

Abyssal 301

Chapter 301 - Invictus (III)

Slowly the three Soul Forging existences stood up, and the expression on each of their faces was extremely bitter. They came to the Daybreak Magic Tower full of pride and haughtiness as if they were divine beings visiting an insignificant mortal.

Only now, after those arrows almost killed them, did they understand that they were nothing but insects in front of a monster, and the only reason they were not dead is that they were not worth the effort.

Sirius could not control the emotions overflowing his heart. Despite his lack of talent, he always considered himself a gifted being and was extremely narcissistic. Even though the other Rank 4 life forms in his kingdom had a bad opinion about him, he always kept his head high since they did not dare to show their contempt for him in the open due to his father.

To someone like him, being humiliated by a Rank 3 life form and told that the only reason he was still alive was that he was unimportant, could be even worse than death.

Kolo continued staring at the floor and did not dare to look in Ezequiel's direction. Fear had already broken his fragile will, and the only thing he wanted was to leave this place and never come back.

Jenner was the first one to regain her composure. Her body was soaked in a cold sweat, and her heart kept beating very hard due to the near-death experience she had just encountered. She looked at the man who accompanied her and transmitted a message to his mind.

"Deliver the first part of the report we prepared, but do not mention anything about the second part. Be very careful with your words, and if you fail me, I will make sure you suffer the consequences."

The message and the tone the Soul Forging existence used made clear that the relationship between them was not a good one.

The one who accompanied Jenner was someone Zatiel knew, Tritus Fonder. He was the old man who had come to examine Zatiel's rune and the link between the Daybreak Clan and the Empire Commercial Association.

When he first met Zatiel, although he did have the appearance of an elder, his life force was still strong, not like now that he appeared to be with one foot in the grave.

A self-mocking smile appeared on the Trius face as he sighed. He got near Ezequiel's throne before kneeling and bowing.

"Lord Ezequiel, the contract signed between Zatiel Daybreak, leader of the Daybreak Clan, and the Empire Commercial Association stipulated that any blame due to a problem with the goods sold through our channels would fall on him. Since Zatiel Daybreak is not present in the Magi World and we are unable to contact him, the one leading his organization would serve as his representative. Therefore, the association asks you to take responsibility for the Rank 3 Magi who end up hurt and the Rank 2 that died due to the pills sold by your clan." Tritus talked with a very respectful tone, and even when he spoke about taking responsibility, he posed it as a request and not an order.

Ezequiel nodded when he heard those words. He was prepared for this since it was the original goal of this meeting.

"In any deal, trust and responsibility are important. If our pills had indeed harmed the buyers, we would take care of their injuries and even bring back those who had died, regardless of the cost. However, the reason for those people suffering is not because of something that came out of our clan."

"My Lord, evidence was delivered by the clans and families that made the accusations against the Daybreak Clan. The association made examinations on them, and we verified that they indeed were pills coming from your clan."

"The pills those people consumed were indeed made in the Daybreak Clan, but they were part of the batch that was stolen more than a year ago. They were altered by a Master Alchemist, making them time bombs to anyone that consumed them. I am not certain if the leaders of those clans and families knew the true purposes of those pills, but the fact that no one that formed part of the core of those organizations was harmed, led me to believe that they had some knowledge about what was truly going on."

Tritus did not know how to respond to that statement. Things had already escalated beyond his capabilities, so he chose to remain silent.

Jenner's eyes widened when she heard those words. As a puppet of the people behind the attack against the Daybreak Clan, she had some knowledge about the scheme behind the defective pills.

"If you don't have evidence to prove those..." The Magus stopped her sentence when she felt Ezequiel focusing on her with a smile on his face.

The Neo-Demon made two identical pills appear and sent a crystal to Jenner and Tritus.

"One of these pills is part of the evidence submitted against the Daybreak Clan, and the other belongs to the stolen ones. In each batch of pills created by us, there is a unique chemical chain that serves to identify them. These two pills have the same chemical chain. In the crystal, you will find our investigation and irrefutable proof that the harm to those people had nothing to do with us."

"How did you get that pill?." Jenner was shocked, and her face grew pale.

As the head of the association, one of her duties was to make sure the evidence against the Daybreak Clan was hidden and stop anyone other than the people she served from manipulating them.

This type of failure would cost her greatly. There was no need to mention if she could keep her position since even her life was in danger now.

A smile appeared on Ezequiel's face when he saw the sense of defeat in the woman's eyes.

"You have filled the Empire Commercial Association with people like you, incompetent individuals that do not understand the severity of their action and whose reasoning is easily clouded by greed."

Hopelessness filled Jenner's heart when she heard that. If Ezequiel's words were true, then all the blame for the failure in the scheme against the Daybreak Clan would fall on her.

The Neo-Demon did not care about the woman, and he focused on Tritus once again.

"Now that the problem with the pills has been handled, we will address another subject. Tell me the original message you were supposed to relay to me." Ezequiel's voice was calm and even friendly, but Tritus felt that the slightest mistake would doom him.

Even though Jenner had warned him about revealing that information, Tritus understood that what awaited him if he lied, would be worse than death.

"You must hand over the alchemist named Sophia as well another ten alchemists of your clan immediately so the organizations headed by Rank 4 life form that lost people due to your pills and the Empire Commercial Association can begin their punishment. The alchemists must be people of your clan that have the dragon bloodline, and they..." Tritus stopped speaking here as he was afraid of what would happen if he said the next part, but Ezequiel's pressure was too much, and he continued after a moment.

"They must also be females."

"I see." Ezequiel's eyes were empty, and no emotion could be seen in them. There was a cold aura that surrounded his body, and a monstrous killing intent began to permeate the entire floor.

"Tell me the names of the people that made that request, and also everyone who should have taken part in delivering punishment to my clan."

"My Lord, I don't have any information about those people or their desires!" Tritus was truly frightened.

"Aren't you the Vice-Head of the association.?" Ezequiel's empty eyes focused on Tritus, making this one tremble.

"I no longer hold that title, my Lord. I did not come here by choice." Tritus could not help but display a sad smile on his face when he spoke those words.

Ezequiel's eyes narrowed when he heard that. The man was so terrified that he would not dare to lie. Since he was of no use, he focused on Jenner.

"Do not resist, or you will die."

The Magus did not have time to process Ezequiel's words before a strange power reached her brain and began to manipulate it.

"AHHHH!" Jenner cried as an immense pain began to assault her. The screams stopped in less than thirty seconds, and she fell to the floor.

The Magus was only unconscious, but the damage she received would be hard to mend.

When Ezequiel saw she was still alive, he no longer cared about her condition and focused on the data the Elder Brain had obtained.

There was no information about the one who is attacking the Daybreak Clan from the shadows, but he did obtain the names of those who wanted Sophia and the rest of the women.

'Due to your desires, all that you have known and built will be destroyed, and I will make sure you are defiled until your bodies are broken.'

Chapter 302 - Invictus (IV)

In the information Ezequiel got from Jenner, the schemes and backstabbing tactics from the Empire Commercial Association were displayed. The Neo-Demon focused on Tritus, and a clearer picture of the events that led to this man's deplorable situation appeared in his mind.

Unfortunately for the man, Ezequiel was extremely indifferent to the plight of outsiders. The next moment Tritus vanished from his mind, and he focused on Sirius.

"Speak your part, lizard."

Sirius trembled when he heard those words, and wrath filled his heart, but the fear of death allowed him to maintain a cold head. He took a moment to modify the original tyrannical speech he had planned to deliver before everything got out of hand and then spoke.

"I am aware that my son, Severus, is being detained by the Daybreak Clan. He has royal blood running through his veins and must be handed over. This order comes from the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom, and if Severus is not returned or if his bloodline has been harmed, my father will come to ask for an explanation."

Initially, Sirius was going to ask for billions of magic crystals and people of the Daybreak Clan as slaves, but now he only dared to ask for his son back. The truth was that he did not care about Severus' fate, but when his father found out what had happened, he commanded him to bring the boy back.

'Unlike his son, the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom appears to be an impressive character according to the information we have collected about him and has connections with one of the organizations that control Aestus. If he comes in person, I will be forced to use the tablet to take care of him.' Ezequiel frowned as he thought about how to handle this problem.

Although the Scientia Kingdom could provide a perfect shelter for the Daybreak Clan, that would harm the plan the Supreme Neo-Demon had for the race.

The Neo-Demon race was a warrior race. Rarely would a great fighter be born in an environment without danger and where safety was guaranteed.

The reason why Ezequiel allowed them to think they were at imminent risk was to engrave in them that only by getting strong could they be safe.

