

GREED 321

Chapter 321 Know Your Place.

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. He was interested in a fight to enjoy himself after being cooked up his place for years but their rules robbed him of his excitement. He didn't allow the law of Order to restrict him nor will he allow the rules of the gods to bind him.

'I will bring fire and chaos to you. I will be the spark of chaos that will bring change. I will give you the opportunity to better yourself. It will be up to you if you will burn or become stronger for it.' He promised silently.

He took Tyke's body and began dragging it away. It is his spoil of war. They already robbed him of the pleasure of killing Tyke. They won't rob him of the opportunity to research the mana core of a demigod and the runes on his body.

Stelios began to laugh. "Who would have thought that the weapon I selected helped in killing your demigod."

Harkam remained silent.

The god of conflict coughed before adding in. "Yes, how creative. That Helios boy has some talent. What do you think about the fight Harkam?"

The god of the sky and tempest glared at the god of conflict. His electric eyes promised gruesome acts of violence to the god of conflict if he so much as said another word. He has lost a lot today both in terms of respect which he lost because of the fight and actual financial power which he lost in the betting. He is trigger-ready, just looking for someone to take out his anger on. Unfortunately, the god of conflict suddenly became mute. He turned to his remaining demigod when he was satisfied with his target's silence.

"Let's go."

Then he transformed into lightning-infused dust wind and disappeared into the sky. The two angels transformed too and lifted Tanya up into the skies and into the divine plane.

The god of conflict laughed awkwardly after the sky god left. "Harkam was right. Your celebration was just nice. It wasn't great. But the fight made it great. For that we have him to thank."

He antagonized the sky god earlier, now he is antagonizing the sun god in Harkam's absence. It is just his nature to fan the flames of dispute.

The sun god replied icily. "Maybe. But it isn't something I should be hearing from you. We are not that close."

"My apologies Ancient Sun. I overstepped. You have a genius for a demigod. He took after you."

The high god of conflict hurriedly apologized for his comment and returned to socialize with the other gods.

For a moment there he forgot that the power granted to him as an observer due to the rules has run out. He isn't an Observer anymore. A high god cannot say whatever he wants to a grand god especially if that grand god is the sun god. It isn't only the sky god that is quick to anger. The sun flares up all the time too. So he apologized and left quickly.

Everyone was having a good time. The celebration was epic. A demigod died in a gruesome fight. Gods antagonized each other. Bets were placed. Some won and some lost. But they were all happy. All except Helios the celebrant.

He carried the mangled corpse of his foe on his shoulder as he returned to his quarters. He has blood all over his body and more is still leaking out from his dead foe. The purple blood forms a stark contrast against his orange skin but he doesn't care about that. His face is rigid and unsmiling.

"Can I help you with that?" Hak asked with concern.

"No, I'm fine."

Hak tried again. "Maybe one of your guards should help."

"I said I'm fine."

Hak nodded. "Nice fight you had out there. I didn't think you would win."

"You thought I would die?" Helios asked.

"I didn't think you would die. Your body is too strong for your age and he is merely faster than you. I thought it would be two children brawling messily since there won't be any Rune weapons."

"You were wrong."

"Yes, I was wrong. Things escalated quickly. It was still messy but it wasn't a brawl. It was a death match and it was glorious. How did you become so good at fighting? You're just a kid." Hak asked.

Helios scoffed. "Just a kid."

Being referred to as just a kid amuses him. He thought back to all he has experienced and he shook his head. These people stand before greatness but don't recognize it. They think of him as a child and just a child.

It is understandable why his performance came to Hak as a shock. Giants of Order are not blessed with powerful minds. It is most likely because of the law fragments in their bodies. It affects their brain too and makes learning difficult for them. A 50-year-old giant of order is a kid and has the mindset of a child. A matured giant of order is at least several hundred years old.

Hak continued to speak with excitement. "I know that Demigods are smarter than normal but no demigod 20 years of age can do what I saw today."

"I told you I'm a genius," Helios replied.

"You must have been blessed with more intelligence from the sun god. Praise be to the sun god." Now Hak's eyes are aglow with worship for his god.

Helios rolled his eyes and said, "It has to be that. What other reason can it be?"

It is the norm among religious people to attribute pleasant occurrences to gods and unpleasant things to tests from gods or demonic acts. It is why Hak is attributing his astounding behavior to the blessings of the sun god. He isn't even being given credit for his outstanding performance in entertaining them. It is like adding insult to injury.

Chapter 322 The Tune Of Violence.

He was forced to have this celebration because giants of Order are set in their ways. He doesn't mind that. They can have a celebration if they want to have a celebration. But they forced him to attend. That's already bad enough. Then they took the one thing that could have made the event pleasant for him. They turned him into a performer for them and now someone is even saying his performance is not because of his efforts.

It is one thing after the other. It is an insult upon insult and injury upon injury, but he can't do anything but sulk. He will make them pay. He will usher in pain and suffering to them. He will break open the gates of hell. Their whole world will come crashing down. They will all dance to the tune of violence that he will play for them. Then he will see how much fun they are having with it.

Hak proclaimed, totally oblivious to the raging emotions within Helios, "Your victory calls for a celebration."

"No more celebrations. I just want to perform my rune research in peace." Helios disagreed quickly.

He has had enough of celebrations. The debut release happened at N0v3lBiiin.

"I don't care about you. I mean me. I'll have my own private celebration. Have some friends over. Eat something nice like that portion of meat from the divine stag that I received two hundred years ago. I'll make some offerings to the sun god. I'll..."

