

Death 381

Death... and me

Chapter 381: Tissan Sasamil

Roan narrowed his eyes. It was true that he could use Yin Energy, but not in the order that Gval thought. His Dark Element was his own affinity. He didn't need his Yin Energy to use it. Of course, all his and Rean's techniques that used Dark Element automatically had Yin Energy in them. However, what bothered him was not that, but the killing part.

"Do all your new customers have to kill someone to get access to the Black Market?"

Gval shook his head as he replied.

"I have the power to decide what kind of proof I need. Usually, it's just a huge sum of Spirit Stones, but I'm making an especial exception for you. This way, you'll be able to enter without having to pay anything."

Roan shook his head, saying.

"I don't mind paying. Just give me the price."

Gval didn't seem to care, continuing with his original intention.

"No can do. I already decided that this is the kind of proof I need from you. Don't worry. It's not like I'm trying to make you the enemy of the state. Your target is an old customer who's refusing to pay a few debts. However, his debts aren't big enough to be worth calling the Shadow Reapers."

Roan was losing his patience.

"Just get straight to the point. Who do you need dead? Depending on the answer, I'll simply look for another Black Market."

Gval nodded before passing him a picture.

"His name is Tissan Sasamil. A descendent of the Imperial Family."

Roan felt like killing Gval right there and then.

"Are you fucking kidding me? You want me to kill a member of the Imperial Family right inside the Capital? Let alone me, even someone with much higher cultivation wouldn't have this chance. Do you think the Imperial Palace is just like any peasant's house?"

Gval laughed after hearing that.

"Hahaha! Of course not. Don't worry, Tissan can't go back to the Imperial Palace anymore. His only choice is to live in the Inner City. Besides, he has almost no protection whatsoever. I might as well tell you this. Even if he dies, the Imperial Family won't lift a single finger for him. Of course, that's as long as you don't do it right in front of everyone. The Imperial Family still has its face to keep."

Roan finally understood what was happening.

"Hehe! So it's just the elimination of trash, huh? Sure enough, the Sasamil Imperial Family has a few connections to the Black Market. No, a few of their members are probably the owners of the Black Market itself. In the Sasamil Imperial Family, talent and intelligence is everything. Since this guy can't go back, it means that he was deemed trash by the family."

Gval showed a surprised expression at Roan.

"You are not as idiotic as I thought you'd seem. However, you better be careful, young man. If what you said here was said outside, you would be in huge trouble. So, will you take the test? I don't mind if you go somewhere else to try and enter another Black Market. However, the next ones might not be as lenient as me."

Roan pondered for a bit.

"Alright. How do I prove his death? It's not like I can walk around with a head in my bag. Just one Spiritual Sense scan, and I'll be done for."

Gval already expected that answer.

"Of course, I wouldn't be idiotic enough to ask for such a thing. All the Imperial Family Members have a plate of identification. For the lower members, it is as important as their own lives. You can just bring it to me. Oh, right. If possible, get rid of the body. For a Dark Element User like you, it shouldn't be too hard to accomplish."

Roan then got all the information before exiting the room. When he passed by the place where Dudle died, nothing out of the ordinary could be found, let alone a body. It was as if nothing had ever happened there.

Sometime later, Roan explained what happened to Rean through their Soul Connection.

'I see what you want to do. You will lock that Tissan guy up and take the information you need from him, right?'

Roan nodded.

'Yes.'

Rean pondered a bit before saying.

'Since this guy is considered trash in the Imperial Family, he probably doesn't know much. Otherwise, the family wouldn't discard him that easily. If I'm not wrong, you will still need that information market from the Black Market.'

Roan agreed with Rean.

'I know. Still, it seems it was only recently that Tissan was thrown out. Perhaps he knows more than we expect.'

Rean had to admit that Roan had a point.

'Okay. I know what you want. I should be able to ask for a break from Elder Droman. Are you going to move tonight?'

'Yes. I want to be able to enter the Black Market tomorrow if possible. Every day counts.'

Rean nodded.

'Alright. In that case, I have an idea you might like.'

'What is it?'

Ran smiled before continuing.

'You are planning to interrogate the guy in his residence before getting rid of him, right? However, such an action still has a degree of danger. The best thing is to get him away from there and ask questions later. That being said, let's send him into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.'

[Hey, hey, hey! Are you really okay with that?]

Sister Orb immediately interjected.

'Hahaha! Don't worry, Sister Orb. First of all, you're stronger than the guy, so you can't possibly be afraid. Nonetheless, I will prepare something nice for him.'

Roan understood what Rean wanted to do.

'That's good. That way, he won't notice that he's in a separated dimension. Anyway, come out as soon as you can. You can go back and study your formations later.'

Rean nodded.

'By the way, what's his cultivation?'

'Energy Gathering Realm.'

'Age?'

'21.'

'That weak?! With such cultivation, it's no wonder he's considered trash by the Imperial Family.'

Death... and me

Chapter 382: Really Trash?

One's cultivation speed was also related to one's Aptitude Color. Naturally, any descendant with a Gray or Brown Color Aptitude would be a lot slower than someone like Calina, who had a Blue Color. However, with the Imperial Family's resources and cultivation techniques, even those with poor aptitude could cultivate relatively well.

However, Tissan Sasamil didn't fall under this case. He had a Green Color Aptitude. It wasn't anything too impressive in the Capital, but definitely above the majority. Still, he was only able to reach the Energy Gathering Realm after more than twenty years. That was definitely a terrible achievement for a member of the Family. It also explained why he wasn't allowed to live in the Palace anymore.

'Alright. I'll tell Droman here, and I should be out before night when the Core City Gates close.'

Roan nodded and returned to the Dalamu Residence first. Not long after, Rean gave Droman some excuse and said that he would be back the next day when the gates open again. Droman knew that Rean and Roan needed each other to cultivate properly, so he didn't think it was strange.

Rean first went to a Blacksmith Workshop and rented a room for himself. After confirming with Sister Orb that there weren't any monitoring formations present, Rean accessed the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and brought a ton of Triliun Ore out.

He got a large amount of it after the war, so he didn't mind using it. Triliun Ore was an Earth Peak-Level Material. Usually, Rean wouldn't be able to forge anything with his cultivation. Fortunately, Rean wasn't trying to create a spiritual weapon or armor. Instead, he simply shaped the Triliun Ore into a huge cage.