Of course, allowing them to think that they were in danger was fine, but truly risking their life was not. That is why he prohibited the entrance to Wasteland after some Sunlight Champions were killed and only allowed movement in the periphery of the Endless Forest, where the Rank 4 life forms from the clan could keep an eye on them.

Another reason why he was against moving the clan was due that the political and territorial structure of the Aeternum Empire allowed the growth of a clan by consuming others. The weak perished, and the strong became stronger.

"How can you be sure that Severus Dragonstone is being held here?." Ezequiel was not just going to admit he had Severus since that would make it easier for the other party to put pressure on them through other channels, instead of only depending on their power.

The Neo-Demon was also curious about how they were sure the boy was here. The cloaking abilities of the Daybreak Tower made it impossible for any life from beneath Rank 5 to scry in the events happening in it, and even then, the information they would get was bound to be faulty.

Sirius was prepared for that question, and he made a parchment full of glowing words appear along with a flask containing a small dark golden flame.

"This is a Truth Oath. It is impossible to write a lie in this thing. You can clearly see the statement written in it by the man beside me, in which he affirms that he saw my son enter the City of the Sun the day of his disappearance. There is also this flame that has the aura of Zatiel Daybreak in it, and that was found in the place where my son's guards were butchered."

The Rank 3 Magus trembled when he heard Sirius mentioning him, and his face became pale the moment Ezequiel focused on him.

"That day, there was a group of individuals that attacked the City of the Sun, and a few of them managed to escape alive. You must know something about it." Ezequiel's eyes glowed, and just as he was about to use the Elder Brain to read his mind, he saw how blood began to leak from every hole on his face, and the next moment his head exploded.

Surprise appeared on the face of the Neo-Demon due to the man's strange death. He focused on Sirius, who was looking back at him like if nothing had happened.

'There is no way he could have predicted what would happen here today, so the trigger on that man's life must have been put in place a long time ago. He may have put that contingency on every person under him.'

Simple death was not something that could stop Ezequiel, but the way the man perished should have harmed his consciousness, making resurrection very hard. After a moment, the Neo-Demon gave up on the dead Magus and focused on the evidence presented by Sirius.

'Although that evidence is not flawless, it would be enough to involve the higher-ups in the empire and that organization in Aestus. Those rats would be delighted with another way to attack us.' A thoughtful look appeared on Ezequiel's face.

After a moment, he focused on Kolo, and an idea appeared on his mind.

'I guess it is time to prove that I deserve one and show them the path forward.' A powerful will filled the eyes of Ezequiel, and a monstrous resolution rose from every cell on his body.

"Your man will take one attack from me. He can use any defensive spell and even his Law Avatar to protect himself. If I can't destroy his body, I will give your son back, but if I can, you will make sure your father forgets about Severus and then destroy any evidence you have against us."

When Sirius and Kolo heard that, they were shocked. A Rank 3 life form saying he could destroy the body of a Soul Forging existence was preposterous, no matter how weak the latter was. If they were handling any other person, both would have laughed, but for some reason, apprehension appeared in their hearts.

'If this brat is proposing something like this, he must have faith in his abilities. Kolo's true battle power is truly pathetic among Rank 4 life forms but still should make him invincible against Rank 3

life forms. I should not risk it since I have other ways to get that boy, not to mention my father could ask for him in person.'

"By the way, if you refuse, I will eventually have to handle your father. So that means killing you would not really make a difference."

Sirius' eyes widened when he heard those words and understood very well he had no real choice. After releasing a sigh, the Magus began to recite words in a strange language, and the next moment a ball of black light appeared.

What he did was use the Oathbinding Spell. This was a simple but powerful spell in which an individual would vow to fulfill a task if certain conditions were met. If he failed to fulfill his oath, a certain penalty would be inflicted on him.

That ball of black light was Sirius' oath. To complete the spell, another being of equal power that the one who made the oath must bear it.

The one who would carry the oath was going to be the Elder Brain. Although it did not have a proper soul, years of nourishing had pushed its body and energy pool to Rank 4.

Kolo began to feel cold sweat run through his body when he saw how Sirius had agreed to this deal. Due to the way he had advanced to Rank 4, losing his body would not only mean his power weakening but his life force depleting even faster.

The Neo-Demon nodded when he saw the oath disappear into the Elder Brain. "This place will limit us."

Ezequiel's body disintegrated into red lightning and left the magic tower.

The next moment, Sirius and the rest of the Magi group, even the unconscious Jenner, were teleported and appeared five hundred meters above the Daybreak Magic Tower.

The place Ezequiel had chosen to perform this contest was the sky above the City of the Sun. where the millions of people in the Daybreak Clan could see him.

Chapter 303 - Invictus (V)

Sirius knew that despite being out of the Daybreak Magic Tower, he was far from being safe.

A magic tower capable of displaying Rank 5 battle power had an attack range of several hundreds of kilometers, not to mention that its reaction speed and destructive power would reach the level a Rank 4 life form could not match.

The Magi group soon noticed the towering giant in front of them.

Ezequiel had returned to his true form, of four hundred and fifty meters high, with arcs of red lightning wider than millennial trees moving around his body. The Neo-Demon appeared to be a divine being as he stood in the air and coldly stared at the Magi group.

In terms of physical might, no other Rank 3 life form in the universe could compare to the Supreme Neo-Demon, not the Void Creatures nor Dawn Titans.

"Prepare your defenses, Magus."

Sirius and the rest were pushed back, leaving Kolo alone.

Kolo was truly surprised by the might of Ezequiel's body since it could compare with the body strength of a weak Rank 4 life form, and it was clear he wasn't using any spell or technique to increase his power.

Of course, that did not mean Ezequiel had the strength of a Soul Forging existence since they possess an immense energy pool and energy output, and they can multiply their strength thanks to their Law Avatars.

'He may be invincible in Rank 3, but I am a Rank 4 life form!. I only need to resist one of his attacks, and then everything will be over.' Kolo was still afraid, but after calculating Ezequiel's strength, he was sure resisting an attack from him would not be difficult.

"Law Avatar: Release!"

The moment he spoke those words, a wave of energy originated from inside Kolo's heart. The next moment he transformed into a two thousand meters tall Sand Dragon.

He did not have wings, the scales that covered his body were sand-colored, and an earth armor was formed in the areas where his vital organs resided. The most distinctive feature of this creature was his large and long mouth from where green sand drooled.

When Ezequiel saw the body of the dragon that was more than four times bigger than his, instead of being impressed, his eyes were filled with scorn.

An adult Sand Dragon would normally have a length of four thousand meters, and some of them could even reach seven thousand meters. The fact that Kolo could only become a two thousand meters Sand Dragon proved how flawed was his advance to Rank 4 and the lack of purity in his bloodline.

"Taking the easy path and giving away your future, just for an increase in lifespan and some fame, truly a coward's path."

Rage appeared in the eyes of the Sand Dragon when he saw the disdain in Ezequiel.

"ROOOAAARRRR!"

Along with that roar, a torrent of green sand came out from the Sand Dragon's mouth, and it surrounded the creature's body. The next moment, the dragon began to roll around himself and finally took the form of a ball, with the head hidden in the center.

'My breath attack can kill any Rank 3 life form that enters in contact with it, and my dragon body has toughness equal to a Pseudo-Rank 4 artifact. He can't harm me!.' Although he said those words to himself, Kolo still could not get rid of the fear that invaded his heart.

The appearance of Ezequiel and the Sand Dragon drew the attention of everyone in the City of the Sun. Fear and anxiety could be seen in the eyes of some of the people as they did not understand what was happening and thought that calamity had finally reached the Daybreak Clan.

Ezequiel noticed the feeling that invaded the heart of his people and focused on the enemy in front of him.

"All of you must remember this. If you want the right to be happy and care for someone, then you must always strive to become more and more powerful. If for a single moment you think that the rules and laws can protect you, then you are far too naive!."

Those words reached every corner of the City of the Sun, and everyone could feel the resolution in them.

The Supreme Neo-Demon's eyes shone, and a red flame appeared on his chest as Blood Essence Combustion was activated. His strength grew greatly, but he had not finished yet.

"Burn: Life Vessel

."

His Elemental Chaos Heart and Bloodline Heart pounded faster and faster until finally reaching a beating rate of 8000 beats per minute. The power with which his hearts pulsated was so great that sounds equal to thunder could be heard above the City of the Sun.

Every man, woman, and child focused on Ezequiel, and they felt their own hearts beating faster as they saw one of the two men that carry the weight of the Daybreak Clan on their shoulders displaying such might.

