

GREED 1281

Chapter 1281 The Angel In Hell.

The bird has a single eye on its head that is locked onto him right now. It can see him and it is scrutinizing him just as he is observing it.

The bird asked, "What are you?"

Legion-7 didn't answer. The bird was first surprised by the contact and curious about his existence. Then the bird became shocked. It said with excitement, "You are an immortal soul. I must have you."

Then the gigantic and angelic white bird began to move. It spread itself out into something like a peacock as it shot forward. The expansion of its wings made the already massive bird balloon in size. It flapped its 6 pairs of feathered wings to propel itself. It was moving in the direction of the thread connected to the red soul fragment.

The bird said to him earnestly, "Don't try to run. Escape is futile and resistance is hopeless. I will have you and we will become one. Together we will achieve greatness."

Legion-7 could tell that it was coming for him because it rushed in the direction of the thread that he was using to contact it. He is not interested in this greatness that is being offered and he is sure that accepting the offer will not be voluntary if the bird finds him so he detached his divine sense from the white thread quickly and rushed up to escape.

The first thing that came to his mind was escaping. This is because the red soul fragment he fought earlier was equal to him in strength while this large white bird is a spiritual entity that is far above him in strength. He is not sure just how much he is outclassed in strength but he does know that the large white bird has many threads that it uses to control thousands of soul fragments similar to the one he found in the egg.

He won easily against the red soul fragment because it didn't fight back and because it didn't have soul force. It would have been much more difficult had the soul fragment resisted and it would be nearly impossible to win against a thousand of the soul fragments resisting.

One can imagine how hopeless his fight against the large white bird is considering that his chances of victory against just the soul fragments its controls are so slim. The large white bird itself would be able to kill him with one flap of its wing so he ran. He could see that above him was the way out.

"That is where I came from so that must be the way out." He thought.

What he thought was reasonable. But reality is not what he wished it to be. He reached the top of what could be considered the ocean but something blocked his way. There was a barrier there and it extended in every direction as far as he could tell. He realized that he couldn't leave the same way he came.

Apparently, he is locked in this strange place and he can't leave.

"How did the soul fragment come here then?" he asked in agitation.

The soul fragment chose that time to speak. It turned into a white feather with the outline of an eye on it. The feather then turned into the phantom of a white bird. The bird looks like a raven and it has a single eye on its head. Its body is made of squirming white tendrils.

Waves of spiritual fluctuations emanated from it to reach him. The waves contained information that he could understand. The bird had said, "Don't run, lost immortal. I don't mean you any harm. Become one with me and we can achieve greatness together. It is a good thing for you."

The spiritual fluctuations didn't go far before they were destroyed by the corrosive water around them. Fortunately, he got the information within the spiritual fluctuations before it was destroyed. Legion-7 realized that he was not the only one that is attacked by the corrosive water. It attacks everything and everyone.

"How do I leave here?" he asked the phantom of the white bird.

The bird offered generously. "You will know when you become one with us."

Legion-7 thought to himself with a sneer, "I was just born but I am not a fool. I recognize a scam when I see one."

He rushed down to the soul fragment and began destroying it. The bird he saw was grand, majestic, and very powerful but this soul fragment is weak. He almost killed it before, so he should be able to do it again.

"This has to work or I am doomed."

The large bird is tracking him through this soul fragment. If he can destroy this soul fragment then it should lose sight of him. That's what he figured through the white threads that connect the soul fragment to the large bird.

He is sure that he should be able to destroy the soul fragment but he could be wrong. After all, the soul fragment was able to recover the first time he damaged it. So he was determined and serious as he got to work destroying the soul fragment. The two of them began another round of fighting.

Unfortunately for Legion-7, the soul fragment is not passive this time around. It didn't let him attack without defending itself. It even attacked him in return. It used the thin white threads around it to beat Legion-7 and it also used the flames of rebirth at its disposal to burn Legion-7.

The soul fragment advised him sincerely, "Resistance is futile. Join the great mother and achieve greatness with us. We can achieve such great things together. All you have to do is yield. Open your mind to the possibilities."

Legion-7 didn't listen. The fight was tougher but he wasn't hopeless. He had soul force which he used to defend against the attacks of the soul fragment. Soul force protected him but he couldn't manage to injure the soul fragment.

Chapter 1282 Accept The Bestowal Of Greatness.

This is the first time he is using soul force to fight directly. Origin gods use it to push and pull the law matrix. It is a more powerful means of the manipulation of laws but rarely do Origin gods use it to attack each other. Only immortals with spiritual concepts use soul force directly but those are rare.

Unfortunately for Legion-7, there is no law matrix or laws in this place so he can't use soul force for what he is most good at. The best he could use it for is to defend himself. However, that turned out to be enough.

This is because the soul fragment was being ground down by the grey corrosive water around them. The two of them are not the only ones in this fight. The third combatant is everywhere and is attacking everyone indiscriminately.

So even if he didn't do anything to the soul fragment, the corrosive water would destroy the soul fragment. He doesn't need to injure the soul fragment himself to win the fight but he did it to speed things up. His attacks were clumsy compared to the soul fragment who appears to be quite versed in the art of attacking souls, but he continued attacking for the sake of a swift victory.

Their fight slowly moved into the stage of inevitability. The soul fragment knew it was going to lose so it tried to escape. It didn't have wings so it used its feathers as fins. Its feathers spread outwards from it and enable it to move in the grey water.

