

Abyssal 271

Chapter 271 - Demodand Vs Winged Castle

Once the ninth game was over, the Sage remained motionless for ten seconds. Zatiel felt that the person in front of him had changed again, and some thoughts appeared on his mind.

'Was that his true self, or another entity he was able to channel?. That feeling of danger was something I have not felt in a very long time. If he is a Being of Laws, then even with all my peculiarities, I should have never called his attention.'

Zatiel knew very well how powerful a Being of Law is. The gap between Rank 3 and Rank 4 is so large that even Ezequiel, who had a First Order Law Bloodline and was part of the most powerful race in the universe, could not cross.

And the difference between a Peak Soul Law Domain existence and a Being of Laws was hundred of times greater. A Soul Law Domain existence who had mastered the Law of Fate could greatly increase their power by disturbing the destiny of other Rank 6 life forms. However, the feedback that a Rank 7 life form could obtain by completely changing the fate of a Rank 6 life form was almost null.

The effects that Zatiel's actions would have in the universe were beyond what a normal Being of Law could ever hope to achieve, but that was in the future. His impact right now on the ocean of fate was not impressive compared with other powerhouses inside the Magi World.

'I am currently weak, but my true identity is special, and calling me unique would not be wrong. There is no reason to believe that other exceptional individuals are not roaming the universe as well. I guess I can only blame my bad luck to have been targeted by one of them while I still lack power.'

Zatiel's eyes were still indifference and showed no emotion. The fact he had a powerful opponent did not falter him.

'Once I have reached Rank 4 and earn the title of Doom Bringer, my survival abilities will only be inferior to the ones of a Being of Laws. Only then will I have the capacities and opportunities to handle these pests by myself.'

There was an immense coldness and desire to slaughter inside Zatiel's heart as he faced this individual who had disturbed his plans and attempted to harm his race. Of course, he did not show any of that and just waved his hand to start another game with the Sage.

'It won't be long before the energy of the Soul Apple is finished, and my soul is ready for him to act in it. I hope Heinz can make it on time.'

The Neo-Demon felt mixed emotions about letting other people fight his battles for him. On one side, he was glad that he had friends who would risk their lives for him, but Zatiel's essence was that of someone who handled everything with his own power. He did not enjoy staying on the sidelines, waiting for others to do the hard work.

Zatiel and the Sage continue playing Go. The Sage dispositions kept changing, but nothing similar to the savage and lunatic personality he displayed on the ninth game appeared again. The Neo-Demon won the tenth, eleventh and twelfth game.

After that last game of Go, the Sage did not perform his usual ritual, and the Mind Force that originated from his eyes focused on Zatiel's soul.

"This game has been interesting, but your soul is strong enough, and I don't plan to lose more time." The Sage stood up, and boiling asphalt began to gather on his hand.

Zatiel did not display any emotion or attempted to fight as the Sage prepared to act on his soul. He knew that any resistance would be futile, and he was truly calm. The reason was the message his original body received a couple of hours ago.

As the hand filled with boiling asphalt approached his face, the Neo-Demon thought a word, and the original body outside the Sage's control delivered it.

'Now.'

The Sage's hand froze just as it was about to grab Zatiel's head. The grey humanoid turned to look at the sky above Saint City, and he was not alone since every Angel and Angelic Paragon stared upward. The entire city that was filled with sunshine just a second ago was now covered in darkness.

The reason was as simple as terrifying. A deep red gargantuan monster appeared above the city. His body was so immense that he blocked the sun and transformed the day into night.

The creature had a triangular head, with three eyes on the right side and three on the left side. His mouth was open, and it revealed sets of teeth of different lengths with a throat that appeared to be a portal to an inferno. Every part of his body was filled with muscles that were packed with unbelievable strength. The air around him was being polluted with energy so corrosive that just one inhalation of it could kill a Rank 2 life form.

Saint City, as the headquarters of the Heavenly race inside the Beta Heavenly World, had the space around it sealed. Even Heinz, with his control over the Law of Space, was only able to appear three thousand kilometers above it.

"Demondand?" The Sage was surprised by the unexpected entrance of such a creature.

Even though he could not use his consciousness to explore the world and his control over the Law of Fate was restricted since the body he was using was just an incarnation, he was still able to foretell the destinies of any individual inside the Beta Heavenly World that would enter in contact with him.

However, there were limits to the scrying powers of the Law of Fate. The stronger the opponent, the harder it would be to predict their actions. Things become hundreds of times more difficult if they have materialized their laws, and they have them protecting their True Souls.

The Sage had to act fast, but the creature appeared right at the worst moment. The Deep Dark Dream was a powerful and special spell. Abruptly stopping it could generate a backlash strong enough to destroy his incarnation, and his problems did not end up there.

The grey humanoid was forced to divide his attention since the Neo-Demon had used this moment to attempt to impale his head with his finger. The Sage paralyzed Zatiel's body and stopped his effort to kill himself.

Zatiel was a Rank 3 life form, and the damage his fingers could have provoked would have been too small to kill him. However, any damage to the red runes would have activated them and exploded the head of the Neo-Demon.

Heinz did not waste time. He acted immediately and launched himself at the city as if he was a world-ending meteor. His speed and strength were truly formidable, and the shock wave he generated as he kicked the air, that extended for hundreds of kilometers, was powerful enough to kill a Peak Rank 3 life form.

The control of the defenses of Saint City was in the hands of Tomas and Oliver, and neither of them was in the position of giving commands. Luckily for the Heavenly race, the winged castle was able to act without any order and perform pre-programmed protective strategies.

Twenty percent of the feathers on the winged castle glowed before transforming themselves into giant spears and being shot at the demodand. The next second, a twenty-meter thick white dome formed around the city, and its defensive force was so high that a normal Rank 4 spell would not leave a scratch.

Each feather in the winged castle could be considered a Rank 4 artifact after having accumulated energy for thousands of years.

The demodand showed no hesitation and did not attempt to dodge the spear. His sole purpose was to accumulate as much kinetic force as possible.

The spears reached the immense body of the creature instantly, but space around the demodand acted chaotically, reducing a great amount of their power.

Demodands are known for their defensive abilities. However, the spears were still able to bury deep inside the giant and tear parts of his body.

Unfortunately, they were not able to stop him. With immense momentum, the one hundred thousand meter demodand crashed into the white shield and pierced it.

The moment the winged castle detected that the enemy had trespassed its defenses and became a danger to the members of the Heavenly race inside Saint City, every single one of its feathers became a spear and was fired to the demodand.

Those feathers were the strongest weapon of the winged castle, and now they were gone, the might of Saint City would be greatly reduced. However, the attack it just released was powerful enough to kill a seasoned Law Engraving existence.

Twenty percent of the feather had greatly damaged the demodand's body, and there was no way he would be able to resist this next attack.

Facing the immense danger that was those hundreds of spears, a cruel smile appeared on the creature's face. The next instant, the demodand's body that was larger than Saint City, released a blinding red light and exploded.

Chapter 272 - A Strike That Devastated A Continent

The fire blast that Sophia created in the magmatic chamber of a giant volcano reached temperatures that could rival the surface of a Low World's sun. However, that was nothing in comparison with the might in the explosion that occurred in Saint City.

One millisecond after the one hundred thousand meter demodand detonated, a gargantuan ball of plasma hotter than a sun erupted from the center of the blast zone, annihilating at a molecular level everything within its radius.

Luckily for the Heavenly race, the demodand detonated high above the city, or else that explosion would have been all that was needed to kill every single one of them.

From the blast, a light so hot that produced a thermal pulse was emitted, and it burned everything that could be burned inside the city.

From the winged castle, every ounce of energy that had accumulated from its creation was used and formed a protective white mantle around every Rank 4 member of the Heavenly race. Even though the Heavenly race's culture promoted the protection of all of its members, the protocol programmed in the castle stated that if the Rank 3 and beneath life forms had less than five percent chance of surviving an event like the one happening now, then all energy should be focused on the Soul Forging existences.

The first ones to die were the natives who resided in the city's sewers. They could barely be considered Rank 0 life forms, and their bodies were disintegrated instantly by the blast.

Heinz was not a merciless person. He would normally make sure that the collateral damage of his attacks did not reach the innocent. Unfortunately for the natives, the Cultivator would not risk his plan for them.

As the explosion progressed, a bubble of superheated and super-compressed air began to rapidly expand hundreds of times faster than the speed of sound, decimating the already burning buildings, people, and everything else on its path.

