

GREED 281

Chapter 281 Playing With Fire.

The only thing ruining this moment is the constantly spying demon lord.

He grew irritated and extended his spirit into his surroundings. His soul ripped control of the momentum of the surroundings from her. Then he cloaked himself in it. He finally has peace and quiet.

He sighed contently. "That's better."

Then he noticed that another thread of chaos was flowing into the flame on his crown. His act of usurping the control of the demon lord is against the order of the abyss so it created chaos to empower him. The result encouraged him, so he actively pulled on the momentum with the Chaos energy around him and fed it into his flame. The flame ate it up and began to grow faster.

He chuckled. "Even better."

Her control of momentum isn't as absolute as her control of the energy well. She is sitting right in the energy well, so he will have to move there to get it from her. Even then, he won't succeed unless he kills her or she gives it up.

But the momentum around him can be forcefully taken from her. Her flimsy control over it couldn't stand against the combination of his expert knowledge of momentum, and his powerful soul. He would have done it just to get some privacy and to spite her. The improvement of his Accumulation of Chaos ability is a bonus.

He grinned happily. "She must be fuming right now."

He didn't need to guess her reaction. She is banging on his domain from the outside where she still has control. Having part of her power taken is a great insult. Taking something that belongs to a demon of gluttony is a life-and-death matter. So yes, she is really pissed right now.

He let her regain some of her control. Her divine sense flooded in immediately.

"What have you done?" She screeched at him.

"Nothing. I am just admiring the lovely view of the abyss. Don't you think the plane is beautiful from this height." He answered nonchalantly.

"Are you mocking me?" She growled at him.

Her mood was affecting the non-existent weather on the plane. The scanty ashy clouds in the sky were agitated and lightning flashed through them.

He was still unbothered. "Alright. I admit I have done a lot recently. Which one of my activities has crossed you?"

She yelled at him. "You are playing with fire."

That isn't a threat to him. He has literally been burning ever since he became capable of movement. He is sure any fire that she can dish out cannot compare to the Chaos flames burning on his body.

Aeternus rolled his eyes. "Just say what I did wrong that has made you so angry. Then maybe I'll apologize."

He wanted her to admit that she lost control of her momentum to him or that he stole some of her power. Anything would have been okay for him. But Beelta couldn't answer. She stared rigidly at him while her emotions boiled. Of all the things that she might have considered the weird demon to be, she never considered him a threat. That might not be the case anymore.

He was supposed to be her prey and anything opposite to that was simply impossible and laughable. But recent events are making that prospect very possible. It hadn't turned her against the idea of eating him though. It had only made her want him the more.

Still, she recognized the rising risk that this weird demon is to her. It is not every day that demons of any kind usurp her authority from her.

"Well, I have places to be and things to do." Aeternus began flying.

Since she won't admit her loss to him, he had better find another source of entertainment. The divine sense followed him even though he moved faster than 5 times the speed of sound.

"You know I am the demon lord of this plane of the abyss right?" She asked.

Aeternus wondered out loud. "Hmm, so that's who you are. Who would have thought that the demon lord has a hobby of stalking innocent demons."

She ignored his jab at her and continued. "I control the entry and exit into the plane. I might not be able to do anything to harm you right now. That will change if you reach the domain of noble demons or if you leave the plane through the abyss altar."

"Let's cut to the chase. Why are you telling me this?"

"To let you know that there's no way out for you."

Aeternus nodded. "Hard to believe that since you said the same thing earlier and you were wrong. Do you remember that time when you planned my moment of desperation? I was wrong, you weren't a fool. Instead of waiting for my moment of desperation and then offering me help, you decided to create it yourself. Have I complimented you about that yet?"

"I know you're angry, but there's no way out for you. Unless you use one of the powerful tools you found in that ring, even then you won't be able to kill me like you killed those 300 high-rank demons."

Aeternus did not react to her mention of the powerful tool he used to kill the 300 high-rank demons.

He spoke calmly, "Right. You figured that since you're made of stronger stuff, I can't kill you that way."

"Yes, I am."

I never asked. What do you want with me anyway? What deal do I have to make with you so that you will leave me alone?"

"At first I wanted you to promise to do whatever is needed for me to get access to the chaos energy you have."

Aeternus interrupted her, "By "whatever," you mean even my death right?"

She ignored his question and continued. "But that has changed. In a gesture of goodwill, all you have to do is tell me all you know about the chaos energy, how you got it and what else is in the spatial artifact."

"Not a bad deal. Will you give me time to think about it?"

The demon lord spoke amicably. "Of course. I'll give you 10 years."

Chapter 282 Legion Doesn't Negotiate With Terrorist.

She is giving him 10 years to think about his choice. 10 years is a short time in a demon's lifespan but it is more than generous to make a decision.

Aeternus nodded and said, "How generous of you. I doubt that I'll need that long to make the decision. There's really only one choice to make isn't there?"

The demon lord was beginning to like where this was going. Aeternus's attitude pleased her. He seemed to have accepted his fate.

Then he suddenly stopped. There was a group of cloaked demons running toward the center of the plane. They are probably returning from honest hard work. They are high-rank demons and also all have the same boost under a certain ability called the Oath of a Lord. So they are honest and related demons coming from a day of honest hard work.

"What are you doing?" The demon lord screeched again.

"Giving you my decision to your offer," Aeternus said as he stretched forth a hand towards the group.

His hand was more like claws. His fingers were bony, thin, and sharp like blades. Dark Chaos flames formed from within the palm of his bladed hand into a massive ball about 1 meter in diameter while the demon lord threatened him not to harm those obviously "honest" demons.