Legion-7 on the other hand had soul force. He didn't have fins but soul force was easier to control and also stronger than fins. All he had to do was push and pull himself around to move. He was left behind at first but he caught up after getting the hang of movement.

Unfortunately, things were not that simple. The soul fragment could move like fish in water. It could accelerate and decelerate however it wished. It could change its direction and maneuver expertly as opposed to Legion-7's clumsy movement.

Legion-7 was fast in a straight-line acceleration but he struggled to control his speed and change his direction to catch up. He had to bring his entire mental prowess to bear in acclimating himself to moving quickly without limbs.

He said to himself, "This is just like the first time you learned to fly as a transcendent. All you have to do is push and pull incrementally. Feel the world around you and anticipate the changes caused by your mind before they happen."

The difficulty in flying here lay in the fact that he couldn't synchronize with the world. This is made extra important by the lack of uniform resistance by the surroundings on him. He pushed and pulled but the water reacted differently and variably as opposed to the uniform resistance of the law matrix.

The soul fragment was admonishing him sincerely throughout the whole process. "There is no need for this. Give up your resistance and you will receive peace. Your worries will be no more. We will bear your burdens together and we will achieve greatness together."

"Are you the great mother or someone she paid to advertise for her?"

"I am both the great mother and part of the great mother. We are the great mother. She bestowed upon us her greatness in her infinite mercy. She is offering you that greatness now. Accept it and be at peace."

Legion-7 became curious about this great mother. She sounded interesting but he wasn't willing to meet her to ask her so he focused on learning the feedback of the surrounding water on soul force.

He got the hang of it in less than 30 seconds. He was able to keep up with the soul fragment enough to run straight at it and smash against it. The brute force attacks destabilized and harmed the soul fragment so it couldn't escape.

The tide of the battle changed in his favor when he started to use soul force to attack the soul fragment. He formed a rod with his divine sense and coated it with his soul force. This prevented the rod from being destroyed by the corrosive water and granted it the necessary durability needed to inflict damage during collisions.

His soul force slammed into the soul fragment like a hammer again and again. With it, he doesn't have to clash directly with the soul fragment anymore and he could attack it from any distance. It was like he was pummeling it with a fist. The soul fragment was injured quickly but it healed itself just as quickly.

His opponent already couldn't run anymore after he began ramming into it. Now that he has the advantage in speed and attack, he became able to run circles around the soul fragment while he ground it down until it broke apart. His absolute advantage turned into another victory. The flames of rebirth had run out so the soul fragment didn't heal.

But the soul fragment did not bear any grudge towards him. It said as it died, "The great mother is good. She is divine. She is merciful. Embrace her and you will gain immortality. I can never die so I will be back. I am eternal. Join us and become eternal. Join us and achieve greatness with us. Join..."

Its conversion sermon was cut off when it died.

Legion-7 scoffed. "If she was so great, then why does she want me so much?"

The soul fragment broke into pieces of white motes. The white thread also disappeared with its death. One of the white motes struck Legion-7 because he was close to the soul fragment when it died.

The white motes were absorbed into his soul immediately. It joined into him without any resistance as if it had always been a part of him.

Pieces of information flashed in his mind when he absorbed the motes. He immediately realized what the white motes were.

"So they are memories." He said in understanding.

Chapter 1283 What Is The Great Mother.

The white motes contain information that he was in desperate need of so he spread out his divine sense with soul force to grab them and assimilate them. Some of them had already been destroyed with that short delay. The grey water is adamant about destroying everything. He now knows why the grey water is like that after absorbing the memories.

There were some difficulties in absorbing the memories but it is mostly good news. The white motes are pieces of information. They are not complete or orderly. He has to put them together to gain relevant information in a sequence. Unfortunately, some information were missing so what he got was not complete.

"I probably have less than 10% of the knowledge contained within the soul fragment. But that is already good enough."

He succeeded in assimilating the white motes at a rather high completion rate so he was able to preserve a lot of information. He would have gotten less than 1% if he didn't have soul force to compete with the grey water around him.

Now he knows what situation he has gotten himself in. He also knows what was happening to him when the bad effect of the white motes took effect.

He began hearing voices in his mind. "The great mother is kind. The great mother is pure. The great mother is good. The great mother is divine. The great mother is merciful. Join us. Become one with us. Become eternal within the great mother. The great mother..."

The sermon of the soul fragment appeared in an unending flow within his mind. What he consumed is the spiritual remnants of the soul fragments. It contains its memories and its beliefs. He has assimilated them so he can't get rid of them. They have become part of him too.

What's worse is that they want to overwrite him. The beliefs want to convert him into a believer of the great mother. They want to modify his consciousness to make him more amenable to surrendering to the great mother. Unlike the external effort of the soul fragment, the belief that he assimilated is an inside agent working to bring changes to him from within him.

"She is not even here and she is already trying to brainwash me." He snickered. "It is too bad for her that I am not helpless."

He knows what the underlying principle of the problem is. The white motes have infected him like law fragments infect transcendents. He can't heal himself because they are part of himself now. It is like the comprehension of the laws of Legion-1. Legion-7 knows them too and they can never be taken from him.

He can use the comprehension of laws to invoke the law matrix if it were here and become a king of law. This process creates Authority in his Origin as stars which are turned into a concept. Then Sovereigns of law use origin essence to fuse with their concepts and become Origin gods.

