

Abyssal 361

Chapter 361 - The Blood Duke

While Zatiel fought the drowsiness and maintained his focus in absorbing the blood and vitality of the Fiend Dragonborn, he frowned as he noticed something odd.

The condition of Dior's body was deteriorating too fast, and the Neo-Demon was not receiving nearly as much energy as he should.

It took a moment, but after knowing the purpose of the people who came here and the Blood Fortress' particular characteristics, he could make an educated guess.

'This entire dimension is like a beast capable of absorbing the energy of those who die. Even though the result would not be as good as having tubes extracting their blood energy and life force, it is still useful.' There was not much Zatiel could do, so he just focused on obtaining as much blood and vitality as he could from Dior before there was nothing left from him to drain.

The body of a life form at the 3rd Engraving Stage could remain in perfect conditions for hundreds of years after its passing. However, due to the white sword and the dimension's ability, Dior's body became nothing but a sack of bones and dry skin in thirty-six hours.

The Neo-Demon stood up and took his sword out of Dior's head. His condition was far from being good, but he managed to restore his stomach and lungs to a functional state, greatly diminishing his body's burden.

Zateil went to Blood Child's body, and his Rebirth Eye confirmed that his soul was frozen. He attempted to pick him up and was shocked when he saw that he could not do it.

'Even though I am injured, I can still lift a small mountain with my bare hands, but I cannot pick him up. It seems that the technique Blood Duke trained was not a crappy one.'

Blood Child's body was too heavy, and Zatiel had to drag him through the ground into the runic formation's core.

Zatiel adopted a meditation position and began to examine the runic formation. To any other person, it would take a long time to figure the principles behind it, but not to the Neo-Demon.

He had an initial hypothesis of its function the moment he saw it with his Mind Force and was the main reason he was confident in defeating Blood Child.

'As I thought, the entire tower and the statue above me is a massive runic formation. The statue gathers Origin Power and injects it into the devils, allowing them to remain alive and produce blood energy, and life force. The core of the runic formation gathers those two healing forces, purifies them, and sends them away.' After completing his examination of the runic formation, Zatiel looked at Blood Child and understood his nature.

'He is a Runic Spirit.'

It was not rare for high-ranking formations to have Runic Spirits. Their purpose is to assist the runic formation and make sure these stand the passage of time. These spirits usually were of energy, and their fighting power was mediocre.

'He should have been a Devil Lord before his transformation. The most likely scenario was that Blood Duke forcefully fused him into the runic formation. The process increased his life span but also destroyed his free will.' Zatiel knew no devil would ever sacrifice himself for others, even if it's their family. He was confident the Blood Duke forced Blood Child into his current condition to obtain a faithful slave that could not betray him.

The Neo-Demon's plan was not very complicated, but he needed to heal himself before he could put things in motion. Right now, if it wasn't for his Rebirth Eye and Mind Force, even a Rank 4 Devil could kill him with ease, and just mobilizing his energy was an ordeal.

He swallowed dozens of high-quality origin stones before manipulating the runic formation and sending the blood energy it gathered into himself.

Zatiel also sent blood energy into Blood Child's body along with life force.

There was enough life force for both of them, but Zatiel did not let it touch his body.

The life force from an individual had fragments of his consciousness and ego. It was one of the many reasons you could not transfer it from one person to another without preparations.

The runic formation used Blood Child to fix that problem. The Runic Spirit filtered the life force, keeping the consciousness's fragments in him. That was the reason his mind was that of a child and was so prone to violence.

Zatiel did not care about the state of Blood Child's ego, so he filled him with as much life force and blood energy as he could. The process was twisting his personality more and more but pushed his recovery speed to an absurd level.

After two weeks of healing and having consumed an ocean of blood energy, Zatiel had managed to stabilize his condition and partially restored his energy pool, Astral Origin and Soul Origin. As for the Rebirth Force, it was spent assisting his body's recovery.

The Neo-Demon was far from being healthy, and any stressful activity would open up his injuries again, but he could not wait anymore.

The more time passed, the higher the chances the Devil Lords would perish. After they leave this dimension, they could all drop dead, and the Neo-Demon could not care less, but he needed them for his plan, especially the Devil Marquises.

Zatiel made his consciousness, empowered by Mind Force, infiltrate the runic formation and traveled the route life force and blood energy used to leave this place.

It took him a few minutes, but Zatiel finally saw the other end. It was a giant pool filled with a concentration so high of life force and blood energy that it became a red-golden liquid.

Floating in the center of the pool was a ten meters tall devil. His size was small compared with other fiends that focused on body refinement, but his heartbeat strength was so high that it could make a continent tremble and harm weak life forms.

Blood Duke had a humanoid body, with two massive horns in his head, red skin, and a bulky figure. He was in a deep sleep, and it appeared that nothing could wake him up.

Zatiel analyzed him from a distance before focusing on the surroundings and saw two other paths that brought blood energy and life force to this place.

After learning everything he could without raising suspicion or alerting the other parties, he withdrew his consciousness.

Thanks to his knowledge and experience, it was easy for Zatiel to figure out Blood Duke's recovering system.

'He uses the blood energy and life force to nurture his body that will, in turn, nourish the soul's fragment he left in it. It is a decent plan, but the truth is that even if he succeeds, the person that wakes up will not be him. That soul will form a different personality and ego.'

If it were so easy to revive yourself after failing your accession to Rank 7, then all Peak Soul Law Domain existences would do it.

'He is in a coma right now. He can wake up at will, but that would affect his already unstable soul, so he is probably leaving the Runic Spirits to handle things.'

Zatiel did not go through the other paths that brought blood energy and life force to the Blood Duke but could figure out where they lead.

'If they also have Runic Spirits like Blood Child, then the Devil Lords sent to this dimension are certainly doomed even if Blood Duke doesn't act.'

Blood Child's strength was that of a Devil Marquess. However, he depended solely on his body to fight, and this dimension's suppression over Law Avatars and energy pools did not affect him.

'They will let the Devil Lords fight between each other. When the time is right, the Runic Spirits would capture the ones alive and use them to give the final push to the Blood Duke's soul.'

The Neo-Demon closed his eyes for a moment as he made the final adjustments to his plan. When he opened them, a cunning and sinister light filled them, and he smiled.

Zatiel had never been someone that enjoys mindless slaughter, but for some reason, the idea of killing millions of devils was amusing to him.

'The Blood Duke's pool is my point of entry. The other two runic formations should be similar to this one and have the same weak points.'

Zatiel looked to the devils trapped in this tower, and his Rebirth Eye and Eye of Death and Destruction acted together, forming a black hole above him.

Chapter 362 - You're Either With Me Or You're Dead

The black hole above Zatiel did not affect physical matter, but it began to extract the devils' consciousness trapped in the tower. Most of them should have died a long time ago, and although their bodies were still alive, their souls were broken, and the only reason they did not scatter was the runic formation.

After a day, a sphere made of howling ghosts formed above Zatiel. They were screaming, crying, roaring, and expressing all kinds of negative emotions.

The Neo-Demon saw the madness in the spirits of the devils that had endured Blood Duke's experiment, but it wasn't enough. He brought a tremendous amount of Abyss Aura from his space ring and began to fuse it with the evil and insane spirits above him.

This particular Abyss Aura was the one Zatiel gathered from the lower layers of Abyss to form the Chaotic Cores, and its purity was as high as it could be.

Fusing the evil spirits and Abyss Aura was not hard, but it would take some time, so Zatiel divided his mind and began to work on another task simultaneously.

The Neo-Demon formed a mighty Seed of Consciousness that contained most of his Mind Force and then fused it into the runic formation's core.

After a few minutes, Blood Child's body began to tremble, and then he stood up. His soul and body were working, but Zatiel was the one calling the shots.

The Neo-Demon's face was pale, and he had a massive headache.

'My consciousness has not healed, and its condition is even worse now that I split such a big part of it. I will need to consume one of the Soul Apples from the Garden of Creation to heal this wound, but it is worth it.' The Neo-Demon could see what Blood Child saw and had complete control over him.

Blood Child took one of Zatiel's space rings before leaving the underground tower and rising to the sky. The red fog could not hinder his perception, and he could see the entirety of the Blood Fortress.

It took a moment for Zatiel to map the fortress and locate all the Devil Lords and Rank 4 Devils.

'Some Devil Counts have perished. Luckily the Devil Marquises have not started fighting yet. It will take some time until I finish modifying the evil spirits. I will secure them in the meantime.'

Blood Child's speed was impressive, and in less than thirty minutes, he got near a group of Rank 4 Devils. They were five in total, and the only thing they felt was a tiny palm touching their heads before falling unconscious and being stored in a space ring.

