

Abyssal 501

Chapter 501 - Infinity Heart

From each Apocalyptic Star that formed the constellation inside their bodies, a pillar of blood vitality and Astral Origin emerged and gathered between the Elemental Chaos Heart and Bloodline Heart.

The first, second, and third Apocalyptic Stars were only responsible for fueling the Infinity Heart creation. The Yang Apocalyptic Star and Yin Apocalyptic Star were the ones responsible for giving its structure and forming the matrix of the divine artifact.

Yin and yang, negative and positive, electron and proton. The infinite duality gave birth to the five elements, the celestial bodies, and the fundamental aspect of all matter.

Each Neo-Demon must use that infinite duality that resided now inside their bodies thanks to the Apocalyptic Stars sealed in their hearts and brains to form the Infinity Heart.

Yin-Yang particles gathered around the Elemental Chaos Heart and Bloodline Heart, arranging themselves autonomously, following patterns engraved in the True Doomsday Body by the Absolute Unity Omega Law.

The patterns the yin-yang particles formed were so majestic and complex that even Peak Rank 9 Magic Creators or Runemasters would be amazed by them.

Even the Incarnation of Death and Destruction and the baernaloths considered the creation of the Infinity Heart a significant achievement.

Not only would the Infinity Heart allow the sealing of the following four Apocalyptic Stars, but it also opened the gate for the True Doomsday Body Path of Power to Rank 7 and immortality!

Hours passed, and as torrents of Astral Origin and vitality gathered between the Elemental Chaos Heart and Bloodline Heart, the figure of a new dark golden heart began to appear.

By the time these dark golden hearts stabilized themselves inside Zatiel and Ezequiel, both Neo-Demons resembled mummified corpses.

Daybreak withstood the drain on his vitality due to his incredible regeneration abilities and control over his life force.

Invictus's life remained strong thanks to his impressive physique, control over his inner force, and granular influence over his bodily functions.

Awe filled their souls when they perceived the Infinity Hearts inside their bodies. Still, they knew something was missing, as the divine artifact remained as a mass of Astral Origin, yin-yang particles, and vitality.

To finish the formation of the Infinity Heart, they needed to add a catalyzer. Something that could defy the rules of the Prima Universe and allow the True Doomsday Body to have the same potential as the Path of Power granted by the Universe Will.

They were both exhausted and had difficulty breathing, but still, they looked toward the gargantuan construction above them and focused on the first level before releasing one last roar.

"ROAR!"

"ROAR!"

When Invictus and Daybreak's roared, the Champion of the Universe woke up from his meditation. Even though his eyes were closed, there was nothing that could escape from this man's perception. He saw the weak force that managed to reach all the way to his level and touched the ceiling.

Despite all the things he had seen and all the cataclysmic fights he participated in his life, what happened next made this man feel surprised for the first time in eons.

The ceiling of the Final Purgatory's second floor glowed when a giant magic matrix manifested itself. Its size was immense and drew unbelievable amounts of energy from the billions of statues inside the purgatory.

The Champion of the Universe detected how this formation acted on the creature inside the first level and then saw how two dark red particles smaller than atoms appeared in the center of the ceiling.

An immense shock that almost made him open his eyes assaulted the Champion of the Universe when he saw those particles.

Thanks to his knowledge and wisdom, he knew that those particles' origin came from a physical body even stronger than a Primarch Dawn Titan.

"RANK 10!" The Champion of the Universe's voice trembled when he spoke those words, but there was no other way to explain that power.

The formation in the ceiling turned off once the particles emerged, and then the two dark red drops descended, leaving the second floor under the NRAI's surveillance.

In less than a minute, the dark red particles left the Final Purgatory. One entered Invictus' chest while the other went into Daybreak.

Zatiel and Ezequiel felt the particles fusing into their dark golden hearts unleashing chain reactions, transforming them from a construct of energy into something physical.

"?AHHHHH!"

"?AHHHHH!"

Even with the help of their Moon Shatterer True Wills, the pain that assaulted the Neo-Demons was so great that they could not help but scream in agony and fell into the Will Forging Sea.

It did not take long for the Infinity Heart to fully materialize after the dark red particle fused in it, giving birth to a dark golden heart covered in azure and crimson patterns.

Inside the Infinity Heart, there was an immense amount of empty space with nothing but a dark red particle in the center.

Unfortunately for the Neo-Demons, the pain remained even after the Infinity Heart finished its formation, as blood vessels emerged from this new organ and expanded through their bodies, connecting with every piece of flesh.

These new blood vessels were dark golden as well, and although they were highly dense, they were also very flexible, and there was not a single part of the body they did not reach.

Every centimeter of growth took around an hour. It was only after three days that the process finished, and the Infinity Hearts now were intermingled with the Neo-Demons' bodies at a cellular level.

While the pain ceased after completing the blood vessels formation, the Infinity Heart just now began to work. All the Astral Origin that each Apocalyptic Star generated began to converge into the dark golden heart.

The Infinity Heart had three main functions: Storage, reconstruction, and fighting mode.

It was now fulfilling the storage function, replacing the Apocalyptic Stars as the centers of Astral Origin.

In less than a minute, all the Astral Origin inside the Neo-Demons gathered inside their Infinity Hearts, where it revolved around the dark red particles.

A qualitative change occurred in the Astral Origin, becoming denser while at the same time more organized and effective.

From now on, the Astral Origin would not emerge from each Apocalyptic Star independently. It will all organize inside the Infinity Heart, from where it could reach every piece of the body through the dark golden blood vessels in a more efficient way.

"?BOOM!"

"?BOOM!"

Heartbeats, so powerful that resembled explosions, reverberated through the Will Forging Sea as both Neo-Demons rose from the ocean amidst mighty storms.

Chapter 502 - Harbinger Of End

As they rose from the Will Forging Sea, the Neo-Demons regained their powerful vitality amidst storms provoked by their heartbeats. They recovered their energetic appearance with perfectly balanced musculature, and their strength kept growing.

Astral Origin flowed through the Infinity Hearts' circulatory systems, feeding every cell inside the Neo-Demons' bodies.

The first function of the Infinity Heart that fell in the storage category directed the creation of the Astral Ring. Regarding the other two abilities of the Infinity Heart, reconstruction and fighting mode, it was still too early to display the first one.

However, the second was ready to be unleashed, and the Neo-Demons did it immediately.

"ROAR!"

"ROAR!"

Those roars made Daybreak and Invictus' Inner Law Dimensions, Bloodline Hearts, and Elemental Chaos Hearts tremble.

What the duo was ready to display was the reason why a Neo-Demon with an Infinity Heart gained the title of Harbinger of End!

It was an ability that marked the Neo-Demon Race as the race with the mightiest fleshy body in the multiverse, even greater than those of the Eldritch Race, life forms from a universe whose main Path of Power focused on the body.

Bloodline Apocalyptic Metamorphosis!

The power of the True Doomsday Body, the Elemental Chaos Heart, and the Bloodline Heart united inside the Infinity Heart around the dark red particle, like a triumvirate of soul, energy, and body.

