

GODS' IMPACT 411

Chapter 411 Demonic Civilization

69 demons surrounded Zach, and all the demons were mid-rank to upper mid-rank demons who could easily defeat even a level 50 player.

While Zach had reached level 100, his level didn't matter as he was out of the game. Moreover, his game skills and blessings were all innate to him, which he had obtained with his real-world talent and blessings.

Demons used demonic magic that was related to the type and rank of demons they were. Some could use rare demonic magic, which could easily surpass an A-tier skill in Gods' Impact.

However, no matter how powerful they were, they could never win against Zach.

All the demons dashed at Zach at once; some used magic while the rest went melee. They had weapons with them, but Zach didn't use weapons. Sure, he could conjure one, but that would use his MP.

Zach could only cultivate in the Gods' Impact. he had no cultivation power outside the game, and there was no MP regeneration either. Therefore, Zach was saving as much MP as possible for the fight with the demon lord of the first hell— Nirn.

Of course, even without weapons, the demons couldn't even touch him. He was well trained in every sort of fighting style, and although he didn't have real fighting experience, he could effortlessly overwhelm any opponent.

Zach dashed past the demons rushing at him and attacked the demons who were casting a magic spell since they were defenseless. He kicked them and punched them like a maniac.

His physical strength was so high that he could easily crush the head of the mid-rank demons.

After taking care of the magic users, Zach launched himself on the demons with weapons. He pounded his fists on them and grabbed their weapon, killing his next target.

He had no need to conjure a weapon when he could just take one from them.

SLASH!

In less than three minutes, Zach had killed all the bandit demons.

SIGH!

He patted his clothes to remove the dirt and said, "I have grown stiff. Let's run my way to actual middle hell."

Zach stretched his hands and legs as though he was warming up to run a marathon. And then he ran and ran and didn't stop until he reached the middle hell.

"Oh..."

He was surprised to see an actual civilization in the middle of hell, which looked nothing like the outer hell where there was nothing but flat land. There were homes, huts, and tall structures. There was a colossal tower in the middle, and demon guards were roaming around the city.

The scenery was good, but everything else was devastating. The demons were treated poorly according to rank and wealth status among the demons. The guards were beating the demons they deemed fit.

Even though it was a demon civilization, nothing was civilized in it.

Zach increased his running speed and flew in the sky above the city. His shadow cast on everyone as he flew past the houses and buildings.

He handed on top of the tower and kicked the guards down from the top. Then, he grabbed the rope to the bell and pulled it so hard that it ripped from the bell.

DING~ DING! DING~ DING!

The bell rang and echoed in the entire city, catching everyone's attention by surprise. They all turned to the bell to see why it rang at an unusual time, and they saw a young band standing there with a smug look on his face.

"Yo! My fellow demons! How are you all doing?! Wait, no need to answer that because I can already see you are being treated like shit!" He scoffed arrogantly.

"Hey! Who is that guy?!" a guard yelled.

"I don't know."

"Get him off the tower and bring him to the middle of the city!"

"We will cut his head off in front of everyone so everyone here can know what would happen to them if they raised their voice against us or tried to rebel against the demon lord Nirn!" the guard announced.

"Well, well, no need to come up here to welcome me. But if you insist, then please do. And yeah, I am thirsty after running my way here, so bring some cold drink for me!"

Zach climbed even higher and raised his voice: "Citizens of the middle hell! Listen carefully! You are the citizens of this city! You live here! Your family lives here! And yet, you all are being suppressed by the guards?! That's hilarious!

There are thousands of you and only mere dozens of guards beating you. You can easily overpower them! If you think you don't deserve to be treated like a slave, then you are wrong.

You all are worthless and useless pieces of crap who are letting some guards treat you like shit! Remember, you are letting them do that to you! If you want to change something, then you have to do something!

Grab whatever you can from near you, and start the revolution against the guards! Kill them without mercy and let them know they can't win against the power of unity!

If you are afraid of that so-called cowardly demon lord, then do not be frightened. That piece of shit never comes out of his palace. He is afraid. I will take care of him for you all if you take care of the guards first!"

Zach's words were wisdom to the demon citizens. They simply needed a push, and Zach gave them a kick. To them, Zach was their savior, and he had come to save them, but that wasn't exactly the case.

Zach did all that for himself. He wanted to create mayhem in the middle of hell and eliminate all the guards. He wanted the demon lord to know that his reign was close to an end.

He wanted Nirn to know that someone had arrived to challenge him. He wanted to announce his presence and assert his dominance in his home— hell.

Chapter 412 Starting A Demonic Revolution

Zach's words started a revolution in the middle hell against the rule of the demon lord Nirn. However, Zach's plan was far from over.

"It has just begun!"

There were hundreds of guards in the city, and they all lived in the city tower in the middle of the city. The tower itself was protected by many factors and barriers, but the top was left unprotected with only a few guards there that Zach had effort defeated.

Now that the demon citizens had begun a rebellion, the guards could no longer suppress the angry citizens. The only way to stop them was to stop their messiah— Zach, who was leisurely stretching his hands at the top of the tower.

