

D. of Pride 1011

Chapter 1011- Seraphim of Honor— [Barachiel] (8)

He wanted to learn more about it— that tune, that hum, and what that ancient language was. Simon felt like he was on the verge of a breakthrough. If only he could take the next step, the walls barring his growth would collapse.

Thankfully for him, he would get plenty of chances to witness the high ranking demon nobles display their power. For Simon, there could not be a better place than this war to train himself.

While Simon was going through the epiphany of a breakthrough the beam of annihilation- [Níðhögg] crashed onto the barrier protecting the city.

BANG...

The [Sanctum of Protection] shattered like a delicate piece of glass struck by a hammer, unable to stop the attacks. And just like that, the once impenetrable barrier that stood as Orlandos' final hope disintegrated into countless fragments.

The falling fragments of the barrier reflected in the eyes of numerous humans, the silence that ran in the city and the roar of the Níðhöggs painted a dreadfully beguiling picture.

The massive beams of abyssal energy, which looked like serpents of destruction, opened their gaping maw like an all consuming force. They surged forward, swallowing everything in their path — light, air, sound, buildings... everything disappeared.

Those left alive, could do nothing but watch as the serpents open their maw, ready to devour them. This was the... end.

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"[True Silver— Limitless Slash]!"

A clear, sonorous voice, cut through the chaos like a blade through flesh. In that instant, the veil of darkness around the entire city was split apart.

A titanic slash of pure silver radiance tore through the sky, dividing the world in half. The sheer brilliance of the attack was so blinding that it seemed to carve through the fabric of existence itself, leaving behind a trail of fractured space.

The overwhelming beams of annihilation were cleaved cleanly, the silver arc cutting through the serpents as though slicing through silk. One half of the attack veered off into the distant sky, splitting apart the clouds and turning the heavens white.

The other half was driven into the ground, leaving behind a massive ravine that split the battlefield apart. Any demons or monsters unfortunate enough to be in the trajectory of the sword slash perished.

Tens of thousands or even hundreds disappeared in an instant. Sky, land, light and darkness, life and death, everything divided by a single sword strike. The entire battlefield and even the whole plains were taken aback.

That said, even after cleaving through the combined power of more than thirty Demon Dukes, the sword strike did not fade. It still held twenty per cent of its power. And it was coming straight for... the Demon Dukes.

"SHIT!!!"

The realization hit the Demon Dukes like a hammer. Those with swift reflexes— Gareth, Vordanaz, and a handful of others— moved from their positions, flickering out of the strike's path with grim expressions.

They knew better than to take a blow of such magnitude head on.

Those who couldn't react in time weren't as fortunate.

SLASH.....

More than ten Demon Dukes screamed as the sword light tore through them, a searing white gash appearing across their chests. Blood, thick and dark, burst out of their bodies like a fountain.

They lurched backwards, clutching their wounds in agony as they plummeted from the sky, crashing to the ground with an earth shaking impact.

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Dividing the sky and earth, killing hundreds of thousands of demons and severely injuring more than ten Demon Dukes. Everybody froze, all eyes wide with horror, looked toward the centre of the city— toward the lone figure who stood at the roof of the palace with his sword unsheathed.

The man had challenged the impossible and stood with his back straight as a sword.

"Bring me Agramon!!"

Vincent roared. The sword in his hand flashed brightly once again.

His words echoed across the battlefield, slicing through the cacophony of war like a blade. At that moment, the entire demon horde froze. Soldiers, beasts, and nobles alike tensed, their monstrous faces twitching with unease.

Sweat dripped down their foreheads, their bodies stiff with fear. They had all witnessed the human's strength to kill hundreds of thousands with one slash, his overwhelming presence held them in place.

However, what truly horrified them was the name he had dared to utter so boldly... Agramon. To speak the name of the Demon Lord of Envy in such a disrespectful tone, with such arrogance— it was sacrilege of the highest order. The air itself seemed to tighten as if suffocating under the weight of the provocation.