He has Origin essence here with him so he decided to assimilate the law-like belief now. The origin essence was given to every clone so that they would be able to become Origin gods easily.

Origin gods can't share their Origin essence because it contains their immortal imprint. Anyone who uses it will be overwritten by it. But he and other clones can use it because they are all Legion. He used it now to overwrite the infection on himself. It is fighting a soul imprint with a stronger soul imprint. It is fighting fire with a stronger fire.

"It is just as I thought. Immortality beats everything here. That's why the great mother wants me. She wants to gain immortality." He said to himself.

He used just a little of the Origin essence within him to remove the negative influence of the white motes. The amount he used is less than 0.2% of what he had so he still has a lot of Origin essence within himself.

Its presence filled him with confidence about surviving in this grey world known as the spiritual dimension of the void universe. But he was still not confident about facing the great mother so he continued to run away immediately.

He used some of the knowledge that he acquired from the soul fragment to utilize soul force. Soul force extended out of him in fine long threads instead of in a single direction like he used to do. The fine threads were then rotated around him to propel himself. He shot forward and continued to accelerate. It is as if he could accelerate forever as long as he didn't stop. And he could change directions easily by twirling the filaments.

"This is great." He said in appreciation. "This skilled usage of the soul is exquisite. But it is also why I must not meet the great mother."

This movement technique is very good. It is a product of years of research by a spiritual entity about the use of spiritual energy and the soul. The great mother and every soul she has assimilated within her came up with it.

The soul fragment was right in that they can achieve greatness together. After all, two good heads are better than one. Even if they are half bad, a million of them have a good chance of achieving greatness.

So in a way, the great mother is a conglomerate of billions of souls. They are working together for survival in this hostile dimension that one might call hell. Their chances of survival has increased and

they have even achieved some sort of immortality but it came at a great cost. All of them have lost their freedom.

One might say they have been enslaved but it is more than that. They have been brainwashed so bad that they think they are the great mother. This has made it so that they don't resist or try to escape. They won't escape even if they are liberated. After all, they are all the great mother. That's what the soul fragment was offering him. Eternal and blind servitude to the great mother and as the great mother.

Chapter 1284 Against All Odds.

Billions of souls have been shackled to her wagon. They toil day and night for her. They are immortal as long as she is alive but that's only because she wants them to work for her for all of eternity.

This spirit filament movement technique is just one of the many techniques that she knows. She knows a lot more dangerous techniques that he doesn't want to experience at all. It is something to be expected from an entity that has had billions of years to hone its craft.

He considered her a threat when he was ignorant about what type of being she was but now he knows that she is capable of ending Legion's mission to achieve perfection. If they aren't immortal already then they would be doomed just because they encountered her.

She is also a being who is trying to achieve a great mission. The little he knows about her makes him impressed with her but she is not satisfied with it. She wants more for the ultimate aim of getting out of the spiritual dimension.

This world that he was pulled into is called the spiritual dimension. He knows how to leave this world now. He just needs to be strong enough. When his soul force reaches the strength of an Origin god with a supreme law, then he will be able to leave.

He can also wait for other clones to come and get him but he won't rely entirely on them. There are ways to grow stronger in this dead dimension and become something as powerful as the great mother.

"I just have to avoid her and grow stronger. I will be able to leave then. The problem of the rejection of the void universe is another matter. I will deal with it when it comes to that point."

He has made his plans for both the short term and the long term. The short-term is not a big problem for him anymore. The information he just acquired has given him a path forward. He knows what to do to grow stronger.

The long term on the other hand is still quite problematic. The major issue is that the spiritual dimension is a prison. The barrier blocking his path is not there to weed out weak spiritual entities. It is actually there to lock everyone into the spiritual dimension. But strong spiritual entities can break free from the prison.

The great mother calls the spiritual dimension the soul digestion tract of the void universe. Souls come here when they die. Everyone who dies comes here including the Origin gods.

Origin gods can leave. That's how they resurrect. They are the only ones that can leave but they are not aware when they come here so no one knows about the digestion tract.

As for other souls, they are broken down by the grey water and digested by the void universe. Most souls that come here come as fragments. After all, the reason why they died in the world of manifestation is because they were destroyed and their consciousness fractured. So most souls aren't conscious at all when they come here and are digested peacefully without resistance.

But some soul fragments have enough obsessions to keep them awake. It is a very difficult requirement to meet because the souls were fragmented from the complete souls that were killed. After all, if they couldn't maintain their consciousness when they were complete, it is nearly impossible for them to maintain it when they become fragmented.

These special soul fragments with great obsessions do more than maintain awareness. They don't want to die so they resist the dissolution of the grey water. This resistance is futile most of the time. A complete but exposed soul can't even survive in the physical world where there is no grey water actively trying to break it down. So a fragmented soul exposed to the corrosion of the grey water has next to no chance of survival. But some of them manage this nearly impossible feat.

Some of them manage to grow stronger despite the strong digestive power of the grey water by absorbing other soul fragments. They become soul prowlers who feed on other soul fragments to survive. But they run mad when they become polluted by the memories of the other souls they are. They lose their obsession and survival instincts and are eventually digested by the spiritual dimension when they lose their will to resist.