"Honest" demons are rare in the abyss nowadays and she is simply advocating for their protection as a good, dutiful demon lord. He ignored her and threw the ball toward the group.

It flew and crashed into the ground like a meteor. They remained oblivious to the danger despite the several attempts of the demon lord to inform them. He had wrestled control of the area away from her and masked his presence. It is the same thing she did to hide the ambush team.

His chaos flame was stopping them from intuiting the attack, so they were caught unguarded by the attack and blown to bits. The flame gathered and returned to him in the sky with the energy and equipment of the demons he killed. His control of chaos energy has increased enough to prevent it from corroding several items.

"Is that answer enough for you?" He asked her.

Her voice was low as she asked him. "Why? I already reduced the conditions of the contract."

"I don't negotiate with terrorist."

She said to him, "I swear to make you regret this."

If there is one thing she abhors, it is having her things taken from her and Aeternus has been doing a lot of that recently. He has finally crossed the line.

"I doubt that. I very much doubt that." He answered as he began flying in another direction. The demon lord could tell where he is going.

"I am Beelta, a demon of gluttony, the Lord of the house of Dominance and the demon lord of the 541st plane of the abyss. What is your name insolent demon?"

"I am Khaos Aeternus, the eternal Chaos, the Chaos Bringer, and the worst enemy you could have made."

The demon lord laughed. "Who is to be my worst enemy? You? I don't think so. I crush bugs like you every time."

She utilized the control she had over the contract of the servants that she sent out to ambush Aeternus and killed all of them. Better to kill them herself than to have them taken from her."

Aeternus stopped when he couldn't sense their existence anymore. He could use his chaos Accumulation to track those he has affected in one way or the other. It felt like the fates of these entities are intertwined with his and he could intuit their position and condition through it.

"Now that's just petty." He said to her.

He stopped feeling their existence plus a lot of power suddenly entered his chaos Accumulation. His flame grew stronger because his actions had indirectly led to their death and they were killed by a superior nonetheless. He had forced the hand of a demon Lord to kill her subordinates. It is against the hierarchy of the demon world.

He was about to turn away when he noticed something. It was small. A seemingly unrelated death to him happened and it fed him with power. The situation made him grin.

"Would you look at that?" He said as he flew in another direction.

The demon lord's divine sense was strangely quiet but he could tell that she was fuming. The odd weather conditions were getting worse as he flew in the sky wearing a wide grin on his face.

"This has to be very good for you to want to hide it so much." He said to the silently fuming divine sense.

Beelta remained silent.

He passed the body of a dead demon on the way to his target.

"A demon's dead body should be a common sight in the abyss due to all the death that occurs but it isn't because demons aren't wasters. No one will waste such a good body full of biomass unless they are in a hurry and the body is fresh. This means that someone just killed a demon here but was in a rush. I wonder why they are in a rush?"

He said out loud to his taciturn listener.

"Still nothing to say. I can feel that I am very close." He taunted her.

"Why don't you say something? Beg me. Maybe I'll listen and spare whoever this is

The demon lord screamed at him, "Why don't you shut up?"

"It's annoying, right? Having an incessant talker when you're having a bad time is an irritating thing but I am just paying you back for your incessant ramblings when I was just a spine with a skull. Do you remember that time when I was crushed by your subordinates and you were talking my ears off?"

The demon lord didn't respond. She remained silent as he arrived above a high-rank demon waiting for him. The demon lord had already informed her of the arrival of doom.

Chapter 283 Collecting Due Interest.

"You don't have to do this." The demon said to him.

Aeternus saw her stats and was impressed. She is a relatively new high-rank demon judging by the low percentage progress of her mark of sin. What is special about her and why the demon lord will care for her enough to kill her other subordinates in the surroundings for her safety is because this demon has the Accumulation ability with a rare quality too.

He replied, "But I want to. This is interest rightly due to me. Even your boss agrees that I deserve this."

The demoness was calm even in the face of death. She spoke calmly as if she is advising Aeternus. "It will be a waste. I have a substitution ritual going on and revival clones. I won't die. You will only create more trouble for yourself."

Aeternus felt amusement. He would have chuckled if he could. "You're a very ignorant demon. There's no such thing as more trouble in this situation. I doubt letting you go will make the demon lord get off my case. We'll see about you not dying. It is an opportunity for me to earn the title of Chaos bringer. Wherever you go, chaos will find you."

The high-rank demon didn't move to defend herself. She was confident in her revival rituals. That's why she is ignorant or why else will the demon lord be so agitated that she refused to say anything? There must be something the demon lord knows that this demoness who is full of herself doesn't.

A ball of Chaos flame flew from his hand and consumed her. She died there and then. Her clones didn't even know that she died so they didn't activate but the demon lord interfered. Her soul was about to be fully consumed when she saved the soul fragment and let it escape. Unfortunately, the demon lord couldn't extinguish the chaos flames which continued their gruesome work on the soul fragment and all the clones it entered.

He chuckled evilly to himself. The futility of their actions amuses him greatly. It was like watching fools trying to patch a hole in the hull of a boat with fabric. He couldn't see their frustrating struggle against Chaos flames, but he could sense it as more and more clones died a gruesome and painful death.

When he was a mid-rank demon, his chaos energy was powerful enough to rip the soul of someone that he killed but is trying to revive with a clone. Now that he has grown stronger, even the clones are not safe from him. If he kills that disgusting worm fly again, then its weak clone without the memory of his death won't be left behind.

The demon lord knew that too. He had already killed a group of her subordinates and they didn't revive. So she killed all of them linked to his ambush in hopes that he won't be able to find this one demoness. The demon lord didn't know how he could find them but she had control of the momentum of the plane and could acquire certain information from it.

