

Death 1311

Death... and me

Chapter 1311: Very Well

Hurio nodded his head, saying in response, "Indeed, I'm also looking after Fallen Light Star Fragments. Then again, I was just mentioning why most of the people that came here enter the Lost Star Realm. Oh, and one more thing. Roan mentioned the Divine Origin Energy that appears close to the entrance. Such a thing doesn't exist. If you want to find it, you'll need to venture far deeper."

Roan didn't mind. "That's fine. From what we found, Fallen Light Star Fragments can only be found far deeper in the realm as well."

Hurio agreed with Roan, telling them, "That's almost true. Well, you can find Fallen Light Star Fragments without heading so deep. But they're even harder to find, and they'll be only tiny pieces, just like the one Rean and I found in the city. Considering the vastness of the Lost Star Realm, Rean's detection abilities and my tablet won't be of much help. After all, such a tiny piece emanates far too little Light Element, so we need to get within a few kilometers away from it to even notice its presence. It's way too small of a range."

"He's right. I would need to be more or less within five or so kilometers away from a piece like that before I could feel it at all," Rean said, continuing where Hurio left off.

Though, Rean asked something else after that. "Wait, could it be that the Fallen Light Star Fragments are related to the areas with Divine Origin Energy? Maybe we can find those areas if we detect the fragments first."

Hurio shook his head, explaining, "Not really. Although hard to find, there's no lack of records about the areas with Divine Origin Energy found by the cultivators. A lot of time has already passed, after all. However, 99% or more of them didn't have any fragments at all. As for the ones that did, it was most likely a coincidence since they're both found deep in the realm."

Rean's excited expression faded as fast as it appeared. "Such a bummer..."

It was then that Rean thought about something and looked at Kentucky. He then used his Divine Sense to ask him, 'Can you feel the presence of Fallen Light Star Fragments, Kentucky?' Rean knew that

Kentucky could detect Golden Peak-level materials from much further away. Perhaps he could do it with the Fallen Light Star Fragments as well.

Kentucky shook his head and answered through Divine Sense, telling Rean, 'They aren't exactly ores, so I can't feel anything. At least the one that Hurio showed earlier didn't stir anything in me. Of course, I felt the Light Element coming from it. However, I doubt my senses would be better than yours in this case.'

Rean nodded, already expecting that. 'It's fine. I guess it would be too much of a coincidence.'

Sometime later, Hurio continued explaining information about the Lost Star Realm. "Now then, about the dangers. One of them is obviously the cultivators themselves. You probably can imagine the battles that happen because of the treasures, divine medicines, heavenly pills, and so on."

Rean and Roan nodded. "That happens basically anywhere treasures can be found, and everyone knows about it. Just continue."

Of course, Hurio did just that. "As you can imagine, the most perilous aspect of the Lost Star Realm is actually the realm itself. There are some incredibly powerful ancient beasts in there, all of them far too powerful for any of the beings that venture into the realm to face. If you encounter a more mild-tempered one, you could simply try not to stir it up and go around without much trouble. However, if you encounter a violent one that actively attacks even without being provoked, then you'll have to pray that you survive the ordeal somehow."

"The second danger would be the ancient formations."

"Ancient formations? Are they not the same as normal formations?" Rean asked.

Hurio nodded, saying, "Correct. No one can tell what level those formations are. Some even say that they were left behind by immortals. There are many of them hidden, and the further in you go, the higher the chances of you bumping into one without even noticing. Not many like to venture too deep into the Lost Star Realm because of this. It might turn out to be an illusion that will trap you forever. Or perhaps it's something that will rob you of your entire cultivation, making you a mortal once again. Or perhaps, you could come across the worst-case scenario, slaughtering formations, which you'd be considered pretty much dead once you get inside."

Roan pondered in silence for a bit before asking, "After so many years of exploration, surely there would be some maps with these areas marked down, no?"

Hurio shook his head once again. "Not even close. It's not because no one knows how it works, but it's because those ancient formations appear and disappear randomly. It can even appear close to the entrance, although that's very unlikely to happen. Once again, there are more of them the deeper you go."

Hurio couldn't help but sigh as he continued, "With that being said, it's more often than not that less than half of the cultivators who head deep into that place will die there."

Roan nodded after hearing that. "That's the life of a cultivator, alright. Great risks come with great rewards, after all."

Rean then looked at the Lost Star Realm's entrance and asked, "So, shall we get going?"

Hurio shook his head. "Not so fast, my friends. There's one more reason I called you over during this day and this specific hill. Look there." Hurio then pointed at what seemed to be a big stage. As mentioned before, there were no buildings, so the stage was set up in an open area. "That's where the Lost Star Realm auction will happen. The auctioneers will bring rare items that have been found in the past year in the Lost Star Realm. You should stay and see if you want something from there."

Rean obviously understood what Hurio wanted to do, saying, "You think that someone might place Fallen Light Star Fragments for auction, right? I don't think such a thing will happen since no one wants them."

Hurio nodded in agreement. "Maybe. However, we don't know that just yet. Perhaps we will find something of interest as well, even if it may not be Fallen Light Star Fragments. In any case, the auction will only last one day, so shouldn't you take this opportunity to see if you can acquire something?"

The twins looked at each other and nodded after that. A single extra day won't change much in their schedule anyway.. "Very well."

Death... and me

Chapter 1312: Auction

Roan couldn't help but ask sometime later, "Do they have a way of hiding everyone's bids? After all, I don't think it's a good idea for Saint Realm cultivators like us to bid high prices in front of everyone."

Hurio nodded before passing a badge to Rean and Roan, explaining, "These are the auction house badges. All you need to do is send your Divine Sense inside with the bid you want to give. No one will be able to tell who put the bid out there. As for the host, they would keep announcing the prices according to what appears in the auction house's formation that receives everyone's bids."

That made a lot more sense in Roan's mind. With that, he asked another question. "How about getting the item you won?"

"That's very simple," Hurio answered straight away. "You just need to give your bid and win the item. After the auction is over, you can head to those barracks over there. They're protected by formations, so no one will be able to see what you obtained."

Roan understood after that. "There will be a lot of cheap and expensive items in the auction. Even if someone sees me head there to retrieve an item, they will think I won some of the cheap ones, so it wouldn't be worth going out of their way to attack me. Well, at least no one far above our level would do so. Only those who thought the items we obtained were useful for them would try anything. It's just that you'll need to protect yourself if that happens."