The Devil Count leading this small group turned around when he felt something odd with his underlings, but the only thing he managed to see was a red flash leaving the scene.

The red fog and restriction over his consciousness were too much for the Rank 5 Devil's perception. He was not able to detect Blood Child until it was too late.

Blood Child began to capture all the Rank 4 Devils that followed Devil Counts in the next few hours.

He was too fast for those Devil Count to do anything about him. Things were different when it came to Devil Marquises.

Luckily for Zatiel, those Peak Rank 5 Devils had left behind their Rank 4 Devils to explore deeper into the fortress and search for treasures, so Blood Child was also able to capture them.

Once he finished his mission, Blood Child returned to the tower and handed the space ring to Zatiel, which now contained one hundred and sixty-two Rank 4 Devils. The other thirty-eight had died.

Zatiel had come to this dimension intending to capture these Rank 4 Devils.

Although his main goal was different now, anyone without a Devil Lord's battle power wasn't useful for his plan, so instead of letting them die as collateral damage, he went ahead and grabbed them all.

The Neo-Demon had finished fusing the evil spirits and Abyss Aura.

He now had thousands of raging ghosts tainted by Abyss' chaotic power that could drive anyone insane, especially if it is implanted right into their souls.

Zatiel left them inside the runic formation's core, ready to act at his signal, before leaving the tower. With the Blood Fortress' map and the Devil Lords' position in his mind, he advanced to the castle where the Blood Duke resided.

Blood Child had risen once again to the sky. When Zatiel reached his destination, the Runic Spirit took a deep breath and used blood energy to increase the pressure and air-flow speed that was about to pass through his larynx.

The Neo-Demon could not disperse that red fog that hindered people's vision, but everybody's ears worked perfectly fine.

"ALL THE DEVIL LORDS, HEAR ME OUT. YOU HAVE BEEN SENT HERE AS SACRIFICES TO THE BLOOD DUKE. I AM YOUR ONLY PATH TO SURVIVAL."

Blood Child's voice created powerful shockwaves that made the Blood Fortress tremble. They were strong enough to provoke nerve damage to Rank 4 life forms.

Talking with each Devil Lord personally would take too much time, not to mention that they would probably not believe him, and he may need to chase after them if they try to escape, so Zatiel chose a different path.

All the Devil Lords heard Blood Child's voice, but none of them came to him. Although some of them already had suspicions of this place, that doesn't mean they would believe the words of a stranger.

They also understood that Blood Child was strong and were not willing to risk their lives by getting anywhere close to him.

The Devils Lords were not the only ones who reacted to Blood Child's words.

The other two towers that were also sending blood energy and life force to the Blood Duke contained a giant fire snake and a woman with bone spikes covering her whole body.

They were Runic Spirits, and their hearts burned with wrath and killing intent the moment they heard those words.

The Runic Spirits recognized Blood Child's voice and took his actions as a sign of treason. To them, betraying the Blood Duke was an unforgivable offense.

They were about to warn the Blood Duke and handle the traitor along with the rest of the Devil Lords. Waking him up ahead of time would harm the Rank 6 Devil Lord, but it was better than giving time to the Devil Count and Devil Marquises to prepare against him.

Unfortunately, before they could act, Zatiel sent the raging ghosts to their runic formations.

If the Neo-Demon had attempted to influence their minds by external means, he would have never succeeded. Still, since they are Runic Spirit, he only needed to affect the runic formations.

The giant fire snake and the spiked woman shook as madness filled their eyes due to the thousands of chaotic voices that had invaded their minds.

"ROAR!"

"ROAR!"

They roared and released the full might of their energy pools.

The Runic Spirits' energies were like ancient beasts that rose to the sky, created toxic storms, and contaminated the entire Blood Fortress.

Although the Devil Counts and Devil Marquises were shocked by the powerful auras of the Runic Spirits, it was not enough to make them run to Blood Child. However, that changed when another pillar of energy rose to the sky.

The third one was much stronger than the other two and came from the Blood Fortress' center.

Zatiel had also sent raging spirits to the Blood Duke.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord should have robust soul defenses, but by mixing the evil spirits along with the life force he used to nurture his unstable and weakened soul, Zatiel was able to infect his mind as well.

The power of the Blood Duke was too much for the Devil Lords, and they understood that there was no way they could survive against him, even if they worked together. Their first thought was escaping this dimension, but if Blood Child's words were accurate, that was not an option.

None of the Devil Lords trusted Blood Child, but it was far more likely that their Devil Dukes had sold them as sacrifices than the old monsters hadn't realized that such a powerful entity inhabited the Blood Fortress.

"IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS, THEY WILL BE FREE. I WILL HUNT DOWN AND KILL ANYONE WHO IS NOT WITH ME IN TWENTY."

The Devil Lords heard Blood Child's voice again, and his message was clear.

You're either with me or you're dead.

Chapter 363 - Escape Amidst The Chaos

Blood Child saw that Devil Marquises flew in his direction, and the six of them got together before getting near him. Now that there was a significant threat looming over their heads and they found out their Dukes sold them out, none of them cared about their previous rivalry.

The ability to become allies with those you considered enemies just a few hours ago was one of the advantages of devils' pragmatic mind.

The six Devil Marquises maintained a distance of one thousand meters from Blood Child. Although the red fog hindered their vision, they had ways to detect his presence after deducting his location due to that shout from earlier.

Soon after the Devil Marquises had gathered, the Devil Counts began to arrive.

Fifteen hours after Blood Child's summoning, all the Devil Lords that remained alive had assembled, and only then did they approach him.

Even though Blood Child was strong, there was no way he could face six Devil Marquises and twelve Devil Counts at the same time.

The eighteen Devil Lords stood less than twenty meters away from Blood Child.

Zatiel understood the myriad of questions that went through their minds as he saw their faces. The most important one he needed to answer before they could begin did not require words.

Blood Child took a deep breath, and the next second, an ocean of blood energy rose to the sky, releasing a physical might more immense than the other two Runic Spirits and only inferior to the Blood Duke.

The building beneath Blood Child began to tremble. If it weren't for the alteration in space made in this dimension, massive earthquakes would befall the Blood Fortress due to the four great energy pools unleashed simultaneously.

The pressure was so great that it suffocated some of the Devil Counts at the 2nd Engraving Stage. The only ones who were able to resist it without a problem were the Devil Marquises.

Blood Child's original strength was equal to that of the other two Runic Spirits. However, Zatiel had modified the runic formation, granting him the ability to burn the body, energy, and soul in order to increase his power.

That meant that after the fight against Blood Duke, Blood Child would perish regardless of the result.

The Runic Spirit was bound to this dimension and could not leave. The Neo-Demon did not care about his condition after this fight.

That display of might did not scare the Devil Lords. On the contrary, it reassured them. Since they were going to follow him in a battle against a Rank 6 Devil Lord, the strongest Blood Child is, the greater their chances.

"My name is Blood Child. Other than my strength, the one thing you need to know about me is that I want to leave this dimension. If we all work together, there is a chance for survival. If we don't, every single one of you will die, either at the hands of the Blood Duke or the ones waited outside. Anyone have something to say?"

Blood Child made that question to the Devil Marquises. The Devil Counts did not have the right to share their opinion about the decision that they will make.

One Devil Marquess took a step forward. He was a member of Zatiel's team and resembled a giant worm with spider legs and many eyes all over his body.

"My name is Sinto, and I am a Silver Wormdragon. I want to know if it was you who captured all the Rank 4 Devils a few days ago?" The moment Sinto made that question, the Devil Lords' frowned, and they focused on Blood Child.

No one knew who did it since they only saw a red flash disappear with their subordinates, but now that they know about Blood Child's presence, he became the most likely suspect.

"Yes, I was the one who did it."

Sinto's eyes narrowed when he heard that and saw that Blood Child did not make the slightest effort in hiding his actions.

"One of those who you captured was my descendant. I hope you can hand him over."

"That is impossible. I ate all the Rank 4 Devils to increase my strength. Is there anything else?" Blood Child's answer was short and showed no sense of responsibility or guilt.

The Silver Wormdragon was surprised by the answer of Blood Child. He did not care about his descendant's life and just wanted to obtain some form of compensation.

Unfortunately, it was clear for the Devil Marquess that he would not receive anything, and antagonizing Blood Child now that they would depend on him was not a good idea.

None of the other Devil Lords mention the Rank 4 Devils again. The truth was that those devils would have been lucky if half survived this mission. Now that they were all dead, no one cared about them.

Sinto returned to the group, and another Devil Marquess, the one that looked like a humanoid made of green fire, spoke.