The deaths that occurred by using the power of the contract is a true death that no demon could revive from and would have worked as a simple act of anger and pettiness if this demoness hadn't killed another demon on her way to keep herself hidden. The irony is that the attempt to cover her tracks uncovered her presence to him.

"Prepare yourself. You have not seen the last of me." The demon lord said before she retracted her gaze.

He had to admire the demon lord for her intelligence. She had quick thinking and the ability to think ahead. She was able to beat all competitors and become the demon lord, a single unique position in the abyssal plane that is plagued with competition on every level. It showed how admirable and powerful she is.

She couldn't kill this demoness because she was important and also because a lord of the house cannot kill his or her subordinates through their oath like the way she killed the demons she formed a contract with. So she came up with a plan in the little time she had.

She planned his ambush almost perfectly and her plan to protect this demoness would have worked too. He would have been foiled but a demon that shouldn't have died was killed because the demoness was trying to hide from Aeternus. Still, it wasn't enough for him to take her threat seriously. It just means that he has to up his game.

Aeternus flew towards the border of the mid-rank domain. He met Xander the stealth snake waiting for him. She was trembling as he descended.

"Xander has failed you master. I didn't see anything when I got here." She said apologetically.

Aeternus's cold eyes inspected the black snake groveling on the ground. It was not the snake's fault for not seeing anything. The demon lord had used the power of the world to camouflage his ambushers. It was his fault for playing into the demon lord's hands. But that didn't mean Xander will get away with the failure. She is useless to him and if she isn't useful to him, then there's no need for her to be alive.

"You haven't evolved either." His cold steely voice rang in her head.

If it were possible for her to bow lower, her head will have dug into the ground. Instead, she settled for trembling.

"Xander tried. Xander just can't." She managed to say.

She had promised to grow stronger but she hadn't evolved. It didn't happen no matter how many mid-rank demons she killed and ate. It hasn't been long either. Even demons with the potential to grow take years, but all she was given are some weeks not even up to a month. She has a lot of excuses, but she can't say that to the extremely dangerous Aeternus.

"I told you, if you're useless to me, you will die. Now I'll give you a chance. You either succeed or you die trying."

Chapter 284 The Spark Of Chaos.

His voice sounded like the peals of judgement. "I told you, if you're useless to me, you will die. Now I'll give you a chance. You either succeed or you die trying."

He created a ball of chaos in his hands. It was like an orb created with a dark exterior material but containing a bright white substance shining from within. He understands it to be the chaos spark, a feature under his Oath of the Chaos Lord's ability. It can be given to anyone but it can be refused if that person is unwilling to be his subordinate. To receive it, the demon must swear an oath of allegiance to him.

He asked her. "Will you serve me?"

The snake spoke as it saw the dangerous looking ball that Aeternus is offering it. "Xander will do anything to grow stronger. Anything at all."

"Then take it. Either you evolve and become of use to me or you die."

He let the ball float to the demonic beast and she swallowed it. He would have killed her if she refused.

Then she went into hibernation as she began to evolve. A cocoon of Chaos energy formed around her. Accepting the spark of chaos will supplement all the requirements for the mark of sin and make the demons that accept it ready to evolve.

It also comes with very dangerous side effects. Chaos energy doesn't play nice. He has reduced its potency but it will surely run amok within the individual that accepts it. So being pushed into evolution

isn't exactly a good thing. Evolution is the only way to survive the Chaos energy. They have to evolve and adapt to it just like his body did or they will die.

He waited patiently as Xander evolved. He sensed resistance at first before it disappeared. Chaos energy rampaged through her body like a wild horse but they were ultimately compatible. She has an affinity to darkness, one of the laws he used to restrain his Chaos energy.

It is an affinity to the element of darkness, not the law but it created room for the assimilation of chaos energy. She didn't have a complete soul, the lack of a mark of sin allowed chaos energy to gain full access to her soul. It just so happened that his restraint on chaos energy is soul related.

The combination of room for assimilation with chaos energy and the restraint of Chaos energy by soul concept worked in her favor. It allowed her existence to accept and evolve with chaos energy. If she didn't have both of the advantageous conditions then she would have died. Her willpower is too weak to present any resistance to chaos energy without assistance.

Her body began to change within the cocoon as she evolved. Xander grew larger and longer. She reached 100 meters in length and more than 5 meters in width. The horn stubs on the head grew into two horns more than 2 meters long. Her small wings enlarged into a structure 15 meters long.

She still has a flesh and blood body but it isn't a normal body. There are some influences of Chaos energy such as the black scales on her body becoming smoky and oozing black fumes

Chaos energy was leaving him through their connection to fuel Xander's evolution. The more powerful she grew, the more Chaos energy she consumed and the larger the cocoon got but he doesn't mind the energy usage.

He shouldn't be able to use the Oath of the Lord without control of the energy well but he had infinite energy and at a higher quality too. That's why he was given a unique one named the Oath of the Chaos Lord. So he doesn't mind the energy consumption. Even if he did mind and energy is scarce, he could always get it back by killing Xander if she isn't useful.

"Since I am a lord, and a better one too, I should assemble my forces. Plus I need an army to help out Legion-4." He thought to himself as he waited.

The Oath of the Lord is an ability that allows a subordinate to evolve while also strengthening the Lord. The Oath of the Chaos Lord is stronger than the demon lord's because the energy he supplies is at the half-divine rank. The demon lord is at the half-divine rank but she doesn't have an infinite amount of it to distribute. She can only give her subordinates the extreme energy rank that she has through the energy well.

She can help high-rank demons evolve into demon nobles if they submit to her. But their path will end there and they will be forever reliant on her for growth. If she doesn't grow stronger, then they will stagnate too. Her ability can't help demon nobles to evolve because only one person can receive the amplification of the energy well. But he can do that.