Hurio confirmed Roan's words. "True."

Rean still had a doubt, though. "What if they don't have the Divine Stones to pay in the end? Will they put the item back in the auction?"

Hurio shook his head, saying, "No. However, the person who gave a fake bid would probably wish they were dead. After all, this is an auction promoted by the Lanqueas Sect, so I doubt anyone would try something that foolish." Indeed, the twins thought it wouldn't be a good idea to offend such a power.

Rean pondered in silence for a bit if he should put one of his equipment for auction as well. After all, his Element Gathering weapons would definitely fetch a huge price in this place. However, Roan told him to hold back, reminding him that the Element Gathering equipment would catch too much attention,

especially the attention of the auction's organizer, the Lanqueas Sect. 'You do remember how the Huring Sacred Land treated your weapons and armors, right? The Lanqueas Sect won't be any different.'

Rean sighed and nodded in the end. 'In any case, during the time we were cultivating in the Dimensional Realm, I had quite a lot of materials remaining that wouldn't be good enough for Element Gathering equipment. I'm going to sell them and a few pieces of Golden Initial-level equipment. We have a lot of Divine Stones, but they're mostly Rank Two. This is a good opportunity to get a few Rank One Divine Stones for some normal expenses.'

Roan had no problem with that. 'Go ahead, then.'

Rean then looked at Hurio and asked, "Where can I put my things for auction? They don't only accept things found in the Lost Star Realm, right?"

"Of course not!" Hurio shook his head before pointing at a blue barrack that seemed much bigger than the others. There was also quite a large queue leading to the building. "You can have your items appraised there. If they deem it worthy, they will put it up for auction. Just remember that they put a 20% fee over the final bid."

Rean had no issues with that. "Great! I'll be right back in a few."

With that, Rean waited in the queue, but it didn't take too long for his turn to arrive. That's because quite a few appraisers were working at the auction today, knowing that it would be quite busy. Eventually, he was brought into the barracks before he was asked about the items he wanted to sell.

Surprisingly, Rean's weapons were not the only things he put out for auction. Roan also had many pills he had refined during that year and a half of cultivation. Not to mention that the pills he made while training his alchemy back in Huring Sacred Land. One must remember that he had a herbal garden with quite a few rare herbs, which were taken care of by none other than Celis and his saplings. With his concoction method that involved the infusion of Dark and Light Element into neutral pills, all his products turned out into very high-level items. Their main attractiveness was the fact that any Elemental Affinity cultivator could use them.

Because many cultivators were attended to in different parts of the barrack simultaneously, the speed of the queue didn't go down. With that said, no one noticed that Rean was one of the cultivators that took their time in that place.

Rean returned around an hour later with a smile on his face. "Phew... it turned out better than I expected. We should be able to make a few thousand Rank One Divine Stones after that." In fact, the appraisers asked if Rean didn't want to put a few of his items and pills for auction in exchange for Rank Two Divine Stones. That's just how good they were. However, Rank Two Divine Stones were the ones he and Roan didn't lack at the moment.

The twins then waited in the distance for the auction to start as Hurio called them when it was close to starting. Sure enough, a few hours later, a beautiful woman ascended to the stage and smiled at all the cultivators below. "Hello, everyone. I'm Cailin Tia, your host for today's auction. Our yearly Lost Realm Auction will now begin. Please make sure you have your badges with you. Otherwise, you will have to shout out your bids for everyone to hear. Then again, some of you might not care whether you're heard or not, so do as you please. All we ask is that you uphold your bid. Otherwise... hehe!"

Two cultivators from the Lanqueas Sect then brought out a cart on the stage, covered by a golden mantle. Seeing that, Cailin smiled and took the mantle off before saying, "Our first item is the Lost Star Apple. It can only be found in the Lost Star Realm and is usually used in concoctions of cultivation pills.. The initial price is 200 Rank One Divine Stones."

Death... and me

Chapter 1313: Shield

"Lost Star Apple!"

"They usually have a small trace of Divine Origin Energy in them, making them perfect for cultivation pills."

"They can't be compared to finding an actual area filled with Divine Origin Energy, though."

"Of course not! It's just a trace of Divine Origin Energy. If it could be compared to an actual area with Divine Origin Energy, even Rank Four or Five Divine Stones wouldn't be enough to buy it."

"In any case, the effect it has is splendid when turned into a cultivation pill."

Nevertheless, only those at the Elemental Transformation Realm and above could afford such an item. The Saint Realm cultivators that had this amount of Divine Stones wouldn't be here to start with. In any case, the bidding battle started.

"200!"

"300!"

"400!"

Cailin kept repeating the bids that arrived through the badges, with just a few cultivators brave enough to speak their bids out loud. In the end, the Lost Star Apple was sold for 1350 Rank One Divine Stones.

"Congratulations to its buyer. Although the trace of Divine Origin Energy in the Lost Star Apple is extremely thin, it can definitely boost your cultivation depending on how you use it."

Surprisingly, it turned out that Roan bought it. The price was Rank One Divine Stones, but he could still pay with Rank Two types. He wanted to see what kind of effect his pills would have if he added that apple into it.

Sometime later, a disciple of the Lanqueas Sect brought the apple away. After all, the items and their buyers would only meet each other at the end of the auction. Following that, another cart with a golden mantle was brought onto the stage before Cailin began to speak again.

"Alright, that was one of our cheapest items. But even though that may be the case, it's already at such a level of quality. From now on, things will only get better."

She then took the mantle off the cart for the next item. "Here we have a figurine of the Lost Star Ruins. Due to the type of material it's made out of, it has absorbed some of the ancient formation's powers and can be used as a protection treasure. From what we have analyzed, this figurine has enough power

to resist a few attacks at the Elemental Transformation Realm. The starting bidding price is 300 Rank One Spirit Stones."

Another bidding war started, and just like that, the auction continued.

Divine medicines, divine plants, supreme equipment, if it existed in the Lost Star Realm, then it most likely appeared in the auction. Roan turned out to be quite a good buyer, as the medicines and plants greatly interested him. Rean didn't mind him buying those things since they would always turn out to be beneficial for the two of them. But even then, Roan spent almost ten thousand Rank One Divine Stones there.

