

Death 91

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Chapter 91: Future Connections

Seeing Rean leaving just like that didn't bother Folca. He knew what Rean wanted to do. Simply put, Rean needed a background before starting any negotiation. The Damalu Sect just so happened to be a perfect one.

'Hehe! You dare talk about passing or not? If someone like you fail to pass the Damalu Sect Entrance Exam, then the others will only waste their time there.'

Folca turned around and returned to his job. He knew that Rean would definitely come back. He will see what Rean has to say when that time comes.

This was Rean's biggest problem. The Varen Tribe could only do so much in the place it was located. Astreg City is, after all, a remote area with limited access to things. But if Rean uses this workshop instead, things would get much easier.

The Zafa Bank would be okay as long as they get their share of the money, the metals produced by his Varen Tribe are ultimately theirs to use as they see fit.

'Anyway, I will see what I can do after the Exam is over.'

Rean then returned to the hotel where his group was staying. Because there were too many kids and their family members coming for the exam this time, the number of rooms was limited. It wasn't after Alanda offered 50 Spirit Stones per day that they finally got one room.

Alanda's heart bled as he gave the Spirit Stones over. He even thought about sleeping outside with the kids while they waited for the exam to come. But after thinking that they passed several days outside already, he changed his mind. The exam was coming soon, and it was better to let Rean, Roan, and Inna have a proper rest in the next few days.

Alanda couldn't be blamed for thinking like that. Until a few years ago, 50 Spirit Stones were a great fortune for any warrior in the Varen Tribe. Even though it is only Rank One Spirit Stones, it is still a

treasure for them. Suddenly, he needed to pay 50 of those per day just to have a nice room to sleep. How could he not feel pain after that?

Rean noticed that he was the only one in the room, so he simply sat on the bed and began to cultivate.

On Roan's side, he had finally finished looking through all the manuals. As he was leaving the room, Leu appeared while showing an excited expression.

"I tested out your Three Claws of the Dragon. The meridians path that you created is indeed excellent. Even an Energy Gathering Realm cultivator would be able to use it."

"However, I noticed that your manual was called Death Style Third Form. Does it mean you have the other two forms? Or perhaps later forms as well?"

Roan smiled before nodding.

"I do, but they are my personal skills. I can't simply divulge them this easily. It was because you allowed me to look at all the Weapon Skills that I let you look at that one of mine."

Leu nodded.

"I imagined as much. However, is there nothing you would want to exchange for them? Our Cultivation Treasure Pavillion has a lot more to offer than just skill manuals. In fact, this is just a branch. Depending on what you want, I don't mind contacting the Headquarters to have your wishes fulfilled."

Roan was surprised to hear that. He knew almost nothing about the outside world. He had only selected this shop because it was the biggest one. He didn't expect that this was only a branch.

"That's very tempting. However, I don't want anything else other than skill manuals at the moment. Let's see... I'm going to take part in the Damalu Sect Exam entrance, so I won't be able to spend more time here. I need to practice and get ready for it. Maybe I will stop by once I'm done with it. How about that?"

Leu nodded.

"That is more than enough. Although I won't say something that the skills I can get are better than the Dalamu Sect, at least you won't need credits to see them. As long as we conclude the trade, you can have them straight away."

The word credits made Roan puzzled for a second. But he soon understood what Leu meant.

"I see, this Dalamu Sect restricts the access to the skill manuals, am I right?"

Leu was the one to get surprised this time.

"Wait, you didn't know?"

Roan shook his head. How would he know something like that back in the Varen Tribe? It was simply impossible.

"I didn't, but now I do. Anyway, it does make sense for them to have such a system. Once I get inside, I can check how it works."

Roan then made his way through the door when suddenly, something came flying in his direction.

However, it wasn't anything dangerous. It was a green token with the image of a turtle carrying a merchant backpack.

"This is?"

Leu smiled before explaining.

"It's our Cultivation Treasure Shop Token. As long as you show it to any of our branches around the Jialin Country, you can get a 10% discount on almost all products."

Roan didn't have much interest, but he recognized that Rean might make good use of it. Besides, it was evident that Leu was trying to create some good ties with him.

'He probably thinks that I have some hidden background. Well, this is also good for my side.'

"Thanks, it will be very useful."

After Roan left, an employee came close to Leu to ask.

"Should we have someone following him?"

Leu immediately shook his head.

"That won't be necessary. That kid is anything but simple, so we better not take the risk."

The employee nodded his head and retreated.

Leu also looked in the direction that Roan left while pondering.

'His confidence, he was simply fearless as if no one would ever dare to touch him. As for this technique, if the enemy doesn't know about it beforehand, you might win the fight in the very first clash. I can feel the vicious thoughts behind the creation of this thing.'

Leu then laughed a little.

'Interesting.'

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Chapter 92: South Gate

Sometime later, Roan, Alanda, and Malaka returned. For some reason, Alanda seemed to be very tired, utterly different from Inna Malaka, who was full of energy and excited after everything she saw. She had never been to a big city before. Their group had passed through a few others on the way here, but they only slept and departed on the very next day.

Before leaving the Varen Tribe, Malaka only had the opportunity to go out for the hunts. So how could she not be like that? Malaka is the only 'real' kid in this group, after all.

Alanda then went to his bed and started to cultivate. He didn't even want to talk at the moment. Seeing that, Rean couldn't help but laugh. He then patted Malaka's head, something that he got used to doing. Malaka, too, was used to it, and as a kid, she quite liked it.

Roan, on the other hand, just looked at her and said.

"Alright. You followed my words and didn't cultivate for an entire year. During our sparrings on the way here, I could tell that your foundation has already recovered. So you should focus on cultivation again, go to bed and put some effort into it."

Malaka nodded.

"Alright! I can finally try to catch up with you two again. You will see, I will definitely pass you!"

Roan just shrugged his shoulders.

"Is that so? Then I want to see it."

Malaka turned around and immediately went to bed. After taking a few Spirit Stones from her small bag, she quickly started to cultivate.

Roan then reached his bag and took out a green token before throwing it at Rean.

"I got this from the Cultivation Treasure Pavillion. They said that you can get discounts in any of their branches when you use it. I don't have much of a use for this token since you are the one managing expenses, so you might find a better use for it than me."

Rean looked at it and nodded.

"The Cultivation Treasure Pavillion is quite big here in this country, so it is good that you got this. Still, why did they give it to you?"

Roan just gave a little explanation, not minding it too much.

However, Rean was surprised that Roan gave his technique away this easy. But when he thought that Roan got access to all the other techniques, he had to admit that it was quite a good deal. Besides, he also knows that the Death Style Forms that they use are different from the ones that Roan passed to the others.

"Well, if you are okay with it, I won't say anything."

Roan also joined Rean, and they started to cultivate again. A few hours later, their group went to sleep, finishing the day.

The days passed, and soon, the entrance exam was about to start. At the south gate of the Majorias City, thousands of kids between 9 and 13 years old were waiting for it to be open. The entrance exam didn't allow anyone above 13 to participate, so it couldn't be helped. There were even a few who were even younger, like 8 or 7 years old.

However, they were really the minority. Cultivators usually can only start cultivating at the age of 5. So coming for the entrance exam so soon might not be a good idea. The kid would not have had enough time to train, after all. He or she would have a big chance of doing poorly during the exam too.

Because of that, those under the age of 9 usually have something to distinguish them from others. For example, their aptitude or elemental affinity.

