

GREED 311

Chapter 311 Aspiring Rune Master.

The transformation into a divine entity allowed the heroic spirits to become aware of an alternative form of strength when the giants of Order needed it the most.

Giants of Order are immune to spells, so they can't cast them. That's an acceptable trade. But their anti-magic domain went further than that. It not only destroyed their environment, but it also destroyed mana artifacts, magic weapons, and magic equipment.

It meant that they couldn't use mana equipment as mana entities and their infertile environment forced them to migrate often. Migration caused conflicts which quickly escalated to war. It is one thing to be able to turn an environment into a desert but Origin water in origin streams was also affected.

At first, they had success in their wanton expansion. They were born mana entities with very strong bodies that could go beyond the strength of a mana entity. They conquered their plane until it became infertile. The origin streams dried up and the vitality of the world became next on the menu.

Then they turned their attention to the ancient battlefield when a great general that broke through to transcendence appeared. They marched into the ancient battlefield with pride and ignorance. It turned out that they had eaten more than they could chew.

The ancient battlefield is where the big boys of the realm of high heaven play. The giants were beaten back easily. Their unique divine ability made them targets for research to the extent that they were even hunted in their plane. They were almost hunted to extinction.

It was then that one of the generals that they enshrined became a heroic spirit. He died and came back as a demigod. The acquisition of a half-divine body created a phenomenon in which divine power interacted with the law fragments of the deceased Hero. This phenomenon enlightened the heroic spirit into creating totems.

He bestowed totems on the Warrior's bodies. These totems allowed them to finally use weapons. Having a weapon can do wonders for a warrior when spells can't be used. Their strong bodies finally came to good use with weapons fitting their level.

The totems empowered their already powerful bodies and allowed them to beat back their oppressors, but its effect ended there. The totems ensured their survival but they couldn't allow them to flourish on the ancient battlefield.

There is a limit in the plane due to the lack of origin energy. That limit doesn't exist in the ancient battlefield. Their inability to become lords of law and the enmity of other races prevented them from even getting a foothold on the ancient battlefield. This didn't change even when gods began to appear in their race.

Gods can't leave their planes unless they fall. The only loophole is if they want to attend the trial of heaven, then a passage will be opened for them in the divine plane that leads into the tower of heaven. Still, the presence of gods allowed them to develop totems into the advanced form of rune-making that it is today. Giants of order pride themselves on the Stigmata something that is arguably unique in the entire realm or high heaven.

Helios began writing on a piece of paper. It is more of a drawing than writing but it can be called anything since he is using tiny words written close together to draw instead of lines or strokes. He is practicing his Rune making to become a runemaster.

The major difference between Totems and Rune making is that totems need a being with a divine will, such as a god. A Rune needs knowledge of law fragments and divine energy which can be acquired from divine crystals. So anyone can be a runemaster as long as they have knowledge of runes and divine crystals while only divine beings can create a totem.

The fusion of the two fields creates Stigmata which is what Stelios the sun god is capable of. It is the epitome of the field that is only achievable by a god who has knowledge of runes. That knowledge and divine will can create a miracle, but Helios is not impressed with what the giants of order have been able to do with it.

"Backwards people. You can make anything but you create weapons. Why not make your body into a weapon?" He continued to mutter as he worked.

Rune-making manipulates law fragments in the body of giants with divine energy to take advantage of the power of the law of order.

The law of order that world gods create enables them to create a world and other stuff. Rune-making is only an imitation of that power. It relies on the strong body of giants of order to shoulder the burden of creation instead of a world and the law fragments of order on them to imitate creation instead of the full law of order. Those two conditions are important.

The power of creation needs order, even if it is a created law of Order or it will cause a backlash. The universe will resist any sort of creation. Only the law of order can reduce this resistance and make creation possible as opposed to the law of Chaos that likes destruction.

The law fragments on the body of giants of order is not the law of order, but they can be elevated to the level of an imitation with the power of divine energy. Once all these conditions have been met, then creation is possible, if only temporarily.

What Helios finds silly is the choice of creating weapons when there is a limited amount of resources available for Rune making. A giant of Order has a finite amount of law fragments and each one that has been used can not be reused only slightly modified.

That means you have to be careful about what Rune you tattoo on your body and who does the marking. The tattoos reach the bones and cannot be hacked off. Even if you lose a limb, you will regrow the limb with the tattoo because giants have mana bodies and the tattoos are part of their existence.

It is the willful ignorance of possibilities by the giants that baffles Helios. Weapon runes helped them in the past but times have changed in the realm of high heaven. Laws and concepts are the latest things. Like the portal runes on Staniel's body. They create a portal that leads to his storage somewhere far away. Something like that is a Stigmata but Helios is looking beyond that. For example, upgrading that portal Rune into a pocket space within a separate dimension on the body.

Creating a pocket dimension will require the knowledge of laws beyond which the best Rune grandmasters are capable. So it is understandable that they can't do it since they can't comprehend laws. The one that can be achieved by even rune masters is to consider the body as a material that is to be forged and enchanted with runes to create an excellent weapon. They already have a strong body, why not capitalize on it and make it a strong weapon?

"This is looking good. More and more practice and I might get it."

He admired his work. He had been writing with a practice Rune pen of his own making instead of the divine Rune maker that consumes divine power to alter runes. His rune pen creates simulated law fragments on the special paper he is working with.

It helps him to practice his Rune making with life-like simulations of the behavior of runes. This is better than the way other Rune apprentices practice. They need real law fragments to practice which can only be gotten from the body of giants

The fertility of giants of order is low naturally and the mana-less environment has reduced that fertility to an all-time low so they have a small population to work with. That requirement is one of the things holding them back from progressing. Without a large population to work with, they can't practice. And if they can't practice, they can't progress.