Then again, that wasn't a problem either. Rean's weapons and Roan's neutral pills turned out to be big hits as well, especially Roan's pills. Rean gave the auction people authorization to use one of Roan's pills as a demonstration for the buyers, and one could already imagine their effect. Thanks to that, Rean's weapons and Roan's pills were sold for a total of 16350 Rank One Divine Stones. It paid for the items Roan bought, and there was still a lot to spare.

Cailin had a happy expression as she announced, "We're nearing the end of our auction. With that said, all items from now on are going to be auctioned for Rank Two Divine Stones. That's because they're obviously the rarest ones. Now then, the next item."

She then took the mantle off the cart that was brought on the stage, revealing what seemed to be a shield with a crest in its center. Anyone well versed in formations could tell that there were some inscriptions on it. However, Rean and Hurio weren't interested in the inscription. Instead, their eyes were glued to the stone at its center.

'Fallen Light Star Fragment! Such a big piece!'

Cailin then began her explanation, saying, "This shield was found in the deeper parts of the Lost Star Realm. After our appraisal, we found out that one has to use Light Element to activate it. It has the power to fend off Transition Realm attacks as long as the Light Element gathered inside doesn't run out. Of course, filling it with enough Light Element takes a lot of time, so it has to be fed ahead of time. It's a rare item capable of using Light Element from Yang Energy manipulators."

Someone couldn't help but ask, "How many attacks can it endure before the Light Element runs out? Also, how long does a Light Element user need to recharge it?"

Cailin already expected those questions, replying, "We've already tested it beforehand. Depending on your proficiency with Yang Energy, you will need around four to ten days to recharge the shield. As for the number of attacks it can fend off, we had a Peak Transition Realm cultivator attack it and found out that it could resist against five strikes at full power."

There was an uproar in the auction after that. It was an item that both Elemental Transformation and Transition Realm cultivators definitely wished to have. It could defend against five attacks, and it could also be recharged once again. It's a life-saving treasure that could be used many times. Even those who didn't use Light Element were interested. After all, to gather Light Element, one only had to be able to control Yang Energy.

Of course, for someone like Rean, recharging that shield wouldn't take more than a few hours at most. However, he wasn't interested in that. The only thing he cared about was the Fallen Light Star Fragment in its center. It was still far from enough for the amount he needed, but that would definitely be better if he started the Lost Star Realm with this one already in his hands.

Hurio was as excited as Rean. He then looked at Rean before asking, 'How about we share the price of this bidding and then share the fragment after we win it? There's no doubt it will be very expensive.'

Rean pondered over it for a bit and nodded, saying, 'Sure, I'll do the bidding then.'

Death... and me

Chapter 1314: Freezing Star Liquid

The shield was exceptional, but it was still an item used by cultivators at the Transition Realm level or below. Otherwise, Rank Two Divine Stones wouldn't be used as currency, but Rank Three Divine Stones instead. Cailin then started the auction after a while, announcing, "The start bidding price is 1000 Rank Two Divine Stones."

Rean and Hurio's mouths twitched after hearing that. That was an incredibly high price. Sure, Rean still had more than twenty thousand Rank Two Divine Stones, but he would need to pay the smugglers of each continent, so he couldn't spend too much money. He then looked at Hurio, who nodded at him, saying, 'Since we're sharing the costs, we might as well go for it.'

On the stage, Cailin began to announce the bids she was receiving.

"1100!"

"1300!"

"1500!"

Rean pondered in silence for a bit before asking, 'What's our limit here?'

Hurio narrowed his eyes for a moment before saying, 'I can part with 1500 at most. More than that, and this thing will be my downfall.'

Rean thought the same thing. 'Alright, I'll fork out another 1500. If it goes beyond that price, we'll pull out of the bidding war.'

Without wasting time, Rean decided to give the next bid.

"2000!"

Seeing the price suddenly jump by so much, the auction became silent. Obviously, 2000 was already going above most of the Elemental Transformation Realm cultivators' budget. The Transition Realm ones weren't faring any better, either. Nevertheless, some people who were very proficient in Yang Energy manipulation gritted their teeth and continued to bid.

"2100"

"2150!"

"2200!"

Rean decided to make them silent once again.

"2500!"

This time, the majority immediately shook their heads. The shield was amazing, but not that amazing to warrant such a high price. However, it was then that a voice echoed in the auction.

"3000!"

Unlike before, the person didn't use the badge to tell the bid but spoke himself. It was an old man with white robes. He bid leisurely as if 3000 Rank Two Divine Stones meant nothing to him.

Seeing what was happening, Rean bitterly smiled as he looked at Hurio, who was also bitterly smiling right now. They both shook their heads, knowing that they definitely wouldn't try to outbid that man. The Fallen Light Star Fragment was important, but not to that extent.

Cailin was also surprised that the shield reached such a monumental price. However, it was her job to continue the auction. "Is there anyone offering a bigger bid? Going once, going twice... sold to the white-robed sir on the back. Congratulations. Since you didn't mind showing yourself, you can pay and withdraw your shield straight away."

The old man nodded before throwing a spatial ring at Cailin. She quickly caught it and scanned the contents inside. Soon after, she showed a bright smile before delivering the shield to the old man.

Rean tried to see the man's cultivation, but it was obvious that it was too high for him to detect. The old man wasn't using his Divine Sense, so Rean couldn't determine the old man's cultivation through that either. However, Roan gave him a warning, telling him, 'He's definitely above the Transition Realm. I can't tell his cultivation, but he doesn't look like the other Transition Realm guys in our surroundings.'

The old man then looked at a woman by his side before throwing the shield at her. "Here, take it. Make sure to use it if necessary."

The woman resembled the old man at some places, so it was quite obvious that they were related. It wasn't hard to deduce that the woman might be his daughter or granddaughter.

Everyone couldn't help but look at her in jealousy. How great would it be for them if they had a backer as rich as that guy?

Cailin didn't care what the guy did with the shield as long as it was paid for, so she continued the auction. "Alright, everyone. Let's proceed with our auction."

She then brought quite a few other rare items into the stage, but there wasn't anything Rean and Roan were interested in. Until finally, the last item was taken out. Cailin then took the mantle of the cart to show it to the public. It was a vial that seemed to be completely empty. However, the strong Yin Energy the vial emanated and the Water Element it gathered on its own proved that it was definitely not the case. Some Yin Energy cultivators couldn't help but feel greed towards the vial as it would prove to be very beneficial to their cultivations and abilities.

Rean and Roan couldn't identify the item, though. However, when they heard its name, they felt like they were struck by lightning.