Rean's was quite shocked to see that many kids, but they soon calmed down... except for Malaka, of course. Still, Alanda made sure to hold her back to prevent any accident. That's is because, at the very front, closest to the South Gate, several cultivators who looked much older were staying there beside their kids.

Rean, Roan, and Alanda couldn't feel their cultivation at all, but they were sure that it was not because they were ordinary people. There is no doubt that those elders are all far above the Foundation Establishment Realm, and came together to protect their descendants. The majority looked quite arrogant and showed an ugly face every time they looked at the kids' packed behind them.

Rean, Roan, and Alanda didn't give a damn, though. It made no difference for them whether they entered first or last. As long as they can take the exam, that will be fine.

Suddenly, everyone looked to the sky. That was because they could see three people floating there, right above the South Gate. In fact, even Rean and Roan were surprised by that. They didn't expect that flying was possible in this place.

"Roan, can you invent something that can make us fly as well?"

Roan shook his head.

"I don't even know if what they are using is a skill to start with, how do you expect me to create one too? Besides, do you know how hard it is to create a technique? I might take years to create something like that."

It was then that another kid beside them spoke.

"Oh! So you don't know them?"

Rean's group quickly looked at him.

The kid seemed to be around 12 or 13 and was accompanied by an elder that was in the Foundation Establishment. It's just that the elder was already at the peak of that Realm.

"Julio, stop talking and concentrate on the exam."

"Uncle Wen, it is okay. I will just tell them about those Sect Elders."

The 'Uncle Wen' just sighed but didn't say anything else.

Rean then immediately stepped forward.

"They are sect elders?"

Julio nodded.

"Yes. Can you see the red badges on their robes? That is the Dalamu Sect Emblem. The fact that their emblems are Red-Colored means that they are elders."

Rean smiled while looking at Julio. It was an excellent chance to make a few things clear.

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Chapter 93: The Exam Starts

"Can you tell us about those badges?"

Julio nodded.

"Father told me that the Elders have Red Badges. The Dalamu Sect also has Badges for its disciples and menial workers. Of course, there are also the protectors and other types of members, like alchemists, blacksmiths, etc. According to what my father said, it goes like this:"

"Gray Badges represent the menial disciples. These ones aren't really disciples but were given a chance to live in Sect. The Spiritual Energy there is much higher than any other ordinary place, so those disciples gladly accept this position. Especially when they don't have enough talent to be an official disciple. As

the name says, they were responsible for the menial jobs, like cleaning, cooking, etc. These menial disciples are also the most common ones inside the Sect."

"Yellow Badges represent the Outer Sect disciples. Between the official members of the Sect, these are the most ordinary ones. They have access to the least amount of Spirit Stones and other cultivation resources. They also must complete any mission given by the Sect and can't refuse."

"The next one is Green Badges Disciples. These ones are part of the Inner Sect. They have many more Spirit Stones per month and the freedom to select any mission as long as it is within their capabilities. Also, they have access to the formations inside the Sect to train. As for what kind of formations are available there, my father didn't know."

"Finally, there are the Blue Badges. They represent the Core Disciples. My father didn't know much about them, but he warned me that I should never disrespect one. If possible, try to have as little contact with them as possible. Inside the Sect, they rule above all the other disciples, so no one would complain even if they killed an outer sect disciple, for example."

Rean and Roan narrowed their eyes. Isn't this too much for authority abuse?

Uncle Wen, who was beside Julio, then added another piece.

"Don't worry, Core Disciples are few and far between. Just the chance of encountering one before entering the Sect is as hard as becoming one yourself. As long as you don't go out of your way to seek a problem with them, you should be fine."

Rean immediately bowed after hearing that.

"Thank you, senior."

That Uncle Wen nodded and returned his attention to the front.

"After Blue comes Red, which means the sect elders. I understand it now. Does it mean that the Sect Leader has a Purple Badge?"

Julio nodded.

"Exactly! But not only the Sect Leader. The Ancestors that stay in the Sect to protect it can also be recognized by their Purple Badges."

"Another thing, there are differences between the badges of all elders. You can identify it by the color as well. Light-Red is an Outer Sect Elder. Just red means an Inner Sect one. For example, those elders at the South Gate are Inner Sect elders. Dark-Red means a Core Sect Elder. Of course, those are just as hard to find as the Core Disciples."

"Also, there are a few other colors, but those represent the different side occupations like alchemy, blacksmith, formations, etc. You will learn more about it if you enter the Sect later."

Roan then asked something else.

"Do you know why they can fly? Is that a technique?"

"Ah!"

Only now did Julio remember that Rean and Roan were talking about the flying elders.

"It is not a technique. Once you reach the Core and Soul Fusion Realm, you will be able to use the Spiritual Energy's power inside your dantian to accomplish the same thing. Of course, it will take a very long time until any of us reach that level."

Roan nodded. As he looked at those elders, it didn't seem that the wind element was being used to keep them afloat. So Roan thought that perhaps it wasn't really a skill. Sure enough, Julio confirmed that he was correct.

"Oh, right! Do you know what kind of tests we will take this time?"

Julio looked at Uncle Wen, who just shrugged his shoulders.

"Didn't your father tell you? They change it every single year. No one knows what it is until the test finally starts."

Rean and Roan thought that it was the correct decision. It would ensure a higher degree of fairness during the exam. If the Sect is really looking for the best disciples, then not giving anyone the advantage was the best option.

As Rean exchanged a few more words with Julio, another Elder arrived at the scene. He had the same Red Colored Badge, which proved that he was an Inner Elder as well. However, the other three seemed to treat him with a lot of respect.

"That guy is probably in a higher position in the Inner Sect."

It was then that everyone heard that elder's voice.

"Welcome, everyone. Today, the annual Dalamu Sect Entrance Exam will finally start. Anyway, I won't waste anyone's time anymore. If you are here, then you should know what we want. Only the best ones can enter the Dalamu Sect, it's that simple."

That elder then continued.

"First, those who are accompanying the kids will wait here. None of you can enter the Sect Premises until I say so. That is to prevent the old ones from playing some tricks to help their kids."

"Once we open the Majorias City South Gate, the test will begin. Majorias City is located 300km away from the Sect Entrance. There are around fifteen thousand kids in this place at the moment, so I'll make it simple. The first 5000 to arrive at the Sect Entrance, can participate in the second part of the exam. That's all, good luck."

Before anyone could ask anything, the South Gate began to open. The quick-witted kids immediately dashed forward, fully displaying their cultivations. Still, Rean's group was taken aback to how simple it was.

"Isn't it too unfair? Those with higher cultivation will obviously arrive first."

Uncle Wen patted Julio's head while he looked at Rean's group.

"Do you think it is this simple? Trust me, I don't know what it is, but merely having higher cultivation will not be the determining factor."

He then looked at Julio and smiled.

"Good luck, brat! Your parents are counting on you."

"Yes, Uncle Wen."

Julio then dashed forward, promptly following the other kids.

Rean and Roan nodded before looking at Alanda.

"Well, we are going."

Alanda smiled at them.

"Take care of Malaka."

Rean, Roan, and Malaka then quickly departed as well.

However, as soon as they passed through the gate, they noticed a big problem. Rean and Roan couldn't help but look at each other while grimacing.

"Sure enough, it wouldn't be that easy."

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Chapter 94: The Marathon Exam

As they passed through the gate, their cultivation instantly disappeared! It was not that they had been crippled, but that there was a formation covering the entire way, 300km, that prevented any spiritual energy from being used. That being said... the kids would need to depend on their own bodies to reach the end!