"We need to know your plan, the role that each of us will take, and how certain you are of our success."

Blood Child nodded and proceeded to explain his strategy.

"I have put a curse on Blood Duke and the other two warriors that are alive in this dimension. They cannot think with clarity during this time, and as long as they are not disturbed, they will remain in their current locations for a few more hours. After the stream of cursed energy that I am sending is over, they will rise to the sky, searching for prey."

The Devil Lords displayed pleasant expressions when they heard the condition of the Blood Duke. The type of people they liked to fight the most were those who acted like wild monsters since their lifetime of battling demons trained them for that.

"The first part of the plan is simple. We will hide and let the Blood Duke and the other two warriors fight among them since they cannot distinguish allies from enemies. The Blood Duke will definitely win, but he will tire himself. If we're lucky, he may even end up wounded."

A sliver of hope could be seen in the eyes of the Devil Lords as they heard Blood Child's plan.

Even for Devil Marquises, who are Peak Rank 5 life forms, a Devil Duke was an immense threat, especially a legendary one like the Blood Duke, but not only would this Rank 6 Devil Lords would be in a crazed state, he may also be wounded, so their chances were much higher.

"After that, we must face the Blood Duke. If we allow him to calm himself, he may regain his sanity, and if that happens, we are doomed."

"But if we fight against him, most of us will die." The one who interrupted Blood Child was a Bone Devil. He was at the 2nd Engraving Stage and was sure he would die if they attempted to defeat the Blood Duke in a fight.

"Trash. Interrupt me again, and I will kill you!." Blood Child focused on the Devil Count, and this one felt that his blood was burning.

Although the Devil Lords' reactions were diverse, none of them interfered to help the Devil Count.

In Baator, Devil Lords would never allow the slightest sign of disrespect from those beneath them. If they do, it will prove that they are not fit to lead.

Blood Child no longer focused on the Bone Devil after teaching him a lesson, allowing this one to rest.

He noticed how the other Devil Counts were looking at him. They had the same reservations about the plan that Bone Devil.

"We will fight against the Blood Duke, but our goal is not to defeat him. We need to drive him to the portals that lead out of this dimension. The moment he sees more powerful targets, he will focus on them. Then we can escape amidst the chaos."

All the Devil Lords showed amazement when they heard the last part of Blood Child's plan, and there was admiration on their faces.

Instead of going in an all-out battle against the Blood Duke, they would draw him to fight against the Devil Dukes waiting for them outside.

That would improve their chances and take care of the ones who threw them into this dimension to die.

The Devil Lords were sure the Devil Dukes would have nefarious plans for them, and they needed to buy time. The wounds that a battle against the Blood Duke would produce would certainly grant them that.

Due to the contracts in their True Souls, the Devil Lords could not betray their Devil Dukes, but Blood Child had never mentioned them.

The powerful targets they would use to distract the Blood Duke could be anyone, so the contracts would not harm them. It was a loophole, just like the ones the Devil Dukes used to sacrifice all of them.

Seeing that everybody was on board with his plan and there were no more questions, Blood Child started the first phase.

"Follow me. We have to hide in a secure place while the battle between the Blood Duke and the other two occurs."

Chapter 364 - Forced To Display His True Power

The eighteen Devil Lords and Blood Child descended to the ground and stood at the underground tower's entrance.

"We need to completely hide our presence from the Blood Duke and the other two warriors, or else the entire plan will fail. Since we are all together, it is impossible to hide our combined energy

radiation. Beneath us is the tower where I have lived for a long time, and it has cloaking mechanisms that an enraged individual's consciousness can not overcome."

Blood Child's words made perfect sense, and the Devil Lords understood the logic behind his instructions, but none of them entered the tunnel that led to the tower.

Blindly follow the orders of a man they did not know and entering a place that could very well be a trap was not something a devil would do willingly.

Zatiel understood the mind and nature of devils better than even an Archdevil, so he knew how to handle this group. Following the commands of the Neo-Demon, Blood Child focused on the Devil Count he had known the longest, Kita.

"You will go down with me and will carry a piece of the consciousness of every single Devil Lord." After he spoke those words, Blood Child focused on the Devil Marquises and completely ignored the startled Devil Count. "You can analyze the place and determine if there is a trap or not."

The Devil Marquises nodded after hearing Blood Child's proposition, and the rest of the Devil Counts were delighted.

However, Kita was not just going to accept that abuse without at least fighting back.

"Why must I take the part of the canary in a coal mine and go down there with you?." Kita was angry, but she did not dare to let her emotions control her and took a deep breath before asking that question in a respectful tone.

Blood Child stared at the Devil Count, and although she was questioning him, she did it properly, so he had no reason not to reply.

"Judging by your demonic bloodline, your battle style must be related to illusions, which are restricted in this dimension. That, plus your cultivation, makes you the weakest of all of us. The help that you will provide in our battle against the Blood Duke will be minimal." Blood Child made a pause at this point, and his aura became extremely sharp and bloodthirsty as he continued.

"If you are unable to perform this type of menial task, then what is the point of keeping you alive?. I should just eat you to become stronger."

Kita's heart grew cold, and she began to tremble after hearing Blood Child's words. She did not doubt for a second that he would eat her alive if she disobeyed.

The female Devil Count could not go against Blood Child or the Devil Marquises, and most of her fellow Counts were stronger than her, but there was someone she thought she could offend without consequences.

"Lord Blood Child, you say I am the weakest of all of us, but you are mistaken. That position falls in him." Kita pointed to a Devil Count that was at the border of the group.

Everybody followed her finger and saw the Shadow Frog, Severian. The Devil Lords had unknowingly ignored him this entire time, and it was only now that they focused on him.

Severian's soul force put him at the 1st Engraving Stage, but since he did not depend on illusions like Kita, it was not right to say he was weaker than the female Devil Count inside this dimension.

The Devil Marquises did not interfere and let Blood Child handle the situation. The Devil Counts did not say a word for fear of being indicated next and look away.

Blood Child focused on Severian and saw how this one adopted a submissive and cowardly posture. His eyes narrowed, and the next instant, he flashed to the Shadow Frog and performed a palm strike.

Everybody was surprised by Blood Child's actions. His attack came without any warning. The speed and strength it carried were so great that it would be impossible for someone at the 1st Engraving Stage to survive.

All the Devil Lords moved away from Blood Child. They began to mobilize their energy to respond to his murderous behavior, but what happened next astounded them.

Severian, who everybody thought would die, was able to respond with his fist. His hand had released a black smoke that devoured all the energy in a radius of thousands of meters to strengthen himself.

But things did not end there since once Severian's black fog touched Blood Child's palm, it was able to negate some of its power.

The clash between the two released a shock wave that pushed the Devil Counts away and made the earth tremble.

A peculiar expression appeared in Blood Child's face when the palm and fist collided. The attack he used had the same strength that broke all the bones in the Fiend Dragonborn's hand, even after this one had fused with his Law Avatar, burned his life force, and activated his trump card. And yet Severian was able to end up just fine.

The seventeen Devil Lords stared at the duo. Everybody's attention was not on the mighty Blood Child, but on the seemingly inoffensive Shadow Frog.

They felt the soul force that put him at the 4th Engraving Stage. However, the thing that provoked the biggest commotion was his mighty dominion over the laws.

"I knew you were hiding your strength, but who would have thought that your greatest asset is not your cultivator but your Law of Darkness that has reached the Minor Completion level. It seems that you will be instrumental in our battle against the Blood Duke."

Those words sounded like a compliment, but they did not make the Shadow Frog happy at all. If he had been able to hide his strength during the fight against the Blood Duke, he would have been much safer since no one would expect that someone at the 1st Engraving Stage could do much.

Severian nodded to Blood Child before staring with coldness at the rest of the Devil Lords, making them look away with fear. Since he no longer was hiding his power, there was no need to keep the facade of a coward.

Kita's face became pale since the Shadow Frog focused on her and did not hide his killing intent at all.

Regret filled Kita's heart as she felt the eyes of the Shadow Frog. Her situation remained the same, and she had earned a powerful enemy.

Severian may not be a Devil Marquess, but his Law of Darkness put his battle power near them, not to mention that his path to Rank 6 was already open.

Of course, to become a Devil Duke, you needed more than sheer strength, but someone that managed to hide his power for hundreds of years and accept mockery from devils that he could kill with a single strike was an extremely cunning and patient person.

The female Devil Count looked down as she attempted to see a way out of her predicament. The other Devil Lords did not care about her state of mind and just branded her body with pieces of their consciousness.

