

Death 1661

Death... and me

Chapter 1661: Deal!

Celis couldn't help but ask, "What about Kentucky and me? We do know about weapon intents, but we have no idea how to use them. First of all, we don't use weapons other than our own bodies."

Libraia shook her head, saying, "Do you even need it? You're Divine Demon Beasts. Well, one of you is a Divine Demon Tree, but it's the same thing. Although we do have some Divine Demon Beasts in the sect, having some more won't be bad."

Govin then intervened, "Get back to the main topic, Libraia."

Libraia nodded in response. "Right. As I mentioned, that would be the usual. However, we can't let you enter it yet. If you want to join the sect, you will have to complete the twelve tests."

"How come?" Rean asked, confused. If they could avoid the tests and enter Jhiod Continent Straight away, they would get the reward and wouldn't need to take those dangerous tests. Just the Soul Land alone was already very difficult.

"Our Jhiod Sect is under a new administration," Libraia explained. For some reason, Libraia seemed extremely dissatisfied when she said that. "As impressive as your weapon intents are, the new controlling power in our Jhiod Sect won't care. Well, that's basically because weapon intents can't be taught. If they could, then I'm sure no one would let the chance pass up."

'It seems like the Jhiod Sect has their own problems,' Roan commented through the Soul Connection with Rean.

Rean agreed with him. 'Well, we were already expecting to go through the twelve tests anyway.'

Libraia then asked something else after that. "One last question. Just how did you know that weapon intent existed? It's not an ability that just anyone knows about. Even the leaders of the powers of various continents around Jhiod are unaware of it."

Roan shook his head, saying, "We didn't know. We learned it by ourselves. It's impressive that you guys also call it intents."

Libraia's group was taken aback to hear that. "You didn't know about it until you got them? Is that even possible?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied, "It's not that impossible, right? At some point in time, no one knew about weapon intents. Someone had to find out about them on their own. We just did the same thing."

"Well... that's true." As hard as it was to believe, it was even harder to believe that the twins found out about weapon intents through someone else. "Alright, then that's it. We have no more questions."

Celis found it strange, though. "Then... why did you even call us here? You found out that they can use weapon intents. However, you know they can't be taught. Was there any point in having us here other than saying we can't heal anyone?"

Libraia nodded, responding, "But of course! We know that weapon intents can't be taught, but hearing about one's experience with them can help in some cases. Also, experiencing them might guide one to comprehend their own. Since there are still a few weeks before the test..."

Libraia then reached behind her hair before she pulled out a hairpin. Her hair then fell down before she imbued the hairpin with Divine Energy. The hairpin then began to float and vibrate as if it was alive.

Rean was a blacksmith, so he could tell that the thing wasn't just a hairpin. 'That thing's level is definitely above the Golden level. Divine level equipment? I've always wanted to see what Divine level equipment was capable of.'

Libraia continued, "You might as well give us a first-hand demonstration of your weapon intents. Who knows? Perhaps we can understand something."

"So that's how it is..." Roan faintly smiled in response. It was obvious that the Jhiod Sect knew more about weapon intents than he expected.

Celis and Kentucky then looked at Rean, who had a smile on his face. 'There it comes...'

"Oh! I see, I see... so you want us to fight you with our weapon intents. No wonder, no wonder..." Rean then opened one of his hands as he asked, "So, what will it be?"

Libraia and the others, who were expecting to start the spar straight away, looked at Rean in confusion. "What will it be what?"

"Isn't that obvious?" Rean asked as if stating a fact. "You want us to provide some service, so there has to be some payment in exchange. Let's see... we're talking about weapon intents, which seem to be extremely rare in your Jhiod Sect. Naturally, there has to be equivalent payment for our services, don't you think?"

Govin's mouth twitched in response. "What about you doing what we say, and we don't kill you as payment?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders in response. "What if we don't really use weapon intents but just something similar. Or maybe we can just use it partially. Since none of you know how to use weapon intents, would you be able to tell the difference? You can't really say whether they're real or not since you don't know what it is."

Rean's hand continued to be open as he added, "However... Roan and I wouldn't mind signing a Soul Binding Contract. As you know, forced contracts are useless. Only when one wishes to sign it with their own will can the contract take effect. For us, a good payment would definitely make Roan and I very, very willing. This desire would come directly from the bottom of our hearts."

Libraia glanced at Rean after that. "You mean, directly from the bottom of your pocket, right?"

"Isn't that the same?" Rean asked with an innocent expression.

Govin had a red face, but he couldn't find a way to go against Rean's words.

Libraia, on the other hand, couldn't help but laugh in response. "Hahaha! Boy, you are really funny. Very well, how much will it cost?"

"A thousand Rank Two Divine Stones per working day," Rean answered straight away.

"Deal!" Without thinking twice, Libraia accepted. Sure enough, she was a big shot from Jhiod Sect.

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Chapter 1662: What Is It?

"Wait! Libraia! This is just way too much!" Govin intervened, though. "You can't simply spend the sect's resources like this."

Libraia shook her head, clarifying, "Sect resources? Those are my Divine Stones. The sect has nothing to do with it. Besides, could it be that you don't want to check out their weapon intents?"

"I..." Of course, he wanted to. He simply didn't like the price.

Iglet patted his shoulder before using a Divine Sense message. 'Don't forget who she is. It might be a lot of Divine Stones for others, but definitely not for her.'

Govin sighed before he also took his weapon out. "Fine! In that case, I'll spar with the brat that's free."

With that decided, Kentucky and Celis were allowed to go back to the hall. The twins told them to talk with their groups so that they wouldn't be worried. They still wanted to pass the test, and their groups were already in good shape for it.

During the next four weeks, Rean and Roan sparred with many of the elders there. Still, Libraia was the one they sparred with the most. No one complained, though. After all, she was the one paying for it. They also considered it a huge opportunity to experience weapon intents.

