

GREED 241

Chapter 241 Competition Within Demon Society.

NAME: Razoo

RACE: Demon of Pride.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Pride.

DEMON RANK: Mid-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 98%

STAMINA: 72%

MANA: 241

SIN ENERGY: 372

ATTACK RATING: Physique:75. Spirit:63. MAGIC:60.

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

SIN RANK: Mid-42%

STRENGTH: Mid-25

CONSTITUTION: Mid-24

ACTIVITY: Mid-26

AGILITY: Mid-21

MAGICAL POWER: Mid-20

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-23

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-19

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Mid-20

SPIRIT: Mid-21

PERCEPTION: Mid-22

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 42%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 1%

SIN ABILITY: The Superiority of Pride(Rare)- +3 boost to any stat disadvantaged during a confrontation.

STATUS: Experiencing Self-doubt.

Razoo is a perfect all-rounder. She had chosen to evolve all her stats and hence has no weakness. One might call her mediocre but her sin ability made up for it. It allowed her to supplement any weakness she has against an opponent. Pride means a need for superiority in every aspect.

If her opponent is faster than her, her own speed will pick up to meet the demand. Her sin ability will make her defense tougher if she faces something that she cannot resist. The boost of +3 stat to a mid-rank demon means an increase in power rating by 9. That kind of boost will put her well above the normal power rating of mid-rank demons. So she is better than Fitalo in every sense.

Even better is her grasp of magic. She can't cast it yet but she has formed a barrier around her that will protect her from both physical and magical damage. She is also coating her crude sword in a layer of fire mana that will allow it to do both physical and magical damage if it strikes an opponent.

The word here is "if" it strikes her opponent. Her problem is her swordsmanship or her lack of one. Her mastery of the sword is cruder than her weapon. Aeternus was able to evade her strikes calmly and easily with minimal effort. He wasn't stronger than her or faster either. In fact, those two stats of hers were higher than his but her sword couldn't reach him and she was getting irritated. He hadn't touched her but her pride was getting hurt.

She shouted in her frustration, "Stay still."

"Why don't you stay still?"

He was much smaller than her so it made him a smaller target and he was much more nimble. All these factors coupled with his footwork techniques and she couldn't hit him.

Another problem she is facing is that her sin ability wasn't helping her in any way. After all, she is superior to him in every aspect that he has confronted her with. There is no need for her ability to supplement any weakness. But after several swings and subsequent misses with her sword, her pride broke down. He was able to get within her guard and touch her lower torso with flames made with his chaotic power.

Things didn't turn out as they did with Fitalo. She has a magical barrier and it was resisting the dark flames. Still, the flame didn't go out. She had to continue consuming mana to resist its effect. When she noticed that nothing was happening to her, she resumed trying to skewer him with her sword. Aeternus had to endure more dodging until her barrier lost the fight. Then the Chaos flames got to work on her body.

"So the Chaos flame will maintain its unquenchable state even when I bring it out of my body and use only a little of it. Persistent and dangerous." He appraised the effect of the chaos flames while the female demon of pride writhed and screamed.

He had used a small amount of flames so it did slow work on the demoness but finished its work. The flame grew stronger and spread faster as it burned. Her pain didn't come close to what he felt for years as Chaos energy tried to burn his soul. It took willpower and an immortal soul to withstand it but it was the most painful experience ever. Razoo didn't have an immortal soul or immortal body, so she was burnt into ashes and energy that improved Aeternus's mark of sin. Her unsightly weapon also joined her.

"Next fight then." He said.

Then he began walking deeper into the plane. Demons can't grow stronger without fighting. They can't hole themselves up in a corner and cultivate. They have to fight and kill to grow, unlike others races that fight for resources to cultivate even when they don't need to. The refinement path relies on mana mostly and sometimes items with vitality. Most races can sit just sit down and cultivate calmly until they become strong. It might not work and they will be weaker than their counterparts who fought to reach their positions, but it is certainly an option. Demons don't have that option. Their entire life is to kill or be killed.

The so-called territories of mid-rank demons are areas where certain demonic beasts live. These demonic beasts aren't demons, more like animals that have adapted to the environment of the abyss. So the demons rear them and kill them for growth.

The availability of demonic beasts means mid-rank demons don't need to risk their lives in death matches with other demons to progress but they still need to kill something. Demonic beasts don't have the same value as a demon. Killing a demon will provide 100 times the benefit of a demonic beast but killing demonic beasts are safer.

But competition doesn't disappear. The larger the territory of a mid-rank demon, the more demonic beasts they have and the faster their growth. If other races can be greedy, demons are definitely greedy. So demons fight over the territory now. The stronger ones have the largest territory.

The concept of territory is an evolution of the killing and foraging of low-rank demons. Mid-rank demons now take their time and think of the bigger picture and the future. They won't kill all the beasts in their territory at once when they harvest them. They will give them time and allow them to reproduce before coming to harvest them again.

Chapter 242 Viron The Demon Of Lust.

High-rank demons take things to the next level by invading planes and using other races as their cattle. Their needs grow with the increase in strength and so does their appetite. Other races are better than demonic beasts because they have complete souls, which means more soul essence for each kill.

The difference in value between killing a demon and other races of the same power reduces to 10 times instead of 100 for demonic beasts. Killing other races is more than 10 times better than killing demonic beasts.

No matter the level of the demonic hierarchy, competition and conflict are a staple. It could occur because of resources, a clash of sins or ideas, or simply distaste. Demons of greed like to steal and demons of wrath like to get angry. Those two examples are more than enough to cause conflict in any society.

So Aeternus didn't run out of opponents. He always met someone willing to fight him either because they didn't like how he looked or for some other cogent reason. Some were capable mid-rank demons while others were mediocre, but none of them impressed him until he met Viron. A mid-rank demon that could cast spells.

You would think creatures with the power of transcents should be able to cast spells easily but spells need an agile mind to cast. The minds of demons are not too agile until they become high-rank demons. Demon spells are also different from normal spells. They are more difficult to cast. But once demons master spells, they are able to amplify the power of their spells with sin energy to make it on par with abilities fuelled with origin energy.

NAME: Viron

RACE: Demon of Lust.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Lust.

DEMON RANK: Mid-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: 91%

MANA: 812

SIN ENERGY: 754

ATTACK RATING: Physique:44. Spirit:81. MAGIC:81+27.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:42. Spirit:78. MAGIC:81.

SIN RANK: Mid-83%

STRENGTH: Low-22

CONSTITUTION: Low-23

ACTIVITY: Low-23

AGILITY: Low-25

MAGICAL POWER: Mid-27

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Low-21

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-27

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Mid-26

SPIRIT: Mid-27

PERCEPTION: Mid-27

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 49%

LAW AFFINITY: 0%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 1%

SIN ABILITY: The Lust for Power(EPIC)- Magic Power +9.

