

## **GREED 211**

Chapter 211 A Conversation Of Violence.

He could order his soldiers to scatter right now and the monster won't be able to catch up to them. It may be powerful but it is too big to move fast enough to deal considerable damage to the army.

He is just bitter that all that energy will go to waste. He had been considering using the 100 thousand to make his soldiers reach the mana entity stage. To leave the monster alone to die is to watch all that energy wasted.

"I'll hold it back while you join in with ranged attacks." He told his soldiers.

"To Victory." He shouted then he stomped off.

He heard the shout of reply from the army as he soared into the air. Jumping and landing have become very easy to do, now that he has eight gates to absorb momentum with. Still, his heart was hammering in his chest like an engine, but it was more excitement than strain. He felt the thrill of battle course through his blood vessels like the best elixir.

Even as he fell and the wind ruffled his fur, he gave out orders to the army below and he began to plan how to kill this monstrosity. He doesn't have a lot of information but the ones he has about the anatomy and make-up of the angels are enough for him to make an educated guess.

"The monster is an energy being. Energy beings are weak to energy attacks and heavy impacts that will lose their bonds. Thankfully it isn't a spiritual being."

Energy beings can still be damaged by physical attacks, unlike spiritual beings. Most of the damage is due to the impact. Cuts can work if it disconnects the body parts. He began to prep his fireball. The ball of fire spiraled as it absorbed mana from the atmosphere. It was stuck behind Soverick and followed him as he descended.

"Thankfully, it doesn't have a core."

It is both a strength and a weakness to have a core. But since the monster doesn't have a core, it doesn't have a vulnerability. That also means Soverick can hit it anywhere. He swung his spear with all his might as he was about to hit the worm and slammed its midsection.

The hit created a rumbling explosion that shook the ground. A good portion of the worm's trunk vaporized into light, heat, and energy. It left a bowl-shaped impression on the body of the worm. Still, the worm didn't stop. Its wound was also beginning to heal. It was using its body mass to cover the wound. It can't replenish lost energy, so the size of the worm is reduced a little to make up for the gap.

"So it also doesn't feel pain, huh? How to get its attention." Soverick said from the bottom of the bowl.

The damage to the worm didn't faze it, nor did it deter it from its objective. It continued to approach the soldiers. It didn't even scream when a large chunk of its body disappeared. So Soverick jumped out from the wound he created. He came to the side of the worm and stuck his spear into it. Then he dug his feet into the ground and pulled back.

The worm didn't seem to notice the foreign object in its body. It continued to slide forward. Soverick remained unmoved, so the spear tore through the body of the monster like a hot blade through wax. The monster didn't care about the deep but quickly healing wound on its side.

Soverick tsked. He couldn't let the worm reach the army. So he pulled out his spear and ran forward, toward the head of the worm. He reached it quickly considering he moved in a blur.

"Look at me." He yelled as he punched the side of the worm's head.

His voice was drowned out by the boom of his punch as his hand broke the sound barrier. There was another boom when his fist met the flesh of the worm. Then another boom sounded out as the flesh evaporated into light, heat, sound, and energy. It created a ring of shock waves as if an explosion just went off. The impact sent the worm's head flying. A fourth boom was created when the head struck the side of the canyon.

Soverick stood within another bowl-shaped crater on the ground. The ground had been melted into molten lava. He hadn't even punched the ground. The ground had cracked up the moment he set his foot down to punch. Then the explosion of the worm's flesh had broken the ground up and melted it into a crater. He rubbed his hand together and admired his work.

Then he turned to the floundering monster. "Now that I have your attention. Let's have a discourse."

The monster didn't listen to him. It began to approach the army again.

Soverick grinned. "That's good too. I didn't expect us to talk with our mouths."

If the worm wants to behave like a barbarian without manners, soverick can help it see reason. So he warped forward and slammed the worm against the canyon again. The gorge shook and the ground cracked. Then periodic booms thundered as Soverick pummeled the monster into the wall.

Again and again, his fist ripped into it like two hammers tenderizing meat. Flesh evaporated, light flashed, thunder boomed, and the ground shook and cracked. It felt and sounded like the lightning and thunder of a very angry storm.

He wasn't planning to speak with his mouth to the beast. His divine sense was also useless because the beast didn't understand mental transmissions, the angels didn't either. Which left physical communication. The impact of violence. The communication through fists. A clash of titans. A conversation of violence.

Actions speak louder than words. Soverick was telling the beast to stay down with his action and the beast couldn't get away. Not that it didn't try to, Soverick was simply too compelling with his arguments. His fist too convincing.

Chapter 212 First Stage Of The Divine Dungeon Cleared.

The worm ignored Soverick and tried to reach its objective, but Soverick didn't let it go. He would drag it back and beat it up. He was like an ant fighting a snake, but it's the snake that is helpless against the ant. The one with the stronger fist wins in a discourse of violence not the one with the bigger fist.

He would grip the mouth of the worm and pull it back, before beating it again. If it tries to inhale, then Soverick will slam its mouth shut. The worm might be big, but Soverick is stronger and faster. All the worm could do is shriek helplessly as it suffered under Soverick's thundering fists. Too bad that its mind attack wasn't working on Soverick at all.

The two of them ravaged the canyon. It was Soverick that did most of the work but the significance of a partner, willing or unwilling, cannot be underestimated.