And then, just as expected, a bone chilling killing intent flooded the battlefield. It was so vast, so all consuming, that even the world itself was painted in the crimson of slaughtered souls.

The mere pressure of it sent shivers down the spines of even the highest ranking demons present. From the skies, three figures emerged, their expressions twisted in fury.

In the lead was Garvex his three eyes burned with indignation as he snarled, "Puny human! How dare you take the name of a being as hallowed as our lord with that disrespectful tone of yours!"

"Hoh? What if I want to? What if I want to wipe my ass with that name? What can you do about it?"

Vincent's words were laced with mockery that looked down on all the demons and stroked their fury further.

"You dare mock our lord?! You are asking for death!!" Garvex was so mad that he looked like he couldn't wait to tear apart the disrespectful human this instant.

"Heh! Try and see if you can kill me," Vincent pointed his sword at them "Get lost, I have no business with number two. Bring out your boss. Tell him to fight me."

Gasps rippled through the ranks of demons. Even the arrogant high ranking nobles couldn't believe their ears. To demand the presence of their Demon Lord so directly— it was beyond suicidal; it was insanity.

"Good heavens," a voice rang with both amusement and exasperation. The next second, a figure bathed in pure white light appeared beside

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"Why are all humans so rash?" the shimmering figure turned out to be none other than Jumeirah. Her eyes met the other party's defiant gaze that refused to concede an inch of ground even against such overwhelming odds.

"You aren't seriously considering taking on the entire demon horde by yourself, are you? You truly can't be that much of an idiot?"

Vincent shrugged his shoulders, chuckling at the odds he was up against "Hmph, if you're afraid, you can hide behind me until your lord arrives. I will fight right here. No matter who my opponent is, I won't lose."

His voice rang with such conviction that for a moment, it seemed as if the idea wasn't so impossible after all. However, conviction was one thing and reality another.

Even if Vincent was strong, against the vast demon horde, numerous high ranking demon nobles, direct subordinates of envy and the demon lord himself, he stood no chance. Perhaps, he could put up a decent fight if he were to go against the Demon Lord.

However, the question was would the demon horde even let him get close to the Demon Lord?

The answer was no. He would be drowned, exhausted and weakened before he could even reach the direct subordinates of envy much less Agramon himself.

Jumeirah studied him for a moment before shaking their head "A reckless human, but one whose will is radiant and beautiful like the stars."

A sigh escaped from their mouth "I suppose I have no choice. Although this goes against Lord Barachiel's orders, I can't let a hero with a soul as brilliant as yours perish here. I, Jumeirah, will fight alongside you."

The next second the angel dispersed the light around them revealing their true appearance. Flowing golden hair that was beyond mortal beauty, sapphire eyes shimmering with wisdom and captivating features.

She was so beautiful that one would have difficulty veering their eyes away from her. Her armor, intricately forged from celestial gold and adorned with runes, radiated an ethereal glow.

Most striking of all were the six majestic white wings unfurling from her back, each feather gleaming like woven moonlight. Jumeirah, the first commander of the Three Star Scripture's heavens army announced her presence.

"It seems like even this sword couldn't bear the burden of the Ancient Symbol" Vincent sighed there was no sign of regret in his tone "Not just any weapon can withstand the weight of the True Silver, even if it's forged from orichalcum. It's a miracle it lasted this long."

He reached into his dimensional storage and pulled out another sword— less grand in appearance, but still formidable, with a sleek black blade and faint runic etchings along its length.

"Let's see how long this one lasts".

Garvex sneered, "Arrogant fool, you think changing your sword will make any difference?"...

"Enough talk, bring out your boss. I Vincent will cut him down"...

"You really are an insufferable human. I'll enjoy tormenting and trampling on that prided strength of yours".