While the citizens in the middle hell were mid-rank demons, the guards were not. Most of the guards were either peak mid-rank or high-rank demons. Otherwise, the citizens would never have to fear the guards if they were of the same rank.

Regardless, just being at high rank wouldn't necessarily mean they were strong. They were worse than low-rank demons if they didn't train or had no fighting experience.

Just like how a sword can't do anything with a dull edge, the demon citizens were powerless.

On the other hand, the guards were trained and had fighting experience. Not to mention they also had powerful weapons and high magic affinity.

All the guards patrolling in the city rushed and flew to the tower to save themselves, thinking they would be safe. Unbeknownst to them that they were heading straight to the death's door.

The foolish demon guards thought they would be able to take on Zach as he was alone and they were in hundreds. As the guards entered the tower from the doors and windows, the tower became the target of the citizens who chased the guards.

The guards' target was Zach, who had begun the revolution, and they wanted to shut him down so the citizens could go back to their weak selves.

"Time to execute the... execution..." Zach muttered.

He cracked his fingers and neck before leaning down on top of the tower.

"Listen carefully, citizens of the middle hell. You should never let someone rule over you if you don't acknowledge your ruler. Tell me a single thing good about the demon lord. What has he done for you except giving you a... well, hellish life.

But that's out of the point. You live here, so you know the best. Now, answer me!" Zach knelt a little forward as though he was planning on jumping down.

"What is hell?!" Zach asked them.

"And where are the human souls that end up in hell? Do you know why the hell was made? To punish the evil souls, no matter what race they belonged to. I don't see anyone other than demons here.

The demon lords of each hell are tasked with certain quests that they must complete on a daily basis and report them to the higher-ups. None of that happens here. You are not in hell to live your life like this! You are a demon! Go all out! Show them the monster that you are!"

Zach jumped down the moment the guards reached the top to catch him.

"Catch him!" one guard yelled.

"Don't let him escape!" another one shouted.

The guards could only yell while Zach swiftly made his escape.

"What should we do now?"

"He jumped down and blended with the angry citizens."

"We cannot find him, and even if we do, there is no way we can return alive if we go down there."

"But if we don't find me, we will be killed by the demon lord Nirn!"

"We are dead either way!"

"No! We have to kill that bastard before the rebellion spreads to the other cities as well.!"

"If we let him escape, then this rebellion won't end, and the demon lord Nirn will learn of this!"

"And he hates noise!"

"He will annihilate all of us, including everyone here!"

"Who is that man anyway? And why does he know so much about hell?"

"He is a demon. The guards at the gates wouldn't let anyone enter unless they were demons."

"I have never seen him before."

"Just who is he?!"

"He was talking about killing the demon lord."

"What an idiot!"

"I know, right!"

"He has no idea how powerful the demon lord Nirn is!"

"I have heard that even the demon lords of the second and third hell fear him!"

"Still, what if that man does what he proclaimed?"

"Are you serious? No one can enter the inner hell to hurt the demon Lord."

"Yeah, you have never been there, so you don't know."

"Know what?" the guard asked with a confused look on his face.

"Every single demon in the inner hell are high-rank demons."

"Yeah, I already know that."

"You don't understand. All the high-rank demons are guards, not citizens."

"Wait, you are saying that the five hundred thousand high-rank demons living in the inner hell are all guards of the demon lord Nirn?!" he exclaimed with a baffled face.

"Yes. That man would be an idiot if he truly planned on doing what he said he would."

"I see, I see. Entering the inner hell indeed sounds impossible. Even I am not 'that' reckless to go there alone. If all five hundred thousand high-rank demons come at me at once, I will have to waste so much time and energy defeating them. And by the time I reach the chamber of the demon lord, I am sure he will make an escape as the coward he is."

"...!"

The guards turned to each other as they tried to find the source of the voice.

Zach had indeed jumped down, but he came up again and heard everything the guards said. Moreover, that was his plan all along— to get intel before foolishly crashing into the inner hell.

"He is here!" the guards yelled at the top of their lungs.

"Search him!"

"He is in this chamber!"

"Close all the doors and windows, and don't open them until we find that son of a—!"

The head of the guard who was speaking fell and rolled to the ground.

"Why do you all yell so much? Everyone hates when someone yells, you know? Now, let's decorate this tower with your corpses, shall we?"

Chapter 413

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Chapter 414

If Zach wanted, he could have entered the middle hell quietly and stealthily killed the guards, but he didn't. If he did, that would have taken him hours to get rid of all the guards from the city. Not to mention, he would have gained no intel on the inner hell.

Even if he had managed to get some information from one of the guards, that would never have been enough. Therefore, Zach started the revolution and lured all the guards to one place where he could interrogate them and then execute them accordingly.

It was all part of Zach's plan from the start. And now that he had got what he wanted, he had no need of the guards.

The same guards who had closed the windows were now opening them so they could escape. But whoever attempted to move ended up getting sliced into pieces.

"Don't fear!" the leader of the guards said. "He is the only one! And we are in the hundreds! Look around you and find him! He is undeniably in this chamber! Don't let him escape."

"Oh, come on. Why do you keep saying the same thing again and again?" Zach scoffed.