STATUS: Alert.

Viron the demon of lust could cast spells but it came at a cost. He sacrificed all of his physical stats in favor of his magical ability. Even the sin ability he acquired was at the Epic quality providing a boost of +9.

A normal mid-rank demon has stats between 19 and 27. Viron has already reached that limit and has even pushed further than that into the domain of high-rank demons with his sin ability. This has pushed his magical power rating to 108, far above the 81 of a normal mid-rank demon. Viron would make for a top-notch high-rank demon when he evolves.

Aeternus took out his weapon for the first time. He couldn't underestimate Viron. His defenses are equal to his opponent's magical power rating but he doesn't intend to test it. His own magical power rating is also equal to Viron's magical defense rating. They were equal on that front but Viron outclasses him in physical stats. So Aeternus needs his own edge. What has more edge than a very sharp weapon?

He held his claymore and approached steadily. But it was only a facade of an approach. He was simply walking around Viron but the way he stepped made it look like was moving forward.

He maintained a safe distance while giving off the impression that he was moving closer. He didn't know what spells Viron had mastered, but his sin ability indicated that he must be familiar with the usage of magic power.

Viron's eyes lit up when he saw a weapon suddenly appear in Aeternus' hands.

'A spatial artifact. This is great. It will be mine.'

Viron spoke. "You must be the low-rank demon kicking up a storm around here."

Aeternus wasn't surprised that news of his exploits had begun to spread. Fights in the demon realm are not secrets. A territory might be secluded but all it needs is for a single demon to witness a fight for it to spread around the vicinity.

The confidence that Viron was showing made Aeternus increase his alertness. Viron is a dangerous opponent, a careless mistake will lead to his death. His divine sense was scanning the surroundings for any hints of mana manipulation.

"What is your name?" Viron asked.

Aeternus didn't answer. There was no need to inform someone he is about to kill his name. It wouldn't matter unless there's a third party listening in. Then he should be warier of making his name known.

"You are very talented. Why are you going about risking your life by fighting? You should pledge allegiance to a high-rank demon instead. I can help you with that. What do you say?"

Aeternus said nothing. He was already thinking about making the first move. Viron was still smiling but he was feeling agitated inwardly. He is a demon of lust and he could feel something within Aeternus that was special. It is something worthy of lusting over. All he needs to do is to kill Aeternus then it will be his.

But Viron didn't make any rash moves. He had gotten news that a low-rank demon was killing mid-rank demons. He had rushed here and hoped to meet this demon so that he can confirm if the demon is special or not. He has confirmed it now. But he isn't stupid as to think he could get what he came for easily. He understood that the more valuable something is, the more dangerous it is to acquire it.

That's why he hoped to sway Aeternus and make him less careful. What he said about helping Aeternus pledge to a high-rank demon is the truth. High-rank demons invade worlds and take mid-rank demons with them as soldiers.

If Aeternus pledges to one, he won't need to hunt other demons. He himself is pledged to one. He stays in one of the fortresses in the domain of high-rank demons and he would be willing to take Aeternus there. But anything can happen on the way there.

Chapter 243 The Clash.

If Aeternus chooses to pledge to a high-rank demon, he won't need to hunt other demons. Viron himself is pledged to one. He stays in one of the fortresses in the domain of high-rank demons and he would be willing to take Aeternus there. But anything can happen on the way there. Any unfortunate event can befall Aeternus and render him unable to reach the fortress. Unfortunate things happen in the abyss plane every time.

He was thinking about how to trick his opponent when Aeternus suddenly bolted toward him. Viron didn't make any move.

'Come closer.' he thought eagerly.

Then something caught his attention. Aeternus had stopped all of a sudden, but something was moving closer to Viron at a fast speed. Viron felt threatened by that thing, so he waved his hand and materialized a shield made of fire. But nothing struck the shield.

'Did I overreact?' Viron asked himself.

He put away his shield. Then he saw Aeternus kick something toward him and that sensation of danger came again. He created another shield. This time something struck it. The shield held on for a brief moment before it dissipated on its own without his permission. Viron was shocked, to say the least.

Whatever Aeternus was kicking at him was deceptively small but dangerous. He couldn't let the strange demon get the upper hand, so he prepared one of his favorite spells and shot it at him.

Aeternus had only been half listening to what Viron was saying. Most of his attention was mapping the surroundings and determining where kick-worthy rocks are. He had made a full rotation around Viron and set aside some special rocks. Then he coated it in Chaos flames and kicked it toward Viron. Unfortunately, the rock turned into ashes before it could reach the target. It was burned by its cargo.

So he tried again. This time, he reduced the amount of flame he placed on the rock with his foot before kicking it. It struck through and performed exemplary.

'Just as I thought. Normal spell structure will collapse when influenced by chaos.' he observed to himself.

He understood that Viron knew spells, but until he knows what those spells are and how they react with his Chaotic power, it will be foolishness to engage in close combat with him. He wanted to know how the clash of chaos energy and magic with equal power rating will proceed without risking himself. So that left ranged options.

He would have loved to shoot his chaos flames, but his soul is too weak to do that. That's why he improvised. His improvisation didn't go to waste too. Now he knows that Viron has a shielding spell and that chaos energy creates an imbalance in magical spells.

Then Viron pointed at him and shot a bolt of fire at him. The bolt was very fast but Aeternus could track it.

'So he has a fire bolt spell too.' he thought as he swung his sword to deflect the spell.

The bolt streaked through the air and struck the side of his claymore. Then it shot off to the side for a long distance before it struck the ground. Aeternus had collected data with his divine sense in that brief moment of contact with the bolt of fire and his claymore. Then he used the data he had collected to run simulations.

When the next bolt shot at him, he knew what to do. He angled his claymore and smacked the bolt backward while twisting his wrist. The fire bolt flew back to its sender. Then he began kicking more chaos-infused rocks toward Viron.

Viron sighed in relief when the bolt struck his shield. Thankfully he had a shield ready for unexpected situations like this. The shield protected him but he wasn't pleased. Things weren't going the way he expected. Their short exchange had shown that Aeternus will not be easy to beat. Most demons will have rushed forward, especially when they are clearly wielding a close-range sword. Then he would have shot them through with the fire bolt spell.

Aeternus didn't do that. He was so skilled with his blade that he could deflect his spells back to him. Even worse is that those dangerous things were shooting at him in larger numbers as Aeternus kicked more of them at him. As an experienced demon, Viron knew that whenever a fight isn't going your way, it means the chances of your death are increasing. So something had to be done to even the odds.

"Deflect this." He said menacingly as he cast another one of his favorite spells.

A ball of fire, 1 meter in diameter came into existence. The air warped and expanded around it as heat poured out of it. Then he threw it at his opponent.