The sparks had already been lit, a battle was inevitable. On one side were three Commanders of Envy and on another, Vincent and Jumeirah. The immense power of both sides distorted the very air around the battlefield.

BOOM!!

It came so fast that even the eyes of a Demon Duke couldn't follow through it completely. The first exchange shattered the ground sending shockwaves rippling for miles.

Vincent's sword [True Silver: Void Severance] met Garvex's clawed gauntlets in a collision that split the air apart. A rift tore through the battlefield, a pitch-black scar across space itself, devouring everything in its path before snapping shut with a deafening roar.

In an instant, many miles of flat lands turned into rugged metamorphic mountains, with cracks and crevices everywhere.

While this was going on, Jumeirah soared high into the sky, her six radiant wings illuminating the battlefield. She raised her staff and recited forth a short chant with multiple layers of syllables in the same breath.

"[Holy Symphony: Canticle of Stars"...

A symphony of celestial light cascaded down like an orchestra of destruction. Each note struck the land like meteors, forming intricate images in the air that pulsed with Divine Magic.

In retaliation, the two other commanders of envy joined hands to call forth a magic that was like hell incarnate.

"Mutation Magic- [Thousand Chains of Predation]"

A swirling vortex of purplish tendrils erupted from the ground, slithering like serpents towards the light coming down from the sky.

The two attacks cancelled each other, causing destruction and shockwaves of immense magnitude.

"[Judgment Wings: Cherubim's Wrath]"...

Jumeirah clapped her hands in prayer calling forth massive ethereal blades in the form of feathers. The feather raining down from above carving trenches that glowed with divine energy, and searing through the demon army's formation.

Garvex looked up, a grin creeping at the edges of his lips. His body warped unnaturally as he disappeared into the shadows, reappearing behind Jumeirah with claws outstretched gleaming with a sharp light aimed at her heart.

"You dare ignore me?"

A cold to the extreme voice sounded out. With a flash of silver light, a sword filled to the brim with dreadful swords and silver energy was already heading for the latter's neck.

Tch, forced to abandon his attack, Garvex clicked his tongue and intercepted the sword.

CLANG... just the raw force of the two attacks were so powerful that it sent both Vincent and Garvex flying backwards. They crashed into the newly formed hills, their impact flattened mountains and sent waves of earth into the sky.

While the two were rendered momentarily out of commission, the battle in the sky continued. The two subordinates of envy joined hands to pressure Jumeirah causing her to fall into a disadvantageous state.

They chanted a unique incantation calling forth a never before seen mutated magic.

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"[Ten Rings of Destruction]".

The very sky twisted unnaturally as ten massive rings formed in the sky. Then with a point of their finger, one by one those rings started becoming smaller and closing in on Jumeriah.

The latter dodged left and right, using her divine magic to purge any attacks coming too close to her. However, the rings even after getting destroyed, swiftly reformed back and continued chasing her.

Realising that she couldn't dodge them, a light of resolution flashed in her eyes.

"The wings of the Seraphim cannot be tainted by the likes of you" She cast [Divine Requiem] a powerful magic that came at a big cost.

Numerous beams of divine light pierced through the void, destroying the rings and attacking the two subordinates of Envy who were caught off guard.

CRACKLE... blinding sparks of light flashed, the clouds split apart and the sky groaned. The attack from Jumeirah was so strong and fast that before the two even had time to defend, they were struck by the beam sending them flying for dozens of miles.

FWOOSH... Jumeirah staggered, a drop of blood sliding down from her mouth. An attack so powerful that even the two subordinates of Envy were unable to see it coming despite them working together, it was bound to have severe drawbacks.

One pair out of the five pair of wings she possessed, lost their radiance and receded back. At the same time, her overall strength dropped a notch.

BOOM... in the distance, Vincent and Garvex pulled themselves out from the caving mountain.

"[Edge of Terminus: Silver Horizon]" Vincent pressed forward not giving any time for his opponent to react.