The Incarnation of Death and Destruction and baernaloths sought to mimic the power of the ancient Primordials when they created the True Doomsday Body. With the Infinity Heart, they imitated that race's ability to harmonize their three centers of power.

Dark red aura overflowed the bodies of the Neo-Demons as the dark red particle in the Infinity Hearts' center blended these three forces and injected the new power into their cells.

First, the Neo-Demons skin adopted a black metallic color as flaming darkness surrounded their bodies. Zatiel and Ezequiel obtained a massive increase in their attack, defense, and speed the moment that happened.

This overall improvement in physical might was the same for every Neo-Demon, but what happened next varied.

Bloodline Apocalyptic Metamorphosis allowed the Neo-Demon to unleash the latent power deep inside them that originated from the fusion of their unique constitution and bloodline.

When it comes to enhancement in battle power, the True Doomsday Body Path of Power's Bloodline Apocalyptic Metamorphosis could equal or even surpass the True Soul Path of Power's Soul Law Domain!

The temperature around Zatiel increased immensely in a couple of seconds and kept growing. The power of the Rebirth Eclipse Bloodline and the Absolute Solar Yang True Doomsday Body manifested itself.

Around Zatiel, three dark spheres of purple plasma formed. They only had one meter of diameter, but their heat and power were more than enough to burn a continent.

He had never seen this ability before or used it, but all the information about it immediately appeared in his mind, and he felt its control as natural as breathing.

"Apocalyptic Extremity Suns!"

That was the unique ability born of Zatiel's bloodline and True Doomsday Body.

Ezequiel's metamorphosis was different. The fusion of the Primordial Bloodline and Immortal Avatar True Doomsday Body generated an exoskeleton of solidified white electric plasma over the Supreme Neo-Demon's body.

It was roughly three times his size, and although it resembled an armor, Invictus felt it like an extension of his body, no different from his muscles and bones.

Like Zatiel, Ezequiel also understood how to use this new ability at an instinctive level.

"Apocalyptic Prima King!"

The duo smiled as they felt the power running through their veins. Even if they completely sealed their True Soul Path of Power, the Neo-Demons were still more than powerful enough to kill Peak Hollow Sun Domain Stage life forms.

Unfortunately, they both frowned a few moments after completing their transformation.

Zatiel and Ezequiel felt their Astral Origin, and Elemental Chaos diminishing at an exaggerated rate and knew that soon their blood vitality would begin to wane.

Their bloodlines were simply too formidable, and the power they unleashed required monstrous amounts of energy to remain active.

There was no reason to harm their life force or exhaust themselves just to maintain Bloodline Apocalyptic Metamorphosis activated, so they turned it off.

Zatiel took a deep breath, and although he felt his body sore, there was no real damage left of the metamorphosis activation. He analyzed his body before staring at Ezequiel and ordered the chip to scan both of them.

Ezequiel felt the scanning power, and while it would be easy for him to block it, he did not resist and let it act unobstructed.

"Host and target scanned successfully.

Name: Zatiel Daybreak

Race: Neo-Demon (Rebirth Eclipse Bloodline)

Paths of Power: Animus (Middle Rank 5)/ True Soul (2nd Engraving Stage)/ True Doomsday Body (Fifth Heaven)/ True Will (Early Moon Shatterer)

Strength: 10.2-->15.2

Physique: 14.5-->18.2

Speed: 12.7-->16.9

Rebirth Force: 8.4-->10.5

Elemental Chaos: 8.2-->17.0

Soul Origin: 7.9-->9.0

Astral Origin: 9.4-->11.2

Mind Force: 7.7-->9.8

Laws: Law of Life (Low Minor Completion level)/ Law of Creation (Peak Initial Level)/ Law of Death (Middle Minor Completion level)/ Law of Destruction (Low Minor Completion level)/ Soul Law (Low Minor Completion level)/ Law of Rebirth (Late Initial level)

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Name : Ezequiel Invictus

Race: Neo-Demon (Primordial Bloodline)

Paths of Power: True Soul (2st Engraving Stage)/ True Doomsday Body (Fifth Heaven)/ True Will (Low Moon Shatterer)

Strength: 15.7-->19.2

Physique: 14.4-->18.9

Speed: 9.8-->14.5

Elemental Chaos: 7.8-->17.0

Soul Origin: 8.0-->9.0

Astral origin: 10.2-->12.5

Primordial Entropy Lightning: 9.1-->11.8

Laws: Law of Strength (Low Minor Completion level), Law of Inner Force (Peak Initial Level), Law of Lightning (Middle Minor Completion level), Law of Fire (Low Minor Completion level), Law of Wind (Low Minor Completion level), Law of Earth (Low Minor Completion level), Law of Water (Low Minor Completion level), Law of Space (Late Initial level), Law of Time (Late Initial Level).

Note: Due to the presence of the Spiritual Endless Oceans, the host and target's cultivations do not restrict their energy pools. Hence, their energy levels equal Hollow Sun Domain existences."

Zatiel smiled when he saw those numbers. The chip calculated the stats using an exponential function, which meant an increase of four points equaled an enhancement of approximately 337%!

Chapter 503 - Icarus

Zatiel believed they could face weak Supernova Domain existences with their new power if they worked together and used the Neo Prima-Rebirth Domain. Still, there was something else they needed to do before returning to the Prima-Eldritch Universe Final Battlefield.

"We will head to the Aeternum Empire's capital. You need to participate in the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest, and I have to attend the Soul Rune Convention."

Ezequiel showed some surprise when he heard those words. Winning the champion contest was crucial as it would open the door for them to jump a tier in the sealing of their Apocalyptic Stars, but attending the Soul Rune Convention did not make much sense for him.

"Master, why don't you just hand over the runes to Tritus? That man should handle such a menial task, not to mention the convention already lost its original goal."

The Supreme Neo-Demon knew that the main reason why Zatiel proposed the rune convention and made it in such a public way was to buy time so they could grow stronger. It would stop the Aeternum Empire's powerhouses from attacking them by inciting their greed and desires.

However, when he revealed his ancient identity and made John Erick Rebellion kill the Frost Monster Hearth's leader, the shield the rune convention granted became meaningless..

Not to mention that they already have the power to at least face the nominal leaders of the Magi World's great organizations.

"I already reached the Peak Rank 6? Animax Soul Runemaster, and I need resources and unique items to push my abilities into the Pseudo Rank 7. The convention is an excellent opportunity to find some of those materials and also get rid of the flawed products I made during my training."

Ezequiel nodded after hearing Zatiel's reasoning. Neither of them ever stopped training their profession during the last decade, and they created many "flawed products" during their practice.

Of course, what the duo considered flawed products were superb artifacts and runes in the eyes of any Rank 6 life form.

Using the NRAI, they teleported out of the Will Forging Sea, but each went to a different High World before leaving the realm.

Thanks to their True Wills reaching the Moon Shatterer Rank, they were strong enough to handle the pressure of planting a Soul Seed in a High World.

Invictus reached a High World whose sky contained a never-ending storm. The power of the Law of Lightning in this world surpassed every other law, and if life were allowed to be born, it would manifest like lightning elementals.

He entered the world and, in a matter of seconds, reached the surface. Ezequiel took the second Soul Seed from his True Soul and planted it in the soil with great care.