Blood Child grabbed Kita, and they went down the tunnel. In a matter of minutes, they reached the tower, and the devils' consciousness began to explore the place.

Although the thousands of devils trapped in the walls made the Devil Lords a little uneasy, they detected no trap at all, so they went down.

When everybody was inside, Blood Child used the runic formation's core to cloak the tower before making nineteen tentacles of blood energy rise from the ground.

"You can use it to restore your energy pools and push your bodies to their peak."

The Devil Marquises used their consciousness to analyze the blood energy. After detecting nothing wrong with it, they began to use it along with the Devil Counts.

Once they were all together around the runic formation, preparing themselves for the fight to come, Blood Child spoke again.

"I need that all of you tell me your laws and battle styles in detail. I will use that information to create a strategy."

None of the Devil Lords wanted to reveal that type of information, but since they would display it in the fight regardless, they did not hide it and told everything to Blood Child.

A few hours after they began sharing information and developing their strategy for the fight, they felt how the raging energies contaminating the sky calmed down.

"ROAR!"

"ROAR!"

"ROAR!"

The Devil Lords heard three distinctive roars, each of them full of killing intent and madness. The next second, the explosions began that made it seem like the world was going to end.

The battle between the Blood Duke and the two Runic Spirits had begun.

Chapter 365 - Evil City

Two powerful demons were in the sky near a massive city located in the Blood Rift. They released immense physical pressure, and their soul force put both at the Demon Count level.

The strongest of the duo was a humanoid shark ten meters tall. The Demon Count had a sharp fin, red eyes, black skin, and tattoos were covering his body.

The Demon Count by the humanoid shark's side looked like a demonic werewolf with huge bone spikes coming out of his body. There was a thick blood aura enveloping him, probably the result of a technique.

The two Demon Counts' eyes narrowed as they felt that the density of Abyss Aura and other energies was almost twenty times greater inside the city than in the rest of the Blood Rift.

"So this is the city of the new Demon Lord who calls himself Evil. The rumors that I heard about him being able to draw the plane's energies without a spell or formations were true." The one who spoke was the demonic werewolf, and his eyes shone with greed.

"Nizer, this Evil guy is too cocky!. You had sent a message telling him that we will come today to discuss the contract he had signed with Duke Luzerne. We are two Great Messengers, and yet he is not waiting for us. If we don't teach him a lesson, people may think that they can push us around."

The humanoid shark stared at his comrade and could see the hidden intention behind his words. Despite being a demon, Nizer was able to control his chaotic instincts and had a cunning mind. That was one of the reasons he got his job as a Great Messenger for a Demon Duke.

He did not think that this man beside him was fit for the job, but it was not his place to question his master's decisions.

"Kuru, you should be very careful with your words once we meet him. Our mission is to relay the message from Duke Luzerne and make him sign the new contract." Nizer's tone was stern but seeing that his comrade seemed not to care about his words, he continued speaking.

"Evil is different from the other Demon Lords we have met before. Not long after his victory over Yuro, three Demon Counts sought to take advantage of his weakened state. They chase him for several weeks all over the Blood Rift, but in the end, Evil was the one who returned alive, and no one heard of the three Demon Counts again. He used the attack of the trio as an excuse to invade their territories. Less than a month after that, he attacked the Demon Counts' settlements near his new domains. He made his first appearance less than two years ago, but he already has thirteen confirmed Demon Lord's kills under his belt."

Kuru's eyes widened when he heard that. Even for a chaotic place like Abyss, where slaughter occurred daily, someone killing that many Demon Lords in such a small amount of time was hard to believe.

"Even for a Demon Lord, that level of bloodshed is too much. Why did the other Demon Dukes allow him to slaughter their people without repercussions?"

No matter how chaotic Abyss was, a form of hierarchy was in place. Every Demon Count was a powerful pawn for a Demon Duke, and their loss was significant. Kuru knew all that and could not understand why Evil was still alive.

"That is why I said he is unlike other Demon Lords. Evil's incursions are not motivated by wealth. He sends sixty percent of the resources obtained in the captured territories to Duke Luzerne and another thirty as a bribe for the other Demon Dukes." Nizer solved his comrade's confusion, but another question came to Kuru's mind the next second.

"If he is not after wealth, then why risk his life?"

Every battle between Rank 5 life forms was dangerous. Even if you won, nothing said someone could not attack you while you were busy healing. Even the chaotic demons understood that.

"That reason is simple, and he made no effort in hiding it. It is all about bodies. Every city or settlement attacked by Evil has its population exterminated, from the weakest lesser devils to the Demon Lord. He harvests everything and not even a drop of blood remains from them after he leaves."

Kuru's heart grew cold when he heard that, and the greed that filled his eyes was vanishing as fear took place.

"Still, Nezer, you are at the 3rd Engraving Stage and soon will reach the 4th, so he should show you respect."

Nezer's face grew solemn after hearing those words and stared at the demonic werewolf.

"A month ago was Evil's last incursion. There he faced The Great Illusionist Surik. That Demon Count was at the 3rd Engraving Stage as well, and his soul invasion spells were formidable."

Although he could imagine how the story continued, Kuru still asked.

"What happened?"

"Evil split Surik's body in two and bathed the city with his blood."

The fear in Kuru's heart grew larger. All the arrogance he had when he reached this place disappeared.

As the duo spoke, a Rank 4 Fiendish Cyclop approached their location and bowed once he was in front of them.

"I humbly greet the two Demon Counts. My name is Pilo, and I am the second in command of Evil City." Pilo noticed the duo's odd expression after hearing the city's name.

The truth was that he also found it very weird, but that was the name Evil gave him when he asked, and the Rank 4 Demon did not dare to question it.

"Lord Evil is training right now in the castle. Follow me, please."

The two Demon Counts followed the Fiendish Cyclop into the city. They noticed how every single demon was training and doing its best to improve its power, but they also saw a sense of urgency in them, as if time was running out.

Neither Nizer nor Kuru asked about the situation with the demons. It wasn't their job to judge how other Demon Counts controlled their people, and they honestly didn't care.

They reached the castle in the center of the city very fast. The duo entered under Pilo's guide.

Nizer's eyes narrowed as he saw that there was absolutely nobody in the castle.

Although they did not truly fulfill a purpose, it was customary for a Demon Count to have guards and maids stationed inside their castle. They did that to display their wealth and status.

'He has a cunning mind, and his tactics are similar to that of Devil Lords when it comes to handling the Demon Dukes. However, he does not care about the image others have of him. This person is dangerous.' Nizer thought as he approached the throne room.

They finally reached their destination after a few minutes. The gates were open, so Nizer and Kuru could see inside the massive throne room.

Just like the rest of the castle, the room had no decorations at all. Other than a small throne, the only thing they saw was a man with white skin performing battle movements. They were simple punches and kicks, and he appeared to be doing them in a loop.

Evil's movements resembled the training of a martial artist of the mortal world.

The Demon Counts could not understand his actions. Those types of techniques had no actual use for life forms of their level. What surprised them the most was that Evil's breathing was uneven, and he was sweating.

Pilo stood at the entrance of the room and did not go further.

"No Rank 4 life forms can enter the throne room. Please be careful since this place is Lord Evil's training area." The Rank 4 Demon bowed to the duo again before taking a step back.

Nizer's eyes narrowed as he heard Pilo's words and seemed to detect a hidden message in them. On the other hand, Kuru did not care about the Rank 4 Demon and entered the room the next moment.

The instant the demonic werewolf put a foot in the throne room, shock appeared all over his face, and he crashed into the ground.

Nizer was surprised by his comrade's condition, and he focused on Evil to see if he was the culprit. However, all this time, the white demon had not even bothered to look in their direction.

He entered the room to help Kuru and immediately understood the reason for his condition.

'The gravity in this place is exceptionally high!.' Nizer felt like he was carrying thousands of mountains over his shoulders, but things did not end there.

The gravity also affected the Demon Count's blood, increasing its weight to a ridiculous level. His heart was having a hard time beating with enough strength to mobilize it.

'The reason why Rank 4 Demons cannot enter the throne room is not that Evil forbids it, but their bodies would succumb under this pressure.'

His condition was not as deplorable as Kuru. He could move his body after improving his strength with his energy pool.

Astonishment appeared in Nizer's face when he focused on Evil and saw how he performed those swift and coordinated martial movements under this gravity solely depending on his physical might and nothing else.

The demonic werewolf was able to stand up after using the full might of his energy pool.

The Demon Counts looked at each other and saw the seriousness in their faces. If they anger this monster, they could die.

Chapter 366 - Evil's Scheme

Both Demon Counts had to use their full power to walk beneath the crushing enhanced gravity. When the duo was within ten meters of Ezequiel, the latter stopped his training and focused on them.