His voice was echoing, coming from all sides, so the guards couldn't even trace him.

"Giving fake confidence to your soldiers even when you know you cannot escape... honestly... that's pitiable..."

The leader began to kill the guards to find Zach. He thought if he killed everyone in the chamber, he would surely find Zach. But Zach, however, had different plans.

Zach opened the nearest door to the leader and said, "Let's see if you care more about your life or catching me."

As soon as the door opened, the leader made a run to the door, but the moment he stepped out of the chamber, his body turned into ashes.

"Seriously... you all are liars. Of course, no one cares about anything else other than themselves. That's a common nature of every living being. So why must they enjoy terrorizing the weak? I know the answer, but still... if you have no guts to challenge someone stronger than you, so you have no right to hurt the weak."

Suddenly, all the doors and windows of the chamber opened, followed by Zach's voice that said, "If you step out of this chamber, you will die. If you stay in the chamber, you will die. And if you somehow manage to escape, you will be killed by the citizens.

If you survive even that, you will run straight to your demon lord, and he will kill you in the end. So no matter what you do, you will die. Your name has been written on a death note, and death is waiting for you.

It's up to you to decide how you want to die. You can choose any of the four death packages I gave you. But my personal recommendation is dying by hand as that's the easiest."

All the guards present in the chamber couldn't help but quiver in fear. Until a while ago, they were blatantly beating the citizens in the city, but now that it was their turn, they had become losers.

Regardless, Zach was amused enough by all that, but he got bored pretty soon.

"Alright. Your time is up. Die and become one of the lost souls in hell!"

The bodies of the hundreds of guards dropped to the floor and turned into ashes.

A few seconds later, Zach jumped into the chamber from one of the windows and confirmed everyone was dead.

"Well, that went smoothly."

In truth, Zach was never in the chamber.

After he jumped, he climbed the tower, but from the outside. And after eavesdropping on them, he killed a guard that was close to the window.

He spread his terror and then opened the door, from which the leader had tried to escape, but Zach was waiting outside and killed him.

Surely, he had fooled them all, but he got that plan from Layla, who was still in his shadow.

Zach wanted to become one with the shadow, so what could be better than hiding in plain sight but still staying invisible in others' eyes?

SIGH!

He let out an exhausting sigh and muttered, "Now, what to do? I cannot enter the inner hell alone. It's too dangerous. But what if I lure out the demon lord outside? That sounds impossible considering how much of a coward he is."

-n0ve1、 com "Hmmm..." Zach hummed and pondered for a few seconds before coming up with an idea. "What if I turn everyone against him? But that has a low chance of working as I highly doubt he cares for his citizens."

Zach jumped out of the tower and landed in between the citizens.

"Rejoice, citizens! All the guards of this city have been exterminated. No need to thank me, but if you truly want to thank me, then take me to the person who has been to inner hell before."

The citizens glanced at each other while whispering, but none of them spoke directly to Zach.

"And just so you know, I am stronger than the demon lord. So I wouldn't suggest anyone try to backstab me or betray me. I wouldn't think twice before cutting you all down if I sense you all are brewing something," Zach asserted nonchalantly.

"My name is Zagreus! You may know me as a 'Legend of the dead demon child'," he announced.

"...!" The citizens began to whisper even more.

A few seconds later, an old man stepped forward and asked, "Are you truly the legend of the dead demon child?"

"Indeed."

"But you are alive."

"Well, yes. But you know how the story goes, don't you?" Zach shrugged and said, "And you must also know what happened to those who tried to harm the dead demon child."

"Yes... we know..." The old man nodded and uttered, "Please follow me. I will take you to the only demon in the middle hell, who has been to the inner hell and returned alive."

Chapter 415

Zach followed the old man, who took him to the end of the city where people lived in huts.

"Please follow me," the old man said once again.

After walking for a few minutes, the old man entered the hut, and Zach followed him. Inside, a bedridden man was sleeping on the bed, who was missing his legs and one hand.

The old man brought a wooden log for Zach and said, "Please sit."

"Who is this person?" Zach asked as he sat on the wooden log.

"He is my father, who was a high-ranking demon and spent ten years in inner hell," the old man responded.

"I see."

"There are only adults in the inner hell, and every month, a few of the demon lord's personal guards come out of the inner hell and take the women from here. And they leave the newborn demons out on the streets.

The citizens who can afford to raise a child take them in, but some of them die while the rest of them survive as street rats. This has been happening for decades, even before I was born. And I am 69 years old.

My father was one of those personal guards of the demon lord who came to pick up the girls and leave the newborns. When he was 20 years old, he fell in love with a girl from middle hell.

But he knew that her life would soon turn upside down, so he kept her hidden from the other guards. However, the demon lord learned of that somehow and forced my father to bring her to him.

And... the girl eventually became the demon lord's slave, or should I say.... his plaything. He knew that my father loved the girl, so whenever the demon lord was about to have fun with her, he would call my father to watch.

That continued for years until, one day, my father had it enough. He decided to run away with the woman and her newborn baby. But he was caught, and the woman was killed in the process. My father carried a newborn with him without caring for his life and managed to escape from the inner hell.