He then sent it into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, where he built a simple concealing formation. Sister Orb was in control of everything inside, so she could easily prevent Spiritual Energy from reaching inside the cage. That would be the best place to hide the guy until Roan got the information they needed.

Using Triliun Ore to make a cage for an Energy Gathering Realm cultivator was quite an overpowered method, but Rean wanted to guarantee it. After all, he didn't know if Tissan had some treasure that could be dangerous for them.

Nighttime quickly arrived as Rean and Roan headed out to the building that the information pointed out. Tissan had been living there ever since he was sent out of the Core Region.

The twins then went to a hidden corner where no one could see them. There, Rean activated his skills of concealment. Both Light and Spiritual Sense began to bend around Rean and Roan, making the two disappear into thin air.

'Do you need to be this close?'

Rean shrugged his shoulders.

'Just be thankful that you don't need to piggyback me anymore. Now shut up and use your own Dark Element to blend us with the shadows. It will make things easier on my side.'

The two then quickly arrived at the entrance. As an Imperial Family member, Tissan still had his own guards. After all, it was part of the face of the Imperial Family. However, his own guards were around the Foundation Establishment and Core Formation Realm. There was only a single Core and Soul Fusion cultivator. They weren't anything impressive either.

Rean and Roan passed behind the guards without a sound. Rean could feel some Spiritual Senses, but none of them had the power to break through his skill. Eventually, they entered the building and began to make their way to Tissan.

'Where should we go first?'

'Let's go upstairs. It's already late at night, so he's probably in his room.'

The twins quickly passed by the corridors and stairs. There were a few guards inside as well, but they all failed to notice anything out of the ordinary. First of all, they didn't really think someone would come after Tissan since he was a member of the Imperial Family.

The only problem was that the twins couldn't use their Spiritual Sense either. After all, their Core Formation Realm Spiritual Sense would definitely be noticed by the guards. It was a common thing for important people to have Anti-Spiritual Sense formations that blocked everything from outside. The only Spiritual Senses that Rean could feel at the moment were the guards' senses. If a new one appeared, the guards would immediately understand that someone had entered the building.

Rean and Roan went through the doors one by one, trying to find where Tissan could be. However, even after looking into all the rooms on the upper floors, they couldn't see as much as a trace of the guy.

'Could it be that he's outside?'

Roan snorted.

'Well, he is a 21 years old Energy Gathering Realm trash, after all. He might be spending most of his time enjoying his status outside. No world is free of idiots like this.'

Rean nodded.

'In any case, we're already here. Let's check the lower floors to make sure we didn't miss anything. While we were looking into the rooms, we did find one that could probably be the one Tissan uses. If we don't find Tissan, we can wait in that room until later to see if he comes back.'

Roan agreed with Rean, and they went downstairs once again. Unfortunately, they didn't find anything until they reached the 1st floor.

Roan then shook his head before looking upstairs again.

'Seems like he is really out at the moment. Let's go to his room.'

However, Rean shook his head.

'No, something's not right.'

Roan looked at Rean, puzzled.

'What is it?'

Rean then explained.

'I've been thinking about the information we got from Tissan. He is an Imperial Family Member. Even if he only has a Gray Color Aptitude, he shouldn't have any issues entering Foundation Establishment. The Imperial Family has the resources and techniques to make it happen. Even if you were trash who only thought about playing around, would you give up the increase in lifespan that the Foundation Establishment Realm gives you?'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'That's true. So, what are you thinking?'

Death... and me

Chapter 383: Underground

Rean then continued.

'Did you see the room we checked out before? We did find one that was probably used by this Tissan guy. However, do you think it was the type of room that some young master would use? Other than the clothes that the Imperial Family members usually wear, the rest of the room was quite plain.'

Roan then said.

'Alright. You're saying that the information about Tissan being at the Energy Gathering realm is a lie, correct? That's obvious! Why would we believe everything some old geezer from the Black Market said? Still, this is the fastest way of getting what we want. If there really is danger, we can always retreat into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.'

Rean narrowed his eyes.

'That's not exactly what I meant. However, your point is valid. Anyway, there is one thing I would like to verify.'

'What is it?'

Rean then pointed down.

'I want to go to the floors underground. I feel like we will find our target there.'

This time, Roan became really puzzled.

'Why?'

'Because that's the most secluded place in this building. If this Tissan isn't really trash, he would definitely select a secluded place to cultivate, right? Most of the cultivators always do the same thing. Since this entire building is for him to use, he can select such a thing. Not to mention that it's easier to set up formations closer to the ground.'

Roan didn't mind.

'Let's go check then.'

Rean and Roan then looked for a passage underground. The Inner City was already quite packed, so any extra space was welcome. That being said, it was pretty common for most buildings to have one or two more floors below the surface.

Sure enough, they found another passage on the back of the building. Not only that, but it also had guards protecting the entrance. The problem was that it was closed, and it didn't seem to have any other entrance.

'Seems like you might be right. I can't sense their cultivation since I can't use my Spiritual Sense. However, I feel like that they're at least in the Middle or Late Core Formation Realm. Compared to the guards upstairs, these two are definitely much stronger.'

Rean nodded. His instincts might not be as sharp as Roan, but he wasn't blind either.

'I'm confident that I can approach the door without them noticing. But there is no way I can open it unnoticed. We have two choices. We can wait for someone to open and try to pass by them before the door closes... Or we can wait for this Tissan guy to come out and follow him. Well, that is considering that Tissan is really down there.'

Roan nodded.

'In any case, we would need to wait. Can your skill hold until then?'

'Don't worry. Now that I'm in the Core Formation Realm, I have enough Spiritual Energy to hold it for over a few hours if we don't move.'

With that, the twins began to wait outside. It wasn't before three hours and a half later that the door finally opened behind the guards.

However, the one who came out wasn't a guard. Instead, it seemed to be a worker of the building. He carried a few cleaning tools as he moved outside. Rean and Roan looked at each other before immediately moving close to the door. Just as it was about to close, Rean used his Spiritual Energy to hold it slightly open. It was just enough to fit him and Roan through.

"Hum?"

The worker noticed that he couldn't close the door for some reason.

"Did it get stuck?"

The two guards noticed it and came forward to help. Rean couldn't help but sweat a bit. After all, the closer he got to the cultivators, the easier it would be for their Spiritual Sense to notice his presence. It was all about the strength of the 'wind.' It would get stronger the closer you were to the enemy.