Rean couldn't help but comment.

"A marathon and a very harsh one at that."

Roan nodded but didn't say anything.

As the kids' speed dropped after traversing the gate, the elder who talked with everyone smiled.

'Talent is good and all, but talent without effort means nothing! Only those who practiced every day will have built up their bodies to the point where they can conclude this test. As for those who simply sat inside their fancy houses using all the free Spirit Stones and cultivation resources given to them by their families... hehe!'

The elder then looked at the side to ask.

"Are the resting places ready?"

The elder beside him bowed before answering.

"Yes, Elder Hulian. We set up one resting place where they can eat and sleep every 50km. Not to mention that there is a font of water available for them every 5 kilometers. We also have several Outer Sect disciples along the road to rescue the kids who can't continue anymore. Those kids will then be brought back here for those responsible for them to retake those children."

Elder Hulian nodded, satisfied. This elder was one of the ten Elders in charge of the Inner Sect. Different from most, he didn't have a significant aptitude, being only a Yellow Color. However, through his own immense effort, his cultivation improved, and he reached the position that he is today.

Every year's test would be done according to the elder in charge's whims, so for someone who loves effort like Hulian, a trial aimed at this topic was to be expected. There were quite a few who didn't like his methods and that put aptitude above all, but few could really hold their own against Hulian. In their eyes, exceptions like Hulian are too rare to be counted.

Elder Hulian looked behind and saw that all the kids had passed through the gate already.

"Alright, close the gate. I will be presiding over this test myself. If I see any of the outer sect disciples giving some hidden help to those pompous young masters, you should know what will happen."

Hulian then took flight and disappeared from their sight.

There had been several instances in the past that some members of the same clan would help their young ones to bypass the rules. But when it came to Elder Hulian's time, no one dared to do so. That's because not only that outer sect disciple will be killed on the spot, but the kid he tried to help would be going to hell with him. Some had tried to do that in the past, but almost none lived.

Back on the road, Rean and Roan instantly decreased their pace. The majority of the kids in the front kept running forward, completely forgetting the 300km ahead of them. They only thought about being between the first five thousand.

However, how could Rean and Roan not understand what this meant? Be it the other kids or themselves, they all have undeveloped bodies. It is simply impossible for them to keep that high pace for more than a few minutes.

Malaka, on the other hand, didn't think about any of this.

"Rean, Roan, we are falling behind, quick, let's run faster!"

But just as she was about to rush forward, Rean and Roan held each of her hands.

"Out of the question. You will run just like we are doing."

Rean nodded.

"Don't worry, we will definitely pass this test, just do as Roan says."

Malaka sulked a bit since she didn't like to see all the kids passing ahead of her. She even tried to escape and run ahead by herself. Still, Rean and Roan held her hands tight, not allowing her to move a single step away from them. In the end, she could only give up and do as they said.

But Malaka didn't feel sad for long. Soon, their group of three started to pass by several kids who were sitting on the ground gasping for air.

At first, it was only one or another, but soon, there were tens, and then hundreds of kids in the same condition.

"See? That's why I told you to not run ahead. You will get tired too fast, and then you will lose in the end. Trust your big brothers, and keep following us. We might not be the very firsts to arrive, but we definitely are going to pass it."

Malaka's eyes shined, and she immediately nodded.

"Okay!"

Rean and Roan finally let her hands go since it was quite bothersome to run without freely moving their arms.

Soon, 20 minutes went by. Rean's group then stopped jogging and started to walk.

"Eh? Are we not running anymore? I can still run much more."

Malaka, of course, got confused.

However, Rean just laughed.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, this is also part of the plan. Just trust Roan and me."

Rean, Roan, and Malaka had put a lot of effort into their other training besides cultivation. Especially since Roan was quite spartan about it. So their three bodies were quite in good shape. Not to mention that they received the nurturance of Spiritual Energy until now. Even if they can't use Spiritual Energy during this test, their bodies were definitely more enduring than ordinary kids at the same age.

Roan was the guy who was responsible for Rean and Malaka's training, so Rean left it for him to do all the calls.

His plan was very obvious. They can still run a lot more than they did, but Roan knew it would be prejudicial in the long term. He looked at and Rean and Malaka and could already see the sweat on their bodies. That's why they began to walk instead.

Once again, several kids began to pass them. But this time, Malaka didn't complain. She already believed that Roan was telling the truth. Additionally, Roan becomes pretty scary when she doesn't follow his words.

Time passed, and over 5 hours went by. Roan would continuously check Malaka and Rean's condition to tell when they should jog, walk, or stop completely to rest. They also paused to drink some water prepared by the sect on the way.

By now, the kids who didn't know how to control their pace had fallen far behind them, which made Malaka very happy. Sure enough, a 9-year-old kid like her was easy and hard to deal with.

Finally, after keeping this progress for almost 8 hours, they spotted something in the distance. As they got close, Rean and Roan couldn't help but smile.

"Just as we thought, they really left some resting points for us. Let's stay there for 30 minutes, and then we can continue on our way. Make sure to eat your fill so that you won't feel hungry later."

However, they were surprised after they arrived. Julio was also there together with a few other kids!

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Chapter 95: The First Day

Julio got up and greeted them. However, it was evident that he was quite tired.

"Hey, so you also made this far already. Seems like being in the first five thousand won't be a problem for you."

Rean greeted him back too.

"From the looks of it, forget five thousand. I will be impressed if even half of it can make till the end."

Rean was correct. The majority of kids didn't have the mental fortitude to run without the support of their Spiritual Energy. In the very first 50km, more than three thousand already gave up. Let alone all the 300km.

Roan didn't waste time and immediately grabbed the food available for everyone.

"Stop wasting time and eat, we are leaving in thirty minutes."

Malaka and Rean nodded and ate the food given to them. However, Roan didn't take too much, just enough satiate their hunger. Too much food would only make things harder for them. They took 8 hours to reach the first resting post, but Roan is pretty sure that they will need more than 10 to arrive at the next one.

He also took some of the food and stuffed inside his and the other two's bags. His plan was to stop to rest somewhere in the middle between the two posts and rest 30 or so minutes before restarting. Naturally, he would need food again.

Julio also sat down and kept eating his food.

As Roan looked at that, he warned him.

"You are eating too much. It will definitely affect your performance if you try to run with too much food in your stomach. Stop for now and put some into your bag."

Julio looked at Roan and then at Rean and Malaka. He noticed that they were indeed eating a lot less than him. After pondering a bit, he nodded his head and put the food inside his bag as well.

"Okay. I will trust you."

Roan nodded and continue to eat, as well. He simply gave that advice because Julio and his Uncle helped answer their questions back in the City. Otherwise, he wouldn't even bother to say anything.

Thirty minutes later, Rean's group got up again.

"Eh?! Are we going already?"

Malaka was still feeling tired and especially bored with all the movement. In fact, even Julio was surprised, seeing that they were leaving so soon. However, Roan didn't care. He was the one who did all the kids' training back in the Varen Tribe, so he knew very well that Malaka could keep going.

"No complaining or there will be no food for you until we reach the next post."

Malaka sulked a bit but still got up as well.

But before leaving, Roan cast one last look at Julio.

"If you want, you can come as well. Considering the fact that you reached this place ahead of us, you probably received a lot more training than just cultivation and battle. It's just that you don't know how to administrate your pace. As long as you follow us, you will be able to arrive much faster."