Helios ignored Hak as he began planning his own party. He chose to focus on his future plans. His most important plan is to master Runes to the limit of what he can achieve. Something that can imitate creation is at the top of the list of important things to Legion.

Then he must master the law of order.

'I can't wait to see what will happen when I combine the law of order with rune making.' He thought wistfully.

Rune-making is already powerful as an imitation of creation by combining the law fragments of order with divine energy. The combination of the true law of order with divine energy is sure to create something more powerful. So he is looking forward to it.

He entered his study room with enthusiasm. There are drawings littered everywhere. He shoved the ones on the table aside and placed Tyke's body on the table.

'I'll see what I can get done before I clash with the gods.' he said as he began to work on it.

He plans to dissect this body and examine each part of it. Then run some experiments on rune making and the behavior of fragments of order. Tyke's body and the divine crystals he has will help him further his knowledge and understanding of runes. But he is bound to run out of divine power to use. He can make bets or try to earn some, but there's a much better way to have a constant supply of divine energy. He can just kidnap a god and then use that god as fuel for his needs.

Kidnapping a god won't be easy. But a clash with the gods is unavoidable. Apart from the possible enhancement that runes will undergo if he uses the law of order instead of fragments, there's also another way of possible enhancement through the use of divine Authority instead of divine energy gotten from it. All of these are in the interest of Legion to discover the nature of the authorities of gods.

Hadrick has given Soverick the results of his analysis of Godhood and Soverick has also done further analysis with his new and improved eyes. The second awakening of the Eyes of Heaven exposed some interesting things about the world. But Soverick has done his best. It is Helios' turn to do something about it. Helios has a plane full of gods after all, while Soverick ended the era of gods in his plane and destroyed the divine plane. So it is more conducive for him to make the necessary experiments regarding Authority.

The gods might be full of themselves but Helios thinks of them as research material that he can't get yet. He just needs enough strength and he will be able to gut them for pleasure or for research just like he is doing to Tyke's body. It is a tall order but he won't be alone in this endeavor. Help is on the way from two other clones of Legion.

80 Years After.

Helios is standing outside of Stelios' throne room for a meeting. The throne room is one of the places where Stelios keeps an avatar constantly. So it is the one sure place where anyone that wants to see the sun god can meet him. That surety doesn't exist in any other place in the mortal realm. Even prayer is a long shot at meeting with a god spiritually or not.

Helios doesn't want to be here because he doesn't want to meet the sun god. The sun god called for him. And since the sun god's word is the law around here, Helios has to be here no matter what he is doing before.

'He is even delaying me. Does he have no sense of punctuality? What a pompous prick.' He grumbled quietly.

The closest guard to him turned to him in suspicion. He probably thought Helios was talking to him. Helios ignored him and continued staring into space.

Being a demigod has not been easy on him. His current life has been grating on him for a long while. He might as well be a prisoner. He isn't in control of his life at all. A pompous prick that calls himself a grand god can just request for his presence anytime. Either he drops everything he is doing and answers the call or the sun god comes to him and drags him away. It has happened before. He refused the call for a meeting and Stelios opened a portal in his location and pulled him into it for the meeting.

Chapter 323 Bow To Your Father.

He frankly prefers to be dragged to a meeting. If Stelios wants to see him so badly then he should work for it. But he has been making strides in Rune making and he doesn't want Stelios to be aware of it. That's why he is here and why Stelios is taking him for granted by making him wait. You don't treasure something if it is readily available.

He is still working on rune making, but not the garbage that the giants of order call runes. He isn't mentally handicapped like them so it is natural that he makes progress beyond what they consider common sense. Some might say that he has mastered the current field of rune-making and achieved more in record time but he isn't impressed yet.

'I'll be impressed when I crack whatever Stelios is up to.' he thought to himself.

He didn't grumble this time. He doesn't want to risk "Blaspheming The Sun God." The punishment for that is a beheading. The punishment isn't severe for a demigod but he will still be punished. He learned his lesson the last time he did it.

He was asked to sweep and wash the stones of the largest pyramid in the city all because he said that religion is the most responsible for the wars and conflicts going on in the plane. It is the truth and he wasn't even targeting the sun god. Things escalated when Hak asked him if the sun god is also part of the reason for wars and he answered in the affirmative.

The time he wasted on the effort is punishment enough. The punishment delayed his research. He would have preferred something painful, which he asked for, but Hak maintained that the body of a demigod is sacred and mustn't be blasphemed either. So he learned his lesson that mouthing off is part of acting out and it is a bad idea when you're up against enemies much stronger than you. So he laid low while concentrating on his rune-making.

He succeeded in discovering the application of concepts to create phenomena with runes instead of objects that giants of Order are limited to. He even cracked the secret of stigmata and just like everyone says, the secret of stigmata is divine will. But he still can't fully crack the Stigmata that Stelios is carving on his body.

The will of a god is the refined will of thousands if not millions of people. Helios found it too difficult to crack on his own just like he couldn't crack the fragments of Order on his own when he was still a fetus. He would be able to if he has a stronger will or the assistance of soul force but his body is not strong enough to allow soul force. He doesn't have a body like Legion-3 that has been warped by chaos energy.

Speaking of body, he has made a lot of progress over the years in terms of refinement.

NAME: Helios (Legion-4)

TITLE: Child Of The Virut Plane.

RACE: Giant Of Order.

BLOODLINE: Sunfire Royal bloodline.