Fortunately, neither of the guards were using their Spiritual Sense at that moment. It was the same thing as before. They simply didn't think anyone would come here to find a problem with the Imperial Family. The few Spiritual Senses that Rean felt so far were basically the guards using it to talk between themselves.

Rean and Roan Quickly passed through the gap just when the guards reached the door.

bang

Suddenly, whatever was holding the door in place disappeared. Since the worker was using his strength to try to close the door, it suddenly slammed shut after the counterforce disappeared.

"Oh! There we go. I'll call for someone to check it later."

The guards looked at each other before shrugging their shoulders. After that, they simply went back to their positions as if nothing had happened.

Rean and Roan immediately noticed that the underground floor was completely lit. Not only that, but there wasn't a speck of dust anywhere. Without a doubt, the place had been kept clean for quite some time already.

'Bingo! Even if Tissan isn't really using this place, there is definitely something related to him here.'

Roan nodded as they began to look around. Because the building itself was quite large, the underground was the same. So they had to check area by area. In the end, there was one more floor down that they had to enter. Fortunately, there weren't any guards present in this place... or so they thought.

'Wait!'

Roan immediately stopped after Rean's call.

'What is it?'

'There's Spiritual Sense. Quite a strong one at that.'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'For you to only have noticed it now, it means that its owner has just spread it. Did they find us?'

Rean went silent for a few seconds before answering.

'I don't think so. The owner of this Spiritual Sense is not coming in our direction. Otherwise, his Spiritual Sense would get stronger because of the 'wind' effect. However, this strength of Spiritual Sense... It's

definitely above the Core Formation Realm. I would say Initial or maybe Middle Core and Soul Fusion Stage. If we move any closer, I won't be able to guarantee that we can stay hidden.'

Death... and me

Chapter 384: Tissan's Problem

Rean and Roan kept still without doing anything. If Rean felt that the Spiritual Sense's owner was coming, he and Roan would immediately enter the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Fortunately, the Spiritual Sense receded a few moments later.

'Alright, let's go.'

Rean could tell where the Spiritual Sense came from, so he and Roan ignored the room where it was located. They headed deeper inside until they stopped in front of a semi-opened room. They could hear some movement inside as well.

The two looked through the gap and could barely see that the person inside wasn't looking in their direction. Rean took the chance and used his Spiritual Energy to slowly open the door without making any sound. After some time, the two passed through the gap and were ready to attack.

However, it was then that they noticed the long hair in their target's back. Not only that, but the clothes on the person ahead definitely weren't something a man would wear.

'A woman?'

'Seems like it.'

'Wasn't Tissan a man?'

'That's what the information said.'

'Wait! Something's not right.'

Suddenly, they heard a sound from behind the door.

'Get away from the door.'

The two quickly distanced themselves from it and waited. Soon after, an old man entered straight away, not caring about the fact that it was a woman's room.

"Young Master, you should really stop using these kinds of clothes."

Right after, a man's voice came from the feminine figure ahead.

"Hahaha! Why should I? Can't you see how beautiful I am?"

Only then the person looked in the twins' direction. He was indeed beautiful, as he mentioned, but he definitely wasn't a woman at all!

'Oh! It's really a man. Still, I didn't expect to see this type in the cultivation world.'

Roan couldn't help but ask.

'Did you see drag queens often?'

Rean shook his head.

'Nope. But it's not like I had never seen any. I lived in a pretty big city, after all.'

Without knowing about Rean and Roan's presence, the newcomers talked with the drag.

"Young Master, you were already expelled from the Imperial Palace. If you continue doing it, you will eventually be sent out of the capital altogether. Why can't you just focus on cultivation like everyone else? I'm sure they will allow you to come back if you show results."

Rean and Roan finally noticed that point.

'Wait! Expelled? So this drag is Tissan?!'

'No wonder the Imperial Family wants to get rid of him so badly. Being a drag in the cultivation world should be quite a blow to the Imperial Family's face.'

Roan shook his head.

'Being a drag definitely helped. However, even though I can't use Spiritual Sense at the moment, I can tell that Tissan is pretty weak. The information about him being at the Energy Gathering Realm is probably true. As for the guy who just entered...'

Rean nodded.

'He's most likely the Core and Soul Realm cultivator that I felt earlier. He might be some kind of personal guard of this guy. Now that I think about it, Calina also had three of these guards. That means this guy is part of the ten subordinate clans of the Imperial Family.'

Roan agreed with him.

Tissan, seeing the look on the newcomer's face, sighed.

"Uncle Sam, we both know about my problem. It doesn't matter how much I cultivate. All the Spiritual Energy that I accumulate will dissipate like smoke. I bought a few items from the black market to try to fix this issue, but they only made me suffer without any result whatsoever."

"Instead, why shouldn't I just enjoy what I like? So what if the Imperial Family is disgusted with me? Even before I started to want to wear these clothes, they had already discarded me anyway. I might as well go all out and enjoy the rest of my life to the fullest."

The so-called Uncle Sam then looked at the corner of the room, where a lot of dust had been piled up behind a dresser. It was obvious that Tissan tried to hide it from him.

"Sigh... Then, what's with all the Spirit Stone dust hidden there? Could it be that you like the feeling of Spiritual Energy around?"

Tissan was taken aback for a second before scratching the back of his head.

"Cough, cough... That's just because the black market items asked for a lot of Spiritual Energy."

Uncle Sam smiled after hearing that.

"Even if it is, that means that you at least still want to be able to cultivate, isn't it?"

Tissan looked away, trying to avoid the old man's gaze. However, Uncle Sam continued to look straight at him. Finally, Tissan Sasamil gave up and said.

"Fine! I was trying to cultivate again. Happy? Anyway, why would you care? Did you forget the Imperial Family's actual state with Fifth and First Brother Princes aiming for the throne? You should have been more worried about what will happen to your Fole Clan than me, right? After all, it still hasn't chosen a side to stay."

Uncle Sam bitterly smiled after hearing that.

"There is little that an old man at the Initial Stage of the Core and Soul Fusion Realm can do. My talent is lacking compared to others, after all. They definitely won't ask anything from me. In that case, I might as well ignore what's happening there."

Tissan noticed that he misspoke. It's just that every time someone talked about his cultivation, he would feel depressed.