"We live in a cruel and merciless universe, and the only way to survive in it is to be equally ruthless!. No matter who gets in our way, whether they are gods, buddhas, demons, devils, or angels, we will butcher them all, and with their blood, we will carve our path to eternity. If any of you think you are not capable of doing that, then how can you consider yourself worthy of being one of us!?."

Ezequiel's words were packed with savageness and cruelty. However, there was something else, something all those who had come from Wasteland had experienced, but that decades of peace and comfort had made them forget. That feeling was hunger.

Hunger for power!.

They still trained and focused on growing stronger, but they did not behave like they did when they still strived to survive in Wasteland, where they passed every single moment wanting more strength, where the only desire that guided their actions was to become stronger!.

The Supreme Neo-Demon still had his sight on the Sand Dragon, but he could feel the resolution that appeared in the eyes of the people beneath him.

"Primordial Condensation."

Ezequiel's body shrank, and in less than a second, he went from four hundred and fifty meters to only fifteen meters.

Contrary to his size, his strength only increased, and the natural energy and Origin Power of the world began to converge in him. Thanks to his body now fusing with part of his energy and consciousness, he was able to harmonize with the world and everything that surrounded him.

The Supreme Neo-Demon reached his most powerful state, but that wasn't good enough.

"Tribulations and calamities will follow us in every part of our journey. Sometimes it only takes one wrong turn for everything to be over, and even the most glorious destiny can end in an instant."

Every member of the Daybreak Clan focused on the words of the Supreme Neo-Demon, and even the Soul Forging existences like Totto and Nero that were currently in the City of the Sun were not different.

Ezequiel took a deep breath and closed his eyes before pushing Primordial Condensation beyond its limits, and slowly the body of the Neo-Demon began to condensate once again.

The connection formed by energy, body, and consciousness began to improve with every centimeter he was able to shorten.

This process was not easy for the Neo-Demon since he was forcefully enhancing the fusion of his centers of power, and every second he felt as if his consciousness was being hammered over and over again. The pain he was feeling did not fall short of the one that tearing a piece of his soul would provoke, but Ezequiel kept pushing forward.

"The only way to predict the future is to be powerful enough to forge it according to your will. To be so strong that space and time can only bow to you. That is the level all of us must reach, in order to be truly free!"

Chapter 304 - Invictus (Final)

The words Ezequiel spoke could come from anyone, but all those who heard them felt the determination in the Supreme Neo-Demon to fulfill that goal. To him, attaining immortality was just the beginning of his path. He was set on reaching the point where nothing could escape his grasp and bend reality to his will.

As the Neo-Demon body grew smaller, storms filled with red lightning covered the sky and extended all over the City of the Sun. The amount of natural energy and Origin Power his body was drawing grew larger, as did his ability to harmonize with the elements and forces around him.

When Ezequiel's body reached nine meters, he began to tremble, and you could see the pain on his face. Blood began to leak from the corner of his eyes and mouth, but he still kept forcefully pushing Primordial Condensation forward.

There was a woman with black hair looking at Ezequiel from the Daybreak Magic Tower, and her eyes were filled with love and concern.

Ezequiel clenched his fist as the pain grew, but finally, after pushing his body to the limit, he reached five meters in height. The moment that happened, a qualitative improvement occurred in the fusion of his three centers of power.

A multicolored whirlwind formed around the Neo-Demon due to the different types of natural energy and Origin Power being drawn to his body and the storm in the sky grew wider and more powerful.

The Supreme Neo-Demon still had his eyes closed, and instead of focusing on the strength that was running through his body, he put his full attention on the connection he was able to create with the world.

The moment Ezequiel opened his eyes, Kolo and the rest of the Magi group that was in his sight began to tremble uncontrollably. They all felt that their entire existence was being scrutinized, and there was nothing they could do to stop that from happening.

The pupils and iris in Ezequiel's eyes had disappeared, and there was nothing but white in them. What the Neo-Demon saw was worlds without color, and everything turned black.

However, slowly another color began to appear in the black universe. Red scars began to fill the sky, the air, the earth, the people, the magic tower. No matter whether they were dead or alive, biological or inorganic, they all had these scars. The only thing that changed was the number of red scars and their size.

Everything in the universe was composed of powerful forces.

One of them focused on the energy aspect of existence. It made possible the presence of things like Abyss Aura, Elemental Chaos, Sword Light, among others.

The other was connected to the physical aspect of existence, allowing the birth and growth of worlds, stars, and even the body of a great number of races in the universe.

The last of these forces was the most ephemeral and complicated one, the one that focused on the spiritual aspect of existence and the one that supported the presence of souls, World Consciousness, Star Consciousness, and an uncountable number of other entities.

These forces use the laws as their matrix with which they create everything that exists.

But this great matrix had flaws, and the ones inside worlds were even more flawed since their laws were weaker than the one that supported the entire universe.

Those red scars in Ezequiel's sight were exactly the flaws in the matrix where you would need the least strength to produce the greatest damage and break everything.

"So this is The Flawed Universe."

The unique physical state Ezequiel achieved was something only those with a Primordial bloodline could reach. By thoroughly harmonizing with the universe and its laws, they could push their sight beyond the main plain of existence and see The Flawed Universe.

Primordials were not the only ones that could gaze into The Flawed Universe. However, every other race or species that was capable of achieving that feat could not compare with the level of perception these beings could achieve.

Ezequiel obtained knowledge about this ability from his bloodline the moment he first came in contact with the laws. He had reached the peak of Rank 3 a long time ago, and the only reason he did not awake his True Soul was due to the interference of the Chaotic-Core.

The Neo-Demon focused on his opponent and saw how his poison breath spell, his body, and everything about him was completely packed with red scars. Some of these scars were thinner than a hair, but others extended for more than one meter.

After reaching this miraculous state, Ezequiel was ready. Killing intent was released from every cell of his body as he walked until he was right in front of the poisonous sand. He adopted a battle stance and began to accumulate strength in his right fist.

Kolo could see Ezequiel's figure. Those white eyes that could see through him and right fist that began to accumulate an unbelievable amount of natural energy and Origin Power terrified him.

A roar was heard once again, and the density and quantity of the poisonous sand grew larger. The Magus knew that running away or attacking would be futile. Even if the Daybreak Magic Tower did not kill him, Ezequiel was too close, and his fist had enough power to break his body the moment he left his defensive posture.

'No matter how powerful this monster is, he can't break this dragon body that was formed by using my Law Avatar. He may harm me, but he can't break my body. He can't do it!.' Kolo was terrified, and he kept repeating those words over and over again.

Ezequiel's right fist was filled with arcs of red lightning and all the natural energy and Origin Power that he was able to draw mixed with them. Soon a golden red ball of energy was formed on his right fist, and the light it generated was so great that it gave the illusion to the people of the Daybreak Clan a red sun appeared in the sky.

"You know, I don't have a last name. Unlike that woman who has chosen to take my Master's name, what I seek is another path."

This time. Ezequiel's words did not reach every person in the City of the Sun. Although Kolo was able to hear them, it was clear that it made no difference for the Neo-Demon whether he was paying attention to them or not.

"I don't seek to match his strength and always be behind him. What I want is to surpass him!."

The red sun in Ezequiel's right fist kept growing more powerful. The Neo-Demon's body trembled due to the stress he was sustaining, and blood continued to leak from his eyes and mouth, but that did not stop him.

"I can never equal his wisdom and cunning mind, but what I can do is focus on what makes me special. That is brute power, one so large that can break every scheme and trap in my path. I will reach a strength that will surpass him, even as we reach our absolute peaks."

Ezequiel's words made his killing intent so pure that a red mantle formed around him. Accompanying that slaughtering aura was unwavering devotion and admiration.

"I will be powerful enough to stand by his side, not as a follower, but as an equal. I will help him destroy every obstacle in his path, and nothing can stop me."

The Supreme Neo-Demon's eyes narrowed as he focused on the greater red scars in his enemy's defenses and body.

"My last name will embody that ambition. The goal of being victorious under any circumstance!"

Ezequiel flashed forward, and the poisonous sand on his path split in two due to the Neo-Demon's monstrous body crashing right into one of his flaws.

"I will be..."

Using every ounce of power he had, Ezequiel's right fist hit the Sand Dragon's tail. The red sun landed in the biggest flaw of the creature.

"INVICTUS!"

"NO!" Kolo's voice was heard as cracks began to appear all over his dragon body before this one exploded into a blast of brown energy, leaving nothing but a blue humanoid floating in the air.

Sirius was shocked and could not believe what he had just witnessed. Only one attack was needed to destroy Kolo's Law Avatar and leave nothing of this one other than his True Soul.