In very rare situations, an entity with a divine ability related to souls finds a way to circumvent the problem of madness. They are able to grow stronger without limits. Some of them become beings like the great mother. If they become strong enough, they can even break the barrier imprisoning them here.

So the situation is not entirely hopeless. Any soul that manages to overcome the odds can leave. But the void universe won't allow it to occur. No soul that enters the spiritual dimension can return to the void universe unless they are complete Origin gods. Anything else that manages to escape will be attacked and swiftly destroyed in the outside world.

The great mother is in a tricky situation because of the animosity of the void universe. She is strong enough to leave the spiritual dimension but she can't survive in the void universe because the void universe will try and most definitely succeed in killing her so she has to stay here and suffer under the constant digestion of the spiritual dimensions. She has to continue growing or die. And it is all for nothing because there is no end to the struggle to live in sight.

But that didn't stop her forever. She found a way to project herself into the void universe through soul fragments. She managed to make the soul fragments acceptable to the void universe too so they were not destroyed.

Legion-7 doesn't know how exactly she did it. But he does know that it has something to do with the red flames of rebirth and how the whole Phoenix race was formed. In fact, it is more accurate to call her the entire Phoenix race.

Chapter 1285 More Than Surviving.

Apparently, every phoenix in the void universe is one of her soul fragments, not a few of them. So he wasn't unlucky when he met a soul fragment within an egg. Every phoenix egg has a soul fragment of hers within it.

People think that Phoenixes are immortal because of their flames of rebirth but they are wrong about that. Phoenixes are immortal because of the great mother as their foundation. It is why no one has been able to copy their "divine ability."

The flames of rebirth is just a technique that uses spiritual energy to copy the properties of the grey water here. It destroys matter in the void universe and transforms it into energy capable of strengthening the soul.

This energy is then transported to the great mother through the spiritual links between her and all her soul fragments. That is how the great mother has managed to acquire enough energy to become as powerful as demon gods.

He found out all of this from the white motes and he couldn't help but marvel. It is all fascinating to him. Anyone who knows of the secret of the Phoenix race will be impressed by it.

He praised her sincerely, "The great mother is truly a great entity. She formed a race that is present in the whole void universe and not just in the realm of high heaven. All the phoenixes are working towards freeing her. Even demon gods are not capable of such a thing. What a great mother."

Demon gods can also create races but no demon god has managed to create a race that spans the entire void universe. It goes to show just how massive her influence in the void universe is. And she is not even in the world of manifestation herself. One can very well imagine just how big her impact on the void universe would be if she were allowed to exist in the world of manifestation.

"In a world where others are struggling to survive, she has not only survived, she has thrived. She is truly a genius."

He praised her while running as fast as possible. He doesn't need to stop to express his sincere opinions. In fact, it is because he appreciates her resourcefulness that he knows that he must not meet her. People who have achieved great things like that are not soft or kind. Especially not people who rely on slavery for labor.

"Where there is life, there is always resistance. And when there is a Will, there is a way. The great mother is the embodiment of the struggle of life and its victory over death. Unfortunately for her, I am not willing to join her."

He admires her but he will do so from a safe distance. If she gets him, she might be able to use him to protect herself from the digestion of the spiritual dimension. It won't make her capable of surviving in the void universe but it will make it so that staying here is no longer a constant race against death.

She has always been in a hopeless situation here. She can't learn laws so she cannot become immortal. She can't become immortal so she can't meet the requirement to exist outside of the void universe.

She is as powerful as demon gods but she is still pitiful. The bigger she gets, the more she loses to the spiritual dimension. After all, the grey water can only digest what it is in contact with. The larger the area of contact, the higher the corrosive pressure. So the great mother's large surface area is a problem for her.

Then he came along with a power that could completely resist the corrosion of the grey water or nether water as she called it. If she gains it then all the energy coming from her soul fragments can be directed toward more useful objectives such as the issue of her freedom.

All of these have made it so that there can be no negotiation or truce between them. She must have him at all costs. Even he won't let himself go if he were in her shoes.

He shot through the grey water while paying attention to his environment. He didn't use his divine sense to see like he normally would. His divine sense has a large range but any entity that is aware in the spiritual dimension will be able to sense his divine sense and see him too when he sees them. That's how the great mother became aware of him.

His ignorance drew her attention. She has a lot of soul fragments and she can't pay attention to all of them. The soul fragment he encountered in the egg was dormant because she was focused elsewhere. That's why it didn't fight back against him. Not even his attacks awakened it.

It instinctively tried to protect itself by returning to the spiritual dimension. Unfortunately, that wasn't enough for it. It needed the flames of rebirth to heal the damage to it. So it pulled the egg down to the spiritual dimension and dragged Legion-7 along with it.

It didn't wake up even then. It was Legion-7's interaction of his divine sense with the spiritual link of the soul fragment that awakened it after drawing the great mother's attention.

He has learned from that experience now and he knows better than to spread his divine sense wantonly in the spiritual dimension. Everything here is extra sensitive to spiritual fluctuations. Instead, he used a spiritual echo method to sense the world.

He agitated his divine sense and sent out a wave of spiritual fluctuations in a particular frequency outwards from his position. The waves return to him after rebounding on obstacles. They bring with them information about the obstacle.

This method is safer in that while it can be sensed by others, they won't be able to lock on to him through it. The disadvantage is that it is many times slower than the use of divine sense.

Chapter 1286 Eat Or Be Eaten.