"Sorry, Uncle Sam. The way your Fole Clan treats you isn't much better than how the Imperial Family treats me. I guess only you can understand how I feel."

He was right. Uncle Sam only had a simple Brown Color Aptitude. It was thanks to the resources of a Subordinate Clan that he could reach the Core and Soul Fusion Realm. However, that was after a long period of cultivation. Because of that, no one in the Fole Clan expected much from him. That's also why he was chosen to protect someone without any prospects like Tissan. Of course, his situation was still better than Tissan, who couldn't even cultivate to start with.

Uncle Sam then shook his head.

"Of course not. There are many others like me. Anyway, why don't we try one more time? Perhaps it will work now."

"Sigh... fine."

Death... and me

Chapter 385: What Did You Say?!

Rean couldn't help but feel somewhat sad for the guy.

'Hmm... I somehow don't feel like kidnapping this guy anymore.'

As for Roan, well, he was just annoyed that he hadn't sent Tissan directly into the Dimensional Realm Yet.

'Stop the bullshit. Once this Sam guy leaves, let's immediately take this drag away and get out of this place. Otherwise, I won't get access to the Black Market. Just be happy that our target is really a weakling and forget the rest. Besides, he does seem like to know something about what's going on inside the Imperial Family.'

Rean scratched the back of his head but nodded in the end. He turned his head back and looked at how Uncle Sam helped Tissan in cultivating. It was then that he had an idea.

'Let's move on the back. I want to try something.'

Roan nodded, not minding it much. The two then moved behind Tissan. There, Rean concentrated and released his Spiritual Sense. However, he didn't use all of it. Instead, he only spread it enough to touch Tissan's body. After all, if his Spiritual Sense touched Uncle Sam's, the old man would notice it straight away. Such risk didn't exist with Tissan since his cultivation was two entire realms below Rean.

Roan noticed what Rean was doing and, after pondering a bit, released his Spiritual Sense as well.

Uncle Sam was helping out in guiding the Spiritual Energy inside Tissan's body to reach the Dantian easier. Usually, one would be doing it by themselves until they became experienced with it. However, Rean and Roan could see that it was not easy to circulate the Spiritual Energy inside Tissan's body.

'Weird, his meridians don't seem to be blocked or anything like that.'

Roan looked at Rean and shook his head.

'So that's what you wanted to see. Couldn't you have waited until we brought this guy into the Dimensional Realm?'

Rean smiled but didn't answer. Instead, he kept looking at how Tissan cultivated. However, he did find a few injuries and sequelae in his body.

'Those should be the effects of the Black Market items Tissan talked about. This guy is quite resilient even though he has such a feminine appearance. I can guess how painful it was just by looking at it.'

Roan shrugged his shoulders and simply let Rean do as he wished. As long as he doesn't alert the old man, then he didn't care.

Finally, Rean reached the Dantian of the guy and could see where the problem was.

'He wasn't lying. Look at that. His Dantian is expelling all the Spiritual Energy that enters it.'

Roan used his Spiritual Sense and noticed the same thing.

'True. But that isn't all. Look at the connection to the Dantian. They are also damaged.'

It was then that Rean understood.

'Oh! I see. They destroyed his Dantian in the past so that Tissan could build a new one. He had to enter the Energy Gathering Realm twice, and the second time should have been quite a hassle. Unfortunately, it seems like it didn't work. The new Dantian also had the same problem as the previous one.'

Rean shook his head. He could fix the damaged connections and the side effects of the medicines Tissan took. However, that Dantian was out of his league. First of all, it was not like Tissan's Dantian was damaged to start with. It was just different. There was nothing to be healed there.

However, as Roan looked at that, his eyes narrowed.

'Weird...'

Rean noticed Roan's expression.

'What is it?'

'Can't you see? He is already in the Middle Stage of the Energy Gathering Realm.'

Rean was taken aback for a second. He did notice it at first, but he didn't mind at that time. Only now did he see the problem here.

'That's right. If all the Spiritual Energy dissipates, then how come he has reached the middle stage?'

'That can only mean that his Dantian doesn't dissipate all the Spiritual Energy, but most of it. It is still taking a very small percentage of it.'

Roan kept observing the Dantian closely. In the end, he could feel something else from it.

'Yin Energy?'

Rean heard that and looked at the Dantian as well.

'Yin Energy? Where? Can you feel any Yin Energy coming from his Dantian?'

Roan shook his head.

'No. No Yin Energy is coming out at all.'

Rean got puzzled.

'Then what?'

Roan then explained.

'That the issue here. Yin Energy is an energy that is present everywhere. It's just that the Yin Energy in the environment is too weak for cultivators to use it. Usually, they need something like Calina's Cultivation Technique to make use of it. It would be much better if they had some natural items with a lot of Yin Energy so that they can absorb them directly.'

'That being said, even the Spiritual Energy we take when we cultivate has Yin Energy inside it. You can also feel it thanks to our Soul Connection, no? At least, I can feel the presence of Yang Energy because of you.'

Rean nodded.

'Of course. But I believe you are much better at feeling Yin Energy than me.'

Roan didn't deny that.

'That doesn't matter right now. Pay close attention to the Spiritual Energy in Tissan's body.'

Rean narrowed his eyes and further focused on the Spiritual Energy itself. However, he couldn't see anything wrong with the Spiritual Energy entering Tissan's body. It had Yin and Yang Energy as always. It was then that an idea popped into Rean's mind. He quickly focused on the Spiritual Energy that was dissipating from Tissan's Dantian. Only then did he notice. The dissipated Spiritual Energy had Yang Energy, but the Yin Energy was gone entirely. There wasn't even an iota present.

'This... Is his Dantian absorbing all the Yin Energy and leaving the Yang Energy aside?'

Roan nodded.

'At least, that's how it feels. I'm a Yin Energy Freak in my own way, so I can tell. His Dantian is using Yin Energy alone to cultivate.'

[Wait! What did you say?]

Rean and Roan were taken aback by Sister Orb's sudden shout.

Death... and me

Chapter 386: Capturing Tissan

Roan then repeated what he said.

'His Dantian is using Yin Energy alone to cultivate.'

[Oh! Now, that's what I call as rare as phoenix feathers and qilin horns.]

Rean and Roan became puzzled.

'It seems like you know something.'