The Magus shock did not end there. He noticed that Kolo's True Soul remained floating in the sky without moving and how his eyes were closed.

"That... that is not possible." Sirius understood that the only reason for a True Soul to behave like that was because the damage it received was too large and entered into a comatose state.

Kolo's True Soul was already weaker than normal, and it could not heal from that.

For all intent and purposes, Ezequiel, a Rank 3 life form, had killed a Soul Forging existence with a single punch.

Chapter 305 - Hard Choice

After landing that blow and using the red sun to destroy Kolo's dragon body, Ezequiel started to shake as a great amount of blood was ejected from his eyes, mouth, and ears.

The next moment, the light vanished from the eyes of the Supreme Neo-Demon as he slipped into unconsciousness, making his body return to his titanic size and fell from the sky.

Pushing his body beyond its limits and performing an attack with such a massive energy output had put his three centers of power under unbelievable stress. The moment his enemy was no longer present, Ezequiel unconsciously relaxed for a second, allowing the backlash from that attack to affect him.

Despite falling from the sky with blood leaking from every orifice on his face, a glorious smile was present in the Supreme Neo-Demon, and all the members of the Daybreak Clan who were seeing him felt an uncontrollable battle intent fill their hearts.

The people in the City of the Sun weren't able to hear most of Ezequiel's speech, but there was one word that reached them, and that would be engraved in their minds until the day their souls vanished.

Invictus.

It is on this day, in a small clan of the Aeternum Empire of the Magi World, that the name that will one day become taboo in a myriad of worlds and that could incite fear even in the most fiendish of races was born.

While the people of the Daybreak Clan saw Ezequiel with eyes full of respect and admiration, one person was looking at him with poisonous envy and immense killing intent.

'Why!. Why does this insignificant brat that came from nowhere possess such a monstrous talent when someone like me, who is the Prince of a great kingdom that contains hundreds of millions of subjects, has to rot away in Rank 4?.' Sirius knew that attacking would doom him, but that fear did not stop a vicious murdering desire from appearing in his heart.

The thought of killing such a monstrous genius was too exciting for him. He even began to consider whether or not it was worth sacrificing what little was left from his life for the chance of taking away such a great genius from the universe.

However, before the Magus could decide what to do, a giant bone hand materialized beneath Ezequiel and carefully supported his body. From the hand, pulses of energy were being released that absorbed the vitality in the sunlight that filled the City of the Sun and redirected it to the unconscious Neo-Demon.

Four people surrounded the bone hand. Their eyes were cold as they focused on the man who dared to show killing intent to one of the two most important individuals of the Daybreak Clan.

One of them was a woman with black hair and green eyes surrounded by particles that were in a constant state of change between light and shadows. Another was a young man with yellow eyes and seven wings full of black feathers. There was also a middle-aged man with a brutish appearance and from whom a powerful Sunlight Aura was being released.

The last one was a mummified man with eyes full of blue flames. He carried an aura of despair and hopelessness so powerful and dense that manifested itself as a black robe full of screaming faces.

Totto took a couple of steps forward and did not attempt to hide the killing intent in his eyes.

"Did you dare to think of attacking him, you decrepit lizard?"

Sirius trembled when he heard those words and saw the arrival of these four Soul Forging existence. He clearly felt that the difference in power was so great that each of them could kill him easily.

The Magus' face grew pale, and fear appeared in his eyes as he felt that death was just moments away.

Disdain appeared in the eyes of Totto and the rest when they saw the cowardly behavior of Sirius, and just as they were about to restrain him, a voice was heard.

"Enough."

The voice was calm, and there wasn't any ferocity in it. However, the moment it appeared, the storm that Ezequiel had created vanished, and the entire City of the Sun was covered by a golden membrane due to the Daybreak Magic Tower detecting a powerful entity.

The energy in the Sunshine Cores was redirected to the Sunlight Core, and this one was ready to explode into a blast of energy that could decimate stars.

The moment Totto, Zitra, Nero, and the brutish man detected that powerful presence, they completely forgot about Sirius and focused on the man that appeared in the sky, just outside the Daybreak Magic Tower's range of attack.

The man in the sky appeared to be in his early twenties, with black metallic hair, red eyes, and scales that covered certain parts of his body and released ash. He was very similar in appearance to Sirius, but that was where their similarities ended.

His youthful looks were not due to a spell but due to him possessing a thriving life force that burned with unrestrained power. Even if he had been alive for a long time, it was clear that he had used less than ten percent of his lifespan.

This man released an aura full of ancient draconic savageness, and from every part of his body, an immense physical strength could be felt.

Dragons may not be the most physically powerful race in the universe, but no one would dare to say that their bodies were weak. This man was a Magus, so that meant he could use all kinds of techniques to take advantage of his natural gift and push it to the next level.

Three different forces were rotating around this man, and each of them displayed immense strength. One of them was red, another was black, and the last one was green.

When Sirius saw this man, a smile appeared on his face, and courage returned to his heart.

"Father!"

The man in the sky who appeared to be able to split continents with his hands was the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom, Andras Dragonstone.

Totto could feel the immense power of the man in the sky and how the laws were raging around him. He was clearly not like those Rank 5 life forms who got lucky and barely managed to push only one of their laws to the Initial level.

Nero, Zitra, and Totto looked at each other and nodded as they prepared to respond in case this man attacked.

A smug smile appeared on Sirius' face when he saw the solemn behavior from the people who had terrified him a moment ago.

"Hahaha, what happened, weren't you..."

"Shut up, trash!."

The one who yelled at Sirius was not someone from the Daybreak Clan, but his own father.

Anger could be seen in Andras' face as he focused on his son and rebuked him mercilessly.

"Haven't you done enough? Not only did you fail to bring that boy back, but now you want to gloat when I was forced to come and rescue you."

Sirius trembled when he heard those words, and he looked down to hide the rage and shame he was feeling.

Andras shook his head, and frustration filled his eyes when he saw the cowardly behavior of his son.

The King of the Dragonstone Kingdom had lived thousands of years and fought in countless battles, so he understood the truth of the universe, that there is no such thing as good and evil, only power. He would not care if his son goes around butchering anyone in his path but the fact he only knew how to bully the weak and fear the strong filled him with disappointment.

He no longer paid attention to his son and focused on the Soul Forging group.

"I will take him and my grandson and leave. I don't have any desire to participate in a meaningless battle." Andras' voice was filled with a powerful sense of authority that could only be born in a man who had been in a position of power for a long time.

"Father..." Sirius' voice was weak. He kept looking down as he called his father.

"I know about your stupid oath. We will destroy the evidence we have against the Daybreak Clan, and I will assist you in resisting the backlash for the part you failed to fulfill. Whether or not you survive is up to you." Andras kept looking at Totto and the rest and did not bother with Sirius' nasty expression.

Totto and Zitra looked at each other. They were both in a difficult situation. Ezequiel had shared with them the information about the tablet from the Scientia Kingdom, but they also knew that unless it was necessary, he did not want to use it.

Although the Daybreak Magic Tower could express Rank 5 battle power, it could not compare with the versatility of a true Law Engraving existence capable of using the laws. They would be forced to restrain him for the Sunlight Core to deal the killing blow, and that battle could generate collateral damage.

"Since when has my clan been a place where outsiders can come and give orders?." A voice full of undisputable might was heard throughout the entire City of the Sun.

When Zitra heard that voice, her body trembled. The next moment, she saw a man appear in front of her. He had eight wings filled with purple shooting stars, short black hair, three eyes, and a golden aura full of will.

"You are back." A beautiful smile appeared on Zitra's face when she spoke those words.

Chapter 306 - Unreconcilable Enmity

The moment Zatiel returned, Totto, Zitra, and everyone else felt an immense weight leaving their shoulders and peace return to their minds.

No matter how dire the circumstances were or how powerful was the opponent in front of them, in their minds, it was engraved the thought that Zatiel could always handle any threat that presented itself, no matter how great it was.

A smile and admiration appeared in the normal members of the Daybreak Clan when they saw their leader's imposing figure in the sky.

The reaction of the Neo-Demons was more notable. Devotion filled the eyes of the adults and children as they unconsciously knelt, while a sense of comfort and peace overflowed their hearts. They even felt their Chaotic-Cores began to spin faster and their energy pool growing.

Some Neo-Demons babies who had never seen the ancestor before were baffled for a moment, but the next second, an innocent smile appeared on their faces, and they attempted to fly to him. Luckily, their elders were able to catch them, but they kept struggling and extended their little arms, trying to shorten the distance between them.

Zatiel's consciousness was able to cover the entirety of the City of the Sun. When he saw those little Neo-Demons doing all they could to get close to him, a kind smile appeared on his face, and warmth filled his heart.

