

GREED 391

Chapter 391 Stelios's Assistance.

He began the breakthrough with ease. His soul wasn't pulled taut as others do theirs. It expanded on its own and superimposed itself on his body. He is his soul more than he is his body. There's no need to force his soul to behave. It is his body that will give him trouble, not his soul.

His soul didn't experience any pain or discomfort from leaving the soul realm. His soul could already exist in the physical world as a Sovereign when he separated it painfully from his high elf body. So this isn't a problem at all.

He was about to begin the fusion of the physical body and spiritual soul, two of the aspects of his existence, to achieve transcendence when the Stigmata on his back activated. It shone brightly like never before and began pumping divine power into Helios's body. It was like a river of divine power started to pour out from it instead of the trickle that ought to come out of it.

The limit of the Stigmata has been increased by the Tree father so a lot more divine power rushed into Helios's body. The sun god never planned for the Stigmata to supply so much. Helios's sun core swelled with power and his skin turned golden. If he can handle the divine power and survive his breakthrough, then he will be a very powerful transcendent. It appears he is taking advantage of the sun god's assistance.

POV of The Sun God.

Stelios was distressed when he saw the royal guards take Helios away. His heart ached in ways none of the gods would understand. So he was very angry and he was ready to start hell. If they thought that Harkam overreacted then they won't know what to say about him when acts.

He promised himself. 'I'll make you all regret what you did today.'

Helios is his lifeline so all that rubbish that the Celestial Supreme was saying wasn't getting through to him. Already, he is planning how to cause chaos in the mortal realm and how to usurp the Celestial Supreme. It was then that he sensed that Helios had started his breakthrough to transcendence.

He exclaimed. "Oh, crap."

He thought to himself. 'That boy is trying to break through to transcendence in such a precarious situation. I understand that he is desperate for strength but isn't he rushing it? It's too dangerous for him. I have to go.'

He said to everyone, "I have to go."

He canceled his avatar and left the meeting in the Temple of the Gods so that he can focus on Helios's situation. He didn't listen to the Celestial Supreme's refusal to let him go. Stelios sat in his divine kingdom while carefully sensing the changes within Helios's body through the Stigmata.

He sighed in relief when he discovered Helios is still alive.

"So far so good. I would have preferred to have him do this under ideal conditions where he is safe but this will have to do."

The breakthrough process was going on without a hitch despite it being too fast to be safe. He was surprised that Helios could manage something decent in his desperate situation as a prisoner. If he had his way, Helios would have broken through under the protection of the church so that nothing will go wrong with the process. This is an important matter both for Helios and for him. But things are going well for now and he has to be content with it.

"It's time." He said with excitement as Helios was about to begin the fusion.

The cores of demigods affect their breakthroughs to transcendents in a beneficial manner. The divine power contained within it helps them to reduce the power of the law fragments in their body and make the fusion of soul with body easier.

It rarely happens, but there are certain situations in which the body resists the fusion. It occurs in the case of giants of order. As always, divine power is the bane of order. Helios has 4 portions of divine power in his core already after absorbing 3 sun cores. This should make the breakthrough process very easy but that won't happen.

Stelios intends to take advantage of the divine power to interfere with Helios's breakthrough. His divine will within the Stigmata on Helios's body activated and opened a channel that led to Stelios. Stelios grinned evilly as he allowed divine power to flow into the Stigmata. Without his permission, divine power will not flow. But then he noticed something. The Stigmata was taking too much.

He was perplexed for a while before he began laughing. "The heavens themselves are helping me. I knew this boy is highly compatible with me. He is destined to be my vessel. I shall be reborn."

The Stigmata isn't supposed to allow this much divine power through but apparently, Helios seems very compatible with the divine power. He is like a foam just soaking it up. Stelios became happy about it so he allowed divine power to flow freely. The more of his divine power is within Helios, the easier his possession will be for Stelios. He doesn't intend to have a vessel for an avatar but a vessel for possession.

Gehaldirah is not the only one to have ever thought of reincarnation nor is he the smartest one of them. There are several people that tried and failed to perform it. What made Gehaldirah special amongst others is that he was a sovereign of life, with abundant knowledge of life, formation arrays, and with a lot of life essence at his disposal.

Stelios is special too. He is a genius who has had millions of years of experience and he knows what he saw in Helios on that day when his mother came to ask him for help. He saw something special in Sovereick that will make him a very good vessel for possession and he has not been wrong so far. The Divine energy of the sun god within Helios is the key.