He can make high-rank demons and demon nobles become demon lords. That's why he didn't consider her a threat at all while she was threatening him. He respects her is not afraid of her, at least not anymore.

She had started watching him when he was about to be ambushed by the ten mid-rank demons. He was afraid of her attention back then. He was afraid of the manipulation of a high-rank demon, that's why he avoided the ambush. His fear for her was greater.

But things have changed. He is no longer afraid of her. He didn't have the strength to face her back then, but things her changing rapidly. He is not the little low-rank demon that was spooked by the attention of the demon lord or the mid-rank demon that ran straight into her ambush.

In fact, it's the other way around, she now fears him a little. He is more than prey to her now. Still, he will remain wary of her because of the respect he has for her. She may not be able to do anything to him directly right now, but underestimating her is folly and will lead to his downfall.

Chapter 285 Lord Khaos Of The House Of Chaos.

Those he helps to evolve will be lacking in the perks of their ranks but they will have the power. The demon nobles he creates won't have the ability to create a house and the Oath of allegiance. The demon lords he creates won't have the Oath of lordship either and they won't be able to help others evolve. It is because they are already his subordinates and under his house.

The demon lord was right about a lot of things. Her ambush was excellently planned and executed. She was right about not trying to kill him because all the forces she would have sent will have died. She was also right about the window of opportunity she had to subjugate him. Her attempt at making him sign the contract before he evolves was accurate. But she doesn't know the full extent of the trouble he has become for her now.

She will find out in time, but it will be too late by then. A war is coming in the abyss plane and it is going to be a big war. He will need an army for that. He also needs to help Legion-4 with some trouble he is facing in his plane. They intend to pull a heist and he has a big part to play in it.

Xander finally completed her evolution after 4 hours. She bowed her gigantic head at Aeternus. Her head alone is about 3 times taller than Aeternus even with it lying on the ground at his feet. His height of 1.7 meters is not doing him any good.

"Xander, number zero of the House of chaos greets the Lord of Chaos." Her divine sense said.

Aeternus nodded as he checked her stats. He had yet to decide between killing her or keeping the snake. Fortunately, he has an accurate method to check her usefulness to him.

NAME: Xander.

RACE: Chaotic Entity.

BLOODLINE: Chaosling.

DEMON RANK: Noble Demon.

CHAOS RANK: First Star.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: 100%

CHAOS ENERGY: 23,912.

ACCUMULATION: 0

ATTACK RATING: Physique:296. Spirit:304. MAGIC:360.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:320. Spirit:328. MAGIC:360.

ABILITIES:

1. Dweller of the Shadow World(UNIQUE): Access to another dimension that is parallel to the main world. You can transverse through it and hide in it. While you can observe the main world from the shadow world without being observed, you cannot interact with the main world through the shadow world.
2. Phantom of Darkness(UNIQUE): You are unable to be detected by divine sense only by sight when you're in motion. If you're still, then you can only be detected by touch.
3. Inevitability of Chaos(DIVINE): Consume your prey and transform them into the power of chaos within a special pouch in your body. The power of chaos is capable of being accumulated. It can be used to attack and raise the state of existence to 17.
4. Connection To The Lord(UNIQUE): You are capable of communicating with the Lord of your house through this connection and he to you through the connection. You are his eyes and hands. The Lord can see through your senses and assist you with his energy to perform the tasks he has given you.

STATUS: Reverent.

Xander's race has changed from a demonic beast to a chaotic entity. He liked the sound of that and also the fact that her existence is against the natural order of the abyss. He ought to be a demon Lord to create her but he isn't. His circumstances have broken some rules which led to the creation of Xander. So her existence has added another steady stream of power to his Chaos flame.

Her bloodline has also changed into a Chaosling. Apart from her reaching the noble rank, she has a new rank called the chaos rank which determines the amount of chaos spark each Chaosling has. Xander has

one and will need another one to evolve further. Her evolution has changed her mana into chaos energy but unlike him, she doesn't have an infinite amount of it at a time.

The advantage of chaos energy is that it can be replenished with either sin energy or mana at a rate dependent on their concentration but there will be no weakness, sickness, or death due to low concentration of either one of them. A Chaosling can stay anywhere in the abyss.

Most notable of all is that she has acquired the power of a noble demon. She couldn't use sin energy before, so she was weaker than a high-rank demon because of it. But now, she acquired an increase in her state of existence bringing it to 8. The stats of a noble demon range from 37-45 which brings are power rating to 296-360 a far cry from the 140-180 of a high-rank demon.

He spent some time going through her sin abilities. It is the most important part of Xander's strength. Her power rating doesn't matter, but how she uses it does in determining her value. She has gone from a demonic beast with a slight ability to camouflage herself and share her vision into a bonafide demon noble with one active ability, one passive ability, one accumulation ability, and a utility connection from her Oath of lordship.

"Does my strength please the Lord?" She asked hopefully.

"Above average. It means you will not die yet. You still need to prove yourself." He said curtly.

She spoke in reverence of him. "Your satisfaction is my greatest pursuit."

She has certainly grown stronger but there are other demon nobles better than her in every way. The three things that determine a demon noble's strength are power rating, sin abilities, and accumulation. Xander is above average in power and sin abilities. There are demon nobles with more sin abilities than her and no weakness in their power rating.

Such demon nobles have maxed their base power rating to 360. That means they have no glaring weakness. Xander is also lacking when it comes to accumulation. There are high-rank demons with more accumulation than her. He is keeping her because he doesn't have any other alternatives for now and because she has potential.