"Senior Libraia, it's time." Suddenly, a subordinate called Libraia out.

Libraia looked at the monitoring formation and couldn't help but sigh in response. "Has a month already passed by? That was way too fast." She looked at the twins after that. "Anyway, you two can go out. We will continue this once you pass or fail the next test. Just make sure to crush your badges if you see that you're going to die. Also, don't forget. No healing."

The twins nodded before they left. As they went out, Rean looked at the spatial ring with the payment from Libraia. "28000 Rank Two Divine Stones. Man, so many in such a short time. If not for the mine we found before, this would have been the fastest we've ever earned so much."

Roan glanced at him in response. "That Govin doesn't seem to like our faces very much. We better not fail these tests, or he might come after us to take the Divine Stones back."

"Do you think he would remove his only chance of learning weapon intents?" Rean asked in response.

Roan shook his head, saying, "Probably not. However, nothing stops him or someone else from kidnapping us for that purpose." Of course, if that happened, the twins just needed to wait for the moment they weren't in danger and enter the Dimensional Realm. From there, they could simply take the random Circuitry Teleport Formation.

Outside, Krikei's group was already waiting for Roan. "Is everything fine on your side?"

Roan nodded, saying, "We had something they wanted, so we reached an agreement. It's that simple. Now, let's go." Without saying anything else, Roan left Rean's side with his group.

Rean simply shrugged his shoulders and walked around until, eventually, he sighted Habac, Erla, and Min. "Oh! There you ar-" However, he quickly noticed someone else with them there.

Erla also saw Rean coming. "Rean, you're finally back."

Min sighed in relief. "If you didn't come back, we wouldn't even try to enter the next test. That Enhancement skill of yours will definitely be a key."

Habac glanced at those two and said, "Aren't you forgetting something important?"

Only then did the two remember that Rean didn't know who the new guy was. "Rean, let me introduce him to you," said Erla. "This is Blansin, a member of the Silver Horn Sturgeon Race. Now that I think about it, I haven't told you much about Min and me. We're both from the Terces Continent. Blansin is also from there, and his race has a good relationship with mine."

Rean nodded in response. "I see... Well, nice to meet you, my friend." Rean then looked at Min, who was smiling as well. It's just that with all the experience Rean received from Roan, he could tell that Min wasn't really feeling happy at all. It was just a facade. 'Hmm? What's happening here?' However, he decided to leave it aside for now.

Rean then looked at the next spatial gate. "Anyways, we can talk about your reunion some other time. The next test will start, so we need to go."

"Wait, Rean!" Erla quickly called his attention. "Would you mind letting Blansin join our group? He's also trying to pass the test to enter the Jhiod Continent."

"This..." Rean looked at Blansin. Normally, he wouldn't mind. However, although Min didn't show on the surface, it was obvious to Rean that he didn't want Blansin to join them at all.

Blansin then bowed to Rean, saying, "The next test is especially beneficial for demon beasts. If that Enhancement ability of yours really does what Erla said, it would truly help me a lot."

Rean then looked at Habac, who shrugged his shoulders in response. "I don't mind. The next test is indeed more suited for demon beasts than humanoid races or spirits."

Rean then warned Blansin after that. "Our battle formation can only fit four members, though. Are you sure you wanna stick together? If things go south, I don't know if I will be able to help you since I'll prioritize my group."

Blansin was more than happy enough with that. "That's great! Don't worry. I definitely won't hold you guys back."

Rean nodded before he turned to Min and used a Divine Sense message. 'So, what is it that you have against the guy?'

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Chapter 1663: Was There Any Difference

Min looked at Rean with a weird expression for a moment. 'I won't lie. I don't like the guy. However, it's not because of some love issues. Erla and I wouldn't get separated that easily after so many years. Not to mention that Blansin doesn't have this kind of intention towards Erla to start with. The problem lies somewhere else.'

Rean wasn't disappointed to hear that. He would feel quite sad if the issue was that cliché. 'Oh! Now you have my attention. But first of all, if you wish, I can ask him to leave the group. I'll just come up with some random excuse.'

Min immediately shook his head, saying, 'No, there

s no need. The reason I don't like him is because of the reason behind his presence in this place. It's quite complicated.'

'His... presence in this place?' Rean was confused. 'Wasn't he supposed to be here?'

Min confirmed Rean's words. 'That's correct. You see, I came to know Blansin through Erla since they're friends. He's one of the top geniuses of the Silver Horn Sturgeon Race. He's also in the Void Tempering Realm, just like Erla. Yet, he's just 179 years old. His race considers him to be their leader in the future. Of course, I'm only talking about the Silver Horn Sturgeon Race in the sea where he lives back in Terces Continent. Nevertheless, he's very important for them.'

Min continued, 'However, here he is, trying to join the Jhiod Continent. Erla, on the other hand, is different. She has some connections with the high-level White Scaled Carps as she's the daughter of one of them. That's why she came to know someone like Blansin and also how she had the connections to come to this place. However, she isn't especially gifted like Blansin. Both she and I are over double his age. Our reason in our attempt to join Jhiod Sect is basically because it's one of the best ways to make up for our lack of talent.' Min was only talking about super high-level talents. At their age, their cultivation was already very good compared to the majority.

'You think he wants something from Erla, is that right?' Rean asked.

Min nodded in agreement. 'That's what I think. However, Erla wasn't supposed to have anything that would matter to someone like Blansin. Sure, she might be the daughter of one of the White Scaled Carp higher-ups, but that's about it.'

Rean understood what Min meant. 'You think it's too much of a coincidence for him to appear right here, right?'

'That's correct,' Min answered.

Rean then used his Divine Sense to check Erla's body from top to bottom. Erla would definitely feel it, but because of the place they were in at the moment, there was no lack of Divine Senses everywhere. She would think that it was just another one, just like how she was using her own.

'Hmm... I can't see anything different on her,' Rean mentioned.