Roan had a good impression of this Julio. Besides, it was a lot easier for him to see others' pretense with his experience. He had seen countless plots where people wore masks and ended killing someone. After all, he was there to collect their souls, so it was way too easy for him to tell. Considering the time he had lived, there wouldn't be many out there that can pretend in front of him. That being said, he was pretty sure that Julio really helped them out of his own will without any ulterior motives.

Julio's eyes then brightened before nodding.

"Okay!"

Rean was quite surprised at that scene, though.

"Oh my beloved brother, since when did you become a good samaritan?"

"Shut up!"

They resumed their jog, taking their time to walk and rest when Roan said so. Sure enough, the few kids that were still ahead of them began to fall behind too.

Nighttime came, and the decrease in the ambient's temperature helped them a little. The Dalamu Sect had prepared everything, including a well-illuminated path until the Sect Entrance. That way, the kids could keep their journey even during the night.

As Roan expected, their group really took over ten hours to reach the next rest point. However, they were not the only ones there. They could see quite a few kids already sleeping or just resting. Since they couldn't rely on their cultivation, they could only depend on their bodies' natural recovery.

"Alright, we will rest and sleep here for the next 8 hours. Rean, I will leave you to look after us in the first four hours. After that, wake me up, and I will watch the next four."

They might be inside the Dalamu Sect territory, but Roan simply wouldn't let his guard down.

Rean nodded without complaining. If Malaka wasn't with them, Rean and Roan could have done a lot more in this Marathon. So they were the ones in the best condition. Even if it was 4 hours of sleeping, they would be okay with just that. However, Malaka is different, so they had to give her a proper sleeping time if they want to arrive in the Sect intact.

Besides, Julio was there as well.

"Eh? What about me? I can watch during the night too!"

Chop!

Roan hit her head while showing an angry face.

"Go eat and then sleep! Rean and I are more than enough to watch over the night."

Just as Malaka was about to complain while rubbing her head, Rean patted her head for her instead.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, Roan said that because you are our secret weapon! If something wrong happens, we will be too tired to protect ourselves. So we will need to rely on you to protect us! But if you don't sleep well, who will drive the bad guys away?"

Malaka's eyes shined like the sun before nodding excitedly.

"Okay!"

Julio couldn't help but feel a little jealous of them. He was a single child and spent most of his time training. Julio didn't have many interactions like that with other kids either. Besides, he is 12 years old, 3 years more than Malaka, so he could at least tell that Rean and Roan were doing it simply because they cared about her. Although their way of treating her was quite different.

"Err... I can help with the watch too."

Roan shook his head.

"You should sleep, as well. I can see how the soreness on your body too. If you sleep little this night, you won't be able to keep with our pace tomorrow. Don't worry, Rean and I are different from you and Malaka. For us, 4 hours of sleep is much more than we need."

Julio seemed a little hesitant but nodded in the end. First of all, he was supposed to sleep alone, so having someone to watch would be good. His thoughts were that simple. Not to mention that, for some reason, he felt like he could trust Rean and Roan.

"Okay, but wake me up if something happens."

The twins nodded, and Rean sat down close to the place where they would rest. Roan didn't waste any time and stuffed the food in his mouth before falling asleep instantly! Roan's control over his own body and mind was really awe-inspiring.

However, there was a certain someone looking at all the kids in the second post without them knowing, especially at the four of them. He was floating in the skies, so high that even Rean and Roan would have difficulty noticing him.

'Those twins... Quite impressive. Even after an entire day, their bodies are far from their limit. Besides, the way they treat the one they care about is commendable. That is exactly what my side needs. Let's see how you will fare in the last 200km.'

That cultivator was none other than Elder Hulian, the one presiding over the entire exam this time around.

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Chapter 96: End of the First Test

The night passed without any significant events. Roan had slept for 4 hours again, and Rean slept after him. In the morning, Roan stuffed even more food into their bags before departing once again.

By now, it became quite hard to see other kids anymore. The significant majority didn't know who to regulate their pace. Sure, there were a few ahead of them as the same as behind. But the numbers had been continuously decreasing.

Roan kept regulating how they would keep moving in this journey, always selecting the best moment to take rests. They didn't know, but their group was already in the top 50 kids at the front. The only ones ahead of them were kids who also received proper training other than just cultivation and battle.

Another day went by uneventfully. Just like the previous time, they advanced another two posts. Roan already noticed that they were placed around 50km between each other, so now that they arrived at the forth, it meant that there was only one more. After the next, it would be the Sect entrance.

Once again, Rean and Roan shared the times of watching while Malaka and Julio slept. Although it looked like nothing much, over ten thousand kids already gave up for several motives. Sure enough, without the adults watching over them, most just couldn't keep their focus on this task.

The third day Rean's group was caught by some rain, which soaked them completely. However, it also helped with the heat. Finally, around midnight on the same day, they were able to see the Sect entrance. It was also possible to see a board at the front with a few names and positions on it.

Immediately, Rean and Roan noticed that those were the kids that arrived before them. In total, the board had 42 names, making their group the numbers 43 to 46. They didn't feel sad, though. As much as they excelled in this first test, the fact is that it was quite strenuous.

Malaka, especially, couldn't care less about her position anymore. The moment she passed through the Dalamu Sect entrance, she collapsed on the ground. Of course, Roan knew very well that it was just her playing dead. She simply didn't want to do anything anymore.

Malaka then raised her head to say.

"Rean, please carry me. I can't walk anymore."

Chop!

Another hit on the head, and she quickly looked at Roan with an angry expression that couldn't really scare anyone. If anything, people would only find it cute.

"Stop wasting time and come. They also prepared a place for us to rest, so let's go."

Rean shook his head, but he didn't help her either. Spoiling Malaka too much wouldn't be right. He preferred to pat her head as a reward for when she finished her tasks. They haven't really ended the run yet, which wouldn't be over before they reached the post a few hundred meters ahead.

Julio, on the other hand, found it very funny.

Finally, they arrived at the post prepared for this first test and gave their name and ages.

"Rean Larks, 12 years old."

"Roan Larks, 12 years old."

"Julio Riveria, 12 years old."

"Inna Malaka, 9 years old."

As discussed before, Rean and Roan would pose as older than they really were. Malaka was the only one who would use her real age.

"Very well, you can go to the building over there."

The man behind the counter on that post said while pointing at an enormous building a few tens of meters away.

"You will find beds, food, water, and everything else there. This test will last another 2 days. So you can take your time to rest and prepare for the next part of the exam."

At the same time, a disciple put Rean, Roan, Malaka, and Julio's names on the board. The board only had enough space for a hundred names, though. Those who arrive after would not be put in there. For now, no one knew why that board was there.

Two days later, the first exam was over. Just as Rean expected, although the first five thousand would pass, not even half of this number completed the marathon. In total, 1736 kids arrived at the Sect Entrance. Of course, some arrived in the last hours, so they were ultimately not in the condition to continue.

That being said, the Sect gave the kids another two days to rest before going over the next test.

During those two days, all the adults who came with those kids arrived in the Sect, including Alanda. When he was passing by the Sect Entrance, he couldn't help show a smile on his face when he saw the board. However, he wasn't surprised. He knows very well what Rean and Roan were capable of, so seeing them in the top 100 was well within his expectations.

In fact, he believed that if the twins were alone, their position would have been much higher.

'But you two would never leave Malaka behind, that's for sure.'

He didn't take long to find Rean's group.

"How was it?"

Roan nodded.

