

GREED 231

Chapter 231 INTERLUDE.

World gods sure have a high perspective. They can even see and perceive matter that doesn't interact with light in any way(Dark matter). They aren't made from a high-energy state of existence for nothing.

That's the minimum requirement to be able to channel the power of a world through you but it comes with other perks. One such perk is telling the realm lord to unlock your home plane after the divine realm has been totally destroyed.

The first sage of the battle sage monkeys is meeting with the realm lord of high heaven. He came in the form of a giant eye. It's not his real form though. He is a busy fellow, what with managing a world and all. But this eye is more than enough to make his presence and WILL known.

To a world god, a body is just an aspect of existence, having one or two is dependent on the amount of energy you are willing to spare. If you have a world supplying you with energy, then you wouldn't care about the energy needed to make a body. World gods care about something else, something more important than energy. But most don't know what it is because it is a matter of perspective.

The realm lord came with his body or something that looks like it. He is the same handsome/beautiful high elf with gold eyes and green hair. He looked harmless but everyone knows he is a troublemaker.

He calls himself a pacesetter two steps ahead of the norm. He is right in a way. Being one step ahead is genius. Being two steps ahead is often considered mad. The people of the realm high heaven know their realm lord to be an unprecedented genius but the people in the upper realm know him to be mad.

The eye says to high elf playboy, "I doubt this is your true body."

Eyes can't talk, but this eye can. It can also transmit a bit of mocking which it just did.

The high elf playboy asked calmly, ever the icon of regality. "And why is that?"

The eye continued sagely, without emotion or inflection. It spoke as if it was speaking the truth or a simple undebatable fact. "You would be a fool to be out of the protection of the realm with your true body after the news of what you are planning to do got out."

The high elf says, "Maybe that's why I should be out with my true body."

"Is this your true body?" The eye asked.

"No."

This time, the eye is relieved. "That's good to hear. You may be mad but you're not a fool. It is reassuring considering the risks we've taken and the interests we have invested in your endeavor."

The high elf playboy yawned. "I guess you called me out concerning your next step in my so-called "endeavor." Let's get on with it. I'm not in a good mood right now. I lost a bet to someone."

He had made a bet that Soverick will choose to become a god-king instead of becoming the child of the plane. He knew a lot about Legion and he suspected that legion-1 will be able to assimilate Soverick/legion-2 and grow stronger if Soverick was a god-king. But apparently, he was wrong. Soverick chose otherwise which meant that Legion's aim is different from raising each one to the Origin god level and assimilating them before creating more clones. So what could legion be after?

The eye returned to business mode. "Yes, I am here concerning your part to play. One of my children has succeeded in the task I gave him. Origin energy is available in the Virut plane now. It is your turn to liberate it."

"Your son is impressive. He didn't just end the era of the gods. He also duped the gods out of their understanding and used it to create a tower of trials for vitality core, mana entity, and transcendents even."

The high elf playboy continued. "It is a noteworthy achievement. The trial will prepare those beneath the transcendental level while the availability of origin energy will enable those above that stage to prepare. If you ask me, that's more than enough preparations."

"Just do your part." The eye spoke.

"What more could one ask for in a son? He even prepared a child of the plane. Remind me again, were you not a child of the plane too?"

The eye became silent.

The realm lord sighed. "You're no fun."

The eye spoke. "I'm not here for fun. I am here for business."

"Do you really want to go so far as to liberate your plane? That will increase your quota and burden. The rewards are great but so is the risk. Aren't you worried that I'll just prance about in my true body later on?" The realm lord asked.

The eye remained unbothered. "That is my concern, not yours, but I would prefer if you don't leave the realm of high heaven until you're ready."

The realm lord shrugged and said. "If you say so, but I have warned you. I have some big things planned. It's going to cause quite a stir in the upper realm. Hope you don't have a heart attack when you hear of it."

Yes, world gods have a heart. It is pretty fragile too. Thankfully it is difficult to reach.

The eye squinted. What big things could the realm lord have planned? Becoming a sovereign in less than an origin cycle was big. Becoming an origin god and the realm lord at the same time in less than two origin cycles was big. Becoming a world god in less than 100 cycles is big. That's what Origin gods know. As we have established, their perspective might be flawed.

World gods know more and see better. They know that breaking the rules of the universe or creating records can provide you with a special encounter. But for the realm lord to say he has something bigger planned than what they know is honestly appalling to think about.

Chapter 232 LEGION-3

The realm lord snapped his fingers and said. "There, I have done it. There's no going back now."

The eye agreed even though it had misgivings. "Yes. There's no going back now."

"Is that all?" The realm lord asked.

"Yes."

"Bye then." He said and vanished.

The eye looked at the realm tree. In its sight, it could see beyond the facade of a tree. It isn't a facade really, more like another layer. The fact that it is only what weaker entities can see doesn't make it fake. But having a higher perspective that enables you to pierce through the first layer of reality makes it a facade.

The eye can see the giant bubble that is the realm of high heaven. This giant bubble houses numerous bubbles that the eye knows to be planes. At the center of the giant bubble is a large bubble known as the ancient battlefield. It is where the tower of heaven is and where the realm lord's true body is mostly hidden. This arrangement and configuration are very similar to that of a dungeon but on a much grander scale.

The eye can't see through the bubbles into the plane or the ancient battlefield because of the protection of the realm lord but it can envision how it is from the experience of destroying other worlds.

"There's no going back now." The eye says again before it also vanishes.

The realm lord is playing a dangerous game. A game that can see the realm of high heaven destroyed. But why will world gods indulge him and even join in it?

They invested time and resources into the endeavor. Could the realm lord have forced them? Highly unlikely. Do they like their home realm that much or are there benefits to be had?