He had reached the Magi World a couple of minutes ago by using the World Gate that was built on the lower floor of the Daybreak Magic Tower. This was one of the tasks he had given to Dante before sending him out of the Beta Heavenly World.

No one detected his presence, except for the Elder Brain, but Dante's consciousness that was controlling it was told to remain silent. The Neo-Demon did not want the news that he had come back to the Magi World spreading.

Working in the shadows was easier and allowed Zatiel a wider range of activities in the Magi World, where everything was always being monitored by powerhouses. To the Neo-Demon, fame was meaningless, and there wasn't much he would gain by displaying his might to the world.

Unfortunately, he was not an omnipotent being and could not always have things go his way. Andras' arrival had forced him to reveal himself since he would not allow someone who had attempted to harm his people to escape his grasp.

'Well, it doesn't really matter. Things will be a little messier, but at least this way, they will know who to fear.'

Zatiel did not bother with the problems of tomorrow and focused on the problems of today. He raised his index finger, and from it, a tiny drop of purple blood heavier than a massive boulder appeared.

The drop of blood flew to Ezequiel's head and vanished inside it. The next moment, dense purple flames began to permeate the insides of the Supreme Neo-Demon, and an aura full of vitality and strength radiated from him.

When Tutto, who had been monitoring the condition of Ezequiel as he sent vitality to him, perceived the effects of the purple flame, he was shocked.

Although Ezequiel had not harmed his soul, his consciousness, body, and energy were submitted to immense stress and would be in a weakened state for a long time. The Supreme Neo-Demon would have needed absolute rest for several months along with powerful medicines before returning to his peak.

But now, the purple flames were fixing all the damage with an unbelievable speed, and the Lich would not be surprised if he recovered in a couple of hours.

Tutto's surprise did not end there. After a moment, he realized that the flames were not only healing the damage but also tempering Ezequiel's centers of power, which would allow him to resist even greater burdens in the future.

"I am aware of everything that happened in my absence. I will have a more meaningful and long talk with all of you after this is over, but for now, return to the Daybreak Magic Tower and focus on the city's defenses." Zatiel kept looking at the Bloodline Magus in the sky as he spoke those words.

The four Soul Forging existences that were surrounding the bone hand were surprised when they heard that command. The feeling Andras gave to every one of them was of extreme danger, and they were unable to determine with precision his strength.

The strength of a Rank 5 life form at the 6th Engraving Stage was almost ten times greater than that of someone at the 1st Engraving Stage, not to mention the unique physique one would obtain once your laws had permeated every part of your body.

"I can feel the massive change in you and understand that your power is immense, but it would be better if we all battle together against him. I can assure you I will not be a burden." Nero's eyes were filled with blue light, and his bloodline began to explode with energy making the shadow of his eighth wing appear.

The Fallen eyes fell in Zatiel's wings for a moment, and he did not hide his curiosity, but he knew that this was not the time to ask questions.

"I can perceive the growth in your powers, and your assistance will be useful against this man, but he is not our only opponent." After saying those words, Zatiel stopped looking at Andras and focused on the distance, where the entrance to Wasteland was located, just a few kilometers away from the periphery of the force field that covered the City of the Sun.

The whirlpool of purple energy in the right eye of the Neo-Demon began to rotate faster for a moment before an invisible blast of energy was fired from it.

Time and space appeared to have no effect on this energy because the moment it was fired from the Rebirth Eye, it immediately reached the entrance of Wasteland.

The next instant, a cry of pain was heard, and cracks appeared in the air before the scene changed, and the presence of nine individuals was revealed.

They were all Bloodline Magi with draconic characteristics, and by the power of their souls, it was clear they were Rank 4 life forms.

One of the Soul Forging existences was a woman with white draconic wings, whose presence was obscured by a strange force. She was grabbing her head while blood leaked from her eyes, and immense pain was visible on her face.

The power of the Rebirth Eye had broken her cloaking spell, and it took advantage of the backlash the woman received to invade her consciousness and began to ravish it.

The Bloodline Magi by her side immediately went to her rescue, but they found it difficult to expel the foreign energy from her consciousness.

Nero and the rest were surprised by the appearance of this group. Initially, they thought Andras had come alone and that they would have been capable of handling him with the help of the magic tower, but it appeared they were too naive.

From the sky, an immense pressure descended on Zatiel and the entire City of the Sun. Its origin was the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom that released the might of his energy.

The golden membrane from the Daybreak Magic Tower protected the City of the Sun and its people, but the land around it began to split apart, and some small mountains were being crushed under the might of this pressure.

"Go." Zatiel just spoke those words before focusing once again on the man in the sky, around whom radiation powerful enough to melt the body of Rank 3 life form was being released.

Totto and the rest nodded before returning to the magic tower with Ezequiel. They all adopted battle positions and were ready to intercept the Rank 4 life forms from the Dragonstone Kingdom in case they attempted to either attack the City of the Sun or help their leader.

Andras could not help but frown as he saw the three eyes of Zatiel focusing on him, especially the one that resembled a portal made of raging purple energy. His instincts were warning him about the immense danger that eye represented.

"I guess the stories about you were not an exaggeration. You are so young, and I can deduce that you awoke your True Soul not too long ago, and yet your power is so high. Truly an impressive genius. I will reiterate, I will take my son and grandson and leave. I am even willing to forget you attacking one of my subordinates. I can assure you that no enmity will be formed between our two organizations for at least one hundred years if you handed them over and break the oath that stupid son of mine made." Andras' voice was calm, and although he spoke in a respectful tone, it was clear he considered himself superior to his opponent.

"You got things wrong. The enmity between our organizations was forged the moment your son dared to think of putting his hand over one of the most innocent members of my clan. I will butcher everyone related to him, and that includes your kingdom." Zatiel's eyes were cold and his words extremely tyrannical, making clear that peace was never an option.

"Are you sure about that?" Andras' voice was still calm, but the pressure he released grew, making storms that covered the sky, not only above the City of the Sun but also thousands of kilometers around it.

"Yes." Zatiel's voice was filled with killing intent. He turned his sight away from Andras and focused on Sirius, who was trying to get away from the attack range of the Daybreak Magic Tower.

Chapter 307 - Fire Vs Fire

Sirius was terrified when he saw Zatiel's cold eyes focus on him. He was about to scream and attempt to run to his father when a purple plane where life and death were one and the same appeared in his mind.

The True Soul of the Magus could not even fight back before being sealed. Sirius lost consciousness, and a force grabbed his body along with the one of Jenner.

Both Rank 4 Magi were pulled into Zatiel's direction, and they remained floating right in front of the Neo-Demon.

Andras did not show any emotion when he saw this. Zatiel and Sirius were still inside the range of attack from the Daybreak Magic Tower, and he would not risk receiving an attack with the full power of the Sunlight Core.

Zatiel put the palms of his hands on the back of the heads of the duo and closed his eyes for a moment as he concentrated. The eclipse, in his Bloodline Heart, began to shine with a mysterious purple light and two drops of purple blood, full of minute runes, rose from it.

From each of the palms of the Neo-Demon, one of those drops came out. They entered the heads of Sirius and Jenner before covering the duo in purple flames so thick that their bodies could not be seen.

The purple fire disappeared less than a minute after it swallowed the bodies of the duo. What appeared instead of Sirius and Jenner were two exact copies of Zatiel.

The appearance of these copies surprised everyone, but soon that surprise transformed into disbelief as the consciousness of the Soul Forging existences from the Daybreak Clan and the Dragonstone Kingdom analyzed them.

If it was only the appearance of Zatiel that those copies mimicked, then although they would be surprised and a little confused by his action, there was no reason to be impressed.

However, what was detected in them was Zatiel's unparalleled bloodline, his laws, and the unique abilities of his eyes. They even felt the bizarre characteristics of his soul aura that seemed to be formed by different entities and yet still be one homogeneous force.

The only thing that separated them was that the physical might the copies expressed was inferior to the one of the Neo-Demon.

Andras was shocked for a moment before returning to his calm self. His consciousness was stronger than the Soul Forging existences beneath him, so he was able to have a clearer idea about the power of the clones.

"Clones that can display fifty to sixty percent of your body strength, and the same control over the laws that the original possesses. To build these things with such ease, what laws are the ones you control?"

Creating clones and incarnations is not very hard for individuals who have awoken their True Souls, like Heinz with his Blood Incarnation. However, a lot of time and resources are needed to build them.

Ninety-nine percent of clones and incarnations were controlled by Seeds of Consciousness, and the might of the laws they can express is limited.

For those whose power is connected to a bloodline, this process is even more complicated.