"It was simply an endurance test, nothing to worry about. They gave the last kids to arrive two days to rest, so we are waiting now. As for what the next test is, I have no idea."

Alanda was satisfied with that.

"That's good enough. The Dalamu Sect won't accept anyone below the Yellow Color talent, so you will most likely be doing the aptitude and elements affinity test next."

Rean and Roan agreed with Alanda. This endurance test was most likely made to screen out all those who didn't have the willpower. Or those who only cultivated their entire lives without putting any effort into training the body.

Alanda then commented.

"I heard from the other guys that the elder this time around was someone who values effort over talent. Otherwise, a bunch of those pampered kids would be participating in the next test with you. From what I saw back in the city, most wealthy people had to take their kids back. Some were even cursing their luck to bump into this Elder Hulian tests. Every time he is presiding it, the majority of the wealthy kids fail."

"On the other hand, those not so wealthy or even poor have a much higher chance of passing. After all, they probably had to work a lot as kids as well, just like you and Malaka, helping their families, tribes, etc. So they were used to putting the effort and had stronger willpower and natural bodies."

Roan nodded once more.

"I was already expecting it. Anyway, you should make use of your time, Alanda. The Spiritual Energy in this mountain is several times higher than back in the Tribe. Even if you can only stay a few days, you should take this chance to cultivate."

Alanda agreed with Roan.

"I know, I was already planning to do it anyway."

Sometime later, Julio came to pay a visit to their group together with his Uncle.

Uncle Wen then stepped forward and bowed to Rean and Roan.

"Thank you for helping Julio getting a good position."

Rean smiled, not minding it too much.

"He helped us back in the city, so it was only proper that we helped him back."

Uncle Wen laughed, and their group talked for a few minutes before Uncle Wen and Julio left. They, too, know that they should not waste much time and prepare.

Time passed, and two days went by in a flash. Suddenly, everyone heard the same elder's voice in the building.

"Gather in the testing field. Follow the Outer Sect disciples if you don't know where it is. You all have one hour."

The second test was about to start!

Death... and me

Chapter 97: The Second Test Starts

Hulian gave everyone one hour, but the field was already full in less than thirty minutes. No one wanted to leave a bad impression by arriving late. One could see around 20 Aptitude Orbs at the very front, and right behind, there were another 20 Affinity Orbs. However, before those orbs, there were tables with several cups on them. Also, a big jar with a strange liquid could be seen.

"Alanda, any idea what is that liquid about?"

Alanda shook his head. This is also his first time in a place like this, so he is clueless as to what that liquid is used for. However, Julio's Uncle was different. He also came out stayed beside Rean's group since Julio was friends with them.

"That is the age measurement liquid. It is made with the stratum of the Grave Herb and a few other materials. Depending on the amount you add to the mixture, you will be able to tell whether someone has surpassed a certain age or not. That is to prevent anyone above 13 years old from joining the Dalamu Sect."

Rean's group was quite surprised to hear that.

"And how does that work?"

"It's quite simple. If you are above the age limit, you will fall on the ground in pain. If not, you won't feel anything. This is also a good lesson for those who try to fake their ages. Well, anyway, as long as you are not above 13, you will be fine."

Rean and Roan nodded. Their bodies are really of a 9 years old boy, so there was nothing to be afraid.

Soon, Hulian appeared at the stage to speak. Together with him, it was possible to see several other elders who came to watch.

"Congratulation to the 1736 Kids who passed the first exam. To be honest, it was more than I expected, so I'm glad to see that so many kids nowadays are putting real effort into their training. The tests now are quite simple. First, no one above 13 can participate, so we will test your ages first. Second, the sect

doesn't accept anyone below the Yellow Color aptitude. Last but not least, the Affinity Test has to lit up no less than three Affinity Small Orbs."

Someone couldn't help but ask.

"Is there any meaning in the 100 first kids on the board outside?"

Everyone nodded after hearing that. They were all curious as to what that was about.

"You will now after the practical tests start. For now, just focus on passing this second test."

Without any other choice, everyone made 20 queues behind the tables with the age measurement liquid. Alanda went back and joined the other adults, while Rean's group was in the middle of the leftmost line. The Outer Sect disciples then came forward and started to fill up the cups on the table.

One kid after another began to drink them and move forward to the Aptitude Test. As they arrived there, no one helped them to take their blood. They had to do that themselves using any method they wished. In fact, this particular arrangement was made by Hulan every time he organized the exam. It was just a drop of blood, but kids would usually be afraid of getting hurt. Although all the kids would still be tested regardless, it was one more way to check if they had the heart for it or not.

Soon, the aptitude orbs began to shine with Yellow Colors. Sure enough, the majority had Yellow Aptitude. However, it didn't take long for Green Colors to appear as well. It could be seen that at every 20 or so Yellow Aptitudes, there was at least one Green in the middle.

Suddenly, a kid began to scream on the ground beside the table with the age measurement liquid. The Outer Sect Disciples quickly took the kid away and didn't look surprised at all. Obviously, that was a youngster who surpassed 13 years old of age.

But it was then that Rean and Roan noticed a quite tall boy stepping forward. He was at least 1,70m, and no one would believe if he said that he was under 14. However, after drinking the liquid, nothing happened to him at all. Obviously, that attracted quite a few eyes.

"Such a tallboy. He should be almost 14 already."

However, just as he was about to cut his finger, Hulian asked him from the top of the stage.

"The boy over there, what's your name and age?"

The boy was frightened for a second, but he quickly recovered before bowing to elder Hulian.

"Mi-Mizan Galaw... E-Eleven Years old."

Gasps could be heard all around.

"Only eleven years old? What are his parents? Giant's descendants?"

"Such a tall kid, impressive."

Hulian nodded.

"Alright, you can continue."

He then returned his attention to all the other kids.

Mizan took a deep breath and held a small knife that he kept on his waist. With a quick slash, a short cut soon appeared on his finger. A drop of blood then fell on the Aptitude Orb, which soon lit up with a Blue Color!

"Oh! The first Blue Aptitude has appeared already. I wonder how many there will be this year."

"Hard to say, they are too rare. I would say 6 to 8, most likely."

Hulian was pleased with the tall kid. He cut himself without hesitation and even had a Blue Color Aptitude.

It turned out that Mizan lit up 6 Small Earth Element Affinity Orbs. This was proof that his body was made for close combat.

"If he passes the practical test, send him to my Iron Faction in the Outer Sect."

"Yes, elder Hulian."

Usually, the elder presiding over the exam would have the first pick. So the other elders around Hulian didn't say anything.

Hulian is an Inner Sect Elder, but no new disciple could start in the Inner Sect regardless of their aptitude. They would still have to make their way up. So the several Inner Sect Elders had their own factions within the Outer Sect as well.

The tests continued, and after some time, another 2 Blue Aptitude cultivators appeared. This time, the Inner Sect Elders fought between themselves to see who would take them in. Hulian and one more elder stayed out, without saying anything. In Hulian's case, he knew which position those kids finished the marathon test, so he wasn't very interested in them, especially after seeing their expensive clothes.

'Hmph! Another two brats from some whatever clan. You can have as much as you want of them.'

Soon, it was Julio's time.

"Well, I'm going first."

Rean and Roan nodded. Malaka and themselves would be the next ones.

After testing his age, Julio's Orb showed a Green Color Aptitude, which was already very good. As for affinity, it was air type, just like Alanda. Julio was able to lit up 5 Small Affinity Orbs as well. All in all, his test was pretty decent.

Finally, it was Malaka's time.