Either way, we will know when the era of conquest comes. Or we may not know. It is, after all, a matter of perspective.

Legion-3's POV

Soverick isn't the first of Legion to be born, but he is the first of Legion to have the first individual thought. They had all been soul fragments of Legion-1 until that moment when they developed individual identities and a sense of self.

The order in which they acquired their identity determines their order in Legion. But it is only that, order not seniority. There is no seniority or superiority. Even Legion-1 isn't superior to anyone of them. Only the idea of Legion is superior.

Legion-1 may die and be reincarnated later on. He will still be Legion-1. But Legion-1 can't die anymore since he is an Origin god. Any clone of Legion may die but Legion will never die.

So Soverick is the first to be reincarnated, but he isn't the first to be born. That privilege goes to another legion that we will see later on. Every clone spent a different amount of time gestating or in the womb.

Legion-3 isn't the first to be reincarnated or to be born, but he is the second to be reincarnated and the third to be born. He was born way earlier than Soverick but he hadn't achieved much. Legion-3 stayed huddled in the same spot he had been born, ever since he was born. For over 50 years he couldn't move away from that spot.

It isn't that he didn't want to move but circumstances prevented him from moving. It's all he could do not to die immediately after reincarnation.

It isn't that he hasn't achieved anything either. He was the one that discovered the link between the system and the realm lord. Since he hasn't moved from a single spot, that information must have come to him.

Legion-3 has been struggling since he reincarnated. He was struggling in the womb of the demon sire as he was gestating as a demon fledgling. He had a peculiar problem unique to him.

Other clones of legions had a problem with too many laws attracted to them due to the use of Origin essence in the womb, but they were all beneficial problems. Legion-3 has to deal with a much bigger problem. What comes to mind when you think of demons? Chaos comes to mind.

So while other legions attracted laws like that of fire, water, time, space, etc. He attracted the law of chaos and only that. The law of chaos isn't a good thing. It certainly isn't a pleasant thing to have trying to bore into your soul either. It could kill you, literally.

Unlike other beings who create divine abilities through the contamination of certain body parts with the law fragments from their origin space, he had to deal with the contamination of his soul by chaos energy. Demons have marks of sin in their souls and it is their source of power. His mark of sin was constructed using chaos energy and it wanted to burn his soul to nothing.

Chaos energy corrupts, corrodes, and tries to turn all of creation into primordial chaos. The famous Void energy between realms isn't as corrosive as chaos energy. If his soul wasn't eternal and immortal then he would have been corrupted and burnt up.

Origin gods create origin essence by refining void energy. The best that legion-3 could do is repel the chaos. It is a task that needed all of his concentration and the full power of his soul. Still, it is a losing battle. Chaos always wins. That's why the universe will die eventually, consumed by chaos and returned to nothingness.

So he couldn't move in the womb. The same continued when he was born. The demon sire, a demonic tree that bears fruits with demon fledglings in them, bore him and wilted. The other demon fledglings that were born with him avoided him like a plague. They may be naive and clueless, but their instincts told them that something was very wrong with him.

They were right. The alignment of demons is trying to kill him. It actually wants to break him down into primordial chaos but it will lead to the same thing. And Legion-3 doesn't want it.

Chapter 233 A Purpose Of The System.

He was born quite healthy for a demon fledgling. He was bigger and meaner looking than them. His claws were like obsidian and his skin was just as tough. But he couldn't move. His body grew gaunt and thin after years of starvation and deprivation. When he refused to die, his body began subsisting on the very Chaos energy that was killing him.

His body experienced irreversible changes as it became more in tune with chaos. Demons can adapt and evolve as long as they have enough energy to do it. His demon body decided to side with chaos energy and evolve.

His body became capable of withstanding chaos. Imagine that. Now he has both the chaos energy and his body as his enemies. Even if he somehow deals with the mark of sin in his soul, his body will be there waiting for a second round. His situation was becoming more and more hopeless.

He had refused to give up because he was waiting for legion-9 the tree of life clone to awaken. He had hoped that the life essence it will provide will be able to solve his dilemma but the change to his body will make that very difficult.

Still, he didn't give up. He had an aim for his reincarnation. The chaos energy was a problem. It is hard to consider it a beneficial problem when it is trying to kill you. But it did bring one benefit. It brought a certain person to him.

This happened two years after reincarnation. Soverick was born decades after that. There he was, lying on the ashy and hot ground as a newly born demon when that entity materialized next to him. He didn't even notice the presence, his mind was focused on staying alive. So the entity had to reach out to his mind with a mental transmission before he knew that someone was beside him.

"You must be legion. I am the realm lord." The entity spoke to him.

He recognized the mental transmissions of the realm lord. The realm lord had addressed him in the past and he couldn't forget the aura of such an iconic entity. Even if he were essentially blind, deaf, and immobile while his mind is fighting against chaos energy, he would still recognize the realm lord. So the introduction wasn't needed.

He respected and feared the realm lord. The realm lord deserves the uttermost respect. Still, he couldn't exactly chat right now. He is busy with something, so he kept his reply short and straight to the point.

"What does the realm lord want with me?"

The realm lord said. "I understand that you are currently preoccupied with something right now. That's why I came. You have a system that keeps track of your power but it doesn't have the permission to keep track of Origin gods."

"I know what you're thinking. You're thinking about your original body and his system. But it won't update anymore. Those are the rules. So I need your permission." The realm lord said.

That wasn't what legion-3 three was feeling. He was feeling some shock, a little fear, and a lot of anger because the realm lord was too familiar with the situation of Legion. He had thought the information about his reincarnation was secret but apparently not. He was very angry but there was nothing he could do about it.