In Andras' case, he would need to hunt down an adult Ash Dragon and carefully extract his bloodline. Even then, it would be difficult for a clone to express all the power of the bloodline since those at Rank 4 and above have a connection to the True Soul, a thing clones don't have.

To generate these clones, Zatiel used the Innate Spell his Rebirth Eclipse Bloodline granted him once his advance to Rank 4 was completed.

The spell's name was Rebirth Incarnation. What it did was to use the eclipse in Zatiel's Bloodline Heart to create a drop of blood that contains a law diagram with all the information about the Neo-Demon.

The drop of blood would then be put in a living vessel that needs to be in the same Rank that Zatiel. After that, the law diagram would galvanize the soul, energy, and body of the vessel to give birth to a copy of the Neo-Demon.

Creating each drop of blood put great pressure on the eclipse in his heart, so Zatiel could not have more than two of his Rebirth Incarnations active at the same time.

The True Soul and energy pool of Jenner and Sirius were strong enough to transform into a copy of the ones of Zatiel after being ignited. However, their bodies were so weak that they could not fully display the might of the Neo-Demon's body.

Zatiel ignored the question of his opponent and instead focused on his Rebirth Incarnations.

'Their bodies may be weaker, but by using my rebirth fire and laws, their striking power should be sufficient. They are burning the soul, energy, and body of the duo to remain active. During a battle, the consumption will grow, but they will last enough, at least for this fight.'

Only after assessing his new spell did Zatiel's eyes landed again in Andras. His perception was powerful, but the might of the Magus' law made it difficult to perform any type of analysis.

"Aren't you angry that I killed your son?" Zatiel detected that even after seeing Sirius being consumed by his purple flames, Andras never showed anger.

When the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom heard that, a small smile appeared on his face.

"He was useless, a complete waste. You did me a favor by killing him since I will no longer have to clean his mess. Of course, you will have to pay for that, or else I will be the laughing stock of the Magi World."

Zatiel did not find Andras' answer odd. In a universe where the goal was immortality, the bond between father and son can be strong, weak, or even non-existing.

Mortals give birth to children to pass down their bloodline and maintain a piece of them in the world after they are gone, but for beings seeking eternity, children have another purpose. They can be powerful helpers, someone to keep an eye on their territories, or sometimes nothing more than a vessel they can possess in case their bodies are lost.

The Neo-Demon nodded to the response of the Magus and proceeded to break the space by his side. He and his Rebirth Incarnations were sucked into the crack that was formed.

Andras looked at the sky and saw the trio appear thousands of kilometers above the City of the Sun. The King knew that fighting in the sky would allow his opponent to focus completely on the battle since he would not have to contain himself or worry about his city.

However, he also did not want to fight in a place so close to a dangerous weapon that could harm him greatly, and that was filled with people that could injure him if he wasn't careful.

The Magus also broke the space by his side, and a moment later, he appeared a couple of thousand meters away from Zatiel.

For beings of their power, the distance between each other was insignificant, and they could cover it instantly. But, none of them moved from their position and just focused on their opponent.

From Andras' body, the full might of his energy pool was released. A scorching dark red aura full of blazing energy appeared in the sky and launched itself to Zatiel.

The eyes of the Neo-Demon and the two Rebirth Incarnations glowed, and they unleashed the power of their own energy pools. From each of them, a grey aura saturated with extremely dense and heavy energy appeared.

The grey aura of Zatiel and the two Rebirth Incarnation fused into a single force before clashing with the dark red aura.

Thunder and lightning filled the sky as the two powerful energies collided.

A giant grey and red tornado appeared around the duo, and it extended for thousands of meters. The power in its winds was high enough to tear apart the bodies of weak Rank 4 life forms, and if they were closer to the ground, they would contaminate everything in a radius of hundreds of kilometers.

Andras' energy pool was several times larger than the one of Zatiel, and he had made modifications to it, enhancing it with blazing attributes.

However, the energy pool of the Neo-Demon contained the extremely high-grade energy that was Elemental Chaos. By combining it with the ones of his Rebirth Incarnations, he could match the force of the energy pool of a seasoned Law Engraving existence with a King bloodline.

After a minute of fighting, neither of the auras proved to be superior to the other, and both Zatiel and Andras made them return.

Neither of them spoke a word, and they only made their weapons appear.

Andras made gloves and boots full of spikes with red runes appear on his body. From his back, two giant black roots that appear to belong to an apocalyptic tree emerged.

A bone sword appeared in the hands of Zatiel and the two Rebirth Incarnations. They sent their Elemental Chaos to the swords, lighting up the runes in them and making a hellish blue fire appear.

The purple fire that was filling the body of the trio mixed with the blue fire, greatly increasing the power in the swords, but they did not finish there.

They activated the unique abilities of the Absolute Solar Yang True Doomsday Body. A torrent of purple and blue fire was released from the bone swords.

The next moment, those flames that extended for hundreds of meters began to compress themselves until the only thing that was left was a thin purple and blue line of fire covering the edge of the bone swords.

Zatiel and Andras looked at each other before disappearing.

The next moment, an explosion of red, blue, and purple fire filled the sky. The heat in it was higher than you would find on the surface of a Low World's sun.

Chapter 308 - Apocalypse Blast

Zatiel and his Rebirth Incarnations were constantly clashing against Andras, and before a minute had passed, the sky was filled with giant streams of fire.

Some of them were dark red and released unbearable temperatures that could burn the atmosphere in Low Worlds. Others were blue, and their power was linked to the Law of Destruction in one of the greatest fiend planes of the universe.

The last of the streams were purple and space and time behaved erratically around them. Any life form beneath Rank 4 that touched that purple fire would have their vitality transform into death, and their bodies and souls would rot in seconds.

Their fight had just begun, and they already made the area of hundreds of kilometers around them a death zone for any life form beneath Rank 4. Weak Soul Forging existences would be forced to run away if they approached the core of the battlefield.

The Neo-Demon and the King of the Dragonstone Kingdom were moving so fast that even if the flames were not covering their figures, it would be impossible for a Rank 3 life form to see them.

The wings in the Neo-Demon's back allowed him not only higher speed, but he could also use them as a shield. Each feather had the sturdiness of a Pseudo Rank 5 Artifact.

The Eyes of Life and Creation in Zatiel and the Rebirth Incarnations were constantly absorbing the energy around them. Once they were fully charged, they fired powerful beams of energy.

The Eyes of Death and Destruction released a dark force field around the trio. Everything inside it would have its wounds infected by death force, and its vitality slowly fading away.

Death force was the antithesis of the life force that was present in every living form. It infected the body and tissues of a life form once they lost vitality, making regeneration harder and worsening the wounds in them. This was a very mysterious force, and trying to perceive it without a very high law comprehension or special bloodline was impossible.

Zatiel's mastery over the Rebirth Eye was not as deep as with his other two eyes, but thanks to his bloodline, he instinctively knew how to use it in battle. The whirlpool of raging purple energy was rotating faster and faster, sending an invisible force that attempted to invade the consciousness and soul of Andras.

The King of the Dragonstone Kingdom was an experienced fighter and knew how to use every part of his body as a weapon, combining spells and his physical might to deploy crushing destructive force.

Every attack with his fist and legs carried enough power to pulverize entire cities. His body was able to transform into shadows and return to normal at will. He did that to increase his speed and dodge Zatiel's attack, as well as to shrink the distance between them and land devastating blows.

The black roots that rose from Andras' back were not only powerful and nimble, but they could also split into smaller and faster roots that were covered by red fire.

A massive explosion of three colored fire occurred when Zatiel's bone sword and Andras' fist collided once again.

Zatiel's swordsmanship was sublime, and he was able to reduce much of the force on his opponent's fist by attacking at the correct angle. However, he still felt his arms tremble due to the immense strength of the King.

Andras' situation was not better. The flames in Zatiel's bone sword were so powerful that despite his gloves being Rank 5 Artifacts, he still felt his hands burning and the vitality in them being

destroyed. He was forced to send healing energy to them, to stop significant damage from occurring.

Another problem Andras had was that the bone swords were incredibly heavy and hard. This was due to the Absolute Solar Yang True Doomsday Body using the yang properties of the flames to enhance the weight and hardness of each body and sword right before every clash.

Both the Neo-Demon and the Magus were pushed back after the clash.

The Rebirth Incarnations took the chance and launched themselves to Andras, but before they could reach him, the roots got in the way.

The eyes of the Rebirth Incarnations narrowed. Past encounters have proven that the strength of the roots was greater than theirs. They fought back and made deep cuts in the roots that were filled with blue and purple fire before being pushed back.