Nizer and Kuru felt their instincts warning them about the immense threat in front of them. The physical effort made their hearts beat very fast and with tremendous strength, creating thunderous sounds.

The Demon Lords' heartbeat was impressive, but it could not compare with that of the Neo-Demon. A silent battle started between the trio.

Ezequiel's heartbeat was calm despite the physical stress and fatigue, but every pulsation was like an explosion.

The rhythm of the Neo-Demon's heartbeat began to affect that of the Demon Lords. Before a minute passed, Kuru's face became pale, and a trail of blood appeared in the corner of his mouth.

Nizer saw Kuru's condition and was about to talk, but Ezequiel went ahead of him.

"Go straight to the point. I need to return to my training and have no time for courtesies."

The Demon Lord felt angry due to the Neo-Demon's remarks but could calm down and keep a cold head.

"Demon Lord Evil. Duke Luzerne has sent us here since your contract needs some modifications. From now on, you will need to send sixty-five percent of the resources obtained from your incursions."

After Nizer finished speaking, Kuru took out a parchment from his space ring.

Usually, a Demon Lord should have to bestow fifty percent of the wealth he obtains from his invasion to the Demon Duke above them. Evil presenting sixty percent was incredibly generous, but Luzerne wanted even more.

The duo knew that their master's actions could be considered excessive bullying. They feared the monster's response, but instead of getting angry, Evil smiled.

'Duke Luzerne knows how I manage to go into so many invasions without angering the other Demon Dukes. He wants to leave me with only five percent of what I obtain after those life and death battles. I am under someone with immense greed.' Although they sounded like complaints, the Neo-Demon's smile grew wider as those thoughts appeared in his mind.

The Demon Lords found Evil's behavior extremely strange. It was like if Duke Luzerne's greed made him happy.

Ezequiel stared at the parchment, and after some thinking, he spoke.

"I will give Duke Luzerne the percentage of wealth he desires from my invasions. However, I need to have his backing for ten new incursions this year and a slot for the Blood Ponds. Tell him my conditions and come back with his answer."

The Demon Lords looked at each other after hearing Evil's words. They could not just leave this place and tell Duke Luzerne that they failed in their task.

Kuru let his wildness fill his heart to suppress the fear and spoke with an overbearing tone.

"You cannot dictate conditions in the contract. This order comes directly from Duke Luzerne, and if you...." Kuru could not finish his sentence since his entire body froze when Ezequiel's cold eyes focused on him.

The Neo-Demon channel Abyss' World Strength and an extraordinarily malignant and evil aura overflowed his body and spread all over the throne room.

The next second, the chaotic will, slaughter principle, and destruction origin in Ezequiel's aura erupted, and a dark domain that covered the entire Evil City emerged.

All the lesser demons in the city fell unconscious while immense terror assaulted the Rank 4 Demons, which greatly hindered their power.

The dark field that was covering the city was a unique way of applying Abyss' World Strength. It was named Evil Force Field, and it permitted Ezequiel to ignore the amount of Rank 4 life form on the enemy's side.

Demon Lords were supreme killing machines, but Nizer and Kuru could not stop the dread that invaded their hearts.

The force field's effect was lesser in the Demon Lords than in Rank 4 Demons, but it still reduced the duo's battle power between five to ten percent.

The Demon Lords had just begun to mobilize their energy when Ezequiel flashed to the demonic werewolf, grabbed his head, and slammed it into the ground.

Nizer was surprised by Evil incredible speed. He was going to help Kuru when the monster stared at him with a sinister smile and white eyes that seem to identify every single one of his flaws.

"If you two think that your positions as Great Messengers from Duke Luzerne would stop me from killing you, then you are trully stupid." Ezequiel began to exert more strength in his hands as he spoke, and Nizer could hear how Kuru's skull was starting to crack.

"We understand. We will relay your conditions to Duke Luzerne and come back with an answer." The Demon Lord did not dare to attack and sought a peaceful resolution. He would not hesitate to run away and leave Kuru behind if an actual fight started.

Ezequiel deactivated the Evil Force Field and threw the demonic werewolf to Nizer.

"Leave now. I don't want to waste more time."

Nizer took Kuru, and they immediately left the throne room before flying away. Both Demon Lords were furious, but the most potent emotion in their hearts right now was fear.

Pilo, who was at the room's entrance this entire time, saw the whole thing and began to worry. If Ezequiel's words offended the Demon Duke, he would not be the only one to die.

"My Lord, should not we..." The giant Rank 4 Demon had just started to speak when an invisible hand pushed him to the ground and began to crush his body.

Pilo felt that his body would explode at any moment and screamed.

"PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING OUT OF TURN, MY LORD." It was only after begging for mercy that the invisible hand vanished. Pilo slowly stood up and timidly looked at Ezequiel, who stared at him with empty eyes.

"Remember, you are a pawn that can be replaced at any moment. I don't need your advice or questions. The only thing you need to do is follow my orders."

Ezequiel's words were cruel and tyrannical. It suited his role as a Demon Lord, but it was not an act.

The Neo-Demon disliked the filthy and chaotic nature of Abyss. He preferred the City of the Sun's atmosphere. There he could pass the time with his lover, watch over the newborn Neo-Demons, and calmly improve his abilities as a Magic Creator.

If it weren't for his obsession with growing stronger, he would have just left an Avatar in the Blood Rift and only appear with his true body for an invasion.

He noticed the fear and anxiety in the Rank 4 Demon. There was no empathy in his heart for this type of creature who fed on children for fun, but he could not leave him like that.

"I only tell you this since I know you will be too distracted to do your job if I don't. Duke Luzerne is an extremely greedy individual. The permits for the ten invasions are something that will benefit him more than me. I formulate them as an exigence, so he can think he is magnanimous and put him in a good mood when he accepts them. The slot for the Blood Ponds is an actual request, but he will give it to me since the price is not worth killing me."

Ezequiel's behavior with the Demon Lords may have seemed chaotic, but everything was part of a scheme.

Chapter 367 - Even More Ruthless

Shock appeared all over Pilo's face as he heard those words. He was having a hard time understanding half of it, but one thing is clear, the monster in front of him had a pragmatic mind and immense wisdom.

'This type of analytic thinking and scheming nature should not be possible in our kind.' The Rank 4 Demon immediately erased that train of thought from his mind. He did not dare to continue with it since the terror Evil produced in him made impossible any form of treason.

Ezequiel focused on the Rank 4 Demon for a moment, and his eyes seem to be able to pierce into the creature's mind.

"The Great Messengers should return in a month. Is the army ready to be mobilized, and have they perfected the siege tactics that I gave them?."

"The Rank 4 Demons and the squads beneath them are ready to move out at any moment, my Lord. They still have some problems with the siege tactics, but everybody understands the price of failure, so they are training them nonstop." Pilo spoke with a respectful and fearful tone.

The truth is that in the incursions, Evil was the main fighting force. He battled the Demon Lord and Rank 4 Demons on the enemy side while also suppressing the lesser demons.

The one role the army had is to make sure no demon escaped. No matter their strength or abilities, no one is allowed to flee.

For every demon that managed to break the blockade, the squad responsible will have one hundred members sacrificed to appease Lord Evil.

Ezequiel nodded to the Fiendish Cyclop, and something came to his mind.

"Since you are here, we will go to the underground city before I restart my training. I want to see how The Great Hunt has been going."

"As you wish, my Lord. We have not failed you in the great mission you gave us."

.....

Beneath Evil City, there was an ancient ruin full of dilapidated buildings. Ezequiel did not build this place but took advantage of the cloaking powers in it.

Other than damaged buildings, there was only one more thing in this place, bodies.

Thousands and thousands of bodies filled the entire underground city, literally forming mountains. Most of them belonged to demons, but there were piles with devils, dragons, elemental giants, and even humans.

Although a number of the individuals in this place were dead, most of them were only unconscious.

In a pile that contained humans, hiding beneath the bodies of his kind, a young man was awake. Despite the horror of the scene around him, he managed to maintain his heart under control and did not lose his mind to fear.

His name was Caesar, and he was a member of the Oruku World, a High World dominated by the Human race.

The history of the Oruku World was one of bloodshed and heroes. Several Demon Lords had managed to get hold of the coordinates of this world and invaded it. The natives fought with courage and pride, but the difference in power was too high.

When everything appeared lost, a great hero emerged. His real name was forgotten, and everybody just referred to him as Darkness Devourer.