Practice makes perfect but aspiring rune makers can't practice as much as they want. The mana pen can't work with other giants because they can't control their anti-magic domain. Their domain will disrupt the operation of the pen. Even if they can use it, he doesn't have the intention to share. The only reason to share something good is if you'll get something better from it. Since he is not getting anything from sharing, he will keep it to himself.

Most of the problems the giants of Order face are due to their anti-magic domain created by the law fragments in their bodies. It killed their environment and also prevents advancement in technology.

He said as he admired his work. "This is not so bad. Apart from the gods and the constant supervision, being a giant isn't so bad. Rune making is unique and worthwhile to study. It is the power of creation in a small spark."

Chapter 312 Second Star Celebration.

There are several reasons for him to master runes. His primary aim to learn the law of order will help him push forward the boundary of what's possible with runes. So the two of them work together.

Learning the law of order is not too far ahead of him. He just needs to become a transcendent then he will be able to comprehend the laws from the law fragments. But he can't break through without knowing what the sun god is marking on his body.

These two will take a lot of time. His practice with Rune making will take a few more years and his body needs time to develop better. A much stronger body will be able to handle heavier modifications to the law fragments and he will need a very strong body for what he plans.

Since there's no rush or immediate threat to him, he will just train calmly. Besides, Legion has a plan to handle the gods of the plane. All it needs is some time to kick off.

The days went by until it became time for his second-star celebration. A lot of people came to attend the ceremony. Only important dignitaries from the cities and churches are allowed at the ceremony. Not anyone will be allowed to such an important occasion. A holiday was announced to allow the commoners to join in the celebration.

The celebration of the second star of a giant of order is very important. The first star that occurs at 10 years old marks the moment when a giant of order can get its first rune. This honor is given to the god that the family of the child serves. The child will be taken to the church and their child will be marked.

The second star that happens at 20 years old is another opportunity to create another Rune. This moment marks a milestone in the life of the child because they get to choose their own marks. What they chose at that point is of significance considering how precious the law fragments are. Usually, the child chooses the mark of their tribe. It is a means to identify them with a tribe of giants.

The tribe will celebrate the addition of another member to their midst. The third star is for the family. The child will bear a totem that represents the lineage of the family and ancestors. This has been part of their culture for hundreds of Origin cycles.

There's no celebration for the first star, it is an event between a child and the god he has chosen to believe in. There's a private celebration for the third one, it is for the family of the child. The second star calls for a public celebration. The public celebration for a demigod is rare and this is why even people belonging to other churches and cities are coming. They all want to see the exhibition competition.

The sun city has been thrown into a festive mood because of the upcoming celebration. Decorations have been put up and people are flocking to the city. Everyone is clearly in a good mood except the celebrant.

Cardinal Hak has been disturbing him more than usual. So many questions and extra bothering. It is either about clothes, food, friends, etc. Helios doesn't care about any of that.

He said it several times too. "Stop disturbing me, Hak. I don't care about any of that."

Helios refused to indulge in any traditions even the most important ones like having a Rune. The sun god is already taking more law fragments from him, there's no way he is going to allow more of them to be spent on mediocre runes. To make sure of that, he has to make it himself but he isn't good enough yet. So, no more runes until then.

"But what are you going to showcase for the exhibition competition?" Hak asked desperately as they were escorted to the location of the party.

"I'll just borrow someone's bow or something." He replied unconcerned.

Hak paled. "No, you can't do that. It is not how things are done."

The Exhibition competition is a very important event during the second-star celebration. Since the era of transcendence when totems had become a part of the culture of the giants of order, the public celebration is an opportunity for a child to display his or her talent and be assigned to a good position in the tribe.

This talent exhibition is of more importance when the public celebration is held for more than a single child. The children will compete with the use of their tribal rune. The children that can use the tribal rune better get to join the hunters, a very prestigious caste in a society dependent on foraging and Fighting.

The demigods of the sun god usually display the use of their sunbow during the celebration. It is how things are done.

"It doesn't matter how things are done. I'll do it my way."

Except Helios doesn't care about how things are done. He can bend his ways for some things but a rune is not one of them.

Hak asked, "Didn't you say you will make your own runes yourself? So why haven't you?"

Helios nodded, "I said that, but it's going to take time. I have only been training for 10 years. I need more time."

Hak sighed and accepted the reality that Helios won't change his mind. They entered the ceremony unannounced. Helios couldn't wait for his name to be announced so he simply entered while Hak continued to sigh.

The location of the party is huge considering that it belongs to giants but it is extra big because of the exhibition stage that is built at the center of the location. The exhibition stage can be used for racing, fighting, archery, and other forms of competition. So the site of the celebration is like a sports center or a stadium. It can be used for various things.

Chapter 313 A Divine Party Crasher.

There are 3 levels in the stands. There's the topmost level for the interaction of gods, the second level for demigods and divine lords, then there's the third level for the mortals. It is based on the social hierarchy of giants of order and because of safety.

A mortal being around so many gods can be very dangerous even if they are only there in the form of their avatars. A mortal might hear something they shouldn't hear or join in laughing at a joke made at the expense of another god. So it is best that you stay clear of the divine as a mortal to avoid the destruction of your entire family.

Helios found a seat on the third level and sat down. His guards surrounded him and prevented others from reaching him.

"Thank you for coming. Please have a good time. Continue as if you haven't seen me." He said to the excited crowd.

The party had commenced before he arrived and he hoped it will go on without him. He does not need to interact with the people here, so he doesn't want to. But if he sits among demigods, they are bound

to disturb him since his guards can't hold them off. That's why he is staying in the area where he can bully people into doing what he wants.

He sat down comfortably and ignored Hak's protest not to sit there.

"Strength is needed to have your way. I don't have strength, that's why I am being made to jump through hoops for these people. I need strength."