POWER LEVEL (BODY): Mana Body (Complete)

POWER LEVEL (SOUL): Soul Reformation (Complete)

PHYSIQUE: Half-Divine Body

HP: 100%

STAMINA: 100%

ENERGY LEVEL (BODY): Mana

ENERGY LEVEL (SOUL): Spiritual Energy

VITALITY: 2911

ENDURANCE: 3022

STRENGTH: 3242

AGILITY: 1001

PERCEPTION: 1,000,000,000

SPIRIT: 3000

LIMITER (BODY): 80%

LIMITER (SOUL): 0.000003%

DIVINE SENSE (GRADE): 300(B)

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 100%

LAW AFFINITY: 50%

ELEMENTAL AFFINITY (GRADE): FIRE (DIVINE), LIGHT (DIVINE), ORDER (DIVINE).

STATUS: Angry and Bitter.

He has grown stronger over the past 80 years. His height has increased to 30 meters at baseline while his maximum boost gives him an extra 10 meters. His body has reached 3 times the maximum stats of a mana entity. Only his speed refused to bulge. This sort of growth is very abnormal for his age.

A giant of order can grow to 4 times the maximum of a normal mana entity but it will take thousands of years. They don't have a supply of unlimited mana that can shorten that time and so have to stick to passively absorbing mana from the environment which has a low concentration of it because of the numerous Origin cycles of relentless absorption.

He shortened the time needed for his growth from three thousand years to a hundred years thanks to that special title of the child of the plain. He plans to wait to reach the limit which should be another 100 years. It also aligns with Legion's plan.

"You may come in." The sun god's voice rang out from inside the throne room.

The door of the throne room changed from being a solid object into a translucent barrier. Helios passed through the barrier at the entrance and found himself in a void. The void is empty, containing nothing except for the pathway that one can stand on. It will also be dark if not for the small star waiting at the end of the pathway.

Helios walked along the pathway until he stood beneath the star. Then he knelt and bowed his head solemnly.

He spoke. "You called for me, father."

He doesn't want to bow to what he considers a lesser being, even if that being is supposed to be his father, but unfortunately, he has to. He isn't Soverick living under weak accepting parents. Fortunately, things aren't so bad like the situation of Legion-5 with a merciless tyrant for a father so things aren't that bad either.

If he can sacrifice his life for the good of Legion then he can bow to a grand god no matter how much he loathes the act. Strength is absolute. He doesn't have enough strength, so he must bow. If he meets a world god, will he not bow? The opinion of the weak doesn't matter. Everyone can do whatever they want. If you're strong, then you can do whatever you want to a weaker person. It is the order of the world.

Chapter 324 Child Of The Sun.

Stelios replied to Helios' greeting.

"Yes, I called to speak to you about some urgent matters." The sun god's voice came through the star.

You would think that Stelios is a star but no, he is not. Helios knows enough to determine that he is just making himself look like a star. The two of them are very different. If Stelios were a celestial god, then he would have a shot at being a star. A star is a Celestial entity that turns Origin gods, no matter how

crazy like Guntu, into ashes. Stelios is far from the power of such an entity. He is just posing grandly but Helios isn't impressed.

'If it were urgent then you would have come to me immediately and you wouldn't have let me wait outside your throne room like some unwelcome suitor.' Helios doesn't agree with Stelios at all on the urgency of the discussion but he chose wisely to keep it to himself.

His opinion was proven right when Stelios began to scan his body with his divine sense. Stelios just wanted him here, close by for his routine thorough scan.

He spoke after assessing Helios' body. "You have become strong in an unprecedented fashion. You have even created your rune. It is fine work too."

The strength of his body didn't escape Stelios' search neither did his newly completed rune. His entire body except for a small circular area on his back is covered with golden intricate tattoos drawn with characters lesser than a millimeter in size packed together.

Even Stelios knows enough to tell that it is fine work. Helios would call it the peak of rune making but he isn't one to toot his horns. He can't be giddy about this success when he still hasn't cracked Stelios' Stigmata. He has to admit that Stelios might be very good with runes.

A Stigmata is made with both knowledge and divine will. Since he has mastered the knowledge, he knows how the Stigmata works but not what it wants to do. The Stigmata that Stelios is drawing on his back is a sort of gate like that of Staniel's portal rune. It connects Helios's body to an unknown dimension.

He knows all of that but he doesn't know where it connects to and how to trigger the stigmata to work. That's the part obscured by the divine will. He has put in some failsafe to siphon the energy of the portal to delay its activation for now. That's all he can do for now. He can block the portal when he becomes a transcendent but it isn't time for that yet.

Stelios spoke after admiring the rune for a while.

"It is a fine work indeed. Your skills for rune making are top-notch."

He liked the rune more the more he examined it and felt impressed that Helios has been able to achieve so much in short a short time.

"My theoretical knowledge may be top-notch but my practical ability is still lacking. It took me years to do something that would have taken other Rune masters days to do." Helios said humbly.

"You are young so it is normal. What is the name of the rune and what does it do?" Stelios asked.

"I call it the child of the sun. It allows me to use the power of the sun core better." Helios replied.

Stelios chuckled. "You're so eccentric. You didn't create a weapon but instead tried to use your core with your body. You could have waited to become a transcendent. You would have been able to achieve it then without wasting your space for runes."

He explained. "I want to confirm something for my research and need to achieve this now."

He wasn't lying. He just isn't telling the sun god that he invented evolvable runes that will become powerful when he becomes a transcendent and will continue to grow till he becomes a titan of law. The rune is a concept in the making. It just needs laws and energy. This will ensure that it doesn't become obsolete. Unlike other giants of order that don't worry about that since they can't go past transcendence, he has a promising future.