Min agreed with him. 'She's not very at hiding things from me either. If she had something important on her, she would have already told me.'

Rean then asked, 'So, do you want me to stop him from going with us, or should we just leave it be?'

'Leave it be,' Min answered. 'I want to see if I'm just thinking too deep into it or not. After all, it might indeed be just a coincidence. With Blansin's talent, I'm sure he would be welcome in the Jhiod Sect once he passes all twelve tests. Considering he survives until then, that is.'

Rean then called everyone's attention. "Alright, everyone. Let's go. It's time for the next test."

Erla, Habac, Blansin, and Min immediately followed Rean to the area of the spatial gate. There were many other groups and solo cultivators and demon beasts waiting there as well. Eventually, one of the managers appeared as the spatial gate activated. "The next test is the Pressure Realm. This will test your physical condition more than anything else. As for the rest, go and find yourself." Sure enough, very little

was said before the test started. It was mostly because the tests repeated, so there wasn't much of a point in telling the same thing over and over again.

Roan's group quickly passed the gate together with the others. Kentucky and Celis' group followed a moment later. As for Rean's group, they were close to the last groups who passed through the portal.

Bang!

As soon as they appeared on the other side of the Spatial Gate, everyone felt as if their body were being pressed by a mountain. Naturally, Rean's group was no different. Min and Habac were obviously the ones who suffered the most.

"What the hell? Was it supposed to be this hard?" Min asked.

Habac nodded with a bitter smile. "It is. Last year, I wasn't able to resist this pressure for more than a few hours. I trained quite a lot before coming back here, so you better get used to it."

Erla and Blansin were demon beasts, so they had stronger bodies. Then again, they had to admit it was quite hard to keep standing. "As expected of the Jhiod Sect, I guess?"

As for Rean... "Hmm? Is there any difference between inside and outside?" Surprisingly, he didn't look the least bit annoyed.

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Chapter 1664: Divine Sense Message

Min's mouth twitched in response. "You don't seem to care that much in my eyes, though."

Rean agreed with him, saying, "Well, that's for sure. With my physical ability, just this much gravity won't bother me. However, I'm not using my Enhancement skill."

He then looked at the others and continued, "You, on the other hand, seem to be using a lot of Divine Energy to keep yourselves standing."

Habac immediately explained, "Why do you think this test is so hard for those who aren't demon beasts? Most of the humanoid races can't resist this place's gravity like the demon beasts. We are forced to keep using Divine Energy nonstop to neutralize the gravity's force that's trying to pull us down, you know? Even the demon beasts, if they aren't some crazy strong ones, will have to use some amount of Divine Energy to keep themselves in peak condition in this place."

Blansin agreed with Habac. "He's right. I may be proud of my physique. However, I have to keep some flow of Divine Energy if I don't want to be affected by it."

Rean then touched each of their shoulders. "Then, let's try my Enhancement skill." The Enhancement skill was a pure body-enhancing ability. It was perfect for this place.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

Immediately, Light Element entered each member's body, greatly increasing their raw strength.

"Phew... that feels a lot better," Habac couldn't help but comment.

The others agreed with him. However, Rean warned them. "It's only a temporary thing. My Light Element will be spent up sooner or later. At that point, I'll have to use this skill again, so make sure you don't stray away too far from me."

Following that, Rean looked at Habac and asked, "So, what can we expect in this test? Is it some survival test again? Or maybe we have to traverse this Dimensional Realm under the effect of this gravity?"

"The second option," Habac answered. "The Pressure Realm works almost the same way as the Soul Land. We will have to traverse it while many traps and other hindrances try to stop us. As you can expect, physical attacks cause a lot more damage in this place than attacks filled with Divine Energy or Soul Power. The best way to make use of it is to use Divine Energy to strengthen our bodies and then use physical attacks."

Rean quickly understood. “The amount of strength one can display with that method will depend a lot on their original raw strength. It’s really a test made for cultivators with powerful body cultivation techniques. Of course, demon beasts too.”

Rean then shrugged his shoulders in response. “Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s go.” Soon after, Rean began to run in the front.

Erla, Habac, and Min looked at each other and quickly followed. With Rean’s Enhancement skill and their own Divine Stones, they should be able to make it through or at least have a good chance.

Last but not least, Blansin followed them from behind. However, little did the others see, but he didn’t have a good expression on his face as he looked at Rean far ahead. ‘I have to find a way to be alone with Erla.’

Meanwhile, Roan didn’t know what to do with Krikei. Krikei was obviously a Kipos Lake Spirit. Rean’s Enhancement skill worked wonders in living beings of flesh and blood. However, the effect of this skill in Spirits was limited to the point it could be called useless.

Krikei himself didn’t weigh much. However, the gravity still affected him more than anyone else. “This goddamn test...” he said with quite some difficulty.

Vrie, the demon beast in Roan’s group, was obviously taking it easy. Lita wasn’t faring that well but wasn’t doing so bad either. After all, the Enhancement skill worked well on her. “Krikei, you’ll have to use more Divine Energy. There’s no other choice.”

Krikei knew that they were right. “I truly don’t want to use that much Divine Energy. After all, it would affect our battle formation.”

Roan shook his head. “It’s still better than letting you drag us down with how much you’re suffering in this place.” Sure enough, Roan didn’t beat around the bush with his words.

Without much choice, Krikei began to drive even more Divine Energy to counterattack the effects of gravity. Only then did his floating body stabilize somewhat. “Fuck it! I’ve been saving Divine Stones for this moment, so I’ll use them!” Soon after, several Rank Two Divine Stones appeared around him as he

absorbed their power. "Let's go. The longer we wait, the more Divine Energy I'll have to use. I'll be counting on you if any problem arises."

Roan glanced at him and said, "If you put us at risk, I'll cut you down myself."