Every life form at Rank 3 and beneath had their bodies evaporated, and their souls were destroyed. Even those at Rank 4 and protected by the white mantle suffered severe injuries. A couple of Soul Forging existences that were too close to the center of the explosion died as well, despite the protection of the winged castle.

After that apocalyptic explosion was over, the gargantuan figure of the demodand was gone, and a fifteen-meter tall man with silver hair and a black armor had replaced it. There were space fragments around the Cultivator protecting him. His inner organs, bones, and muscles had taken a red metallic color and were filled with blood energy.

The body and energy of Heinz had crossed Rank 4 a long time ago, but it was only now that the core of his power, his True Soul, had finally reached Rank 5. According to the standard used by the great powers of the universe, Heinz was a Law Engraving existence.

Right between Heinz's eyebrows, there was a small creature that was the exact copy of the one hundred thousand meters demodand that appeared above Saint City. That was his Demodand Constitution, and it filled every part of the Cultivator's body with immense physical power, greatly enhancing his speed and strength.

What exploded and leveled the headquarters of the Heavenly race was an incarnation the Cultivator was able to create once he reached the third level of the Blood Demodand Technique.

The spell was named Demodand Inferno, and it consisted of using an immense amount of blood to build a powerful incarnation. The creator would stay inside the creature and use it to fight, but its most powerful ability was to explode and release all the energy it had in an instant.

To control the explosion and make sure it displayed its greatest power, the creator of the incarnation needed to be inside the Demodand Inferno. He would stay in a special dimension that would protect them from most of the blast power, but even then, they would still take some damage.

Heinz owned a Demodand Constitution and had formed a Space Storm around him while being fused with his Law Avatar, so his defenses were impressive even for a Rank 5 life form. However, his face was pale, and there was blood in the corner of his mouth.

The Cultivator showed no weakness despite the damage he endured. His eyes displayed immense battle will as he focused on a remote part of the destroyed city.

The warehouse that was the Silent House no longer existed, but there was a cocoon made of boiling asphalt that was now present, which contained two Angelic Paragon, a grey humanoid, and a paralyzed man.

The entire city was filled with flames and destruction, but inside the cocoon, there was not a single sign of damage. The Sage could not let any harm reach Zatiel since that would activate his runes and kill him. It was clear to him that the Neo-Demon was determined to die.

The grey humanoid figure had become almost transparent and it appeared that defending from Heinz's attack was not easy. His eyes were focused on the Cultivator, and they seem to be analyzing him.

Despite the depletion of his energy and the impressive opponent he was facing, there was not a single shred of worry inside the Sage's mind. If it wasn't because showing himself would expose his identity and ruin the plans he had for the dukes, he would have already launched himself to Heinz.

The Sage's eyes released an immense amount of Mind Force as he focused on Heinz, and he grabbed the air before starting to twist.

Heinz had detected the Sage's presence. He was not going to waste time and prepared to attack him when all of a sudden, his aura became stronger and much more dangerous. His power remained the same, but anyone looking at the Cultivator would think he was a Rank 6 life form.

The Cultivator's eyes widened as he realized what this meant. Right after his aura changed, Heinz felt an unstoppable force grab him.

The World Consciousness had been acting on him from the moment he reached Rank 5, but under normal circumstances, he would still have been able to remain inside the world for a short time. However, now that the World Consciousness perceived him as a Rank 6 life form, everything changed.

As a newly advanced Rank 5 life form, Heinz was able to devastate the greatest city in the Beta Heavenly World and make uninhabitable a substantial part of the continent to any life form beneath Rank 3 for hundreds of years. A Rank 6 life form that could destroy the entire continent if he used all of his power, so it was no wonder the World Consciousness acted so fiercely once it detected one.

There was no way Heinz could resist the power of the World Consciousness now that it treated him as a Rank 6 life form. His body was immediately pulled upward, and he was being expelled into the void.

The Sage saw Heinz leave his sight, but his eyes narrowed as he felt a monstrous killing intent targeting him.

"One blood sword to kill all existence!" Those words reached Saint City and all those Rank 4 warriors of the Heavenly race who were still awake trembled when they heard them.

Thunder and lightning filled the sky, and storms raged all over the continent as a giant beam of red sword light fell from above.

That attack carried every ounce of the power of Heinz's body, energy, and soul. The red sword light was not only powerful but also incredibly dense and heavy. It cut the space in front of it, increasing his speed and also attracting pieces of broken space to enhance its might.

The grey humanoid showed no expression, but deep inside those white eyes, rage could be felt as he stared at the beam of sword light that was about to fall on him.

The explosion of the Demodand Inferno had affected space, so teleportation was impossible, and Heinz's attack was too fast to dodge it.

The amount of Mind Force the Sage generated increased greatly before his body was transformed into threads of grey aura. Some of them fused with the black cocoon made of boiling asphalt and increased its defensive power, while others formed another, smaller cocoon around the Neo-Demon.

Right after the Sage finished his preparation, the beam of sword light landed, and another explosion assaulted Saint City. The power of the attack focused on the black cocoon and all those Soul Forging existences covered by the power of the winged castle were sent flying away.

Heinz's attack buried deep into the ground. Dozens of earthquakes occurred all over the continent, and the earth split apart, forming canyons from where lava rose.

That day was a living nightmare for every life form on the Vixus continent. Millions of lives were lost, and the damage was so great that weak life forms would find it impossible to live in a considerable portion of the continent from now on.

Chapter 273 - Release All Their Potential

After that beam of sword light disappeared and the raging energies it released all over the city were gone, the damage that Heinz's onslaught provoked could be seen.

Saint City was completely wrecked. Every single building, except for the winged castle, was destroyed. The only thing that remained of them were pieces scattered for hundreds of kilometers.

The winged castle that once stood strong as the sign of Saint City's power was full of cracks. Most of its internal structures were fine, but the feathers that were the core of its offensive power were gone, and its energy reserves were depleted.

Everyone beneath Rank 4 had their bodies vaporized, and not a single trace was left from those weaker than Rank 3. The Soul Forging existences covered by the white mantle and that survived were sent flying away, and most of them were badly injured.

There was a pit five hundred meters wide and three thousand kilometers deep in the ruined city. Red and dangerous energy filled the deepest part of the hole, and even the atoms of oxygen were disintegrated.

Despite that level of destruction, there was something in there that remained standing, a black cocoon made of boiling asphalt. There were tears all over the cocoon, and you could see two Angelic Paragons, one covered by a thick layer of magma and the other by blue sword light, and a grey cocoon inside it.

Heinz's attack carried all the strength of a powerful Rank 5 life form. However, the grey humanoid was able to defend from it despite being an incarnation. This is a testament to the great and mysterious power of the Sage.

Tomas and Oliver dispersed their defensive spells, showing their bodies. Both had burns all over their skin, and their armors, which were artifacts, were cracked due to the great damage they withstood.

The duo was fighting to control their breathing, and although their bodies were filled with injuries, their condition was not grave. Thanks to the cocoon and their armors, the attack did not reach their consciousness nor True Souls.

With a couple of months of rest and enough medicines, they would be able to heal all the physical damage they received. There was one problem, however, and that was the red aura that had invaded their bodies. The aura had parasitic properties as it was able to consume their blood and grow stronger.

Both Angelic Paragons were forced to use their energy to contain that malicious aura, and until they purged it, they would not be able to fight with all their strength even if their bodies were completely healed.

Unlike Tomas and Oliver, the grey cocoon showed no damage at all. Zatiel, who was inside it, was unharmed. The Sage had left the Neo-Demon unconscious since he felt that only leaving him paralyzed was unwise.

"How are you?" Tomas was the first one to get hold of himself and asked Oliver about his condition before focusing on the grey cocoon.

"I will be fine. What the hell was that. Didn't Sain City was supposed to be unbreachable and the winged castle able to defeat any person inside the Beta Heavenly World!." Oliver's voice was filled with rage as he pictured the state of the city and the massive casualties.

Tomas heard the words of his comrade and chose not to comment. The Heavenly race was one of the most powerful races of the universe. In a World War, they would usually take the offensive, and it was weird for them to hide or depend on defensive structures.

Saint City was built a long time ago. It was meant to be a safe haven and headquarters for the Heavenly Race in case of a World War, but the truth was that no duke had ever focused too much on it or spent resources to improve it.

However, that did not mean that the city was not powerful. The feathers of the winged castle were able to harm a newly advanced Rank 5 life form and even destroy their bodies if all of them were

used. Since the Beta Heavenly World was a Middle World and its power limit was Rank 4, Saint City should have been more than powerful enough to be unbeatable.