Aeternus stopped kicking stones. He narrowed his eyes in concentration, his divine sense was analyzing the spell as it flew toward him. The fireball spell was bigger than the fire bolt, but it is also slower. It gave him some time to get some information about it.

He didn't get much information about it. What he got was enough to deflect the spell easily and run away. He couldn't apply much force to it or it will explode. So the spell struck the ground close to where he was standing and exploded. The range of its explosion was very wide. If he had been standing where he was, he would have been severely damaged.

'That makes three.' Aeternus counted to himself.

He was about to start kicking stones but Viron would have none of that. More giant fireballs were shot at him. He had to be on the run constantly and his stones were destroyed by the explosion. Aeternus chose to retreat when he ran out of ranged options. The fight became a game of cat and mouse with Viron chasing Aeternus.

'He is out of options. I've got him.' Viron thought ecstatically.

Now things are going in his favour.

Chapter 244 Chaos Trumps Mana.

Things are going well for Viron. His opponent couldn't deflect his fireball spell well, so he is running away. But how could Viron let him go? He gave chase while bombarding Aeternus with fireballs.

"What did I expect from a low-rank demon? You killed some ignorant mid-rank demons and you think you are some big shot. You will fall to the might of my spells." Viron proclaimed grandly.

He shot more fireballs but they were slow and easily dodged. So he used fire bolts to catch his opponent's attention. Whenever Aeternus stops to deflect the fire bolt, a fireball will be close and ready. But even that didn't stomp Aeternus. He would just deflect the fire bolt towards the fireballs and detonate them away from himself.

Viron tsked. "This demon is tricky to deal with. Will I just let him go? I have to use it."

He was a little impressed with this skillful low-rank demon. His caution, reaction, and judgment were top-notch. They weren't things a measly low-rank demon should have and it was making Viron's fight difficult and his objective impossible to achieve.

His spells weren't working and Aeternus was faster than a low-rank demon should be capable of. He didn't want to let Aeternus escape. So he decided to use his trump card. Fire mana left his mana core through his energy vessels into his heart where his sin energy is stored. It mixed with a little sin energy before it entered the atmosphere where it began to form a cloud of fire.

The cloud will continue to siphon his mana until it is fully formed. This is a spell that will take his full attention and needs time to be cast. Such restriction means he doesn't use it often in fights with other demons, not even when they are his allies. Casting the spell makes him too vulnerable for his liking. But it is something he can get away with since his enemy is running away from him.

The spell will also leave him drained of mana after casting it. Such a spell should be beyond his rank but he has his sin ability to thank for his ability to cast it. Once the fire cloud is formed, next comes fire rain. Drops of fire will fall like hailstones and deal damage over a wide area. He would be able to control the cloud and use it to chase down his opponent to death.

"What?" He shouted in surprise when Aeternus began to run toward him instead of away from him.

He tried to back up while casting the spell. He should be able to finish casting it before Aeternus reaches him. Letting go of his spell right now will lead to a backlash. Aeternus picked up a rock, doused it in chaos flames a little, then threw it at Viron. Viron tried to remain calm when he should be panicking. He had never been able to double cast while he is casting the fire rain spell. He knew immediately that if he doesn't conjure a shield right now, he would die, and panicking will not help him in any way.

So he was calm. He focused and the threat of death helped to push him above his limits. A shield flickered into existence just in time to stop the projectile of death. It cost him some delay in the casting time and a small loss in the progress of the formation of the spell but he did it. He felt exhilarated.

That was before he saw what was going on with Aeternus. Aeternus' claymore was now coated in the same black flames that covered his body. Then he swung the claymore towards the forming clouds. A curved streak of black energy flew from his chaos vessel and entered the fire cloud. The cloud expanded before exploding.

"Argh..." Viron screamed in pain as his spell was torn apart.

It felt like his mind had been torn apart too. The backlash he was experiencing is worse than if he had let the spell go himself. He fell on his butt, mentally and mana drained. But his opponent is still rushing towards him with that darkened claymore of his. He didn't need his years of experience as a mid-rank demon to know that he had to do something or he would be killed.

Viron tried and tried but it felt like his mind was in shambles and incapable of pulling the mental prowess needed for the complicated visualization required for spellcasting. But he didn't give up or panic. Then he succeeded when Aeternus was only three meters away from him.

A fireball sprung into existence and shot toward his opponent. It would be difficult, maybe impossible for Aeternus to dodge it at this distance. Deflecting it will also cause it to explode and the short distance will ensure that it catches both of them. Viron was willing to pay the price as long as he lived.

Aeternus was not. He swung his claymore and cut through the fireball. The fireball split into two and He flew through the middle toward Viron. His blade loped off Viron's head which was still wearing a look of utter disbelief on it. The two halves of the fireball spell winked out of existence just as Viron's life did.

"Impressive." Aeternus complimented Viron after his death.

The fight was thrilling for Aeternus. Viron had shown him what the best mid-rank demons are capable of. He couldn't cast spells but his weapon could shoot out blades of chaos flames. When he combined it with the knowledge that chaos destabilizes spells, he got an idea about how to overcome his opponent. He was just waiting for the right time.

The right time he was waiting for is when Viron runs out of mana, which he can check since he could see Viron's stats. But it didn't seem like it would come when Viron was using the fireball. He might make a mistake and die so he decided to retreat.

Chapter 245 Demons Are Selfish. It Is Their Virtue.

He would have gotten away too if Viron hadn't started that last spell. He didn't know what the spell could do but he knew it was bad. Nothing that accumulates so much mana and creates such a commotion in the fluctuations of ambient sin energy can be good. It meant that whatever Viron was doing, he had to get a lot of external help to achieve it. It couldn't be good.

So he returned to disrupt the casting. It was then that he noticed that Viron's mana was low and his status was mentally drained. It was an opportunity he couldn't miss. He even used the knowledge of the weakness of the spell that he had been hiding.

He had been pretending to be unable to deal with the fireball spell because he couldn't take advantage of it earlier. Viron might be able to cast spells, but it is only barely. There are some vulnerabilities in the spell structure that he can take advantage of by using Chaos energy to destabilize them.

He began searching through the corpse for any loot before he burned it. He found some scribblings on a paper written in the demon tongue. They were notes about Viron's spells. Demon spellcraft is different from other races because of the addition of sin energy. Sin energy makes it difficult to cast spells. But the major reason why demons have undeveloped spellcraft is because of the lack of sharing.

Demons aren't social beings. They try to kill each other right from the day they were born. No matter how intelligent and civilized they become as they grow stronger, they will still compete with one another. The demon society is all about competition and survival of the fittest. They might be civil for one moment, but if one of them happens to be weakened, then they will let go of their mask of civility and feast on the weakened one.