He is currently occupied with something else. Even if he were not, the full power of Legion couldn't face the realm lord, at least not yet. Instead, he latched onto a piece of important information from what the realm lord just said.

"The system is related to you?" Legion-3 asked. "Is it yours?"

"I'll answer for the sake of improving the relationship between us. Yes and yes."

The realm lord didn't think much about answering. He didn't want people to know about his system but he couldn't take Legion for a fool.

He couldn't come here and ask for him to give the system permission for deep-level scanning and monitoring without it being linked to him. It is true that he doesn't want the world gods to know about it but his fear for them will end soon. Plus the benefits of acquiring information about chaos energy will be beneficial to his current record-breaking project.

"What is the system for?" Legion-3 asked.

"It's for collecting data for a project of mine. If you give me permission, I'll let you in on it when my project is done." The realm lord answered.

He wasn't lying. His system is capable of so much more than that, but legion-3 was only asking about the one that everyone uses to see their stats.

'So that's how he knows about legion.' Legion-3 thought before mentally sighing.

The capabilities of the realm lord were beyond him. So he let it go for now. He had an inkling about what the project could be about. He knows it has something to do with struggles between world gods and anything of that level as to be grand and highly valuable but that doesn't mean he will admit to it so easily.

So Legion-3 said, "That can't be the only reward, is it? There has to be more than a promise to add me to your project when it is done."

He had to get more out of this deal.

The realm lord considered. "How about this? If you give me the permission I need, I'll unlock other system services for you. I'll unlock the inventory function. You know that demons can't use spatial artifacts. I'll also give you access to other people's systems for their information. You will be able to see their stats as long as you're stronger than them."

"What are the repercussions of giving my permission?" Legion-3 asked.

He wanted to know the repercussions of giving his permission. Can his thoughts be accessed or will his soul be damaged? He needs more information to make a better decision. He will decline if it is too risky.

Chapter 234 The Deal With The Realm Lord.

"I will gain data about how your soul interacts with chaos energy and the changes it undergoes in your struggle with it. I won't get access to your thoughts or anything. And any information I acquire cannot be used against you as a realm lord. The monitoring will end once you die or if you manage to beat chaos energy back."

It was a tempting offer. Legion-3 suspected that the realm lord the law of will be getting a lot of advantage if he gives his permission. So he overcame his fear of the realm lord to ask for more.

He knows the realm lord can't outright kill him but that doesn't mean he has the right to offend such a terrifying person. It is not a wise action to do at all. It was with this caution that he asked for the two most important things to him.

"I want you to rescue my Original body and give me something that can help with this chaos energy."

Those are the two most important things to him right now. The original body is still being chased by Origin gods from the stone skin race that intend to use his body to make a top-grade Origin weapon. Rescuing him will mean that Legion-3's existence was not in vain.

As for the second request, if he gets something to help with the chaos trying to corrode his soul, he might have a chance at actually fulfilling the aim for his reincarnation.

The realm lord nodded. "Good requests and also easy to fulfill. Saving legion-1 will be easy to do. Giving you something to help out with your struggle with chaos is also in line with my plan. It won't do if you die on me. I would very much prefer it if you survive. Is that all?"

"Yes," Legion-3 replied.

Then the realm lord snapped his fingers. "All done. I have placed the chaos vessel into your inventory and I have rescued legion-1. The chaos vessel can store chaos and can also be used as a weapon. It's two in one. Mind you, it is a prototype, it might not fix your problem. Chaos energy is rare to encounter and survive. So the chaos vessel is based on theoretical data, but it will certainly help. Now your turn."

A contract appeared within Legion-3's mind. It required permission for monitoring his state and will last until chaos energy stops bothering him or he dies. The details of the benefits he is to get and the responsibilities of the realm lord concerning his privacy and safety were also outlined. He isn't to tell anyone about what he knows about the system until the realm lord becomes a world god.

First, legion-3 informed all the others about the realm lord's relationship with the system and the need to keep contact with each other minimal so that it will reduce the risk of information leakage once he activates the monitoring system. Then he signed it with his demon name instead of his identity within the collective that is Legion.

"It is nice doing business with you." The realm lord said before he was gone.

He went away happy with the deal. He would have paid more honestly, but it will be highly suspicious of him. The monitoring of the interaction of an eternal soul with chaos energy has important research value but even more important is making Legion participate in his project when he is done with it. But he made it a reward to mask another one of his intentions for the deal.

The participation of Legion in his project will allow him to collect some more precious data. It is true that he can't harm the children of the high heaven realm unless they warrant it and only outside the realm can he even harm them, but that doesn't mean he can't offer them something good that can also harm them. The privilege to be a part of his project is beneficial, but it is also highly dangerous. It will be up to legion-3 to keep himself safe and not be torn apart.

Legion-3 checked his new inventory. It is a special enclosed space with its coordinates attached to his system instead of his soul. It couldn't be attached to his soul because he is a demon and demons scramble spatial artifacts unless they are reinforced by the will or energy of the abyss.

Inside the space is a huge two-handed sword. He tried to access it but remembered that he couldn't. It would need him to remove a portion of his concentration to the item but that will mean a reduced defense against chaos energy. It wasn't a risk he was willing to take with something that might not work.

So he decided to wait. He could give up and attempt reincarnation again but he still has time. It hasn't even been an Origin cycle yet. He also had a purpose to be fulfilled. No clone of Legion was reincarnated at a whim. They all have their purpose to be fulfilled to the collective. It was for his purpose that he stayed in the same spot for over 40 years.

His wait wasn't spent idling about. He tried to look for more efficient ways to resist Chaos and the only thing that came to mind is Order. He hadn't comprehended the law of order so he decided to substitute it with some other laws. He started utilizing the few laws that Legion knew to give order to chaos.