The delay enabled the army to prepare. The worm shrieked again as if crying for help. The soldiers of the army stumbled but they still carried out their orders. Spells began to fly like fireworks. They lit up the worm. They were like hot coal being scattered on wax. They burned into the worm but their effect was only surface-deep. The worm was too big, little amount of damage like that will need to accumulate before there can make a significant difference.

They had time and they had the numbers. The soldiers continued to rotate as they bombarded the worm with spells. The assault continued for half an hour. The beast resisted till the very end. It shrieked in defiance and it writhed against Soverick's oppressive might.

At first, the trashing created a lot of ruckus, the ground shook while the worm was still large. But its resistance waned as the minutes went by. It grew smaller and smaller. Then Soverick unleashed the fireball he had been prepping on the worm.

If the other spells were like hot coals on wax. His spell was like a flame thrower being turned on to wax. The worm shrieked and cried. It struggled and struggled, but it was all in vain. Soverick didn't need to end the worm. The army could have done it but he wanted to for the energy.

The energy of the worm finally broke down, signifying the death of the worm of the apocalypse. Its energy streamed into everyone that participated based on their contributions to its death. He checked to make sure that the beast was dead and that there isn't any more surprises.

Then he turned to his army and shouted. "We Are Victorious."

They cheered too.

His voice sounded in their ears again. "We Have Prevailed."

They cheered again.

"We are unstoppable."

Soverick sat down to rest while the soldiers were celebrating. He was actually making his 9th gate. A lot has happened since the time he destroyed the tactic of the angels to slow him down. He had gone far from possessing just one gate to making the 9th one.

He got a lot of energy due to the death of the worm. It was enough energy to break through and become a mana entity but he still opted for another gate. He felt he could take another one. So he decided to go big or go home.

"Come over." He called his generals to him when he was done.

2 out of 10 of them had died. That left 8 of them. They saluted him when they reached him. It is army protocol, a sign of respect to a superior officer. But they did it without being compelled. They did it from the bottom of their heart. They had seen and experienced what Soverick could do. He is an enigma to them. But more than that, he is an icon. A hero. A role model of strength. He is an Aberrant of refinement.

"The First stage has been cleared. The Middle stage is next. We have been informed that it is going to be a trial that can only be completed alone. So we go according to the plan. Whoever can break through and want to attempt the Middle stage should do it here. Those that have had enough can leave the dungeon and break through outside of it. The remaining can stay and farm the dungeon."

They have gotten more than a foothold in the dungeon. They have cleared the first stage. This means that they can continue to use the spawning of mindless angels as a source of energy for others to refine their vitality core. Not all the energy within the opponents they killed went into the killers. Most of it dispersed into the surroundings and into the dungeon. This stray energy will coalesce and spawn more mobs to kill.

They've been informed that the middle stage will be highly dangerous because of the presence of sentient opponents that are mana entities. They will be unlike the weak and mindless mobs that they faced in the first stage of the dungeon. The debut release occurred at N-ov3l=B(j)n.

That's why only those that have broken through to become mana entities are allowed to attempt the second stage. Even then, they run the risk of death. What's worse is that their cause of death will remain

unknown because it is a fight that only a single person can partake in. There will be no one by your side to assist.

"Are you joining the Middle stage, sir?" A general asked him.

"Yes. Any problem?" He asked calmly.

The general is probably concerned about Soverick since he is still a vitality core stage refiner.

So the general asked. "Are you going to break through too?"

Soverick answered calmly. "Do I have to tell you my business?"

His calm voice did not put the general at peace at all. It instead made him feel dread. It is a natural reaction that one will have when they have witnessed what Soverick is fully capable of. The general shook his head hurriedly and answered. "Not at all."

"Good."

Chapter 213 For Glory And For Strength.

Then Soverick continued to send out orders. The soldiers dispersed. Some relaxed while others returned to the main plain. Some of them chose to venture into the middle stage. They did it for various reasons.

A lot of them are in awe of Soverick, that is true, they also crave that strength. They crave the opportunity to prove themselves or acquire the means to have the strength needed to prove themselves. If they can pass the middle stage and reach the Final stage. They will have the opportunity to prove themselves by defeating the boss. If they succeed in that too, then they will be renowned throughout the plane for years to come.

It is a lot of ifs. They might just die in the next stage and become nameless in their failure. But if there is a small chance, they will go for it. They fear Soverick, he has shown them strength, he has shown them the consequences of failure, he even went further to break their pride. They will stay clear of Soverick. But they will attack the middle stage because they don't fear it. There is also a very alluring reward in the middle stage. It is enough for these people to risk their lives.

So they broke through and disappeared in a flash of light. They had been transported to the middle stage. They won't be able to leave the dungeon until it is broken. It became a common sight to watch people disappear. But then everyone's attention was drawn when Soverick chose to approach the door. That could only mean he is trying to enter the middle stage without breaking through.

Soverick might have contributed greatly to the success of the expedition but there is someone with a much greater contribution than him. The son of legends and the information he provided are far more instrumental to their success. It is with the information provided that they were able to plan for the dungeon.

It is because of the information that they knew what lay waiting at the other end of the portal into the dungeon. Without that information, they would have continued to send people to their deaths Without knowing why. But they knew why. They also had an estimate of the number of soldiers waiting for them and the layout of the dungeon. They knew that the door to the middle stage is a trap.

The gods planned and they also planned for the failure of their plans. The door to the middle stage isn't needed to reach the middle stage. You just need to become a mana entity and be whisked away to it. They knew that, that's why no one broke through until they defeated the first stage. If they didn't know that, some of them would have decided to become mana entities in order to help them defeat the multitudes of enemies in the first stage. They would have been very wrong.