The Rebirth Incarnations used the impulse and regrouped with Zatiel. Once the trio regained control over their bodies, their Eyes of Life and Creation released a beam of energy with all the power they have been charged with.

Andras had managed to regain control of his body right about the time Zatiel did and saw the beams of energy heading in his direction with a speed he could not dodge.

The energy in the lungs of the Magus erupted. The moment he opened his mouth, a blast of dark red fire was shot and collided with the beams of energy coming from the Eyes of Life and Creation.

The two attacks pushed against each other while the sky appeared to be ripping apart. The blast sound and heat they generated were felt in the City of the Sun despite the immense distance between the battlefield and them.

After a moment, the clash between the two energies resulted in a blazing explosion that covered both parties.

Andras exited the fiery ball the next instant. Although there were some burn wounds on his body, they were not severe, and green energy was healing them very fast.

The King immediately focused on assessing the location of his enemy, and his eyes widened when he was unable to detect him. Like him, Zatiel should have come out of the explosion at the other end of it, but neither he nor his Rebirth Incarnations were visible.

Before he could figure out his enemy's position, three figures emerged right from where he exited the explosion.

Andras was surprised by the ruthlessness of his opponent. He could see the large wounds all over his body due to him passing through the explosion to hide from his consciousness and take him by surprise.

The Magus acted fast and attacked with his roots. Unfortunately for him, the Rebirth Incarnations were prepared, and they intercepted them, leaving the Neo-Demon a clear path to the Magus.

Zatiel was not carrying his bone sword, and the Magus was sure he could not harm him with just his body. However, his instincts warned him of great danger, so he attacked with everything he had.

Andras punched with his right fist and aimed at the head of the Neo-Demon. The speed and energy he was able to charge in that attack were less than normal due to the ambush.

The Neo-Demon's eyes were cold as he saw that fist coming to him. He moved his body at the last moment, saving his head from the attack, but this one still managed to destroy his shoulder and right arm.

Zatiel was able to maintain his body next to that of the Magus. By positioning himself on his enemy's right side, he moved away from the range of the left arm of Andras and proceeded to aim his left palm at his head.

"Apocalypse Blast."

The King of the Dragonstone Kingdom felt his instinct screaming in danger when he heard those words and perceived the energy running through Zatiel's body and gathering in his left arm. He moved his body and covered his head with his free arm before a purple torrent of flaming energy was fired from the Neo-Demon's palm.

An explosion that broke space and generated a storm of wild and chaotic energy that extended for thousands of kilometers occurred the moment the blast collided with Andras' body.

All the Rank 4 life forms that were using their consciousness to watch the battle were shocked when they felt the power in that attack. The strength in it was so high that it did not belong to the realm of Soul Forging.

Zatiel was able to generate an attack that reached the might of a Rank 5 spell. The most impressive part was that he did not have his Law Avatar active.

From the explosion, four figures were thrust away. Three belonged to Zatiel and his Rebirth Incarnations that were pushed down.

The fourth figure belonged to Andras, who was pushed up. His body was covered in purple fire, and his condition was unknown.

The Neo-Demon's face was pale as he fell and lost control of his body for a moment.

The Apocalypse Blast Zatiel used was the evolved form of Abyssal Blast. It not only contained wild and chaotic Elemental Chaos that had been compressed in the Chaotic Core, but it also supplemented it with all that was left in his energy pool and also the power of his bloodline.

If any other life form were to try to perform such a massive energy output at Rank 4, their bodies would shatter. Only Neo-Demons that have extremely tempered bodies and Astral Origin to enhance the durability of their organs and flesh were capable of such a feat.

Zatiel felt as if his head was being split apart due to his abrupt depletion of energy.

Soon the reservoir of Elemental Chaos that was kept in his stomach, thanks to his Apocalyptic Star, began to refill his energy pool.

The Rebirth Incarnations appeared by his side and guarded him while using their Eyes of Death and Destruction to remove the death force from his body.

The Neo-Demon felt his purple flames consuming all the damaging energy in his body and used it to heal him. However, his focus was on the voice in his mind.

"Bip..."

Magical defenses of the target have been broken...

Initiating scanning...

Scan successful.

Name: Adras Dragonstone

Path of Power: Bloodline Magi (Rank 5, Peak 1st Engraving Stage)

Strength: 7.9

Physique; 8.1

Speed: 5.3

Energy Pool: 7.1

Soul Origin: 5.2

Law detected: Law of Fire, Law of Shadows, Law of Wood.

Note: The target doesn't contain a True Soul. A vessel with similar properties is taking the place of this one."

Zatiel's eyes narrowed when he heard the last part and looked to the sky.

Chapter 309 - We Will Meet Again

Andras's body stabilized after being pushed more than ten thousand meters into the air. Slowly the purple flaming energy that covered the Magus' body and hid his figure from everyone began to disperse.

The Soul Forging existences of both sides were shocked when they saw the condition of Andras after being hit point-blank for Zatiel's attack.

A third of his head was destroyed, and you could even see part of his brain exposed. The right side of his body was completely pulverized, as was the left arm he used to protect his head at the last moment.

No blood was leaking from Andras's body despite the gravity of his injuries. The reason was that most of his blood was incinerated, and the heat in the attack cauterized his injuries.

However, the most shocking thing was that, despite the fact he was missing a big part of his brain and that most of his vital organs were incinerated, Andras Dragonstone was not only still alive, but due to the light in his left eye, you could see he was still conscious.

This was the might of a body of a Law Engraving existence!.

The moment you engrave the laws into your body, the reality that it can not work properly with a broken heart or brain does not apply anymore.

If the body of a Soul Forging existence were in such a state, they would be forced to discard it and escape with their True Soul. Of course, no Rank 4 life form would have survived a point-blank attack that had the might of Zatiel's Apocalypse Blast.

Andras' stared at Zatiel with the only eye he had left. Despite the extremely deplorable condition of his body, there was no anger on his broken face, only peace, and calmness.

"I must say, you are impressive, a truly unique existence. The physical might of my body is almost two times larger than those at the Peak 1st Engraving Stage who follow the body refinement path. Despite that, you, who entered Rank 4 less than a year ago, were able to surpass me without the need of activating your Law Avatar." Andras could not use his mouth to speak, and there was a problem with his consciousness, but it was very easy for someone with his power to manipulate the vibration in the air and produce sound.

Zatiel did not say a word and only kept looking at the Magus. The raging purple energy in his Rebirth Eye rotated faster and faster.

A small smile appeared on Andras' face when he saw the attitude of the Neo-Demon, and although he did not mean to, due to the condition of his face, it was truly terrifying.

"There is no need to be on guard anymore. You won this battle. I don't know what kind of energy and laws were in that last attack, but they managed to permeate every cell in my body, filling them with a force that is consuming their vitality and rotting them at the same time. The worst part is they also invaded my consciousness, and they are currently destroying most of it and twisting what is left." Andras did not hide his words, and the Soul Forging existences were able to hear them clearly.

Even after awakening your True Soul, your consciousness is very important due to its connection with your personality. Damage like the one Andras described would slowly erode your ego until you were nothing more than a vicious killing machine that could not distinguish friend from foe.

The expressions in the faces of the warriors of the Dragonstone Kingdom displayed the rage and sadness they were filling in their hearts right now.

"Fusing with my Law Avatar will only delay the inevitable. Do this old man a favor and use your Law Avatar to land the final blow in me. I hope to reach The Eternal River of the Afterlife, knowing all the power that your laws can achieve." There was complete peace in Andras' face when he spoke those words.

Zitra, Nero, Tutto, and all the other Rank 4 life forms in the Daybreak Magic Tower were surprised by the incredible temperament of this man. Any other Law Engraving existence would have gone mad with rage if they were in his situation and would try to extend their life by any means, no matter the cost.

The group in the magic tower could not help but feel respect for a man with such a will that could remain strong even in death.

However, when Zatiel heard those words, he only sneered, and the coldness in his eyes grew.

"You are too naive if you think you could trick me. The reason you did not use your Law Avatar in the fight is not that you did not have the chance, but because you couldn't do it. You are nothing more than a clone with a special artifact instead of a True Soul."

Andras' was surprised when he heard that, but the next moment his smile became wider, and he began to laugh.

"Hahahaha, you are truly an impressive foe, a very sharp and cunning one. I don't normally use this kind of trick, but hey, you cannot blame me for trying to understand more of your power. This is indeed a clone, but it was made with the body of an Adult Ash Dragon and had a perfect copy of my body and energy pool when I was still in the Peak 1st Engraving Stage. It can even use Soul Origin, thanks to the artifact I used to replicate my True Soul. It should be invincible against Rank 4 life forms, but you still managed to defeat me."