He believes that everyone can do whatever they want to do. He will only have a problem if what they are doing is affecting him in an unpleasant way. What he hates more than that is being forced to do something.

There are a lot of things he has been forced to do recently. The sun god has decreed that he cannot leave the sun city yet. That's the most important offense, the restriction of movement. It indicates that he doesn't have freedom. The sun god said it is for his safety but Helios doubts that.

He was allowed to make his decision about his runes because it is part of their culture. But he has to attend this celebration because of the culture. The culture of the giants of Order has been rooted deep down in their bodies and mind. The law of order prevents all types of changes. It not only shackled their strength but also their mindset.

He has a different opinion about most things but he can't flaunt his disregard for culture to a certain extent. He may not like doing some things, but he has to do them regardless of his opinion. It is ultimately because he doesn't have enough strength to break the control over him.

He glanced at the top level where the gods are chatting. They are the top dogs in this plane and his target. Unlike Soverick that brought down the gods with the help of the racial alliance, Helios is on his own for now. He doesn't aim to end the era of the gods but it might happen because of his pursuit of strength.

He doesn't have anything against gods especially if they are an important part of the strength of a race. He might even use them for his agenda. He just wants strength and will do anything to acquire it. Whatever happens or whoever suffers along the way is not his issue.

Staniel and the other divine lords of the ancient gods were chatting with some of their friends that came. The children of the sun god have the usual traits of changing skin color, varying height, and golden yellow hair. There are almost 50 of them here and their presence seemed to light up the place.

Staniel shook his head when he saw what Helios did.

He drew the attention of the rest to Helios by commenting, "That brother of ours is trouble."

"Why is he so gloomy? Is he sulking?"

"It's like he doesn't want to be here."

"He has been like that for a while."

They began chatting about him. He is an oddball in their opinion. Demigods of the sun god are usually bright and sunny. Only Helios can make such a happy day into a punishment for his weakness. The frown on his face makes him look as if he isn't a demigod of the sun.

Helios's arrangement worked. Mortals can't disturb him because his guards stop them and demigods can't disturb him because they will have to descend to the third level and frolic among mortals. He refused to move no matter how much Hak fidgetted until the time came for the talent exhibition. It was then that things got interesting.

The clear skies suddenly turned cloudy with brown clouds. The earth became dark because of the blockage of light by the clouds. A powerful divine presence suddenly descended at the party. It was rough, heavy and it threatened to suffocate the mortals here.

The wind picked up speed abruptly lifting light objects and ruffling the nice clothes that the guest wore. The jovial atmosphere turned electric immediately as if a dust storm is about to start. The sun god exerted his dominion over the area to push back the presence. The winds died down but the sky remain dark because of the clouds made of dust.

Then there was the sound of numerous thunderclaps.

A laugh came from the skies, "Why the temper? Is a divine guest not welcomed?"

It was the laughter of the intruder that sounded like thunderclaps.

The sun god snorted before replying. "A cultured guest is welcomed. Such actions make you a brute not a guest no matter how divine you're."

A large face formed out of the brown clouds. Lightening crackled in the spot for the eyes while a large hole formed the mouth. The god of the sky and tempest, the archenemy of the sun god made his presence known.

Chapter 314 A Fight To The Death.

Stelios remained calm despite the rude interruption of his son's Celebration. He has been expecting this.

"Is this good enough for you?" The cloud-face asked with a grin.

"No, create an avatar if you must come."

"I don't intend to stay for long. My new kids want to see your precious demigod. I'm sure they are welcome."

It is a polite way of saying I am going to crash your party and there's nothing you can do about it unless you tell me off right now in front of all your other visitors which will show you as weak.

Stelios answered. "Sure, as long as they behave."

The brown cloud-face coughed out two children from its mouth. The two of them have blue skin and purple hair. They are also sitting on what appears to be two golden bolts of lightning.

Their father said to them, "You hear that kids? You're welcome but you have to behave. That sun god is a nasty old man who doesn't know what fun is."

Then the god of the sky and tempest said to the sun god, "You know what I am here for. My kids need a target for their heroic feats. It is a good opportunity for your son too. That's if he can make use of it. Do you remember the last of your demigods that mine killed, wasn't it hilarious? What's the count now? I think I have 5 and you have 1."

The sun god became angry immediately. The god of the sky is trying to humiliate him, in broad daylight no less. He wouldn't have it.

"Sunrise." He evoked his Authority as the sun god.

The sun that had been hidden behind the curtain of dark clouds burst forth with light that dispersed the huge face in the sky and broke the clouds. The dust scattered in the presence of the sun. The day brightened up as the blockage to the sunlight was removed.

"So petty." The sky god snickered before he left.

The two children above rode the golden bolts to the ground. The bolts then transformed into two angels with 8 wings of lightning. Their body seemed to be made of wind in the form of a miniature hurricane. They have two arms but no legs.

Helios said to Hak, "Would you look at that? Their guardians are angels with the power of mid gods while my guardian is a transcendent with the power of a transcendent."

"You're in a safe place not surrounded by hostile entities. You don't need stronger protection. Besides, they can't exhibit their full strength. They are mostly here to allow the kids to escape as soon as possible."

"I see. What's their deal? I assume they are here to mess with the party but what's this about heroic feats?" Helios asked with mild interest.

"We'll talk about heroic feats another time. Just know that it can lead to death and these two are after you so you have to be careful."

Now Helios's interest is piqued, "You mean I can kill them?"

All he heard is that there is a possibility of death and that meant it is very possible for him to kill them.

Cardinal Hak looked at Helios and said with uttermost seriousness, "They are older than you. They have had more training and likely didn't come here on a whim so it is more likely for them to kill you."

Helios clapped his hands together and grinned. "Now, I'm getting excited. This party just got better."