Even if they defeat the first stage and they all decided to use the door, then they would have been massacred in the middle stage because they didn't know that their enemies will be mana entities and they will be fighting alone. But they know, that's why they chose to send only mana entities.

So why will Soverick choose to go to the middle stage as a vitality core refiner? They didn't need to think about it too much for them to know the answer. They were a little worried but they had faith in their commander. No one scoffed at him or was derisive of his decision. Instead, they chose to encourage him.

"Soverick!" "Soverick!" "Soverick!"

They hailed their army commander as he went forward. It might seem inconceivable or conceited for a vitality core stage refiner to attempt the Middle stage with any hope of success but they had seen what he can do. If any vitality core stage refiner could do it, it has to be him. He might not return but he has

earned glory. His name will not be easily forgotten. He has also earned their respect. So they gave him a soldier's salute as he went towards the unknown, braving unknown dangers for the plane, for glory, and for himself. Soverick touched the gigantic door and vanished.

Within The Final Level Of The Divine Dungeon. After The Death Of The Worm Monster.

The celestial gods were sitting listlessly in their seats. What they saw shocked them. More than that, it terrified them of the very possible future if things continued to happen like this. They had kept their eyes on Soverick since he entered the dungeon.

He was remarkable and pivotal in the battle. The entire effort of the attackers revolved around him. He was like the core of the army, their greatest strength, and pillar of assurance. Removing him would have crippled the attackers. It was easy to come to that understanding but actually carrying it out was impossible.

They watched him throw opponents about like rag dolls like they weighed nothing. They saw him stomp through the defenders like an unstoppable giant. He may be small but the footprints he left behind would have fooled anyone into thinking he is a giant. The ground cracked, splintered, was crushed, and cratered in his wake. The ones he was fighting didn't fare better than the ground. He acted for all intent and purpose like a giant among men.

They saw all that and made the decision to pull their last resources together to create the right opponent for him. After all, what is best to hold back a giant if not another giant? It was a gamble aimed at Soverick. If Soverick was gotten rid of or forced to break through then they will be able to decimate his army in his absence or at least deal considerable damage to them.

The defenders will be able to bounce back after that as more angels spawn. Things will start looking good for the gods again once Soverick has been removed from play.

Chapter 214 A Tough Enemy.

But things didn't go their way. It hasn't been going their way for a while now so they should be used to the disappointment but they aren't. It stings every time because they have a lot invested in this.

Ode had instructed the worm to go for the army. There was no need to chase Soverick. If Soverick cared about his soldiers then he will come to the worm and try to stop it. The thing about impromptu plans is



that they usually look good and foolproof in your mind, but execution will show them to be ugly and full of holes. They didn't have to wait for long to see the errors of their way. They knew it was a bad idea pretty quickly.

The first problem they noted was that the worm was slow. Still, they had hope that its strength would be able to do Soverick in. If Soverick decides to protect his soldiers then he will make himself a slower target. Protection is much more difficult than attacking. When they coupled it with the might of the soul attack of the worm and its beam attack, the worm should still be able to put Soverick down.

The next thing that went wrong is that Soverick didn't seem bothered by the Soul attack. Even when the worm concentrated its full effort on Soverick, the aberrant wasn't keeling over as they had expected. He was also able to block the beam attack, which was inconceivable. How can a vitality core refiner block that? He is supposed to be roasted and burned away by that energy beam.

But that didn't happen. The worm wasn't a threat to him. He even had the leisure to admire and criticize the worm. While the soldiers of his army were stumbling and struggling from the splash effect of the soul attack, the one that faced the brunt of it could still curse the gods.

He called them. "Foolish gods."

They heard it the first time but he said it a second time.

He even shouted it to the sky. "Did you hear me? I called you foolish. You gods are foolish."

"What did I expect from a desperate action?"

Yes, they were desperate. But to be called so by a mortal should have angered them. Yet, they weren't angered. They felt dread instead. That emotion only increased when they saw how he dealt with the worm. It is one thing to see Soverick bully the weak. To see him trash a gigantic worm about, despite the difference in their size, drilled the point into their head. He is a freak of nature.

"He is perfect." Ode said.

The others could only agree wordlessly. Soverick was fast, he was strong, he is skillful and his mind was hard as steel. He was unstoppable in body and mind. They felt better that it isn't an ordinary mortal that called them desperate.

No matter how admirable he is, he is their enemy and a tough one too. Their only hope to stop him lay in him entering the middle stage and being killed by a mana entity.

The gods expected them to rest a while before entering the middle stage as an army. Only to be disoriented, confused, and easily dispatched by a superior opponent. But things didn't go their way.

The army wasn't rushing to the door as they expected. They celebrated and dispersed. Then some of them began to break through and vanish. There was no panic, not even when thousands of them broke through. There is only a single explanation for their behavior.

"They know. How long have they known?" Ode asked but no one answered.

So he asked himself. 'How much do they know?'

This understanding explained a lot of their behavior. Somehow the main plane got information about the layout and mechanism of the divine dungeon. They planned and crafted the perfect killing machine which they then sent into the dungeon. Ode felt enlightened and also afraid. What is the full extent of their knowledge? How far had the main plane planned with that knowledge?

His fear started to increase when he saw Soverick start to approach the door to the second stage. If someone had told him that a vitality core stage refiner is going to brave the middle stage where he will fight against mana entities, he would have called it ludicrous. But now, he felt fear. The other celestials did not agree with him. They cheered happily when he entered the middle stage.