The moment he did that, his Inner Law Dimension trembled as the Lightning Essence grew stronger, getting very near the Half Completion level.

Zatiel, on the other hand, reached the surface of a world enveloped in a dark and gloomy aura. The essential law in this High World was the Death Law.

Just like Ezequiel, when Zatiel planted the Soul Seed, his Inner Law Dimension trembled, and his Death Essence grew more vigorous, reaching the Peak Minor Completion level.

With their Soul Seeds planted and the creation of the Infinity Heart over, the duo finished their business in the Neo-Demon Realm and returned to the Magi World.

They appeared above the City of the Sun, and since they had some time, they stared at the millions of Neo-Demons moving through the streets.

Every Neo-Demon worked to become stronger. Still, that had a different meaning for a small percentage of the population.

While most Neo-Demons sought to enhance their battle might and their raw power, around five percent of the population took a different path.

Some Neo-Demon focused on professions, not as a side path, but their primary path. There were even some who took painting, philosophy, and even commerce as their purpose in life.

These people still worked to advance in the Ranks, but they did it to improve their cognitive function rather than their battle might.

Zatiel originally meant Neo-Demons to be a race whose sole purpose was the battlefield, but this sign of a complex civilization did not bother him. On the contrary, it brought him joy.

Neo-Demons were not tools. They were the mightiest race in the universe, and each one was a unique existence with dreams and goals. If they desire a path outside of the battlefield, he will support them.

People choosing this path would be either bullied or forced to seek someone's protection in any other race or organization. But, the Neo-Demon Race had a powerful sense of justice and camaraderie.

Besides, although those jobs and professions did not train their souls and bodies, they tempered their wills and spirits, an essential part of a Neo-Demon.

For the Neo-Demon Race, talent in the soul and body could increase easily by assimilating a powerful bloodline, but the will was something they could only depend on themselves.

If someday one of these Neo-Demons chose to take the path of the battlefield and their willpower were strong enough, Zatiel would have no problem securing a mighty bloodline for them.

After giving one last look to their people, Ezequiel and Zatiel focused on the continent's center before disappearing.

The Supreme Neo-Demon covered both of them with his aura, hiding their presence entirely, before enveloping them in white lightning and flashing away.

It was better if they hid their presence to avoid calling unwanted attention and extending their trip longer than needed, so they abstained from using teleportation.

Even though the distance was immense, it did not take long for them to get near the Aeternum Empire's capital. In the distance, they saw a giant golden city floating in the air, millions of kilometers above the ground.

Two massive wings with golden patterns emerged from the city's base, and the amount of energy in them was superior to what any Rank 6 life form could hold inside them.

The name of this flying city was Icarus, the Heavenly Defying City

Chapter 504 - Magi Massacre

Icarus, the Aeternum Empire's capital!

According to the empire's historical records, this city was the first Rank 7 Artifact that Ivar the Flawless created. With Icarus, he challenged the nominal leader of a now-forgotten great organization, killing him before marching into the Void and doing the same with the Being of Law behind him.

It was that battle the one that saw the birth of the Aeternum Empire.

While Ivar soon marched into the Void and other worlds and planes, he left Icarus behind to protect his people and serve as the capital of his newly created organization.

Icarus, while technically a city, was almost as large as a Principal World's continent. Its power was so immense that other than the Eye Dynasty and Scientia Kingdom, there was nothing in the Magi World capable of withstanding its might.

Zatiel and Ezequiel did not enter the city immediately. They stood in the sky outside it, and as they analyzed it, they detected the invisible force field covering it and the energy patterns that spread over those giant wings.

The Rebirth Eye glowed, and Zatiel soon got an idea of the city's capabilities..

'Those wings, not only they kept Icarus in the sky, but they are also able to manipulate the Law of Space, allowing the city to move and teleport at will. As for the force field covering it, not even a Peak Rank 6 life form could force his way into this place.'

Usually, Rank 4 life forms would get a magic card allowing them to enter the city. The Daybreak Clan had those items, but the duo did not use them.

If they use the cards, it would be the same as reporting their presence to everybody. Besides, there were more discrete ways to enter Icarus.

Zatiel and Ezequiel did not have to wait for long before receiving a message through their space rings. The duo stared at each other before nodding and separating.

A cape of pink force with azure runes covered Zatiel, making him invisible for any Rank 6 consciousness.

His Mind Force had already reached a superb level when he changed its origin to the dimension inside his Rebirth Eye. Yet, his nature obtained a qualitative improvement thanks to the Yin Apocalyptic Rune, so while his Animus Path of Power reached the Middle Rank 5, its power was much greater.

Zatiel soon reached a remote area of the force field covering Icarus and flashed through it. He activated Shooting Star End, and his speed was so immense that the Neo-Demon managed to approach the landmass undetected in less than a second.

Still concealed from everybody, Zatiel approached a zone in the city's periphery. Anyone else would only see trees in that place, but the Rebirth Eye clearly showed the hidden dimension with three hundred and twenty-three life forms.

All those people seemed to be waiting for something, and when they saw the winged man whose eyes glowed brighter than the sun in the sky, they immediately kneeled.

Everybody was a Magi. Two hundred and nine at Rank 4, ninety-six at Rank 5, and eighteen at Rank 6.

While their levels varied among those at Rank 4 and 5, all the Magi at Rank 6 lacked an Inner Law Dimension. Another thing they had in common was their weak life force, depicting a life span close to its end.

"Eclipse Lord, I humbly welcome you to Icarus. All the Soul Rune Convention arrangements are over, and I am sure my work will please you."

The one speaking was not one of the Rank 6 life forms but a newly advanced Rank 5. His life force and vitality were thriving, and although his path focused on his soul, his body also carried a considerable physical might.

That man was Tritus Fonder, the first person to embark on the Undying Eclipse Magi Path.

Thanks to the Animax Soul Rune fused in his True Soul, Tritus overcame his original limitations and reached Rank 5 in a record time.

Zatiel stared at Tritus for a moment and nodded before focusing on the people behind him.

"These are..." Before Tritus could finish speaking, Zatiel's Mind Force exploded and covered every inch of the secret dimension.

That surprised the Magi, but before any of them could react, they saw the surroundings vanish, leaving them alone with Zatiel.

The Neo-Demon could read Tritus' mind at will, and even if he could not, it would be easy to figure out the reason for these people being here.

Tritus followed Zatiel's commands with great effort and diligence, generating this group over the last few decades.

These Magi reached the end of their potential but refused to give up and wanted to keep advancing, so they chose to renounce their freedom and become an Undying Eclipse Magi.

Some of the Magi were still uncertain about this decision. They had only heard about the feats of the great Zatiel Daybreak but never saw him, so they did not know how much of it was true.

It was only now, as they felt a power so immense that they could do nothing against it reading their minds, from their birth until this moment, that they understood the power of the man.

Tritus was the only one outside the illusion and saw how hundreds of pink tentacles with azure runes invaded the mind of everybody.

Although he did his best to relax, the Undying Eclipse Magus could not help but feel anxious. If there was a problem with the people he presented to Zatiel, then it could be considered a failure on his side.