The guards thought my father had died as he was eaten alive by the demon lord's pet, but he crawled down with missing legs and carried the newborn in his remaining one hand.

And he raised the newborn as his own child." The old man looked into Zach's eyes and said, "I am that child."

"So... you are the son of the demon lord?"

"Heh..." the old man chuckled wryly and said, "Each and every newborn dropped here every month is the demon lord's child."

"...!"

"Talking about the demon lord's pet, it has evolved to peak and can devour the entire middle hell— consisting of twelve cities— in one bite. It's second to the demon lord in terms of strength, and no one in the middle of hell can defeat them," the old man asserted with a gloomy look on his face.

"Where can I find that pet?"

"It guards the gate of the inner hell, and only a few people are allowed to pass through the gates."

"Hmm~" Zach pondered for a while and thought, 'If I kill the pet, I am sure the demon lord would be angry. But would he come to fight me directly or send his minions? I don't want the latter one to happen as I am trying to save time.'

I even used a few MPs at the tower. I kind of wish I had brought Cerberus with me. He would have easily taken care of the pet. I have Layla with me, but there is no way she can fight. And even if she can, I can't let her fight alone.

I came here to know more about the inner hell, and I did get some information to enter, but it's still not enough. Only if I could actually cultivate MP here. Wait... I cannot cultivate MP in the normal way, but what about the other way?

Dual Cultivation is one of the best techniques, or one could say, method, to farm MP. But... for that, I need to have sex with someone, and I don't have anyone right now. Should I just walk around the city and see if I can find a girl who agrees to dual cultivate with me?'

While Zach was lost in his important thoughts, the old man was curious about something.

"Are you truly the dead demon child from the legend?" he asked.

"In the flesh."

"But how is that possible? The dead demon child was nothing but a bedtime story for the kids. If you are real, does that mean you are here to seek revenge and destroy the hell?"

"No. I am only here to destroy Nirn and his army. And then the heavens. I don't plan to do anything with the hell, unless it messes with me and gets on my bad side. As long as they don't get involved with me, they are safe and sound," Zach responded while counting his fingers.

SIGH!

The old man sighed in relief, but it didn't last for long as he recalled something else from the legend.

"Is it true that you are actually dead?"

"Yup. But no. And I was dead for only six hours or so. My soul was kept preserved in the spirit realm, and once the vessel— also known as my body— was made, my heart and soul were added to it."

"But what about the seal?"

"Hmm? What seal?" Zach asked with a curious and confused look on his face.

"The seal that keeps your soul in your body. Legend has it that your soul was too powerful to be contained in a shell, so your father— the supreme lord— had to make a seal for you."

"Hmm~" Zach hummed in wonder and muttered, "I had no idea about this. Did mother Erza purposely skip this part of the legend to keep it a secret from me?"

Chapter 415

'My body has a seal on it to control my soul?' Zach wondered. 'That doesn't make any sense, but at the same time, that would explain many things as to why I had 0 soul powers.'

I admit that soul powers were not supposed to be high, but they shouldn't be 0, either. So if I truly have a seal on me, is that the reason I couldn't cultivate in the real world?

My physique was already maxed, but everything related to my soul was 0. Wait, I can cultivate in God's Impact, so does that mean that the 'seal' on my body is no longer active?

My soul's powers were activated when I gained my first follower— Ninia. So she technically broke that seal off me? And Uncle Tis also said that the blessings of different beings are sealed inside me, and I need to have some sort of connection with them for it to break.

Could it be that the legend got the meaning wrong in translation, and they actually mean the blessings which are sealed?

I have no way to know it. I can ask the old man to bring me the book where the legend is written, but it would obviously be translated into a demonic language. The original legend was written in the old celestial language that even I can't read without stuttering on every word.'

Gods' Impact was an unfamiliar world to Zach and all the players in it. Unlike the other worlds which Zach had researched on and had read and heard about their culture and legends, he knew nothing about the Gods' Impact.

His knowledge was seemingly incomprehensible in every other matter.

Deus— Zach's father, had raised and trained him remarkably in every field. Of course, as a child, Zach hated all that and wanted to enjoy his life like the other kids his age, but Deus was super strict with him, making Zach fear him.

However, all that training and hard work was paying off at this moment.

Had he been thrown into another world, he would manage to survive just fine, but he wouldn't be enjoying his life as he is in the Gods' Impact. That was obviously because he met the girls who truly loved him from the bottom of their hearts.

Although, the Overlord— who was Zach's future self— wasn't as lucky as him and had suffered so much pain that he had to become what he was now. He even said that Zach would become like him if he had gone through the same experience as he did.

Still, Zach chose a different approach and came to hell to master his ace card— the Demon King's Blessings.

'I will have to find someone who knows about it. Grandpa, who gave me these blessings, died soon after my birth. So my only hope is my mother, who is the Demon Queen of the seventh hell if I remember correctly.

I haven't seen or talked to her in over a decade. I am not really fond of her, but she is my mother, regardless. I wonder if she knows I am here?'