"Isn't this good? He will surely die in there."

"Does he think he can face the gods?"

If Ode were to answer that, he would say yes. The opponents in the middle stage were past gods. Their power has been shrunk down to the mana entity stage. Do they have the advantage of strength over Soverick? He would answer in the negative. No, they don't. They are equal at best. Do they have the advantage of skill over Soverick? Maybe, it is highly variable.

Soverick's display of strength is enough for the educated to know that he has a very good grasp on momentum. So he has to have achieved the first step of mastery which is not a surprise considering that Soverick is the perfect tool created by the Main plane to trounce them. Does he have the second step of spear mastery? Highly unlikely, but not impossible. Soverick had already displayed feats of strength that should be impossible, so why not feats of skill?

Which leaves only the third step. There are only a few of the gods who can display such a level of mastery. Not all gods are battle or weapon oriented. Most of the battle and weapon oriented have died in the wars.

The only ones alive of significance are the celestial gods here. He had made sure that only the grand gods oriented with battle, weapons, and power became celestial gods. That means Soverick's passage through the middle stage would be difficult but possible depending on what he has up his sleeve.

Chapter 215 The Middle Stage.

"Can we not do anything to him?" A celestial god asked sullenly.

"No, there's nothing we can do but hope for the best. The challenges in the middle stage are random. It can be a short trip or it can be a long one. But he will have to face at least one of you before he can reach the final stage. So you must kill him then."

Ode didn't design the middle stage of the final stage. There were set instructions within the dungeon core that were executed to create those stages. Only in the first stage was he permitted to modify a little. So the gods don't have any control over the mechanism of the middle stage.

If Soverick is unlucky then he will face a hundred mana entities. He might also face several former Celestial gods. It will ensure he never reaches the final stage. But Ode wasn't counting on that. He had been counting on the attackers not reaching the middle stage at all. Even if they did, then most of them would have died there. Now, the attackers get to rest and send as many as they want into the middle stage unhurried.

Ode chose to count on only himself to stop Soverick when he reaches the last stage. Thankfully, he has just the thing that will freeze Soverick up and put an end to his rampage.

Back To Soverick.

He appeared within a circular room with a diameter of 100m. The ceiling is only 20m tall. The walls are black and they glistened as if made from gleaming metal. The ceiling is the same color as the walls. It is probably made from the same material too. At the center of the room is a mana entity who is to be Soverick's opponent. The mana entity wore loose robes and held a staff.

"Who do we have here? A challenger that came to die." The mana entity said.

Soverick was examining his opponent with his divine sense.

'It is an apparition.' He concluded.

His opponent is a vestige of a once-powerful god. It is composed of energy and understanding. If he kills this vestige, another one will simply be created. There is no end to them. So the middle stage cannot be overwhelmed by numbers. There will be as many opponents as there are attackers.

"What is this? A vitality core? This will be easy." The mana entity mocked.

They may be apparitions but they have the strength and wisdom of a mana entity. Enough wisdom for this mana entity to not consider Soverick a threat. Or is it foolishness?

"Come. Come at me. Give me your best shot." The apparition encouraged him without a care.

Soverick shot forward. His acceleration would have caught a vitality core off guard. The mana entity wasn't caught completely off guard. It was able to react, just barely to the thrust aimed at his body.

The reaction time of mana entities outclasses vitality core refiners. Soverick's opponent used the staff he was holding to block the thrust. The mana entity was thrown high up but he wasn't helpless.

Spells began to rain down on Soverick. Ice spears materialized in the air and shot toward him. Ice bolts, hail barrages, and water spells were conjured and aimed at him by his airborne opponent.

"Lack of weapon mastery confirmed. A spell specialist then." Soverick thought to himself.

He had suspected as much when his opponent held a staff instead of a warrior's weapon and didn't wear any armor. The moment when their weapon clashed also confirmed it. This god didn't even have the first step of weapon mastery. That only meant he must have focused on spells.

"Must not let him fly," Soverick concluded.

He stepped hard on the ground and jumped towards his thrown enemy. Fighting a spell specialist that is a mana entity is very tricky. Soverick knows a lot to expect constant and instant spell barrage. You could either reciprocate with your own spells or get close to them to engage in close-quarter combat. But you must never let them fly unless you can fly too. Mana entities can fly with the aid of spells or harmonization.

Soverick can't fly. He would need more power from his soul but his body is already burdened with gates. He can levitate at best, that's if he removes all the shield on his body. Removing the shields will mean he can't run fast since he won't have protection. So he reinforced his shield as he shot toward his opponent.

He didn't plan to weather the assault with only his magical shields. Ice spells will slow him down if they accumulate on him. His spear moved in a blur as he deflected and blocked the attacks. He was rotating it in his hands and using the rotation to smack spells aside. Only the stray ones caught him but his momentum was too high to be stopped from his ascent.

He closed in on the floundering mana entity in the air and brought his spear down for a smash. His spear made contact with a barrier that he knew would be there. That's why he didn't thrust. It would have pushed the mana entity away from him. His smash felled the mana entity. It was slammed onto the ground enough to crack it.

The barrier protected it from the worst of the fall but the mana entity was disoriented. It was disoriented enough for Soverick to land and smash the mana entity again. This time a barrier broke.

Soverick kicked the mana entity hard toward the wall. His foot came in contact with a barrier just as he had expected. It is an underestimation to think that a mana entity will have only one shield. It is foolish to think a spell specialist will have just two shields.