"Boom."

Tritus heard a small explosion and saw how one of the Rank 5 Magi exploded before having his soul triturated, leaving only a stream of pure soul force.

The Undying Eclipse Magus' eyes widened when that happened, and soon cold sweat filled his back as more and more explosions occurred.

"Eclipse Lord, please forgive me! I don't understand how so many spies could have infiltrated my troops. I swear this will never happen again." Tritus banged his head to the ground and begged for forgiveness. He was terrified that Zatiel would punish him for his negligence.

"Relax, you did nothing wrong. These people were not spies sent by someone else. My vision of the universe changed, and I will not allow those I consider too corrupted to continue living, even if they are under my complete control."

Zatiel's words shocked Tritus, and as his heart calmed down, a meaningful light appeared in his eyes.

While what he just heard could be considered by some people as Zatiel going softer, the Undying Eclipse Magus' wits have always been superb, and he knew that the man in front of him remained as cold as ever.

It would have been easy for Zatiel to tell Tritus not to consider wicked people as candidates for the Undying Eclipse Knighthood Mark, but the Neo-Demon did not do such a thing.

Instead, he allowed Tritus to bring these Magi here, knowing perfectly well that their only future would be a horrible death.

'He is using their True Souls as raw material to build Undying Eclipse Knighthood Marks.'

A small smile appeared on Zatiel's face as he looked at Tritus, making the Undying Eclipse Magus tremble.

"Good thinking."

Tritus said nothing and remained looking down. He already knew that he could not even think without this man knowing it.

Zatiel no longer troubled Tritus and kept working. By the end, he killed almost a third of the Magi, generating all the soul force needed to build the Animax Soul Runes for the rest.

Chapter 505 - Battle Royale (I)

Ezequiel also entered Icarus through a secret passage, but unlike the hundreds that received Zatiel, the ones waiting for him were only three individuals.

The trio also hid in a secret dimension in the periphery of the city. While their structure was similar, this one was much more powerful than the one controlled by Tritus.

If it weren't for Ezequiel already knowing the dimension's location, he would have been unable to perceive it, despite his ability to communicate with the elements.

Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian performed a deep bow the moment Ezequiel entered the dimension.

A solemn expression appeared on Ezequiel's face when he saw the trio. None of them advanced in their cultivation from the last time he saw them, but what really called his attention were the hidden wounds that permeated their bodies and soul dimensions.

When they felt Ezequiel's eyes on them, the trio could not help but tremble. They knew Invictus was a monstrous genius, but the fact his power advanced so fast in such a little time shocked them.

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The last time Kriz and the other two saw Ezequiel, although they were weaker, the gap was not that immense, but now they were confident that there was no way any of them could survive if they fought.

Ezequiel did not understand why but he felt a powerful sense of hope appear in the trio's souls when they felt his power.

"Speak, what is the problem?" The Supreme Neo-Demon was brilliant and understood that Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian's reactions were too intense, even if they needed him to be strong due to his status as King Roku's Champion.

That meant there must be a significant problem with the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest.

Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian were surprised when they heard that. They did their best to hide it, but Ezequiel saw right through them in a second.

'Incredible, he must have perceived our soul force's fluctuations. There is no other way to explain it. How someone whose primary focus is the body can have such immense talent in the soul.'

The bald eunuch took a deep breath and released a weak sigh before performing a deep bow. Unlike the previous one, this depicted regret and sadness.

Jury and Sebastian followed their comrade's behavior and also performed an apologetic bow.

"Lord Invictus, I am sorry to say that due to our weakness and negligence, your mission in the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest became much more complicated and dangerous. I am afraid that I can not give more details. That task falls into King Roku's hands."

After speaking those words, Kriz waved his hands, showing a teleportation formation inside the secret dimension, and politely signaled for Ezequiel to get in.

The Supreme Neo-Demon's eyes narrowed. It was evident by the words of the trio that the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest would not be as easy as he initially thought.

To know more, the Supreme Neo-Demon needed to enter the teleportation formation and talk directly with King Roku.

Although he could easily leave Icarus since no one could stop him, the Astral Chaos Pagoda was too important for his True Doomsday Body Path of Power.

In the end, Ezequiel walked forward and stood above the teleportation formation with the three Magi before vanishing from the secret dimension.

It only took a moment for the four of them to appear in a hallway in the lower levels of a giant castle that stood in Icarus' center.

Ezequiel analyzed the surroundings and saw that while the walls lacked any decoration, they could easily withstand attacks from Supernova Domain life forms.

Kriz signaled Ezequiel to follow them, and they soon reached a giant gate.

The Supreme Neo-Demon could not feel anything on the other side, but when the bald eunuch opened it, a raging aura immediately assaulted them.

Two extremely opposite energies formed the raging aura. One was calm and of spiritual nature, while the other was wild and strived toward the body.

None of the energies wanted to subdue toward the other. Their fight provoked the raging aura that assaulted the trio and formed a blue and red tornado in the center of the room.

The raging aura almost sent Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian flying away. They activated their magic defenses to protect themselves as deep cuts started to appear in their skin.

On the other hand, Ezequiel allowed the raging aura to impact him without any defenses, but there was nothing it could do against his body that was as hard as a Rank 6 Artifact.

Of course, the condition of the Supreme Neo-Demon would have been much different if he were in the center of the raging aura and not just facing some gales of it.

The Supreme Neo-Demon focused on the tornado as he felt two eyes staring in his direction.

Suddenly, the two opposite energies vanished, along with the raging aura, and the four individuals in the entrance saw a man that stood just a second ago in the tornado's core.

He had black hair, a handsome and youthful face, and his eyes glowed with the light of a sovereign.

King Roku descended to the ground and stared at Ezequiel for a moment before looking at the Magi trio.

"Leave." While his voice was calm, it carried a powerful intent that allowed no disobedience.

Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian did not hesitate before bowing toward Roku and leaving.

Ezequiel and Roku stared at each other for a second before they both released a wave of physical might. The power of their bodies clashed, making the room tremble.

They started at a low level, but soon their power made thunder and lightning fill the room. It did not take long for tiny cracks in space to appear.

A meaningful light appeared in Roku's eyes when he saw the level Ezequiel's body could achieve without any form of powerup. It was then that the Royal took a step forward, generating a shock wave that blasted toward the Supreme Neo-Demon.

The power of Roku's physical pressure could easily crush a weak Rank 6 life form, and even for Ezequiel, it was almost too much.

Before the pressure could push him back, Ezequiel took a deep breath, and then a heartbeat that resembled an explosion echoed through the room.

The Infinity Heart's beat made a shock wave of physical pressure emerge from Ezequiel's body that equaled Roku's.

When Roku saw Ezequiel's power, his eyes widened, and then a smile appeared on his face.

Chapter 506 - Battle Royale (II)

As he smiled, Roku's physical pressure vanished. He did it so suddenly that the shock wave provoked by Ezequiel's Infinity Heart collided with his body.

Unless they used their energy to protect themselves, that pressure could affect even Primary Sun Domain existences, but the moment it clashed with Roku, it dissipated instantly.