Information acquisition is almost instantaneous with the use of divine sense. It is not so with the spiritual echo method. There is a delay between the echoes which causes the information to not only be instantaneous, it is also intermittent.

It makes seeing like being in a dark room and switching on and off a source of light over and over again. So he gets a glimpse of the world before it is plunged into darkness. Then he has to wait patiently for another glimpse.

The information the spiritual echo brings is also not accurate. The grey water destroys some of the spiritual waves so some information is always missing. The farther the target, the less information is acquired.

This continues until no information is acquired at a certain distance. This distance is also much shorter than the range of his divine sense so the spiritual echo method has a shorter maximum range and an even much smaller effective range. This is all because of the corrosion of the nether water.

The effectiveness of the method made him complain, "This spiritual echo method is too bad. It is as if I am groping about with my hands instead of using my eyes. What's worse is that my hands are crippled so they are not reliable."

He considered the pros and cons before making up his mind. The pro of the spiritual echo method is that by switching on and off the source of light in the dark room, others in the room will also not be able to acquire accurate information about him. The best they can do is know either his position, speed, or direction. They can't know more than one of those accurately at the same time.

So he said, "It is better to be safe than sorry. I don't want to attract another entity that I can't defeat. I will continue using the spiritual echo method until I create my own soul techniques."

The spiritual echo method is the best surveillance method that he has that can provide him with a certain amount of stealth. In fact, it is the only such method he possesses so he can't be picky.

He got from the memories that he acquired that no one can use a divine sense in the spiritual dimension. The grey water or nether water prevents anyone from using it. But he can use his divine sense thanks to the protection of soul force so it is an advantage unique to him.

Unfortunately, he can't use his divine sense because of its weakness. That doesn't mean he will settle with using the inefficient spiritual echo method. It is far too lacking for him to settle for.

The spiritual echo method was created by the great mother and it is the best technique that she has to see in the spiritual dimension. But he is not the great mother. He has an alternative at his disposal and it is a better one too. He just has to fix its weakness and make his divine sense a completely superior sensing method.

This is what he decided to busy himself with on his way to a feeding ground. He doesn't have a sufficient perception method yet so hunting is out of the question for him. He intends to try his luck at a feeding ground rather than prowl the infinite spiritual dimension for prey.

Hunting is a fast way to grow stronger in the spiritual dimension. It is the main method to survive in the spiritual dimension if you don't have a whole race feeding you energy from the void universe.

He doesn't have anyone capable of feeding energy to grow so hunting is something he intends to do but he might become prey if he is not careful. So until he has an advantage in perception, he won't try to court death with entities that are stronger than him and much more experienced than him.

So he went in search of a feeding ground as he worked to develop a superior soul perception technique. Unlike hunting in the spiritual dimension, going to a feeding ground is a less dangerous alternative. This is as long as one knows how to take advantage of feeding grounds.

He knows how to take advantage of feeding grounds and will be able to keep himself safe to a certain extent there. However, the location of the feeding grounds is not constant. They are always changing so he is not going in a particular direction.

He is just moving in one direction that he chose at random. If he is lucky, he will encounter a feeding ground soon. If he is not, then he won't encounter one for all of eternity.

The combination of the infinite space of the spiritual dimension and the randomness of the feeding ground has created a situation where the chances of encountering a feeding ground in the next moment fluctuate between 0% and 100%.

This situation is a calamity for others. Being aware is not enough to survive in the spiritual dimension. They have to eat to grow stronger. If they don't grow stronger, then the nether water will digest them.

This makes it so that the spiritual dimension is not about survival of the fittest. It doesn't want anyone to survive at all. Only the most hardworking and luckiest spiritual entities survive.

To survive, they can't waste their time searching for feeding grounds. They have to hope they come across another soul prowler or unaware soul to kill and eat.

But he is not in danger of being digested. The nether water is ineffective on him so he is not in a hurry to eat. If not for the great mother, then he would be mostly carefree here in the spiritual dimension.

Then again, if not for the great mother, he wouldn't be here in the first place. She is the root of all of his problems. So he must find a feeding ground soon enough so that he will be able to grow stronger.

Chapter 1287 Nether Waters Is Not Chaos Energy.

The spiritual dimension is infinite but he can't underestimate the great mother by ruling out that she can't find him. It will be false confidence if he thinks he knows all she is capable of from the little knowledge he gained from a soul fragment. Even if she can't find him, the chances of him running into a feeding ground are the same as running into her. If he is unlucky then she might appear before he encounters a feeding ground.

But he can't just sit still and do nothing. That will not improve his chances either. The only thing he can rely on is his strength so he must seek strength no matter where it leads him.

He continued searching even after 7 years. None of the clones were born during that period of time. His situation is bad but he is not envious of Aeternus who is being ravaged by Chaos energy.

He thought to himself, "Maybe my situation is not so bad. And we can rule out the possibility of Nether waters being Chaos energy."

The other clones are doing well apart from Helios who is battling with the law of Order. So all in all, his condition is about average among the clones. Being bored searching for a feeding ground in an empty and bleak world is orders of magnitude better than having Chaos energy trying to kill him.

His decision to pursue strength at all costs finally paid off in the 8th year of searching. He encountered a change in the spiritual dimension that is an indication of the presence of a feeding ground.

"Finally." He said, "It is time to eat."