Unfortunately, some individuals defy logic, and Heinz was one of them. Due to his powerful laws, immense physical might, and highly destructive sword light, the Cultivator's offensive strength had reached the boundary of Rank 5 without the need of having fused with his Law Avatar a long time ago.

Heinz's power obtained a qualitative improvement once he became a Law Engraving existence and his Blood Demodand Technique reached the third level. Not only was his True Soul very powerful, but he also had a body that could equal the power of a Rank 5 life form.

By using the Demodand Inferno, he was able to infiltrate Saint City and get rid of the winged castle's feathers. Normal Rank 5 life forms would find it difficult to withstand the feathers, not to mention that once they enter the city, they had to face dozens of Soul Forging existences who were protected by the winged castle's white mantle.

Oliver understood all of that, but the hate on his heart did not allow him to accept that a being of a different race could do something impossible for any member of the Heavenly race he had ever met.

"We were fortunate that our ally was capable of protecting us." Tomas' eyes were full of gratitude as he spoke of their savior.

"Yes, his power is incredible. Unfortunately, he had to sacrifice his incarnation, and it will be a while before he can return to the world." There was praise in Oliver's voice. A positive view of a life form that was not a member of the Heavenly race was something impossible for the Angelic Paragon just a few years ago, but now he felt nothing odd with his new attitude.

The Sage had modified their memories before leaving. In their minds, the dukes had brought the Sage to see if he could handle Zatiel's interrogation, and they were attacked by Pipit, Finibus, Tina, and Samuel, who had been corrupted by the Neo-Demon.

It was during that battle that Heinz arrived, and they were unable to take control of the winged castle due to the fight. Finibus and the three Angelic Paragon were killed by the Cultivator's beam of sword light, and the duo was only able to survive thanks to the Sage's quick-thinking and powerful spells.

Oliver and Tomas focused on the grey cocoon, and the hate in their hearts was immense. There was nothing that would give them more pleasure than to destroy Zatiel's soul, but the black tendrils inside their brains would not allow them to do it.

Their desires were always second to the goal that the Sage established in their minds, and now they were tasked to secure Zatiel until he comes back.

"Let's regroup at my castle. The defenses are not that powerful as they were in Saint City, but it will be enough to handle the Magi invader force now that the swordsman is gone." Tomas spoke to Oliver as they flew out of the pit.

Tomas grabbed the grey cocoon and used the teleportation formation inside the winged castle to leave Saint City. Meanwhile, Oliver focused on helping the members of the Heavenly race that were injured.

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On the shore of the Fornes continent, a massive battle had happened. Hundreds of bodies of magic creatures were covering the land, with a considerable number of them being Rank 3 life forms. In the center of this massacre landscape, there were two young people.

Sigrid and Aren were kneeling on the ground. Their bodies were full of injuries, and their energy pools were depleted. They were having a hard time catching their breath and coughed blood from time to time.

The power inside the duo was in a chaotic state, but there was a smile on their faces. The reason was the energy that was running through their bodies and changing their physiques. They reached Rank 3 two months ago, but it was only in this last fight that they were able to complete the first level of the Path Techniques that Zatiel gave them.

It was only now that they were able to relax as they looked at the giant that was standing in the sky above them. Ezequiel's killing intent had been growing with every passing hour the last couple of days, and they understood that they did not have much time left.

The threat of death, along with an unlimited amount of resources and continuous fights, enabled them to release all their potential.

The Supreme Neo-Demon's cold eyes focused on the Eye Holders. Zatiel, Heinz, and he had been sharing information, and they were all aware of the others' advance.

Ezequiel had been running out of patience, and the only reason he did not take care of the siblings once he knew Heinz had come back to the Magi World, was because they still had a few days left until the deadline.

Chapter 274 - The Champion's Story (I)

Despite being Novice Eye Kings, the strength of Sigrid and Aren was very high for Rank 3 life forms. They were able to face Peak Rank 3 life forms without a problem, even if they had powerful bloodlines or expensive armament.

However, there was dissatisfaction in Ezequiel's eyes as he analyzed the duo, especially when he saw how complacent they were with their new power.

Sigrid and Aren were accustomed to the cold attitude of their trainer, and they remained quiet as they waited for his instructions.

Despite the hellish training they had to endure, there was no resentment in the heart of the Eye Holders. One of the reasons is that they were mature enough to understand that power is absolute, and getting angry was not a luxury they could give themselves when they faced the Supreme Neo-Demon. Even now, they felt the difference between their power and Ezequiel's was so large that he could kill them with a single attack.

The emotions of the duo were also influenced by the fact they were not being forced to do something against their will. The hate they have for the Sage is immense, and there is almost nothing they would not do to get revenge.

"You have fulfilled the requirement my Master set for you two, but I consider that your power is barely sufficient to obtain a Tier 3 completion in the Holy Trial." Ezequiel's words were not baseless conjectures.

When the Neo-Demon was given this task, he made sure to obtain all the information he could about the Holy Trial and its most exceptional champion in the last thousands of years. He did that to see if the power of the duo would be high enough to fulfill the goal Zatiel gave them and also guide their training so they could display their greatest strength in the trial.

Even though the Holy Trial was sacred for the Eye Dynasty, the information about the challenges those with Emperor bloodline would have to face was not overly hidden. There are few things the Daybreak Clan can not learn about the Magi World thanks to its wealth and connections with the Scientia Kingdom.

"For you to understand how difficult the Holy Trial is, I will tell you about the talent of the greatest champion." Ezequiel's face was serious, and you could feel in his voice a sliver of admiration.

Ezequiel's standards were extremely harsh, and he considered his capabilities barely adequate, despite being virtually invincible on his Rank, no matter the opponent.

In his eyes, the aptitudes of individuals with Law bloodlines were nothing great. Even Dante, with his bloodline and Mind Force, did not impress him and only achieved what was expected of him.

He did not evaluate the talent of an individual based on his battle power. To him, the only ones who deserved to be called talented were those who were able to achieve a greater strength than their natural gifts allowed them to have. It was this mentality that always pushed him to tirelessly train and break his limits.

Other than Zatiel and Heinz, there was only one person the Supreme Neo-Demon had met that he considered worthy of the title genius, and that was Gwyn Xinter.

Of course, there were those like the Second Prince of the Scientia Kingdom, Gabriel, whom Ezequiel could not measure, so he did not assume anything about them.

As for Sophia, the Supreme Neo-Demon found her scheming tactics astonishing, and he truly hoped that when she came out of her egg, she could amaze him. Other than his lover, the ones he was closer were Zatiel and Sophia. This was because of the relationships they formed as they faced their challenges when they were weak and alone.

Sigrid and Aren were surprised when they heard Ezequiel speak about Gwyn, and they understood by the seriousness of his voice that this was important.

"I met Gwyn Xinter when I was at Rank 1, and he was a Novice Eye Lord. Back then, he was already powerful enough to defeat a Master Rank 2 Magus with ease. However, that did not impress me because when I entered Rank 2 and still had an Emperor bloodline, I was already powerful enough to kill Rank 3 life forms, while he could only escape from them. The reason I can say with honesty that I feel admiration for him is that unlike me, he obtained everything he has with his own hands and thrived despite the great adversities he had to face." Ezequiel disregarded the surprised look in the Eye Holders and continued to speak.

"He was born in a simple family. His parents were Eye Masters with a Rank 2 bloodline, but he was blessed since a mutation occurred during his conception. When he was four years old, the power of his bloodline awoke, and the head of the small city in which they lived determined that he had a Peak Emperor bloodline.

This should have been a turning point for the Xinter family, but unfortunately, they were part of the Blood Eye Clan. A few years before Gwyn's birth, the Patriarch of the clan had a son who was born with a King bloodline, Tritus. The boy was pampered and always told how he was the greatest talent of the clan, so when the news that someone with an Emperor bloodline was living under their ruling reached him, jealousy filled his heart.

Things would have been different if Gwyn was a true member of the Blood Eye Clan, but his family and the rest of the people in his city were just part of a group that shared no bloodline with them. They lived under the clan's protection and paid tribute for it.

Tritus and his assistant assaulted the city where Gwyn lived and butcher everybody. The only reason Gwyn was able to survive was due to the sacrifice of the people close to him that gave their lives so he could escape.

When the elders of the Blood Eye Clan found out what happened, they were angry. Their anger was not because Tritus killed the entire city, but because he left too many clues of his involvement and allowed Gwyn to escape.

The elders of the clan planned to nurture the boy with an Emperor bloodline into a weapon for the clan. Of course, they would have made sure he would never reach a level in which he could get out of their control. But thanks to Tritus' actions, their machinations would never succeed.