"Yeah, yeah. Sure you will." Krikei brushed Roan's words aside as he started to move away. He wanted nothing more than to finish this test as fast as possible.

Last but not least, there was Kentucky and Celis' group. Well... If Rean and Roan didn't feel anything, then let alone Kentucky, whose body was even stronger than theirs. Celis, on the other hand, did feel the weight of gravity. Celis had a huge vitality, but his body's strength definitely didn't reach Kentucky's level. If anything, in terms of resistance, he was below the twins and their Third Grade Star Bodies. "Kentucky, you will take the lead while we follow behind to give you support."

Kentucky then looked at everyone and asked, "Isn't it easier if I just use Rean's Enhancement skill on them?"

Celis disagreed, saying, "Aren't we here to train? It makes sense for Rean and Roan to use the skill. However, we're demon beasts, so it's better to rely on our own strengths."

Kentucky could only agree with it...

Suddenly, Kentucky noticed that Rean was getting closer through their connection. The same was the case for Celis.

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Chapter 1665: Thank You, Celis, Kentucky

Rean nodded in response. 'Yes, just do it. Make sure you do what I say.'

Kentucky and Celis didn't mind and immediately called out the other demon beasts in their group. In total, they still had eight members after the losses in the Soul Land. It was then that they rushed over to the other side to attack Rean's group.

Obviously, Rean and the others saw when Kentucky's group appeared and immediately stopped.
"Someone's coming."

However, before Min or anyone else could say anything, a snake demon beast launched out a jet of poison in their direction. Except for Kentucky and Celis, everyone in their group was in the Void Tempering Realm. That meant their attacks also had a small amount of Space Power behind them. Of course, the snake wasn't the only one. The other demon beasts also attacked with full strength.

Rean's expression turned dark before he ordered, "Run! There are too many of them for us to fight! They're not mindless puppets like the ones in the Deep Sea Monster Assault test."

Rean then gathered the power of their battle formation and immediately counterattacked as they tried to open distance from the demon beasts. However, there were too many demon beasts for them to deal with... well, Rean could probably still defend against their attacks as long as Celis and Kentucky intervened. However, the Minokawa and Cedar couldn't show up since Erla and the others would definitely recognize them as part of Rean's group.

"This isn't working. Let's split!" Before anyone could say anything, Rean broke the battle formation and quickly grabbed the closest members of his group with his Divine Energy. Min and Habac felt their bodies being pulled as Rean dashed away. At the same time, Rean looked at Erla and Blansin while using a Divine Sense message, 'You two are in the Void Tempering Realm, so it will be easier for you to escape on your own. I'll help Habac and Min escape, and you two do the same thing. You already know the direction we're heading in, so try and meet us there.'

"Wait!" Min didn't want to split from Erla for obvious reasons. However, Rean's overwhelming advantage in this test made it impossible for him to break free from Rean.

'Life Style, First Form, Enhancement!'

'Death Style, Second Movement Form, Shadow Air!'

Rean's advantage in this realm was so great that he could even afford to fly while carrying Habac and Min. There were no rules against flying in the Pressure Realm. That's because it was considered a very wasteful way of spending Divine Energy with the gravity applied to everyone's bodies. Then again, the

story was different for Rean, Roan, Celis, and Kentucky. Naturally, Rean used the second form of the Death Movement Style, aimed at fast movement in the air.

Seeing Rean flying away put Erla slightly at ease. She knew it would have been hard for her to pull Min together because of the Dimensional Realm's traits. She also focused all her strength on her spatial ability and immediately dashed away.

There was one guy who was delighted, though. That was Blansin. He didn't expect that he would suddenly be alone with Erla. As long as he managed to escape the assault of the Demon Beasts coming at them, he would have the chance he was looking for. "Erla, grab my hand. My movement technique is better outside water. As long as we focus on running away, we can definitely escape this place fast enough."

"Alright!" Erla considered Blansin a friend, so she had no reason to not do so. Soon after, Blansin activated his movement technique before the two focused on their spatial abilities.

The demon beasts behind attacked nonstop, trying to stop Rean's group. Unfortunately, they chose the wrong target. Because Rean was in the Transition Realm, they thought he would be the easiest one to catch. Little did they know that Rean's strength made him the fastest in their group. By the time they decided to switch their attention to Blansin and Erla, the two were already quite far away.

They pursued Erla and Blansin for a while after that. However, the high gravity of the place was already putting a great strain on their bodies. Erla and Blansin, on the other hand, still had the effects of the Enhancement skill. They had it a lot easier than the demon beasts behind. At least that would continue to be the case until Rean's Light Element in their bodies ran out.

Eventually, the demon beasts from Kentucky and Celis group stopped the pursuit. Not that they wanted to, as they would continue if they needed. It's because they received a Divine Sense Message from Kentucky, telling them to let Erla and Min go. 'That's enough. You won't be able to catch those two anymore and will instead spend your strength for nothing. Come back so that I can use my Light Element skills on you.'

The demon beasts seemed bothered by the fact that they couldn't fulfill the Divine Demon Beasts' orders. However, since they told them to go back, they could only do so.

Kentucky then appeared far behind as he used his much better long-distance sight to watch the situation. "Yep, they're gone." He then looked at three humans standing on his side. If Erla and Blansin were here, they would definitely have recognized them as they had been in the same group a moment ago. "Rean, is that what you wanted?"

Rean nodded with a smile in response. "That's perfect. Thank you, Celis, Kentucky."

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Chapter 1666: I need something from you

Rean nodded in response. "That's correct. You think he has some ulterior motive, don't you? What better way of checking things out other than letting them think they were stranded from us due to some 'unfortunate' circumstances? Hahaha!"

Min didn't look happy, though. "But what if he tries something against Erla?!"

"Don't worry," Rean didn't seem worried. "He will first find somewhere to rest since they had to run a lot to get rid of the demon beasts behind them. The Enhancement skill I used on them didn't have a lot of Light Element, so they should have run out of it by now. That means they're back to their normal states plus the strain of the recent escape. Let's not forget that this realm also has a lot of obstacles that they don't want to run into."