"The next item is called the Freezing Star Liquid. It can only be found in the Lost Star Realm, as far as we know. We usually wouldn't put such an item for sale as it's also very beneficial to our Lanqueas Sect cultivators. However, it just so happens the cultivators who found it wanted to have it auctioned instead of accepting our initial offer. Our Lanqueas Sect takes the yearly auction very seriously, so we will comply with the liquid's owner and put it up for auction. We also won't have anyone related to our sect bid for it. Everyone here should take this opportunity as this kind of item won't appear anytime soon again."

Hurio noticed the change in the twins' expressions and couldn't help but ask, "Is that something you need?"

Rean and Roan simply nodded in response but didn't say anything. Instead, they used their Soul Connection to talk.

'That's the item we need for the Fourth Grade Star Body!' Rean could not help but exclaim.

Roan nodded, saying, 'To think we would find it here.'

Obviously, they reached the same conclusion. 'It doesn't matter how expensive it is, even if it costs all our Rank Three Divine Stones, we have to acquire it.'

Sure, the liquid was found in the Lost Star Realm. However, anyone could tell just how ridiculously rare it was. The twins hoping to find it by themselves would just be just idiotic. The only bad thing was that they wouldn't be able to use it straight away. After all, they needed ten Molten Divine Rock Flowers to achieve Third Grade Star Body first.

Cailin saw that she obtained the reaction she wanted before announcing the initial bidding price. "The initial price is....just one Rank Two Divine Stone!"

Death... and me

Chapter 1315: Years

Naturally, everyone was surprised to hear such a small number. However, they quickly recovered. They all knew that this item wouldn't be sold for such a low price at all. Sure enough, Cailin soon explained the reasoning behind the price. "Because it has been a very long time since we auctioned an item like this, we aren't entirely sure about its price. With that being said, it will be auctioned for whatever the price at the end is."

Cailin then smiled, saying, "However, there's a catch! Everyone will only have one chance of placing a bid, and you will have ten minutes to do so. After time runs out, the highest bid will win. Of course, those who want to shout out your bid can do so, but you will only be able to do so once as well."

Even the white robbed old man from before refrained from saying anything this time. Otherwise, some could simply cover his bid, and he wouldn't be able to place a new one. Instead, he started to ponder about how much he should offer. The Freezing Star Liquid wasn't going to be used by himself but his daughter. Nevertheless, he was willing to pay a very high price for it.

Rean then looked at Roan, who simply said in response to his glance, "You're the one in charge of our finances. It's up to you to decide how much you wanna fork up for it."

Rean shrugged his shoulders after hearing that. "The problem is that we will probably need to do some work to gain enough Divine Stones later. It might catch unnecessary attention as well. Are you fine with that?"

Roan nodded in response. "Fine."

Rean nodded after that and didn't hesitate before immediately sending his bid through the badge he received.

The rich people around obviously had conflicted expressions. Some wanted it so they could use it for themselves. Others wanted to give it to a junior or family member. Obviously, there were those who wanted it to be used as a trade object if needed in the future.

Time passed in a flash, and finally, Cailin called everyone's attention. "Time is up. Thank you, everyone, for your biddings. The winning bid value is... 43000 Rank Two Divine Stones! Congratulations to whoever placed that bid. You will be given the Freezing Star Liquid in the barracks at the back later. No one will know it was you who acquired it either."

Cailin then bowed to the public after that, telling everyone, "With this, we reached the end of our yearly Lost Realm Auction. Thank you for coming, and I hope to see you all next year."

Immediately, everyone who bid and won some of the items headed to the barracks of the auction at the back. Rean, naturally, did the same thing. It's just that he had a sad expression on his face. 'I bid all our remaining 27000 Rank Two Divine Stones. Other than that, there were only the Rank Three ones. However, in the end, I thought it would be too risky to show the Lanqueas Sect auctioneers that some Saint Realm cultivators like us had those things. Sorry, I shouldn't have hesitated.'

Roan shook his head, saying, 'I was also caught in the heat of the moment. Your logic was sound, so I have nothing to complain about. Besides, it seems like we've got one more item on our list of things to grab from the Lost Star Realm. We definitely can't leave that place without the Freezing Star Liquid. If we can grab our hands on another vial, we'll be able to cultivate our Star Bodies to Grade Four as soon as we get the Molten Divine Rock Flowers.'

Rean nodded and headed to the barracks together with Hurio. From the looks of it, Hurio also won something from the hundreds of items auctioned today. However, neither Rean nor Hurio asked what they got.

Around an hour later, Rean came back from the auction house, carrying the divine medicines and herbs that Roan bid for in the Dimensional Realm. Hurio came out around ten minutes after that before joining Rean and Roan once more. "Now then, shall we follow the crowd and enter the Lost Star Realm? Usually, they all wait for the auction to be over to enter en masse. That reduces the risk of falling into traps and other things there as there are too many people."

Rean and Roan obviously had nothing against it, nodding in response. "Alright, let's enter that place."

The Lost Star Realm was a separated dimension of the Realm of Gods, just like the twins' Dimensional Realm. Because of that, the entrance was, in fact, a gigantic spatial gate connected to that place. The impressive thing was that Rean couldn't see any formations keeping the spatial gate open. "How come it doesn't close?"

Hurio then explained, "From what I know, the Lanqueas Sect has nothing to do with it. To be more precise, the spatial gate was already here when the first batch of people arrived. It's kept open by the realm itself. Most likely, it's also part of those ancient formations I told you about."

Rean nodded in response and began to move with the people. There were tens of thousands of people entering at the same time, making it difficult for those inside to come out. It was always like this after the auction. Seeing that, Roan narrowed his eyes before jumping on Kentucky's back, telling them, "Come up, you two. That gate is more than big enough for us to fly above the crowd."

Rean and Hurio could see that cultivators at the Transition Realm and above were also flying there. Those with flying demon beasts also did the same thing. In the end, Hurio and Rean nodded and jumped on Kentucky before Kentucky took flight and headed to the spatial gate as well.

When they passed through, their vision blurred for a few seconds until finally, they arrived at the other side of the gate. "It sure looks big," Rean could not help but say, watching their bodies become more distant from the sky behind Kentucky's back.

Hurio nodded, saying, "It's normal for people to stay several years, or even decades, exploring this place.. You better have a lot of time in your hands because it won't take less than two or so years before we reach the depths of this realm."