"Yay! Now I will show you what I can do!"

Pah!

Roan, who was just behind Malaka, kicked her butt forward.

"Stop wasting my time and go!"

Malaka obviously got angry, but Roan was really her nemesis. She wasn't brave enough to rebuke him else he will give his punishment during their fighting lessons. Malaka could only walk forward helplessly while rubbing her butt and sulking. Rean and Alanda couldn't help but laugh out loud, seeing that.

She obviously had no problem with the age test, so she quickly went to the Aptitude Orb. Malaka also didn't have anything to make a cut, so she simply bit her finger's tip. What could a small cut on her finger amount to someone who received Roan's Ultra Death Hell Style Spartan Fighting Lessons? Naturally, she had no problems with it.

Still, she was shocked when she saw her Blue Color appearing. After all, she had always thought that she was a Green Color Level Aptitude.

"Rean, Roan, Look! I have really become stronger!"

Rean and Alanda once again burst out in laughter while even Roan couldn't help but chuckle. Her eyes brightened, and her happy face while thinking that her aptitude really increased was really amusing. Even the other adults around couldn't help but feel attracted to her contagious smile. Sure enough, she was the sun of their group.

"Alright, it is good that it increased. Now go ahead and test your affinity."

Malaka nodded excitedly and went for the Affinity Test.

As for the elders, their eyes immediately lit up. Even Hulian was somewhat interested in Malaka since she made it to the top 100 board. She also didn't seem to mind cutting herself to take a drop of blood, which was very good.

While Malaka controlled her Water Element, Rean and Roan noticed something different.

"Didn't her Water Element Affinity barely lit up the 7th Small Affinity Orb? How come it is fully lit now?"

It was then that Sister Orb answered.

[Isn't that obvious? After spending so much time with Roan, who is the epitome of Yin, how could the Yin Energy in her body not improve? Naturally, her Affinity for Yin Elements like Water would rise after all those years.]

Rean and Roan's mouths twitched.

'Obvious? What Obvious? Obvious your head! Couldn't you say that before?'

Finally, Malaka's 8th Small Affinity Orb lit up, which was also her limit. This time, the crust of ice around the Affinity Orb was several times bigger than back then when she did her Affinity Test for the first time. However, she was already a Middle Stage Energy Gathering Realm cultivator, so she could free herself without others' help.

Once again, Malaka began to jump while waving at Rean and Roan on the back. She was really excited to see everything getting better than she was told.

The twins just sighed in the end. Since it was done, then so be it.

On the stage, the several elders were verbally fighting even more fiercely to see who would take her.

It was then that they heard a sweet voice rising from behind.

"I hope the elders will leave this little girl to me. Although she doesn't have a Red Color Aptitude, her Elemental Affinity is almost on par with one. My Blue Orchid Faction is definitely the best place for someone so connected with the Water Element like her."

Her name was Zaia Shinsuo, an Inner Sect Elder, just like Hulian. But she had a unique trait that no other elder had. She rarely recruited disciples to her faction, and they were all women. Also, due to the size of her faction, she never fought for resources with the others. It was not that she wasn't confident, it was just that with her numbers, what she already get is more than enough for everyone inside. Perhaps, that was the reason no one ever bothered much with her.

"Since Elder Zaia is interested in that little lass, I have nothing else to say."

The other elder also nodded. As long as her Blue Orchid Faction kept as it is, they are satisfied with it.

Other than recruiting Blue Color talents. The elders would pick their Green Color Talents as well. Some would even take a few Yellow that somehow interested them. Hulian was an excellent example of such an elder. But Zaia only took three girls so far, with Malaka being the third and probably the last.

"Then this Zaia will thank all the elders in advance."

She sat on her chair once more and began to leisurely watch the exam continue.

Finally, with Malaka leaving the test, it was time for Roan to come forward.

Death... and me

Chapter 98: Never Seen Before

As Roan moved forward to test his age, he communicated with Rean through their Soul Connection.

"Last time, we held each other back, so we didn't get to see our real affinity level. But this time, I think we should hold back on purpose."

Rean nodded.

"Sister Orb, is there a way to change the color that appears in the Aptitude and Affinity Tests?"

[I have no idea how the Aptitude Orb works, so I don't think I can help with that.]

[As for the Affinity Test, it would be useless. Even if it shows another Element now, you will use your real elements once you start to practice. Sure, you can also use other elements, but they won't be even half as good. In the end, the fact that you tried to hide them would be even more suspicious than showing them now.]

Rean then told Roan.

"Have you noticed that the Elemental Affinity Orb has 12 small orbs around it? Juri told me that that one we used back in the Tribe was of a lower quality, so it couldn't test higher affinity levels. Well, considering the average level of kids in a place like our Varen Tribe, there wasn't really a need to get one with 12 small orbs. That's why it only had 9 back then. But I feel that if we don't hold each other back, we most likely will lit up all 12."

Sister Orb snorted.

[You think? I can guarantee, if you do it right, the Element Affinity Orb might even break since it won't be able to hold against your level.]

Roan thought the same.

"Let's do like Malaka and lit up 8 Small Affinity Orbs. We won't be able to hide our Aptitude and Element, but they don't need to know how strong our Affinity Level is."

Rean agreed with Roan.

"Let's follow your idea then. Besides, there is no such thing as White and Dark colors in the aptitude tests. In that case, they won't be able to tell if it is good or not. At most, we will be considered irregulars."

Although they talked a lot, they used their connection to do that. So it only took a few seconds.

Roan quickly finished drinking the Age Measurement Liquid and moved to Aptitude Orb. Sure enough, as soon as his blood touched the Aptitude Orb, a Dark Light came out of it.

When the elders saw that, they all got up of their chairs.

"What is that? Was there such thing as Black Color Aptitude?"

"I've never heard about it, that's for sure."

"Is it good or bad?"

"It should be bad, right? After all, the lowest one is gray. In theory, Black should be even lower than that."

"Are you blind? He is already in the Foundation Establishment. Have you ever seen a kid with Gray Aptitude at this Realm? Who would be idiot enough to spend resources on him if it was bad?"

"Get his information and see from where he came from. If he is from some wealthy family, his parent might like him so much that they pushed this kid into that level by using cultivation resources."

One of the outer sect disciples came running and delivered the papers containing Roan's information.

"Varen Tribe? South of Astreg City? I don't even know where it is."

An elder had a pensive expression until suddenly, his eyes lit up.

"Ah! I remember now. I passed by this city once, basically..."

The elder then explained what kind of place Astreg City was.

"That poor? There is no way anyone could push someone with an Aptitude worse than Gray into the Foundation Establishment. Which means..."

The other elders nodded.

"Black Aptitude might not be a bad Aptitude. But in that case, how good is it? He arrived at such a level in such a terrible environment. Could it be that his Aptitude is comparable to a Blue Color, or maybe Red?"

"Let's see his Elemental Affinity first. If it turns out that it is bad, then there is nothing else to discuss."

Everyone nodded their heads.

However, since Rean's time was right after Roan, his Aptitude Test came before Roan could test his affinity.

"White Color Aptitude!"

"Aren't those kids just a copy of each other? It's just that they have different hair colors."

"Twins? Each one with the opposite Aptitude Color, what does that mean?"

Soon, they found out that Rean and Roan were really brothers from the same Astreg City Region.

Finally, Roan arrived in front of the Affinity Orb and pressed his hand over it.

Immediately after, the Transparent Affinity Orb became Dark.

"Dark... Element?"