One of the angels bowed down in their position on the second level towards the direction of the sun god and asked, "Shall we begin the exhibition competition your divine greatness."

The sun god nodded and resumed his speech, "As I was saying, let us start the talent exhibition. But that will change since we have visitors that are willing to turn this into a competition using the laws of the pursuit of heroic feats."

Everyone clapped excitedly. They would have clapped politely because they have to if it was only Helios showing them what he can do, but now they are truly eager to see the show. A demigod is rare, so witnessing the fights between them is rarer.

The sun god nodded, "As you all know, heroic feats are important for a demigod to become a divine lord. This is a rare opportunity for both sides. We have the virility of the sky god and the prolific fertility of the female that bore him twins to thank for this opportunity."

This time only the people in the second and first levels cheered and laughed. The sky god is famously fertile. He has more demigods than the goddess of harvest and fertility herself. This time, he met an equally fertile partner that gave him two for one.

The gods and demigods can laugh about it but the mortals can't. He isn't known as the god of the tempest for nothing. He has been known to dole out wrathful punishment to mortals that have erred. Making fun of the sky god is definitely erring.

The angel still hadn't risen, he obviously has more to say.

He asked the sun god, "Can we recommend the method of competition too?"

It isn't an act of disrespect for the angel to make a request of a god. An angel represents the will of their god, which means they are saying what the sky god wants. The sky god's presence might not be here but he is more than aware of what's going on.

The sun god answered, "You can select anything as long as runes are allowed."

The angel stilled as he listened to the instruction of the sky god.

He spoke again, "I'm sorry your divine greatness, but the only thing we planned for is unarmed combat."

The sun god frowned, "Surely it won't be a fight to the death."

This time the angel answered immediately. "It cannot be a heroic feat without the death of a demigod. What else is there? I'm sorry to say that it has to be a fight to the death."

Chapter 315 Lucky Duck.

The sun god's face fell and the sky darkened because of it.

So they are crashing the party to start a fight, and they are publicly stating their interest in killing the celebrant to the father and host of the celebrant.

Stelios asked menacingly. "Are you sure? A none-lethal exhibition competition is always an option."

The angel nodded in the affirmative. "I'm very sure your divine greatness. It is the will of the sky god."

A none-lethal exhibition is an option but the sky god does not want that. He wants to kill your son and watch your face change due to the loss.

Stelios then smiled, "Let it be so."

Everyone was surprised apart from Staniel. They had thought that a disagreement was about to take place between the sky god and the sun god about the competition. The sun god has clearly been magnanimous about allowing the sky god to choose a competition. His only request is that his demigod should be allowed to use his Rune weapon.

That is a reasonable request. Everyone knows that the demigods of the sky god are the fastest demigods. They may not be able to transform into lightning yet as they are still mana entities but their bodies have been fashioned for speed. The demigods of the sun god have strong bodies but speed is not their forte.

The only way for the demigods of the sun god to kill demigods of the sky god is by using their bows which they are very skilled at.

But the sky god chose to be unreasonable, like always, and demand that they don't use rune weapons. The poor Helios will be at a disadvantage because of such an arrangement. Or so they thought. So it was jarring for them to see the sun god scowling one moment and smiling the next.

The sun god's behavior is fishy. But they clapped nonetheless. This arrangement will increase the odds of a demigod dying today. It will be a shame that it will be their host that losses but it will be a very entertaining shame.

"Let a third party bear witness and ensure adherence to the rules." The sun god proclaimed.

Another god stepped forward. "I will bear witness if there are no objections."

No one disagreed with allowing the god of conflict to bear witness. He doesn't belong to either of the factions of gods that the sun and sky god belongs to. He also won't favor one side but will make it more interesting by fanning the flames of conflict when possible.

The god of conflict then said, "Let the competitors come forward."

Helios was already eager so he began ascending the levels to get to the first level. The twins on the other hand are having a problem. Their original plan was to come here and humiliate the new demigod

through a good old-fashioned, honest none-lethal exhibition competition. The mention of heroic feats by their father was to taunt the sun god and the recent loss of his children. Who would have thought that the sun god will get so angry as to take the bait?

They didn't plan for this and their father made a spur-of-the-moment decision to do it. The sky god had chuckled evilly in his divine kingdom while saying, "This is too good to pass off."

It is not every day that the sun god goes off his senses. So now they get to kill the sun god's young demigod. But which one of them will fight Helios? They are already older than him, and the two of them cannot fight him at the same time. Seeing as they have the advantage of age and competition arrangement, only one of them will get to fight Helios. The second one won't be able to fight Helios after he is killed.

"Brother, how about you let me go?" The female one asked.

Her brother wasn't listening, he had already started walking forward. He shouted grandly, "I Tyke the demigod of the great god of the sky and tempest shall fight and vanquish the demigod of the sun god in a spectacular display of heroic feat."

His declaration led to cheers from the crowd. He marched with confidence to the first level. He flexed his muscles and waved his purple hair about. He got there before Helios. Helios passed by his fuming sister who felt cheated.

He said to her in passing, "You lucky duck."

Tane sneered at him. "You will be dead soon."

It was until he had gone ahead that she thought about what he said to her. She hadn't been listening to what he said. She thought he was making fun of her or calling her names so she retaliated with what she said.

"What does he mean by I'm lucky?"

But now that the meaning of what he said settled in she couldn't help but be confused. If anything, she is unlucky in not getting to fulfill a heroic feat and have one for her heroic journey. She gave up on the thought very quickly when she couldn't figure out what he meant. Demigods of the sky god are just like their father, they aren't much thinkers.

It is an adaptation that speeds up decision-making in their minds so that they can make quick decisions when they are in the form of lightning and are moving really fast. They have been made to make quick on the fly decisions that rely more on their instincts and reflex rather than careful planning or else they will be knocking into things because they can't turn when they ought to.