Life: 100%

Earth: 100%

Water: 100%

Air: 100%

Death: 100%

Fire: 100%

Light: 1.2%

Darkness: 1.1%

Space: 1.2%

Slaughter: 73.5%

The law of life, his major specialty, failed spectacularly. Life only seemed to cause chaos to advance for some reason. Death on the other hand restrained chaos.

The behavior of the two laws was eye-opening to him. He had always thought that life was on the side of Order and that Death should encourage chaos, but it is the opposite. Life creates entropy, which increases Chaos while Death siphons entropy.

Chapter 235 AETERNUS.

So the law of death worked. He tried some other laws. Space, Earth, water, and air didn't work at all, they were corrupted easily and assimilated to empower chaos. The law of fire, light, and the law of slaughter were even worse, they agitated chaos before they were corrupted. A simple contact between them and chaos created an amplified effect on chaos.

Only the law of darkness could somewhat hold chaos back. It didn't come as a surprise to him that darkness worked well with chaos energy. The law of darkness didn't restrain chaos like Death could, but it instead accepted the corrosion of Chaos and grew stronger while still resisting Chaos. It was like a leech of Chaos energy. It absorbed chaos energy and transformed it into chaotic darkness.

Seeing as he had gone through every law he knew and he had a lot more time on his hands, he began to try combinations of laws to see if something good will show up. It is common sense that multiple laws working in tandem create a much stronger effect than a single law. That's why concepts are stronger than laws.

It wasn't a surprise when the law of Death and Darkness worked well together. What was a surprise is that the law of fire could amplify their effects. Death would make Chaos less active, darkness will feed on the inactive chaos, while fire will burn darkness away with the chaos it had engorged on.

"If only my law of darkness and fire were stronger, the effect will also be more useful."

As they were, their help in the struggle with chaos is too little. It was around that time that his body turned on him and sided with chaos. His progress was nullified.

The percentage of darkness and fire was too low. He couldn't comprehend laws on his own because demons can't access laws at all. The ones he has access to are from Legion-1 through the soul sphere. It was only later on that a new law was added to Legion's repertoire.

Law of Slaughter: 100%

"That's useless to me," Legion-3 said.

The first legion to be born had finished comprehending the law of Slaughter. Too bad that the law of Slaughter didn't go well with any of his combinations. It may be useless to him, but it made him realize that he is not alone in this struggle, the might of Legion is supporting him.

"I guess I am the only one that I can rely on." He said with slight mirth.

Someone had come to his rescue.

Law of the Soul: 100%

Another legion acquired a new law. He is right in a way, every other legion is part of himself and he can only rely on them. The new addition is the law of the soul. This one came from the second legion to be born.

The developments created a slight pressure for him that the first two legions to be born had already achieved something useful to Legion. But only that, he wasn't ashamed or anything. He was just unlucky to be in this situation. He had also tried his best and his existence had created some value for Legion through the deal he signed.

So he went to work trying to combine the law of the soul with what he had. It was a surprise when his first combination worked out immediately. The law of the soul combined well with death, darkness, and fire. The combination produced soothing energy that he knew to be soul energy. It was like finding water in a desert.

He felt a cool sensation spread in his soul and mind. The burning sensation created by chaos energy eased a bit. This revelation made him realize that chaos energy might be a treasure. Soul energy is a product of an immortal soul. It is the energy that Origin gods use to convert void energy to origin essence.

The rate of soul energy production determines how fast an Origin god can produce Origin essence. The stronger an origin god gets, the faster its rate of production. But here he is, getting it from chaos energy free of charge.

It's just that the production rate of soul energy is too slow. He needs it to fight back against chaos. He can't spare any right now. His defenses were bolstered due to the assistance but he still couldn't distract himself by trying to bind the chaos vessel.

The fight against chaos isn't something where distraction is allowed. It's like pushing a boulder up a hill. A slight mistake will take you to the starting line. It doesn't help that the boulder is getting bigger the more time goes by. The struggle will be in a stalemate at best if you put in your best effort, any less will guarantee you a loss. There's no winning the struggle. If chaos energy is a real treasure then he can't excavate its full usefulness yet.

Legion-3 was in this state when the fourth legion to be born was delivered in the Virut plane. They called him Soverick. A name that meant golden stone/jewel in their native tongue. It was a showy name, unlike

Legion-3's demon name. While Soverick was named by some ambitionless refiners, Legion-3 was given a true name by the very abyss itself.

His true name is Aeterna Prima Invidia... The name consists of about a hundred words but the first three words mean ETERNAL AND PRIME ENVY. The will of the abyss believed him to be envious of others and not greedy. He had always thought himself to be greedy for more power but it seems his motivation is due to his envy of more powerful people or a particularly powerful person.

Legion-3 had chosen to call himself AETERNUS. It beats Soverick, and the will of the abyss trumps some ambitionless refiners who named Legion-2. So he was smug about his name. But he didn't get to feel smug for long. In just two short years of existence, Soverick proved himself to be a shining star.

Chapter 236 The Influence Of Chaos.

Soverick became the jewel of the plane. He fulfilled his purpose and went beyond it. That moment when he was marked by the plane, Legion was also marked because of their connection. A halo appeared in all of Legion's clones except Legion-1 who is already an Origin god. That mark appeared within Aeternus' soul and from it came origin energy or mana if he needed it.

The supply of infinite origin energy caused his production of soul energy to escalate to an unprecedented level. The chaos energy was being pushed back. His future started to look up. But only that, the pressure from chaos energy will continue to increase, which means he will need more and more origin energy to hold it back. He doesn't plan to allow that.