They could not leave a poisonous snake with such a great talent alive, so the Patriarch and elders put an immense bounty on Gwyn's head and charged him with killing members of the Blood Eye Clan to improve his power.

Anyone with a brain could see that the charges were totally fictional, but unfortunately for the small Gwyn, might makes right. He was talented, but no one would offend a clan with an Eye Tyrant, for a child who may die before reaching Rank 4, especially when there was a great reward for his head.

Gwyn's bloodline hid him from his enemies' scrying abilities, but he knew it was a matter of time until they would find him. He was a four years old child with no possessions other than the clothes he wore stained with the blood of his family, who was chased by Soul Forging existences. He should have died, but he refused to give up and embarked on a journey through a land full of people who wanted to kill him until he reached the only power that accepted and protected people like him. At the age of five, he joined the Death Army of the Holy Clan."

When Aren and Sigrid heard the last part, they were utterly shocked. They know very well what the Death Army of the Holy Clan was and could not believe that a five years old joined it and survived.

The Death Army was a force composed mostly of death row criminals of the Eye Dynasty and people running from enemies they could not survive. Anyone could enter this army, and not only their crimes would be forgiven, but they also would obtain the protection of the Holy Clan. Anyone who harmed a member of the Death Army without reason would have their families killed.

Of course, there was a price to pay for that protection. The members of the Death Army had to take dangerous missions, most time acting as cannon fodder in World Wars. The mortality rate in each mission is 99%, and murder between soldiers inside the army to steal their wealth was not uncommon.

The Holy clan protected them from external forces but made nothing about infighting. Actually, they fomented that behavior between those in the same Rank. That way, they obtained powerful warriors while eliminating the weak.

There was only one way to obtain your freedom back. Once you complete one hundred missions, you become a Captain of the Death Army. After that, you no longer have to take part in the missions of the army and still enjoy the protection of the Holy Clan.

Chapter 275 - The Champion's Story (II)

Sigrid and Aren had endured a terrible fate, but when they compared their situation to Gwyn, the difference was like day and night. When they were five years old, the duo enjoyed the full protection of their clan as they trained and safely improved their power. In contrast, Gwyn participated in missions and fought in wars where he could die at any moment.

They could not understand how someone so young, who should barely be able to understand the world, was able to survive in such a treacherous and hostile environment.

Ezequiel gave the duo a moment to understand his words before continuing with the story.

"As you may know, after each mission, the members of the Death Army have a three months rest period before they are summoned again. Unlike the rest of his comrades, who would only participate in missions when they were forced, Gwyn Xinter hardly rested for a week before volunteering himself to duty, specifically to tasks involving World Wars.

Many mocked the boy and thought he was one of those hot-blooded youths who liked to show off, but they could not be more wrong. Even though he was extremely young, his scheming mind was not inferior to those who had lived hundreds of years.

While it was true that the mortality rate of the missions that involved Eye Masters and Eye Lords was the same, the amount that returned alive of the last group would usually not reach the two digits while those of the first could be counted in the dozens.

That was because the number of Eye Masters that were sent in each mission reached the tens of thousands with ease. In such a great number, it was easier for a genius like Gwyn to dodge the real threats and find a path to survival.

As for not training during the rest period and maintaining his power at Rank 1 for several decades, that was not possible, especially for someone with an Emperor bloodline.

The Death Army granted excellent training facilities to its members. There was an unspoken rule in the army that those who did not focus on increasing their power would be marked. The fate of those individuals was certain death.

Gwyn was not the only one who noticed the advantage that Eye Masters had in the army. However, he was the only one with the courage among the Rank 1 life forms to take that opportunity.

There was one more reason why he preferred missions in which there were many Eye Masters. The number of people from whom he could steal inside the army was greater. I don't have an exact figure, but the number of soldiers of the Death Army that died in his hands was above one thousand.

Before his eighth birthday arrived, Gwyn Xinter fulfilled his one-hundredth mission and became the youngest Captain of the Death Army in the history of the Eye Dynasty.

Every powerful clan in the dynasty knew about this, and they all wanted to form a relationship with this young genius. Many of them hoped to marry him into their families and obtain his bloodline.

Unfortunately for them, Gwyn was not interested in forming part of their clans. He no longer needed their protection and could obtain resources with his own hands. He formed his own clan named the Ghost Eye Clan and picked soldiers from the Death Army, with whom he had developed a relationship, to form part of it. " Ezequiel made a pause here, and you could see in his eyes that he was truly impressed with the determination of the five years old boy in the story.

"In our meeting, he got a Path Technique from my Master, similar to the one you have, but unlike you two, he bought it. Before that day, his goal was to achieve revenge on the Blood Eye Clan, but he obtained a piece of information that changed everything.

When he returned to the Eye Dynasty, he once again started to take missions of the Death Army. Most Captains would usually handle the recruits or lead the army from a safe location in World Wars, but Gwyn took a more direct role in the missions, fighting in the front lines.

The dangers he had to face as an Eye Lord were much greater. In every battle, he was forced to break his limits and urge out every ounce of potential inside him. Thanks to his title, he obtained the same resources that we gave to you two.

When he became an Eye King, Gwyn had already touched the part of the Path Technique that transformed his body, meant for Soul Forging existences. The only reason he could not advance more was due to the need to awake his True Soul to start the next level of that technique.

If I compared that level to your techniques, it would be like completing the second level and starting to grasp the third."

When Sigrid and Aren heard that, their eyes widened. The pride they had for finishing the first level of their Path Technique disappeared. Merely entering the second level before reaching Peak of Rank 3 was not something the duo thought possible.

Shame appeared in their hearts. When they felt their power, they thought it would not be hard for them to obtain a Tier 3 completion in the Holy Trial. They even fantasized about following Gwyn's steps and reaching Tier 1.

The Neo-Demon did not want to crush their spirit, but if they entered the Holy Trial without understanding how hard it was, then they would fail.

"Other than my Master and I, I doubt I could find anyone capable of defeating Gwyn Xinter in the same Rank. The reason is not just battle power. His combat experience was honed in battlefields

where the most minimal mistake could cost your life, and he is willing to be brutal with his opponents and even more with himself.

In the final task of the Holy Trial, Gwyn burned his life force and ignited his bloodline. This gave him immense power, but the damage he received could not be fixed even with the reward he could obtain with a Tier 2 completion. He was set on either obtaining Tier 1 or dying!."

Ezequiel's words made Sigrid and Aren tremble. Gwyn Xinter was a supreme genius, someone who could reach Rank 6 and live hundred of thousands of years. The will to risk such a glorious future just for the small chance of achieving something greater was the thing needed to become a legendary individual.

The siblings looked at each other, and they saw the conviction in the face of the other. They knew that achieving what Gwyn did was not possible for them, but they were set on risking everything on the Holy Trial.

Ezequiel nodded when he saw the behavior of Sigrid and Aren.

"I am not asking you to go to the lengths he went, since I don't think is possible for either of you to obtain a drop of blood from the Holy Mother, but as long as the damage in your life force and bloodline is not irreversible, we can provide with almost every medicine that there is for sale in the Magi World." Ezequiel had told them all he wanted to say, and there was no need for more words.

The Supreme Neo-Demon covered the Eye Holders in red lightning before rising into the sky and flying to the closest magic tower. Ezequiel's speed was impressive, and he reached the tower quickly.

The trio used the teleportation formation and traveled to the 1st magic tower where Sigrid and Aren used the World Gate and left the Beta Heavenly World.

The World Gate in the Sinux Magic Tower glowed, and the duo appeared. The moment the siblings appeared on the subterranean floor, they noticed a man waiting for them and immediately bowed.

Heinz's eyes narrowed as he saw the behavior of the duo. Despite their respectful attitude, he did not detect the fear that most Rank 3 life forms would feel in his presence.

"It seems that I don't need to ask whether or not you two are ready to take the Holy Trial." Heinz limited himself to nodding before covering Sigrid and Aren with his consciousness and teleporting.

Thanks to Heinz's control over the Law of Space and the current strength of his True Soul, the distance he could cover with each teleportation was almost ten times greater than when he was a Rank 4 life form.

He should have been able to reach deep into the Endless Forest with his first teleportation, but instead, he and the Eye Holders appeared inside a room.

Sigrid and Aren immediately recognized their location. They were on the highest floor of the Daybreak Magic Tower. The duo looked at Heinz with confusion since they did not understand the reason they have come here.