[Yep. In fact, it's quite simple. It also explains why he has such a feminine appearance even though he's a guy. This guy has a Pure Yin Body.]

'Pure Yin Body?'

[Yep. Do you remember what the Varen Tribe Leader, Jury, said? He thought that you two had a different constitution because of your Light and Dark Element affinities. Well, he isn't wrong since your bodies are perfectly compatible with Yin and Yang Energies.]

She then continued.

[This guy has a similar thing. His body is almost as perfectly compatible with Yin Energy as you two are with Yin and Yang. Of course, he's still a little bit lacking since he doesn't have the support of the Soul Gem System like you two have.]

'Oh! So Roan is bound to have a feminine face in the future? That will be really funny. Hahaha!'

[Hahaha! That would indeed be funny.]

Roan's mouth twitched. If not because they were hidden with Rean's skill, he would have sent this guy flying already.

[Unfortunately, that won't happen. You two cultivate by exchanging both Energies, so it balances the Yin Energy inside Roan's body perfectly as well. Otherwise, while Roan would be looking incredibly feminine, Rean would be like an extreme bodybuilder. You could even join the Village People and sing Macho Man with them. They would welcome you with open arms. Hahaha!]

Rean felt a chill on the back.

'Ahem... It's a good thing that our cultivation technique needs to keep the balance. Yes, this is perfect indeed.'

[Anyway. Pure Yin Bodies are super rare. They also usually appear in regions where Yin Energy is more abundant, like the Chrole Empire, where Calina's mother came from. This guy obviously doesn't have a bloodline of the Chrole Imperial Family. He's from Sasamil through and through. Besides, almost 100% of the time, this kind of body only appears on women.]

[Can you imagine that? I doubt that more than just a few Pure Yin bodies exist on this planet, but it still gave birth to a man with it. It isn't wrong to say that this guy is a relic. Unfortunately, that's where his cultivation got stuck. After all, he doesn't have his own beloved Rean with a Soul Connection as Roan does.]

A vein popped out on Roan's head already.

'Beloved your ass!'

Rean sighed after hearing that.

'So he's stuck in his cultivation because of that, right?'

[Yep. If he was a woman, that would make his talent ridiculous. He wouldn't lose to any Purple Color Talent at all. But because he's a man, his talent can only be considered yellow or green at most. It's just that his gender isn't compatible with his constitution. Roan is quite fortunate to have the Soul Gem System. Otherwise, he might be suffering just like this Tissan is.]

It was then that Rean understood.

'Oh! Now I understand why our cultivation is so fucking slow when we are away from each other. We need this annoying balance.'

[Well, that's not a wrong way to put it.]

'But there is one thing I don't understand. Why does the Spiritual Energy dissipate? Spiritual Energy should also be needed to cultivate, no?'

[It's not entirely dissipating. If you pay close attention, you will be able to feel that both yours and Tissan's Dantian still keep a tiny amount of it when you are all cultivating alone.]

'I see...'

'So... What he needs is Yang Energy? If that's the case, why is Yang Energy inside the Spiritual Energy escaping his Dantian?'

Roan answered that question.

'Tissan's body is not compatible with Yang Energy. It's different from me since I, unfortunately, have you.'

[Roan's right. If he wants to avoid this problem, he will need a massive amount of Yang Energy to force his way through. That's why women are so good for Pure Yin Bodies. It is in their nature to not have much Yang Energy to start with. Both their bodies and dantians welcome such changes with open arms.]

Rean looked at the guy for a moment before an idea popped into his mind.

'A huge amount of Yang Energy, huh?'

Uncle Sam and Tissan continued to cultivate until finally, all the Spirit Stones he took for this try broke apart.

"Sigh... Forget it. Uncle Sam, I'm going to sleep now."

Uncle Sam nodded with a bitter smile.

"Fine. Make sure you don't wear these clothes outside, though. Put them back and only then go up. Try to keep this hobby of yours hidden as much as possible. Even I, who has been protecting you for so long, can't get used to it. Let alone others."

Uncle Sam then got up and left the room. Behind, Tissan shook those thoughts about cultivation out and began to look in the mirror again. He was indeed a drag, after all. He really loved to wear make-up and put on those clothes.

However, it was then that he saw a black and white shadow appear in the mirror. Before he could turn around to see what was happening, his head was struck by a sharp pain, which instantly made him lose consciousness.

Rean and Roan didn't waste time and sent the guy straight into the Dimensional Realm. Of course, they went inside as well. Rean then put the guy inside the enormous cage and activated that simple Concealment Formation. Thanks to that, Tissan wouldn't be able to see what was happening outside the cell.

Sister Orb also made sure that no Spiritual Energy reached inside that area. Well, not that an Energy Gathering Realm cultivator would be able to do much anyway. It was a Triliun Metal Jail, after all.

Roan also found Tissan's identification plate, which he could use in the Black Market later.

Right after, Rean and Roan stepped on the Teleport Formation and used it to teleport directly back to the save point in the Dalamu Residence. It was only a few tens of kilometers away, so it was worth not to risk making their way out.

"Now then. It's time to wake up our friend."

Death... and me

Chapter 387: Interrogation

As Rean and Roan began to deal with Tissan, Uncle Sam noticed that Tissan still hadn't come out of his room. He once again spread his Spiritual Sense. As one could imagine, Tissan was nowhere to be seen.

"This..."

Uncle Sam rushed inside Tissan's room, only to find it completely empty.

"Did he leave without me noticing?"

Obviously, Uncle Sam didn't think it could have been kidnapping or anything like that. After all, who would come down here without anyone noticing? It wasn't before confirming with the guards outside and checking the entire building that he confirmed. Tissan disappeared!

Immediately, he contacted the Imperial Family and his clan. However, the answer he got left him dumbfounded. Neither side seemed to care about him at all. Both sides said that they were busy and can't spare the resources to go look for Tissan.

"Those damned things! So they knew it would happen!"

Meanwhile, inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, Tissan had finally woken up after Rean healed the bump behind his head. They had to put him to sleep first since Tissan could reject the Dimensional Realm's pulling power if he was awake.

He looked around and only saw several bars. On the other side of the bars, everything was blurry, making it impossible to tell where he was. Finally, he noticed the twins, who were also inside the same cage as him. Well, Rean and Roan had changed their appearances first, though.

"Ah! What's happening? Who are you?"

Roan shook his head before saying.