Chapter 286 New Powers And Abilities.

Xander's abilities make her a great assassin and spy. She would be useful for that but he doesn't have unlimited chaos sparks. Each one in existence creates a drain on his soul. This drain is why demon nobles can't accept every high-rank demon that comes their way. The strength of their soul will limit them.

Aeternus has a greater limit but he intends to only have the best. The only way to determine the best is always through competition. The survival of the fittest.

"Let's go and start the house of chaos." He said to her.

"Yes, lord Khaos."

Aeternus as the Lord of the house of Chaos has a greater limit on the number of subordinates he can take on but he intends to only have the best. The only way to determine the best is always through competition, the survival of the fittest. So he will make them fight for it.

"Let's go and start the house of chaos." He said to her.

"Yes, lord Khaos."

He flew to the top of her head and she took off. She flapped her great wings and took off into the skies.

"Take me to the closest fortress to the domain of demon nobles."

"Yes, lord Khaos."

The wind howled as they flew through the air. He had no hair to be ruffled by the wind and the burning flame between his horns didn't seem to interact with the normal world at all, so it wasn't affected by the wind. The chaos cloak around him left some smoky trails behind them far more than Xander's body did.

He is less than 2m tall standing on the head of such a big serpent. Size usually determines strength in the demon world but it isn't the case here. It isn't the biggest fist that wins but the strongest fist and he has the upper hand in their relationship. He is her lord and she is his bonded servant.

He is returning to the domain of high-rank demons. He still can't step into the domain of demon nobles yet. He needs to prepare first. The first thing to do is acquire a base. He doesn't intend to raid fortresses and kill high-rank demons anymore. That is beneath him now. Demon nobles are his new preferred prey.

But demon nobles don't come alone. They are usually surrounded by an army and a lot of high-rank demons. It is best that he gets his own backing too. Maybe then he will be able to take the 9th and the last demon city in the abyss that has been left unoccupied for a long time.

He checked his stats along the way.

NAME: AETERNUS (Legion-3)

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

RACE: Demon Of Envy.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Chaotic Envy.

DEMON RANK: High-Rank Demon.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: INFINITE.

CHAOS ENERGY: INFINITE.

ACCUMULATION:

ATTACK RATING: Physique:180. Spirit:396. MAGIC:315.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:315. Spirit:3640. MAGIC:315

SOUL ESSENCE: 0

BIOMASS: 0

DIVINITY: 0

SIN RANK: High-1%

STRENGTH: High-36

CONSTITUTION: High-63

ACTIVITY: High-63

AGILITY: High-63

CHAOTIC POWER: High-63

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: High-63

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: High-63

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Eternal-91

SPIRIT: Eternal-36

PERCEPTION: Eternal-36

SIN ABILITIES:

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

2. The Spite of Envy(DIVINE)- Reflect Magical, Spiritual, and Physical damage from a source with a stat no greater than yours. (UNIQUE)

3. The Oath Of the Chaos Lord(DIVINE)-

-Chaos Spark: A spark of chaos to set the fires of evolution alit. The fire can also consume the subordinates if it is not harnessed and adapted. (UNIQUE)

- Connection Of The Lord: Your subordinates are your senses, hence you can share their senses. They are your hands, hence you can provide them with energy. Communication between the lord and the subordinate is possible through this connection. (UNIQUE)

- The power of the Lord: Each Chaos Star in use empowers your accumulation and expands its utility.

4. The Accumulation of Chaos(DIVINE)- Unlimited storage of power that can be acquired through defying the order of the world. Can be used to raise your state of existence to 17 or to attack. (UNIQUE)

He is very powerful for a high-rank demon but quite lacking for a demon noble. The chaotic power that has been helping him to jump ranks has been stunted during the latest evolution. What he can rely on now is his accumulation but that will take time depending on how fast it fills up or his Chaos fusion with his Chaos vessel.

With Chasing fusion he can reach a theoretical maximum power rating of 711 by fusing chaos with soul force thereby combining the attack rating of his magic and spirit. The actual and practical output he can

reach is 600. That will need time for focusing to produce but it shouldn't be a problem for him to create attacks between 400 and 500 on a whim.

Accumulation on the other hand is a more complicated situation. For him, the rate at which power accumulates depends on breaking the natural order of the world. He is already being flooded with a huge amount from the existence of Legion. The one with the highest contribution to his Accumulation is still himself. He acquired access to infinite chaos energy by surviving what ought to kill him. He has been creating a series of anomalies since then.

It is because of his access to infinite chaos energy that he could acquire and use the Oath of the Chaos Lord. It is against the order of the abyss. Yet, the use of the Oath of the Chaos Lord to create subordinates will increase his Accumulation.

The fact that he is creating the subordinates on his own without assistance from the energy well is compounding the effects of Chaos. It doesn't end there, the existence and actions of his subordinates will also cause more Accumulation. He is the source of chaos, but it is going beyond him and empowering him.

Chapter 287 The Need For Divine Power.

Chaos is begetting Chaos on its own so he doesn't need to work actively to empower himself. It is like his existence set off a domino of chaotic events. It started as a tiny situation of a low rank demon killing mid rank demons to become a high rank demon threatening the demon lord and will culminate in a war that will take the plane by storm all the while strengthening him in the process. His Accumulation ability is great that way, it is also much stronger than those of other demon nobles.

Accumulation can be used to raise the state of existence or can be used to attack. He has a divine rank accumulation, he can raise his state of existence from 5 of a high-rank demon to 17 of a demon lord. It is the limit allowed and the increase is also temporary.

Accumulation is great but it has a huge weakness. Once it is used, it is gone forever. There is no limit to how much of it can be stored but its use is limited. Each amount of it used to temporarily reach this limit is gone.