They did not have time to ask any question before space broke a few meters in front of them, forming a portal, and from it, a young man with black hair and majestic aura emerged.

The flow of time appeared to change around that young man and adapt to his heartbeat.

Chapter 276 - Journey To The Eye Dynasty

The City of the Sun had acquired major changes over the last couple of years. Huge buildings were made to accommodate the rise in members of the Daybreak Clan, without the need to extend the diameter of the city, which would have increased the difficulty of surveillance and security.

Hundreds of Sunlight Champions and Neo-Demons were leaving and entering the city at all times. Most of them headed for the Endless Forest to either harvest resources or hunt for magic creatures.

The Daybreak Magic Tower's external appearance did not change much. However, its core components obtained a huge upgrade. In terms of energy storage and energy output, it had long gone surpassed the Sinux Magic Tower and could be compared to the ones used by Law Engraving life forms.

The energy inside the Sunlight Core had reached a level so high that the original Perpetual Dynamic Core was changed for another of a higher quality. From the Sunlight Core, several pillars of fire came out and connected with eighty spheres of golden flames that were dispersed all over the city.

Those spheres were Sunshine Cores, and the amount of energy they were able to contain was equal to fifteen percent of the one inside the Sunlight Core in the peak of the Daybreak Magic Tower.

The eighty Sunshine Cores were connected with the Sunlight Core, and each one of them could release the energy gathered in the rest by themselves, making the reaction speed of the City of the Sun extremely fast. The full power in each of the Sunshine Core could put in danger the life of a weak Rank 4 life form.

The improvements made in the city and magic tower were expensive, but the wealth of the Daybreak Clan was much larger.

The money the Daybreak Clan generated every day could make Soul Forging existences green with envy. They obtained gigantic amounts of raw materials from the Beta Heavenly World and the Endless Forest. That was transformed into runes, magic weapons, and drugs that were sell all across the empire. The equipment created by Daybreak Clan was popular due to its low price and high quality.

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Inside the room where the young man with the incredibly powerful aura appeared, Sigrid and Aren were looking at Heinz and waited for him to explain what was happening.

Heinz gave a small nod to the young man before turning to look at the Eye Holders.

"He is Second Prince of the Scientia Kingdom, Gabriel Rebellion, and will be accompanying us in our journey to the Eye Dynasty."

Sigrid and Aren were surprised to learn the identity of the young man, and they quickly bowed to Gabriel. Their understanding of the oldest organization in the Magi World was very shallow, but what they knew was that the royal family of the Scientia Kingdom was unparalleled. No force in the Eye Dynasty or Aeternum Empire could match them.

However, this piece of information only managed to generate even more doubt in the mind of the Eye Holders. They did not understand why someone with such a special identity as Gabriel would be accompanying them on their journey.

"My brother asked for his help due to a piece of information we got not long ago about the people who are after for you two."

The moment Zatiel had chosen to help the duo, he thoroughly researched everything related to them, and that included their enemies.

When they heard Hienz's words, Sigrid and Aren were not able to stop the hate they held in their hearts from showing on their faces. The ones who are hunting them are the same who butchered their friends and family.

"We have not been able to identify the group behind the attack on your clan. However, a few months ago we learned of a force working in the shadows that have been searching for you two." Heinz spoke in a calm tone, and the truth was that neither he nor the Eye Holders siblings were surprised by such a thing happening.

One of the reasons why Zatiel brought the duo to the Beta Heavenly World was to hide them from the enemy tracking spells. They always used full-body armors and the only ones who knew their true identities were the people Zatiel trusted.

"The troublesome part is that the leader of that force is a Law Engraving existence and a Magus." Heinz gave one meaningful stare at the duo.

Sigrid and Aren were smart and understood what the Cultivator was implying. A Magus couldn't have destroyed their clan, so the Law Engraving existence was surely a mercenary. Anyone capable of getting a Rank 5 life form to act as a hunting dog was not simple.

The duo felt apprehension when they thought about the power of the person going after them. They had assumed that the one who appeared that day and exterminated their clan was the leader of their enemies, but it appeared he was just a pawn.

Heinz did not blame the duo for their reaction since he was also baffled by that piece of information when he got it. The Cultivator had already made all the preparation needed for the journey, even getting an ambassador token, which allowed him to explore all the territories of the Eye Dynasty.

The Magi World was not the Beta Heavenly World, where Heinz could act without any repercussion or fear of the consequences. The Eye Dynasty was filled with all types of ancient powerhouses, and Heinz could not afford to anger them.

In other times, the token would have been enough to make sure that even Tier One Clans led by Soul Law Domain existences would be cautious about harming him. Unfortunately, the relationship between the empire and dynasty had only grown worse over the years, so although the token was still useful, its deterrence effect was not that impressive.

Initially, Zatiel thought that Heinz would have no problem with taking the siblings to the Holy Trial, but things appeared to be more complicated.

Even though the Heinz was a Rank 5 life form, his battle power was only above average among Law Engraving existences. Of course, this was impressive since the Cultivator was extremely young and had just entered the Flesh Engraving Stage.

Heinz understood the importance of taking Sigrid and Aren to the Holy Trial, so he had no problem with Zatiel requesting the help of Gabriel. The fact he lacked the strength to fulfill this task alone did not dampen his spirit. His battle will was as strong as ever, and his heart burned with the desire for more power.

After explaining everything to the Eye Holders, Heinz focused on Gabriel. The first time he saw the Second Prince, he was too weak to measure his strength. Although he still could not accurately determine the battle strength of Gabriel, Heinz estimated that the power of his True Soul was at the Peak of Rank 5.

What surprised Heinz was that as he focused his consciousness on the Second Prince, what he saw was not a person but an immense white star. The Cultivator was sure that if he did not contain the energy inside him, then the radiation he would generate could kill any Rank 3 life form on a radius of five kilometers.

Gabriel was also focusing on Heinz, and after a moment, he gave the swordsman an approving nod.

"I am impressed with your rapid growth, especially regarding your law comprehension. I guess it is true what they say, Dao Hearts are incredibly difficult to train, but they can grant a talent with the laws not inferior to a Law bloodline."

After saying that, Gabriel focused on Sigrid and Aren. The power of his consciousness was so high that there was nothing the duo could hide from him.

The siblings felt that Gabriel's eyes were able to see their past and even glimpse their future.

The Second Prince just gave the duo a small smile before focusing once again on Heinz.

"I already discussed this with Zatiel, and I guess he transmitted that to you, but I will say it once again. I will only interfere if an opponent arrives that you cannot possibly defeat."

Zatiel had already informed Heinz of that, so he nodded to Gabriel to show his understanding. He knew that it would be troublesome for the Second Prince if news about him bullying people were to reach the Scientia Kingdom. The royal family would normally only act inside the Magi World when they needed to deliver punishment in the name of one of their citizens, so it was better if Gabriel did not need to act.

Since everything was ready now, Heinz did not waste time and covered Sigrid and Aren with his consciousness. The trio fused with space, making it impossible for even Rank 4 life forms to detect them before teleporting.

Gabriel saw the trio leave. The next second, his body transformed into a stream of white energy that flashed into the distance.

Chapter 277 - Conflict Within The Magi Army

A week after Sigrid and Aren had left the Beta Heavenly World, a huge celebration party was held in the north of the Fornes Continent and even Soul Forging existences took part in it. The reason

was simple, the 54th magic tower had been built, and finally, the force field of the Ten Tower Formation covered the entire continent.

In essence, the Forness Continent was now under the complete control of the Magi Invader Force. The force field was so powerful that even if the entire force of the Heavenly race inside the Beta Heavenly World were to attempt to take back the control of the continent, even if they were willing to die for it, they would still lose.

There was one downside, however, in the fact that the force field now covered the entire Fornes Continent. The magic towers generated such a suction over the natural energy of the world that trying to improve your own energy pool with what was left became impractical. This affected mostly Rank 0, 1, and 2 life forms. Those at Rank 3 had long gone stop depending on the natural energy of the world to increase their power.

The Soul Forging leaders did not care about the inconvenience that the force field could provoke on the weaker life forms. Their current goal was to harvest as many resources as they could, and populating this world was not something they were focusing on.

The Rank 4 Magi were happily chatting among themselves, but there was one who did not join them.

Totto gazed at the celebration. Although he was happy about achieving the task given to him, he knew that things were not so simple. Unlike the rest, he understood very well that the true enemy that they are facing inside this world is not the Heavenly race, and the force field of the Ten Tower Formation could not stop him.

The Lich turned to the side as he noticed a group flying in his direction. They were the Fallen, and Nero was leading them.