Habac was still confused. "Just what are you two talking about?"

Rean looked at him before giving Habac a summary of what he and Min had discussed. Only then did he understand Min's concerns. "So that's how it is. You could have told me beforehand, you know? These friends of yours scared my soul out of my body."

Min was about to leave in Erla's direction when Rean stopped him. "Calm down, Romeo. Your Juliet won't go that far."

"R-Romeo? Ju...liet? Who are those?" Naturally, Min and Habac had no idea what Rean was talking about.

Rean could only sigh after that. "It's quite saddening that you can't understand. Anyways, we're going after them."

Rumble...

Suddenly, the rest of the demon beasts returned to Kentucky and Celis's sides. Obviously, they were puzzled to see Rean's group there since they were pursuing them at first.

Kentucky then explained, "Don't worry. They're with me."

Following that, Kentucky used Rean's healing and Enhancement skills to ease the burden on the demon beasts' bodies.

Rean was satisfied with that as he pushed Habac to Kentucky's side. "Kentucky, Celis, take care of this guy, will you? I'll go after Erla and Blansin. Flying with two extra bodies in this kind of gravity is a burden even for me."

Habac was taken aback to hear that. However, he knew that Rean wasn't kidding about the gravity. It's just that he would have to stay in the middle of a bunch of demon beasts. Not to mention that he could see it. The demon beasts here were all sentient. None of them seem to like the idea of having him in their midst. "Errrr... can I not?"

Kentucky then patted Habac's head with his huge wing. "Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. These are my friends. Here, let me introduce them to you."

Kentucky then brought Habac to the Twin-tailed Crimson Tiger in his group. "This is Gunter. He likes the taste of the flesh of humanoid races, so don't bother him too much, okay? Other than that, he's a very nice guy, very dependable actually. If you get in danger, ask him for help. Next, we have..."

Ignoring Habac's bitter expression, Rean grabbed Min's body with his Divine Energy before taking flight once again.

Seeing Habac being left behind, Min couldn't help but ask, "Will he be fine?"

"Oh, that?" Rean knew what Min was talking about. "Don't worry. Kentucky is just messing with him. Leaving that aside, we can now follow Erla and Blansin from above. If it's only you, I can keep flying without spending too much Divine Energy."

Min simply couldn't measure Rean's true power. All he knew was that even Blansin wouldn't be able to do as much as scratch him. In any case, it was a very good thing for him and his wife.

Around two hours later, Erla and Blansin finally stopped in a concealed corner to recover their Divine Energy, especially since Rean's Light Element had run out by now.

Erla then began to focus on healing some injuries on her body. "Phew... not only have we had to escape those demon beasts, but we were also almost killed by the other trap of this Pressure Realm."

Blansin nodded in response. He wasn't looking any better than Erla. In fact, he had to jump out to help her once and was caught in a very shitty situation. "Fortunately, another group also came by, and the trap had to divide its focus between them and us. Otherwise, we might have really died there."

Now that Erla finally had some time to rest, she took the opportunity to ask Blansin something else. "Blansin, why did you come to this place? We both know the importance you have in your Silver Horn Sturgeon Race. You're different from me, who has no use whether I'm there or not. If you end up joining the Jhiod Sect, you will also be cutting ties with your race." Sure enough, Erla had also thought about this topic. It's just that she didn't want to bring it up before.

Little did the two of them know, but around a kilometer high up in the skies, Reana and Min were observing them as well. Rean was obviously using his Divine Sense bending skill as well as bending the light to make themselves invisible. He could get much closer if he wanted to, but he preferred not to risk it as he didn't know if Erla or Blansin had detection methods up their sleeves.

'I told you, didn't I?' Rean asked Min. 'Erla had probably noticed something as well.'

Min nodded. 'Let's hear what he has to say.'

Blansin then explained, "I have no intention of cutting ties with my race."

Erla was confused by that answer. "Then why would you take this test?"

Blansin then double-checked his surroundings with his Divine Sense, making sure no one was nearby. "Because I need something from you."

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Chapter 1667: I need something from you

Habac obviously recognized Kentucky and Celis. They had seen Rean and Roan with those two before back in the entrance hall where the spatial gates were located. "This... what's happening here?"

Min, on the other hand, more or less understood what Rean was trying to do. After all, they had talked about Blansin a lot before entering this test. "Are you trying to leave Blansin alone with Erla?"

Rean nodded in response. "That's correct. You think he has some ulterior motive, don't you? What better way of checking things out other than letting them think they were stranded from us due to some 'unfortunate' circumstances? Hahaha!"

Min didn't look happy, though. "But what if he tries something against Erla?!"

"Don't worry," Rean didn't seem worried. "He will first find somewhere to rest since they had to run a lot to get rid of the demon beasts behind them. The Enhancement skill I used on them didn't have a lot of Light Element, so they should have run out of it by now. That means they're back to their normal states plus the strain of the recent escape. Let's not forget that this realm also has a lot of obstacles that they don't want to run into."

Habac was still confused. "Just what are you two talking about?"

Rean looked at him before giving Habac a summary of what he and Min had discussed. Only then did he understand Min's concerns. "So that's how it is. You could have told me beforehand, you know? These friends of yours scared my soul out of my body."

Min was about to leave in Erla's direction when Rean stopped him. "Calm down, Romeo. Your Juliet won't go that far."

"R-Romeo? Ju...liet? Who are those?" Naturally, Min and Habac had no idea what Rean was talking about.

Rean could only sigh after that. "It's quite saddening that you can't understand. Anyways, we're going after them."

Rumble...

Suddenly, the rest of the demon beasts returned to Kentucky and Celis's sides. Obviously, they were puzzled to see Rean's group there since they were pursuing them at first.