"The first agenda for this meeting is to complete your Stigmata. It has been many years since I started and it is almost complete. Turn your back to me." Stelios said.

Helios did as he was told. The sun god got to work immediately on the Stigmata. His divine sense attached to Helios's back and began etching runes with his divine energy. It is a painful process but Helios was stoic throughout the process.

The marking of the Stigmata began when he was 10 years old, so he is already used to the process. Stelios usually calls him every ten years to write a portion of the stigmata. This will be the tenth and final addition to the Stigmata.

Stelios finally completed the stigmata so the free circular space on his back became tattooed with the image of the sun. The image is so vivid and life-like that it is actually moving. The tentacles attached to the round star are waving up and down. Helios was shocked and very impressed.

He asked Stelios, "This is strange, I haven't seen this type of rune before. What does it do, father?"

He has never seen this Stigmata on other divine lords who used to be demigods of the sun god. Demigods of the sun usually get the star bow on their 10th birthday. The second rune for their 20th is up to them but Stelios didn't give him the Star bow. He has enough justification to be curious and question the sun god without appearing suspicious.

"I call it the Hand of the Sun God. It is the fruit of my research. With it, you can call for assistance and I can bestow divine power on you. The amount you can handle is dependent on how much you can take. With it with you, you will always have my assistance." Stelios' voice was full of pride.

Chapter 325 Nothing To Worry About.

"Thank you, father. I don't deserve it." Helios bowed and said with appreciation.

"It is a life preservation method. A son deserves to be protected by his father."

"Will I be in any danger soon?" Helios asked.

He hasn't ever gone out of the innermost city of the sun since he was brought here as a baby. There has been nothing to protect him from. So why will need a life-preservation method?

"Well, there is. There's an opportunity for a heroic feat in the mortal realm. An ant queen is about to evolve to become a demigod. From there it will become a god. You are to kill it before it becomes a demigod." Stelios answered.

"I assume there will others there to claim this heroic feat."

"Yes, there will. A single person cannot take on the colony. So the news was announced. There will certainly be danger."

A heroic feat is a very valuable thing to demigods. They will swarm a heroic quest as soon as it becomes available. Normally, news of heroic quests is kept secret and hoarded but in this situation, a single demigod cannot take on an ant colony so the news was made known to the public for more demigods to take on the colony and ensure the completion of the heroic quest. Such news makes demigods happy.

But Helios isn't happy. "Maybe I shouldn't go if it's so dangerous enough for you to give me such a powerful Stigmata. I'll rather stay here and do research. Besides, you already have a lot of divine lords. There's no need for me to risk my life."

Heroic quests and the feats they reward with are not valuable to Helios. He doesn't care about made-up things used by gods to entertain themselves.

The sun god sighed. "With danger comes rewards. If you acquire the heroic feat, I'll grant you a sun core."

Helios' dull eyes lit up at that promise of a sun core.

"I will go to the ends of the mortal plane and do everything I can possibly do to acquire that heroic feat." Helios slapped his chest and promised grandly.

Stelios was satisfied with his enthusiasm even though it is motivated by something else. He knows that Helios would probably not try his best unless incentivized. It has been known that Helios won't do anything you ask him without offering him something in exchange.

A heroic feat might seem big to another just like a first rune weapon is but Helios is someone that doesn't care about those things. He might be a fake father but that doesn't mean he doesn't care about Helios. He cares and also tries to get to know his adopted son. So he knows Helios' ticks and eccentricities.

"That's good to hear. You may go. I wish you success."

Helios saluted once before he returned to the exit. Then he left the throne room. Stelios watched him go with mild amusement and curiosity. He understood that Helios isn't like other giants of order. That's the

reason why he chose to adopt him. Helios is smarter and stronger than giants of Order his age. That fight 80 years ago where he pummeled Tyke is still vivid in his memory.

Helios is also weird. There are some things that giants consider normal that he will balk at and refuse to accept. It was because of his refusal to get a rune weapon that made Stelios trick Harkam.

Helios continued to refuse a rune. He still didn't get one during the third private ceremony to celebrate his third star. He was supposed to have the mark of the family but he refused to get one no matter how his siblings, the divine lords tried to convince him. Even bribes didn't work at that time.

Helios finally got his runes after many years. Stelios doesn't consider himself a fool. There has to be something special about the runes that Helios finally chose after years of refusal. Either that or Helios is just some ordinary boy throwing a tantrum. Since Helios is not a stupid child, Stelios suspects that Helios is hiding the true purpose of the rune from him.

The little Helios mentioned of its purpose is already amazing so the rest of it must be spectacular. Stelios didn't push for more because it doesn't matter if Helios is hiding something from him.

He is not concerned because smart or not, what can a child do to harm an entity numerous Origin cycles old? Even if that were possible, what can a mortal ever do to harm a god? If that is possible too, what can a mortal do to harm a grand god? That becomes even more unlikely because he is no ordinary grand god. He is the ancient grand god so he has nothing to worry about from a child that he watched being given birth to.

"I'll see it soon. He has to display it." Stelios said in anticipation.

Stelios was forced to make Helios join in this heroic quest. He also doesn't want to endanger Helios in any way and risk losing his investment. He had to accept it and he didn't brood for long because the quest will help him achieve a lot of things.