The god of conflicts took his job as the observer very seriously. He scanned the two fighters and made sure that none of them are carrying contraband of any kind. Then he swept his divine power over their bodies and locked down all of their runes. They won't be able to activate any runes that they have on them. The sanctity of a heroic feat has to be kept at a high standard so that it won't be disqualified.

Chapter 316 The Betting Pool.

The god of conflict discovered something interesting about Helios when he tried to lockdown his runes. He kept a straight face while muttering to himself, 'Interesting, very Interesting.'

He announced to everyone. "I proclaim these two ready for the battle to the death."

The two fighters were escorted to the fighting ring amidst cheering and praises. People began to bet, even the gods. While the people were betting on wealth, the gods were betting on what really mattered, which is entertainment and luxury.

"I bet my prized golden talon fish-bird that the sky god wins."

"I bet by golden Apple that can give any mortal eternal life as long as they don't eat any type of apple in their life"

"I bet my prized tree of power that produces power fruit on that Tyke fellow. He has a good character. I believe his character will allow him to win."

"I bet the Godhood of a low god on the demigod of the sky god. Your divine lords can become official gods with it."

They are all betting that Tyke would win. Some of them don't want to offend the sun god so they cooked up some reason like Tyke's character for why they are betting on him. The sun god doesn't mind anyway. He isn't willing to bet. He had tricked the sky god into making this happen but it is only to even the playing field. He still doesn't have full faith in Helios. He can't help it, Helios is just too lazy.

The absence of the Rune weapons means Tyke won't be able to use his thunder hammer. Which means he won't be able to break Helios's strong body. Tyke will still have his speed advantage so anything can happen. The fight could go both ways so Stelios isn't willing to bet, but things rarely go your way.

The angel of the sky god that was talking earlier shouted his bet out as if to let everyone know.

"The sky god is betting 3 cores that once belonged to the demigods of the sun god."

The mortals didn't hear what the angel said. They continued betting amongst themselves as if they heard nothing, which of course is true. If they had heard that statement, then they might become collateral damage as a result of the clash of the sun and the sky god. The angel had the good sense to leave the mortals out of this issue.

Even Staniel became worried when he heard what the angel said.

'This isn't going to end well.' he said to himself.

The three cores that the sky god is betting might be worth a lot to mortals but they aren't worth much financial value to gods. The problem is that they used to belong to demigods of the sun god and one doesn't just offer their mana core to another person for safekeeping no matter how much you trust that person.

The only way a person will give up their mana core is if it is dug out of them forcefully or if you kill them, then dig it out of their corpse. So while it is worth a pittance financially, it is worth a lot of bragging rights to a god and a lot of trouble to a mortal. It is proof that the demigods of the sky god beat those of the sun god three times over. It is an honorable achievement to the sky god but a disgrace to the sun god.

Now the sun god can raise his nose and refuse to be bothered by the obvious taunting. Or he can take the bait and bet something so that he can recover the three cores if Helios wins. Or maybe, he should escalate the matter by betting with something that is sure to embarrass the sky god. The third option will give him pleasure regardless of the outcome of Helios' fight.

"Fine. I offer the head of one stupid demigod of the sky god that suddenly found its way to my doorstep."

The sun god took the bait and he offered something really tantalizing. He even showed the head in question to prove the authenticity of his bet. He displayed the preserved head of a giant with blue skin and a painful grimace. Now, no one can say he is making it up.

Now the gods in attendance became worried. The sun god has practically dug up a buried hatchet and is sharpening it for battle. He dug up the corpse of a previous war and his flaunting it figuratively and literally.

At the height of a particularly nasty time in the history of the conflict between the two grand gods, a very shining demigod of the sky god rose to glory. He had a lot of heroic feats and for his twelfth feat that will guarantee him Godhood, he decided to draw the blood of the sun god.

He challenged the sun god in a duel under the rites of heroic passage. The sun god was to battle him while suppressing his strength. That demigod only needs to draw blood to win and acquire his twelfth heroic feat.

Unfortunately, he lost to the sun god and he paid for the failure with his life. The sun god didn't need to kill him. In fact, killing a demigod that challenges a god is frowned upon because it will deter other demigods from doing stupid shit like that. The sun god killed the pompous but entertaining fool and robbed the other gods of his entertainment value.

It caused a huge rift between the two gods considering that the demigod only needed one more heroic feat to attain Godhood. Odds are he will be granted one anyway since he was such an entertaining fellow. Even worse is that the sun god refused to give up the body. It led to a divine war that ended when the sun god gave up the core and the body of the demigod while receiving a lot of benefits.

Chapter 317 Trickery.

Stelios received a lot of benefits for returning the body of the demigod but he never did return the head. Back then, when he was asked about the head of the demigod, Stelios had said that he destroyed it.

Now he is betting the head of a demigod of the sky god. What are the odds that it belongs to another demigod? Practically none. The sky god has a lot of kids but not many of them have winded up on the doorstep of the sun god and left their heads behind for safekeeping.

Staniel groaned when he saw the head that the sun god displayed for his item.

"He clearly didn't put much effort into his excuse for having it. If he had said that he found it on the roadside, it would have been a better excuse than it showing up on his doorstep."

This time he shared his misgivings out loud with his siblings around him.

"How many of us will die this time if a divine war breaks out?"

"That nasty fellow. He could have just gone after a lesser god or a god of cooking. Now he is still troubling us in his death."

"A divine war is good. Things have been boring lately."

They began chatting enthusiastically about the ensuing conflict. This is not the first time that war has been declared and some of them are looking forward to it. The reality of divine war became a lot more real when the grand god of the sky and tempest manifested as an avatar and descended from the sky into the midst of the gods. He didn't create sand storms or winds or thunder. His actions were silent, calm but brooding.