Demons don't have any responsibility towards each other or bonds that hold society together. Some demons are watching him right now. They were probably drawn here because of the sounds of their fight. They are watching him for any sign of weakness. If they find that their chances of victory are suitable, then they will come forward to do battle.

But they won't come forward for any revenge. Just like no one came forward for the demons he had killed in the past. Instead, the watching demons had fought over the ownerless territory after he was gone and divided it amongst themselves.

Demons are selfish. They would never share the secret of their strength with one another. They would rather die than share knowledge because knowledge is power. It is this competition that makes them grow but it also made them stagnate. He killed Viron and got his spell notes. That's the only way information is shared in the demon society, over their dead bodies.

Even worse is that most knowledge isn't written down. There is no organization that brings demons of like minds together for learning. Eternal bloodlines don't exist to establish familial bonds and bloodline families. Ordinary families don't exist in the demon realm either. Most demons are given birth to by demon sirsers so there is no opportunity for bonding through that.

The minimum requirement for reproduction is reaching the high-rank stage, but the demon society doesn't allow for normal families. It is a demon-eat-demon world. There won't be a father that will feed his kids and pay for their education. There won't be a loving sibling that will share things with you, things like weapons and spells. Most often, your demon siblings are planning how to kill you before going on to kill their parents so that they can inherit everything.

Aeternus continued his journey forward, fighting and killing. He didn't have the concept of stamina due to the nature of his body and his energy was infinite. His access to infinite chaos energy is different from his access to origin energy from the Virut plane. So he had two avenues of infinite energy, he had no reason to stop, rest or sleep.

His feats began to spread. Demons started talking about him. They don't have much to do apart from killing each other and guarding their territories, so sometimes they meet up and talk to their neighbors. He had been walking and fighting for more than 3 months now so more and more demons became aware of the low-rank demon killing mid-rank demons.

Some came to see him and see for themselves. While others chose to band together to ambush him. Something had to be special about Aeternus for him to be that powerful. They suspect it is the weapon

he is using. It is a good-looking sword if anything else. They don't know what is special about him for him to be so strong but they intend to find out after his death.

This led to a lot of fighting for Aeternus which he welcomed with glee. He is currently in a free for all. About 20 mid-rank demons are fighting each other and he is one of them. The height difference made him seem like a dwarf amongst normal people.

He shifted his weight and the position of his claymore, it made his posture tilt to the left. He went along with the flow and moved left, just by a fraction. The sword of his giant opponent missed him, just by a fraction, and buried itself into the ground. His opponent had wanted to cleave him in two but he missed.

The sword kicked up a lot of dirt but it did nothing to obscure Aeternus's vision or to stop his movement. He twisted his wrist again and shifted the claymore, he pressed one foot forward and placed the claymore between the legs of his giant opponent. Then he raised the claymore with all his strength with its sharp edge facing upwards. The two-handed blade tore through his opponent's guts and couldn't go any further because of the height difference.

Chapter 246 Spontaneous Free-For-All.

His movements were measured and precise, fluid and skillful. He could elongate the claymore to give it a longer reach but he is out of momentum for any upward movement. Besides, it was unneeded. His opponent is already dying after chaos flames began burning in his guts.

Aeternus pulled the claymore out and responded to another attack. A demoness with a club wanted to take advantage of his situation to smash him into a pulp. He increased the weight of the claymore as he used the side to deflect the club. The demoness was surprised by the strength of the feedback that she felt from the brief contact. She didn't expect so much strength from such a small body. Then she slipped forward.

It turns out that she had leaned forward too much for that strike. She was taller and had to bend a little to hit him. He deflected her strike with heavy resistance before his resistance disappeared all of a sudden. He had reduced the weight of the claymore. So she began to fall. She brought her other hand forward to stop her fall but it was loped off with a swift strike from Aeternus.

Her face hit the ground heavily. She was about to fumble and regain her balance when she stilled all of a sudden. He had cut off her head. No sooner had he beheaded her that a large hand tried to grab him from his front.

He jumped back to avoid the large palm while throwing chaos flames forward to burn the arm. The owner of the arm screamed in pain. The demon bellowed with the full strength of his lungs to create a deafening sound that rang out on the battlefield. But no one paid attention to the crying giant. There's already a lot of crying and shouting going on.

Aeternus ran to the demon that tried to grab him. He hacked at the thigh and cut through it in one clean strike. The demon fell down after losing one leg. Then Aeternus was gone to engage another opponent.

He couldn't get distracted at all or have the leisure to finish off every demon. His chaos flames will surely be the death of the demon so there's no reason to worry about a strike from an opponent he thought was dead. The fight lasted hours as more demons joined in until a hundred demons were fighting all at once.

"What a fight." He sighed in longing.

He could still feel the thrill of battle but he is already missing it. He is responsible for killing a hundred mid-rank demons of the total 500 that fought here and it all started because two demons wanted to fight him at the same time. They weren't willing to concede to each other about who should fight him first so they began fighting each other first to determine the order.

The demons watching on the side thought they had gotten something good and came to join in. That's how the fight escalated into free for all with everyone for themselves. By the end of the rush for fighting, the demons joining in didn't even know why they were fighting.

He is already moving on to the next fight now that the fight is over. That's what he has been doing, killing and killing again. He is in a good mood right now but something is about to change his mood.

Ten demons are hiding behind a rock a short distance away from him and whispering to each other.

One of them that is acting as the leader spoke. "He is coming, get ready."

"Alright." They echo in agreement.

"He had better have something good on him." One of them said with hope.

Ten demons, male or female came together for a single purpose. Some of them are hideous while some of them are beautiful. They have different types of appendages and limbs, and different types of skin texture and color, but they all have horns and spoke in the same language.

Aeternus could sense their hostility from a mile away. He knew they were trying to ambush him before he saw them. He stopped for a while to consider his options. He had a chance at defeating them. He might not be able to kill them all but he should be able to neutralize the threat they possess to him.

But he shook his head. "Not worth it."

The problem wasn't the danger of the ambush. It is a fact that 10 demons chose to corporate. That is a red flag and an indication of a bigger matter at play. For mid-ranks to band together, there must be a higher authority that has compelled them and is keeping order.

Even if these ambushers of his succeed in killing him, only the person that kills him will be able to take whatever is special about his body for themselves. What about his weapon? Who will take it? There are a lot of problems with such a corporation but it is happening anyway.

The minimum requirement for such an authority is a high-rank demon and he isn't willing to face one yet. Plus he could feel a gaze monitoring him from above. So he turned back and ran.

"Why is he turning around? Did he spot us?" One of the asked.

The leader scolded him. "What does it matter why he is turning around? He is running away already. Let's chase him."

Another one asked cautiously. "Is that alright? The plan was to ambush him."