He will get to see Helios use his Rune and he might get to see Helios use the Stigmata too. The stigmata will ensure that Helios remains safe and win if he uses it. The sun core he is offering will ensure that Helios tries his all to win, which means the Stigmata will certainly be used.

If Helios wins then he gets the sun core and another heroic feat, while Stelios wins a very large bet. Stelios' reward won't end there of course. If Helios absorbs the sun core, it will increase the amount of his divine power within Helios's core and will increase his investment in Helios.

He smiled to himself. "Then I'll have my salvation. It is like killing four birds with one stone."

To say that Stelios is looking forward to the success of his plan is an understatement. He has placed down the necessary chips. All he needs is for them to fall into place and nothing can change the outcome.

Chapter 326 Nothing But More Divine Power.

Back To Helios.

Helios immediately began inspecting his body as soon as he exited the throne room. His soul scanned the stigmata and the changes it has undergone. He rushed to his research room for privacy and activated the privacy runes he had set up for good measure. Then he laid face first on the table and activated his rune pen. A translucent pen with a shining crystal on top of it rose from its position where it was clipped to the side of the table.

It hovered on Helios's back and began draining the divine energy in the crystal. The translucent pen filled up with a golden liquid and turned into a golden pen before it lowered itself onto Helios's back. Then it began to etch very tiny golden characters used to form larger characters that made up the golden runes on Helios' back.

Helios is controlling it with his mind through his divine sense. Giants of order don't have a divine sense unless they are demigods or until they become transcendents. Their body is a prison that cages their soul. He is a demigod with a very powerful soul, so he can control the rune pen better than anyone. His perception allowed him to make runes within runes and runes on top of runes, a concept beyond the knowledge of other runes masters.

He has become a forerunner in the field of rune making and yet it took him 5 days of non-stop work for him to complete the failsafe for a Stigmata that Stelios didn't take a total of 5 hours to write from beginning to end. The Stigmata is too complex.

He rose from the table and sighed in relief when he was done.

"That's done. Now to see what it really is."

He is not going to take some random god's word for it even if that god calls himself his father. He doesn't want to go around with a bomb on his body so he has to be sure of what the Stigmata is. Since it's completed he can see what it does and if it isn't favorable, he will become wary of it and double down on the failsafe. He will be able to plan better with more information.

He activated the Stigmata. The image of the sun on his back lit up and began to shine. It really looks like he has a three-dimensional star on his back. It is even radiating heat. The failsafe around the runes kicked in and began to fill up with divine power.

"Nothing else is coming out. It is just like Stelios said it does." Helios was perplexed.

The fail-safe he inscribed is a complex formation of runes without a purpose. They are empty and will fill up with energy from the Stigmata. If an object tries to come through the Stigmata, it will be delayed until the failsafe is filled up. He can use up the energy in the failsafe to power his other runes if he doesn't want the Stigmata to work. That is unless the failsafe is overloaded with input.

But if what Stelios said is true, the failsafe will fill up with energy that is divine power coming straight from the stigmata and only that. In that case, the failsafe wouldn't overload because it is not even needed.

Divine power amplifies the power of a demigod in a way similar to how their mana core works. The amplification of the mana core is permanent because of the divine energy within its focal point, while the boost from divine power is temporary because it is external. But the amplification of divine power is higher since it is from a god while the core is demigod level.

"So it is just a large sun core on my back. Could I be mistaken?" He asked himself.

He had expected something worse to happen from the stigmata. He doesn't trust anyone, certainly not Stelios and he certainly won't trust whatever comes out of his mouth. But as far as he can tell, all Stelios is doing is giving him a means of protection.

"Let's see."

He tapped into the divine power and he began to grow taller and bigger. It proved that the Stigmata is doing what Stelios said it will do. It is harmless and even beneficial. It seems he had been worried for nothing.

He shook his head and stopped thinking about contingencies.

"Extraordinary. This stigmata is just extraordinary. Maybe I am being paranoid. There's no use for that now. I have done everything I can."

The Stigmata is not only helpful but it is also wonderfully made. The intricacies of its construction have impressed him. He has to admit that the sun god cannot be underestimated when it comes to runes. This admission also made him earlier of the Stigmata but there's nothing he can do about it. He is not intimidated by it but he can't decipher it yet because of the divine will within it. So he is giving up for now until someone that can help him arrives, which will be soon.

He clapped his hand merrily and said with eagerness, "I should prepare for the heroic quest. It's going to be a blast."

The amplification from the divine power on his back made him look forward to getting those sun cores. He will be able to increase the size of his sun core and get more power from it. But that's not why he is delighted about the heroic quest.

One of the most important things that the heroic quest is giving him is freedom from Stelios' constant supervision. The sun core is just a bonus he conned out of Stelios. He would have gone without the incentive but it worked out well after he showed reluctance to leave instead of eagerness.

Helios smiled to himself. "Plus it's my job to be the star of the show. It's like killing three birds with one stone."

The heroic quest is an opportunity for him to change things and he will take it.

Chapter 327 For Glory And For Honour Even Unto Death.

He has another reason for joining the quest apart from freedom and the sun core. The heroic quest will draw the attention of the gods which will be helpful to Legion-9. Helios knows enough about them to

know that they won't miss a good source of entertainment. It is his job to keep it interesting when it needs to be and dull when Legion needs it. Joining the heroic feat was a job before, but the sun core has given him something to look forward to.

Helios prepared quickly. There isn't much to be done to prepare except to burn some of his research data. He doesn't have much that he can take with him either since giants of order don't have anything valuable because of their anti-magic domain. But somehow they always manage to find a reason to fight and kill themselves.