Kentucky then explained, "Don't worry. They're with me."

Following that, Kentucky used Rean's healing and Enhancement skills to ease the burden on the demon beasts' bodies.

Rean was satisfied with that as he pushed Habac to Kentucky's side. "Kentucky, Celis, take care of this guy, will you? I'll go after Erla and Blansin. Flying with two extra bodies in this kind of gravity is a burden even for me."

Habac was taken aback to hear that. However, he knew that Rean wasn't kidding about the gravity. It's just that he would have to stay in the middle of a bunch of demon beasts. Not to mention that he could see it. The demon beasts here were all sentient. None of them seem to like the idea of having him in their midst. "Errrr... can I not?"

Kentucky then patted Habac's head with his huge wing. "Hahaha! Don't worry, don't worry. These are my friends. Here, let me introduce them to you."

Kentucky then brought Habac to the Twin-tailed Crimson Tiger in his group. "This is Gunter. He likes the taste of the flesh of humanoid races, so don't bother him too much, okay? Other than that, he's a very nice guy, very dependable actually. If you get in danger, ask him for help. Next, we have..."

Ignoring Habac's bitter expression, Rean grabbed Min's body with his Divine Energy before taking flight once again.

Seeing Habac being left behind, Min couldn't help but ask, "Will he be fine?"

"Oh, that?" Rean knew what Min was talking about. "Don't worry. Kentucky is just messing with him. Leaving that aside, we can now follow Erla and Blansin from above. If it's only you, I can keep flying without spending too much Divine Energy."

Min simply couldn't measure Rean's true power. All he knew was that even Blansin wouldn't be able to do as much as scratch him. In any case, it was a very good thing for him and his wife.

Around two hours later, Erla and Blansin finally stopped in a concealed corner to recover their Divine Energy, especially since Rean's Light Element had run out by now.

Erla then began to focus on healing some injuries on her body. "Phew... not only have we had to escape those demon beasts, but we were also almost killed by the other trap of this Pressure Realm."

Blansin nodded in response. He wasn't looking any better than Erla. In fact, he had to jump out to help her once and was caught in a very shitty situation. "Fortunately, another group also came by, and the trap had to divide its focus between them and us. Otherwise, we might have really died there."

Now that Erla finally had some time to rest, she took the opportunity to ask Blansin something else. "Blansin, why did you come to this place? We both know the importance you have in your Silver Horn Sturgeon Race. You're different from me, who has no use whether I'm there or not. If you end up joining the Jhiod Sect, you will also be cutting ties with your race." Sure enough, Erla had also thought about this topic. It's just that she didn't want to bring it up before.

Little did the two of them know, but around a kilometer high up in the skies, Reana and Min were observing them as well. Rean was obviously using his Divine Sense bending skill as well as bending the

light to make themselves invisible. He could get much closer if he wanted to, but he preferred not to risk it as he didn't know if Erla or Blansin had detection methods up their sleeves.

'I told you, didn't I?' Rean asked Min. 'Erla had probably noticed something as well.'

Min nodded. 'Let's hear what he has to say.'

Blansin then explained, "I have no intention of cutting ties with my race."

Erla was confused by that answer. "Then why would you take this test?"

Blansin then double-checked his surroundings with his Divine Sense, making sure no one was nearby. "Because I need something from you."

Death... and me

Chapter 1668: Clendes Sea Heart

Blansin then took an item out that Erla couldn't recognize. Following that, he poured Divine Energy inside. It was then that Erla felt her body go numb all of a sudden. It wasn't just physically but also on the energy side of things. She couldn't use Divine Energy, Elements, or even Soul Power. "T-this... What are you doing?!"

Blansin's expression wasn't like someone who enjoyed it, though. "I'm sorry, Erla, but I must take it back for the sake of my Silver Horn Sturgeon Race."

Above in the skies, Min wanted to go help Erla straight away. However, Rean quickly held him back. 'Hold on, idiot! We still don't know what he wants. If you stop him and don't find out an answer, there might be even more Silver Horn Sturgeons coming after Erla. In fact, chances are that much higher-level ones are outside the Jhiod Sect's building. They didn't join this hunt because the tests don't allow anyone above the Void Tempering Realm.'

Min felt a chill on his back when he thought about that. Rean was right. It was obvious that Blansin wanted something very important. However, neither he nor Erla herself knew what it was. In the end, he gritted his teeth and decided to observe further.

Back down, Blansin sighed in response, asking, "I think you have the right to know at least. Don't you think it's too far-fetched that your father told you to join the Jhiod Sect?"

Erla narrowed her eyes in response. "What do you mean? You know very well I don't have much use for the White Scaled Carp race as a whole. That's why he allowed me to come."

Blansin shook his head, telling her, "Come on. Even I know your father better than that. That father of yours would have never allowed you to try something as dangerous as the Jhiod Sect's test, let alone leave the White Scaled Carp race. That's also why you always had enough resources to reach your level with your talent. He even allowed you to get together with that human even though the other members of the race were obviously against it. He loves you way too much. Sure, you might not be as talented as me, but you aren't that bad. In the end, you don't just find a Void Tempering Realm demon beast in every corner, you know?"

Rean looked at Min far in the skies, asking, 'So her father was not against it?'

Min nodded with a dark expression. 'It's true. He absolutely doesn't like me at all. However, because he didn't know how to say no to Erla, he eventually accepted the two of us. However, Blansin's right. He was basically the only one who did. The rest continued to look down at us there, so we decided to leave. Even now, I find it strange that he would allow Erla to leave for the Jhiod Sect's test since he went as far as to accept our relationship just so that Erla wouldn't leave her race.'

Blansin continued from there. "Let's be honest, the travel to reach this test is very, very expensive as well. I only came here with a few elders, and it cost us a fortune in teleports." Not everyone was as rich as Rean, after all. "But lo and behold, your father didn't mind forking out the Divine Stones necessary to get to this place for both you AND your husband. Are you sure you didn't find it even the least bit odd? Think well, was everything really okay back in the White Scaled Carp race before you left?"