The Magus words surprised everyone, even the people of his kingdom, but soon they were able to accept it. No one could reach the power that the King obtained with his own strength, without having a cunning mind.

Andras knew he was bound to lose the moment Zatiel matched his physical might. Even if he proved superiority in the end, he would still lose the moment the Neo-Demon used his Law Avatar. He felt the resolutions in his opponent's words when he spoke about butchering everything related to his son, so he was set in deciphering as much of his power as he could.

However, Zatiel's goal was the opposite. He could have won this battle much sooner if he had gone all out, but there were still enemies lurking in the shadows, so he wanted to hide as much of his strength as he could.

The enemy you fear the most is not the terribly strong one, but the one whose strength you don't know.

"Well, I guess there is nothing more I can do here. We will meet again, but at that time you will see the real me. Our relationship then will depend on how strong you become." Andras' clone trembled before disintegrating into ashes. The next moment, the ashes combined with golden energy and transformed into a fifty thousand meters Ash Dragon.

The dragon's scales were dark, red and green fire came out from his mouth, and his mighty wings left shadow trails around them as they moved.

"ROOOAAARRR!" The creature roared before launching himself at Zatiel.

Zatiel and the Rebirth Incarnations flashed to the dragon and began a new fight. The Neo-Demon had very little Elemental Chaos in his body and consciousness, but he still had his Astral Origin and Soul Origin so he could fight.

The Ash Dragon was strong and very resilient, but unlike Andras' humanoid body, it lacked dexterity and was slow.

Although it took a while for Zatiel and the Rebirth Incarnations to destroy it, this fight was much easier than the previous one, and they took almost no damage at all.

The clone's body dissolved into nothing once it was defeated, and only then did Zatiel focus on the entrance of Wasteland.

The Soul Forging existences of the Dragonstone Kingdom had used the battle between the trio and the Ash Dragon to escape. None of them thought they could survive under Zatiel's might, even if the battle against Andras' clone had tired him.

The Neo-Demon's eyes narrowed, but in the end, he did not chase after them. With their speed, they must have reached their headquarters already, and even with his full power, Zatiel did not know if he could overcome the defenses of a place built by a Rank 5 life form.

He just shook his head and flew down to the City of the Sun. There were a lot of things he needed to handle.

Chapter 310 - Rune

Silence reigned once the explosions in the sky ended and the Ash Dragon was destroyed, but the next moment, as they saw Zatiel descending, the entire City of the Sun burst into cheers. From the children to the elders, all the members of the Daybreak Clan released cries of excitement.

Ezequiel's red sun fist and Zatiel's bone flaming sword were engraved in their mind, and they would never forget them. In all of them, an immense hunger for power was raging along with the desire to stand proudly in the sky and show their might to the world.

A smile appeared on the Neo-Demon when he saw his people display happiness and admiration.

However, the expression of the Rebirth Incarnations was the opposite. Coldness and killing intent filled their eyes as they waved their wings and disappeared into the distance. Zatiel had a mission for them, and they needed to hurry up before the soul, body, and energy of their vessels were completely burned out.

A group of people rose from the Daybreak Magic Tower. They were Ezequiel, Zitra, Totto, Nero, and the bulky man. The Supreme Neo-Demon was still recovering from his wounds, but the drop of blood had healed him enough to regain consciousness and move without a problem.

Zatiel was able to recognize the bulky man immediately. He was the Rank 4 Abomination Gorilla, Tyrus.

The reason for the change in appearance was not a transmutation spell. The magic creature was very proud of his body. He would not change it for something so vain as the opinion of others, and neither would Zatiel ask him to do it.

The reason for his body being that of a human was due to a Path Technique he and almost all the other magic creatures in the City of the Sun were training.

The technique name was The Mind Follows the Body. It allowed magic creatures to obtain a human body that could not only express all the power and abilities of their original bodies but also granted them an enhanced dexterity. Another main feature of this technique was the ability to obtain greater control over their instincts and develop their wisdom.

Once they complete the first level of this technique, even those Rank 0 Magic Creatures would have perfect control over their instincts, and their wisdom would not be worse than that of a Magus. By then, there would no longer be the need for those Rank 4 Magic Creatures to keep an eye on them to make sure they do not go wild.

As Zatiel and the others got closer, a person drew the attention of the Neo-Demon. He looked to the side and saw the only person in the group that came with Sirius and that remained alive, the previous Vice-Head of the Empire Commercial Association, Tritus Fonder.

The rest also focused on him when they saw Zatiel's staring at him. The man was so decrepit that it was just a matter of time before he passed away.

Being stared at by so many powerful individuals would terrify most Rank 3 life forms, but there was peace in the Magus' eyes. He was already resigned to his fate, and since he did not have much life span left, he saw no need to beg to remain alive.

A peculiar light appeared on Zatiel's eyes, and he proceeded to approach the Magus. When the rest saw this, they were surprised.

Totto was about to stop him since it would not be fit for an absolute genius like him to take care of a Rank 3 life. It was better if someone else killed him as his reputation was too important. However, before he could do anything, Ezequiel gave him a signal for him to remain calm and see what is going to happen.

A small smile appeared on Tritus' face when he saw Zatiel's figure approaching. Being killed by a unique being like him would be an honorable end.

"This old man humbly greets the mighty Ash Dragon Slayer, Zatiel Daybreak." The Magus' words were full of respect, and he performed a ninety-degree bow.

"It has been a long time since our last meeting. Are you aware of the cause of your downfall?" Zatiel words had a deep meaning, and if Tritus could not give him a satisfactory answer, there was no point in proceeding with his plan.

Surprise appeared on the Magus' face, and he could not help but sigh. He closed his eyes for a moment, and when he opened them again, an extremely cunning light filled them. It was like he had become a completely different person.

"I know it was Jenner, the one who interfered with the awakening of my True Soul and impeded my advance to Rank 4. But she was too stupid to be able to see through my mask, so someone more powerful must have helped her."

When Totto and the rest heard those words, they were confused. The only one who understood what was happening was Ezequiel.

Both the Ancestor of the Neo-Demon race and the Supreme Neo-Demon had all the information the Elder Brain was able to extract from Jenner's mind.

Tritus Fonder had always given everyone the idea he was a man without aspiration and that he was perfectly comfortable with his position. However, he was, in reality, a very scheming person who preferred to work in the dark and make his moves out of everyone's sight.

His deception skills were so great he was able to even trick himself into believing he was really a harmless elder who only wanted the best for his organization.

He had managed to get control over almost the entire Empire Commercial Association as the Vice-Head. The only thing he needed to fulfill his goal was to reach Rank 4.

Unfortunately, someone had warned Jenner about his schemes. The woman used a special artifact to interfere with the awakening of his True Soul, which left him in his current situation.

Jenner had been careful and left no evidence of her actions, but it was easy for Tritus to figure out what had happened due to the woman's attitude and flagrant abuse from that day on.

Zatiel nodded when he heard that. His ambitions vanished due to his current hopeless condition, but his cunning mind was still present. The next moment the Rebirth Eye released an invisible force that invaded the mind and soul of the Magus.

Tritus could not resist the power of that eye full of purple energy. He felt how his life experiences from the moment of his birth until now were being examined.

It lasted less than a minute, but Tritus felt years had passed. He found it hard to control his breath, and his entire body was soaked in a cold sweat.

"You have been blessed with a cunning mind from your birth, and your deception skills have developed over the years until they reached a sublime level, at least for someone who only depended on himself. You follow the principle of equal exchange. Although you do not betray your allies, you do not care about them after they have fulfilled their purpose. You are not fit to become a member of my clan since you would never be able to put the race above the individual.

Nonetheless, there are arrangements we can make since it would be a waste to lose such a scheming mind."

Tritus was surprised when he heard Zatiel's words. The next moment he was almost sent flying away when golden energy burst out of Neo-Demon's body.

Zatiel did not offer an answer and began to act immediately. His True Soul that was in a meditative position, inside his soul dimension, opened his eyes and rose his hand before concentrating Soul Origin in his index finger.

The Neo-Demon's body mimicked the movements of the True Soul. A drop of purple blood filled with Origin Energy gathered in his index finger.

The next moment, he began to draw rune lines in the air with a dexterity, speed, and control that shocked all those who saw him.

They soon understood that Zatiel was making a rune, but the expression of one of them was of utter shock.

Totto, who was the oldest and more knowledgeable of all, understood the true nature of Zatiel's rune.

He could feel the True Soul of the Neo-Demon acting in tandem with him, and that could only mean one thing.

"He is making a Soul Rune!"