Unlike other races that need to fight constantly for resources to grow stronger, giants of other don't need resources or need to actively cultivate for them to grow stronger. They just passively absorb vitality from the world and grow stronger. And yet they are always at each other's throats. They don't need worldly possessions to kill each other. They fight for their afterlife. It's like he said, the gods are the ones that are responsible for the wars in the plane.

But they punished him for stating the obvious.

"Well not anymore." He said as he looked at his room one last time.

He burned everything and left without taking anything. He didn't bring anything to the sun city and he won't take anything with him. Cardinal Hak escorted him out of the city when he is ready to leave.

"You have to be careful. A heroic quest is dangerous. There will be priests of the church of the sun waiting for you. A team of specially prepared individuals will be there to see to your needs and to assist you." The cardinal said to him.

His guardian continued to warn him and give him advice while his guards shoved people aside and created a path for him. The city has gone into an uproar when they heard that their resident demigod is going on a quest. Someone spread that information about his departure.

He asked Hak, "Did you tell people I'm leaving?"

"Yes, I did. A hero needs a proper send-off. It will give you good luck and the likelihood of you returning will increase when everyone prays for your safety."

Helios shook his head. He doubts prayer can do anything to help him. Even the god of the sun is practical and gave him something to keep him safe. Being practical is always best. Counting on miracles is folly.

He would have preferred to go alone and quietly but it seems that he won't be getting it. Instead, he is getting more unwarranted advice from the overly protective Hak.

The crowd is packed on both sides of the main street. People are jostling, pushing, and pulling on each other to get a look at him. They are shouting his name with fervor. There is curiosity and anticipation in the air.

"Yeah, yeah. I'm not a child anymore." He said to Hak as he waved to the people.

"Technically, you're just a teenager. You ..."

Helios interrupted Hak by raising his voice to give a speech to the cheering people.

"People of the sun city. Some of you know me and have seen me before, some of you haven't. I am not so conceited to believe that you have all heard of me. So I'll tell you who I am now. I am Helios, demigod of the ancient sun god. I am a HERO."

"Helios!"

They screamed his name and cheered. He continued after the crowd quiet down.

"As a hero, I have to do heroic things or die trying. It is my destiny to shine and go on shining or to shine and burn out. I pursue the feats of a hero so that I can ascend and become better than a hero. I have to become a glorious hero because the divine realm awaits a glorious hero. For now, I am just a hero. But I am your hero. I am the hero of sun city. Will you wish your hero well?"

"May the light of the sun be with you."

The crowd shouted at him.

"I want to hear your well wishes."

The volume of the crowd rose another notch as they wished him well.

"May the light of the sun be with you."

He formed fists with his hands and raised them into the air. He wore only an undergarment and a small cloth that doesn't reach his ankles tied and held around his waist with a girdle. His upper body and his legs are bare, so it showed off his well-defined body. He is like a buffed giant bodybuilder with packs and slabs of well-cut muscle, and golden tattoos all over his orange skin. The image of the sun on his back stood out to make him more heroic.

"For Glory And For Honour, Even Unto Death." His voice rang out loud even above the noise of the crowd.

The crowd echoed the creed of heroes, "For Glory And For Honour Even Unto Death."

It is what demigods live by. It is a summary of their life's purpose but said in a heroic manner. The truth is that the pursuit of glory and honour by demigods even till their death is for the glory, honour, and pleasure of the gods. The creed is just a gimmick that the gods sold to the mortals and they sold it very well.

The creed echoed throughout the city as more and more joined in saying it.

"For Glory And Honour Even Unto Death."

The creed has really caught on because gods are not the only ones entertained by the struggles of heroes. Mortals do too but they also aspire to achieve such feats. They want to live that kind of life. They want to be heroes. They want to be admired. They want to be strong. But all that glitters is not gold.

Chapter 328 The Ancient Sun God.

He looked at the city one last time.

'I doubt I'll miss this place.' he thought to himself.

He doesn't have any great memories here and he isn't attached to it in any way. He stayed cooped up in his residence for 100 years. He might not return here anymore if he has his way. This quest that he is going on will kick-start a lot of things. He might even die. So he will probably never return.

'That speech should be enough for the mortals and the divine. Now to leave.'

His tattoos began to light up. It turned his orange skin into golden yellow and his eyes into pure white. White tattoos appeared on his golden skin. His golden hair turned into a golden flame with the occasional streaks of red. Then he rose into the sky and flew away.

The crowd went into an uproar. Hak was the most shocked of all. He looked at the disappearing comet that used to be Helios with his mouth hung open.

"Did he just fly?" He asked aloud but no one is paying attention to him or his question.

Even the Spectating gods are not paying attention to him. They are also focused on Helios.

"What a demigod. Truly one of a kind. Even Transcendents can't fly. How did he do that?" The goddess of power and might asked Stelios.

She and her partner, the god of war came to visit the sun god and watch the heroic quest. The three of them are sitting on large fluffy chairs while angels are waiting on them. They are all in their giant form. Stelios is shining brightly. The goddess of power and might is buffed with rippling muscles that look like steel cables. The god of war is the most normal-looking one. He is just clad in blue metallic armor marred with bloodstains of different colors.

There's a large screen, about 100 meters in length and 60 meters in breadth in front of them. Helios' figure can be seen on it. He is streaking through the sky like a burning meteor.

"He isn't anything special. It's just his rune that's making him fly. It's very common." Stelios answered.

"A Rune can do that? But there are no moving parts. Who did he get the rune from?" The goddess of power and might became curious.