He doesn't want to let his life be reliant on some charity. What if the energy supply isn't truly infinite? What if something happens to Soverick or he loses the supply of energy? Then everything will end for legion-3. Still, the improvement gave him more room to improvise. So he tried something that the first legion clone to be born created.

He began to weave the law fragments of the law of chaos with death, darkness, fire, and soul into something similar to a concept while he imprinted them on his soul. In a way, he is modifying his soul. It is a painful and dangerous process.

He used the corrosive properties of chaos energy as a surgical blade. Chaos energy is obviously strong enough to damage his soul, so the challenge lies in controlling its effect to what is needed. Then he carved grooves into his soul in which he placed the arranged law fragments to form tattoos that resemble the network of the law matrix.

The combination of laws he had been using was catalyzed by the origin energy into crystalizing into forming a concept with his soul as the foundation. Demons can't use laws, which means they don't have concepts. He isn't a true demon. He has an Origin soul. Even so, Origin souls will remain impervious to the influence of a concept unless there is an origin essence. Thankfully he had a bead of it given to him by Legion-1 before they all reincarnated.

His soul began to absorb the created concept and started to evolve. When it was done, his soul became able to transform chaos energy into soul energy on its own without being damaged by the corrosive properties of chaos energy. His true name changed to accommodate the change. He became ETERNAL AND CHAOTIC ENVY. His part of the contract with the realm lord also ended immediately. Chaos energy has stopped bothering him so the deep-level scanning stopped. He also became able to move his body for the first time in over 40 years, all thanks to Soverick.

He said as he rose from the ground. "I guess it is time for me to earn my keep and fulfill my aim."

Aeternus' aim was planned when Gehaldirah came to the demon realm. He had gotten some critical information from the memories of the demon lord that wanted to possess him. He got to know that when a demon advances to become a demon god, it can evolve into something called a world-ender.

He didn't have much information about world-enders back then but his research showed that demons can't evolve into this creature on their own, they need a certain something that the will of the abyss gives them. That thing is called chaos blood.

It is almost similar to how Sovereigns need origin essence to become Origin gods. Except that demon gods are as powerful as origin gods and chaos essence is much rarer than origin essence and more dangerous.

Later on, he found out that world gods will do anything to get this Chaos blood. They call it chaos essence. When combined with Origin essence can be used to create anything. It was enough to make Gehaldirah set his mind on it. But further information that he got from the tower of heaven's library revealed that the world enders are one of the weaknesses of a world god. So now, he is bent on becoming a world-ender. That's why he wasn't willing to give up at all.

He began to review his resources and his state of existence. He had undergone unprecedented changes unseen in demons. His body and soul may have survived the struggle with chaos energy but they have also been skewed because of its influence.

"It's like a body of law. It is even complete." He commented on the state of his body.

His body was odd. He was thin, almost bare bones. His claws stretched from his hand like blades because of his receded skin. Black smoke was coming from his body and it was corroding the environment. It created a hazy cloak around him that obscured his figure and made him look bigger than he should be, more dangerous too.

It wasn't a smoke screen in the metaphorical sense. He really is dangerous. His thin body is as hard as metal. He might be lacking in strength but his blades and the chaotic energy flowing through him made him something not easily messed with. He looked like a wraith made of black flames. Fledglings had avoided him when he looked normal, now they will run away as soon as they sight him.

Still, that isn't the strangest thing about him.

Demons have something similar to a mana body and later on when they become stronger, they possess something like a transcendent body. But he has something similar to the body of law.

It is probably due to the influence of his soul, its evolution, and the chaotic energy he evolved with. A body of law signifies a bloodline. Demons have bloodlines but it is the lowest kind, that of a transcendent. So it isn't eternal and it degrades. Their bloodlines affect their sin. But he has already acquired something better. His sin of chaotic envy is way better than any of the sins he knows about.

Chapter 237 The Chaos Vessel.

"If it will help me achieve my aim, I don't mind it."

The changes to his body and his sin are the positive side of things. These positive aspects of his existence are due to the influence of chaos. The negative sides are also due to chaos. For starters, his soul almost crumbled. The current power of his soul is almost nonexistent. It goes to prove how close to death he was. Thankfully he has begun to heal and his soul is growing stronger.

His sin of chaos might be great but he has also lost access to mana and magic. Demons may not be able to access laws, but they have a way to enhance mana into some sort of transcendent energy that can match Origin energy in power. But now, he doesn't even have access to it because of his chaotic energy. His chaotic energy is all he has and what he has to rely on if he intends to achieve his aim.

"Let's see what this Chaos vessel is all about."

Now that he has escaped the threat of death, he has the leisure to try out the realm lord's gift. He reached into his inventory and brought out the two-handed sword. It is a heavy claymore that fell from his hands and sank with half its length deep into the ground.

"Wow." He was honestly stunned.

He didn't think the so-called thing that was supposed to help him would be this heavy. His pleasant feeling of surprise quickly morphed into anger. Either the realm lord had been unknowingly negligent or had been intentionally malicious, he had failed to account for the weight of the chaos vessel. How could he use this when he couldn't even move his body?

He scowled and muttered. "This better work."

He touched the weapon and channeled his Chaos energy into it. The weapon thrummed and absorbed it greedily. It even extended its hunger into Aeternus' soul. Some of his soul force went into it and bound the weapon to him.

He felt the effect of the bond on his soul and he commented dismissively. "It will certainly alleviate my problem but it wouldn't solve it."

The chaos vessel was like a bottomless abyss that could absorb chaos. It would have siphoned part of the pressure from his soul when he was helpless but only that. It wasn't worth it back then when he needed the assistance because he will have to lose focus on defending against chaos which would have led to his death. The siphoning isn't worth it now that he has already resolved the chaos problem. In a way, he got what he asked for from the realm lord, something to help with his problem, but only that. The chaos vessel would not have fixed his problem.