Ezequiel's eyes widened when he saw that. The Supreme Neo-Demon noticed how the shock wave did not even manage to touch Roku's body.

The Royal's physical power reached such a monstrous level that it formed a force field, similar to a Crystal Wall.

'His soul force puts him in the Early Supernova stage, but his body already surpassed the limits of Rank 6!'

Pushing one of your centers of power to the Being of Laws level before your True Soul reached Peak Rank 6 was an incredible feat for someone who followed the Magi Path of Power.

"The tales about your strength were not an exaggeration. Sorry about that test, but I needed to know if you were powerful enough to face the contest without losing your life.. I have no desire to incite Zatiel Daybreak's wrath."

Roku's words drew Ezequiel out of his internal analysis, and he stared at the Magus for a moment before speaking with a calm tone.

"According to what I heard from the trio, the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest became harder for me due to your weakness and negligence."

When the Royal heard those words, coldness appeared in his eyes as he stared at Ezequiel.

"I am sure they did not use those words, and they most likely took the blame themselves."

"The defeats and victories of a subordinate are a reflection of their leader's capabilities." Ezequiel's will could not be affected by something so trivial as the cold eyes of a Rank 6 life form, and he remained firm.

Roku's eyes narrowed after hearing the Supreme Neo-Demon's words, and after a moment, he nodded.

"You are right. It was my fault." The Royal's aura and dignity did not weaken for even an instant after saying that.

It was clear for the Supreme Neo-Demon that Roku never intended to distance himself from the responsibility or blame someone else for his mistakes.

A wave of soul force emerged from Roku's Inner Law Dimension, and in a second, a magic projection appeared above the duo.

Ezequiel stared at the illusion, and while it was something fake, he could still feel the powerful auras of the people in it.

In the illusion, Roku and five other Magi battle giant fiends with monstrously powerful bodies. Some of them reached hundreds of million meters in size!

The place where this epic battle occurred resembled an endless corridor, with walls so large and tall that the giant fiends were minuscule in comparison.

A nefarious and dark aura filled the air, and it carried a corrosive power capable of melting Rank 4 life forms.

Thanks to the information from the Neo-Demon Race's archives, Ezequiel managed to recognize the place and enemies Roku's team faced.

"The Tartarian Depths of Carceri. The Prison and Birthplace of the Demodand Race."

Roku glanced at Ezequiel when he heard the way this one referred to the Principal Plane and nodded before focusing back on the illusion.

In the illusion, Roku's group fought a hard battle against the giant Demodands. The fiends' bodies were incredibly powerful, and many of the Magi's attacks failed to provoke severe damage.

If it weren't for Roku fighting a melee battle against the Demodands and protecting the rest, the fight would have ended a long time ago.

While they fought, the clash between their energies provoked fissures in space that unleashed monstrous attraction force.

Both the Magi and Demodands were cautious of the fissures, as they knew that being pulled inside one of them would send them into the lower levels of Carceri.

Surviving in those levels would be almost impossible without the strength and consciousness of a Rank 7 life form. Illusions and all kinds of distortion in spacetime made Carceri's lower level a mighty prison.

Roku pushed back a giant Demodand the size of an island with a single punch and managed to block another fiend's path, protecting the rest of the group and giving them time to unleash a barrage of spells against the enemy.

A giant multicolored explosion consumed the fiend and blinded everybody's vision.

The explosion also altered spacetime, making a fissure appear next to Roku. That took the Royal by surprise, but he overcame the attraction force using all of his strength.

Roku had almost reached safety when three ruthless attacks landed on his back.

The Royal was a seasoned warrior, and none of the Demodands could have taken him by surprise.

Unfortunately, the attack did not come from the enemies' side but from his group. The spells pushed him back toward the fissure, and this time, he would not be able to overcome the attraction force.

He did his best to turn his body and saw how three of his comrades, who had just attacked him, also fired lethal spells toward the other two members of the group.

The duo was shocked by the actions of the people they considered friends and were unable to resist.

There was no rage or cries of revenge from Roku as the fissure swallowed him. The only thing the traitors received were a couple of emotionless eyes that made their souls tremble.

The illusion ended there, and although he saw nothing else, Ezequiel already formed an idea behind Roku's predicament.

"I fell into Carceri's depths due to my inability to see the traitors deep within my ranks. During my absence, many of my allies distanced themselves from me or right away betrayed me. While some stood loyal, the number that survived my enemy's attacks was little."

Roku made a slight pause after saying that. Although his face showed nothing, Ezequiel felt that the Royal was like a raging volcano, ready to explode at any moment.

"My return surprised that man, but while their plot to kill me failed, he gained a lot of control over the empire during my absence. Using his authority, he twisted the rules of the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest to his favor."

The Royal sent a crystal with information about the contest toward Ezequiel.

When the Supreme Neo-Demon saw the new rules of the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest, he could not help but be impressed by the shameless behavior of King Bork.

Chapter 507 - Battle Royale (III)

Unlike the previous rules where there would be a one-on-one fight amongst the Kings' Champions and the winner would be the one with the most victories, now the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest became a battle royale.

And that wasn't all. The rules also allowed for every King to have not one but two Champions representing them.

"Since all the other Royals sided with King Bork, that meant I will have to face multiple opponents at the same time." A slight frown appeared on Ezequiel's face when he spoke those words and went through the information about the other Champions.

"You are correct. Fourteen Kings participate in the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest, including me, which means you will have to face twenty-six enemies alone. Technically, I should also have the chance to send an extra Champion, but they put a deadline to enroll any new fighter, which was already over by the time I discovered the changes in the rules."

Anyone else would be frustrated and full of wrath by the flagrant cheats the other party put in the contest, but Roku spoke of them without any change in his expression.

The idea of whining about his enemies' tricks and asking for the higher-ups of the empire to correct things never crossed Roku's minds.. His wits were inferior to those of King Bork, and he knew there was no one else to blame but him.

Ezequiel nodded before carrying on with his investigation.

'In the end, all of the other Champions are Peak Rank 5 life forms with Inner Law Dimension already formed. None of them have offensive power weaker than an Early Hollow Sun Domain existence. While they lack in physical defense and endurance, the battle would not be one of attrition.'

The Supreme Neo-Demon could not activate the Neo Prima-Rebirth Domain on his own, and even if by activating his full power, he could reach the Late Primary Sun Domain Stage, that state would drain him in less than a minute.

There was also the possibility that the other Kings' Champions could decide to go all out from the beginning. If every single opponent were to burn his life force and they all launched suicide attacks, the Supreme Neo-Demon would have a hard time keeping his life.

After a few minutes, a decisive light appeared in Ezequiel's eyes, but before committing to anything, there was a question he needed to solve.

"Tell me, if I were to defeat all the other Champions, how sure are you that the Kings would accept it and name you the winner? It is clear that they are not worried about hiding their deceitful behavior, so they could easily distort the truth and use some excuse to take away our victory."

When Roku heard that, he displayed a small smile at the Supreme Neo-Demon.

"You only need to worry about winning the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest. If you do, I guarantee that the Aeternum Emperor's title will soon be mine as the right to enter the Astral Chaos Pagoda."