The mana entity flew towards the wall but Soverick was on him before he got far. He punched the mana entity with his thundering fist that broke the sound barrier.

Chapter 216 Energy And Understanding As Loot.

The barrier protecting it blocked most of the damage so the mana entity was only jostled, but it picked up speed. It didn't go far before Soverick punched again. He caught up to the mana entity three times in the space of 20 meters. No matter how fast the mana entity flew, Soverick was much faster.

His punches finally broke the second barrier. Still, there was a third barrier that Soverick set to work on. He kept throwing the mana entity around and jostling it, preventing it from getting its bearings and casting spells. Spells tried to form around them but always fizzled out. All the mana entity needed is a brief respite to orient itself a little, then it would be able to unleash its spells.

They flashed around the room like lightning. The mana entity was defenseless against him but Soverick could barely deal damage to it.

"That was intense. It didn't even have a divine ability" Soverick sat down to relax.

The high-maneuvering fight ended after Soverick demolished 5 Barriers and the mana entity's body. The fight lasted less than 5 seconds but it was more draining mentally and physically than his fight with the monstrous worm.

He began to chuckle as he thought about the fight. He had caught the mana entity unawares, it had been unable to fight back and yet the fight wasn't easy. A small misstep would have turned the tide against him. It is possible to defeat a mana entity as a vitality core refiner. But it is extremely difficult to actually kill them with that level of strength.

The 5 barriers that he tussled with during the fight were probably set up when the mana entity finally considered him a threat after being thrown into the air. It had even been able to cast other spells. Maybe it added more during the short period of their fight. It showed how catastrophic it would have been to give the mana entity time to settle and cast spells. If the mana entity had a divine ability, things would have been worse.

"I have to prime my fireball very well. Hopefully, it isn't destroyed when I leave this room." He said as he began to prep his fireball spell.

He is stronger, and he is faster but he can't deal an appropriate amount of damage to mana entities. Mana entities are held together by mana. You need mana to break their existence. Brute force just won't do. Which leaves his fire torrent spell. He had one going before entering the middle stage but it fizzled out when he was transported here.

He considered his loot and the room when he was rested enough. The vestige dropped a robe and the staff after its death. It also left a small ball of light. Four screens of light appeared in the cardinal positions of the room after he had vanquished his opponent. There are exits from the room.

It is how the middle stage will be. He can't leave until he kills his opponent. But he can stay here all he wants and not go to another room. He will just be stuck here until someone reaches the final level and clears the dungeon. There's no way he will leave his fate up to someone else.

He discarded his clunky armor and put on the blue robe. The flimsy fabric offers more defensive ability than his armor. That's how mana weapons are. The mana in the fabric has enhanced it to be better than some metals that don't have mana in them. He decided to use the staff for the same reason.

"So it was a single-element spell specialist." He said after inspecting the staff.

The staff could only enhance water elemental spells. The mana entity had also only cast spells of that element.

"This won't do." He dropped the staff and picked up his spear.

The staff wouldn't help him enhance his fire torrent spell. He needed something with high damage output. If the staff could enhance fire elemental spells he might have chosen it. He is favoring fire because it has a more destructive output and will work well against a barrier better than the other elements that he has an affinity with.

He will continue to use the black, unadorned spear that Mihila bought him. It might not be powerful, but it is very heavy.

"Which leaves one more left."

He had dealt with the robe which left the ball of light. He walked up to it and touched it. The ball melded into him. Energy and understanding flowed into him. One went into his body while the other went into his mind.

The first stage of the dungeon provided energy. The second stage added understanding to it. It is pure understanding without the detriments you get if you had plundered someone else's soul for it.

This loot is very unique in all of High Heaven Realm. It is one of the many reasons why geniuses will risk their lives in the middle stage. And these geniuses aren't normal ones either. They are the best that the plane can offer. Imagine what common vitality core stage refiners will do if they can get access to something like this.

The understanding of water and ice spells entered his mind. It even contained an understanding of their magic arsenal.

"Thankfully it hadn't set up a magical arsenal. I must not let them."

He was impressed with the understanding he got. It couldn't come close to his past achievements in magic and laws, but it reminded him to never let up on any mana entity. If given time, they can become huge obstacles. A magic arsenal will make things highly difficult for him.

He chuckled wryly as he felt the energy he received. "It is not enough. It is far from enough."

What he cares about was the energy the loot contained and it isn't enough for him. It could only account for 3 of his gates but he has 9 gates.

Chapter 217 Another Type Of Mastery.



He needs more energy if he hopes to become a mana entity. That means he has to kill more vestiges of gods in the form of mana entities. So he rested and primed his spell. Then he chose the right screen of light to exit from.

He entered another circular room, he was ready and alert. He scanned the room with his divine sense and eyes. He spotted his opponent immediately in the center of the room. The mana entity was wearing light armor but there was no visible weapon on him. The armor indicated a need for defense but with easy mobility as a priority.

His opponent also spotted him. The mana entity didn't take him seriously when it saw that he was at the vitality core stage. But its face changed before it could mock Soverick.

A blur smashed toward it. Soverick had gone on the offensive immediately after he found his opponent. He couldn't risk giving his opponent time. Still, his opponent reacted and shifted slightly. The spear that Soverick had thrown missed the mana entity but not completely. It clipped its shoulder and took an arm from it.

No matter the type of warrior his opponent is, it must need arms. It is one of the weaknesses of close combat specialists and weapon users. Soverick smashed into the mana entity almost immediately. The mana entity was ready for him. It used its other arm to throw a punch.