He had managed to create his own perception technique after a year of effort. It was easy to do since he didn't have to labor at the doorstep of death like the great mother and he had the data of her technique as reference.

His divine sense emanated in rings around him. These rings behave just like the spiritual waves of the spiritual echo method except that they are not destroyed by the nether water and can't be traced back to him even if they are intercepted. This is because the spiritual waves have been coated with soul force for protection.

He called it the divine echo method. It still feels like groping in the dark but the information is more accurate now since the nether water can't destroy the spiritual waves. It also has the stealth ability of the spiritual echo so it is better than it.

The major advantage of this method is the range of perception. Because the waves are not destroyed by the nether waters, they can reach a much farther distance than the spiritual echo method. That range has come in handy now.

He can sense the feeding ground from a very far distance than he should be able to. Its position is a long way apart from the direction he was searching. If he hadn't sensed it as he was passing by, he would have missed it completely.

He approached the feeding ground quickly before it disappeared. Just as its appearance is uncertain, its duration is also uncertain. It can disappear at any moment so he has to take advantage of it immediately.

The feeding ground is a black hole in the spiritual dimension. It descended from the void universe and will return after some time. During its duration in the spiritual dimension, it creates a gravitational pull on souls. Souls are drawn towards it by the gravitational field around it. The souls enter the black hole and are crushed within it.

If anyone wants to eat, all they have to do is intercept the attracted souls while making sure that they themselves are not attracted and pulled into the black hole. It is a tricky and dangerous business. But it is better than hunting.

Hunting has an uncertain chance of danger and also an uncertain chance of catching prey. You might never encounter another soul fragment which means you might never have to fight. But you will certainly die in that case. This is because the nether water will kill you.

The feeding ground on the other hand has a certain chance of both danger and catching prey. That's why soul prowlers want to encounter a feeding ground. With it, encountering another soul fragment is certain.

Of course, most soul prowlers are ignorant and don't know the benefits of the feeding ground. They are not like him who got inside information from a tyrant of the spiritual dimension. But even the most ignorant soul prowler will notice the congregation of souls and the force of attraction if they are close enough to it.

Through the try-and-error method, they will either learn the dangers of the feeding ground and survive or learn the dangers of the feeding ground when it is too late and die.

Knowledge is power in a normal situation. It is more precious in a situation where everything including the world is trying to kill you. You can't even sit still and hide somewhere without the danger of death. Everyone that wants to live must find someone else to eat.

Not everyone can be so lucky and unlucky to encounter the soul fragment of the great mother, defeat it, and acquire important knowledge from it.

"Let's see what this feeding ground is all about." He said as he changed his direction towards the black hole.

He can determine the position of the black hole with a fairly high accuracy. This is mostly due to the gravitational waves that it is producing. These waves are odd in the empty spiritual dimension so they are unmistakable.

He soon found it. He can't see everything in the spiritual dimension but he can sense that the gravitational waves have become stronger. He can also sense that at the edge of his perception, some souls are being dragged towards a point in front of him.

He said in anticipation, "It seems food is served."

Chapter 1288 Black Hole In The Spiritual Dimension.

Before him is what appears to be a gravitational whirlpool. It is full of danger and also full of fish. Fish being other souls. It is a veritable display of food to someone who is as starved as him.

"I will have to thank the great mother for her experience at hunting and using the feeding ground when I meet her."

Legion-7 didn't let the excitement of finding a feeding ground override his caution. After all, this feeding ground is a public location. He is not the only one looking to find something to eat. Prey and predator can be switched at any moment.

He examined his environment thoroughly while cautiously approaching the black hole.

"I should be careful. As long as I sense the gravitational force properly and make sure it doesn't exceed my power, I should be fine."

He approached the feeding ground carefully while sensing the force of attraction. What he sensed from the black hole surprised him but also made sense because of the information he got about the cause of the feeding grounds.

The force of attraction is not purely gravitational. He can also sense soul force from it. That hasn't changed his situation much so he remained careful.

He went ahead to map out the zone of safety.

He used the divine echo method to sense the force of attraction. The waves will be distorted by the force of attraction but they will still return to him. This is because the force of attraction is not purely gravitational. The soul force it contains will reflect spiritual fluctuations and divine sense.

The area of the gravitational whirlpool in which his perception is still reflected back to him is the zone of safety. It means the gravitational force of the whirlpool in those places is not strong enough to overcome the strength of his divine sense. Which means he will be able to move relatively well in those places. Hence why he will be safe there.

The zone of safety is always changing so he has to pay constant attention to it. This is because the whirlpool is constantly expanding and growing stronger.

Beyond the zone of safety is the zone of no return. At that point, nothing returns from it. Anything that gets that close to the black hole is gone. The zone of no return forms the dark sphere of the area he can't sense since his divine sense can't return from that part of the whirlpool.

"Now that I have done that. I can eat in peace." He said to himself. "I should also perform more tests."

He decided to perform the test first before dedicating himself to eating. The test won't take long and knowledge is very important. So he extended his divine sense towards the zone of no return from the zone of safety. He is not using the divine echo method. He is using the full power of his divine sense.

His divine sense entered the zone of return as if it entered a sinkhole. He can't pull it out because of the overwhelming force of attraction. But he still got the information they sensed because his divine sense is connected to him and information transfer is instantaneous.

What he saw proved that the black hole was not a true black hole. It doesn't distort space and time around it so he was able to see what it truly was beyond the zone of no return. What he saw was a ring of shattered light.