Chapter 392 Helios's Body Is Prime Possession Material.

Gehaldirah sought to achieve reincarnation and he succeeded. It is with his understanding of life that he repurposed the artifact for punishing transcendents into separating the body of a Sovereign. A complete body of law of a Sovereign is vastly different from a soul body of a transcendent. It is a feat on its own to destroy the body without the soul.

Without life essence, his soul wouldn't have been able to heal when he destroyed his body to separate it from his soul. That feat alone of becoming an origin god with just his soul is the foundation for his reincarnation. It created a deficit in his existence that the universe sought to fill up with bodies.

His knowledge of arrays allowed him to create a formation capable of teleporting his soul into the law matrix by using the seed of a Sovereign as the key to it and other body parts as the destination within the law matrix.

Everything worked to lead to what happened. When parts of his soul were thrown into the law matrix, the universe tried to tie them down with bodies for them based on the items he used as the destinations for the souls. Stelios has chosen Helios to be the destination for his consciousness.

Stelios is also unique in that he has a lot of time to develop his knowledge of runes. He has been the ancient sun god for numerous Origin cycles. He is older than Gehaldirah by at least 200 times. Gehaldirah was 5 Origin cycles old. Stelios is at least 1000 Origin cycles old and has been stuck in his position for that long. His hopes of progress had all but died until he came across Helios.

Stelios noticed a lot about Helios when he was a fetus. He noticed that Helios's soul has an inherent disconnection from his body as if he is a visitor wielding the body instead of a homeowner borne within the body. There's a gap between the body and the soul that created a sort of dissonance between them. He was able to get this information through the divine energy that he helped Helios with.

He didn't think much about how the dissonance came to be. According to his observations, it likely had something to do with the Origin energy wafting around Helios's soul. It is not uncommon. It is how Colossi are created. It just so happened that Helios's soul had an extreme reaction to the exposure of origin energy.

The reason why some transcedents become Colossi instead of Behemoths is a well-understood phenomenon and of no interest to him. He focused more on the effect of the dissonance. The dissonance between body and soul is why Helios refused the encroachment of the fragments of order. Stelios planned there and there to take advantage of that dissonance. He created a Stigmata for that very purpose and gifted it to Helios.

One function of the Stigmata is to give more divine energy to Helios. The other function will only activate when Helios is trying to become a transcendent. It is why Helios didn't notice the other more insidious function of the Stigmata when he examined it.

Helios accumulated a lot of divine energy and reached his limit, Stelios took control of the divine power through their connection to stop the process of fusion. The divine energy formed a wedge between the body and the soul. The dissonance between Helios's body and soul allowed a small space to be present between them for the divine energy to enter. It is like a wedge that he can take advantage of.

"I did it. Now to take my reward." Stelios laughed maniacally.

First, he tested the destination. It is a mere precaution. He doesn't expect anything bad to happen but one can't be too careful. His divine Will resonated with the divine will within the Stigmata. He found his divine will to be intact, indicating that it has not been tampered with. It is the go-ahead he needed.

Then he forcefully descended through the connection of the channel into the wedge. There was no friction or resistance. The channel between them through the Stigmata had been expanded. It allowed a lot of divine energy to go through and now is allowing Stelios to go through with his Godhood of the sun god.

When he reached the wedge he said to Helios. "Sorry about this boy. You were betrayed by the other gods and now you will be betrayed by your divine father. It's nothing personal. I'm just taking my due since I saved your life before you were born. You owe me your life and now I am taking it."

Helios didn't speak. Apparently, he was too stunned to talk. So Stelios continued talking to distract the boy so that he can take over his body and complete the breakthrough in his place without any resistance. It's not like any resistance will work against him. He is a grand god after all. What can a weak mana entity do to stop him?

"I'm sure you must be shocked by what is going on. But I have more to say. I'll tell you this so that you can understand why I did this." Stelios paused to create suspense. Then he said, "I am not your father."

Stelios continued to laugh as Helios wallowed in shock.

"Don't worry. I won't kill you. You can have my Godhood when I take your body. Isn't that great? You will become the next god of the sun. All your divine siblings will be so jealous."

He is not out to kill Helios. He will possess Helios's body. Helios will have to bind with the Godhood of the sun god if he wants to live. It is more of a swap than a possession. They are just swapping positions. He will take Helios's body and his identity while Helios becomes the sun god. That what's he was raised for after all. It's not that he doesn't want to kill Helios. It is that he can't, at least not in this form. It is only right that the son of the sun becomes the true son.