The limit to the boost of Accumulation is based on the increase in the state of existence and the power rating of the attack that can be created with it. They both are at the demon lord rank for Aeternus but they aren't the same as other demon nobles. Most demon nobles have a lesser boost.

It is like booster fuel. There is also a difference in usage. A higher-rank Accumulation has a better utility and a better diminishing return. A lower rank Accumulation will cost more for the same boost and will incur a higher increase in cost to maintain that boost. The rank of Accumulation also affects how fast it is regenerated. All these reasons are why demon nobles strive for the one universal thing that can increase Accumulation, divine power.

Demons don't hate gods because of principle and ideology. There is no hate in their conflict just a struggle for resources. Gods have divinity and divine energy, demons need it so they try to kill gods. Aeternus has never needed divinity but other demons like them because it is more efficient than collecting biomass from the dead bodies of other demons. The conflict continues to the level of demon kings.

Different demons Accumulate power based on different things and at different rates but divine power from Gods will work for everyone. The fact that the cost of usage of accumulation is different for all demon nobles makes divine power more valuable to those with a lower-quality Accumulation. It is their best method of catching up in power.

Aeternus might not have a poor Accumulation ability and, is doing well in terms of his rate of Accumulation, but Divine power is a great way to accumulate power too. He just needs to reach a certain level of Accumulation enough to sustain his limit, then he will be able to fight demon nobles without a disadvantage.

It is one of the major incentives for him to leave the plane and attack divine planes through the abyss altar but he can't do that yet. The demon lord will be watching like a hawk and will be waiting for him to do that.

He doesn't need any other resources like other demons because of his infinite chaos energy but he will certainly need divine power for his Accumulation and divinity to upgrade his other stats to the half-divine rank. His chaos energy achieved it on its own and breached the 54 Stat limit but his other stats will need it.

His soon-to-be members of the House of Khaos will also need it or else the demon lords he creates won't be able to match Beelta at all. So something has to be done about the lockdown that she has placed on him. But he isn't worried because he isn't alone and has never been. No Legion Clone is ever alone.

He doesn't plan to risk using Legion-1's domain. He has something better planned. A surprise for the demon lord from Legion. But for now, he will wait and spread the word.

Soon the word spread. A noble house is being formed in the domain of high-rank demons for the first time. It caused a few sneers and snide comments. A noble house needs a demon noble, but a demon noble can't live in the domain of high-rank demons. That is common sense and to suggest otherwise is to believe high-rank demons are stupid.

You can call the lower ranks of the demon hierarchy stupid, but not high-rank demons. Then the news got more absurd. The Head of the house, this so-called demon noble that can survive in the domain of high-rank demons, can also make high-rank demons evolve into demon nobles.

Imagine that. Now the high-rank demons know that the news is fake. For a demon noble to live in such an area with low sin energy and yet be sustained, that demon noble has to be weak. How can such a weak demon noble have such a power?

Apart from that, it is common sense that the demon lord is the only one that can do this. But then they heard that the demon noble in question is the Ominous Reaper of Darkness and they started believing the news.

In fact, public opinion took a 180-degree change in direction about their belief in the news.

How could it not be believed? The Ominous Reaper killed 300 of the best high-rank demons in the plane. And from what demons heard, he had done it as a mid-rank demon and with a single move too.

There are some geniuses that can terrorize high-rank demons due to the possession of the Accumulation ability. But these demons are also high-rank demons and none of them were so notorious that high-rank demons banded in solidarity to put them down.

Everyone suspected that the Ominous Reaper will become unbelievable when he evolves to become a high-rank demon. What is more unbelievable than the news that he can make high-rank demons evolve into demon nobles?

Chapter 288 Recruitment Drive For The House Of Chaos.

Many don't know much about the Ominous Reaper before he began to terrorize mid-rank demons but they know that he has only been a couple of months since he became known. That means he has gone from being a low-rank demon to a high-rank demon in only a few scant months. The fact that he evolved so quickly from being a mid-rank demon also proved that he really killed those 300 high-rank demons. Where else is he going to get the needed resources to grow his mark of sin so quickly?

It doesn't matter if he killed them as a mid-rank or high-rank demon, the fact that he could kill them without those who revived having memories of their death is enough reason for high-rank demons to flock to him. That single feat proved him to be future demon lord material and they want to be a part of that. The news that he could do something that only the demon lord should be able to do only proved that conjecture.

News spread wide and far. High-rank demons came from far and wide to join the house of Chaos and become demon nobles because fusing sin energy with mana is difficult and because the Ominous reaper has a bright future. The news of it even reached the center of the plane.

Centre Of The Plane.

The demon lord, Beelta, was still fuming. It's a shame that the trembling of her gigantic round body and her tempestuous mood didn't affect the energy well one bit. Her struggle and anger is too small to affect the energy well in any way. So she has been taking it out on other demons.

Eating, more like gorging, also helps to soothe her mind but she is ever the efficient demon even when she is angry. She has been eating a lot of innocent demons recently.

She doesn't care where they came from. They could be demons that she had her subordinates force into her servitude, prisoners, or poor defenseless demons that they demon-napped off the street. What matters is that she is taking her anger out on them and also soothing her mood with food. It is like killing two demonic birds with one volcanic rock.

Her method was working and she was calming down when the unfavorable news hit. One of her subordinates rushed to inform her of what Khaos Aeternus is about to do. She had instructed them to keep tabs on him. She screamed when she heard the news.

"What? He is the Lord of the house of Chaos and he can evolve high-rank demons to demon noble rank? What kind of nonsense is this?" She asked her bowed subordinate.

