everyone's watching everyone. If you receive an Existence Pearl and someone sees it, you will most likely be targeted by many cultivators at once. Besides, everyone has to find new tasks capable of giving Existence Pearls."

Rean nodded before he took the bag in his armor and opened it. Soon after, he threw eight pearls to Samanta and another eighteen to Milina and Regio. "Here, take these ones. With this, you'll have ten pearls each. Use these pearls to get past this test."

"What?!" Seeing how many Existence Pearls Rean had, Samanta's group was obviously left aghast. "I see... So you are the city guards

squad that's hunting cultivators who fight each other." Sure enough, rumors regarding Rean and Roan's squad spread very fast.

"That is indeed us." Rean nodded. "Alright, that's what I wanted to give you. You should take this chance and complete the third test."

However, Samanta, Milina, and Regio also saw how the ranking appeared in their minds. "This...there's a ranking board?"

"There is," Rean replied. "However, you better not try to participate in it. Have you noticed that you can now see each other's position?"

Milina quickly nodded in response. "Yes, it's like there's a map in my head showing where all of you are. I can even see their names and the countries they came from." Samanta and Regio confirmed they had the same thing.

Rean then continued, "That's the issue. Roan and I believe it has something to do with the hidden surprise Cassia talked about. With that said, we decided to gather as many Existence Pearls as we possibly could during these next two weeks. Since we already got quite some money saved up, I decided that I might as well help you conclude the test."

Samanta narrowed her eyes after hearing that. "Should we stay and help with that, then? I don't like the idea of receiving these pearls for free. Let us join your squad, and we will help you gather more Existence Pearls. You're the leaders here, after all."

Rean and Roan shook their heads as Rean explained, "We can't let you join. It's not that we want to, but you will need to pass through Rivaldo first. He doesn't accept any outsiders without checking their strength first. Do you really want to fight him?"

The three of them immediately shook their heads vigorously. No one wanted to fight Rivaldo at all. At least not without their cultivations.

"Then, there you have it. Besides, there's another reason why we want you to go out," he continued.

"What is it?"

"We don't know if the surprise Cassia talked about was this ranking or if it would be something given to the first people to get out. If it's the latter, we would rather have you guys get it than those strong countries."

Milina wasn't as prideful as Samanta, though. "Great! I never expected to get all the way to the third test anyway. I'm heading out."

Before anyone could say anything, Milina used her ten pearls. In an instant, they shone with a strong red light that quickly covered her body. A moment later, Milina was gone.

Death... and me

Chapter 1129: Is this a trap?

"Isn't she a bit too shameless?" Regio couldn't help but ask.

Samanta shrugged her shoulder as she told Regio, "Milina has always been like that. She isn't a bad person, but she definitely isn't the kind one either. However, I can guarantee she will give you a hand when you're in dire need of help."

Rean didn't mind. If anything, it was good that Milina didn't insist on staying. "Anyways, I'm not going to force you two. However, chances are that you will be assaulted by the other cultivators once they start gathering ten pearls each. Don't forget that compared to the big countries, we have very few members. Roan and I are fine since we're together with the city guards, but I can't say the same for you two."

Rean then smiled as he continued, "If you two are afraid that you will be in debt with us, don't be. These extra pearls cost almost nothing for us. You can find another way to repay us in the future. However, you should really take the chance to advance to the next test when you have it. When you just arrived in this city, did you expect to get this far?"

With that, Regio and Samanta finally nodded. "If the chances present themselves, we will help you in the next tests." They understood that insisting on it wouldn't bring them anywhere. With that said, they also activated their Existence Pearls before their bodies disappeared from the Dream City.

"Phew...now that thing's dealt with," Rean could not help but say after the two left.

Roan still found Rean too naive for his own good. "Let's hope everything goes well."

Rean then thought about something. "How about this? I'll give you all my pearls from now on, just keeping ten of them with me. That way, we will guarantee that at least one of us will finish first place."

Roan pondered in silence for a bit and agreed with him. "Fine. I'm the one with the best chances of defending them anyway."