Soverick reciprocated. Their fist smashed against each other. The mana entity was thrown while Soverick's arm almost snapped out of his joint. His opponent was wearing something on his hands that amplified his punches.

He ignored the pain and chased after the mana entity. He had his foot on the ground, so he could accelerate easily. He caught up soon after and punched the mana entity again, and again. Each of his punches created shockwaves, the air expanded and exploded with the impact. But the mana entity remained largely intact except for its missing hand. There was a barrier around it that protected it and prevented Soverick from grabbing it. But not for long.

After 5 swift punches that occurred in a little over a second, Soverick's fire torrent spell finally formed a ring around him. It is a simple replication of a domain. The ring of fire extended for a meter around him. As long as he stays close to the mana entity and keeps it within the ring of fire it will continue to take damage.

It is his trump card to deal damage to the mana entities. So When the mana entity recovered from its brief stun and caught Soverick's fist like a vice, the tides didn't change too much. This mana entity isn't physically stunted like the former one. It is a warrior, not a spell specialist and it showed soon after. It recovered and began to brawl with Soverick.

Its skill in hand-to-hand combat was top-notch. Soverick had thrown his spear so he couldn't use his spear skills, in exchange this mana entity had only one hand. Still, Soverick was on the losing end in the brawl. The mana entity was just that good, capable of overwhelming Soverick with just one hand.

Soverick's punches were easily resolved. The mana entity moved in a strange way that rhymed with Soverick's body movements and made his attacks ineffectual. He mostly held on because of his superior power. Each of his punches hit harder and destabilized his opponent which prevented it from doing more against him.

Even worse is that its arm was regrowing. If it got the use of its other arm then things will escalate for Soverick. The mana entity will be able to do more than just defend, it will be able to counteract.

It could cause a stalemate with one hand, two hands will make it bring out its full capabilities and Soverick doesn't want to see that happening. The difficulty of this fight reminded him that these mana entities are vestiges of gods. They can be mocked but they are ancient. They have experienced a lot and seen even more.

They are much older than Soverick. He may have spent only 5 origin cycles being alive but he isn't helpless against them. He stuck close to the mana entity as they tussled throughout the room.

It helped that the mana entity is also a close combat warrior. They punched and blurred within the room. Hits were deflected, counterattacks were made and attacks were dodged. Throughout it all, Soverick held faith in his spell. The fire ring couldn't last forever, it just had to hold on until the mana entity couldn't handle more. It happened 4 seconds after the fire ring was established. The barrier around the mana entity winked out of existence. Two seconds later the mana entity burned up and the fight ended. The fight lasted a total of 7 seconds.

"I knew I could count on you," Soverick said as he let go of his spell.

He started prepping another one soon after. Then he sat down to rest and ruminate about his fight. The mana entities were strong but they were glass cannons. They weren't living beings, just energy vestiges. But they could dish out damage and exhibit skills worthy of a mana entity.

"Time to go." He said after he was rested enough.

He took his loot before leaving. There was a pair of brass knuckles and light armor. He changed into the light armor and picked up the brass knuckles.

Then he absorbed the ball of light. He gained an understanding of fist fighting. Mastery in it was a little different from spear mastery in that it focused more on redirecting the momentum of the opponent rather than that of yourself and your weapon.

"That explains why it was able to keep me off even with a single hand." He mused.

He was made to fight half of himself plus the strength of the mana entity. It is a different approach to skills and mastery.

Chapter 218 More Grinding And More Loot.

He was able to match the mana entity only because it had just one arm to fight with. It would have been worse if the mana entity had both arms. The Understanding he gained from it was equal to his own level of skill in spear mastery, the seamless step. Two of them working together will amplify each other.

The Understanding is useful to him and Legion, unlike the last mana entity he faced. The energy he gained on the other hand was just enough to top him off into reaching the energy requirements for his fourth gate.

Soverick went into his next room. He faced off with a spell specialist instead of a warrior. This time, the mana entity was proficient in the element of fire. Soverick's fire torrent spell that he relied on failed him, it could not burn through the enemy's shield as he had expected because this mana entity kept interfering with his spell even when it was disoriented from being tossed back and forth.

Things weren't so bad. He couldn't do anything to the mana entity nor could it get enough room to cast spells. Soverick remained content with just knocking it around which is something very easy to do in a room so small while constantly moving above 300m/s.

The fight ended in 1 minute and 3 seconds. The mana entity simply broke apart after being jostled so much. The impact of the hits finally broke down its energy form. He had been the won toying with the mana entity but it was his most difficult fight yet.

"Note to self. Just badger them to death." He said as he plopped down.

He was tired to the bone. That fight took a lot more out of him than he expected. There are several advantages of being in the mana entity stage. You get an enhanced body and mind. You hit better, faster, react quicker, and have a keener perception. That's just the body.

For the mind, you think faster. It is why no people thought it impossible for a vitality core stage refiner to achieve the second step of spear mastery. All the mana entities he is fighting have the second step of mastery. That means a single move from them can set you down a path of inevitable defeat. He had to use his own mastery of seamless to keep them useless in the fight.

"I am either unlucky or things are just this tough. I wonder how the others are doing?"

He began to think about the other youths are faring. He is having it tough even though he is being underestimated by his opponents. But the other youths might not be finding it as difficult as him. If they can survive their first battle, then they will gain understanding and appropriate weapons. When coupled with their various divine abilities then they might be having things easy in the middle stage.

"I better move on or someone will beat me to the final level." He picked himself off the ground and prepared to leave.