Giants of order can not use spells or magic because of their anti-magic domain unless they are demigods and become transcendents. Even then they are limited to spells that their divine power can use. If one of those two factors is missing, giants of order even if they are transcendents, can't use magic.

They also cannot fly naturally. It doesn't matter if they are mana entities or transcendents. It is just like the use of magic. Only special transcendent demigods can do it and demigods of the sun god are not among these special ones that can fly. The best alternative they can use is the help of runes. But such runes manifest at external aids like wings. So she is curious about where Helios got a rune that could cause him to levitate without external aids.

Stelios lied, "It is one of my works. I have never been able to use it but Helios has a special constitution."

What Helios has accomplished with his rune is more than groundbreaking, it is unimaginable. He made his body innately capable of flight. It is unheard of in the history of giants. He will be hounded if they suspect he created it. It is better for him if Stelios claims credit for the rune.

The gods will only be mildly surprised and greatly impressed if they think Stelios did it. Things will end there because he is powerful and they cannot ask about his secrets. They will be overly curious if they find out that a 100-year-old teenager did it. That will bring unwanted attention to Helios. So it is best that he claims credit so that no one investigates Helios because of it and discovers something out of the ordinary like how he is not shackled by order.

The goddess nodded, "That's true, you have always been good with runes."

Stelios laughed. "I haven't always been good with runes. I've just spent a lot of time on it. Time can make anyone an expert at something."

The goddess shook her head. "You're being modest. My father told me you have always been good with runes. You have a gift for it. Besides, you are not an expert. You're clearly an innovator in the field."

Stelios is ancient. He is so Ancient, that he is more than 30 times older than these two friends of his. Their faction is one that was established a long time ago by the first gods of war, power and might, and Stelios. Their faction has stayed together over the years. Stelios was friends with the father of the current goddess of power and might. He was also friends with her grandfather.

Demigods have a lot of uses for a god. One such use is to inherit the Godhood of a god when that god succeeds in the trail of heaven and switches to the path of perfection. Without a demigod, the divine domain will be torn apart because of conflict and strife by those that want to take over the domain.

A demigod will be able to smoothly transition as the controller of the domain since they have a divine core with the divine energy of that domain. To the mortals, it will be like the god that left, was never gone. There won't be divine wars and the churches won't spilt. Things will continue as they were with no one the wiser.

Stelios hasn't been able to leave his position as the sun god. His weakness stopped him from becoming the first celestial god and it is also stopping him from transitioning to the path of perfection. Fortunately, he came across something that will solve his problems.

Chapter 329 Goliath Ants.

It is very difficult for a god to stop being a god. Falling can give Stelios an out, but he will sustain severe repercussions that will make it not worth it.

So because Stelios has been stuck as the sun god, he has watched many gods come and go. The old is replaced with the new, only he remains the same. But things are looking up for him. If he succeeds with his plan, he won't be the sun god anymore. An opportunity for a replacement has opened up for him, so he cannot let anything sabotage his plans.

"Either way, you're the best when it comes to runes." The god of war agreed with his partner.

Their fathers were friends so the two of them met each other as kids. They didn't care about each other and didn't cross paths until they clashed during a heroic quest. Then they formed a temporary alliance to beat back the other demigods. It was then that they started having feelings for each other. They remained together and became gods together. They care for each other deeply but their relationship doesn't stop them from occasionally dallying with mortals and having demigods.

Stelios accepted the compliment with a smile. The truth is that he is very good with runes. He considers himself the best runemaster in all of Zargoth. He has both the talent for rune making and time to expand that talent into an achievement that set him as the most knowledgeable Rune maker. The Stigmata he placed on Helios is one of his achievements. Even Helios had to admit that it is extraordinary.

The sun god's gaze returned to the screen. It has stopped showing Helios and is now showing the dispersing crowd. The screen displays a god's vision. It can't show everything going on in the mortal realm because a god can't see everything going on in the mortal realm, but it can show areas where they have Influence in. The vision of a god is limited to places under their influence. For example, their churches, their believers, and objects or people that have been marked by their divine energy.

It just so happens that gods mark every child after their first star with a Stigmata. It seems like a normal part of the culture of giants but it is not the harmless symbolic gesture that mortals think it is. Gods don't mark them because they care. That Stigmata grants them access to monitoring the person and their surroundings.

Helios is the exception to the rule. He has a Stigmata of the sun god, so Stelios should be able to monitor Helios, but it isn't so. Something interferes with the surveillance. Stelios attributes the oddity to Helios' unique situation.

The lack of divine vision on Helios has never mattered before. Stelios used to monitor him through Hak and through the other believers around him. There are some times that total blackouts occur when Helios enters his private laboratory and starts working on his body but Stelios could rest assured because of his vision of the surroundings.

He might not be able to see what Helios is doing, but he knows Helios is there because of the blank zone in his divine vision. It is one of the major reasons why he didn't let Helios out of his house for 100 years so that he can always monitor him. The other reason is for Helios' protection too but that isn't as serious.

His process has always worked for him but it isn't good enough for him now since Helios is going out into the world. He won't be able to tell anything about Helios' situation if he enters a zone that has none of the Sun god's Influence. He can't monitor Helios closely as well as he used to be able to and it is causing him to be anxious.

Helios could be anywhere, doing anything, being attacked by anyone and he can't know about it. His anxiety continued to increase over the hours until Helios finally reached the war front. The screen was

showing the fight going on between the defenders and the ants when Helios finally appeared. Warriors of the race of giants of Order are fighting and clashing with Goliath ants. Helios appeared within the edges of the screen as a comet.