"Quiet, wait for him to finish."

The Small Orbs around the Main one then start to lit up one after another. Finally, the 8th one lit up a little and stopped there. Roan looked at that and sighed inwardly.

'So easy...'

Still, the elders were also surprised.

"Dark Element with Eight Small Affinity Orbs. It is close to the affinity level of a Red Color Aptitude. But... have anyone ever seen a user of Dark Element before?"

Once again, everyone shook their heads.

"It seems like we will need to check how good he will fare during the practical exam. After all, a cultivator that only relies on his cultivation and can't use his elements is useless."

Hulian narrowed his eyes before saying.

"If they are twins, does that mean that the white-haired boy has the Light Element?"

The other elders had to admit that it made sense. The Dark-Haired boy had a Black Color Aptitude and Dark Element. As for the White Haired one, he showed the White Color Aptitude, so they could already imagine him showing a Light Element.

Sure enough, the Affinity Main Orb shined with White Light. Right after, just like Roan, 8 Small Affinity Orbs lit up around the Main one.

They turned out to be identical and pole opposites at the same time. Nevertheless, those elders had never seen anything like that before.

"Seems like we can only rely on the practical exam to test those two."

But suddenly, someone appeared right in front of all the elders on the same stage. It was so sudden that the elders who were close jumped back in fright.

The one who appeared was a female cultivator. She looked to be in her mid-twenties, straight brown hair, and used an exquisite blue robe. Her presence seemed to overshadow all the elders around.

The Inner Sect elders were taken aback when that woman appeared, though.

"This..."

But they quickly came back to themselves and bowed at the same time.

"Paying Respects to Sect Leader."

Death... and me

Chapter 99: Aptitudes and Elemental Affinities

Mia Orzute joined the Dalamu Sect precisely 228 years ago. One of very few Red Color Aptitude cultivators of the entire Jialin Country. She was 9 when she passed the test, and a Foundation Establishment cultivator already. At the age of 15, she entered the Core Formation Realm. At the age of 31, she broke through the Core and Soul Fusion Realm bottleneck. When she completed 57 years of age,

she entered the Nascent Soul Realm. Finally, at the age of 138, she became one of the youngest Soul Transformation Realm cultivators of the country. She has been in this Realm ever since.

She became the Sect Leader 53 years ago at the age of 184. Under her leadership, the sect prospered. Today, one of the reasons for the sect to have such a stable position in the country was also because of her. Rumors say that she is already in the Peak of the Soul Transformation Realm, but no one knows for sure. Still, no one doubts that she will eventually enter the Saint Realm. After all, she has an enormous lifespan ahead of her.

Foundation Establishment Realm has around 150 years of Lifespan;

Core Formation goes up to 200;

Core and Soul Fusion gains another hundred, dying around 300;

500 is the limit for a Nascent Soul;

While the Soul Transformation gives an unbelievable 1000 years of life.

Mia still has 763 years ahead of her, so only an idiot would doubt her chances of entering the next Realm. As long as she doesn't die, of course.

She looked behind before asking.

"Who are those twins?"

Hulian, as the organizing elder this time around, immediately stepped forward.

"Reporting to Sect Leader. They are Rean and Roan Larks, they came..."

Hulian then gave a full explanation, including everything he knew about them.

"Such a remote place gave birth to those two?"

Hulian was taken aback by those words.

"Could it be that Sect Leader knows something about the Dark and Light Aptitude and Elements?"

Mia narrowed her eyes. If one were to ask if she has ever seen one, the answer would be a resounding no. Whoever, it is not like she has never heard about something similar.

"I haven't heard about those Light and Dark Aptitudes and Elements specifically. However, I did hear that different types of Aptitude and Element Affinities do really exist. In our Sasamil Empire, there is a man called Harku Estintel, who supposedly has a Bronze Color Aptitude and Elemental Affinity. It seems like it has something to do with controlling all metal elements, somewhat similar to Earth Element."

"On the south of our continent, the part controlled by the Flaxin Empire, there is also a woman rumored to have a Cyan Color and Elemental Affinity. However, the Flaxin Empire is too far away, so I don't know what type of Elemental Affinity the Cyan Color represents."

She looked at Rean and Roan as they went to meet Malaka and Julio. As for all the eyes on them, they simply didn't care.

"And now, a Dark and Light Aptitude Colors appeared."

Hulian couldn't help but ask the question that all elders had in mind.

"Does it mean it is a good thing?"

Mia sighed before shaking her head.

"Hard to say. It will mainly depend on those two. As for why is that, you don't need to think much to understand, right?"

Hulian only had to think for a moment to understand what the Sect Leader meant.

"I see... Those are Aptitude and Elemental Affinities that no one saw before. Naturally, there is no such thing as Cultivation Techniques or Skills that they can learn from us. Whatever they do in the future, they will need to think about them from scratch. The old saying is really right. A cultivator that can't use his primary element is simply useless."

Mia Orzute nodded.

"To be honest, I believe that many more Weird Aptitude Colors and Elemental Affinities appeared in the past. However, because of those limitations on techniques and skills, the biggest majority all failed to achieve anything. Of course, this is just a conjecture of mine. I might be wrong about it. In the end, it will all depend on their own effort."

The other elders' eyes dimmed after hearing that. It would be too hard to guide those twins. Not to mention that the final results would most likely be terrible. In the end, no one wanted to do anything with them.

However, there was a single exception.

"Effort, uh? That's the word I love the most."

Elder Hulian's eyes lit up as he looked at the other elders.

"If none of you has any interest in the Twins, I'll be taking them. Is there anyone against it?"

All the other elders shook their heads. Since Hulian wants them, that's his problem.

As Rean and Roan chatted with Malaka and Julio, Mia looked to the sky. She then sent a Divine Sense message to a certain old man hidden somewhere.

'Master, the Yin and Yang balance of our sect... seems somehow different.'

Immediately after, Mia received an answer.

'So you noticed as well? It started yesterday when the new kids arrived. However, the changes are way too small for us to say whether it is good or bad.'

Mia nodded.

'A Light and Dark Aptitude and Elemental Affinity kids, and this sudden change. It doesn't matter how I see it, they are definitely related. What should we do?'

'Leave them. The only ones who can perceive this change are the two of us. And that is only because of our connection with this Mountain, so there is no risk of others noticing it. If we were anywhere else, we wouldn't be able to notice anything. If it turns out that it is a bad thing, it won't be too late to drive those Twins away. Perhaps, they would have their own uses even if that's the case.'

Mia nodded once more.

'Very well.'

She then looked at Hulian and commanded.

"Just continue the exam as normal. As rare as those twins might be, no one would really care about them. If it is gold, it will shine. Let them fight their way to the top like all the other kids."

Elder Hulian immediately accepted the order.

"Yes, Sect Leader."

Mia then disappeared as if she had never been there. In fact, other than the elders, no one had noticed her presence at all... with a single exception.

[What a scary woman.]

"Hum? Sister Orb, did you say something?"

[Me? Ah... No. I didn't say anything.]

Rean thought that answer to be a little strange, but he decided to ignore it.

The exam continued. In the end, a total of 7 Blue Color Aptitude kids appeared. Obviously, all the elders had already made their own selection. They were basically just waiting for the second test to be over.

However, just as the last kids were passing through the Aptitude Test, an Orb suddenly lit up with a bright Red Color!

All the eyes were caught by that image. The boy seemed to be around 12 to 13 years old. He also wore an expensive robe and had an air of arrogance.