This great hero led his people against the Demon Lords and managed to kill the Demon Dukes, regaining control over his world. But his legend did not end there since Darkness Devourer was able to break the shackles of lifespan and became a Being of Laws.

The Oruku World may not be a Principal World of the universe but was powerful enough to defend itself against almost all external threats. Due to their past, the people of this world were eternal enemies of the demon race.

The great organizations of the Oruku World constantly made incursions in Abyss to hunt down demons.

Caesar was a supreme genius of the Darkness School, one of the great organizations of the Oruku World. He and his teammates came to the Blood Rift to participate in a trial by fire.

Although the mission was dangerous, they did their work and remained in an area that should only have lesser demons. Unfortunately, disaster struck them.

The only reason he was still conscious was the treasure he had fused with his soul, which enhanced his spiritual defenses and concealed his presence.

'I need to contact the Great Teacher. He is the only one that can save us. This place seems to be an underground facility, and it hinders any form of communication.' Caesar was contemplating ways to get out of this predicament when two figures appeared in the sky above the city.

He already knew the Fiendish Cyclop since he was the one who captured him and all of his friends. As for the one next to him, although he had never met him before, he knew his identity.

Caesar's eyes widened, and fear appeared in them as he saw this five-meter tall humanoid white demon with an aura that seemed to be the embodiment of Abyss.

'Of all the Demon Counts, why did I have to fall in the hands of this monster!'

The Oruku World constantly gathered intelligence of the Abyss layers to which they sent people. That information includes the Demon Lords, and Evil was a name very popular lately.

The price for Evil's head was a Peak Rank 5 Artifact, equal to that of a Demon Marquess. The higher-ups made that decision due to his potential and the danger he could represent in the future.

Caesar understood that Evil was strong, but that was not the thing that frightened him. He knew that this Demon Lord was cunning and wise. That would make his escape a lot harder.

He heightened his sense of hearing to listen to their conversation.

"We have fulfilled the quota you have imposed on us, Lord Evil. The Rank 4 Demons and I have managed to capture more than two million living lesser demons and life forms of that level in the past three months. We left no clues of our activities."

In any other place, the disappearance of such a high number of life forms would not go unnoticed, but in the Infinite Layers of the Abyss, no one cared.

"The soldiers that had failed to advance in the determined time are already here?"

"Yes, my Lord. Following your instructions, all the demons stuck for more than four months in Rank 0, more than a year in Rank 1, and more than three years at Rank 2 were quietly neutralized."

Pilo thought that his Demon Lord's requirements were extraordinarily harsh but did not dare express his opinion.

In any other place, it would be almost impossible for any demons to achieve that cultivation speed. However, the Abyss Aura's density in Evil City was many times greater than in any other part of the Blood Rift, and that allowed at least ten percent of the demons to succeed.

Demons may be stupid, but they understood what happened to those who did not improve their power fast. That is the reason why everybody in the city was so focused on their training.

Ezequiel's face was cold as he looked at the millions of lives beneath when all of a sudden, his eyes narrowed. He slowly focused his gaze on one of the many piles of bodies.

"Why is there a conscious human in there?"

Horror appeared in Caesar's face when he heard those words, and his body froze from fear. He could not believe the Demon Lord had found him.

The next thing he saw was Pilo's enraged face as the Fiendish Cyclop moved the rest of the bodies to grab him.

Even though Caesar was a genius and possessed some of his world's best techniques, he was still a Rank 3 life form and could not face the Rank 4 Demon.

Pilo did not give him a chance to act. The demon grabbed the young man, crushed his body, and almost killed him. This time, he truly left him unconscious.

The Rank 4 Demon heart was beating fast, and he could not control his breathing. It was not the short battle against the human that left him in this condition, but the fact he knew he had made a mistake. The demon turned to look at his master and saw his cold and unforgiving eyes.

Ezequiel raised his finger and made a seed of red lightning appear before sending it to Pilo's head.

The Rank 4 Demon could not resist and saw how the seed invaded his soul dimension and attached to his True Soul.

"For your carelessness, you will have to gather another ten million lesser demons in six months. If you fail, that seed will kill you slowly and painfully. Now leave."

Pilo gave a deep bow and left in a hurry. He had little time and needed to use every second of it.

Once he was alone, Ezequiel focused on the young human lying on the floor among a pile of bodies, and then a memory appeared in his mind that made him tremble.

A young man at death's door, surrounded by the bodies of his teammates.

It was like the first time he saw Zatiel, but this time he took the cruel captain's role.

Being cold to demons and other evil beings was easy, but Ezequiel could feel the righteous aura in the young man.

There was no reason to kill him, and he would not be ending his life due to collateral damage but due to a cold-hearted decision.

An internal struggle began in the Supreme Neo-Demon's heart, but as time passed, the emotion in his eyes began to vanish. The only left in them, in the end, was emptiness.

'It would be easy for me to save you, but I won't do it. The universe is a cold and ruthless place. To achieve my goal, I need to be even more ruthless!.'

Chapter 368 - Devil Lords Vs The Blood Duke

In the sky above the Blood Fortress, a mind-blowing battle was occurring.

A ten-meter tall man with red skin and massive horns fought against a woman with bone spikes and a giant fire snake.

Hundreds of massive buildings became debris due to the fight. If it weren't for the space fortification, the fortress would have collapsed, and maybe even the entire dimension.

Both the woman and the fire snake were extraordinarily fast and agile. Their bodies' movement carried a momentum that could compare with the might of a Rank 6 life form.

The Runic Spirits were both crazy, and everything in their sight was an enemy they had to kill. The only reason they worked together was that, at an instinct level, they recognized the Blood Duke as an absolute threat.

Despite being two against one, the Blood Duke was utterly dominating the battle. The Runic Spirits' attacks could not pierce his skin, and other than some bruises, he had no injuries at all.

The condition of the spiked female and the fire snake was not so good. The woman already lost her left arm and leg, along with a piece of her head.

The situation of the fire snake was even worse. The lower half of the Runic Spirit's body was missing, and the rest was full of serious injuries. His blood was like lava, and it burned everything it touched as it fell to the ground.

"ROAR!" The Blood Duke roared with fury as his blood energy exploded, and he flashed to the woman.

The Runic Spirit attempted to run away, but the Rank 6 Devil Lord was too fast. He grabbed her by the shoulder before sending a blow to what remained of her head.

The Blood Duke's fist seemed to contain a world made of blood. Once it landed, it pulverized the Runic Spirit's head along with her soul.

He had just annihilated one Runic Spirit when the other took the chance and charged against him with his maws open, trying to devour him.

The Blood Duke managed to grab the fire snake's maws before this one could close them down. The duo crashed against dozens of buildings as they shot through the sky.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord's blood energy soared again. The blood world appeared on his back this time, and with a sky-breaking strength, he pushed each jaw in an opposite direction.

He split the fire snake in two and released a blast of blood energy that destroyed the Runic Spirit's soul dimension.

There was frenzy and excitement in the Blood Duke's face after killing the Runic Spirits and having appeased the chaotic voices in his mind. His breathing was rough, and his face was a little pale, but other than that, he was in perfect conditions.

Now that there were no more targets in his sight, his insatiable thirst for slaughter began to calm down.

The Blood Duke's soul was beginning to fight against the evil spirits that had invaded it and attempted to regain his sanity when all of a sudden, he detected something in the distance.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord had just focused his sight in his broken castle when a red flash attacked him from the back.

The Blood Duke threw a punch in the direction of the attacker. Due to the surprise and the fact the enemy was incredibly nimble, he failed.

Blood Child managed to grab the Blood Duke's neck and chest and raise him above his head.

The next instant, from the darkness, eighteen Devil Lords appeared. They all have already fused with their Law Avatars and activated their trump card before sending their most powerful attack to the Blood Duke.

Giant hands made of green fire, mountains of steel, rivers of poison, and several other apocalyptic phenomena rained from the sky.

An explosion that made the entire dimension tremble occurred when the attack collided point-blank with the Blood Duke.

The explosion threw the Blood Duke and Blood Child away. They destroyed everything in the path of their immeasurably heavy bodies.

The power in the attacks did not strike Blood Child directly, so he regained control of his body mid-flight and regrouped with the Devil Marquises in the sky.

On the other hand, the Blood Duke's body did not stop until reaching the ground, forming a massive crater.

The combined might of those spells would have triggered a cataclysmic event in a Low World, but none of the Devil Lord relaxed. They knew that attack could not have possibly killed the Blood Duke.

Blood Child and the Devil Marquises were all in a battle formation, with the Runic Spirit taking the lead.

Severian and the rest of Devil Counts vanished in the darkness.