The leader turned his angry scowl on the demon. "I'm the leader, not you. It is alright if I say it is alright."

Then the leader turned to stare at the other demons in a challenge. He is a demon with a humanoid torso but with a bull's head, foot, and tail. His stare would have made some other races cower but these demons didn't even flinch. They had seen worse and didn't fear him.

Chapter 247 It's Evolution Time.

Still, no one refuted him. He is their leader and their objective was to ambush Aeternus, then kill him. They may not be able to ambush him, but killing him is still possible. They just had to catch up to him. So they ran after him.

They should be faster than him because of their stats and rank, but reality proved differently. Aeternus, the low-rank demon had a speed equal to mid-rank demons. One of the first lessons that Soverick learned in the academy is about habits and footwork. He learned to walk and run right. The techniques are not transferable because of the difference in anatomy and physiology but the knowledge is, so the techniques can be simulated within his mind and imitated with his body. That is why he has a speed equal to them.

Even so, the natural order of things is that he should tire before them. That didn't happen either. There were the first to start huffing, then they slowed down. They lost him in about 10 hours of chasing him. So they returned to their spot to wait for him. They couldn't return empty-handed, at least not so soon after failure. They would wait a while before returning to report to their superior.

Meanwhile, Aeternus continued on his journey to return to the edge of the plane. He killed more mid-rank demons along the way and successfully evolved his mark of sin. That means he has met the requirements to evolve. Evolution for a demon is a very important matter. It needs to be taken seriously. He will also be rendered unconscious during it. So he needs somewhere safe to perform it.

The only safe place he can think of is where he was birthed. That place will only have weak fledglings. He had been left alone by them for years so it should be safe for him to evolve there. Low-rank demons won't even be able to disturb him there. The occasional weak ones that get to him, if they don't run away from him, won't be able to overcome his natural defenses.

The varying level of concentration of sin energy restricts demons. The areas with low concentration will make demons of certain ranks sick and in discomfort. A mid-rank demon cannot live in the area where fledglings stay even for a short while. The sin energy in their body will leave them and escape into the atmosphere. Prolonged exposure to a low concentration of sin energy that isn't a plane outside the abyss will lead to death.

He ran past where he was born to the very edge of the plane. The plane of an abyss is flat like the main planes of the realm of high heaven but unlike the main planes, there is no protection for the inhabitants of the abyss plane. There is a barrier at the edge of the main plane that can only be breached by a transcendent. But here in the abyss, one can fall off the edge into oblivion. The edge of the plane also doesn't have any sin energy and will make it almost impossible for low ranks to find him. The divine sense that has been monitoring him also couldn't extend this far.

"This will do."

He sat down about 100 meters away from the edge. Chaos energy was leaking out of him but he didn't mind. He didn't feel any discomfort. He only felt an itch in his mind due to the leveling up of his mark of sin. It was an indication that he was ready for evolution.

"Hopefully, this doesn't kill me."

His mark of sin is his source of chaos energy. It could be that evolving it would allow higher quality Chaos energy to flow through. It could be a problem that might lead to his death. He didn't worry about it much, he would face it when it comes. For now, he needs strength. That gaze monitoring his actions is an indication that he has already drawn the attention of a big shot of the plane.

In everything, strength is absolute. It is more so in the demon society where only the fittest survive. Without strength, one will become prey just like he preys on mid-rank demons to grow stronger. The mid-rank demons have all disappeared without a corpse. To prevent that from happening to him, he must grow stronger. He must evolve.

He made his soul force enter the soul mark to open it. More chaos energy burst out of it like a dam. The energy gushed out of his soul into his body and into the ground he was lying on. Then it began to spread over the barren, rocky ground like a dog.

A screen appeared in front of him.

-EVOLUTION INTERFACE-

#(RESOURCES)

1. Soul Essence: 0

2. Divinity: 0

3: Biomass: 0

4: Origin Energy: INFINITE

5: Chaos Energy: INFINITE

#(UPGRADES)

1. DEMON RANK: Low - Mid.

2. SIN RANK: Low - Mid.

3. CHAOTIC POWER: Low - Mid.

4. MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Low - Mid.

5. CONSTITUTION: Low - Mid.

6. CHAOTIC POWER: +9 STATS.

COST: 1,000 Units.

#(UPGRADABLE)

1. STRENGTH (Mid): 100 Units.

2. AGILITY (Mid): 100 Units.

3. ACTIVITY (Mid): 100 Units.

#(STATS)

+1 STRENGTH = 100 Units.

+1 CONSTITUTION = 10,000,000 Units.

+1 ACTIVITY = 10,000,000 Units.

+1 AGILITY = 100 Units.

+1 PHYSICAL RESISTANCE = 10,000,000 Units.

+1 MAGICAL RESISTANCE = 10,000,000 Units.

+1 SPIRIT = 1,000,000,000 Units.

#(SIN ABILITY)

-The Envy Of Power-

1. COMMON: Make a single copy of any magical ability or skill that you see at lower power. Cost: Free.

2. UNCOMMON: Make two copies of any magical ability or skill that you see at lower power. Cost: 100 Units.

3. RARE: Make a single copy of any magical ability or skill that you see at equal power. Cost: 1,000 Units.

4. EPIC: Make two copies of any magical ability or skill that you see at equal power. Cost: 10,000 Units.

5. LEGENDARY: Make two copies of any magical ability or skill that you see at higher power. Cost: 100,000 Units.

6. DIVINE: Make three copies of any magical ability or skill that you see at higher power. Cost: 1,000,000 Units.

Chapter 248 Evolution Choices.

Demon evolution used to be random before the advent of the system. Evolution will occur once the sin mark upgrades and if there are available resources for it. The system has changed how things used to be done.

In the past, when the evolution process begins, a demon will then upgrade based on the number of resources they have with the priority being in the UPGRADES tab before moving on to the UPGRADABLE.

Only after those two have been sorted out will the matter of the sin ability be determined. By that time, most of the resources if not all of them have been consumed so they mostly get the one at the common rank because it is free. The STATS section will is hardly ever touched.

Nowadays that has changed. Demons get to choose which upgrades they want during their evolution. Still, only the mid-rank demons take advantage of the system. The fledglings and low-rank demons are too stupid to understand the repercussions of their decision, they just want to evolve and grow stronger so that they wouldn't die.

But mid-rank demons are different. They have territories that they farm for resources. When they have accumulated enough, they will then evolve into high-rank demons. It is one of the reasons why high ranks are so much more terrifying than mid-rank demons. The leap in strength from careful planning and wise selection of upgrades is too wide to be bridged with his former strength.

RESOURCES is the tab that lists out the different types of tools that can be used to evolve and in what amount they are possessed. Soul essence is something unique to demons. They are able to digest souls and store them for evolution.