Zach was still at the old man's hut and was waiting for the old man to bring him the secret map of the inner hell that he could use to find any shortcuts. But he didn't have high hopes as he didn't expect any shortcuts.

'If the area is so well guarded, finding a shortcut would be impossible. Still, the map should be worth looking at so I can at least make my escape plan if things go south... or should I say, down.'

Even if there was no demon invasion, Zach would still have gone to hell, but not for Nirn, but to access the gate to the second hell. The only way to enter the higher hell was to pass through the portal located at the demon lord's castle of every hell.

Zach planned to meet his mother in the seventh hell; to do that, he had to pass through the remaining six hells. If he was stopped or challenged by the demon lords of the respective hell, he wasn't going down without defeating them.

However, Zach had already realized that MP was very crucial to him. So he either had to save it as much as possible and find other ways to fight or to learn demonic cultivation for which he needed a partner.

After waiting for a few minutes, the old man finally arrived with a few more elderly demon citizens who were supposedly Nirn's children.

The old man handed the map to him and said, "Please be careful, young lord. You are our last hope. Please stop the demon lord and free us from his reign."

The other elderly demons bowed down to Zach and said the same thing.

"He has been doing this for hundreds of years, and no one has ever stopped him. We don't care about our lives as we are going to die soon in a few years anyway, but we want you to save the young generation," they all said.

"Don't worry. I have a personal score to settle with him, so no matter what happens, I will bring you his head!"

Zach looked at the map and memorized every street and hiding spot.

"Can I ask about the authenticity of this map?"

The old man pointed his finger at the map and said, "Some of the women who were abducted get tossed here once they grow old. We have been making this map for decades, and it's still far from complete."

"Thank you for this. It will be a great help," Zach said calmly with a smile on his face.

'It would have been awesome if they had provided the demon lord's castle map too, but as they say, beggars can't be choosers. Still, after analyzing the map, I saw a pattern of the streets.

They are made in a way that no one can escape without getting caught. And I can't 100% rely on this map. As they said, they have been making it for decades, so there are chances that some things have changed.'

Chapter 416

Zach was sitting at the top of the tower, watching the city and its citizens.

'There are other cities in the middle hell. And each city has one gate to inner hell. Apparently, it's said that the demon lord's pet guards all the gates, but that makes no sense.

I get it that they said the pet is enormous, but it can't possibly guard all the gates. The cities are far apart from each other. And just by the incomplete map of the inner hell alone, I can say that the inner hell is at least 50 times the size of my realm.

My realm is 50 kilometers in radius and 100 kilometers in total. So fifty times that would be five thousand kilometers. No monster can be that huge. Even Cerberus can, at most, get to 10% of my realm in size at his peak. I can't imagine how colossal the demon lord's pet would be.

However, there are high chances that it's all a lie and a rumor spread to scare the citizens of the middle hell from trying to enter the inner hell. Maybe there aren't that many guards, either.

Therefore, I wanted to ask someone who had been to inner hell before, but most of them are dead or missing body parts and traumatized. And even if I ask them, there would be no benefits as they only know what the inner hell was like decades ago.

I want someone who has been there in recent months. Only if there was a spy or an insider. And even if there was, I doubt they would admit it openly.'

Zach got up and cracked his neck and hands while stretching and twisting them a little.

"I guess it's time to do what I am best at— which is... bullshitting."

Zach jumped down and strolled into the market to blend in with the citizens. However, his stunt from earlier made him a celebrity in the city, and whenever he went, the citizens bowed down to him and gave him stuff as gratitude.

'Yeah, finding someone to help me in this city won't work. Time to switch to another city where no one knows me. Typically, my plan would be to go to the city from where the demon lord's castle is the closest in the inner hell.

However, according to the map, the castle is precisely at the center of inner hell, so no matter what city or gates I decide to enter, I would have to travel the same distance.'

Zach would leave for the next city whenever he wanted, but he was constantly being followed and gazed at by the citizens, who weren't letting him go anywhere.

The citizens of the middle hell considered Zach as their God.

'Being famous is bad.'

After eating the food provided by the citizens, Zach was taken to a garden to spend the night there.

'I will slip away at night when they all are sleeping. I can run away now, too, if I want, but I can't. They are treating me like a God and hence, worshipping me. I am cultivating soul powers for free here.

So if I run away, they will lose their faith in me, and my source of free soul powers will be cut off. And even if they seem like they are showing me gratitude for what I did for them today, they actually aren't.

They are just trying to burden me with favors. Since I promised them I would defeat the demon lord, they are making sure I do that. I bet if I say 'I can't defeat the demon lord' to them. They will chase me down to the depth of hell.'

Zach lay down on the mat provided by the citizens and closed his eyes to pretend to sleep. He thought the citizens would go to sleep as well, but they had surrounded him and watched over him to make sure he didn't go anywhere.

'Yeah, these guys are going to be a problem. But oh well, I will simply brainstorm my plans in the meantime. I already have my escape plan ready. She is just waiting for my signal.'

Zach had already spent hours in the city and had gained too much information about the city and the middle hell. He even acquired a 100% authentic map of each city, which was being sold as a book in the market.