There are what appear to be shiny rocks in the zone of no return. These rocks are fragments that form the ring of light. They are rotating around in a circle and also moving closer to each other to form a singularity.

The closer they are to each other, the smaller and more complete the shattered ring of light is. It is as if they are trying to join together. This attempt of theirs is fostered by the souls that are sucked into the black hole and shattered into white motes that sprinkle on the shattered rocks.

The white motes nourish the shattered rocks. This makes them shine brighter and brings them closer to each other. He also noticed that the smaller the ring got as the stones got closer to each other, the stronger the force of attraction of the feeding ground became.

The last thing that sealed his theory of the Origin of the black hole is that he sensed law fragments and cosmic energy from the shattered stones. He is very familiar with law fragments and he has encountered cosmic energy many times after comprehending laws so he is sure that the shattered rocks are the fragments of an Origin god.

What he saw made him excited immediately. He said in awe, "The wonders of the void universe never cease to amaze."

"The great mother was right. This is the foundation of the immortality of origin gods."

The great mother couldn't see what lay beyond the zone of no return but she postulated that the black holes are dead Origin gods. She claimed that poor origin gods who haven't made any preparations for resurrection and don't have any Origin essence left come to the spiritual dimension when they die.

The void universe does so to help them resurrect. It pulls the fragmented existence of the Origin gods together. It also causes a gravitational pull that draws soul fragments in the spiritual dimension towards the black hole.

The souls are used to mend the fragmented Origin god. This is a substitute for soul stones that wealthy Origin gods use to speed up their resurrection. The fragmented souls can't compare to soul stones in efficacy since they are from dead entities but it is better than nothing. At least, Origin gods without any form of preparation will still resurrect.

Many don't know about this mechanism. Not even the Origin gods themselves that it is used for. Even the spiritual entities that are conscious and aware in the spiritual dimension don't know what causes black holes. All they know is that black holes create gravitational waves that pull souls to it and create the feeding ground.

Chapter 1289 Second Death.

The great mother being the great being she is was able to postulate that the black holes consume the souls to heal themselves. Then they return to the void universe and are resurrected as Origin gods. This process will take a very long time because it is slow.

"That's why the force of attraction has soul force mixed in," he said as he looked at the shiny rocks in greed.

These fragmented rocks are like him. They are fragments of the soul of an Origin god. They are stronger than him since they are crystalized by the concept they possess but they are not aware like him. It would be very nourishing to him if he could eat them or graft them to himself. Unlike him, they are full of power. That's why they are producing soul light like the great mother.

He said with regret. "Unfortunately, I can't escape the zone of no return. I will be doomed if something goes wrong. It is not worth the risk since I might not be able to do anything to them even if I get access to the fragments. A dead Origin god is still a true immortal."

His divine sense can reach beyond the zone of no return because it is powerful but he can't pull back his divine sense. That means he won't be able to escape the zone of no return and might be consumed by the dead Origin god.

Besides, he might not be able to consume the fragments even if they were helpless and unaware. It is clear that they are of a higher existence than him and everything in the spiritual dimension because they can consume a massive amount of souls without corruption.

He had tried to consume one soul fragment and he experienced spiritual corruption. He had to use Origin essence to get rid of it. But these fragments are not even aware as they guzzle soul fragments like water. This is most likely due to the protection of their concept. It is something he doesn't have so he gave up on his wild dreams full of greed.

Then he stopped projecting his divine sense into the zone of no return. Even though he can't eat the fragments of this incapacitated origin god. The information he gained is still precious. It enlightened him on a hunting technique.

He said to himself, "If they are able to pull souls to themselves, then I should be able to too. I don't have the help of a concept but I am aware and I have a lot of soul force to spare."

He began researching a technique to attract souls to himself. If he succeeds, he will be able to turn himself into a black hole and create a feeding ground anytime he wants. It is a technique that will take a long time to achieve and it will be better if he is stronger so he decided to eat in the meantime.

lightsNovel com He paid attention to the soul fragments that were coming in waves toward the feeding ground. Every soul will feel the force of attraction but only soul prowlers like him who are aware can resist the pull to various extents depending on their strength.

As for unaware soul fragments, they are but lambs to the slaughter. They are easy pickings who won't resist at all. Those are his preferred targets but he will eat other weak soul prowlers too. He is not a picky eater.

The zone of safety is not the same for every soul prowler. Weak soul prowlers have a larger zone of no return so they will have a smaller zone of safety. That means they can only stay at the edge of the feeding ground so he decided to stay at the edge too.

The larger the zone of safety within the gravitational field, the larger the hunting space of the soul prowler which means the more soul fragments they can safely feed on. He has a very large zone of safety so he encountered a lot of soul fragments.

He said when he spotted a suitable target, "Prepare to die a second time."

He is not one for gluttony. But if it will make him stronger, then he is willing to make gluttony a sin and commit a lot of it. So he extended a tentacle of soul force to the first soul fragment he encountered. It wound around the soul fragment and pulled it towards himself.

Then he used the first and most important soul-fighting technique he knows. He turned the tentacle of soul force into a sharp single-edged blade that he swung vertically to cut the soul fragment.

His soul blade dissected the irregularly shaped white soul fragment into two. Then he cut up the two pieces into smaller pieces. It was then that he allowed himself to eat them.