They can also eat the flesh of other beings to get biomass, demon flesh included. The use of divinity is why demons always fight gods. In a way, demons have been engineered to thrive on consuming other beings and grow through killing. Even gods are not exempted from their choice of food.

Aeternus hadn't acquired any soul essence because he used chaos energy to break down everything he kills to fuel the growth of his sin mark. It is a more efficient consumption that doesn't allow for any wastage. It is why he is evolving so soon after being born, well that and the fact that he killed only mid-rank demons. And a lot of them too. He doesn't care about soul essence or biomass anyway. He has Chaos and Originrgy to pay for his needs.

All the options in the UPGRADES tab are a must. They come as a package that will cost 1000 units of any resources. They signify his evolution to the next rank. The UPGRADABLE tab contains the extra options for upgrades. It is not a must for a demon to upgrade all its parameters. If a demon has extra resources after meeting the required amount for evolution, then they can choose from this section.

The STAT section is where filthy rich demons go to splurge. It is the last section in the automatic evolution process, so most demons didn't even know that they could max out their stats during evolution. It was only when the manual evolution option became available that it became known. A certain amount of resources can be used to add 1 to Stats.

But there are STAT limits for each rank. A fledgling starts with Stats between 1 and 9. Each subsequent evolution adds 9 more upgradable Stats to a demon. A normal mid-rank demon should be limited to 27 but Aeternus isn't normal and his chaos energy has refused to follow the trends.

His chaos energy was 54 but it is even forcefully adding an extra +9 stats to itself during this evolution and because his CONSTITUTION, ACTIVITY, MAGICAL RESISTANCE, and PHYSICAL RESISTANCE are affected by his chaos energy, they too get the opportunity to upgrade. But since they are already above normal, they are more expensive to upgrade.

While he doesn't have a choice concerning Chaotic power, he can choose whether to upgrade the others or not. He might stop the others from upgrading but he has to make a CONSTITUTION upgrade or his body won't be able to handle the increased power of Chaos energy. That's also why he must upgrade his SPIRIT.

The options available for upgrade are based on the rank of his mark of sin and should be limited to it but the addition of chaos energy to his existence has broken some rules. His eternal SPIRIT is another outlier due to the quality of his soul. It is the reason why he was able to survive the exposure to chaos energy in the first place.

His soul might be weak and tiny right now but it still has the resistance and perception of an eternal rank soul. It is going to cost more to upgrade it. It's a good thing he has a lot of energy to spare for it. He had been worried about being overwhelmed by the new quality of chaos energy but the upgrade to his soul should keep him afloat.

Last but not least is the sin ability. The sin ability is different for each sin and demons usually get the same one during the evolution to mid-rank. The sin of wrath empowers the holder when they are angry. The sin of pride makes demons faultless and without weakness. The sin of envy longs for the cool abilities of other demons and tries to take them. The debut release occurred at N-ov3l-Bin.

Most, if not all low-rank demons chose the free option when they are evolving to the mid-rank. They are ignorant and lack the resources for a better one. But some mid-rank would instead prioritize physical upgrades over the quality of sin ability.

For example, an upgrade of AGILITY vs UNCOMMON sin ability. They cost the same but an UNCOMMON power of envy allows a demon of envy to copy an ability at lower power. It doesn't matter that the demon gets to make two copies since they will never be as good as the original one. It isn't worth it to practical demons.

Meanwhile, AGILITY determines how fast they can run and attack. With a faster AGILITY and higher STRENGTH, demons of envy will be able to make stronger and faster attacks not weaker than that of their opponents. It doesn't take a genius to determine which is better. Which is good because demons are not geniuses.

Aeternus chose the DIVINE quality of sin ability. He had the resources and more to spare. The only resource that he will need in the future is Divinity. Divinity isn't important now but it will become irreplaceable in the future.

The evolution started after making his selection. He didn't lose consciousness but he lost control of his body and he couldn't sense his environment anymore. It was as if he was locked within his mind. Chaos

energy worked on his sin mark and his body while origin energy worked in his soul. The evolution took about 30 minutes before it was done.

He hadn't grown an inch in height and his body size hadn't changed at all. His body was still thin and hard. He couldn't even tell his bone from his muscle or skin. He remained the same 1.7 meters he was born with. He was big as a newborn but he will be a dwarf among grown-up demons. Mid-rank demons are well above 2 meters tall while high-rank demons are even bigger.

He sighed. "Chaos energy has stunted my growth."

The haze of chaos fumes around him had grown thicker, his figure couldn't even be seen anymore. What energy that should have made him grow taller had gone into forcefully increasing the Stats of chaos energy.

Only his eyes were visible but they were more like two orbs of dark red flames. The eyes are windows to the soul and it is more so for demons. His soul had grown stronger and it was showing in his eyes. The concept in his soul that he is using to burn chaos energy has become prominent with the development, hence the eye color.

He didn't mind the changes. This is his first evolution so more changes are bound to occur. He was not born a fledgling but a low-rank demon because he wasn't some fragmented mess. But this evolution is making him better and stronger. It doesn't matter how tall he is. If chaos energy is bent on making him stronger, then what's not to like? Might makes right. Height doesn't.

Another thing that had grown stronger is the pressure of Chaos energy on his soul. His soul might have grown stronger but he could feel the distinct possibility that chaos would soon catch up to his resistance and put him back into a soul choke hold. This is highly possible if chaos keeps upgrading itself forcefully everytime he evolves. His battle with Chaos may not be done yet.

Chapter 249 Mid-Rank Demon.

He shrugged and said,

"Let's see if I can cast chaos spells now."

There's nothing he could do about it for now and he isn't worried because he isn't alone in his struggle. So he turned his attention towards something he could handle. He had been looking forward to doing more than making chaos flames that he couldn't control whenever they left his body. He spent the next couple of hours trying out what he could do now that his soul is stronger.

"It's no use." He said dejectedly

His long hours of practice made him realize that chaos was barely workable. It wasn't like mana with various elements that could be controlled and made to manifest into infinite possibilities. Chaos energy is more than that. It is as if all the elements of mana have fused together and still clash against each other. It made it almost impossible to manipulate.

He made it work at the end of the day. The soul force of an origin god is nothing to scoff at and his spiritual power rating is higher than his chaotic power. But the best he got out of it was some crude manipulations less than what Viron was capable of. He could make shields, bolts, and flame balls with chaos energy but that fire rain spell is beyond what chaos is capable of doing. He can't use Origin energy externally because it will be affected by chaos energy around his soul and become unworkable.

He sighed and checked his stat screen.

NAME: AETERNUS (Legion-3)

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

RACE: Demon Of Envy.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Chaotic Envy.

DEMON RANK: Mid-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: INFINITE.