The book had tourist spots, facts, and historical details about each city in the middle hell, and it was well written and easy to understand.

'This city is the first city of the middle hell and also the poorest. And the next city is a little better than the previous one. So if I want well-mannered or developed demons, I should go to the top city of the middle hell.

If I walk, it will take me about a week to get there. If I run, then around four days. And if I use a vehicle, I can reach there within two days depending on the type of vehicle. But that was written in the book.

I could fly in the real world, so I can surely fly in this one too. Sadly, the book didn't mention anything about flying because flying from one city to another city is forbidden and a horrendous crime.

Can you believe it? That's like asking birds to not fly or asking fish to not swim— that was my initial reaction after reading that. But it was explained in the next paragraph.

Flying from one city to another is indeed forbidden, but flying within the city is not. I guess that's because if everyone just flew over the cities, how would they charge tax and shit?

However, that rule is for the citizens of the middle hell, and I am not one of them! If they chase me down or try to attack me, I will have no choice but to strike back.'

Zach opened his eyes, and as he had expected, he was still surrounded by the citizens.

'It's about time. The escape plan begins!'

Zach suddenly sat up and pointed his finger at the tower.

"Hey, look! What is that?!"

Chapter 417

Zach suddenly sat up and pointed his finger at the tower.

"Hey, look! What is that?!"

There was a shadow crawling on top of the tower, holding a fire torch.

"Who is that?" one of the citizens asked.

"Oh no!" Zach exclaimed. "Could it be that it's one of the guards who was hiding all this time?!"

"Yes! Yes!"

"Oh no!" Zach exclaimed again, but a little more exaggerated this time. "Why is he holding a torch?! Could it be that he is trying to call for backup?!"

"Hurry! We should kill him before that happens!"

All the citizens rushed to the tower to kill the guard. However, that shadow was Layla, who was acting on Zach's order.

The moment the citizens reached the top, Layla had vanished, and so had Zach. When the citizens returned to the garden, they found something written on the ground on the spot Zach was sleeping earlier.

[We have captured the rebellious prince on the demon lord's order!]

"They captured our savior!" one citizen yelled.

"How careless of us! How could we leave him behind!"

"What should we do now?"

"Without him, we are helpless."

"No, we are not," someone from the crowd said. "He gave us strength and a reason to move forward! He risked his life for us! He freed us from everyday torture! We shouldn't forget all that!"

"But what can we do without him? We are weak and worthless."

"Yeah. We had only one hope, which was also destroyed by the demon lord."

"No. We have to put our faith in the dead demon child! So what if he was abducted by the demon lord? He promised us that he would free us all! He promised that he would defeat the demon lord! We should trust him! We shouldn't lose our faith in him! Let's keep praying!"

"He is right."

"Let's all keep our faith in him."

The person who said that slowly separated from the crowd and slipped off from an alley.

"That would do it," he muttered.

The person was none other than Zach, disguising himself as a citizen by hiding his face with a cloth.

Had Zach simply escaped without leaving anything behind, the demon citizens would have lost their faith in him the next second. However, Zach's simple trick just increased their faith in him even more.

'I can feel my soul power charging up. With this, I can convert it to MP without using my life force. But let's not use DT on anyone. I can use Deus' Authority and create my own domain. However, I have never done it before— although I saw my father using it when I was in a memory slumber.'

Zach left the city while making sure no one saw him. And since he had already killed all the guards in the city, there were no guards at the city gates either.

A few minutes passed, and Zach chose the forest route to start his journey, which was also the best place to hide.

It was nighttime, so everything was quiet except Zach's loud and hasty footsteps.

"..." Zach raised his brow and swiftly jumped on the tree. He moved from one tree to another without making much noise, but the rustling of the branching rubbing with the leaves was something he couldn't control.

Of course, Zach could fly and avoid all that, but he wasn't for some reason. He jumped to the ground and started running, but suddenly disappeared after passing a certain tree.

Out of nowhere, a shadow of a person peeked from behind the tree and glanced around.

"Where did he go?"

"Behind you," Zach responded.

The person immediately grabbed the weapon and attacked Zach, but they were knocked unconscious after receiving a punch in the face from Zach.

"I thought I was being paranoid, but someone was really following me," he muttered.

Zach pulled a few veils from the tree and tied the person before taking off their mask.

"Let's see who you are. Probably some random bandit, trying to loot the travelers."

He removed the mask and was surprised to see a demon girl, but very much human-like. The only difference was her demon horns and fangs.

"This is the first time seeing a demon looking so... human-like. She looks like a character from the games Kayden used to play. Kind of cute and hot at the same time..." he muttered.

"Who are you calling cute and hot?!" the girl hissed with closed eyes.

"Oh? So you were pretending to be knocked out? Not going to lie, you fooled me there."

The girl opened her eyes and glared at Zach with gritted her teeth.

"Whoa. Be careful, or you might just break your fangs while gritting like that."

"Untie me! Why can't I break through these silly weak-looking veils?"

"I poured some mana in them and made them one thousand times stronger. Now, if you answer my questions honestly, I might let you go depending on what you were after."