He nodded at the sun god, "Stelios."

The sun god nodded back, "Harkam."

The

Harkam the sky god took a look around the party and spoke. "Nice party. It is not great, but it is nice."

Stelios replied, "It was better before you arrived."

Harkam glared at him, "I knew that I would enjoy this but now I know that I will enjoy it even better. I want to be here to see your face when another of your demigod gets smashed to bits by one from my lineage. Then I want to see the regret for this stunt that you just pulled."

Stelios glared back, "It wouldn't compare to how you looked when I killed that stupid showboater. What was his name again? I think it was asshole."

"It was Pitran and you know it," Harkam yelled at him.

Staniel almost cursed where he is sitting among the demigods, "Why did you have to bring up his name? Now we are fighting for sure."

It is one thing to have a nameless head. People can ignore it. But to name it is to draw purpose to that head. Now the head can't be ignored, and neither can they pretend not to know who the head belongs to in the future.

Every god and divine lord can see that it is the calm before the storm that they are experiencing but no one stepped forth to stop it. Even when the two opposing gods calmly began betting with more important things of actual value, no one went forward to stop them. What fun is there in that? Eternal life can be boring without some action here and there. What's the worst that will happen? Some mortals and demigods will die because of a divine war. Their death will be worth it.

Helios and Tyke got into the stage after their preparations. They have pulled off their robes and are only wearing a cloth tied around their waists. Tyke stood 18 meters tall. If not for the boosts that Helios is experiencing which put him at 15m, he would be way too short compared to his opponent.

Their bodies have been bared, showing the tattoos they have. People could see the various tattoos that Tyke has. They were in awe of the intricate workmanship of his runes. A Stigmata is a beautiful piece of art. It is the will of God enforced with not only divine power but the Order of the world.

Helios on the other hand made people scratch their heads in confusion. Either there are no tattoos on his body or he has invisible ones. The stigmata that Stelios is marking on his body aren't completed yet so it isn't showing on his body.

A god spoke his thoughts out loud, "Either he doesn't have any runes or he has one in his crotch that we can see."

As a god, this entity has eliminated the invisible tattoos theory because no tattoo can be invisible under the true sight of a god.

A lot of them were confused. It was the sky god that found the answer first. He came to the simplest answer pretty quickly no matter how unreasonable it may seem.

He screamed and pointed at Stelios. "You tricked me. He doesn't have any runes."

The simplest answer is probably the right answer. If there's someone very good at arriving at the simplest answer it is the sky god. Complicated answers might be beyond his reach, but the simple ones are his forte. It may be a little too late now though.

Stelios clapped grandly, "Congratulations Harkam. Ever the quick thinker." He said with a voice dripping with sarcasm.

Harkam turned away from Stelios and focused on the fight. 'It's okay. Tyke is 50 years old. That shrimp of a boy is only 20 years old. There's no way Tyke will lose.'

Tyke is also confused after checking out his opponent. So he asked Helios, "Why don't you have a rune?"

Helios replied. "What does having a Rune matter? We can't use it anyway."

"You're going down," Tyke growled as they circled each other.

They prowled and stalked each other like predators rearing to engage in a fight for dominance. Such fights are usually violent and deserve a serious atmosphere but one of the predators doesn't think so.

"This is so good. There's even banter. I think I'm supposed to say, 'It is you that will be going down.'"

Helios' cheery voice ruined the solemn atmosphere.

Chapter 318 Signs Of Stupidity.

Tyke became even more confused. "What are you talking about?"

He didn't finish that question before Helios lunged for him. Tyke was startled by the sudden movement. He stepped back on reflex and Helios missed.

"You're dishonorable," Tyke shouted as he evaded Helios.

He is faster than Helios so he can always avoid Helios' attempts to make contact. Helios is on the offensive but all his attempts have been futile. He can't get a grip on his opponent. Still, he wasn't flustered.

"And you're stupid," Helios said with a grin.

He roared at Helios, "I am not stupid."

"Then why did I call you stupid? I can't be mistaken. You have all the signs of stupidity."

Tyke's voice got even louder. "Shut up."

Helios smirked. "You see why I said you're stupid. You're supposed to make me shut up not ask me nicely like a stupid boy."

His continuous comment on Tyke's intelligence finally got to him. He attacked Helios with a punch in a bid to shut his opponent up. His movement was fluid, smooth, and fast. There was no wastage in

movement at all. He has an instinctual ability to move quickly and efficiently too. It is an indication of progress in mastering momentum.

Tyke is displaying the weapon form, the ability to move your body in the best way to maximize the use of your weapon. In this case, his weapon is his fist. All demigods of the sky god have it. It is one of the benefits of moving without thinking, it is practically an instinct for them.

Helios grabbed his opponent's hand and pulled him in. He had seen the attack before it was made. He saw the change in Tyke's expression that indicated a decision to attack. The shift in Tyke's posture and shoulders telegraphed his chosen method of attack. But Helios wasn't going to underestimate his opponent. The attack could be a feint. He would be fooled if he mistakenly takes it as a real attack.

That's why he decided to turn the attack, whatever it is, into a real but shoddy attack. His pull on Tyke's hand was more of a jerk. Tyke was pulled off balance. He fell forward while trying to shift his posture and get his hand forward to stop his fall. It was then that his face came in contact with Helios' knee.

Such intimate contact is not pleasant to experience. His nose broke as his head was knocked back. It disoriented him for a bit. He couldn't recover before he received another blow to his face. Helios had taken advantage of his moment of vulnerability and punched him.

It felt like he struck his head against a mountain. His head was returning to its normal position after being kneed in the face when that punch hit it and pushed it back into its previous painful and unnatural position. The bones of his spine squeaked in protest as they bore the brunt of the damage. The flesh of his face spilled open like spoilt fruit but the ordeal isn't over yet.