The subordinate didn't answer. It was a rhetorical question. Even the demon lord who thought the idea that Aeternus could create a house was absurd believed it. She had expected as much from him. There have been records of genius high-rank demons getting Accumulation and even though there is no record of high-rank demons creating a house she chose to expect it.

The first case where high-rank demons got Accumulation is rare but believable, while the second where a high-rank demon creates a noble house is unbelievable, yet she believed it is possible for Aeternus because she wasn't willing to underestimate him.

Aeternus is a talented demon and will be extraordinary even by her standards. What she couldn't believe is that he even went above that to gain the ability of a demon lord. Now he can purportedly make demon nobles. She had known that letting him evolve was a bad idea but she didn't know it would be this bad.

She spit out the demon she was chewing from her giant maw. She has lost all her appetite now.

"What am I to do?" She asked herself.

For the first time in a long while, she feels desperate and anxious. She isn't afraid for her life and she isn't in any danger but the situation is spiraling out of control. She thought she had things under control. Aeternus was supposed to be stuck in the domain of high-rank demons slowly empowering his Accumulation but it isn't going to be of much help in his fight against her.

Accumulation is a temporary boost that raises one to the level of the demon lord. Even so, only the best Accumulation can reach her level. She is no ordinary demon lord, she has reached the half-divine rank with a state of existence of 17. Lesser demons can't harm her. The most they can do is inconvenience her.

There are some demon nobles with divine rank Accumulation who can pose a threat to her. But no matter how much Accumulation they have, they will run out of it with usage and time. Something temporary cannot compare to something permanent. She even has a greater advantage than that.

Demon nobles don't fight each other even though they have Accumulation because once it is used, it is lost. They will be weakened even if they win. If two sides fight, the side that will win is the side with the most Accumulation. Her ability to create demon nobles makes her side always at an advantage. She has enough demon nobles to take on the cooperative attack of the disgruntled noble families.

The established noble families had banded together to fight her before and lost too. It was the war that took place 10,000 years ago. So what can one noble demon do to her? By her estimates, no matter how much Aeternus accumulates, it cannot compare to the Accumulation of her noble demons who have had ample time and divine power to empower themselves. One of them would have been enough to capture Aeternus.

"A war is coming." She thought gloomily.

It seems he would be able to put up a fight. She had been prepared for war but not against Aeternus. Orders have already been sent out to prepare her forces but their targets were the noble families. This development has changed things.

Chapter 289 Cain The Accuser.

Beelta planned to stop the other noble families from competing with her for Aeternus while she tries to nab him. Aeternus's change to the Lord of Chaos will hamper that. The addition of the house of chaos will make Aeternus a player instead of a prize to be won.

The demon lord suddenly got an idea.

"I know what to do. Send Cain the Accuser. He is perfect for the job."

No matter how things have changed, she is still the demon lord and things are still in her court. Even if Aeternus creates more demon nobles he doesn't have the divine power to empower them. That means he can only rely on their quantity, not quality. If he relies on quantity, his soul will be burdened. A burdened soul will be more vulnerable to spiritual attacks. Cain will be able to cripple his recruitment efforts.

Her subordinate withdrew silently and went to fulfill her order. Beelta watched him go before turning her attention to the demons lined up in front of the energy well for eating. Her 100 meters diameter body had come out of the pillar and was towering over them. She usually felt gratified watching them

cower beneath her but that had changed. She was feeling like eating or torturing them so she returned to the energy well gloomy as a dark cloud.

Her decision to send Cain didn't make her happy. Cain might be successful with his mission but he will be sacrificed to make it happen. The sacrifice of such a talented demon just to hamper Aeternus doesn't make her feel good. The fact that it is a worthy sacrifice too only makes her angry. She has to do something to get the situation under control.

"I have to pressure him to make a mistake."

Aeternus has succeeded in pushing her to desperation with his antics but it should be her that should push him. He should be a rat caught in a barrel with nowhere to go but he is making more rats and using them to build a ladder out of the bucket.

She has built a cage around him. He can't enter the domain of demon nobles or leave the abyssal plane. That cage is also protecting him because she can't extend her full reach into the domain of high-rank demons. She needs to stop him from preparing and make him come out of the cage. Then she will be able to nab him and have her wish fulfilled.

Back To Aeternus.

The abyssal plane has been sent into turmoil. Even the demon nobles aren't sitting still. The ability to create more demon nobles is practically an infringement. It is a violation of the order of the world. An encroachment into their way of life and privileges.

They even held a meeting about it. Most of them considered it a good thing. They have been in a rut lately and the addition of such an outlier will make things interesting. There's nothing they can do against the demon lord. They have lesser forces than her and they are not as united. It is difficult to be united when you're all aiming for the same thing but only one of you can have it.

So they welcome the developments brought about by Aeternus's ability. Aeternus will draw the attention of the demon lord and if they fight, then they'll weaken each other. It will create more opportunities for them.

The ones that don't want the rise of another force on par with the demon lord lost to the majority in favor of it. But it all boiled down to the fact that there's nothing they can do about it.

If the demon lord is catching at straws about methods of retaliation against Aeternus then what could the ones that lost to her do? It is a real possibility that Aeternus and the demon lord won't fight. They aren't foolish enough not to be aware that fighting will make them weaker. This means that Aeternus will come to the inner ring to dominate them and their various houses.

The demon lord is all-powerful in the abyssal plane but her power is concentrated at the center of the plane. If Aeternus doesn't replace her, he will stay in the innermost ring instead where the demon nobles stay. That means the demon nobles would have gained an overlord in the domain of demon nobles.

But they decided to look at this positively since they can't do anything about it. Their situation can only become so worse. What's worse that could happen than that? Besides no matter how many demon nobles Aeternus creates, they are confident in their years of Accumulation.