Zach grabbed the girl's chin and looked into her eyes as he asked, "Tell me, why were you following me?"

"I wasn't following you. I was just passing through the forest and happened to run into you. I thought you were a bandit, so I hid myself."

"I see. My bad, then. I will let you go." Rudy placed his hands on the veil until the girl, or so she thought, but Zach tightened them even more.

"Did you seriously think I would fall or such a cheap lie?" Zach furrowed his brows and said, "I will ask you one last time. Why were you following me?"

"..." The girl continued to glare at Zach without speaking a word.

"If you think that I won't harm or kill you because you are a girl, then you are wrong. I can kill you now if I want to, but I want to know why you were following me. Do you understand? I am giving you a chance to redeem yourself. You can save your life by spilling the beans."

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"Just kill me then." The girl shrugged her shoulders and said, "Let's see if you are a man of your word or not."

"Oh? I like your spirit. But you are mistaking something here." Zach smirked at the girl and said, "I never said I would kill you physically."

"What... Do you mean...?" the girl stuttered.

Zach licked his lips and said, "You know... you have a pretty nice body for a demon. Red-brownish hair, red eyes, and excellent body shape, especially your boobs. I don't know how old you are, but you look young enough. And I am away from my lovers, so how about I use your body to satisfy myself?"

"...!" The girl's face turned pale after hearing that. She started sweating and gulped down in fear.

Of course, Zach was bluffing. He would never do something so inhumane to any girl. And surprisingly, the bluff seemed very effective.

Zach slowly moved his hand to the girl's chest and touched her breasts.

"Hmm~ Softer than I imagined."

"S-Stop!" the girl yelled.

"For a girl, her chastity is everything. I am not a bad guy, you know? But if you leave me no choice... then it's not my fault," he shrugged.

"No! Stop! You can't do that!"

"Don't worry." Zach moved his hand down to the girl's cave and said, "All my lovers say I am very good at it. I am sure you will enjoy it. And I will be gentle."

"No! Please stop!"

"Then just answer my question."

"I c-can't!"

"Now you are being selfish, you know? You don't want to give me any information, and you are not answering my question. Not to mention, you were terrible at tailing me."

"I am not bad! You are just too good to read and sense your surroundings!" the girl retorted.

"Oh, thank you for the praise. I can't go rough on you now."

"Stop... don't do it..."

'What's with this girl? This is the farthest I can go. Why isn't she confessing anything? She doesn't care if I kill her, but this is obviously affecting her.'

Zach squeezed the girl's breasts a little harder and asked, "You leave me no choice."

"You will regret doing this once you learn the truth!" she said with teary eyes.

"Yes. I often used to regret after masturbating, so I am used to it."

"Just kill me..."

'Come on! Just fess up already! I seriously don't want to go any further, but if I stop, she will realize that I was bluffing all along and never tell me anything!'

"I know I said that chastity is important for a girl, but do you seriously keep it above your life?" Zach asked curiously. "You don't care if you die, but you don't want to get violated?"

"Yes."

"You seem too innocent to be a demon, not going to lie," Zach sighed. "I think any human girl would choose the former one rather than dying, but I obviously respect your decision. And judging by your reaction, you seem like you are a virgin."

"I am n-not!"

"Is that so?" Zach raised his brow and rubbed his finger on the girl's cave before saying, "Then why are you making a big deal out of it?"

"Mnh~ Stop~!"

Zach immediately pulled his hands back and made some distance between himself and the girl.

'Did she seriously just moan?! I feel like puking!'

The girl was surprised to see Zach retreating, but instead of catching onto Zach's bluff, she seemed more embarrassed about moaning.

'Is my bluff still in effect?' Zach wondered.

Zach gathered up his courage to give the final push to the girl.

'If she doesn't say anything after this, I will kill her and bury her body somewhere, so she doesn't doesn't get eaten by a monster or her companions don't find her— if she has one.'

Zach took out a dagger and placed it on the girl's neck.

"Alright, if you want to die so badly, then I will give you."

However, even after such a warning, the girl seemed relieved that Zach had changed her mind. But that was too early to be relieved.

Zach smirked at the girl and said, "I will kill you and then use your body."

The girl's eyes widened after hearing that, and she tried to break free from the veil chains.

"And not only that. I will chop all your body parts except the part that matters. And I will carry it with me on my journey and use it whenever I am in the mood."

Zach felt his dignity dropping below the degenerate level after saying that.

'Come on. Please, just spill the beans!'

While Zach was indeed torturing the girl in his own way, he himself was getting tortured by saying those things.

"You... you would really do something like that...?" the girl asked with a disgusted look on her face.

'Don't look at me like that!'

"So, are you finally going to say what I want to know?"

"I can't."

'Argh! This bitch is so stubborn!'

"Well." Zach raised his dagger and said, "Go to hell, then!"

Since Zach's bluff had failed, he decided to kill the girl and bury her body afterward.

The girl closed her eyes as Zach swung the dagger. Her entire body was trembling, proving she was scared of dying.

Out of sheer fear, the girl opened her mouth and yelled, "I am your sister!"

Zach stopped the dagger at the girl's neck with a dumbfounded look on his face.