Chapter 393 State Of The Art Divine Power Engine.

Soon, Stelios's laughter began to wane. He has been trying to fuse with the body for a while now but he has been experiencing some difficulties. There is a barrier of divine Will on Helios's body. Stelios sensed it carefully and determined what it is immediately.

"Wait a minute. This is a Stigmata. Where did you get a Stigmata?" He asked in shock.

The Stigmata on Helios's body is preventing him from starting the fusion process. Where could Helios have gotten one? Which god will dare to inscribe runes on the body of another demigod? The most important question of all is when did Helios get the Stigmata? Helios was just in the camp right under his nose before he was given away.

'No problem then. I'll just erode it myself.' He thought to himself.

Then he set about to try to remove the divine will within the Stigmata. It will take time but he has nothing to worry about. The only thing that Helios can do is give up the breakthrough and risk his soul shattering from the rebound. If Helios does that, then he will die and that wouldn't affect him anymore. The only outcome for Helios is death or waiting patiently and becoming the sun god after his body has been stolen from him.

But things didn't go as he thought. The importance of the question about the time Helios got the Stigmata changed when he sensed the resistance of the divine will within the Stigmata. The divine will is strong enough to resist his attempts with impunity. He couldn't move the divine will at all.

The most important question became which God gave Helios the Stigmata. Which God has a divine will strong enough to resist him? Only one answer came to his mind.

"Wait a minute. Are you working with the Celestial Supreme?" He asked in trepidation.

It was then that Helios spoke. "Everything has been set. Thanks for coming."

Stelios felt an ominous feeling of dread. He could tell that something bad is about to happen. He was wondering what could be going on when he heard Helios speak again.

"I'll tell you something so that you can die peacefully."

He also paused for suspense. Then he said, "I am not your son."

Stelios was perplexed. He had just said the same thing to Helios. So Stelios was more concerned about what Helios said about everything being set.

He couldn't ask what it meant though. An immense force began to act on Stelios. It feels like a mountain is pressing down on him. Helios's soul began to resist and it pushed Stelios into the trap that has been prepared for him. All the Stigmata on Helios's body activated and pushed Stelios too.

Two things happened at once. The soul pressed down on Stelios and the body pushed him back. Stelios was being pushed back into the Stigmata that he came. That's the only way out for him and that's also when Stelios knew that things have gone terribly and horribly wrong.

"What are you?" He screamed in panic as he resisted.

Helios's soul seemed indomitable and the divine will within Helios's Stigmata is also too strong to be resisted. He can't get past Helios's soul nor can he get past his body. The only way for him is the Stigmata that he inscribed on Helios's body. Except that Stigmata isn't the one he inscribed anymore. While he was trying to erode the divine will in the Stigmata on Helios's body and failing at it, the tree father was also trying to erode his divine will within that Stigmata and succeeded at it. The changes that were then made to the Stigmata are terribly bad for Stelios.

"Please let me go. I'm ready to pay any price." Stelios pleaded in desperation.

He is desperate. He has nowhere to go except that remodeled Stigmata. There's no way entering it will be good for his health. So he pleaded and begged. But no one listened to him. He is trapped truly and thoroughly.

Stelios was pushed into the Stigmata which then began to activate. He appeared within a void of enclosed space that seemed to suck out everything with him. The law fragments used to make the Stigmata turned into green crystal vines empowered by the divine will of tree father and dug into his

body like leeches. The green vines bored into his very being, anchored themselves very well, and then turned golden as they siphoned the Sun god's power.

"No, this can't happen to me. No! No! No!" He screamed vehemently.

Stelios understood the purpose of the Stigmata immediately. The original Stigmata forms a connection with the sun god which he can use to supply Helios with divine power. The other function of the Stigmata is encoded in the divine will and will only activate when Helios is about to become a transcendent. The tree father enhanced the Stigmata and turned it into an engine for creating divine power by using the sun god as fuel.

That's just what Stelios can tell now. There could be more to the Stigmata but he knows for sure that he will become a prisoner in this Stigmata for the rest of his life unless he is released. If he were a spectator and not the one that is about to be turned into fuel, he would have marveled at the intricacy of the Stigmata. It is a state of the art creation.

The Divine Power Engine Stigmata is innovative and well done. It has a space within it that is looped upon itself so escape is impossible. Then there are the lockdown and energy-siphoning mechanisms. The energy siphoning mechanisms in particular have been modeled to have a very high capacity so that he can't overload the system by pumping too much power into it.