Still, it can be useful as a weapon. He tried moving it now but it didn't budge one bit. So he tried compelling the weapon to move with his soul force. It still didn't move. Instead, the weapon thrummed and sank deeper into the ground.

He was getting angry more and more. He knew it is the effect of his sin of chaos but who wouldn't get frustrated by such an unresponsive and useless gift? He tried recalling it and it disappeared into his inventory.

Aeternus sighed when that worked. If he can't move the chaos vessel, he will have to leave it behind. That would mean a waste of something he got for invasive scanning. Now that he was assured about it, he had more options for what to do. He considered it as one would an Origin weapon and asked it to lengthen.

The claymore began to elongate. It rose from the ground until he told it to stop. Then he told it to shorten and lighten. It reduced in size and became light enough for him to pull out from the ground.

"Not bad at all. It must be a top-grade Origin weapon. To think I would be the first of Legion to own one. That's an achievement." He commented as he swung it around.

Top-grade Origin weapons are almost perfect weapons. They are an Origin god's dream. World gods look down on a lot of things but not on a Top-grade Origin weapon. He knows it has something to do with their ability to maintain fidelity across various spatial and temporal constants. He doesn't know what it means but Hadrick has said so before.

The weapon was still gorging on his chaos energy but it was easy to wield. He could change its size, length, and weight just like any other Origin weapon. It didn't look or behave like any Origin weapon he had wielded, so it must be a top-grade weapon or a different type of weapon entirely.

He continued to test it and pushed its full capabilities before he returned it to his inventory.

"Now let's see what I'm working with."

He pulled up his stat screen.

Stat Sheet.

NAME: AETERNUS (Legion-3)

TITLE: Child Of The Virut Plane. Eternal Chaotic Envy Demon.

RACE: Demon Of Envy.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Chaotic Envy.

DEMON RANK: Low-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: INFINITE.

CHAOS ENERGY: INFINITE.

ATTACK RATING: Physique:24. Spirit:198. MAGIC:108.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:108. Spirit:3640. MAGIC:108.

SOUL ESSENCE: 0

BIOMASS: 0

DIVINITY: 0

SIN RANK: Low-1%

STRENGTH: Low-12

CONSTITUTION: Low-54

ACTIVITY: Low-54

AGILITY: Low-11

CHAOTIC POWER: Low-54

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Low-54

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Low-54

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Eternal-91

SPIRIT: Eternal-18

PERCEPTION: Eternal-18

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 0%

LAW AFFINITY: 0%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 100%

STATUS: Chaotic.

As he skimmed through his stats he realized that a lot had changed between him and other demons apart from his sin. The properties of demons have always been chaotic. They don't follow the same system of power as the path of perfection. They have a unique system of power that is based on mana, sin energy, and evolution.

Their strength and power are based on their level of evolution. That's why they are demarcated into ranks. Even their stats are demarcated into ranks too.

Chapter 238 The Demon System Of Power.

The strength and power of demons are based on their level of evolution. That's why they are demarcated into ranks. Even their stats are demarcated into ranks too. The ranks for stats range from Fragmented, low, middle, high, pinnacle, extreme, and so on. These correspond to fledgling, low, mid, high, demon noble, demon lord, and so on.

He laughed a little when he saw his title. He had two titles which no legion has. The other clones of legion can't share in his title because that would mean he has to channel pure Chao energy through his soul into the soul artifact that bonds them. It is not a risk that Legion is willing to take.

His demon rank says he is a low-rank demon but he has a power rating above that of a normal mid-rank one. Some of his stats are well above what a low-rank demon should be capable of. His constitution, activity, chaotic power, and physical and magical defense have reached an extreme rank because of Chaos energy but only in terms of stats. Their rank is still low, so he hasn't reached the power rating of a demon lord.

Power rating is a concept introduced by the realm lord with the advent of the system for demons. Demons had always known that low-rank demons can't beat high-rank demons no matter how old they get, how much they eat, or many they kill.

Demons grow stronger as they kill and eat. Their stats increases from 1 to 99. It becomes difficult to get more stats the more they kill. An increase in stats also becomes irrelevant unless they evolve. Evolution increases their state of existence which amplifies their power.

The sin energy that is the cornerstone of their power increases in quality with each evolution which in turn makes them stronger. A demon fledgling has no amplification. A low rank has a state of existence of 2, mid-rank demons have 3, while a high-rank demon has 5. The power rating is acquired by multiplying the state by the state of existence.

The situation of his soul is a good example of the uniqueness of the power system of demons. The strength of his soul has fallen but the quality remains the same. He still has an eternal soul. While the strength of his spirit and his perception have been reduced, the resistance of his soul is still too notch.

He nodded and said. "First step, get stronger and reach Dakon's plane."

He created an objective then he began to prowl the ashy plain for prey. His stats reflected what he discovered about his body. Chaos energy has skewed his existence. His sin might be different but it still follows the normal method by which demons grow.

Demons grow stronger when they eat souls and flesh, but they evolve when their sin upgrades and they have enough energy. That's what the stats about Soul essence, biomass, and divinity are about. They are the three resources that demons need to evolve. He has unlimited sin energy which means that the only thing holding him back from growing his is sin.

He chanced upon numerous fledglings that were just born and ignored them. These newly born demons were already fighting each other to the death. The ashy plain is full of numerous brawls between small and skinny demons. The ones that win get to live another day and also become stronger when they absorb the souls of the defeated. They would break up their fights and run away whenever they sighted him.