The image of an Ancient Symbol bearing the mark of Silver appeared inside his sword.

SLASH... His strike was so precise and fast that it transcended distance itself, bypassing defences and slicing through Garvex's armor.

SHRRRKKK! The demon snarled, his chest split open and black blood pouring out but the demon did not fall back. Instead, he gave a wide grin.

"Hehe, it looks like it is too much for that friend of yours to handle my two comrades at the same time. Looks like I finally found a chink in your armor" Saying that, Garvex disappeared again.

"Where did he go? Shit that guy he can't be!!"

Realising where Garvex was headed, Vincent cursed and was just about to follow him, when three Demon nobles blocked his way. His eyes stared at the demons who dared step before him.

Given by their aura, he realised even without needing to activate his [Appraisal] that they were all Demon Archdukes and quite powerful ones at that.

While Vincent was being held down by two Demon Archdukes, Garvex and the other two subordinates of envy joined hands to pressure Jumeirah who had already fallen into a disadvantage.

"You'll need more than that to put me down!" Outwardly, she appeared strong refusing to show any weakness in front of her enemy. However, even she knew that against three vs one, even she stood no chance.

"Hahaha, stop with the act, we all know you aren't capable of stopping the three of us. But... what you said does make sense. With just this level of power, it is indeed difficult to bring down a Cherubim. Then allow me to get more serious"

Garvex's sinister laughter echoed across the battlefield. Then with a strange sound, his body started to morph.

— SCHLICK— his body convulsed the three baleful eyes that marked his forehead burned with a menacing crimson glow, and before Vincent and Jumeirah could react, his entire body sprouted countless more.

Eyes of all sizes emerged across his arms, chest, and even the air around him shimmering ominously. Floating eyes that locked onto their targets with unnerving precision.

"I'll admit, you guys are worthy for me to use this skill on you. Behold the power Lord Agramon bestowed on me. [Envy's Edict— State of Invidia]... [Evil Eyes of Endless Gaze- The All-Seeing Abyss]". With those words from Garvex, the numerous eyes moved strangely. Under their gaze, the battlefield warped, space itself trembling as an omnipresent sense of surveillance filled the air.

Every movement, every heartbeat, every thought felt exposed under the oppressive gaze of thousands of crimson orbs.

"I'll let you taste the full power of the state of Invidia".

Garvex's voice resonated, causing a shiver to run down even the high ranking demon nobles. He was not done yet, after activating one evil eye, he activated two more.

[Evil Eye of Dominion: Submission's Shackles]... Omniscient looking shackles started sprouting up from everywhere, sky, land and even space, there was no place where these ominous tendrils weren't growing.

That was not all, from the numerous eyes, beams of destructive light that dissolved anything that they struck, were released— [Evil Eye of Dread: Life's End]. In front of Garvex's full power, Jumeriah did everything to struggle.

"[Cherubim Descent]"... A huge avatar of five winged angel made of pure divine energy, manifested behind her. The angel's huge sword capable of levelling mountains and severing space, tore through the shackles and destructive beams.

However, in front of the state of Invidia, she was helpless. No matter how many times she destroyed those shackles or those eyes, they regenerated immediately and continued attacking her.

Before long, she was completely pushed onto the defensive and the avatar of Cherubim behind her slowly shrank at the onslaught of attacks.

The other two subordinates of envy did not stay still either. Seeing that this was their chance to finish off one of the subordinates of a Seraphim, they held nothing back and activated their own [Edict] given to them by Agramon.

[Edict of Envious Legion: Devouring Shadows] Tendrils of shadow surged forward, consuming light and matter alike, turning everything into soldiers. A new legion arrived.

[Edict of Envious Desire: Covetous Reflection]... Another activated. A shimmering mirror-like illusion flickered in front of him, absorbing his image.

Within seconds, exact copies of his emerged from within the mirror, a perfect replica having the same appearance and ability as him.