Helios grabbed Tyke's hand with his two hands and threw him over his shoulders. He landed with an impact that shook the stage. Then Helios picked him up again and threw him around like a sack of produce. Each impact on the stage dealt heavy blunt damage to Tyke's body.

Sadly, no one could hear the sound of flesh being traumatized brutally because of the sound of cheering. The spectating crowd was going wide with glee. They were shouting and getting their throats hoarse with it. They were chanting the name of the demigod of the sun god. The gods were also cheering for him. Even the ones that placed their bets on Tyke were excited. There's nothing more exciting than watching an underdog create an upstart. It is especially exciting when it is the smaller guy throwing the bigger guy around. Each contact of Tyke's face against the ground thrilled them.

The sun god was shocked by the display but he showed a smug smile opposite to the grim look on Harkam's face.

Harkam couldn't take it anymore, "Stop it. I call for an intervention."

Helios was frozen in the midst of throwing Tyke around. He became stuck trying to slam his opponent on the ground. His opponent whom he was forcing to make intimate contact with the ground also froze in the air with blood leaking from his broken lips, smashed nose, and swollen face. The drops of blood forcefully evicted from Tyke's body froze in the air like shiny purple pearls.

Everyone turned to the Observer. He was the one that froze the match and it is his job to resolve this issue and resume the fight.

The god of conflict asked Harkam. "On what grounds?"

Harkam answered with an aggrieved tone. "I was tricked, the boy doesn't have any runes."

"Dismissed. You chose the competition mode. You can't change it now that the fight is underway. Do you have any other reason?"

The god of conflict was supposed to resume the fight immediately since Harkam's claim for divine intervention was dismissed. Each patron of the parties involved in a challenge like this has a single opportunity for divine intervention. But he gave Harkam another opportunity in the hopes that the fight will be more interesting.

Harkam struggled to find something to say that will make things go in his favor. He was finding it hard to come up with one. He felt like raging out and causing some damage, maybe killing a few people but he couldn't. The rules that govern the ways of life of the gods were placed there for a reason which is to entertain the gods.

The rules have added order to the lives of gods and must be adhered to even if he is a grand god. Breaking a rule will cost him far more than a demigod because the entity that set the rules is not going to take breaking rules lightly. So he has to come up with something that agrees with the rules of engagement and will turn things in his favour.

Chapter 319 Destiny Has Spoken.

He asked for the thing that usually works for him because he can't come up with something better.

"I call for the decision of fate through the introduction of an external item."

It probably won't work but on the off chance that it did, the situation will move in his favor. There's practically nothing to lose.

Most shook their heads in pity. They don't think the proposal will work even if it passes the judgment of the Observer. Tyke is not in a favorable situation. It will take a lot to change his situation.

The god of conflict considered the proposal. 'On the one hand, it is a stupid thing to ask for. It won't help Tyke at all unless he has truly been chosen by fate to survive this fight. I doubt that since the god of fate is such an asshole. On the other hand, it will make the fight more interesting.'

He nodded his head in approval. "The motion passes. Does the other party accept? If he does, he can specify the external object."

The sun god considered the situation carefully. Everything is in his favor so he doesn't need to take a risk. But if he refuses, he will be robbing the other gods of more stakes in their entertainment.

He made his decision. "I agree and I select the ceremonial blade."

Everyone clapped because of his agreement. Things would escalate soon enough.

"The other party has agreed and the external object has been selected. Let the fight resume." The god of conflict declared.

Helios was made to let go of Tyke. The two of them were separated and made to stand at opposite ends of the stage. A short blade was placed in the middle of the stage. The short blade will be a large sword for other size-challenged races but it is a short blade for giants. Then the two fighters were released.

Harkam shouted to his son. "Run Tyke. Grab the blade. Grab it quickly."

He was joined by most of the spectators. They all wanted the one losing to gain an edge. Tyke was frozen in mind and soul so he didn't know what happened. He was about to be slammed on the ground then he found himself suddenly on the ground. It's not like he was fully aware before he was frozen, getting your head knocked into the ground like a hammer does that to you. The sudden change only made his confusion worse. Still, the voice of his father roused him.

He struggled to right his vision and stand from his unsightly position on the ground. He rumbled a lot of times but he managed to get up. Then he began running towards the blade. The bruises on his body ached, that's for those that are not bleeding.

There are a lot of broken bones, internal damage, and external bleeding but he can't give up. He finally has a chance to turn the situation around and he must take it. Death can motivate you to go above and beyond even when your body is screaming concerns about it just being an inch away from falling apart. He gritted his teeth and moved through the pain.

The call for the decision of fate through the introduction of an external object usually works for demigods of the sky god because they are the fastest demigods. They usually reach the introduced object first. It is not the same here.

Helios was aware when he was frozen. It irked him to no end that someone froze his body like that and interfered in his fight but he didn't show it. Weakness is not a sin, not knowing your position in the hierarchy is a bigger sin. He knows his position as a source of entertainment to the gods because he is weak so he can't act out. He doesn't have enough strength to handle them yet. He is also aware of the game that the gods are playing by introducing the blade but he is unconcerned about it.

If there is someone that he has the strength to handle, it is Tyke. Having a blade won't matter. He was willing to fight the twin demigods even with the use of their rune weapons. Stelios' machinations only reduced the challenge.

A ceremonial blade that isn't a mana weapon is like giving a handicapped person a cane to stand with. It won't make the handicapped person suddenly able to run. They will barely be able to walk with it.

Helios walked slowly while watching Tyke rushing for the blade with all his might like a lifeline but what he succeeded in doing is limping really fast to the blade. He picked up the sword with glee and held it like a dagger. His bruised face was radiant as if he has received liberation. He then prepared himself for Helios.