The Supreme Neo-Demon saw the confidence and resolution in Roku's eyes, and after a moment, he nodded.

"I will fight. We need to discuss the matter about my payment."

Since the danger of the mission was greater, the reward also needed to be improved. Roku understood that, and the duo began to discuss.

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In a different castle inside the Aeternum Empire's capital, a group of powerful Magi was having a great party. They all wore majestic royal robes, but only one of them had a crown over his head.

He had the appearance of a middle-aged man, with long black hair, green eyes, and a powerful aura that hid monstrous greed and unlimited ambition.

This man was a legendary existence who had lived for dozens of thousands of years and whose epic feats awarded him many titles. He was King Bork.

All the other Royals surrounded King Bork, hailing him to the point of worship, like chickens praising a peacock.

"Allow me to be the first person to congratulate you, future Emperor Bork!" A fat King roared those words, making them echo through the room.

He was a Supernova Domain existence, but his unstable soul force and impure life force clearly showed he reached this level depending greatly on external help. His true power was nowhere near the last stage of Rank 6, nor was his life span.

Even though the only ones in the room were people on King Bork's side, the fat Royal's words were dangerous as people could interpret them as a sign of betrayal against the current Emperor.

However, none of the Kings showed the slightest distress since they were completely sure of their side's victory and rise.

King Bork put on a modest expression when he heard the fat Royal's praise but did not bother to hide the greed and amusement in his eyes. It was clear he was having a great time.

"Brother, when you become the Emperor, be sure to remember your old fellows." Another Royal raised a glass of wine in the name of King Bork and spoke those words.

Before King Bork could respond, the enthusiastic fat Royal yelled.

"Of course, future Emperor Bork will remember his friends, as well as his enemies, like that stupid brat!"

When he spoke those last words, the fat Royal's face went red, intending to show the others his hate and contempt.

"Hmph, Roku, the son of a Royal Harem's whore dared to strive for the Emperor's position. He should have been put down just like his mother!"

While the other Kings gave soft nods to the fat Royal, many felt nothing but contempt when they heard those words coming from someone who only knew how to speak from the others behind their back and would never dare to say those words in their faces.

The tale about Roku's origin was not unknown by the Kings. He was the son of a mortal woman who one day had the bad luck of catching the eye of a Royal.

Like thousands before and after him, Roku was a bastard born with the Aeternum Empire's Royal Bloodline.

His heritage did not provide any help. On the contrary, it put a target on his back, and the small boy endured humiliations every day of his life.

However, that boy never surrendered. He always remained strong regardless of the pain and torment. Even after losing his only family before he reached the tender age of ten, he kept pushing forward and insisted on defying his fate.

Unfortunately, despite the small boy's willpower, his talent was mediocre, and the chances of him even reaching Rank 2 were scarce.

Everybody that knew him thought he would be like the other countless bastards, perishing without ever breaking the chains that bound him from the moment he was born.

Sometimes, no matter your willpower, no matter how much you want it or how much you fight for it, things will not change.

Nevertheless, there were times when something unique happened, and all your sacrifice and hard work paid off.

That was the case with Roku. After turning thirteen, the boy displayed a talent that allowed him to evolve from an insignificant lizard into a fierce dragon, capable of crushing every obstacle on his path with raw power.

Chapter 508 - King Bork's Rage

The young Roku managed to find a lucky chance that ultimately shifted his destiny, from a speck of dust in the Aeternum Empire's history to one of its most outstanding geniuses.

Of course, that monstrous talent drew the envy and greed of many influential people, and the number of times Roku almost perished was countless.

However, the boy always found a way out, a path to survival. No matter how bleak the situation could become, King Roku always strived forward and never let hopelessness defeat him.

After many years, the powerhouses of the empire found out the lucky chance Roku encountered when he was a little kid. The boy searched through historical records and discovered a shrine where Ivar the Flawless cultivated during his childhood.

No one knew what he found there, but the words Ivar pronounced to Roku when they first met each other told everybody that their destinies connected in the past.

Even if all the Kings wanted nothing more than to see Roku dead, all of them respected the boy who rose from a hopeless background until the highest stage of the Aeternum Empire.

The fat King's behavior drew their disdain, but they did not dare to show it in the open for fear of generating a wrong impression in King Bork, so they limited themselves to nodding and smiling..

King Bork also smiled at the fat Royal's words, but suddenly, his expression changed, and he began to frown.

Immediately, silence reigned in the room as everybody focused on King Bork, and they could not help but begin to feel anxious when they saw his expression.

One of the reasons they chose King Bork was the man's legendary wits and scheming mind. Unless it involved Beings of Law, nothing could disturb him, so seeing him act like that worried them.

King Bork took a deep breath and stared at the rest of the Royal before speaking.

"The Soul Rune Convention will start in one week, nine months ahead of the original schedule."

Confusion appeared in the Kings' faces when they heard those words. While the news was surprising, it should not have affected King Bork that much.

The fat King was also confused, but since he saw how the news affected King Bork, he did not hesitate before starting to bark again.

"Tritus Fonder, a trifling Rank 5 life form, really has the gall to push up the date without any warning. Future Emperor Bork, you should make an example of him, showing to everybody what happens when they break their word!"

Unlike previous occasions, King Bork was not in the mood to hear the fat Royal and gave him a stern look that shut him up before speaking again.

"According to my sources, the Empire Commercial Association will release a statement saying that those who already had tickets but could not attend can only blame their bad luck."

If before they were confused, now they were shocked. Each of the people present was a Rank 6 life form and a King, but none had the guts to flip off so many influential characters of the empire.

Many of the Kings have some knowledge about Tritus Fonder, and while the man was highly competent, he definitely did not have the guts or power to back up such a bold declaration.

Luckily for them, King Bork's following words were enough to answer their questions.

"Not long ago, I received a report depicting Tritus Fonder and many people of his inner circle leaving the Empire Commercial Association's headquarters. According to the spy's words, they all had a nervous yet excited expression on their faces, as if they were about to meet someone very important. Before, I did not give it much importance, but now everything has changed!"

Tritus Fonder and his inner circle marched to meet an important person. The Soul Rune Convention's starting in a week instead of nine months. The Empire Commercial Association will release a statement that clearly showed they do not care if they angered dozens of Rank 6 life forms.

Other than the fat Royal, every King was brilliant, and they connected the dots very fast. However, the conclusion at which they arrived made them pale.

The image of a man with eight majestic wings, eyes that could see beyond life and death, and a comprehension of the universe they could not even begin to grasp appeared in their minds.

In the end, it was King Bork who spoke the words everybody was thinking of.

"Zatiel Daybreak is inside Icarus."

Those words were like punches landing in their chest. They were so close to victory, with everything under their grasp and countless contingency plans put in place so nothing could take them by surprise.

Nevertheless, when they thought of the man who could seal the fate of a great organization's leader with nothing more than a few words, who could give commands to John Erick Rebellion, and who could speak as equals with their Ancestor, nothing seemed enough.

"Even if that man was mighty in his past life, now he is just a Rank 5 life form. I am sure that when you become Emperor, he will have to bow his head and recognize you as someone superior."