Erla's expression turned worse after that. Now that Blansin had asked, she thought back to the time she decided to leave. For some reason, her father seemed quite distressed. Not only he, but the other few high-level elders were the same. However, that was just about it. The rest of the race seemed to be pretty fine.

Blansin noticed her change. "It seems like you finally noticed something wrong. No, to be more specific, you did notice something wrong back there but ignored it at first. Living with Min there wasn't easy, so

you were just glad your father allowed you to leave. As for the rest, you didn't pay much heed to it. However, he gave you something he shouldn't have. Otherwise, we wouldn't have come for you. Don't get the wrong idea. I truly consider you my friend. Believe it or not, I tried to think about other ways to get this problem resolved. Unfortunately, there's no other way."

Blansin finally entered the main topic. "I need the Clendes Sea Heart that your White Scaled Carp race has."

"Clendes Sea Heart?!" Both Erla and Min exclaimed when they heard that name. Fortunately, Rean kept a Divine Energy barrier around Min and him. That allowed the sound to reach them but not to leave. Otherwise, Blansin would have definitely heard Min's voice just now due to how shocked he was. Of course, Blansin definitely heard Erla's loud voice.

Erla immediately shook her head, though. "B-But, the Clendes Sea Heart is the treasure of my race. Look at me! Do you think I would ever have something as important as that?! Are you crazy! First of all, why didn't you just ask me? I would have told you if you had asked. I don't have it. I don't have it at all. I would never be allowed to get even close to it!"

Blansin agreed with Erla. "Indeed, you would never be allowed to carry such an item. That's exactly why you have it. Usually, no one would think about you carrying this thing."

"I told you I don't have it," Erla stood her ground. "I'm not lying. I didn't receive it from my father. If I had, do you think I would leave the White Scaled Carp race? Chances are that the elders would kill me before that!"

Blansin shook his head, saying, "I know you are not lying. Your father told me that. It's just that you yourself didn't even know you had it."

Rean above was completely lost, so he asked Min with a Divine Sense message. 'What's the Clendes Sea Heart?'

Death... and me

Chapter 1669: Awakening

Min immediately answered while trying to control the shock he was feeling. 'That's the White Scaled Carp race's treasure. Nothing for them is more important than the Clendes Sea Heart. I've never seen it before, let alone gotten close to it. I don't even know where it was guarded. Sometimes I even thought it was nothing more than a legend told by the elders of the White Scaled Carp race to their young. After all, if they really had such a thing, all the powers of the Terces Continent would have come for them a long time ago.'

'In any case, according to the stories, the Clendes Sea Heart is supposed to be an amazing treasure capable of controlling the sea itself. It was told that it was once forged by the god of the Clendes Sea so that he could protect his sea forever. Anyone who held that item would be invincible as long as they were in the Clendes Sea.'

Seeing Rean's confusion, Min also added some extra information, "Terces Continent isn't like Pol Continent, which is just a huge sea. It does have its own land. However, at least 50% of it is covered by the Clendes Sea. That doesn't make it any less powerful, though.'

Rean finally understood after that. 'If this Clendes Sea Heart really has the power of controlling the entire Clendes Sea, one could use it to destroy the whole land surface there. Obviously, nothing could match the power of those holding the Clendes Sea Heart in the Clendes Sea either.'

Min nodded in response. 'That's correct. That's why I find it extremely unbelievable that Erla would have such an item. I don't even know if she believes that this item exists at all. As you heard, even she had never got close or even seen that thing.'

There was one thing Rean didn't understand. 'But... if they really had it, why would they send it out with Erla? It would have been much better to keep it within the race.'

Min shook his head, telling him, 'How would I know? Let's hear what Blansin has to say. He had always been talkative as far as I know, so he will probably tell her a few more things.'

Sure enough, Blansin explained to the puzzled Erla. "The Clendes Sea Heart, Erla, isn't some item. Instead, it really is a heart. To be more specific, it's your heart. Anyone who gets your heart can use the White Scaled Carp race's secret forging technique to refine it into a real treasure capable of controlling the Clendes Sea back in Terces."

"What?!" Sure enough, everyone was even more shocked now.

Seeing that, Blansin sighed as he continued, "You see now why it pains me to have to do this? I have to get your heart before anyone else does."

Erla didn't believe it. "This is impossible! If I had such power, don't you think I would be able to do a lot more than I can now? Even if my heart isn't refined into a treasure, just the fact that I have it would have been enough to make me extremely powerful and talented. I'm not anywhere near that!"

That's exactly the question in Rean and Min's minds. Erla was better than average demon beasts, but that's about it.

Blansin then took a black pearl from his spatial ring before showing it to Erla. "Do you recognize it?"

Erla nodded slightly, saying, "I also have a few of it. They're Deep Sea Calming Pearls. They are very good for calming one's mind during cultivation if you have Water Element Affinity. I always carry a few since they lose their effect with time."

Blansin bitterly smiled as he said, "That's what you were told. However, let me ask you. Have you ever seen anyone using them back in your race?"

"This..." Erla was taken aback by that question.

At the same time, Rean looked at Min and asked, 'Did you?'

Min pondered about the years he spent in the White Scaled Carp race's territory with Erla. He might not have been welcomed, but he did meet a lot of them, including some powerful ones. However, he had never seen anyone else other than Erla using those pearls. 'Now that he said that, I indeed have no recollection of anyone else using such an item. However, since Erla seemed to always cultivate with them, I've never paid attention to those pearls. They had no use for someone like me since I don't have Water Element Affinity. My affinity is Lightning, as you know.'

Erla's answer was similar to Min's. "I haven't... seen anyone using them. Is there some secret about it?"