"Wha...t?"

"I..." The girl turned her face to the side and muttered, "I am your sister."

"Zoe...?"

"No. I am a demon..."

"But... I..."

'Well, father had a harem— probably bigger than mine. So what are the odds that he didn't have children with his other harem members?'

"Do you have any proof to prove that you are actually my sister?" Zach asked with a judging look on his face.

"Sadly, the first hell doesn't provide any ID like in the human world," the girl retorted.

"So, in other words, you could be lying" Zach placed the dagger on the girl's neck and asked, "Tell me one reason to believe you."

Chapter 420 Childhood Memory

Zach and Asmodeus were walking deep into the forest. There was an awkward mood between them, especially after how Zach had touched her before to make her confess the truth.

Now, he couldn't even look her in the eyes, let alone conjure the courage to start a conversation.

Zach was walking a little ahead of Asmodeus, and she was blindly following him from behind.

"So, how did you travel from the fifth hell to the first hell? You had your chance to kill the demon lord when you were in the inner hell of the first hell, right?" Zach asked curiously.

"That's not how the traveling between the hell works."

"Then enlighten me, dear sister."

"You should at least know that to travel from a lower hell to the higher one, you need to use the portal located in the demon lords' castle in the inner hell."

"Yes, I do. Is it different when it's the other way around?"

"Not exactly. If someone wants to descend from the fifth hell to the first, they would have to descend to the fourth hell, third, second, and at last, they will reach the first," Asmodeus explained.

"It's like an elevator, alright."

"But the seventh hell has a different portal. Since it's the strongest and the highest hell, it has many unique devices, and one of them is a gate."

"Let me guess, that gate opens to the other gates of hell?" Zach guessed.

"Yes. But no ordinary demon or any demon can use the gate. It's located behind the throne of the demon queen Lilith, your mother's throne. Since she is my aunt and everyone knows that in her castle, I was allowed to use it. And I ended up at the entrance of the first hell."

"Did you meet my mother?" Zach asked in a calm voice.

"No." Asmodeus shook her head and said, "No one has seen the demon queen Lilith for the last fifteen years. Some also believe that she has passed away."

"Do you... think the same?" he asked while stuttering a little.

"I haven't seen her either. Nor have I heard any news about her. The seventh hell is at peace, and your mother's four generals are ruling the seventh hell in her stead," she informed.

"What are the chances that I will meet her if I reach the seventh hell?"

"Don't ask me those questions. How am I supposed to know that?"

"You are right..."

After walking for a while, Zach couldn't help but ask, "So did my father... like... r*pe your mother?"

"Not that she has ever mentioned that," she replied vaguely.

"Earlier, you said, 'your father slept with my mother,' and that doesn't really sound like they were in a relationship."

"Who knows? I am not close with my mother, and I have never seen your... well, our father in person."

A brief silence later, she added, "He chose to live with his powerless goddess wife in the human world."

"..."

"It wouldn't be strange if I have many more other siblings, but it's obvious as day that only Zoe and I have actually lived with them. He was always busy with his duties, protecting the world from evil and whatnot."

Zach stopped and turned to Asmodeus to ask, "On a scale of one to ten, how much do you hate me?"

Asmodeus frowned her face and uttered, "You would need a much, much bigger scale to measure my hate for you and all our other siblings."

"Heh!" Zach chuckled softly and asked, "How many of our siblings have you met?"

"You would officially be the first brother I have met face to face. And you turned out to be a bigger asshole than I thought."

"And how many have you met unofficially?" he asked curiously.

"I have seen our youngest sibling, who happens to be Zoe, the biological daughter of the 'former' goddess of life and prosperity."

She quoted the 'former' with her fingers.

"How have you seen her? Have you ever visited the human world?" Zach asked with a confused look on his face.

"No. There is this device in the seventh hell that connects with the people you want to see. But there has to be the same device on the other side. I don't know where she got that device from, but—"

"Hang on." Zach interrupted Asmodeus and asked, "A magical device used for video calling between the different worlds?"

"If that's what you want to call it?" She shrugged.

"I... I do remember my father having something like that. You see when... I think I was four years old, and it was my birthday. Many of my father's friends and wives had come to celebrate, but the person I wanted to meet the most was... well, mother.

And... I waited for her at the door. Even when everyone had already come, they called me inside to cut the cake and stuff... I didn't.

'What if my mother came and saw I had already cut the cake?' I thought.

I had never seen her before, so that was the only thing I ever wanted in my life. I would wish for it on every possible occasion, and when I thought I would finally meet her on my birthday, all my hopes were shattered.

Needless to say, the birthday party turned into a disaster and became one of my best birthdays ever. I cried all night, and later... I remember the sun was rising, and I had locked myself in my room.

And... father knocked on the door. Of course, I didn't open it," he scoffed softly. "But he entered through the window and sat beside me on my bed. And then he asked me to close my eyes, and I did.

I could never say no to him or defy his orders. His words were commands to me. I was that scared of him. So when I closed my eyes, a voice called out to me. I was baffled at first, but then my father said, 'Your mother wants to talk to you.'"