CHAOS ENERGY: INFINITE.

ATTACK RATING: Physique:81. Spirit:297. MAGIC:189.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:189. Spirit:3640. MAGIC:189.

SOUL ESSENCE: 0

BIOMASS: 0

DIVINITY: 0

SIN RANK: Mid-1%

STRENGTH: Mid-27

CONSTITUTION: Mid-63

ACTIVITY: Mid-63

AGILITY: Mid-27

CHAOTIC POWER: Mid-63

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-63

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-63

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Eternal-91

SPIRIT: Eternal-27

PERCEPTION: Eternal-27

OTHERS

SIN ABILITY: The Envy of Power(DIVINE)- Make three copies of any magical ability or skill that you see at higher power.

MANA AFFINITY: 0%

LAW AFFINITY: 0%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 100%

STATUS: Chaotic.

"It's time for round two." He said as he began running back toward the center of the plane.

He decided to do something productive since Chaos energy wouldn't work. A fight is more productive. Killing demons will make him grow stronger and he might get some inspiration during battle.

His evolution has made him stronger, so he is looking forward to retaliating now that he could handle the one leading them. If one cannot handle the source of a problem then one will be drowned by the symptoms of the problem. So he won't stop at simply addressing the ambush, he intends to trace it back to their leader.

His confidence lay in the increase of the power rating of his chaos energy to 189.

The normal high-rank demon has a power rating between 140-180. They have a stat limit of 36 and a state of existence of 5. Boosts from Sin abilities will push their stats above that limit but he is confident he can handle it.

He took the same route he used to get to the edge of the plane. His journey from his birthplace to the ambush point took him three months while fighting, but returning to the edge for his evolution took 3 weeks because he ran for most of it. Now that he is a mid-rank demon, it took him 2 weeks of running to make the same distance. Unfortunately, there was no one waiting for him there.

"They probably couldn't wait for me anymore." He said after checking the surrounding for any ambushes.

At first, he thought since they were not a threat to him anymore, he might not sense them especially since the only three emotions he could sense directed at him right now are fear, jealousy, and hostility. The strong gaze had also returned to following him.

He continued walking forward since he didn't find his ambushers. Most mid-rank demons ran away when they saw his ominous visage. Some still fought him even when they saw that the places he walked by were burned into ashes. They are either too stupid to recognize the threat that he is or couldn't control their impulses.

In their defense, he is an anomaly. Every demon can sense the rank of another demon through the interaction of their mark of sin. A higher-grade sin mark will suppress a lower-grade sin mark during this interaction. The interaction will enable a low-rank demon to recognize a mid-rank one.

That's how demons know who is stronger than them but it isn't working in Aeternus's situation. These mid-rank demons can't sense any suppression from his sin mark. That means, he is of the same rank as them. Only the highly sensitive ones can sense the disparity in strength and know that he is fatal to them. The stupid ones can't sense that danger so they attack him.

Even the ones that are sensitive but have low self-control attack him too. They get an ominous sense of wrongness about him and a hint of danger. But every demon knows that when there's danger, there's

reward. It becomes extra difficult to hold back when their sin is also envy and they have confidence in themselves. Demons of envy are the most sensitive to the uniqueness of his mark of sin.

Those two categories are the normal ones. The third category of demons that attack or approach him, do so against their will. They were sent to achieve an agenda by a higher power because smart, sensitive Mid-Rank demons don't want to be anywhere near him.

NAME: Tane

RACE: Demon of Lies.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Lies.

DEMON RANK: Mid-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: 100%

MANA: 213

SIN ENERGY: 341

ATTACK RATING: Physique:40. Spirit:81+42. MAGIC:46

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:57 Spirit:81. MAGIC:66.

SIN RANK: Mid-67%

STRENGTH: Low-20

CONSTITUTION: Mid-22

ACTIVITY: Mid-25

AGILITY: Mid-27

MAGICAL POWER: Low-23

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-19

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Mid-22

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Mid-27

SPIRIT: Mid-27

PERCEPTION: Mid-26

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 39%

CHAOS AFFINITY: 1%

SIN ABILITY: The Power of Lies(LEGENDARY): Your tongue weaves manipulative words laced with a spiritual influence equal to +14 of your Spirit Stat.

STATUS: Dubious.

He stopped underestimating the demon as soon as he saw his stats sheet. Tane had been able to afford the Legendary rank of sin ability which cost 100,000 units of resources, 100 times the cost of evolution. That isn't normal at all.

It is obvious that Tane had struggled to afford it since some of his other stats were lacking but he succeeded at the end of the day. This implies patience, careful planning, foresight, and a lot of resources.

These qualities don't need to belong to Tane, someone could have put him up to it. Or why else will a demon that can afford 100,000 units of resources not be able to afford the 100 needed for other stats? It is most likely that someone else provided him with the resources but prevented Tane from being perfect.

Trust is scarce among demons and it is common for a leader to engineer some weaknesses into their subordinates so that they will still be able to control them. That suspicion only increased when he considered the uses of the sin ability.

The power of Lies doesn't help demons of lies to lie better, it makes whatever they say believable. It turns lies into truth. There is a spiritual component to the ability and a boost of +14 gives this demon enough spiritual firepower to take out Viron. A power rating of 123 is no joke when a mid-rank demon has it. It will make Tane the perfect demon to deceive any mid-rank demon, for example, Aeternus.

Aeternus stopped 2 meters from this demon. He didn't talk, he just stared and continued to stare. Tane was tall but not as tall as Aeternus. His physical stats have been stunted in favor of his spirit. The light attire he wore made from some sort of leather emphasized his lean figure. He had blades strapped to a belt around his waist. He wasn't wearing any footwear or gloves.

This much clothing on a demon is an indication of order and civilization. Several sources of order in the abyss plane came to his mind but all of them need a high-rank demon to enforce it. They are also in areas beyond the domain of mid-rank demons so it is confirmed that Tane is not from these parts. The demons he had met until now wore one or two pieces of shoddy armor, carried crude weapons, and didn't bother with their nudity. Aeternus himself is completely naked behind his fog of chaos.

Tane spoke, "Are you the Ominous reaper? The low-rank demon killing mid-rank demons?"

Aeternus didn't answer. First of all, he didn't like that name. Second, he was thinking about killing Tane or letting him go. Thirdly, he didn't have a mouth or nose. Chaos energy had destroyed all of those while reforming his body when he was born. He will need to use his divine sense if he wants to communicate, but neither low nor mid-rank demons have divine sense. That's a privilege that only a high-rank demon has. Fourthly, he has a divine sense, he just doesn't want to talk.

Tane didn't feel awkward because of the silence and continued to talk. "It seems you're the one. The word is that you're silent and evil-looking. You sure fit the description."