Blansin nodded, telling her, "You aren't wrong when you said these pearls have a calming effect. However, this calming effect only works on the holder of the Clendes Sea Heart. What they calm down isn't your mind. Instead, they calm down the power of the heart. They exist for the sole purpose of not letting you lose control over your power. At the same time, they seal the heart's abilities to control the Clendes Sea. However, there's a huge side-effect."

Rean, Min, and Erla could already imagine what the side effect was. "They also affected my overall talent..." Erla couldn't help but say.

Blansin confirmed her words. "That's correct. However, it isn't a bad thing. When a child with the Clendes Sea Heart is born, the child will not live long if the heart isn't put under control. These pearls might have a bad effect on your cultivation. But above all, they were the reason you were able to live to this day. Sure enough, your father truly loves you since these pearls are extremely hard and expensive to make. Well, there were also your White Scaled Carp race's own ideas. They probably expected you to become their goddess in the future once you got strong enough to control the power of your Clendes Sea Heart."

Following that, Blansin took another item out of his spatial ring. It also looked like a pearl but was red instead of black. "Well, to harvest your heart, I first need it to recover its true powers. Sorry, but I'll have to awaken your Clendes Sea Heart now."

Death... and me

Chapter 1670: Is that so?

Rean and Min narrowed their eyes once they heard that. Should they try to stop Blansin now? It's because Erla's Clendes Sea Heart had been sealed that her talent didn't develop. If they allowed Blansin to do that first, she would recover that so-called enormous talent and power, right? She might not be anywhere close to Clendes Sea, but the heart alone probably would help her a lot.

However, there was also the possibility of her dying. The black pearls were used to keep the heart from going out of control and potentially killing Erla. Blansin mentioned that it was supposed to be the case until the day Erla got strong enough to control the heart on her own. The question was whether Erla was already that strong enough or not.

However, Min gave up in the end. 'Forget it! I don't care how strong she might become in the future. If there's a chance of her dying because of the heart's problem, then let it be sealed for all eternity. We need to stop him!'

Rean looked at Min as his opinion of him increased a lot. 'Well said! I would be truly disappointed if you didn't make this decision.'

However, just as Rean was about to attack, Erla opened her mouth. "The awakening of my heart? Would it be bad if I lost control over it? Are you sure you want to awaken it? If I'm not wrong, it would be better if I simply followed you back to your elders."

Blansin shook his head in response. "Don't worry. According to the records, the Void Tempering Realm is the requirement to control the Clendes Heart. That just so happens to be the realm you're in at the moment. Can you guess why?"

Erla was taken aback, and so were Rean and Min. However, all three of them had an idea. 'The power to control an entire Sea... That would be impossible without the power of space! The Void Tempering Realm is the realm where cultivators and demon beasts touch the power of space for the first time. Thus, the Void Tempering Realm requirement.'

Blansin could tell that Erla understood. "That's correct. To be more specific, the heart is capable of fusing both Water Element and Space Power together. Of course, that's just a small part of its power. Let's say that's just the minimum realm necessary to start taking control of its entire strength. The higher your cultivation gets from here, the more the heart will help you improve. Naturally, the higher your control over the Clendes Sea."

Min and Rean immediately gave up on the idea of stopping Blansin. Since she had the cultivation necessary to control the heart, that's obviously a huge opportunity for her. They could stop Blansin after the heart was awakened.

Blansin then moved the red pearl near Erla's heart, which immediately began to shine with a red color. At the same time, Erla felt like her own heart was going to pounce out of her chest as it beat faster and faster. Whatever the red pearl was, it was deeply related to her own heart.

At some point, Erla and the others noticed that her heart was also giving out light. It's just that the light coming from Erla's heart inside her body was blue, not red.

Blansin smiled as he let the red pearl go. It slowly floated in the direction of Erla's heart when suddenly, it became kind of ethereal. Following that, the heart passed through Erla's skin as if it wasn't even there, ultimately entering her heart.

Arrrgh!

Erla felt immense pain coming from her chest. That also affected her entire body, which seemed to be about to explode. However, that didn't happen. Instead, everyone saw as many strands of black energy started to come out of her body instead. One didn't need to be a genius to know what it was.

'The black pearls' energy...' they all thought.

That was correct. The red pearl, together with the Clendes Sea Heart, were expelling the black pearl's power that sealed the heart.

Suddenly, Erla changed back into her White Scaled Carp race's form. As a Void Tempering Realm demon beast, she was obviously quite big. It's just that she now looked like a fish out of water. Blansin was already expecting that, though. He selected this area to rest exactly because it would help conceal Erla's body after the transformation.

Erla's body then began to change from that point onward. The color of her white scales slowly turned blue. The same happened to her eyes, which were white before as well. The color of her body wasn't the only thing that changed, though. Something that looked like a crown made of fins appeared above her head. It was quite big and shone with a gentle blue color that emanated energy.

Her other fins, scales, and even her body's overall form changed to something a lot more imposing. If one asked, Erla still kind of looked like a White Scaled Carp but was obviously from a different race.

The process took over an hour before the pain for Erla finally subsided. It's just that Erla was now as weak as an ant. She couldn't move a single muscle of her body. Changing back to her human form? That

was impossible for her at the moment. Not to mention that the item that kept Erla restrained was still active.

"Seems like it's finally over," Blansin murmured as he took the tools necessary to harvest Erla's Heart. He did so with a painful expression, obviously not liking to do that. However, there was too much in play for him to care about his own feelings. "Sorry, Erla. I'll make sure your White Scaled Carp race will be safe."

However, it was then that a Divine Sense message echoed in Blansin's mind. 'Is that so? Shouldn't you keep Erla safe as well, then? Oh well, whatever. We will keep her safe since you can't.'

Blansin's eyes widened in response as his Divine Sense finally broke through Rean's Divine Sense bending skill. Of course, since that happened, that was because Rean was now too close for the bending to not work.