He was not the only one to notice this group. The Rank 4 Magi no longer laughed and adopted a serious expression as they analyzed the Fallen before approaching Totto's side.

The eyes of the seven winged Fallen narrowed when he noticed their attitude. Nero could predict the thought that passed for the minds of some of them, and he merely sneered before focusing on Totto.

"We have fulfilled our part of the deal. I want to use the World Gate now."

Silence reigned after Nero spoke those words. The Fallen were a powerful force, and the assistance they brought against the Heavenly race was immense. Now that Heinz could no longer enter the Beta Heavenly World, the Magi did not see how they could expand their domains to other continents without them.

Some of the Rank 4 Magi have communicated to Totto their desires to make changes to the original agreement they had with the Fallen. Instead of allowing all of them to leave, they could permit one or two Rank 4 Fallen to use the World Gate as a reward for their help, and the rest could follow them once their control over the Beta Heavenly World was more secure.

Of course, that would affect the relationship between the two sides and could incite conflicts. But the Magi had control over the force field, and they could easily suppress the Fallen with it.

From the Rank 4 Magi group, a man with a muscular body and silver eyes walked forward. There was a ferocious aura around him. Thick chains were coming out from his back and formed something similar to a cape.

Totto stared at this person, and a peculiar light appeared on his eyes. The man's name was Uluizer and was a Bloodline Magus. Despite having the King bloodline of a Two-Headed Inferno Wolf, the purity of his bloodline was shallow, so he had been stuck at the Peak of Rank 4 for hundreds of years, and his battle power had never been extraordinary.

However, not too long ago, Uluizer's bloodline obtained a significant upgrade, as did his strength. He kept a low profile at the beginning, but once Heinz advanced to Rank 5, he started to take a more active role. He even formed a small group with the other two Magi who followed the bloodline path as well.

Uluizer's behavior had become more domineering as his power increased, and it was not rare for him to question Totto's role as the leader of the Magi Invader Force in the last few weeks. The Lich had known Uluizer for a long time, and the change in his attitude arose some questions on his mind.

Heinz had made sure all those who were part of the Magi Invader Force were not connected to troublesome individuals, when he invited them. But a lot of time had passed, and things could have easily changed.

"Leader of the Fallen, Nero, you will have to excuse us, but we need to discuss some matter regarding our alliance." Uluizer had a respectful expression on his face, but his voice carried a condescending tone.

Anger appeared on Nero's face. Despite being under the force field of the Ten Tower Formation, there wasn't the slightest sign of concern as he faced the Magi, but before he could act, Totto spoke.

"There is nothing to discuss. Our deal was that once the Fornes Continent was ours, you could use the World Gate and leave for the Magi World. The continent is ours, so you can use the World Gate whenever you want." Totto's voice was calm, and he made his stance clear.

Nero and the rest of the Fallen smiled when they heard those words, but the reaction of the Magi, especially Uluizer's group, was different.

"Totto, you should not be speaking so lightly about a subject that concerns all of us." Uluizer's face displayed great anger, but internally he was smiling.

Even though it appeared as if he was taking the lead of the seven Rank 4 Magi, Uluizer knew that the only ones who were really on his side were the Bloodline Magi. The rest adopted a wait and see attitude, so by highlighting Totto's disregard for their opinions, Uluizer wanted to form a unified front against him.

Totto sneered when he heard Uluizer's words. The Lich did not bother with the Bloodline Magi and focused on the rest before speaking.

"Our agreement was made a long time ago. If any of you had a problem with it, you should have spoken then. Who would ever want to work with people who did not respect their word when they make a deal with an ally?."

Uluizer's eyes narrowed as he noticed how the rest of the Magi nodded to Totto's words. None of them cared about honor, but every Rank 4 life form cared about their reputation.

"The first meeting with the Fallen was handled entirely by that man. He spoke for all of us when he made that deal, and he did not have the authority to do that. You, Zitra, and Heinz followed his plan without considering our point of view. Despite all of his mistakes and the fact he got himself captured, we still have to give his clan the same amount of resources we obtain."

Uluizer had always felt annoyed by the control Zatiel had over the Magi Invader Force. He was one of the ones who opposed the most the Neo-Demon obtaining a position in the council since he considered him inferior due to him not being a Rank 4 life form. The fact he guided them through every part of the war and was a great genius who would have definitely awoken his True Soul was something he had chosen to ignore.

Totto's eyes narrowed when he heard Uluizer targeting Zatiel. Without giving any warning, the Lich raised his hand and fired a grey beam of energy to the Bloodline Magus.

Uluizer was surprised by the action of the Lich. He was only able to make a mantle silver fire surround his body before being hit by that grey beam. He was pushed more than one hundred meters before being able to gain back control over his body.

"You dare!" Uluizer was enraged. The chains on his back enlarged and their ends aimed at the Lich.

Totto stared at Uluizer, and he showed nothing on his face, but the energy on his body was ready to act.

The rest of the Magi immediately moved away from them, and even the duo who accompanied Uluizer was not different.

Uluizer stared at Totto for a long time, but in the end, the energy on his body calmed down, and he flew away. The two Bloodline Magi followed him, while the other four Magi remained together and chose to join no side.

After seeing Uluizer leave, Totto turned to the seven winged Fallen, who was looking at him. The Lich noticed the meaning in Nero's eyes, but he shook his head.

Totto had already asked whether or not he should get rid of the three Bloodline Magi, but the message he received told him that there was no need for him to act.

'A few more days and everything will be over.'

Chapter 278 - Movements In Every Front

On a corner of the Fornes continent, a man was inscribing a runic formation on the ground using tendrils made of his own blood.

Zatiel's appearance had changed greatly over the last few weeks. The Neo-Demon appeared no different than a decrepit man with one foot already in the grave. His hair was white, and wrinkles filled his face.

His life force acted strangely. There were times it resembled an ember about to be put out, just to be fueled in the next second by a strange energy that gave the illusion of being the physical manifestation of powerful emotions.

Despite his frail appearance and the fact he found it hard to maintain his body straight, Zatiel's aura was as unwavering as always. His three eyes were bleeding without stop, but they also showed his endless determination as he pushed himself to work harder.

Next to Zatiel, there was a beautiful woman, and her gorgeous green eyes did not move away from him. Zitra's face revealed the distress inside her heart as she witnessed Zatiel's self-destructing behavior. On more than one occasion, she had wanted to tell him to rest, but the Magus knew very well that there was nothing she could do or say to stop him.

Zatiel had just finished the runic formation when he started to tremble uncontrollably. Zatiel grabbed his head while blood was coming from his eyes, mouth, ears, and he crumbled to the ground. The pain he was feeling was so great that he could not even scream, and he twisted on the ground as he attempted to take back control over his body.

When Zitra saw this, she instinctively approached Zatiel's side, but just as she was about to touch him, her hand froze. The pain started to grow due to the pressure Zatiel was putting on himself, and she already knew that trying to help him would be of no use. She just remained by his side and waited.

The Neo-Demon slammed his head against the ground as he resisted the agony. The pain the wound of his soul generated had evolved. If what he felt at the beginning was similar to breaking a bone, then now it was comparable to ripping his whole arm.

By the time the wave of pain had finished, Zatiel was panting. He took a moment to adopt a meditative position before looking at Zitra.

"Let's... go." Despite the inhumane torture that he had just felt and that he will have to endure very soon again, Zatiel's voice was still perfectly calm.

Zitra limited herself to nodding before covering both with shadows and disappearing.

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In the void, an amorphous entity made of what appeared to be tentacles created of boiling asphalt moved through the elemental chaos. Time and space twisted around it, which made its already impressive speed grow higher and higher.

One of the greatest dangers you could find traveling through the elemental chaos was the mighty Void Creatures. The majority of these beings were extremely violent, and the moment they detected a foreign life form, they would attack immediately.

But these crazy killing machines behaved differently this time. They were running away from that amorphous entity. You could see how some of the wiser ones displayed immense fear in their eyes.

One of the Void Creatures was too slow and wasn't able to move away from the entity's path. Seeing that a fight was inevitable, the ferocious nature of the Void Creature took control, and he roared to the amorphous mass of tentacles.

The Void Creature had the appearance of a winged bear with protruding bones all over his body. The creature size was immense, being several thousand times larger than the amorphous entity, but the last one made no effort in changing its path or reducing its speed.

When they were about to crash, the tentacles made of boiling asphalt grew immensely. The entity took the form of a monstrous mouth full of spiked teeth, and the Void Creature wasn't able to do anything before being swallowed.