"Who we are is not important. What matters here is what you can tell us or not. I might as well tell you this, your beloved family doesn't want to have you around anymore."

Surprisingly, there wasn't a shocked expression on Tissan's face after hearing that, just a bitter smile.

"Sigh... I thought that I would stay out of their view with the Imperial Family's succession struggle for some time. Seems like they really couldn't stand my presence anymore. Go ahead, laugh. Yes, I have this weird hobby of cross-dressing. Men's clothes are just too boring. If I have to die because of this, then so be it. It's not like I can do anything with my problem anyway."

Roan couldn't care less about his clothes, though.

"If we wanted to kill you, do you think we would spend our time constructing this jail? We have a lot more questions for you."

Only then did Tissan notice. Indeed. If the issue was only getting rid of him, why go through the problem of locking him first? He's obviously not inside his residence anymore. Since the enemy had the power to knock him out and bring him away, wouldn't it be better to kill him and only transport the body?

"So... If I answer the questions, will you let me live?"

Roan snorted in response.

"Nope. It only means that you will have a quick death instead of a painful one. As for your cross-dressing issue, I couldn't give a fuck about that."

Rean glanced at Roan for a moment but didn't say anything. However, he already made his mind that he wouldn't kill Tissan. At first, he thought that Tissan would be some hedonistic young master who only

knew how to use his status to live. After all, being 21 years old and still in the Energy Gathering Realm was simply a great joke with the Imperial Family's resources. That kind of trash he wouldn't spend even a glance at. However, Tissan was obviously not that type, just an unlucky fella. Well, they will need to keep him locked in this place for some time, though.

"What we want to know is very simple. What's the situation of the Imperial Family at the moment? How far is the Emperor from reaching a decision?"

Tissan was taken aback for a moment.

"Could it be that you are from the Chrole Empire?"

Roan shook his head.

"I already told you. Who we are is not important. Just answer the question. Or could it be that you intend to hold your loyalty for the Imperial Family even though they cast you away? Well, you can do that as well. However, your life will be quite painful if you choose this path."

Tissan didn't seem scared, though.

"First, I want to know what you did with Uncle Sam."

Rean assured Tissan.

"Don't worry. We didn't touch a single hair on anyone inside your residence. We only wanted you, no one else. I don't even know if your Uncle found about your disappearance already or not."

Tissan sighed in relief.

"Alright. I'll tell you what I know. It's not like what I know will make any difference anyway. However, it has been a few months since I was expelled. Besides, you can already imagine my status inside, so I wasn't privy to many things."

"As far as I know, the First and Fifth Princes' struggle continues. They are still trying to pull the Subordinate Clans to their side. However, it's not like the other princes and princesses gave up already. Nonetheless, those two are the strongest candidates."

Roan nodded, satisfied. That perfectly matched the information that they got from Valeu back in the Profound Abyss. It looked like Tissan was willing to cooperate.

"Good. Now, the part that really matters. How long do you think it will take for the situation to reach a critical point?"

Tissan shook his head.

"How would I know? If I were to guess, that would happen once at least half of the Subordinate Clans chose one side. However, I have no idea how long that would take. After all, all those clans have some marriage relations with the Imperial Family. The fruits of those marriages are not exactly on the same side, even within the clans."

Rean pondered for a bit before asking.

"I heard that the Emperor is reaching the limit of his lifespan. Is that true?"

Tissan narrowed his eyes.

"The Emperor is an existence far above what someone like me can approach. I've only seen him when I was a kid during a banquet, and that was from afar. However, there was indeed a rumor in the palace that the Emperor wasn't well."

Rean nodded.

"Have you heard about anything else?"

Tissan thought for a bit before saying.

"Well, this was only a rumor as well. But I heard that someone had tried to rebel."

Death... and me

Chapter 388: Golden Hands

The twins were taken aback by that.

"Who? The First or the Fifth Prince?"

Tissan shook his head.

"I have no idea. However, this rumor only lasted for a few days. Besides, there were no waves whatsoever. I find it quite suspicious since such an attempt would definitely catch everyone's attention."

Roan pondered for a bit before asking.

"When did it happen?"

"It was around two years ago, so everyone pretty much forgot about it already."

Roan then said.

"Perhaps, this rebellion was cut by the roots before it could even finish forming. That's why it ended as fast as it started."

Rean nodded as he continued.

"Or maybe the rebels weren't expecting to be found. They received a surprise attack and were wiped out. Still, such a thing would usually need a prince or a princess, no? Tissan, have you heard about any prince or princess who disappeared recently?"

Tissan thought about what he knew.

"Hum... Cultivators have way too big of a lifespan. Because of that, there are many of them. Let alone members of the Sasamil Family that are not connected to the throne and have no succession rights. I'm one of those that can't take the throne, for example. So it's hard for me to know all of them. As far as I can remember, there are only three."

"One was a girl who disappeared over a year ago called Calina Sasamil. I barely knew her. I only know this name because of some weird event that happened in one of the Imperial Family Trial Grounds. It seems like she was killed inside by the Shadow Reapers."

Rean and Roan obviously knew that it wasn't the case. Still, it was good to hear that their plan worked that well. Everyone really thought that Calina is dead.

"The second one was a prince called Suten. However, he was far, far behind in the line of succession. I knew Suten. We had a few interactions in the past as well. He disappeared with his protectors while exploring the Kavan Ruins in the Maril Region. That's quite a dangerous place, so no one thought it to be weird."

"The last one was a princess called Malize. However, I don't know what happened to her. Still, she was quite old already and in a good position to fight for the throne."

Tissan then added.

"Of course, these are all the official versions of what happened to the prince and princesses. I haven't gone to check it myself, nor would I do such a thing. The Sasamil Imperial Family simply doesn't lack descendants."

"Also, those are only the ones I know about. There might be more. No, considering how low my own position was, I have no doubt that there are more. It's just that I haven't been told about it."

Rean then looked at Roan.

'What you think? Is he telling the truth?'

Roan narrowed his eyes.

'I have seen way too many interrogatories that led to death back on the other side. Unless you have received very rigorous training, there are always a few signs that indicate that you are lying or hiding something. As far as I can see, this drag is really telling the truth. Not only that, but he seems to be quite happy to help us to gather information against the Sasamil Imperial Family.'

Rean nodded.

'It's not like we can't understand it. Tissan probably doesn't want to have much to do with the Imperial Family anymore because of how he was treated. But there is one thing I find weird.'