Still, they sent out their representatives to the upcoming selection event. Aeternus had a public announcement that he would be selecting worthy high-rank demons on that day to evolve and that everyone can come to watch or try out for positions in his family. The nobles are sending their subordinates there just to watch and report to them.

They want to know if he can really create demon nobles or if he is lying. It is not the first time a demon is lying about something. If he is lying to get their way. If he is lying, they want to know the truth and why he lied.

The long-awaited day came. The fortress that Aeternus was staying at was filled up with high-rank demons. Rumors had it that Aeternus showed up with a demon noble and took over the fortress without any resistance. It is not news that the Ominous Reaper took down a fortress on his own. He had done it before. This time, there was no fight. He just came knocking and the demon in charge rolled over like a dog and surrendered.

Aeternus didn't kill anyone that day. He simply holed up in the castle while he gave orders to the former owner to send out the news. Xander showed up once in a while as proof of the presence of a demon noble here so it lent credence to the rumors and brought more demons to the upcoming selection event for the House of Chaos.

Chapter 290 Experimentation.

Xander is currently above the castle scanning the fortress from every direction from the shadow realm. She is also sharing her sight with Aeternus who is performing experiments within the castle. Aeternus is in a large room adjoined with many cells for experimental subjects. Some of the cells contain his subjects, mid-rank demons.

The large room also contains many mid-rank demons in various stages of evolution or fighting. The ones that are fighting are at each other's throats as if they are crazed. He sat on a pillar while he watched everything going on. Occasionally he would make some changes to the developments by releasing some dust that resemble fireflies into the air.

These fireflies are then absorbed by the demons. Some instantly start to evolve while some begin to fight each other. Some of those evolving fail and release fireflies which he takes and examines. The ones fighting kill their opponents and absorb the fireflies from the body of their opponents.

The situation might be different but one thing is common, the fireflies that are absorbed and come out of the bodies of slain demons are not the same as the ones he initially released.

There are ten large balls of Chaos energy beside him from which different fireflies are being produced. The balls of chaos energy are also different from one another. Some are completely black, some white, some reddish black, some pure red, and other different shades of the three colors.

The balls keep on changing even as more fireflies return and are analyzed. Aeternus will make adjustments to them based on the new information he acquires. He is experimenting with his Oath of the Chaos Lord ability.

He found out after some practice with it that the rate of survival is too low. The willpower required to survive the process by which chaos energy warps the body and the mind is too high. So it led to quick and painful death where the subjects are consumed from the inside out.

He has only been able to make one other subordinate apart from Xander out of 100 attempts. That's a success rate of 2% at best. Such a survival rate will lead to immense losses for him. He could easily lose a talented demon that he wants. And once news spread that the possibility of death when auditioning to be his subordinate is very high, no one will show up for it.

So he began experimenting with chaos energy, his ability, and souls in hopes to modify his sin ability and make it more compatible with other demons. What started as a means to ensure a higher conversion rate escalated quickly as he delved into the mysteries of sin abilities.

He created a chaos spark. Then he broke it apart with chaos energy. He didn't let the pieces float away. Instead, he held them together, then he grabbed some souls, and added them into the floating mess of chaos that is straining to escape his grasp. He got the souls from the stash of high-rank demons that he ransacked.

The cloud of unruly chaos energy began to mellow and clump together as they broke the souls apart. Soon they engorged on it and became tiny fireflies. He made the fireflies combine in a unique rhythm and forced sin energy in the atmosphere into the combination to see if it will finally work.

He waited patiently as he watched the ball. This is his eleventh attempt at making what he wants. If he fails, he will need to acquire more knowledge and perform more experimentation.

The fireflies within the cloud of Chaos energy began to combine in a ball according to the rhythm he set for them and grew solid. Then it glowed white and began to thrum.

"Finally, I've got it." He sighed.

The previous ten balls were adjusted according to his new insight. They all thrummed and turned completely white. Then they began to alternate between glowing and dimming. His soul was also glowing and dimming in sync with the ten balls.

A row of text appeared in his vision

#{ ERROR: YOUR MARK OF SIN HAS BEEN MODIFIED }

#{ OATH OF THE CHAOS LORD HAS CHANGED }

#{ CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR ABILITY CHAOS SPARK HAS EVOLVED INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHAOS }

He nodded appreciatively. He had gone from the low-rank demon that couldn't cast spells with chaos energy to a mid-rank demon that could cast sloppy spells and finally into a high-rank demon that can modify his mark of sin with chaos energy. He still can't cast delicate spells with chaos energy but he can modify its behavior.

He made the balls divide themselves into smaller balls that resemble the normal chaos spark before those smaller balls disintegrated into fireflies. Then the fireflies recombined into chaos sparks before they too combined into the large ten balls of white chaos balls.

The large chaos balls are white, the chaos sparks are black with white shining from within and the fireflies are red. Chaos energy within his sin ability has been made to change shape, color, size, and nature so that it will be able to fulfill the function that Aeternus has for it.

"How is everything going?" He asked Xander over their mind connection.

"Everything is good to go, Lord Khaos."

"Good. It's time these demons get what they came for."

He waved his hand and Chaos flames flew out into the room to burn everything. The flames only killed the demons but left the walls and ground intact. Then they returned to his body. He left the castle and flew to the arena that had been built for today's show. The white balls of chaos trailed after him and drew attention since they made his dark ominous figure obvious.

Demons began clamoring as soon as they saw him. There has been a ban on flying within the fortress so they could see him pass over their heads to the arena. The reason why Xander had shown up occasionally is to eat the violators of that ban.