A powerful aura exploded in the crater where the Blood Duke had landed. The Rank 6 Devil Lord became visible, and his eyes were burning with killing intent as he looked at Blood Child and the others.

The spells left deep wounds on his body, but none of them affected his battle power in any way.

The Blood Duke shot to the sky. The blood world formed around him, granting him the momentum and might of a meteorite.

The Devil Marquises once again launched their most potent attacks, diminishing the force of the Blood Duke's drive, before Blood Child flew to intercept him.

Blood Child fired a fist that contained an ocean of blood energy, but the Blood Duke's fist carried the blood world. The winner was easy to deduce.

The Blood Duke's fist sent Blood Child flying away and almost destroyed his arm.

The Devil Marquises once again attacked the Blood Duke before immediately rushing to Blood Child's side.

Blood Child was able to regain control of his body fast, and with the Devil Marquises, began to fly in the direction of the portals that led out of this dimension.

The Blood Duke pursued them immediately. His speed was higher than Blood Child and that of the Marquises, so he was about to catch up with them after a few seconds.

Unfortunately for the Rank 6 Devil Lord, the Devil Counts emerged from the darkness, launching beams of energy against him while also creating all sorts of illusion in his path. Once they finished with their barrage of spells, they vanished.

The Blood Duke was able to neutralize the Devil Counts' attacks with ease and shatter the illusions put in his path, but the short delay gave the Marquises the time to charge their spells.

He again was assaulted by raging energy and destructive laws, but this time, he pierced through them, completely ignoring his defense. His wounds grew larger, but that recklessness allowed him to get near one of the Devil Marquises.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord sent a fist carrying the blood world to the Devil Marquess that resembled a humanoid made of green fire.

The attack was too fast, and the Devil Marquess was not able to dodge it. The Blood Duke's fist blasted the fire humanoid's body apart.

Although the Devil Marquess reformed himself a few hundreds of meters away, the green flames' density and power were lesser. It was evident that he received severe damage.

There was fear in the fire humanoid's face as he noticed how the Blood Duke was about to rush in his direction. Another attack like the last one could annihilate his body and shatter his soul.

Luckily, Blood Child took advantage of the Blood Duke's opening and delivered a kick that sent him to the ground.

Blood Child and the Devil Marquises soared through the sky, and they were all exercising their full speed. They had just advanced a couple of kilometers when they heard an explosion behind them.

The Blood Duke produced several sonic booms as he flew through the sky. He was about to reach the Devil Marquises when the Devil Counts made their appearance and released a myriad of spells.

However, this time things were different. The Blood Duke was able to stop his body, despite his impulse. He turned around and sent a palm print to the Devil Counts.

Severian was shocked by the Blood Duke's agility, speed, and power. The Shadow Frog immediately covered the Devil Counts with his darkness and attempted to vanish, but he was not fast enough to save everyone.

The palm print struck two Devil Counts, destroying their bodies and souls instantly.

All the Devil Lords were shocked, and dread filled their hearts. The battle had just started, and they already lost two people.

Chapter 369 - The Might Of A Soul Law Domain Existence

The Blood Duke's battle with the Runic Spirits drained a considerable amount of his energy, and his demented state diminished his battle power.

Despite all that, he could kill two Rank 5 life forms, who were deploying their full strength and life-saving cards, by firing a single palm print.

The difference in power was frightening, but all the Devil Lords were millenary existences. After the initial shock, they immediately regained control of their emotions.

The Devil Marquises sent their most powerful spells to the Blood Duke.

Due to his hastened attack, the Rank 6 Devil Lord could not dodge or perform a proper defense, so the spells consumed his figure instantly.

The Blood Duke was in the center of the explosion, and all around him, raging energies were trying to destroy his body.

"ROAR!" Along with that roar, the Blood Duke fired a blast of blood energy.

He freed himself from the Devil Marquises' spells and was about to chase after them immediately. However, to his surprise, instead of running away, like he always did after halting his movements, this time, Blood Child used the disturbance to approach him undetected.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord could not do anything as a kick descended from the sky and landed right in his face.

Blood Child's leg was short and thin, but it triggered an unbelievable shock wave full of power when it connected with the Blood Duke's head. In a different place, the vibrations would have produced an earthquake that could cover thousands of kilometers.

That kick had the strength to shatter a star. It fractured the Blood Duke's skull, broke one of his horns, and produced brain trauma before sending him to the ground.

Blood Child did not go unharmed after performing such a powerful attack. His leg exploded due to him delivering a kick that had more power than his body could endure, and the damage did not end there since to achieve that strength, he had burned a significant part of his soul.

The Runic Spirit did not remain still. After performing the attack, he immediately flew after the Devil Marquises, who ran away at their maximum speed.

The Rank 6 Devil was able to stand up in less than half a minute, and his fierce eyes focused on the flying Devil Marquises.

If he had been at his peak, the Blood Duke could have handled the Devil Lords and Blood Child without a problem. Unfortunately, his soul had not finished its restoration, and the voices in his head made it almost impossible to concentrate on anything, so he depended on his instincts.

Despite his monstrous physical defenses, the Blood Duke's injuries were becoming severe. After all, receiving spells sent by more than a dozen Law Engraving existences, many of whom had reached the peak of the Rank, was a lot for a Rank 6 life form.

There was a silver lining in his condition. As his injuries were growing worse and the threat of death becoming greater, his soul's ability to fight against the evil spirits was also improving.

The Blood Duke rushed to the Devil Marquises, flashing through the sky as the energy inside him erupted.

He had reached the one hundred meter mark away from the Devil Marquises when these sent a new barrage of spells against him. Things did not end there since, behind him, the Devil Counts emerged from the darkness, ready to attack him as well.

Zatiel had changed their battle strategy since he could not let the Devil Counts attack alone anymore.

As the Devil Lords' bombardment approached him from every direction, a flash of light appeared in the Blood Duke's eyes.

The Blood Duke extended his hands, and the blood world shot forward. Simultaneously, blood spears emerged from his back and fired against the Devil Counts.

The blood spears neutralized many of the Devil Counts attacks, and their momentum was so high that they managed to kill one while injuring another two severely.

The blood world collided with the Devil Marquises' spell. The explosion they created was so potent that it broke their battle formation.

The Devil Marquises understood the danger of being alone, so they all regrouped. One of them was too slow, and the Blood Duke appeared in front of him in a second.

The unfortunate Devil Marquess was the Silver Dragonworm, Sinto. He was frightened by the fist coming his way but was able to control his emotions.

By employing the full might of his energy pool and burning his life force, the Silver Dragonworm secreted a spider web covering his entire body.

The moment his punch touched the spiderweb, the Blood Duke felt like he was hitting the ocean. His fist was sinking into the cocoon, but it did no damage at all.

Sinto's spiderweb was not something that physical strength alone could harm.

The Devil Marquess felt safe inside the cocoon and was sure Blood Child would save him at any second. However, what happened next shocked him.

The Blood Duke opened his fist. His fingertip released immense sharp energy that he used to cut the spiderweb in half.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord flashed forward and buried his hand in Sinto's chest.

The Silver Dragonworm could only see with horror as his gargantuan body that weighed more than a hundred mountains put together, was utterly paralyzed. The grasp of ten-meter tall Blood Duke made him feel like a colossal monster was holding him in the palm of his hand.

Sinto's nightmare did not end there since he felt how the Blood Duke's hand swallowed his vitality, blood, and even soul.

"SAVE ME!" Sinto begged for help as he stared at Blood Child and the Devil Marquises.

Blood Child frowned as he analyzed the events that led to this situation. The Blood Duke's actions displayed a level of planning and battle awareness that an enraged and crazy monster could not perform.

'He is regaining his sanity while we battle, and his condition will improve significantly if he fully devours Sinto.' Zatiel knew very well that they would all die if the Blood Duke managed to appease his chaotic mind and use the full power of a Soul Law Domain existence.

The Neo-Demon did not hesitate and made Blood Child send a message to every Devil Lord except for the Silver Dragonworm.

The Devil Lords were surprised when they heard Blood Child's command, but none of them hesitated.

Although he had pleaded for their help, Sinto did not expect that the Devil Lords would come to save him. That is why what happened next surprised him.

All the Devil Lords, including the Devil Counts that emerged from the darkness, flashed to his location while burning their life force and overcharging their artifacts.

There was hope in Sinto's eyes as he saw the Devil Lord about to reach him, but it all vanished when he noticed how they stopped one thousand meters away from him.

The Devil Marquess saw with horror how the Devil Lords fired spells charged with life force and dozens of artifacts about to explode in his direction.

Blood Child and the rest of the Devil Lords immediately retreated after sending their attacks.