They weren't proper prey for him. Most of their stats were in the fragmented rank and their power rating doesn't exceed 9. Plus they don't have any mark of sin for him to consume to make his own grow. He would gain nothing by fighting them. So he went deeper into the abyssal plane.

A plane in the abyss is a circular disk of reality. It is divided into rings meant for different ranks of demons. Demon fledglings are born at the edge while the demon Lord of the plane lives at the very center where the waypoint is.

The closer you get to the center of the plane, the higher the concentration of mana and sin energy. Demons can ignore their need for mana, but sin energy is too important to be ignored. The higher your sin rank is, the more concentration of sin energy is needed to sustain it. That means demons will like to live closer to the center of the plane, but the available space becomes smaller which creates conflicts and competition.

A hierarchy has been formed somewhat because of these dynamics. The closer you get to the center of the plane, the stronger demons you will meet. If you reach the waypoint and leave the plane, you will get access to the numerous other planes in the abyss.

In essence, the abyss is a pit with planes in the form of circular disks piled on top of one another. He needs to reach the waypoint if he intends to get to Dakon's stash.

Dakon is the demon Lord that tried to possess him in his past life as Gehaldirah. A demon Lord of Dakon's Caliber should have some things that will be useful to Aeternus' smooth ascension.

His plane might have been taken over by a new demon Lord but Aeternus knows where he kept a secret stash of his wealth. He needs strength to transverse the plane and reach the stash, he will also need strength to overcome the numerous traps and obstacles that Dakon must have left behind. There's no way a demon Lord will not booby-trap his stash.

He spent the next couple of full days walking past the domain of fledglings and low-rank demons before he finally reached the ring populated by mid-rank demons.

It was a boring journey that the precarious environment didn't encourage. The burning heat and the ashy plains would have made demons tire and stop to rest once in a while, but he is no normal demon.

Chapter 239 Demon Hierarchy.

Aeternus is far from normal for a demon. He is tireless and he doesn't need to breathe since he doesn't have lungs. Chaos energy has warped his body into something that is an unfeeling vessel much similar to that of an undead. Except he isn't only bones. All of his living flesh has just been morphed into this hard and black material that can conduct Chaos energy.

He didn't encounter any fight all the way here because low-rank demons ran away from him and he didn't bother to give chase. They may have marks of sin because of their evolution but it won't help his own soul mark to grow quickly.

He doesn't want to spend years trying to become a mid-rank demon by killing low-rank demons. Their power rating which ranged between 20 to 36 didn't encourage him either. They are just too weak for him.

The first mid-rank demon that saw him started to approach him menacingly. It spoke in the demon tongue to him. "What do we have here? A new toy to play with. A special toy too. I'll enjoy killing you. I was feeling bored already."

Fledglings are weak. Low-rank demons have the strength of mana entities but they are mostly chaotic and unintelligent. Mid-rank demons have the power of transcendents. They are intelligent and territorial. It is at this point in strength that the social hierarchy is recognized.

The area that Aeternus is about to enter belongs to this demon. Apart from his need to defend its territory, it also felt a need to destroy Aeternus. It wasn't scared by the ominous darkness wafting from Aeternus' body like smoke. Instead, something about Aeternus is very appealing to it.

The demon could feel that if it can kill Aeternus, he can acquire something unique that will make it stronger and it could also tell that it had a chance of victory. It didn't question the fact that its demon instincts are only informing it that it had a chance of victory instead of assured victory. After all, what can a low-rank demon do to it? So the demon was very much looking forward to the fight.

Aeternus is also looking forward to the fight. To jump ranks and bring down a demon above him in the evolutionary ranks will make his sin grow quickly. What is more chaotic than a disregard for order and hierarchy?

Aeternus's face remained expressionless. First, he checked the demon's stats.

NAME: Fitalo

RACE: Demon of Wrath.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Wrath.

DEMON RANK: Mid Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: 100%

MANA: 23

SIN ENERGY: 127

ATTACK RATING: Physique:66+3. Spirit:60. MAGIC:30.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:69. Spirit:57. MAGIC:26.

SIN RANK: Mid-14%

STRENGTH: Mid-22

CONSTITUTION: Mid-24

ACTIVITY: Mid-20

AGILITY: Low-18

MAGICAL POWER: Low-15

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-23

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Low-13

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Mid-19

SPIRIT: Mid-20

PERCEPTION: Mid-17

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 41%

LAW AFFINITY: 0%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 1%

SIN ABILITY: The Strength Of Wrath(Common)- Consumes anger and sin energy to boost strength by 1.

STATUS: Very Optimistic.

Fitalo was tall for a demon of his rank. Almost 3 meters in height and bulky to match. He had stats that fit his rank but they weren't special. The only thing that stood out was his strength. He had decided to prioritize his physical stats instead of his magical ones during his evolution to become a mid-rank demon.

He may be an all-brawns kind of demon but Aeternus plans to use him to gain information about demon prowess and fighting mechanics from the fight. He didn't speak and only beckoned to the demon.

The demon got angry immediately. How did a lowly demon dare to disrespect him like that? Did the weakling think he stood a chance against him? He wielded his spiked club and raced toward Aeternus intending to put the disrespectful little shit in his place which is 6 feet underground. That's if it can eat Aeternus.

His feet stomped on the ground heavily and his body started glowing red light. Fitalo's body emitted an aura of terror that will cower any other low-rank demon that knows what's good for them into realizing that they may have bitten more than they can chew.

Low-rank demons hardly reach 2 meters, so it is more than a terrifying sight to see a giant more than a meter taller than you aiming to kill you but Aeternus stood his ground. He raised his two hands up and got into a grappling stance. Fitalo swung his spiked club downward to smash Aeternus into a pulp. Aeternus sidestepped the attack calmly. His enemy had all but telegraphed what it would do so it was easy for him to anticipate and evade.