There is also the encryption used to prevent him from deciphering the Stigmata. It is a better alternative to using divine will to prevent tampering. If Stelios's had this, he probably be in the direction situation he currently is in.

Chapter 394 The Cowardly Sun God.

The encryption used within the Stigmata not only prevents deciphering and changes to it, but it also has an alarm system. Overall, the changes are things that none had managed to achieve but this Stigmata has achieved it and even reinforced it with divine will such that the encryption will be alive and capable of adaptability.

Apart from the power of the divine will present within the Stigmata, somehow, the god that had tampered with his Stigmata and turned it into this prison had acquired unprecedented knowledge of Rune making needed to make the changes. So this god has both power and knowledge. It is something to marvel at considering Stelios thought he was the most knowledgeable god when it comes to runes.

Unfortunately, he isn't a spectator. He is the victim of this so-called brilliant procedure. No matter how brilliant it is, he has to get out of it now because he knows that if the Stigmata completes its lockdown procedures, he will never get out of this prison. He will become fuel for the entirety of his life.

Two things came to his mind. One is highly likely to work but he will become powerless after it works. The other has a much lesser chance of success but he can keep his power if it works. So it is either a high chance of safety but no power or a highly reduced chance of safety and power.

He took the second option. Without risk, there won't be a reward. So he roused all of his divine power and absorbed the domain of the grand gods of fire and light that he has secretly stocked. Then he initiated an ascension. The divine plane noticed the call from his Godhood and answered it immediately. A force descended from the divine plane and found him within the void of the Stigmata. That force began to change him. If he will escape after the change is still unknown.

CELESTIAL SUPREME'S POV

The Celestial Supreme was still fuming when he noticed the changes in the divine plane. "What kind of nonsense is this? Which stupid god wants to die?"

He decided not to wait for the announcement about who is ascending and instead rushed out of his divine kingdom immediately to trace the stupid god that is trying to become a Celestial. He is filled with so much anger right now that he will destroy the culprit without asking any questions.

It is one thing after the other. Can he not have rest? As if he has not been insulted enough by the ongoing problems, a god somewhere has decided this is a good opportunity to become a Celestial. He will have none of it.

"It's good too. I get to vent and kill someone. I'll also get stronger after absorbing the stupid god. It's a win-win for me." He said with gleeful anticipation.

He has been frustrated for so long, even him an icon of stability needs an outlet for his boiling emotions. So it is generous of this stupid god, whoever it is, to volunteer themselves to cheer him up. There's going to be a good old-fashioned beat down. Nothing releases stress better than it. He was looking forward to the encounter.

He found the culprit immediately. What he found made him chuckle.

"The unbridled disrespect. In the face of it all. It seems you have gotten full of yourself. All I did was take one of your demigods. Do you think that becoming a Celestial will let you be able to beat me? We'll see about that." The Celestial Supreme said as he readied himself to wait.

It turns out that the stupid god that is undergoing ascension is the sun god. The power of the divine plane is gathering towards the divine kingdom of the sun god. It is undeniable proof that the sun god is the one that is courting death. He can't interfere with the ascension but he will have many options when it is done.

"What could be so special about that Helios anyway? He is just a demigod. You have hundreds of divine lords." He muttered to himself.

It seems the possible death of Stelios's son affected him more than he expected and the old age of the sun god has emboldened him to take the risk of ascension. What else could have motivated a former reasonable god to make such a stupid decision? Maybe Harkam was right all along, the sun god is getting senile with age.

The Celestial Supreme wouldn't have to wait for long to get his answer. The ascension to true god is pretty quick since the transformation already started the moment a mortal becomes a god. So you either survive the ascension or you fail. Either way, he will get to vent. He will fight the sun god or he will laugh at his failure. It will be therapeutic for him.

The Celestial Supreme was waiting patiently and sensing carefully. So he knew that the ascension went well. Except that the ascension wasn't announced as it should have. Instead, the sun god's divine kingdom dimmed and froze over as if it has become inactive.

The divine kingdom in the form of a star had the light that it is always producing. The light reduced drastically before completely shutting down. The divine kingdom became an inert ball. It looked like the god of the sun failed his ascension.

The Celestial Supreme chuckled sinisterly, "I thought you will be brave enough to face me. Instead, you choose to hide away. Come out and face me like a true god and stop behaving like a rat. What did you expect will happen when you decided to flout my will? Now come out and get your just deserts."