Any mana entity from the main plain in the middle stage that is still alive will possess the advantages of a mana entity and would have acquired more. They may not have been able to match him as a vitality core refiner but that has surely changed. It would not do to underestimate their abilities. If he intends to get the dungeon core then he must be ahead of them.

The problem Soverick is facing is that he isn't growing. Most of the understanding he gets is useless and the energy he got isn't enough to help him break through yet. If he gets the advantages of the mana entity realm, he would be able to steamroll through the middle stage. For now, all he can do is just keep moving forward.

He got his loot. The understanding of fire elemental spells is useless to him. The staff that was dropped would enhance his fire spells but it has also become useless in light of recent events.

"I don't need any of this."

His fire spell can fail him. Casting spells in their level of combat without them being powerful and instantaneous will be futile. He can cast spells instantly but they aren't powerful enough to damage mana entities. Vitality core refiners can't do that at all. He can but it isn't enough. That's why he preps and amplifies the spell.

Since spells can disappoint him, it is better not to keep all his eggs in one basket. He stroked his brass knuckles fondly.

"I'll just stick with you." He said to it.

Using a staff will require him to let go of his brass knuckles. Considering that his spells might fail him he chose to stick with the brass knuckles. It had helped him in pummeling his last opponent to death.

The combination of his fist and spear mastery in harnessing momentum and turning the momentum of his opponent against them helped him when his spell failed him.

The energy he received from the ball of light wasn't enough to even fill the energy requirement of the fifth gate.

He left the room and fought again. It was another difficult fight. He faced a mana entity that was using needle and thread. It was a vestige of a god of fabric. She held the needle like a spear while a spool of thread was hanging behind her. He had thought it a comical sight but his mind changed quickly as soon as they fought. She wasn't as useless as he had thought.

He had approached her with confidence in his victory when she thrust at him with her needle. He dodged but the attack wasn't over. She thrust again in a flash. She didn't move her hand. A phantom needle appeared and thrust at him.

He failed to dodge the phantom attack, and that's when he met the second surprise. Her phantom needle became real and penetrated through all 20 of his barriers.

Chapter 219 The Divine Abilities Of Gods.

He had received his first injury in the middle stage and it was 5 at once. It turned out that she could four more phantoms and somehow thrust 6 times in a second. His barrier wasn't destroyed but a hole appeared in it that the other phantoms used to reach him.

He retreated immediately in a bid to create some distance between them and assess the situation. But she was able to keep up with him. She flashed forward like a phantom being pulled forward by her needle. The needle had a homing ability that pulled her towards him. So he had to face her head-on.

Their numerous clashes enabled him to realize that she was poor at spear or weapon mastery. She was using some sort of ability that enabled her to stab really fast and penetrate through almost everything. Still, he couldn't come close to her at all to use his knuckles.

That simple ability is enough to keep him on the back foot. If he had his spear, things would have been different but he couldn't bring any spatial equipment into the divine dungeon since they use mana, unlike his communicator which uses spiritual energy.

Things started to get worse when her threads joined the fight. She could control them with her mind and they kept coming from the spool she was carrying. She tried to restrict his movements and bind him with them. Then his fire torrent spell came to his rescue. It helped that her thread was weak to fire. She burned up soon after, giving him some useless understanding of thread working and tailoring. Then he moved on.

Most of the fight after that was easy, he beat them outright and the fight ended in less than 10 seconds. Some were tough, the fight lasted a minute or more. One of them was life-threatening. That fight ended in less than 10 seconds but he almost died.

He faced a poison user and he would have died if the fight took longer. He had done the usual by rushing up to them and engaging in a fistfight. This mana entity wasn't disoriented enough not to be able to use its aura of poison. Just staying close to it resulted in him being poisoned. The poison bypassed all his barriers and would have gotten worse had the fight not ended quickly enough.

"I know that gods can't use any power apart from the ones that are allowed in their domains." He said as he wrestled for his life on the ground.

"I didn't think it would be true if they are mana entities. Then again, I have never heard of gods that are mana entities."

His golden fur had turned green. His immense vitality became fundamental to his ability to stay alive.

Mana entities shouldn't be capable of using poison to fight unless it is a divine ability. It was then that he realized that all the abilities of these vestiges were literally using their divine abilities. It brought to mind the fact that gods can't use powers beyond their domain.

Their divine domain empowers them but it also binds them. It explained the needle and thread mana entity. She could only use what her domain allowed her to use. It was powerful and inexplicable but it wasn't versatile.

It also explained the use of poison. Poison isn't an element of mana but a law. So it should be out of bounds for normal mana entities. Of course, some could fight with poisoned weapons.

These mana entities are vestiges of gods, so it shouldn't be out of place for them to behave more like gods rather than normal mana entities.

He faced a mana entity that was throwing food at him next. He understood the reason for the oddity quickly enough. He only wished he had encountered the food god rather than the poison god.

The vestige of the god of food couldn't use any spells or weapon mastery. All it could do was throw plates of food at him with uncanny accuracy. The projectiles couldn't be dodged but it wasn't enough of a threat to Soverick.

His journey through the middle stage of the dungeon earned him a lot of energy and understanding. He became proficient in various fields, some helpful to him and Legion. Others, not so much, no matter how he looked at it. What use is an understanding of mining going to be for Legion as a whole?

He went through 38 fights before he couldn't go ahead anymore. The easiest fight was a fight with a mana entity that used illusions and soul attacks. All the illusions failed to affect him and the soul attacks didn't even tickle him. To top it off, the mana entity was extra fragile. A single punch broke it to pieces.