Back in the guests' hall, Fabio couldn't help but feel excited. 'Recruiting the twins was definitely the best thing I've ever done in my life. Hahahaha!' Right now, he already had three cultivators in the fourth test, and Rean and Roan would most likely join them later. First of all, he was very curious to see what would happen if the twins finished first place on that ranking board. Sure enough, all the guests could at least see the rankings, although they couldn't watch Rean and Roan directly.

The twins then resumed their daily patrol with their squad. After those first few days, the number of fights between cultivators reduced a lot. It's not that they were being more careful, but that many of them were imprisoned or got killed. 45810 cultivators entered the dream city, but now, less than 20000 remained after just three days.

Of course, they would still find cultivators fighting over Existence Pearls every now and then and capture those people. They took their pearls away and sent the survivors into jail. However, Rean and Roan never attacked cultivators who were performing tasks. They truly only took the ones causing trouble, as the city guards should be doing.

On the fifth day, the next ten pearl holder finally appeared. This time, it was really one of the big countries. Or, to be more specific, the Klacks Country. Hedoi got ahold of his tenth pearl by using death threats after leaving the Sacred Land. However, he was basically the only one from his country to have ten or get close to it. The issue of evil path cultivators with trust continued, so they didn't have other participants in the same situation.

If one took Huring Country as an example, they also had these kinds of problems where everyone wished to pass. Nevertheless, it was easier to gather ten pearls in a less chaotic manner. Ricab, Venali, and Dissialle all had nine pearls that they shared between themselves.

Hedoi, obviously, immediately had the ranking board appear in his mind. 'Hum? Was there such a thing?' Then, his mouth twitched when he checked the first position.

1st: Roan Larks - 97 Existence Pearls.

2nd: Rean Larks - 10 Existence Pearls.

3rd: Hedoi Garaizabal - 10 Existence Parls.

Milina, Samanta, and Regio didn't count anymore because they left the dream city. Naturally, they didn't appear in the rank. "Holy shit! It's him! Sect Master wanted me to force his retirement from the Sacred Land Recruitment. However, how the hell did he get these many pearls?!"

Of course, Roan's position immediately appeared on the map in Hedoi's mind. Following that, he looked at the other members of his Klacks Country before saying, "All of you, come with me. We need to check something out."

Seeing those many pearls, Hedoi wouldn't be idiotic enough to go after Roan on his own. Here in this city, he wasn't much stronger or weaker than others. With that said, there was a chance that Roan had some method to get rid of all competition, so he had to be careful. Not to mention that he could see Rean and Roan were always together.

As one could expect, the twins also noticed Hedoi's appearance. "Hey, look at that. Someone has finally collected ten pearls. What do you think, Roan?"

Roan remembered that guy from the Klacks Country. Many people commented about this evil path power that was taking part in the competition. If he didn't want to, he would hear about them. "This guy is obviously heading in our direction..."

Roan pondered over the situation for a bit before a faint smile appeared on his face.

Hedoi's group didn't take long to arrive where Rean and Roan were staying. However, all they could see was that those two were working in some jewelry store.

Rean then looked at Hedoi's group from inside the store. "Oh, so you're the guy who also got ten pearls. You better leave. You definitely don't want to get in trouble."

Hedoi narrowed his eyes after hearing that. It was obvious just how confident Rean looked. His advantage in numbers didn't bother Rean at all. 'Is this a trap?'

Death... and me

Chapter 1130: More Competition in Sight

Why did Rean and Roan suddenly become jewelry sellers? Well, in fact, they weren't. However, they had helped the store's owner with the problems the outsiders caused to him a few times. As payment for the favor, he allowed the twins to pretend to be working there for a while.

Rean then turned around to attend to a new customer that had just arrived. "Oh, hello there. How can I help you today?" Yes, Roan was already ignoring Hedoi, and Rean also proceeded to do the same.

Gala looked at Hedoi and couldn't help but ask, "Do they have Existence Pearls, Hedoi?"

Hedoi nodded as he told Gala, "Yes, the black-haired one has 97 of them, while the white-haired one has 10. However, the fact is that the black-haired guy is exactly the person Sect Master wants to fail the test."

"97?!" Let alone Gala, even the other members of the Klacks Country were impressed by that number. Didn't that mean he had enough pearls for nin more people to pass the test? No, taking Rean into account, there were enough pearls for ten! "Hedoi, we need to take their pearls. We can't let others find out about these twins."