He knows that the sun god succeeded because he sensed the success of the ascension. He also feels the empowerment of the divine plane due to the addition of another Celestial to the pantheon. So he isn't fooled by the dimming of the divine kingdom. The sun god has turned into a coward and is hiding from him.

Chapter 395 Payment For Arrogance.

If the sun god had failed his ascension, his divine kingdom won't just stop dimming, it will come crashing down and break apart due to the death of the god. So the sun god is alive but he is hiding. He became a Celestial and decided to send himself into exile.

This dimming of the divine kingdom is not a small matter. It is something that gods do when they are desperate. It is a self-preservation mechanism that comes at a great cost. It is not something that is to be done lightly but it seems the sun god is highly motivated to avoid a fight with him.

The Celestial Supreme began to mock the cowardly sun god. He called the sun god stupid and then cowardly. His voice spread out throughout the divine plane to all that would hear. He wanted them to know what a Coward the sun god is being. He also wants them to witness the death of the sun god if the coward decides to fight.

But the coward remained stubborn about staying in the safety of his divine kingdom. If it were before the divine kingdom deactivated, reaching the sun god will need an army of angels and several gods to break through the barrier of the divine kingdom. Then war will be waged on the host of angels that Stelios has been amassing for the numerous years he has been the sun god.

The number of angels he has is sure to discourage anyone from attacking him in his divine kingdom. But Stelios has gone further than that. He has shut down his divine kingdom. This means that believers won't be able to come to the divine kingdom after their death and Stelios has stopped listening to prayers. The sun god has stopped receiving faith just so that his divine kingdom will become more difficult to breach.

Stelios effectively chose increased safety over the risk of becoming obsolete by severing his connection with the world. That's why even the Celestial Supreme can only remain content with throwing sardonic jabs. He is already about to start a war in the mortal realm, another war in the divine plane will be too much to handle.

Besides, there is no rush. The sun god is going nowhere. Secluding himself away like that will make the sun god weaken and easier to defeat by the time he is done with destroying the hidden god and his machinations in the mortal realm.

The Celestial Supreme had to stop his little act of pleasure when he sensed something in the mortal realm. He was enjoying calling the sun god names but something more interesting happened. He sensed something out of place.

"What is it this time? Can I not have peace?"

He has been sensing a lot of things that are out of place recently. So he is expecting something worse to have happened. He discovered the anomaly easily and became surprised even though he was prepared not to be surprised. He can sense the aura of a celestial in the mortal realm. What's more, the aura is coming from the ant mound.

He muttered in confusion. "What the fuck could be going on there?"

To say he is flabbergasted is an understatement. He is deeply and utterly confused because he doesn't even know what it means. He can't suspect the hidden god because he is certain that there are only 3 celestial gods including Stelios the cowardly sun god. So what could be going on there?

How can there be an aura of a Celestial in the mortal realm? It can't belong to the god of fate or Stelios, which just leaves him. Or is there a Celestial god he doesn't know about?

He returned to his divine kingdom to wait. He will find out soon enough. His Colossus is about to reach the ant mound. Whatever is going on in that ant mound will be made known to him. His questions will be answered in full.

Meanwhile In The Ant Mould.

Stelios chose to ascend. Both Helios and the tree father said at the same time, "We expected that."

Then they both chuckled.

They knew about Stelios' two options. Either he chooses to fall or ascend. They knew about these two options and they planned for both. If Stelios had chosen to fall. He will definitely escape the Divine Engine they built for him. But he will have to leave his Godhood behind. He will become powerless.

That's if he succeeds in falling without dying. If he succeeds the fall, he will also appear within the ant mound, probably beside Helios where he will be killed quickly for his uselessness. He would only succeed in escaping the divine engine and not certain death if he chooses that option. The divine engine will have the divine power of a grand god regardless of his success with the fall.

The other option will make him a Celestial if he succeeds. He will also be able to escape the divine engine but not completely. The divine will contained within the Stigmata is on the level of a Celestial. Succeeding in his ascension will only give Stelios a fighting chance. Even if he escapes, he will have to pay the price by leaving the bulk of his power behind and escaping with his consciousness. It is the payment for his arrogance and stupidity.

The second option is tricky for Legion's plan. If Stelios fails the ascension, then Helios will get nothing. The divine position and domain of the sun god will be destroyed and needs to be recreated. The divine engine will be useless then. Fortunately for Legion, that didn't happen. Stelios succeeded, so the divine engine now has the divine power of a Celestial.