Back To Helios.

Helios began to decelerate as he approached the battlefield. He finally stopped above the front line where the army of giants meet the horde of ants. The giants are standing side by side decked in armor and resisting the waves of ants crashing into them like waves threatening to drown them.

The ants are small compared to the giants. They are definitely bigger than normal ants since they are the size of the toes of giants. Still, the giants are way larger than them and should be able to crush them underneath their feet but the ants are not called Goliath ants because of their size.

These ants are strong beyond compare. Each one of them has the strength of a mana entity. They may be small when compared to giants, but they are packing a lot of mass and power. Their mass and small size make them far too dense to be crushed if you're stomping on a lot of them.

Their strength means they can work together to trip you even if you are a giant. Their diamond-cutting jaws of death mean they can shred a giant of Order to mince meat if he falls into their midst in less than a minute. Their greatest strength is their numbers.

These are just the workers. The soldiers are bigger. The smallest of them are as large as an entire foot of the giants while the largest are as tall as the knees of the giants. The big soldiers can cut off the legs of giants or deal enough damage to the limbs that a giant is involuntarily brought down to their level for some dangerous and painful mandible to flesh action.

Chapter 330 The Art Of War: With Runes.

One will not look at Goliath ants and say they are weak. They have changed the meaning of the saying "as weak as an ant." These ants can bring down giants. So the giants are not having an easy time in their campaign against the ants.

'They must be so desperate. They even brought out their workers. They have survived for so long but they are pushed against the wall this time around.' He thought to himself.

The fact that the small worker ants have joined the fight indicates how serious the ant colony is taking this battle. The big soldiers are the ones that have always fought invaders of the colony and they have had success in it enough for them to survive the onslaught of giants.

There are very few races that survived the wanton killing of the giants of order, and even lesser than can survive in the ruined environment caused by the constant siphoning of mana by the giants. Goliath ants are one of the races that survived. They did more than survive, they thrived.

They live in the desert and eat sand. They can eat anything, but sand is the most available thing in the desert. Once in a while, they turn their sight onto giants of Order.

Their teeth can crush rocks and their exoskeleton is as hard as the sand they eat. It makes them a worthy foe for giants of order since the giants can't bully them with their size. Killing something small is most efficient with a tool and since giants of Order can't use sophisticated tools apart from their rune weapons, the Goliath ants survived. They then thrived and often prey on giants.

But this time, it is the giants that brought the fight to them and they mean business. The supreme god of order and justice noticed some fluctuations of divine power within the mound of this colony which indicates an attempt to become a demigod. An ant queen must not become a god or their race will become troublesome to deal with. That's why giants of Order are attacking this colony and why the workers have joined in defending. They have to do everything to protect their queen.

The ants are attacking from the sky and the land. They are content with defending. That is the order given to them by the queen. Helios can't see the ant mound where the ant queen is because his sight is being obstructed by the swarm of ants. The ants are all he can see for kilometers ahead. They are like clouds of death that can shred anything to bits. Just the beating of their wings is creating a droning sound that is almost overwhelming to the senses.

He soon began to draw attention. He is radiating heat and light, plus he is more than 30 meters tall. He is like a giant torch in the sky. The attacking giants of order only spared him some attention before focusing on the battle. They can't relax their assault at all or the ants will be the ones to overwhelm them.

"So this is how they fight. Not bad." He said after observing the giants.

These warrior giants are part of the forces of certain churches. They are soldiers, and as such have uniformed runes. They all have runes that create armor on their body for protection and various runes for weapons. There are the close combat warriors at the front with shields and hammers for crushing the insects. There are ranged fighters who stay behind and use bows to offer assistance through the use of incendiary and explosive arrows.

There's a third type of troop, the special units. Their runes form cannons and other heavy weaponry that fire exploding energy balls into the ant board dealing catastrophic damage. The cannons they form are either carried on their shoulders or standing on the ground if they are too big.

The first two types of troops can switch runes and thus switch roles on the battlefield. A ranged fighter can easily become a close-range fighter and vice versa because they have both types of runes tattooed on their body. But no one can switch with the special units.

The special units sacrifice a lot of their law fragments to become the highest damage dealers. They don't have fragments to spare for much of anything else. Their cannons might be mighty but they take time to load and fire. That period leaves them vulnerable and they don't have runes for armor. That's why they need the other types of fighters to hold the ants back while they prepare. Their corporation is why they are pushing the ants back.

"Where are the priests?" He questioned when he didn't see the major fighters.

There are other types of soldiers but these three are the most active ones on this battlefield. The priests aren't being active even though they are the best warriors. Unlike the other soldiers that have ordinary runes, priests have divine power and Stigmata.

Stigmata is so much more powerful than a rune but gods don't hand them out to anyone. The stigmata that giants get on their first star celebration is just a symbolic dud. You only get one if you swear yourself into eternal service as a priest. A priest is capable of switching to all three roles and will perform them better because of their access to divine spells.

But priests aren't used for those. They are more important for healing. Healing is a very important thing for giants of order. They are difficult to injure but also difficult to heal when injured. Their large bodies and abundant vitality mean that they can heal slowly from anything as long as they have time and rest. But a battlefield isn't a place to get time and rest.

Divine spells are the only way a soldier can be healed with a spell since magic doesn't work on giants of order. So priests are kept safe for their spells. They don't risk them on the battlefield or allow them to waste their energy fighting.