Hedoi shook his head after hearing that. "Are you all idiots? Why do you think they haven't left yet? There's a ranking board for the highest number of pearls each person has. I can bet you anything that this is related to the surprise Cassia mentioned about. There's no way I'll allow you guys to use the pearls. They're mine, understood?"

Everyone's expressions went dark when Hedoi said that. However, Hedoi snorted at them when he saw their expressions. "What? Unhappy? Unsatisfied? Then, we can resolve our issues when we come out of the Sacred Land. I'm sure your bodies will become nice puppets to play with." He was the strongest disciple in the Blood Path Sect. Anyone who challenged him had only one outcome, death!

Hedoi then looked at the twins and gave his orders. "Go check the surroundings. We can only attack if there are no city guards nearby. If you don't find anything, come back here for us to initiate the assault. If you perform well, I don't mind giving up ten or twenty pearls by the end of the two weeks. I'll need more of you to proceed to the next tests to help me, after all."

Gala and everyone else immediately spread everywhere. However, there were no guards as far as they could see. Of course, there weren't. Rean and Roan's squad were responsible for patrolling this part of

the city today. As the leaders of that squad, they could definitely give them an order to hide, and that's what they exactly did!

Roan's plan was very simple. As members of the City Guards, the twins couldn't start fights on their own. They could only intervene or defend themselves. Otherwise, their rights would be taken away from them. They stopped by this jewelry store and asked the owner to serve their squad some food so that they could rest a little. In exchange, they would help with the store. The owner didn't understand why they didn't go to a restaurant or something like that, but it was true that he owed the twins for the help before, so he didn't mind. Simply put, Rean and Roan's squad was in another room, eating.

Some of them asked if the twins wanted some help. "No, we're fine. You guys have been following us and have been fighting nonstop for quite a few days already. Just rest for a bit. We will help the owner while you guys eat something. If we need your help, we will call you out. However, don't forget that we're still on duty, so keep your armors and weapons close. Roan and I are only taking ours off so that we don't scare the owner's customers."

Such consideration! At least, that was what the guards thought about the twins' actions. The twins never ran from a fight when they attacked the outsiders. They were always in the forefront, helping their squad keep the losses to a minimum while keeping the city's peace. And now they were even thinking about their well-being? How could they not feel moved? "Yes, leaders. We shall take some time to rest, then."

And that's how Rean and Roan became jewelry sellers, even if just for a few hours. That's also why they weren't using their armors and weapons. It was all a lure to make Hedoi's group attack first. In Roan's mind, the more strong people he eliminates from the competition, the better. Besides, he had 97 pearls. Roan was sure that Hedoi wouldn't be able to hold himself for long, afraid of someone else would steal the pearls from him.

"Hedoi, we checked the whole area. There aren't any city guards as far as we can see. However, this is quite a crowded place. It definitely won't take long for them to patrol this area," one of Hedoi's companions explained.

Hedoi narrowed his eyes after hearing that, though. He would understand if there were a few guards, but absolutely no one? His guts were telling him that it was way too convenient to be true. 'Should I send these idiots first to test the water? No...if I do that and stay behind, there's a very good chance that they will steal the pearls and run away. I definitely would do so if I was in their shoes.'

Suddenly, Rean, Roan, and Hedoi felt someone's presence appearing somewhere else. They immediately checked their mind maps, just to see that a new cultivator had just gathered ten Existence Pearls. His name was Fulia Volder, the leader of the Volava Country's participants. As mentioned in the past, this was also one of the big countries given slots. He definitely had a lot of members to help him, just like Hedoi did.

That wasn't all. Be it coincidence or not, Liana also got her tenth pearl with the help of her Tenke Kingdom companions.

Obviously, all five participants with ten or more pearls could now see the rank and each other's location.

Rean and Roan didn't care about that at all. However, Hedoi definitely saw his chances of getting Roan's pearls slipping away. The only good thing for him was that the other two were still far away from their location.

Eventually, Hedoi gritted his teeth and gave the order. "Attack! Make sure you don't let them flee, especially Roan. I want their pearls!"