The most difficult fight was his 38th fight. It was the fight that finally gave him pause. He knew something was wrong the moment he entered the room. His instincts screamed danger. He moved sideways and dodged a spear attack. Except everything about the attack was wrong. The spear returned to its wielder. It more or less shrunk back into the mana entity's hand.

The mana entity was in the middle of the room but the spear it was holding hadn't been thrown at Soverick. The spear had elongated to reach Soverick, then it shortened when he dodged it. Soverick had seen weapons that could change form before, Origin weapons are like that. So he wasn't seeing such a weapon for the first time. But he was highly surprised to see it in the hands of a mana entity. Still, he didn't show it. He didn't let the surprise stop him from dodging as more attacks came. He adapted quickly.

Soverick isn't one to let his emotions influence his judgment. So he focused on the fight, but a further examination of the mana entity revealed details that stunned him. He couldn't help but blurt out.

"You're real."

His opponent grinned menacingly "Yes, I'm real."

Chapter 220 The Celestial God Of Lightning.

The mana entity was real. It was decked out in armor and deep blue fur. It isn't like the vestiges that Soverick was fighting earlier. This one actually has weight to his existence. That meant this fight has more than tripled in difficulty.

"I know you. That's why I didn't underestimate you." The mana entity spoke.

He was comfortable speaking since what it was doing was standing around and using the length-changing ability of its spear to attack Soverick.



Soverick on the other hand kept quiet. He wasn't comfortable talking unless he wants to be pierced through by the spear. The attacks were lightning-fast. The switch from elongated to reduced was done by the spear beyond what he thought was possible for a weapon.

His opponent continued to talk. "You are the aberrant. I watched your fight in the first stage. You ruined our plan. You must pay for that sin with your life."

Soverick had been watching and examining the mana entity. When he noticed that it was pulling a massive amount of mana into several spots around him, he knew that he couldn't allow the mana entity to continue. He must stop whatever is about to happen immediately.

What was going on was absurd to think about. The mana entities he had faced had only one Ability that they used but this one seems to be a warrior and a mage. He had his spear and could also cast spells. The fight had quadrupled in difficulty.

Soverick lagged in speed all of a sudden. The mana entity took advantage of it and sent the spear his way. Then he sped up, heightened his perception, and then he grabbed the spear. His hand latched onto the pole of the spear and tried pulling it. He was sure he should be stronger than the mana entity. He had faith in his accumulated momentum. He was wrong.

He experienced what others must have felt when they crossed fists with him or tried to push him back. He couldn't move the mana entity at all. There he was, all revved up with his hand on the spear but it wasn't bulging. Then he felt his intuition tingle in warning, so he let the spear go and tried to move as far away as possible.

The spear lit up like a bolt of lightning. It was like a blue energy construct instead of the rigid form he was holding onto earlier. A bolt jumped out from the spear of lightning and struck him. Some of his barriers were shattered immediately. He would have been electrocuted and paralyzed if he was still touching it. And that would be the least of his problems.

"You're smart and you have good instincts. You're the complete package." The mana entity said as he let go of the ambient mana he was accumulating.

"You tricked me," Soverick said calmly.

"Correct." The mana entity was still grinning at him. This time, Soverick could see a touch of madness within his opponent's eyes.

"It's just me, the spear, and my lightning. Nothing else." The mana entity laughed and answered.

Soverick had thought he was about to cast spells. He expected the worst outcome when the mana entity was gathering mana. He thought he wanted to create a magic arsenal. It might have been game over if Soverick let that happen.

He had thought that since the mana entity was real, it could probably do what other mana entities could do. So he tried something desperate and the mana entity had been anticipating it.

"I knew you were going to abuse your momentum. It's how you're so fast and strong. I don't know how you got so much of it or how you can keep it up for so long. But you're not the only one with a lot of momentum." His opponent mocked him.

Soverick continued to dodge and evade his attacks with the spear. The mana entity grew bored and irritated at the monotony of things. The fight had devolved into a chase of a cat and a mouse.

"Is this all you know how to do? To run and hide like a coward. I thought better of you seeing as you are the hero of the plane." He said to Soverick.

He even left openings in his attacks so that Soverick would try something different. But it seemed Soverick had become overly cautious after that last deceit. He didn't even respond to the snide comments that the mana entity made.

"If you won't come to me, I'll come to you."

Saying so the mana entity lit up like his spear. Lightning began to course through its body. Then he flashed brightly and appeared before Soverick. Soverick understood what was going on immediately. The mana entity was augmenting itself with its element. It will make the mana entity faster. When coupled with the strength he felt when he tried to pull the spear, the mana entity should become deadlier. But Soverick smiled.

Faster or stronger, what mattered is that the mana entity had moved closer to him. It meant it was within striking distance and most importantly, within Soverick's range of divine sense. So Soverick struck. He put all he had into a punch to his opponent's head. The mana entity blocked his fist but somehow he was still struck in the face.

Imagine punching a boulder flying at you at a minimum speed of 300m/s hard enough for the boulder to crack. Odds are the fist will also be damaged. The mana entity's head whipped back abruptly. 17 of Soverick's barriers broke as soon as his fist made contact with his opponent's jaw. It protected his fist from most of the damage, but his arm was almost dislocated.

The mana entity was surprised by the hit, it had blocked it, and yet he was struck. He might have made a mistake but he could retaliate. His spear moved to cut Soverick in his side. Instead of backing off, Soverick moved forward.