He isn't the only one happy with the situation. Harkam's face lit up. He raised his hands and shouted, "Destiny has spoken."

Everyone cheered with him. They raised their voice in excitement and clapped. Some even whistled.

Helios found the sight funny. Both Tyke and Harkam seem ridiculous to him. In fact, all of these seem stupid to him. The gods have created rules that limit them just like the law of order does to the mortals.

The rules are important of course, considering the influence of gods and their activity on the plane. The gods have been entrenched too much in mortal affairs and if they are allowed to do whatever they want, the mortal realm will suffer drastically. The problem is that their rules have rubbed him the wrong way and that's something he can't stand.

He can't make fun of the gods or act out yet, so he asked Tyke with a voice dripping with derision. "Can you even use that?"

Tyke could hardly keep one eye open. The other eye has closed up shop. His mouth is filling up with blood from his bleeding lips. He can't stand straight or turn his neck quickly. His body aches all over from all the damage. He is in pain so Helios can understand why he isn't talking to answer his question.

Chapter 320 A Farce.

"Well then come over. That blade won't stab me from over there." Helios taunted him.

Tyke considered the distance between them. He indeed needs to get within arm's reach of Helios, but he isn't willing to move. Moving is a bit difficult for him right now. He will gladly prefer for Helios to come to him. He shook his head slowly to signify his reluctance to move.

Helios dashed forward the moment he turned his head sideways to execute his slow head shake. Tyke saw him coming and wasn't flustered. He knew he has lost his previous speed and agility. He can't evade the strike so he readied his weapon and prepared his stance. Then he stabbed forward the blade.

"This is almost no challenge." Helios thought to himself as he sidestepped the attack.

Tyke tried again with all he has. His hand moved in a blur of motion as he swiped the blade toward his opponent. The stab had been a faint but Helios didn't fall for it. Helios bent down and the blade went over his head.

Then Helios punched him in the belly so that Tyke can finally let go of all the blood he has been accumulating in his mouth. Blood spurted out of Tyke's mouth and he bent over in pain. He wasn't disoriented by the blow, so he saw what Helios did next as clearly as he can with the blurry vision of his one partially open eye.

Helios stood up, turned, and delivered a roundhouse kick to Tyke's head. Tyke tried to block with his other hand but it did nothing to lessen the impact. The sole of Helios' feet slammed into his face and pushed him back. Tyke suddenly found himself flying.

He fell down and Helios jumped on him before he could get up. He held his neck and began punching his face. His fist met the flesh of Tyke's face and broke it, then it smashed into the exposed flesh to reveal more of it over and over again. He tenderized his opponent's face as one will tenderize meat.

Tyke struggled to resist but he couldn't push Helios away. He became powerless when more and more blows struck his head. His purple blood spilled everywhere. He groaned in pain and begged for mercy but none heard his strained pleas. The crowd was going wild. The sound they made covered the desperate cries of the doomed demigod.

"Kill him!" "Kill him!" "Kill him!"

The crowd is in a frenzy of excitement. They clamored for him to kill Tyke. There is purple blood everywhere, on the ground, on the body of both fighters, and more is still coming out. Blood leaked out of Tyke's face as Helios' fists sought to level it. He slammed the back of Tyke's head down on the stage when he became satisfied with his gory work.

"You hear that, little guy? They want me to kill you." He said to the disoriented Tyke.

Tyke can't hear what he is saying. There's only a buzzing drone in his skull. It could be due to the bursting of his eardrums or all the blood filling his head.

"I'm going to kill you and I'm going to do it well."

Helios picked up the ceremonial blade and held it to Tyke's throat. His actions riled up the crowd. They cheered more and whistled.

Then he began to behead the helpless demigod. Except the blade isn't sharp. It can't break Tyke's skin. Stelios had agreed to the intervention but he chose a dull blade. The blade is purely ceremonial and can't hurt a mana entity because it is made of materials fitting for those of vitality core stage refiners since any mana equipment will break around giants of order. The blade should be useless no matter whose hands it fell in. Stelios was protecting his interest.

Helios became increasingly angry. The fury that he had been burying within him began to boil. "This whole thing is a farce."

He stopped trying to behead the incapacitated demigod. Instead, he placed the blade into Tyke's mouth. Tyke couldn't resist no matter how much Harkam shouted for him to do so. Helios held his head and placed it on the ground. Then he smashed the prone head with his foot. The blade pierced the defenses of Tyke's mouth and went into his neck.

It is then that Tyke began struggling more and more but Helios held him down while using the ground to push the blade farther in. Death is coming to his opponent and he had brought about that death through the work of his hands. He should feel satisfied, but through it all, he only felt anger.

'I am not happy.'

He was eager to fight and was enjoying himself when it started despite what Stelios did but now it has become a chore. That nonsense with the intervention ruined the experience for him.

'Someone has died. And for what?'

Helios has no problem with killing. Either for his pleasure or for actual benefits. Ending someone's life is the right of the strong. The weak have no choice but to die. But here he is, the victor of a Deathmatch, unhappy with his victory. The fight that he was looking forward to became a game because of some rules. He killed Tyke not because of his amusement, but for the entertainment of the gods.

The blade finally finished its gory work. Tyke stopped struggling as he is embraced by death. His broken and disfigured arms flopped uselessly by his side. His legs twitch occasionally but he is surely dead. Helios raised his bloody hands to the cheers of the crowd.

'Enjoy it while you can. The day of reckoning will come soon.' he thought to himself as he smiled.

He has become an entertainer for all these people, mortals and divine alike. He fought and killed for their pleasure, not his. He believes everyone has the right to do whatever they want. He wouldn't mind unless their actions are against his interest. Their actions have vexed him and they must be prepared to pay the price.