Death... and me

Chapter 1316: Joined The Party

Of course, that much the twins knew already. In any case, they needed the Fallen Light Star Fragments, so they had long since braced themselves for that. Then again, it wouldn't take so long as Hurio thought.

Creeee!

Kentucky then shot forward through the skies, reaching a speed that far surpassed any Stage Seven Flying Demon Beast that Hurio had ridden on before. "Holy shit! What kind of flying demon beast is he?"

Rean smiled in response, saying, "Let's just say he is quite rare."

Hurio didn't insist on the question. Instead, he warned the twins. "Anyways, ask him to slow down. If he flies this fast, we might end up inside some of the ancient formations. There'll be no time for us to react if that happens."

Rean shook his head, assuring Hurio as he said, "Don't worry. If we really get close to a formation, we'll know beforehand. I have a way to detect them, an incredibly surefire way even."

[Hmph! Only during times like these do you remember I exist.] Sister Orb could not help but say in response.

Rean laughed after hearing that but didn't give her an answer.

Hurio, of course, didn't hear that. "Are you sure? This is no joke. I truly don't wish to die out of carelessness."

"I can guarantee you that we'll be alright when it comes to avoiding ancient formations," Rean said. "The only risk of us falling into one is in case one of them suddenly shifts right under our feet. If that happens, then there's nothing we can do. Then again, Kentucky's speed would have nothing to do with that."

Hurio agreed with that. "That will be based on our luck, so there really is nothing we can do about that. No one can predict such things, after all." Hurio was still concerned with another thing. "However, Kentucky should still slow down. If he keeps flying at this speed, he will get tired too quickly. In the end, we will lose more time if we compared to him flying at a normal speed nonstop."

"But I'm already flying at normal speeds. This grandfather's top speed is nothing like this..." or so Kentucky wanted to say. Unfortunately, he had to keep his mouth shut for now, so Rean was the one who responded.

"Don't worry, Kentucky isn't overexerting himself at all. At the moment, he's only flying at the speed of an Initial Stage Eight Flying Demon Beast. If he really gives his all, he can reach a speed equivalent to a Late or even Peak Stage Eight Flying Demon Beast."

Hurio became even more curious about Kentucky after hearing that. However, Roan didn't let him think over it that much as he asked something else. "At this speed, do you think we'll still take two years to reach the border between the outskirts and the depths of the Lost Star Realm?"

Hurio came back to himself and immediately shook his head, answering, "Two years? Ha! If Kentucky can really fly at this speed for most of the time, I doubt we'll take even a year. We'll reach it at nine to ten months, tops."

"That's good to hear." Rean, Roan, and Kentucky were obviously satisfied with that.

However, a few hours later, Kentucky felt like he was struck by some kind of immense pressure before he plummeted from the skies like a meteor. It wasn't before he reached twenty or so meters from the ground that he finally stabilized himself. 'What the hell was that?'

Rean and Roan also felt that pressure, so they looked in Hurio's direction.

Hurio noticed that and sighed, explaining, "I thought you knew this already. You can't fly much higher in the skies inside the Lost Star Realm. The pressure just now sends everyone down. Of course, you can still fly as long as you don't try to go any higher than twenty meters. It's just that you'll have to dodge the obstacles that'll appear in the way."

Roan understood why their early investigation didn't mention this point. "We didn't know that because most of the people who entered the Lost Star Realm wouldn't be flying anyway. For them, this pressure from the skies mean nothing. That's why we didn't find any information about it when we asked around."

Hurio nodded. "True. In any case, it was my mistake to not have warned you beforehand. To be honest, even I forgot about it until we were suddenly assaulted by the pressure."

Roan then asked, "Is there anything else we should pay attention to other than the things you told us before?"

Hurio pondered in silence for a bit before shaking his head. "Not that I can remember. Just make sure that you're more careful while flying. After all, we're very close to the ground. That means the ancient beasts here will have a much easier time attacking us. Of course, that depends on whether they're the aggressive type or not."

Rean took the opportunity to inquire more about the beasts. "What kind of cultivation do they have? Also, if they're much stronger than us, doesn't that mean they're already at the Transition Realm or above? They should already be intelligent beings at that point."

"That's not how it works here," Hurio could not help but say in response. "Don't ask me why, but the ancient beasts here are different from the outside ones. They're extremely powerful but only act on instincts, just like demon beasts below the Transition Realm. At the very least, I've never heard of a sentient Ancient Beast in the Lost Star Realm."

Rean then looked at Kentucky and used his Divine Sense to talk, saying, 'You heard him. Pay close attention ahead, and don't get close to anything that resembles a demon beast. Always go around them.'

Kentucky agreed with Rean. 'Don't worry. I wasn't planning to do so anyway.'

With that decided, they resumed their normal journey.

Roan then sat down on Kentucky before taking several Rank Two Divine Stones out. "Even with Kentucky's speed, we'll take at least nine months to reach the border between regions. Let's just cultivate in the meanwhile."

Rean nodded in response and did the same thing as Roan.. Hurio, obviously, didn't have anything else to do either, so he joined the party in cultivating.

Death... and me

Chapter 1317: Dodge!

Of course, Rean's group knew that even though they were at the outskirts of the Lost Star Realm, they shouldn't let their guards down. That's especially because this was the place with the most cultivators. They passed by many groups and lonely cultivators along the way during the next few days, and they would definitely come across many more.

Also, Rean and Roan weren't using their Light and Divine Sense bending skill as they preferred to spend their time cultivating. With that being said, those cultivators obviously saw the big black and white demon beast flying past them. Most of them simply ignored Kentucky since the majority were in the same realm or below Rean's group.

However, there was bound to be someone who didn't, and that someone appeared not too long after.

Kentucky was flying at his normal speed when suddenly, a streak of red light came from below, aiming to strike his belly.

Creee!

Kentucky's Divine Energy immediately spread through his feathers, turning then as hard as metal. At the same time, he spun his body, throwing Rean's group off his back while using his wings to deflect the incoming attack.

Bang!

The strength of the attack made Kentucky lose some of his balance, which forced him to land. After all, he was flying very close to the ground.

As Rean, Roan, and Hurio were flying on his back, they landed somewhat close to where Kentucky did. When Kentucky spun his body, he purposely threw Rean's group off where he believed he would be stopping. It's just that he didn't expect the attack to be strong enough to make him land there. Well, Kentucky didn't suffer any damage, though. 'Rean, Roan, this guy is definitely in the Elemental Transformation Realm.'