Cries of pain could be heard from inside the entity, but they stopped after a second. The entity returned to its original form before continuing its path.

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In the core of the territories dominated by the Eye Dynasty, there was an amazing forest known as the Sacred Forest. The trees were so large that they broke the clouds, and you could find all types of extraordinary fruits on them.

All kinds of animals could be found inside this forest, from tiny insects to large mammals, but that was not all since you could also see life forms made of rocks and other strange beings.

Even the weakest one of them was a Rank 4 life form, but the sentience of every single one of them was no different than a normal animal of the mortal world.

The life forms inside the Sacred Forest lived in complete harmony, and even those who had ferocious appearances were extremely peaceful.

In the center of the forest was a small dot of light, and from it, an unbelievable majestic aurora borealis was created. Those magnificent northern lights spread all over the forest, and they nourished every being in it.

The regions surrounding the forest were usually quiet, but that silence was broken when two young Eye Holders appeared.

The duo flew with all of their power to the Sacred Forest, and you could discern a sense of urgency in their eyes. Behind them, explosions could be heard, and they were so loud that it appeared as if a world was breaking apart.

As they approached the forest, Sigrid and Aren were assaulted by an unbelievable sense of danger. Determination filled the eyes of the duo, and they exploded the energy inside their bodies to obtain a push forward.

The instincts of the siblings were screaming, and they felt that their doom was near. However, that feeling vanished the moment they touched the aurora borealis.

An individual covered by a green miasma stared at Sigrid and Aren. He was in the sky hundreds of kilometers away from the duo and had almost fired an attack. Just a second more, and he could have killed the two Eye Holders.

The miasma hid this person's figure, but you could see that there was a large cut on his back, and his left leg was missing. The eyes of this person narrowed, and he transformed into streams of gas that disappeared into the distance.

Heinz appeared just when that person vanished. There was a thick killing aura around the Cultivator's body, and between his eyebrows, the Demodand Constitution could be seen.

There were injuries all over his body that were festered by green energy. His condition would be much worse if it wasn't for his powerful physique and the immense amount of blood energy running through his veins.

Heinz's eyes focused on the distance, but after a moment, he shook his head and turned to the Sacred Forest. It was only when he noticed Sigrid and Aren inside it that he was able to relax.

From the moment they entered the Eye Dynasty, Heinz had been forced to fight and run. All types of powers targeted them, and they were constantly being attacked from the shadows. The Cultivator did not understand how they did it, but their opponents always knew their location.

Thanks to Heinz's power and control over the Law of Space, they were able to advance extremely fast and left their enemies behind.

Unfortunately for the trio, they were ambushed by that person covered in the green miasma before they could reach the Sacred Forest.

Heinz had already noticed the abnormalities in their situation. They were very deep within the Eye Dynasty, so battles between powerful life forms should have drawn the attention of the Holy Clan, and yet no one appeared.

It did not take a genius to see that someone was interfering with the response of the guardian forces of the dynasty.

Heinz knew that the more they waited, the worse their situation would become. He acted decisively and teleported the duo the closest he could to the Sacred Forest before focusing all of his power on the opponent in front of him.

The person in the green miasma was not only powerful, but he also had all sorts of weird spells and artifacts. Their battle was impressive, but despite the efforts of the Cultivator, that person reached the area next to the Sacred Forest.

He transformed his left leg into a giant snake that immobilized Heinz for a moment, allowing him to get near Sigrid and Aren, but he was too late and wasn't able to stop the duo from entering the Sacred Forest.

Sigrid and Aren looked back at the Cultivator, and they nodded before flying to the dot of light in the center of the forest. It took them a moment to reach it, and their expressions were solemn as they stood in front of it.

The dot of light was the size of a grain of rice, but the truth was that it contained a dimension that could compare to a Low World, and it was in there that the Holy Trial was held.

The siblings exchanged glances and saw the determination in the eyes of the other. The next moment they touched the dot of light and disappeared.

Chapter 279 - Pushed Into The Dream

A moment after Heinz saw the siblings disappear into that dot of light, he turned around and adopted a battle position. The energy inside the Cultivator's body was ready to react to the presence he detected approaching his location.

However, he relaxed in the next second when he noticed Gabriel's figure. The Second Prince analyzed Heinz's condition, and once he saw his injuries weren't life-threatening, he spoke.

"We can rest now. There is a limit to the things powerhouses are willing to turn a blind eye to."

Heinz nodded when he heard Gabriel's words. The Sacred Forest was a special location, and only those who were ready to take the Holy Trial were allowed to enter.

The moment Sigrid and Aren touched the northern lights, they passed from being Eye Holders with Emperor bloodlines to challengers of the Holy Trial. Any interference with their trial would be an insult to the Holy Mother, and not even the Holy Clan dared to do that.

Their enemies will have to wait until the siblings finish the Holy Trial, and even then, if Sigrid and Aren manage to obtain a high Tier of completion, they would draw the attention of the powerhouses of the dynasty, and their status would change.

Heinz's eyes narrowed after he noticed Gabriel's pale complexion and saw how blood was falling from his left arm. The Second Prince's blood was blue, and each drop was incredibly dense. You could see craters being formed in the ground where the drops landed.

The blood did not remain for too long on the earth, as it vanished after a couple of seconds. One small magic creature that was near the landing area licked the blood before it disappeared.

Immediately after that, the magic creature that looked like a rat jumped from Rank 0 to Rank 1, and his power continued to grow. Unfortunately for the creature, he wasn't able to handle such a pure type of energy, and his body swelled before exploding.

The Cultivator did not have time to bother with such a scene as he realized the significance of Gabriel's injuries. Heinz thought he had reached this place without the need to ask for the Second Prince's help, but it was clear Gabriel fought, and the most meaningful thing was that he did not even realize when it happened.

'The person Gabriel faced must have been powerful enough to hide from my consciousness, so he should have been able to take me by surprise.' Heinz just shook his head as he realized how close he had been to dying and focused on the Sacred Forest.

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The amorphous entity composed of tentacles made of boiling asphalt was standing a couple of meters away from the Crystal Wall of a massive world.

His power was too great to cross the Crystal Wall of a Middle World. If he attempted to enter through a portal, the World Consciousness would detect him immediately and discharged a furious attack against him before he could even try to conceal his power.

Slowly the entity started to change its form, and as it did that, its power began to decrease. Finally, it took the appearance of a tall and slim human being. He wore a black suit and had a grey mask that covered his entire face.

The man waved his hand and made golden chains appear that began to rotate around him. The next second he clenched his fist, making one end of the chains pierce his body while the other fused with the space around them.

The tall man began to blend with space until they were practically the same. His presence was concealed to the point that even the consciousness of a Soul Law Domain existence could not detect him.

After making sure all the preparations were done, the man marched to the Crystal Wall. Despite all the things he had done, he still felt as if he was walking through an incredibly thick substance and advanced very slowly.

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Zatiel was working on the runic inscription when he received a message, and a smile appeared on his face. Gabriel had used the small tablet to inform him that Sigrid and Aren had started the Holy Trial.

'One less thing to worry about, now I only need to finish the key.' Zatiel did not slow down once he knew about the progress of the Eye Holders. He continued to work on the runic formation with all of his energy.

The days passed, and more runic formations were being completed before disappearing into the continent.

Finally, after more than two years of sacrifice and unimaginable torture, Zatiel and Zitra appeared at the location where the final runic formation would be inscribed.

Thrill could be seen in the Neo-Demon's eyes. All the pain and tiredness disappeared, and the only thing that remained was a level of excitement like the one he had not felt in a very long time.

'Once I finish this, I will finally be able to start to increase my domain in the universe and continue the task I started on Baator and the Abyss.'

Zatiel did not waste time and began to work in the runic formation. This one was different from the others. Although the complexity was the same, the size was almost ten times greater, so even with the Neo-Demon impressive speed, it would take a while.

He was forced to stop several times due to the waves of pain, but despite that, Zatiel advanced very fast. The tendrils of blood moved so quickly that they were invisible to the naked eye and displayed an unbelievable level of dexterity.

Zatiel's speed was so impressive that before the second day was over, he had almost finished. Just as he was inscribing the last part of the runic formation, the Neo-Demon's eyes widened.

The reason was not a wave of pain but the dark and dangerous force he felt affecting his mind, and that attempted to draw him into an illusion.

'I guess I was too slow.' Zatiel detected the origin of that force, and it was not targeting him directly, but the one captured by the Heavenly race.

The copy had been left unconscious after the attack on Saint City, so Zatiel was not able to obtain any information about what happened around him.