Once again, it was the fat King, the one who spoke first. This time he did not roar as before, but everybody could hear his voice's prideful tone.

In the fat King's mind, even someone who once reached immortality would have to bow to the man he served, which made him feel great satisfaction.

Unfortunately for the fat King, unlike before when the other Kings nodded and smiled at his words, this time they all looked at him with wide eyes filled with horror.

The fat King became nervous when he saw the way the rest were looking at him.

"Future Emperor..." He turned around and tried to speak with King Bork. Before he could finish his words, he saw two eyes full of wrath, and then a hand struck him with so much strength that his body almost exploded.

"BOOM!" The fat King collided against the walls of the room. That attack broke almost every bone in his body and severely wounded his inner organs.

"Trash, if you want to die, just go out and commit suicide, but don't you dare to drag us down with you!" King Bork's face showed the immense rage he felt right now, and the next instant, he released the full power of his consciousness.

A consciousness that could pierce a moon overflowed every corner of the castle, and King Bork only relaxed after making sure there was no one hearing their discussion.

The other Kings said nothing about their leader's behavior. On the contrary, they felt that King Bork handled the situation perfectly.

If King Bork failed to react to the fat King's words, it could be taken as him tactically supporting that statement.

Many of them saw how Salazar Rasputin ate his family alive, and the idea of angering a monster capable of such cruelty terrified them.

King Bork noticed how the fat Royal could not even stand up after his attack but did not care and looked at the other Kings before speaking with a severe tone that allowed no disobedience.

"From what I learned of his personality, that man would disdain to interfere with the fight for the Emperor's title, so if we stay away from his path, it should be enough for him to leave us alone."

Once he saw the Royals nodding, King Bork was ready to leave as he was no longer in the mood to continue celebrating, but a sharp light appeared in his eyes.

"Also, send every Champion to meet me tomorrow. I need to talk to them."

The Kings got a bad feeling when they saw the coldness in King Bork's eyes, but none dared to refuse.

Chapter 509 - The Power Of Evolution

Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian walked through a long hallway as they approached an imposing gate.

The bald eunuch noticed the gloomy aura that hunted his comrades. While the duo was not in a state of complete despair, they knew their chances of remaining alive the following week were bleak.

Due to King Bork changing the rules and announcing the possibility of adding a new Champion when the deadline for the inscription was already over, the only one fighting on King Roku's side would be Ezequiel.

"Invictus is a monstrous genius, possibly on the highest tier even for Principal Worlds' standards, but he would be alone against the other twenty-six Champions. None of those people have an offensive might beneath the Hollow Sun Domain Stage. How could he win?" Sebastian could not help but feel angry at the feeling of impotence.

"Enough of that, there is only one path for us now, and that is to trust that man. If Invictus is defeated, King Roku has the power to preserve his life, but we don't stand a chance against King Bork's schemes."

Jury and Sebastian glanced at the eunuch, and when they saw the resolution in their friend's eyes, they could not help but be ashamed of their weak spirits.. The duo gave Kriz a silent nod before erasing the unnecessary thought of their minds.

Seeing the change in the attitude of his friend made Kriz smile. A flash of light crossed his eyes as he remembered something.

"Did you hear the news about the Soul Runes Convention?"

Jury and Sebastian immediately focused on the eunuch, and there was curiosity in their eyes. It was unsafe for them to be outside unprotected, so they could not attend the convention, but they were very interested in it.

Kriz's smile widened when he saw his friends' inquiring gazes.

"Problems started from the beginning. The change in dates forced many people to rush back to the Magi World, so you could imagine that they were not in a good mood. Things escalated when Tritus Fonder, who acted as the auctioneer, informed them that the Empire Commercial Association would auction the runes through a process of barter, and they would accept no money."

Surprise appeared in the duo's faces when they heard that. While bartering was not an uncommon practice, it was not something powerhouses liked to participate in as it would publicly announce the treasures in their possession.

"I can not believe the Rank 6 life forms attending the action would just accept that," Jury spoke with a tone full of certainty. Even if his appearance was that of a child, his age reached thousands of years, and he knew very well the behavior of the Aeternum Empire's higher-ups.

"Of course they did not. I guess you two remember the cousin of the Emperor's First Aide."

Jury and Sebastian nodded. The man's name was Irtu, and he liked to use his uncle's status to do whatever he wanted in the empire. Of course, he was also powerful as someone at the Middle Hollow Sun Domain Stage.

"He yelled at Tritus Fonder and was about to act when all of a sudden, he sat back on his chair in silence. People were surprised by the sudden change in attitude, and after a moment, they understood why. Someone had silently shattered Irtu's True Soul."

Shock filled Jury and Sebastian's faces when they heard that. They were brilliant, and it did not take long to figure out who was responsible for that death.

Only one person connected to the Empire Commercial Association would dare to disregard Irtu's background completely. The man to whom the runes auctioned belonged.

"After that, no one dared to try anything else and just submitted themselves to the rules. I guess only a singularity like Zatiel Daybreak can have someone like Invictus call him Master."

Just as their conversation ended, the trio reached the giant gate. Kriz took a magic crystal, and after entering a code, the gate slowly opened.

On the other side of the gate, there was not a room but a different dimension. The place was a cultivation abode owned by King Roku.

Just like when they opened the gate a few weeks ago, this time, the trio was also received by a powerful force.

In size, the dimension could compare with a city, and powerful white lightning storms shrouded every corner of it.

Kriz, Jury, and Sebastian saw a wonderful sight as the lightning strikes clashed against the ground, unleashing monstrous devastation.

However, there were times when the white lightning reached the extreme, and instead of destruction, it provoked the opposite effect.

Trees mutated, some right away becoming Rank 1 life forms, while others changed species. Rocks transformed into shining minerals, or even more impressively, they developed the primary states of consciousness.

It would be wrong to call the power in the white lightning life since it fitted more the term evolution.

The phenomenon marveled at the trio. Kriz's eyes narrowed when he saw the thousands of giant blue stalactites spread all over the dimension.

'Those are Lightning Hearts!' The bald eunuch was surprised by the presence of the stalactites since he knew how valuable they were.

Lightning Hearts were excellent cultivation resources beneficial for those who trained the Law of Lightning.

Usually, individuals would slowly decipher the mysteries behind the stalactites' creation while enjoying their radiation, but Kriz saw how white plasma pillars were devouring them.

The bald eunuch traced the pillar back to the center of the lightning storm.

Hidden among the storm clouds, Kriz saw a magnificent white electric sun, surrounded by all kinds of mythical creatures formed of lightning.

For a second, the eunuch thought he saw the Law Domain of a Primary?Sun Domain Stage existence, but he soon erased that thought.

'Invictus's Soul Origin still hasn't reached the level where he can project his Inner Law Dimension into the real world, so that is not a Law Domain. But then, what kind of law and force can display such imposing power?'

Unfortunately for the bald eunuch, he did not have the chance to find an answer, as his mind froze when he felt that the person inside the white sun woke up and focused on him.

Chapter 510 - Shadow Explosion

In Icarus, there was a giant structure that resembled a coliseum. Its size was truly amazing, capable of accommodating thousands of individuals.