The twins nodded as they waited to see who attacked them. Sure enough, a group of five cultivators appeared a moment later as one of them laughed out loud. "Hahaha! See? I told you we would find one very quickly."

The leader of the group was a big man with some scales on his arm. Obviously, not human. The other people in his group had the same feature, showing that they came from the same race. "Indeed. Who was it that said we should travel by foot so that we could look for medicines? After two months, we found next to nothing in this place. We need to head in much deeper. It was you, wasn't it, Tuke?"

"Did I say something like that?" The guy who was mentioned pretended to be surprised. "I don't remember anything at all."

It was obvious that no one in that group took Rean's team seriously. However, even though they were talking to each other in such a careless manner, their eyes were totally fixed on Kentucky, the twins, and Hurio. They weren't about to let them flee anytime soon. Eventually, the leader of their group, a guy in the Late Stage of the Elemental Transformation Realm, redirected his voice to them.

"Who's the master of this flying demon beast?"

Rean smiled as if he didn't care. "That would be me. Why?" In fact, neither Rean nor Roan could be said to be Kentucky's master. But for all intents and purposes, they decided to do it that way a long time ago. If anyone asked, Rean would answer.

Seeing that Rean didn't look the least bit scared surprised the guy. In fact, Roan also looked at them in a nonchalant manner. As for the twins, the surprising thing was that Hurio, who was in the Late Stage of the Saint Realm, didn't seem too worried about the situation either.

Nevertheless, the big man recomposed himself. He was an entire realm above the twins and Hurio. The same could be said about Kentucky. Besides, he wasn't the only Elemental Transformation Realm in his group. The other four were also in the same realm, albeit in the Initial Stage. "So you're the master, huh? Very well. I'm Caras. We're traveling deeper into the Lost Star Realm. We will be borrowing your flying demon beast, and you will control it for us. If you play nicely, we will let you go in the end."

Rean laughed out loud in response. "Hahaha! Me, bring you together? If you had asked nicely, I might have thought about your proposal. But now, you can forget about it." Rean then turned around, preparing to head back to Kentucky. At the same time, he warned the guy's group, saying, "For your own good, you and your friends will leave this place now. Don't say I didn't tell you later."

"Tch..." Roan didn't like Rean's words. It was obvious that he wanted the guys to attack. But since Rean already said that, Roan also turned around, preparing to leave with Kentucky. Hurio did the same thing as the two, also surprised that the twins didn't seem concerned with the situation, just like himself.

Caras was taken aback after hearing that. He didn't expect that some Saint Realm ants would treat him as if he was nothing. "Courting death!"

Fire Element gathered around his body as his sword flashed with red light for a moment.

'Flying Ardent Blade!'

That was the same attack that forced Kentucky to land. It traveled quickly, aiming to take Roan's life. Since Rean was the master, he had no need for Roan, so his death would serve as a warning to Rean.

However, Roan faintly smiled as his White Scythe appeared in his hand. "Playing with flying attacks? Great! I can play like that as well!"

'Life Style, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, Crescent Moon!'

Roan's hair didn't even change. However, a flying white and black wave of energy was sent against the guy's Flying Ardent Blade.

Both attacks were sent almost at the same time. However, the Flying Ardent Blade was a vertical attack, while Roan's Crescent Moon was horizontal. Of course, the white spots in Roan's Crescent Moon were the Light Element gathered with the scythe's Light Element Gathering ability.

What happened next left Caras dumbstruck. He expected his attack to destroy Roan's attack and pass right through. At the very least, an explosion of Divine Energy and Soul Power should have come out, eliminating both attacks. However, Roan's Crescent Moon cut through his Flying Ardent Blade like a hot knife cutting through butter.

"What?!"

They weren't at the same level at all. Caras was very experienced, though, so he immediately gave the order when he saw that he had lost in that exchange. "Dodge!"

Death... and me

Chapter 1318: Quite Interesting

Caras and three more cultivators from his group immediately jumped in response as Roan's Crescent Moon was a horizontal attack. However, one of them, not expecting Roan to be able to win against Caras at all, was too slow to react. He tried to jump as well, but unfortunately, it was too late.

Swish!

Roan's Crescent Moon passed through the guy's Divine Energy barrier and hit him at the waist, separating the bottom part of his body from his upper part. He didn't die straight away, though. Then again, it was hard to say if he could still be saved or not.

Roan then laid his scythe on his shoulder while he walked in Caras' direction. "Hey, hey, hey! Your group was supposed to be bullying ours. How come you're this weak? Could it be that the fire-based attack you sent at me before was your full power? If that's so, then I'm truly disappointed."

Caras could not help but let out cold sweat when Roan spoke with him. Sure, he had underestimated Roan, which meant that he only used around 70% of his real power. But then again, his attack was destroyed way too easily. It was obvious that even if he gave it his all, he would still have lost to Roan's attack. "Who are you?"

"Me?" Roan said in response. "I'm someone who was cultivating a while ago, trying not to bother anyone. However, right now, I'm someone who's going to kill a few flies that thought they were the shit."

Well, Roan being able to easily subdue Caras wasn't the least bit out of Rean and Kentucky's expectations. After all, Rean and Roan could already jump almost an entire realm to fight geniuses from the Huring Sacred Land. Not only that, but those geniuses themselves could jump almost an entire realm to fight average cultivators. Naturally, someone like Caras was far from being his match anymore. Only if Caras was some strong disciple from the Lanqueas Sect would he be able to gain an advantage against Roan at his cultivation level. Obviously, he wasn't anything like that.

He then looked at Rean and Hurio, who seemed to be not in the mood to intervene at all. What did that tell him? It was probably because Rean and Hurio didn't think Roan needed their help to start with. Soon after, Caras looked at the three other members of his group that escaped the first attack. 'All of you, we were just caught off guard because we underestimated him. I didn't use even half of my power in the last exchange, so I'm taking it seriously from now on. Judging from his strength at his current cultivation level, he might be one of those geniuses from those large powers. We hit the jackpot here, you know? He's loaded for sure.'

The other three had their doubts as to whether they should continue here or not. However, after hearing Caras' words, they had to admit he was probably right. Then again, he was indeed right, as Rean and Roan really had a lot of money with them. 'Alright, how should we go about this? Should we attack the others while you keep this guy occupied?'