The Blood Duke had noticed the enemies' closing in. He could not forcefully interrupt the connection with Sinto's body due to the devouring force but was planning to use the Silver Dragonworm's gigantic body as a shield. However, now that was no longer feasible.

The duo found themselves in the center of an explosion that razed the Blood Fortress!.

The core of destruction was limited to a few hundred kilometers due to the space fortification, but the explosion consumed all the fortress's oxygen.

Storms filled the dimension with poisonous and lethal energy, making it impossible for anyone beneath Rank 4 to live in it anymore.

The attack disintegrated Sinto's body and soul, and it buried the Blood Duke in the ground.

The Devil Lords did not wait to see the condition of the Rank 6 Devil Lord. They flew with their maximum speed to the portals.

They knew the Blood Duke would not stop chasing after them. Now that they sacrificed so much to harm him severely, they were going to make the most of that opportunity.

They had just reached the Blood Fortress' border when they felt the ominous presence coming after them, but there was a smile on the Devil Lords' faces.

They were very close to the portals that led out of this dimension. Once they were near them, they would hide their presence with the help of Severian's Law of Darkness.

The enraged Rank 6 Devil Lord would search for another prey, and that would be the Devil Dukes that sent them here as sacrifices.

The Devil Marquises and Devil Counts were all smiling, thinking of obtaining revenge when it happened. The Blood Duke made the laws in the dimension change with his soul's strength and revealed the skill that made Soul Law Domain such terrifying existences.

Chapter 370 - Blood Child's Death

The Devil Lords saw with horror as a silvery red domain cover their bodies along with half of the dimension whose size could rival a continent.

The red fog that neither Zatiel nor the rest of the Devil Lord could do anything about was vanquished under the domain's might, making the Blood Duke's figure visible for everybody.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord had severe injuries, and some were so deep that you could see the bone. His energy was acting erratically due to the many deadly forces that had infected his body. The damage in his consciousness had weakened his spiritual defenses, pushing him back to a deranged state.

Despite all that, the Blood Duke resembled a Law Overlord as the laws, and universal forces were under his control.

He took his rightful position as the core of the silvery red domain and stared at the Devil Lords with bloodlust.

Hopelessness invaded the Devil Lords' hearts as they felt the silvery red domain's power and the incredible might that the Blood Duke expressed inside it. Even though they were just a couple of minutes away from the portal, none of them believed they could make it alive now.

The reason for the Devil Lords' despair was that they recognized the ability the Blood Duke had unleashed.

It was a Law Domain.

That ability depended on the strength of an individual's soul and his law comprehension. It was very hard to deploy, and even more with a chaotic mind.

The only explanation that came to Zatiel's mind was that the last attack had pushed the Blood Duke so close to death that he was able to regain his sanity for a second before losing it again.

Unfortunately, that second was enough to unleash the Law Domain. Now it would not vanish until the Blood Duke's Soul Origin depleted, or he chose to deactivate it.

This world-breaker power had two primary skills, Sentience Origin and Law Realm.

Everybody was already under the Law Realm's effect. This skill improved every aspect of the Blood Duke's existence while suppressing that of his enemies.

Law Realm also heightened the power of the Blood Duke's laws and, at the same time, restrained all the others.

Every Devil Marquises felt their battle power diminishing by a third and how the domain nullified their Sacred Body of Laws' unique aptitudes.

The effect of Law Realm was even more significant in the Devil Counts. They were having a hard time just enduring the domain's pressure.

The Blood Duke smiled as he attacked every single Devil Lord at the same time. He focused on a location one thousand three hundred and twenty-four meters to his left and sent exactly nine giant blood palm prints.

Before, he could not see it, but now the Blood Duke perceived the nine Devil Counts hiding in Severian's darkness pocket dimension with perfect clarity.

The instant he finished firing those palm prints, the Rank 6 Devil Lord made six spears made of his blood appear in front of him.

Every one of these spears had the power of a blood world and released hundreds of sonic booms the moment they shot to the Devil Marquises.

Every single one of the palm prints and blood spears carried an immense amount of energy. Trying to control all of them simultaneously was impossible even for a Rank 6 life form.

Usually, the energy of an individual would be lifeless. Without your thoughts controlling the energy that formed the spells, their destructive might would be greatly diminished, not to mention they would be very easy to dodge.

However, things changed when someone used Sentience Origin. That skill granted life and intelligence to your energy.

After having fired your spells and infusing an intent in them, you no longer needed to focus on them. They would split apart into smaller versions to overcome obstacles, hunt down their prey without rest, search for the weak points in the enemy defenses and exploit them.

In essence, someone capable of using Sentience Origin could grant their spells infinite transformations that would make them impossible to defend. That was precisely the power that the palm prints and spears carried as they attacked the Devil Lords.

Severian's face filled with resolution as he saw the blood palm prints nearing him. He immediately threw the Devil Counts out of the darkness pocket dimension. That put his comrades in great danger, but he couldn't care less about them when his survival was at stake.

The Shadow Frog pushed his Law of Darkness to the limit. He reduced the darkness pocket dimension's size, enhancing its strength while devouring as much energy as possible and gathering all in his right arm.

One of the Blood Duke's nine blood palm prints struck Severian. The spell was able to pierce into the darkness dimension, but the laws in it nullified some of its strength.

The Shadow Frog made his energy pool explode and burned his life force before striking the giant blood palm print.

Due to his Law of Darkness reaching the Minor Completion level, Severian's battle power equaled that of a Devil Marquess. Still, even employing his whole strength and burning his life force, the palm print overpowered him. His arm exploded the moment it collided with the spell. The impact pushed him away while coughing blood.

The condition of the other Devil Counts was much worse. All those at the 2nd Engraving Stage had their bodies and souls shattered. The rest was able to stop their bodies from exploding, but they fell to the ground like asteroids, and they were no longer able to continue fighting.

The Devil Marquises did not have time to care for the Devil Counts since they had to respond to the spears carrying a blood world's might.

The Blood Duke had charged every single spear with an immense amount of energy. They were incredibly fast and rotate with such intensity that they seem capable of piercing a world.

The Devil Marquises used all the energy they had left and burned even more of their life force to fight back against those spears.

The defensive spells they were able to deploy were impressive, but the spears' might was too great. All of them managed to strike their targets, and they shared their creator's vicious nature.

Once the spear pierced their target, they exploded inside the Devil Marquess body, firing hundreds of blood spikes.

Although they were severely injured, most of the Devil Marquises were able to survive. The only casualty was the humanoid made of green fire. The Blood Duke's fist had already harmed the Devil Marquess, and the spear was more than he could handle.

Before the Blood Duke unleashed his Law Domain and used Sentience Origin and Law Realm, the Devil Lords could at least put up a fight.

However, now the Blood Duke was able to defeat all the Devil Lords with a single move.

The only one who was still able to fight was Blood Child. He managed to neutralize the blood spear sent to him but had almost emptied his energy pool.

The Rank 6 Devil Lord stared at Blood Child with a smile on his face and savagism in his eyes. Even though he was crazy, he could identify the one who had harmed him the most.

Blood Child did not hesitate even for a fraction of a second and began to burn his soul as he ran away.

The Blood Duke's body erupted with power and chased after his prey. Since he was the core of the domain, this one moved with him.

The Runic Spirit's speed reached an extraordinary level since he burned his soul. Unfortunately, the power of Law Realm made it impossible for him to leave the Blood Duke behind.

Blood Child had run for less than twenty seconds when a mighty hand grabbed the back of his head.

The Blood Duke wanted to see the terror in Blood Child and turned him around. However, the only thing the Runic Spirit showed was a smile.

His opponent's behavior confused the Blood Duke and delayed his reaction for a second.

Blood Child did not lose that opportunity and burned what little remained of his soul to increase his strength for one last effort.

He grabbed the Rank 6 Devil Lord's chest and rotated their positions. After putting him in the correct place, he detonated his soul, body, and energy without hesitation.

Blood Child's self-destruction took the Blood Duke by surprise. Luckily for the Rank 6 Devil Lord, the Runic Spirit did not have much fuel, so the explosion did not harm him too much and just sent him flying away.

The confusion in the Blood Duke's face grew larger since Blood Child's actions didn't make sense. The rage in his mind soon replaced all unnecessary thoughts, and was about to finish the Devil Lords when he noticed something.

The Blood Duke turned around and saw two portals. One showed a charred humanoid while the other had a Pit Fiend.

"ROAR!" The Blood Duke released a roar full of rage and might before flashing to the two Rank 6 Devil Lords.

Like that, the battle between three powerful Soul Law Domain existences that would level the continent started.