Rean then looked back at Tissan and asked.

"I can understand why you don't want to side with the Imperial Family. But don't you think that telling us all of that would implicate your parents or siblings?"

Tissan couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Hahahaha! Parents? Siblings? What's that? You can probably count on your fingers how many really care about blood connections in the Palace. Once the others found that I can't cultivate, my parents didn't spare even a single glance at me anymore. I don't receive as much as one-tenth of my two brothers and one sister's cultivation resources."

A cold light flashed inside Tissan's eyes for a moment.

"With such parents, why should I care? They might as well go to hell with the others."

Rean couldn't help but sigh.

'This guy really had it hard. From what Calina said, her mother was probably one of those you can count on the fingers.'

Roan snorted after hearing that.

'You're too delusional. Calina is different from this guy. She has talent! If she was like him and couldn't cultivate, would her parents really care about her at all? Give up this naive mind of yours, will you?'

Rean bitterly smiled but refused to comment. He really couldn't guarantee that it wouldn't be the same if Calina was in Tissan's position.

Roan then ignored Rean before asking Tissan a few more questions. Unfortunately, that seemed to really be the limit of Tissan's knowledge. Roan wasn't surprised, though. Tissan wasn't a direct descendant with rights to the throne. Even if he wasn't this weird, he wouldn't know much about anything else.

"Alright. I'll keep you here for a few more days to confirm your story. Who knows? If I'm in a good mood, I might just give up taking your life. Of course, that will depend on whether your information was reliable or not."

Tissan was surprised to hear that. He was ready to die anyway, so he helped as much as possible as a way of revenge against the Imperial Family. Nonetheless, if he could live, that would be even better.

"I'll try to bother you two as little as possible. If these two young masters like it, this little Tissan knows quite a few good massages. Satisfaction guaranteed! I'm known as the Golden Hands in the House of Petals."

Rean and Roan felt a chill on their backs and immediately turned around.

"There's no need."

Death... and me

Chapter 389: Lovey-Dovey

After coming out of the cage, Rean and Roan immediately began to discuss what they heard.

"Calina obviously wasn't the rebel. That only leaves Suten and Malize. Tissan seems to know Suten, so Malize was probably the one. Of course, that's not considering the ones that Tissan doesn't know about.

Roan shook his head.

"That doesn't matter. Our plans don't rely on a rebellion anyway. I was more afraid that the rebellion might have worked. That would definitely screw up everything."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"That shows why the Emperor hasn't lost his throne yet. There is no doubt that he went through his own struggles when he ascended to the throne. Even though he might be dying, he isn't that easy to take down. Besides, his cultivation is still there."

Roan nodded.

"True. However, that's also just a possibility. We don't know anything about what is happening inside, and Tissan didn't help much. I wouldn't be surprised to later discover that the rebellion succeeded and the Emperor isn't the one calling the shots anymore."

Rean looked at the cage inside the Concealment Formation.

"Whatever. I need to go back to Droman before he starts to suspect anything. Are you going to the Black Market?"

Roan confirmed.

"That's the plan. I already got Tissan's identification plate anyway. If I'm not wrong, the news about Tissan's disappearance probably reached that old geezer's ears. I'm going there to take my reward."

Rean then warned him.

"I know that I'm probably saying the obvious, but there's a chance that they will try to get rid of you as well. After all, they think you were the one who killed Tissan. The best way to keep a secret is to be dead, after all."

Roan snorted in response.

"Indeed, you only said the obvious. Don't worry, if they want to get rid of me, they will need to make preparations first. Be it the world of cultivation or not, a few rules never change when preparing a trap for someone. That being said, I will immediately enter the Dimensional Realm if I notice those clues."

Rean shrugged his shoulders and then left the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. As long as Roan understood, then so be it.

Roan also took a last peek at the jail in the Dimensional Realm before leaving as well.

It was already the morning of the next day when the twins emerged from their room. As far as everyone was concerned, the two were just cultivating all night long.

Rean didn't take long to arrive back in the Formations Master Guild Main Branch now that he knew the right teleport formations. There, he got to talk with Milo and a few of the other future participants before entering the repository with them.

Rean wanted to test his skills against them a few times. However, none of them accepted competing with them. First, they didn't want to show their own cards. Second, they didn't want to shake their own confidence if they lost. Not to mention that Droman and their masters wouldn't let them compete against each other either. Rean would only be able to test his skills a month later. Well, at least he could discuss formations with everyone.

Nonetheless, that didn't impede Rean to befriend them. Rean wasn't going to let Roan do everything alone. While the Ice Block would be trying to get information in the Black Market, Rean also set his target inside the Formations Guild.

Rean and Droman spent another day practicing. Well, it was basically Droman trying to push everything possible into Rean's head. Droman only gave Rean a break after he said that he needed some time to digest everything. Well, in fact, Rean had chosen a specific time to say that.

Droman stayed in the repository, though. While Rean rested, he would use every second to read his own share of material.

Outside the repository, Rean finally found the person he wanted to talk to.

"Hey, Qia. Just like Milo said, you like to take a pause around this time to revise everything you have seen so far."

Qia was drinking some hot tea in a tea shop inside the Guild. The Formations Master Guild was enormous, so they obviously had a good environment for Formation Masters. In fact, all the other Main Side Occupation Guilds had small conveniences like these.

Qia then looked in Rean's direction before smiling.

"If you came here to pry into my techniques for the competition a month from now, I think you will get disappointed."

Rean laughed, not minding too much.

"Of course not! However, if you want to give me a few pointers, I more than welcome it. As someone from outside the Capital, I feel like I'm far behind everyone in my Formations' Techniques except for the Communication System."

Qia shook her head.

"Since you got access to the repository, there is no doubt that you will improve a lot until your time allowed inside is over. Of course, you will need to put effort to make this time worthwhile. For example, not spending your time talking with the first lady you see drinking tea but practice more."

Rean couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed as he scratched the back of his head. Seeing Rean's expression, Qia giggled. In fact, she found Rean quite funny due to his full snow-white hair. It wasn't the same as old people that were more like silver.

"Anyway, you didn't come here just because you wanted to have some fun time with me, right?"

Rean nodded as he showed a somewhat awkward expression.

"Yes. In fact, I came to talk with you because of something I noticed the first day we met."