Caras shook his head, saying, 'No. The other two seem like they don't want to fight, so leave them be. Just make sure you pay attention to them in case they decide to join the battle. We're all going to get rid of this scythe user first. Just attract his attention for one second, and I'll use my best attack without holding back. Of course, we can't let these fat sheep go away. So, as soon as he dies, immediately shift

your attention to the other two and the demon beast. If possible, keep the demon beast's master alive so we can use him to travel.'

The other three nodded after hearing that. Naturally, all that conversation was made in a moment through Divine Sense.

With that, Fire Element soon began to gather around Caras like torrents, making it obvious that he was ready to use a powerful skill. Roan, of course, noticed that and was more than happy to receive it. However, as soon as Caras started to prepare, Caras' companions attacked Roan in unison.

'Fallen Light Palm!'

'Dragon Tooth!'

'Great Tidal Crash!'

Roan narrowed his eyes in response and immediately shifted his attention to those three.

'Death Style, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

If Caras' power couldn't even hold a candle to Roan's, then let alone those three guys. Roan's Three Claws of the Dragon quickly separated in three, aiming directly for the attacks and the opponents behind them.

Surprisingly, they all smiled when they saw that. In their minds, they thought that they had succeeded in drawing the guy's attention for a moment. Soon, Caras would have him killed..., or so they thought.

Bang, bang, bang!

Swish, swish, swish!

Their attacks were instantly nullified as the Claws of the Dragon pierced through their vital points before they could do anything. One of them had his head immediately pierced through, so it was a case of instant death. The other two had Roan's scythe pierce through their hearts before spurting blood. As for the attack that was supposed to come from Caras, it had never been there to start with.

They then used the rest of their strength to look behind, just in time to see a small red dot of fire disappearing in the distance. How could they not understand what just happened? Caras had used them as bait so that he himself could flee.

As mentioned before, Caras used 70% of his power in the first attack, not half. He only said that so his companions would believe that he was stronger than Roan. However, Caras always knew that Roan's group was bad news, and he needed an opportunity to escape from demons like them. If it meant the rest of his companions had to die for the opportunity to appear, then so be it.

Of course, Roan also looked at the distance and was quite surprised. That's because he truly felt like Caras was preparing to attack him. Even the red color of killing intent came out of Caras' body, showing that he wanted Roan to die. But in the end, even his killing intent was used to create that opportunity to escape. "Quite impressive. He obviously has experience with these kinds of situations. This is most likely not the first time he has used such a method.. Very interesting."

Death... and me

Chapter 1319: What Is Happening?

Naturally, Rean noticed that Roan didn't go after the guy. With Kentucky here and Rean's Enhancement skill, Roan could definitely catch up. However, he didn't do so. "Are you fine with letting him go?"

Roan nodded, saying, "He was able to make me think he was going to attack me but fled instead. That's something you most likely wouldn't see coming from those geniuses in those large powers. It's an ability you can only gain while mingling with the bottom feeders that have no huge talents. Out of respect for his proficiency in deception, I'll let him live."

Hurio then got close and couldn't help but take a deep breath, saying, "Man! You sure are strong. That guy just now couldn't even hold a candle to your power. I knew that you two weren't normal, but I didn't expect such a one-sided slaughter."

Rean laughed in response, telling Hurio, "Well, it didn't seem like you were too concerned either. Obviously, you never thought of those guys as something worth getting concerned about. But then again, the fact that you have the strength to back us up is a good thing. After all, we're all under the effect of the Soul Binding Contract."

Hurio smiled after hearing that. "Was it that obvious? Oh well, let's stop here as we won't be saying anything about each other's backgrounds anyway. Then again, don't you think that guy will end up spreading the word about you two?"

"So what about it?" Roan said in response. "All he can say is that he almost died to a Saint Realm cultivator. That itself is already humiliating for someone like him. Chances are that he will pretend this encounter has never happened in his life. Even if he does open his mouth, what would he get out of it? It's not like he knows who we are or where we came from, so who would he even sell this information to? Just forget it."

Hurio was surprised to hear such a thorough analysis from Roan. "I have to admit you're right. Moving that aside, shall we keep going?"

Rean and Roan nodded in response before the three of them jumped on Kentucky's back once more. Kentucky, on the other hand, couldn't help but ask through Divine Sense, 'He attacked me, yet you actually let him leave? You should have exerted vengeance for me instead!'

Rean patted Kentucky's back, telling him, 'Come on, we both know that other than making you lose a little balance, you didn't suffer even a scratch. Is such a weak guy really worth of the great Minokawa's attention?'

Hearing those words calmed Kentucky down immediately, laughing as he replied, 'Hahaha! True, true. This grandfather has no time to deal with ants!'

Several hours later, Caras finally stopped to run, confirming that he had definitely left Rean's group behind. "They must be disciples from the Lanqueas Sect or some part of the big ten. There's no doubt about that. However, those powers have their own schedules when entering the Lost Star Realm, so why are they here right now?"

Hissssss...

Out of nowhere, Caras heard something come from behind and immediately jumped back, distancing himself from the source. However, he quickly noticed that it was nothing but a small snake. He couldn't feel any cultivation from it at all, showing that it was quite an ordinary beast. "Shit, who the hell brought a snake into the Lost Star Realm? It almost gave me a heart att-"

Zup!

Before he could complete his words, the snake disappeared, just to appear behind him while a hint of blood leaked from its fangs. Not long after, Caras's body began to turn dark as he thought, 'Ancient beast... why... why would one of these things be so close to the entrance...?' That thought only lasted a second before his body turned completely black. His body then fell to the ground and broke apart like glass. Surprisingly, the wind began to break it even further, as if it was made of fine sand, carrying his remains away with it. All that was left was his clothes and spatial ring, which the snake completely ignored.

Hissssssss

The snake then looked in the direction from where Caras came from for a moment before turning around and continuing on its merry way. Little did Caras know, but this small snake was one of the ancient beasts of the Lost Star Realm. He just so happened to enter its range while it was moving around. This was one of the aggressive types that Hurio talked about, so Caras never had a chance to escape it in the first place. In fact, even Rean and Roan wouldn't be able to outrun it if they tried.

Caras wasn't the first one the little snake encountered along its path. If one followed the path it had taken, then it wouldn't be surprising for one to find many more strewn clothes and spatial rings with no one using them.