"Where is your weapon?" He asked Aeternus.

Chapter 250 Starting To Draw Attention.

Aeternus had kept his chaos vessel in his inventory so that it won't get in the way of his running. It's practically the only weapon he can use since he has to try not to burn whatever he touches into ashes.

Tane nodded his head in understanding. His beady eyes scanned Aeternus' for the sight of his spatial artifact. But his sight couldn't get past the dark fog obscuring Aeternus' figure. Word had gotten out that the ominous reaper could make his sword disappear and reappear in his hands as if he is plucking it out of thin air. That information had drawn the attention of many.

A storage artifact is a very rare thing in the abyss. A demon Lord has a storage space granted to them by the abyss. The rank before that is that of a demon noble. Demon nobles have perfectly fused energy and should be able to make spatial artifacts but most of them can't. In short, numerous high-rank demons and demon nobles want Aeternus' spatial artifact. One of them sent Tane to acquire it.

Tane moved on when he couldn't see anything. He began using his sin ability.

"My Lord has heard tales of your valor. He is impressed with your talent, so he has decided to add you to his household. He has sent me to invite you to the city of Fallen's Ark and to the noble house of Fallen." He brought out a demon emblem of the house of Fallen to prove his origin.

Aeternus rolled his eyes. Hearing a demon speak in such a cultured manner makes them sound like a hypocrite. You would think they have basic manners but these same demons will eat you up if you show a sign of weakness, literally. He could also feel a spiritual influence on his soul that wants to cloud his judgment.

"So what do you say? Will you join me on my return trip to Fallen's Ark?" Tane asked.

Aeternus ignored him and resumed his journey. He had an aim in mind, one of the fortress cities in the domain of high-rank demons. It is there that he would be able to get access to bigger prey and abyss altars.

Tane may have lied about the invitation but what he said enlightened him about some things. Now he knows that whoever is behind the envy demon is a demon noble. He is also sure that if he follows Tane, then he might be killed, enslaved, or tortured. All of those bad things aren't mutually exclusive either.

Tane caught up to him. "You sure are enthusiastic about this."

Then he continued talking, spewing lies like a fountain of it.

Aeternus ignored him. He ignored him when he said, "Wait, that's the wrong way. Fallen's Ark is that way."

He ignored Tane as he tried to convince him. When Tane finally asked, "Can I see your sword? I heard it's cool."

Aeternus cut his head off in one swift and smooth motion. He burned the body and everything on it.

"I shouldn't have worried." He said when he noticed that the mark of vengeance didn't form on him.

Then he resumed his journey. He hadn't wanted to kill Tane because he is too weak a prey for him. The difference in the value of various demon ranks to the progress of your mark of sin can range from 100 to 1,000 times. A mid-rank demon is worth at least 100 low-rank demons. Tane is worth close to 500 low-rank demons, while the weakest high-rank demon is worth 100 Tanes.

So killing a mid-rank demon is a waste of time. The other reason why he didn't want to kill Tane is that he is a messenger of a demon noble. Tane had the emblem of the fallen family and killing him is

disrespecting the demon noble. That emblem signifies the authority of the head of the fallen family and should grant whoever holds it passage and safety in most of the areas in the abyss plane.

Each member of the family has sworn an oath of allegiance to the head of the family, so their scene of death will be transmitted to the head of the family. This oath will render torture for information useless. Also, a mark will form on the killer which will allow the head of the family to track whoever it is. He had been worried about the mark but it seems he shouldn't have.

The mark formed but failed to stick to him. It was burned up when it came in contact with chaos energy. But he didn't relax. The absence of the mark will only make it difficult to track him not impossible. It doesn't change the fact the head of the fallen family has its attention on him or the fact that Tane was sent to him. There are also many demons constantly watching him so his act of killing Tane is not a secret.

He didn't walk for long before a group approached him. They were a rag-tag group of 5 mid-rank demons. They didn't plan to ambush him or if they did, they messed it up. The 5 of them were waiting out in the open along his path. They showed their weapons when he reached them.

"Stop right there." One of them stood in his path and shouted at him.

The other four surrounded him in a circular formation. They were closer than a meter to him

"Give us everything you have or else." The one that shouted earlier grinned and said.

They were robbing him. He didn't care if they were being stupid or were ordered to do this. A fog of darkness burst out from him in answer. The fog enveloped everything within a radius of a meter around him before shrinking back into his body.

His surroundings had cleared up. All five demons had disappeared. Their entire existence was broken down to energy to fuel his mark of sin and ash that scattered into the wind.

He resumed his journey as if nothing happened. The various demon spies and stalkers felt dread when they saw that scene. It was a fight that took about a second. They didn't see what happened within the cloud of darkness but whatever it is, is very deadly to mid-rank demons.

The demon spies reported to their higher-ups while the stalkers gave up on their plans to kill him. The stalkers were acting on their own interests, so they can give up. The spies have people whose will they are acting on, it is not their place to determine when to give up.

More demons fought him. Most of them were ignorant demons that haven't heard about him. Some of them were sent to test him, while no one cared enough to tell the stupid ones that he is dangerous. But they all died. It was not a pleasurable fight either. The only interesting thing that happened on his journey to the domain of high-rank demons was when he was stopped by a messenger from a demon noble.

"Another demon noble?" He asked himself.

The moment Aeternus saw the demon, he suspected that it served a demon noble. The demon had a lot in common with Tane. They were both short and well-dressed. It was until he moved closer that he noticed a glaring difference between the two of them apart from their sin and looks.

The demon of pride stood unsure in Aeternus' way. The demon did not have confidence in his personal strength, but it should have confidence in the emblem he was wielding.

"My liege has called for you. Come with me immediately." The demon had said after showing its emblem.

If Aeternus had vocal cords he would have laughed. He could only be content with shaking his head in amusement.

"Do not doubt me. My emblem is real." Saying so, the emblem emitted an aura of might and nobility.

'So what if the emblem is real?' Aeternus snickered to himself.

The aura that the emblem released was proof of a demon noble. It could be any demon noble and Aeternus wouldn't care. Especially when that demon noble is asking him to come forward of his own volition and offer up his head on a silver platter because of fear. Why else would the demon noble send

a low-rank demon to give the order? Either this is a sick joke or the demon noble thought he would simply cave in because of a simple emblem.

The first noble had been reasonable to send a well-crafted mid-rank demon to coerce and fool him into coming with the messenger. This one didn't care enough for that.

His divine sense reached into the messenger's mind. "Didn't you hear that I killed a messenger before?"

Then he shot a bolt of chaotic flames at the low-rank demon that incinerated it. People say "Don't fault the messenger." That means don't take your frustration out on innocent messengers or envoys. But what if he wanted to send a message through the messenger and the quickest way to get that message to its destination is if the messenger dies?