"The first day we met? Did you fall in love with me at first sight?"

Rean laughed.

"Would the princess be happy if I admitted that?"

Qia was taken aback for a moment before laughing.

"Aren't you too straightforward?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"This is the only place in the world where I can act this lovey-dovey with a real princess, so why not?"

Finally, Rean was able to bring out a little redness from Qia's face.

"Stop it already, will you?"

Rean laughed before deciding to use Spiritual Sense messages as he said.

'Lady Qia, I can get rid of those scars for you.'

Death... and me

Chapter 390: Getting the Token

Meanwhile, Roan had just arrived at the Black Market once again. After he and Rean finished their interrogation with Tissan, Roan didn't go straight back to the Black Market. He wanted to make sure that Gval would find the news before he appeared. It was one thing to tell it himself and letting the other side discover it first.

As soon as he entered the antique shop, he saw Gval come out to receive him just like the last time. It's just that no one was guiding him now.

"So you came back. Come with me. Let's talk at the back."

Roan nodded and followed Gval to the same room as before. There, the token that Gval had prepared before was already on the table, waiting for them. However, as soon as Roan was about to step inside the room, he stopped.

Gval noticed that before looking at him.

"What is it?"

Roan snorted before saying.

"How about we move to the third room on the left?"

For a split second, shock appeared in Gval's eyes. However, it was too quick for most people to even notice it. Still, Roan wasn't just anyone.

"Why would you ask for that? Stop the bullshit and come inside already. I don't want to waste my time with you for much longer."

Roan faintly smiled before saying.

"Sure. As long as the Two Poles Entrapping Formation is turned off, I don't mind getting inside. If not, then let's use the third room. I'm just like you. I would rather not waste my time with bullshit."

Finally, Gval's expression changed as he gave up hiding.

"Boy... Aren't you way too clever for your own good? This is not the only Formation that can trap others inside. The moment you entered my shop, you were already trapped here."

Roan shrugged his shoulders.

"I entered the Sasamil idiot's house, killed him, and left without anyone finding a single clue. Do you think a simple Stone Heart Formation like the one covering the entire shop is enough to stop me? I still have around 33 seconds before the Formation activates completely. You changed it to a slow activation so that your enemies wouldn't notice it happening."

Gval's expression turned dark.

"Do you think I can't hold you back long enough to trap you here?"

Roan nodded as if stating a fact.

"I'm sure about it. I advise you to accept my offer. You won't like to hear a rumor that a certain black market representative was responsible for Tissan's death, after all. I'll give you 10 seconds to turn everything off. Otherwise, I'm out."

Roan completely ignored Gval's threat and started to count down.

"10..."

"9..."

"8..."

"7..."

As Roan counted down, a few more shadows appeared around, all of them blocking the escape routes. However, disdain appeared on Roan's face as he continued.

"6..."

"5..."

A few of them approached Roan and pointed their swords at him, ready to attack at any moment. It didn't matter how one looked at it. With Roan's cultivation, it should be impossible for him to escape even if he wasn't pressed by time. Still, Roan continued to count down as if those enemies were nothing more than air.

"4..."

"3..."

"2..."

"1..."

Suddenly, Gval gritted his teeth and stomped his feet on the ground. In an instant, all the formations in the shop turned off, losing any hold they could have on Roan. Gval had been in this business for way too long, so he had developed quite an instinct for it. At the moment, it was telling that Roan would definitely escape even if he used everything against him. Besides, Roan already knew about both formations even before entering his antique shop.

Nonetheless, he came inside. It only made Gval even more certain that Roan had a contingency plan. Gval believed his instincts and decided to not risk it.

Roan coldly laughed as he stepped inside the room. Anyone could tell from his expression that he was already expecting this much.

"You made the right decision. Trust me, you don't want to make enemies from someone like myself."

Gval ignored the threat and asked something else.

"How did you find about the formations? Not only that, you even knew how long it would take for them to activate or their range. This is a secret that only I and the person who made them should know about. And I'm sure that that person didn't tell it to you."

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he responded.

"Why should I tell you? This is my little secret."

[Hmph! You could at least say thank you, no?]

Sure enough, who else would have checked for Formations other than Sister Orb? She didn't have enough time to obtain control over it. Still, she was at least able to analyze and predict how long it would take to activate. Sister Orb was there to help, so why wouldn't Roan use her?

'Yea, yea. Thank you.'

[How come I didn't feel any sincerity from it?]

'Because there wasn't any.'

[You...!]

Roan completely ignored the angry orb and waited for Gval to talk.

"I'm willing to pay a good price for the method you used to find it."

Roan shook his head nonetheless.

"No can do. Even if you give me the entire Black Market, I won't tell you. So, can I get access to it or not?"

Gval narrowed his eyes before saying.

"What guarantees I have that you won't open your mouth in the future?"

Roan faintly smiled.

"That would bring problem for the both of us, don't you think?"

Roan then threw a blue plate at Gval. Obviously, that was Tissan's one.

"So you were really successful. What did you do to the body?"

Roan shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"You asked me to get rid of it, and so I did. Even if you ask for it now, it doesn't exist in this world anymore."

Gval nodded and didn't insist. That was indeed his own request. Finally, he threw the token at Roan.

"Use the token in this address. Say that you came from Gval Antique, and they will bring you inside. However, I'm only responsible for one of the entrances. The powers you meet inside have nothing to do with me. If you offend someone, that will be your problem."

Roan didn't mind. He took the token and suddenly...

vup

Disappeared in mid-air!

"What?!"

Gval couldn't believe his own eyes. Roan was definitely right in front of him just a second ago. How come he disappeared just like that? He immediately looked at his subordinates after that. Even though Gval deactivated the formations, he hadn't dismissed the guys who surrounded Roan. After all, he didn't know what Roan had hidden under his sleeve.

"Did any of you see how that happened?"

Unfortunately, everyone around was as shocked as Gval himself.

"Sorry, Senior Gval. He was definitely inside our Spiritual Sense just a moment ago. But he simply disappeared without a trace."

The rest of the cultivators around them nodded. It was the same for them.

In the end, Gval couldn't help but feel a little bit of fear.

'If he can disappear like that, what can stop him from reappearing with a knife on my neck as well? Fortunately, my instincts were correct.'

Gval was even in doubt whether Roan's cultivation was really at the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm or if that was what he wanted to show to others.