The smash had made Fitalo lower his head. So Aeternus took advantage of their close proximity to poke his eyes. Fitalo roared in pain. He tried to swat Aeternus away with one of his hands but Aeternus kicked him between his legs. He fell to the ground groaning and cursing.

The fight and the weapon he dropped were at the back of his mind. He was determined to get vengeance though. His vision was tainted red with the need for blood, or it could be the popping of blood vessels in his eyes due to them bulging in pain.

"If I get my hands on you little rat, I'll kill you. Do you hear me? I'll kill you."

He was shouting and raving but Aeternus didn't care.

He dusted his hands together and said to himself, "This is good enough."

All he did was bring Fitalo to ground level in a position for him to do whatever he wanted to do with the demon. He began punching the helpless demon. But no amount of effort could get past the physical defense of the demon enough to cause damage to it.

His own strength is of the low rank, so it is helpless against the defense of mid-rank. A defense rating of 69 beats an attack rating of 24.

Chapter 240 Power Rating.

He could punch and attack all day since his unlimited stamina can allow him to, but he won't be able to harm Fitalo unless he uses an aid like a weapon. Even then, the weapon has to be of very high quality to bridge the gap between 69 and 24. This is why demons lower on the hierarchy find it almost impossible to beat their superiors.

The demon Hierarchy has been set before the arrival of the realm lord but his concept of power rating explained why 100 low-rank demons cannot punch a mid-rank demon to death. The quality brought about to the state of existence through evolution trumps the quantity brought about by stats.

He began testing his chaotic power on Fitalo instead, since his fist wasn't working. He created a clump of dark fire in his hands and threw it at his opponent. Fitalo was starting to get up and was doing it leisurely.

There's no rush for him since a low-rank demon can't do anything to harm him. Then the flames attached to his body and he jumped up in a hurry.

"What have you done to me?" He cried as he tried to smother the flames but his hands caught on dark fire.

His attempts to use the ground to snuff it out failed too. The chaos flames spread slowly and surely, Inexhaustible and unquenchable while poor Fitalo screamed in pain way worse than that of almost smashed nuts.

The flames only stopped when they finished burning the demon to ashes. Some sort of energy entered Aeternus' body. It all went into his mark of sin on his soul and he could feel it grow a little. His stats also improved.

He dusted his hands again and shook his head, "Disappointing."

The fight had been dull. Fighting usually involves leveraging your resources against your opponents. Fitalo stood no chance against him whatsoever so there was no use for techniques or fighting proficiency. Aeternus had been able to bring him down easily with his chaos flames.

The other unique thing is that even with his own prodigious fighting proficiency, he still couldn't hurt the helpless fitalo with physical damage. He had been able to poke Fitalo's eyes and really hurt his balls but he didn't have the physical resources needed to damage the demon beyond that. That's why he switched to his chaotic power.

"We'll see how fighting proficiency and weapon mastery fits into this way of fighting." He said with anticipation.

Could the realm lord's concept hold in every situation? Probably yes. Aeternus doesn't have the intention to disprove the theory of power rating. But he wants to see how far it can be stretched and what it even accounts for. Learning new things is pleasant because it is not only for himself but for Legion too.

The fight may have been dull but it was enlightening to an extent. It showed that no matter how skillful he is if he doesn't have the strength to deal damage then he will be helpless in a fight. Therefore he has to consider his limits and his strengths when fighting and when choosing an opponent.

He considered his plans for a while before continuing forward toward the territory of high-rank demons. He doesn't plan to enter the domain of high-rank demons yet. But the closer he gets to it, the stronger mid-rank demons he will face.

Fledglings have the power of a vitality core refiner at most. Their soul is fragmented and their sin mark is unformed. They are irrational, unintelligent, and chaotic. They follow their basal Instincts. Intelligence starts to show up among low-rank demons. They have a complete soul and the ability to learn. They also have the power of mana entities. But they are still chaotic.

They will learn over time and become intelligent by the time they become mid-rank demons. They acquire the power of transcents at this point. This is also the stage where the concept of tactics and strategies begins to form.

So by the time they become High-rank demons, they would have mastered tactics, strategies, and trickery. These are important qualities a demon should have if they are to lead invasions into worlds. Their power has also reached the level of a Lord of law.

Aeternus can defeat a mid-rank demon because of his chaotic power and only that. When a demon evolves into a mid-rank, its mark of sin grants them an ability that depends on the type of sin and the true name of the demon. Fitalo's ability is the strength of wrath. An active ability that needs him to be angry and consumes sin energy to give him a slight boost in strength.

The sin ability is the only ability that mid-rank demons have. Some special mid-rank demons will also have the power of spells, unlike Fitato with his pitiful amount of mana. All in all, a normal mid-rank demon has a power rating between 57-81. Sin abilities increase it and spell power can make them close to Aeternus in strength.

He can still handle that. But he won't be able to handle more than that. A high-rank demon will surely have a lot of spells. They will outrank him physically and magically. It will be certain death to fight a high-rank demon no matter how skillful he is. Having set his limit, he chose to focus on his strength.

So he prowled the domain of the mid-rank demons, fighting and fighting. At first, he fought unarmed using the numerous fighting skills and mastery that Soverick had acquired for Legion. Things increased in difficulty the more he went deeper. Some demons started using refined weapons instead of crude objects.

The demon he is currently fighting is wielding something similar to a sword. It is some metal that has been heated and beaten into the shape and form of a sword. It has a rough surface and chipped uneven edges. It is crude looking, to say the least. It may not be a good sword, but it is an upgrade over a club. The only thing worse than the sword is its user.