The force targeted the fragmented soul inside the copy, and it reached Zatiel's main soul due to their connection.

Despite the level of threat Zatiel felt from that dark force there was no panic or sense of urgency in his eyes. One of the reasons was that since his main soul was aware of the fact he was being pulled into an illusion, he would not confuse reality and fake.

The other reason was that although the Holy Trial was difficult, the time needed to finish it wasn't long, and once Sigrid and Aren changed their fate, the Sage would receive a terrible backlash, making it impossible for him to retain Zatiel.

'If my calculations are right, the siblings will be finishing the anytime now. Although my soul is weak, the power he can express inside the Beta Heavenly World can't be above Rank 4, so I can forcefully resist any attempt to take control of my soul as long as my will remains strong. I will probably be thrown into a hellish landscape, but it doesn't matter.' Zatiel's eyes burned with the will to fight.

Zatiel's confidence in his abilities to resist wasn't due to ego. Trying to control or even manipulate the soul of another person was very difficult, especially for those with a strong will. If the Sage was able to use the power of a Rank 6 life form, then even with Zatiel's immense fortitude, there was no way he could resist. Luckily in the Beta Heavenly World, no matter how special the spell the Sage used, it would be powered by the force of a Rank 4 life form.

There was also the fact that Zatiel knew that no matter how horrible were the things he would see, they could not shake his resolution. Even if he witnessed all the ones he had come to love and care for dying horribly, he was sure he could still move forward.

Without being able to resist, Zatiel's consciousness was pulled into a dream. The Neo-Demon's mind was calm, and his heart firm. He was ready to face any torment or nightmare that would be thrown on his way.

But the hell he expected did not appear. In front of him was a small garden in the backyard of a house.

Zatiel's eyes widened, and his entire body froze. Even the battle in the last circle of Baator could not affect him as much as the scene in front of him. He knew everything was false, but there was a power trying to erase that thought from his mind. The moment he no longer fought back, he would forget everything and accept this dream as a reality.

Chapter 280 - The Key Is Finished

Despite how cold and distant great powerhouses appeared to be, the amount that had completely detached themselves from their emotions was almost null. No one who had strived to reach eternity was free of desire, and the more powerful they became, the greater those desires would be.

It is very normal for powerful life forms to see their families pass away, especially if these were formed during their youth when they were still weak. Those who did not care about that type of bond would not be affected by that, but many found those relationships extremely significant.

To those types of people, desolation and loneliness could affect their minds and their ambitions. Fortunately for them, the greater their souls were, the higher their control would be over their emotions. Even those with weak wills could endure extreme solitude if their souls reached a high enough boundary.

There were some that even went to the extreme of purging those emotions from their souls. Although this would affect their personality and ego, many considered it better than to have to resist those painful memories.

The soul of the Incarnation of Death and Destruction was so powerful that no emotion could ever escape his control. As someone who cherished his individuality, he never tore any unpleasant emotion away from himself, but he did lock them. The more sad and painful those emotions were, the deeper he buried them, so they would not disturb him as he strived to achieve his ultimate goal.

Unfortunately, Zatiel was no longer the mighty and unparalleled Incarnation of Death and Destruction, whose soul was strong enough to crush a star with a mere thought. He was now an insignificant Rank 3 life form who had not even awoken his True Soul, and the only way he could resist the raging feelings that assaulted his heart was through his will.

Just like Zatiel was able to understand more of the Sage with their conversations and games, the last one was also able to learn a little about the true nature of the Neo-Demon. The Sage knew that it would be almost impossible to break Zatiel's will by using pain, so he chose to tempt him with what his heart desired the most.

What Zatiel saw was a small family playing ball in the garden. There was a middle-aged couple, a young man and a little girl.

After the initial shock, what appeared on Zatiel's face was an incredible sadness. They were the greatest regret of his existence, and the injury he thought was closed.

Their time together could not even compare to a millesimal part of his life, but it was with them that he had experienced the greatest happiness. The time when he saw his father as the largest giant that existed and who could protect him from everything, and his mother as the one who could give him all the warmth and peace he needed.

In front of him, there was also the oldest brother with whom he always fought, and the little sister he pampered.

'It's thanks to our naivety and innocence that we can experience the greatest of joys. I wish I had known that sooner and learned to cherish that time with them while I still had it.' An incredibly sad smile appeared on Zatiel's face. He remained where he was standing and did not get close to the family.

The Neo-Demon knew, deep down, that everything he was seeing was an illusion. However, his senses and even his own instincts were telling him that this was reality, and he felt a force working on his soul pushing him to forget the world outside and take this beautiful dream as a reality. The moment his will showed the slightest sign of instability, he would be defeated.

After a couple of minutes, the family finished playing, and they continued with their lives. They behaved just like in Zatiel's memories. The parents went to work while the children carried on with their studies, and they would occasionally take trips together. They laughed, got sad, fought, and everything a normal family would do.

Zatiel kept watching the family of four but never got close or interacted with them in any way. The Neo-Demon felt that the moment he took that step forward, he would fall into a pit from where he would not be able to escape.

With every passing second, Zatiel felt more and more detached from reality and pulled into this dream world, but his will remained strong.

One day, as Zatiel was seeing the family having dinner together, darkness filled his sight, and he felt the pressure that had been assaulting his mind from the beginning disappear.

Everything returned to normal the next second, but the Neo-Demon could see the cracks that were forming around him.

Zatiel realized what was happening, and a complicated expression appeared on his face.

'I guess they have fulfilled their goal.'

It was clear to Zatiel that the dream world the Sage had pushed him into was crumbling, which meant Sigrid and Aren had managed to change their fates and destroy machinations made against them.

Zatiel wanted to take one last look at them when all of a sudden, the force that had been attacking his soul for years came back hundreds of times stronger. The Neo-Demon clenched his fists and bit his tongue to resist, but nothing appeared to be working. The difference between reality and illusion became null, and then it happened.

He saw how the little girl, who could not be more than six years old, came to him and extended her hand.

"Big brother, join us." She spoke with a cheerful voice, and her smile was incredibly pure and innocent.

Zatiel's entire body trembled, and he felt like someone was ripping his heart from his chest. He only needed to raise his hand to touch her but was able to resist.

"Why do you resist, surrender and you can be with them forever. Pure happiness awaits you if you stop fighting. It may be a dream, but sometimes a dream can be more real than reality itself."

Zatiel felt those words appearing inside his mind, trying to break his defenses and affecting his judgment.

A second later, the entire family walked to the child's side, and the older man looked at Zatiel with a kind smile.

"We miss you, son."

Zatiel's eyes widened when he heard that, and then he saw how the cracks filled everything around him, including the family, and a moment later, they became dust in front of him.

The Neo-Demon saw the dust rise to the sky and he could not help but sigh.

"I miss you too." Zatiel understood that they were not real, but he truly desired for things to have been different.

Those were the first and last words Zatiel spoke inside the dream world before it collapsed, and he was released.

The time Zatiel spent inside the dream was several years, but less than ten minutes had passed in the real world.

Zitra was extremely confused by what was happening. It was not weird for Zatiel to stop during his work, but she noticed immediately that it was not a wave of pain the origin of his condition.

Zatiel did not respond no matter what she did. Even when she sent her consciousness inside the Neo-Demon's body, Zitra was not able to find anything. Eventually, she communicated with Totto and told him to come to their location since the Lich's knowledge about the soul was greater than her's.

Zitra's consciousness was fully active as she protected the Neo-Demon and saw something that shocked her. Zatiel's eyes twitched, and tears came out from them before he woke up.

The Magus saw that Zatiel's eyes were empty, but the truth was it was just a curtain that hid the absolute hate and rage he was feeling at this moment.

The Neo-Demon did not even look at Zitra and just waved his hand and inscribed the last part of the runic formation. The runic formation did not disappear into the ground as the previous ones Zatiel had created.

He walked forward into the runic formation, and when he was in the center of it, this one began to glow with an impressive red light. The entire continent trembled as the runic formations Zatiel created appeared once again and connected each other until they became a single rune.

Without caring for the confusion of the woman in front of him, Zatiel slammed his hand into the ground and activated the rune that occupied the millions of square miles of the Fornes continent.

"Activate Rune: Usurpation of the World Consciousness."

The rune in the Fornes continent shone with a light so powerful that it could be seen even from outside the Crystal Wall, but that was nothing compared with what happened next.

Giant runic lines that reached the deepest part of oceans, covered every piece of the earth, and filled the Crystal Wall appeared in the Beta Heavenly World.