Usually, this structure, to whom everybody referred to as Imperial Arena, was empty, but today, not a single seat was unoccupied. Despite the vast number of people, there were no life forms present with power beneath Rank 3.

Floating above the Imperial Arena, there were luxurious balconies. The ones who occupied them were all higher-ups from the Aeternum Empire, and in each group, there was at least a Primary Sun Domain Stage existence.

Among the balconies, there were three that stood up. Not only were they more extensive and outstanding than the others, but the people occupying them were at the highest level of the empire, both in status and power.

In the balcony positioned in the north, a man with black hair, a golden royal robe, and a crown over his head sat with his eyes closed. He was the leader of the Aeternum Empire, the current Emperor, Kurt Silverlight.

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The Emperor was not alone, since by his side there was a beautiful woman and many youngsters. They were Kurt's direct family.

The two strongest Kings occupied the balconies positioned at the east and west of the Imperial Arena, King Roku and King Bork.

Unlike King Roku, who was completely alone on his balcony, accompanying King Bork were twelve more Kings and twenty-six individuals whose soul force put them at Peak Rank 5.

There was no lack of gossip among the higher-ups of the empire when they saw the distribution of power among the two Kings, and it was clear for everybody who had the upper hand in the race for the Emperor position.

"Hahahaha, what happened Roku, where is your Champion? Don't tell me he ran away. I guess you chose a coward to fight for you, but I don't blame your poor judgment. Who else would side with a failure!?"

The one yelling those words was a fat King, and he was the same who suffered great humiliation during the banquet due to his loose mouth.

Despite that, in the fat King's mind, the lack of control over his words was not the cause of his downfall. He blamed all the fact he insulted someone he should have not, as Zatiel Daybreak.

On the other hand, Roku and everybody associated with him were people that not only he could insult, but he needed to do it to prove his worth to the others.

The fat King's words echoed through the Imperial Arena, making more eyes focus on Roku.

Unlike what the fat King expected to get, Roku remained indifferent to the people's gazes and stood straight with his head up.

Seeing how his taunts failed to affect Roku, the fat King got angrier and was about to yell again when a powerful voice reached the Imperial Arena.

"I have been called many things in my life. Hero, monster, saint, genocidal, but coward, that is a new one."

The voice covered the sky, and the sound of lightning and thunder accompanied it. From a distance, the people saw a torrent of white lightning approaching with a monstrous speed.

It did not take long for the torrent of white lightning to appear above the Imperial Arena, and everybody saw the handsome man with white hair and an imposing body inside it.

Everybody would know who he was once the fight started, so Ezequiel saw no reason to continue hiding his identity. He did not even bother to cloak his soul force, and the people could feel that his True Soul was at the 2nd Engraving Stage.

The Supreme Neo-Demon's low cultivation did not make people look down on him. On the contrary, it had the opposite effect.

All the Rank 6 life forms felt the immense power of the white lightning surrounding Ezequiel, and those beneath the Primary Sun Domain Stage were sure that energy would severely harm their bodies and souls if it hit them.

Being capable of displaying that monstrous might when you are not even close to the peak of Rank 5 shocked the higher-ups from the Aeternum Empire.

Ezequiel looked at King Bork for a moment before focusing on the people he would have to fight. His eyes narrowed when he felt that although the Champions had different soul auras and appearances, they all adopted the same rigid posture, and their eyes glowed with a dark flame.

He felt there was something odd with those people, but since they were all Peak Rank 5 life forms, they fulfilled the condition to participate in the contest, and he could do nothing about them, so he just took a step forward and appeared by Roku's side.

Invictus' appearance shocked the people in the balconies, and when they saw him stand by King Roku's side, they all began to whisper among themselves.

The fat King who was yelling just a few moments ago became pale. He had been punished severely for speaking idly about Zatiel Daybreak, and now he insulted that man's right hand.

Suddenly, he began to tremble when he felt King Bork's cold eyes focusing on his back. The fat King lowered his head and silently moved to a corner of the balcony.

King Bork did not have the time to bother with the man, as Ezequiel's status as Roku's Champion surprised and disturbed him. He glanced back at the twenty-six Champions who would fight in his name, and he felt confident that the fight would go his way, but there was something else that worried him.

"So he is your Champion. I am impressed, Roku!" King Bork spoke with a smile to Roku, but it was clear he was not interested in chatting as he turned toward Ezequiel the next second.

"Invictus, it is a pleasure to meet you. I would have preferred our first encounter to be in a more friendly way, but I think this is destiny. I want to ask you one thing before the fight starts. Are you here on your own or representing the Daybreak Clan?"

That question had a profound meaning, especially when someone else emphasized it.

"I would also like to know that." For the first time since he appeared in the Imperial Arena, the Emperor opened his eyes, focusing on Ezequiel.

No Rank 6 life form, no matter how noble or imposing they were, could affect a Moon Shatterer's will, so Ezequiel stared back at them before answering with a cold voice.

"If I lose, then that would be the end of it. You don't have to worry about Master interfering with this trivial contest." Those words drew the silent ire of many people, but Ezequiel did not care as those were his honest thoughts.

If it weren't for this being the most straightforward way to use the Astral Chaos Pagoda, Ezequiel would have never wasted his time in this show.

King Bork was also angry because the Supreme Neo-Demon looked down on something he considered fundamental in his path to glory, but the man proved his mental fortitude as he just smiled and nodded.

The Emperor showed nothing and limited himself to raising his hand and lowering it before closing his eyes. That small action signaled everybody that the Gods' Tomb Champion Contest Battle Royale could start.

The twenty-six Champions on King Bork's side rose in unison before flashing toward the center of the Imperial Arena.

Despite the Imperial Arena's size, it was not capable of holding a fight between individuals with Rank 6 battle power. Luckily, that wasn't a problem since the battle would not be technically occurring inside it.

On the coliseum's battlefield, there was nothing but a barren ground with what seemed to be a glowing grain of rice. The moment the twenty-six Champion approached it, they immediately vanished.

Ezequiel knew there was something off with those people, but he did not hesitate before also flashing toward the grain of rice.

The moment the Supreme Neo-Demon also vanished, the grain of rice shone with glorious light before transforming into a giant three-dimensional image.

In everybody's vision, a dimension the size of a continent with vast mountain ranges, volcanic chains, and giant trees appeared. Ezequiel and the other twenty-six Champions were in the center.

Ezequiel did not wait for even a millisecond before making his energy explode. He fused with his Law Avatar, activated Doomsday Incarnation, merged the World Strength Incarnation into his skin, and invoked the Astral Destroyer Godslayer Mantle.

Other than his Bloodline Apocalyptic Metamorphosis, Ezequiel activated every power-up in his arsenal.

His strategy was simple and effective. He would use all his power and burn his energy to unleash a devastating field attack that would kill most of the Champions and severely injure the rest.

That would leave him exhausted, but there was no way a bunch of injured Rank 5 Magi could pose a threat to him.

All those preparations took him less than a second, but unfortunately for the Supreme Neo-Demon, something happened that shocked him just as he was about to attack.

Every single Champion on King Bork's side exploded and transformed into masses of bloody shadows!