He didn't eat them directly like some ignorant soul prowler. He knows of and has experienced the threat of madness. So he used the best soul technique for eating. He extended his tentacle of soul force to the little pieces. Then he injected his memories into them.

This is a form of brainwashing. It is a very important process for soul grafting. This will ensure that there won't be any rejection when he grafts the soul to himself.

The process of brainwashing is a slow but very important process. You try to overwhelm the soul with your memories. You input so much of your memories that the memories contained within the soul fragment will become the minority and be overwhelmed.

The memory overload will create a shift of identity in the soul fragment. It will cause the soul fragment to think it is a part of yourself or that they are you.

The brainwashing will fail if you don't have enough memories to overwhelm the memories contained in the soul fragment. But that shouldn't happen if you cut the soul fragment into a small enough piece. That way the total resistance of the soul fragment has been fragmented before the struggle.

Chapter 1290 The Impossible Might Be Possible.

You can overwhelm each small piece of the soul fragment individually after cutting them up instead of struggling with the whole soul fragment. That will increase the chance of success of the brainwashing and avoid memory backlash which causes reverse brainwashing.

Even if reverse brainwashing doesn't occur, there can be some other complications during the process. The soul might become aware during the brainwashing and resist. That is unlikely if you made sure to cut it up into a small enough piece.

Legion-5 was meticulous with his cuts so these pieces didn't wake up. If they did, then he would crush their resistance with the soul blade. Chop them up and brainwash their smaller pieces individually all over again.

The brainwashing went without a hitch too. It was then that Legion-7 extended a part of himself to the soul fragments. This is the first time he is making actual contact with the fragments. He isn't using his soul force like the previous times. His soul and the soul fragments made contact and there was no rejection so they adhered to him.

"Ah." He exclaimed in pleasure. "This is good."

His soul which is also his current body felt elevated. It is a pleasurable feeling due to the special method of feeding. Unlike the last time when he absorbed soul fragments wantonly, the memory he gained now didn't try to brainwash him. Instead, they were absorbed smoothly. It helped that he didn't absorb the soul fragments at all. So his consciousness was still pure.

The corruption of the consciousness is not a phenomenon in the spiritual dimension that is unique to him. Eating the souls of others always leads to it. This causes madness, schizophrenia, and a crisis of identity.

This is due to the assimilation of memories and soul imprints of a different soul. So it is much worse than brainwashing. At least with brainwashing, you would think you were someone else but you would still have the survival instincts of the person you think you are.

Madness on the other hand means insanity, forgetfulness, suicidal tendencies, and loss of survival instincts. The memories and soul imprint contained within the soul fragments will try to infect the soul that assimilated them like it did when he assimilated the soul fragment of the great mother.

He had to use Origin essence to overcome that infection. But he doesn't need to now since he has the soul grafting technique that the great mother created. Other soul prowlers without Origin essence or a specialized technique for eating will run mad. Only special individuals like him and the great mother will not become doomed by trying to survive.

He avoided madness and his soul also grew stronger with the addition of the soul fragments. The soul fragments are not of the same quality as his so the increase in strength is very small and almost

negligible. But it is a start. He will only get stronger, unlike the other soul prowlers who have to fight off the digestion of the nether water.

Je thought to himself in caution, "The great mother is talented. I just have to make sure that I don't make the same mistakes that she made and I shouldn't have any problem."

The soul grafting method is not without issues. If someone gets access to the soul fragments he grafted, then they will gain his memories within them just as he was able to gain information from the soul fragment he found in his egg.

He can decide what memories he put in them but he won't be able to use the fragments for important things if he doesn't put important memories in them. But no matter what, as long as he doesn't directly fuse with them, the soul fragments will remain potential leaks of information about him. Nothing can change that weakness.

He chuckled to himself as he said, "I don't plan to make a race of phoenixes so I won't put important memories in them. I can live with that handicap as long as I don't go mad."

He is referring to the great mother. She made the grafting method to bypass madness but she went further to create a race. It created the opportunity for him to learn the law of the soul without a billion years of effort. In other words, her greedy move gave him the opportunity to steal her years of hard work.

The great mother is far from stupid. The problem of information leak from her soul fragment is a problem that should be nearly impossible for her to encounter. It should have been impossible for another soul prowler to manage to overpower her soul fragment, absorb its memories and remain sane.

Even soul grafting wouldn't have work on her soul fragments since they are all connected to each other and have access to billions of memories. Any attempt at brainwashing her soul fragments would have led to memory backlash and a reverse brainwashing.

So she was as secure as she could be. But then he came along with Origin essence. It should have been impossible but it should also have been impossible for someone to reincarnate.

Reality has shown that if something is possible at all, then it can happen no matter how small the chance is. If it is possible for his information to leak, then it can happen. So he will learn from the great mother and make sure that he doesn't release any important memories into the soul fragments.

Apart from this weakness, the soul grafting method has made him optimistic about his situation.

Legion-7 went on to hunt more soul fragments. He chose unaware soul fragments for now to try out his fighting skills on. This ensured that he was always successful and he grew stronger a little more.

He couldn't help but say, "Maybe my situation is not bad at all. The other clones haven't been born yet while I am already growing. Even if they are born and they grow, the strength of their bodies will only try to catch up to the strength of their souls. As for me, I don't have a body to hold me back. At this rate, I will outclass all of them in the strength of the soul."