Somewhere else, close to the borders of the depths and the outskirts of the Lost Star Realm, a few cultivators could be seen gathering in front of what seemed to be a barrier. This scenario happened because they couldn't continue forward into the depths. The cultivators were all confused, not understanding why there was a barrier here right now.

Many of them had ventured into the depths before, yet they had never seen this barrier. However, it wasn't like they couldn't pass through it. In fact, as long as they wished, the barrier wouldn't restrict them, and they would be able to pass through it and traverse to the other side. But there was just one

problem. They couldn't see the other cultivators who passed through it, making it obvious that they couldn't come back.

Any idiot could come to such a conclusion. Once one passed through it, there was no way back. That was the reason why most of them were gathered here, wondering whether they should head to the other side or not.

Some of these cultivators just so happened to use some kind of uniform that easily made them stand out among the rest.

"Isn't that the cultivators of the Lanqueas Sect?"

"Why are they here?"

"Shouldn't their time for entry be two years from now?"

"They aren't the only ones, though. The other top powers are also here. Look, those are the cultivators from the Croste Clan."

"Indeed, the Vanios Sect is here as well. None of them are supposed to be in the Lost Star Realm at the moment."

"The golden-robed ones are from Jix Organization."

"The Dragon Tail Brotherhood's marine blue robes are also here."

Those random cultivators couldn't help but wonder after that.. "There is this barrier here as well. Just what the hell is happening in the Lost Star Realm?"

Death... and me

Chapter 1320: Ancient Beasts

Rean and Roan knew nothing of what was happening, of course. First of all, they were around eight to nine months away from the border between the outskirts and the depths of the Lost Star Realm. It was hard to say whether those people would still be at the barrier once they arrived.

Nevertheless, time quickly passed as four months went by in a flash. The further the twins got from the Lost Star Realm's entrance, the fewer cultivators they found exploring the place. It was then that they encountered one of the ancient beasts! Fortunately for their group, it was a very big one, which they could see from tens of kilometers away.

In fact, the beast looked more like a mountain from their perspective. It was staggeringly high while snow had accumulated on its back due to its slow movement. Whether it was aggressive or not, the twins weren't sure. After all, they immediately told Kentucky to go around while flying very close to the ground. The idea was not to be seen by that thing, lest it had some way of catching them.

Hurio narrowed his eyes after Kentucky succeeded in avoiding the ancient beast. "Only four months of travel in, and we've already come across an ancient beast..."

Roan looked at him before asking, "Was it wrong?"

Hurio shook his head, though. "Not really. It's possible that an ancient beast suddenly decided to travel far away from its normal territory. However, such an occurrence is very rare, so I can only say that we're unlucky to have come across this one. Then again, we're lucky to be able to see it from such a far distance and go around it."

However, three weeks later, another ancient beast appeared within the twins' field of vision. This time, it was a gigantic white snake... or its back, to be more specific. Its body stretched for several kilometers, so its head was far away from the tail that Rean and the others saw from afar. "Retreat silently. That thing is heading in a different direction. Our goal is for it to not spot us."

After leaving the snake behind, Roan looked at Hurio and asked, "Weren't ancient beasts supposed to be rare around this place? How come we've come across two already?"

Hurio didn't know either. "How would I know? That's what the information I have told me. For now, let's just consider that these two ancient beasts have left their territory, and we were just extremely unlucky to have bumped into two of them."

Roar!

Hurio barely had the time to finish his words before a heaven-defying roar came from ahead. Though, it wasn't just deafeningly loud. It also carried some kind of ancient power that made the Divine Energy inside the bodies of Rean's group go chaotic. Even Kentucky was forced to land straight away, even though he was the one who was affected the least. Perhaps that was because he was a Divine Demon Beast.

The roar continued for almost a minute, with the twins' group having to do their best just to keep control over the energy inside their bodies. Worst case scenario, their dantians might even explode right there and then.

Fortunately, the roar eventually stopped, allowing them to calm down the energy in their dantians and demon core in Kentucky's case. After that, Rean asked through Divine Sense. 'What was that? Another ancient beast?'

Roan nodded, saying, 'That's the only possibility, right? What the hell is happening here, Hurio?'

'Don't judge me as if I'm at fault,' Hurio could not help but say in response.. 'I also have no idea why there are so many ancient beasts outside the depths of the Lost Star Realm. In fact, even in the depths of the Lost Star Realm, we shouldn't have come across so many of them in such a short time. Let's forget it for now, though. From where did the roar come from? It affected me so much that I couldn't even focus on its direction.'

Rean and Roan had to admit that it wasn't time to focus on this problem. Fortunately, they had Kentucky, which wasn't affected as much. 'It came from the northwest, and it's moving in our direction very quickly. I would say it's around thirty or so kilometers away.'

Roan immediately understood after that. 'No, it's not coming for us. It's coming for the snake. Hurio, do ancient beasts fight against each other?'

Hurio immediately shook his head, saying, 'No. At the very least, I haven't seen any records that they do. Although they act on instinct, it seems like they can somehow recognize each other and stay away from each other's territories.'

Hisssssssss!

Suddenly, the earth trembled as the gigantic snake appeared far behind the twins' group. It was still several kilometers away, but it was moving at incredulous speeds. Obviously, it was going to encounter the other ancient beast that hadn't appeared yet.

The twins, Hurio, and Kentucky once again felt the energy in their bodies turn chaotic once more as the same ancient power contained in that hiss entered their bodies. By the time the snake finished hissing, it was almost near them.

Roan then jumped on Kentucky's back, telling him, 'Hop on, quickly. Kentucky, try to fly in a different direction from those two.'

Hearing that, Kentucky's wings began to burn with black and white flames as his body shot like an arrow into the distance. He didn't hold back at all, showing a speed that even Peak Stage Eight Flying Demon Beasts would have difficulty matching. Perhaps he was already as fast as an average Initial Transition Realm Demon Beast.

Just a few seconds after they left that location, the snake that was coming from behind suddenly used its body to act as a spring. It then jumped high in the skies, far surpassing the twenty meters where the pressure assaulted the cultivators who tried to fly.

Fortunately, Kentucky was flying. Otherwise, the earthquake caused by that alone would have made it very hard for the twins' group to even move.

Soon, it began to fall at extreme speeds, looking as if it was about to smash on the ground.. However, it was at this moment that the ground caved in as a pair of crimson eyes appeared from inside.