Still, none of the elders cared about that. They only paid attention to the red color in his Aptitude Orb. When he went to the Affinity Orb, it once again brightened with Red Color. However, this time it represented his Affinity with the Fire Element. The temperature around that Kid the soared, and the other kids couldn't even get close. As for the Small Orb around the Main One, nine of them lit up almost instantly. Even the tenth orb also brightened a little bit.

"Red Color! Ten Small Affinity Orbs. It's been over ten years since a genius like him appeared."

But at the same time that the elders' eyes lit up, they dimmed almost instantly. That's because they knew that this kind of talent would not be for them to take.

Sure enough, five figures appeared on the stage almost instantly. They were the Core Elders, experts at the Nascent Soul Realm!

Death... and me

Chapter 100: Have a Roan Wish

"What's his name?"

An outer sect disciple quickly went back to gather the information.

"His name is Agis Kexidor, from the Kexidor Clan. It is a famous Clan of cultivators with quite a few branches in our country. It seems like he is the great-grandnephew of Qolizen Kexidor."

One of the elders remembered his name and nodded.

"Ah! So he is from that man's family. Qolizen Kexidor was part of our Sect in the past, but he left to create his own Clan later. Qolizen Kexidor is a Core and Soul Fusion Cultivator and on friendly terms with our Sect."

The Core elders were satisfied with that answer. No wonder this kid was sent in here.

Immediately, one of them stepped forward.

"What about you leave that kid for me? I wasn't here the last two times a Red Color Aptitude appeared."

However, the others immediately snorted.

"Hmph! Aren't you being too greedy, Ranka? The reason you didn't appear was that you left for the empire's capital. As far as I know, you got quite a few nice things there."

The who said that was a Core Elder called Juvian Tarcio.

It was then that a woman stepped forward.

"I think he should come to my side. He has the Fire Element Affinity, just like me. I'm best suited to guide him."

Her name was Tiria Yinsan, one of the two female Core Elders present.

"Tiria, that is not everything. Fire Element might not be my primary one, but I don't lack cultivation techniques and skills for someone like him."

This time, the one who talked was Kassie Galaraz, the second Female Core Elder.

"Hmph! Seems like it won't go anywhere like this. In that case, what about we make a bet?"

The other four Core elders looked at the one who spoke. His name was Ryfon Quilynn, the oldest Core Elder in their group.

"What kind of bet?"

Ryfon smiled before saying.

"Let's bet about how many points his group can make during the last test. What about it? The elder who guesses the number correctly or gets the closest shall take Agis to his or her side. What about it?"

The other core elders' narrowed their eyes.

"It will be hard to guess. After all, it will depend on Agis's group strength as a whole, not on his own alone. Especially on his leadership."

"Isn't that good? That way, none of us will have the advantage. However, let us wait for to make our guesses after he finishes creating his group."

All the Core Elders nodded.

Hulian didn't intervene and simply waited for the Aptitude and Elemental Affinity tests to be over. Others might have gotten fascinated with that Red Color Aptitude, but Hulian didn't give a damn. He particularly disliked those descendants of great clans who had everything on their hands since they were born.

Of the 1736 Kids, only 1587 passed the exam. Those 149 that failed were above 13 years old or had an Aptitude/Elemental Affinity below the acceptable mark.

Hulian then took the opportunity that all the kids were already gathered to announce.

"The last test will start tomorrow morning. It is a practical exam to test your abilities as cultivators and as a group. The group must have at least 5 participants and at most 10."

"If you all remember, there is a board at the entrance of the Sect showing the first 100 kids to finish the Marathon Test. Those who are on the board will have priority on the group selection. All the other kids outside of the top 100 will have to wait until the ranked ones finish building their groups. Of course, those ranked in the top 100 can recruit the kids in the top 100 as well."

"Now, the content of the practical exam is very simple. You will be sent into the Sect's private Demon Beast Forest, which is filled with tens of thousands of Stage One and Two demon beasts. There is also a few Stage Three deep inside, so you better be careful where you are walking to. Your groups' objective is to gather 1000 points. As long as you complete this task, your group will be accepted into the Dalamu Sect."

"However! Keep in mind that this test will be observed by the Sect Elders. If we catch some kid purposely not helping their group, we will eliminate that kid immediately. Our Sect doesn't need parasites, it needs strong cultivators."

"As for the group composition, it must not have more than two Foundation Establishment cultivators. This is to prevent a team made out only of Foundation Establishment Kids."

"Pay attention to how many points the demon beasts will give you. Each Stage One Demon Beast gives your group 1 point. Stage Two gives your group 10 points. If you can kill a Stage Three Demon Beast by some miracle, it will provide you with 1000 points!"

"Now, the ranking. The top 10 groups with the highest scores will receive a reward of 1000 Rank Two Spirit Stones to share between their members. Also, the first place will get double the reward, 2000!"

Rean and Roan's eyes lit up. Only now did this test become interesting for them.

Elder Hulian then continued his explanation.

"We will leave at the end of the afternoon, so use this extra time to mount your team. The test itself will start in the next day morning. If you need help setting up a group or were left out, seek one of the Outer Sect Disciples for help. They will assist you with those and other problems that might appear."

"The top 100 kids, you now have one hour to build your group. After this one hour passes, the rest of the kids are free to start building their groups as well."

Elder Hulian then retreated to his chairs and began to observe the kids with the other Inner Sect elders. As for the Core Elders, their eyes were glued at Agis Kexidor, waiting to see who he would recruit into his group.

On Rean's group side, Rean couldn't help but comment.

"I pretty much like this test. It is very straight forward. But what do we do for the reward? Should we aim for 1000 or 2000 Spirit Stones?"

Roan pondered a bit before saying.

"We already got quite some attention with our Aptitudes and Elemental Affinities. Besides, they all know that we are Foundation Establishment cultivators. So there wouldn't be anything strange if we got first place. Don't forget that each team can't have more than two Foundation Establishment Kids, so it is perfect for us."

Rean laughed after hearing that.

"Very well, let's see if we can get first place then. Well, in the worst-case scenario, I doubt we won't make it into the top 10, which is already worth it."

Roan nodded. That was what he was thinking exactly.

The two of them looked at Julio after that.

"Since you are already here, wanna come with the three of us? You are in the Energy Gathering Realm Advanced Stage, so you will be of great help."

Julio smiled before nodding. As for Malaka, she was already a guaranteed member anyway.

"Now, what should we do for the last member?"

Julio got confused after hearing that.

"Last member? Aren't you going to recruit ten members?"

Rean and Roan shook their heads.

"There is no need."

Julio was quite surprised by the two's confidence.

It was then that Malaka spoke.

"Rean, Roan! Can I chose the last one?"

The twins looked at each other and pondered a bit.

"Oh well, it is not like we know the other kids anyway, so let's leave it to luck. Alright, Malaka, go ahead and chose anyone."

Roan didn't have much to complain about, either.

Malaka's eyes brightened, but just as she was about to look for someone in the middle of the kids, someone called her over.

"Wait!"

Rean, Roan, and Julio, who were just behind her, also looked at who called her.

'Isn't this that kid with a Red Color Aptitude?'

However, he completely ignored them and went to talk directly with Malaka.

"Hey, little girl, don't you wanna join my group? As long as you are with me, you will get the first place in this next test. After all, I have a Red Color Aptitude. I'm also gathering the other Blue Colors. How about that?"

Rean and Roan's expressions went dark. He must have a death wish (or Roan wish) to dare hit on their Little Sister.