The tree father spoke after their shared moment of amusement. "Now you have to succeed or you're doomed."

"Don't worry. I've got this." Helios said confidently.

The other clones spoke to him. "You're not alone."

What he is about to do is crazy enough to get him killed. He will need all the help he can get.

Chapter 396 Fight For Control.

"We'll help you if you can't hold on any longer."

They told him that they are there for him because what he is about to do is beyond him and he will need their help. Even so, most of the burden will be on him. He is the focal point that will bear the bulk of the stress. If he breaks, so will their plan.

It wasn't Helios's idea to do it but a plan that they hatched from the first moment that the tree father succeeded in decrypting the Stigmata on Helios's back over a hundred years ago. It is an insane plan that will benefit Legion so he has to do it.

The divine engine started to swell as it got more powerful. The void within the divine engine is disappearing at a fast rate as the star that represents the celestial power of the sun god began to expand. He has to absorb the star and take control of it or it will expand until it explodes. It is a crazy idea. That's before we add in the fact that he is still in the middle of becoming a transcendent.

The power of a celestial is equal to the power of a new origin god at best, but Helios's soul is not as powerful as a new Origin god. He is just a small portion of the soul of a new Origin god. It is not going to be easy to subjugate the celestial power and also break through to transcendence at the same time. If he succeeds, then he will have done something no one, has ever done in the history of giants of order.

Helios began the fusion of body and soul. The Stigmata on his body absorbed the celestial grade divine power and began to glow a golden light. Thankfully the Stigmata was created with impeccable workmanship from Helios and upgraded with the divine will of an entity on par with a celestial. So the Stigmata can handle the power. Then Helios's Origin soul began to fuse with the Stigmata and the Celestial power within it.

His breakthrough is very similar to how other demigods make the breakthrough. Except that, the divine power in their cores helps them to break through and doesn't constitute an impediment to the breakthrough. Apart from that, they don't have a small star growing on their back like a hump on a spine.

The divine engine struggled to go out of control as Helios tried to control it and break through. It enlarged slowly and surely until it became a ball of light about 10 centimeters in diameter on his back. Something that small might as well be a mole on the back of a giant of order. But the ball continued to grow and showed no signs of stopping.

The tiny mole grew until it became too heavy for Helios to handle while sitting down. He had to stand while supporting the weight of the ball on his back after it increased to a diameter of 10 meters. He became hunched as the ball burdened him with the weight.

The load he is bearing became a giant golden ball that remained roughly circular but its surface is constantly shifting as if it is the surface of a boiling liquid. There are even occasional ejections of power in the form of white high-pressure flames. The ball is also very heavy and it is growing heavier. Helios had to carry the weight, strife to control the engine, keep the celestial energy flowing into his stigmata, and successfully fuse his soul with his celestial-laden body. In short, he is suffering but he can handle it.

The same cannot be said about the living entities around him. The ball is also hot. In fact, it is too hot. The organisms living in the Zargoth plane have gotten used to the heat of the desert but the heat radiating out of that ball cannot be compared to anything they have ever experienced. At the rate at which the temperature is increasing, the Goliath ants will start to die, diamond carapace or not.

The ant queen pleaded with the tree father, "Please stop whatever is going on."

Helios is breaking through within the central room and she can't leave. She is not a transcendent yet.

The tree father replied, "I can't. It has already started."

"Then leave my ant mound. I have already delivered on my promise. You have acquired your target.

There are a lot of questions that she has concerning this so-called target and why the tree father that seems like the enemy of the target asked her to treat him like royalty. She expected a lot of things when they finally lay their hands on the target, but she did not expect that the two of them could be friends. All of that can wait for later. For now, she wants them gone from the ant mound before she dies.

"That's true. You have fulfilled your end of the bargain. I'll leave." The tree uprooted itself and turned to go but it wasn't enough for the ant queen for him to leave.

She screamed. "What about him? Take him with you?"

"I can't. It has already started."

She began to beg and plead but there is nothing the tree father can do. She watched the plant spirit leave while she can't leave. She is bonded to the ant mound. The ant mound used to be the safest place she could be but it is now the most dangerous place she can be.

The worker and the soldier ants piled on top of her to protect her from the heat. All their efforts are futile. They all turned to ashes including their queen. Some royal guards escaped when the queen died but their fate will not end well without the help of the queen to stunt the control of fungi in their bodies. No matter what, this colony has met its end today.

Chapter 397 A Three-Way Battle.

The golden ball on his back finally grew to a diameter of 100 meters. It became bigger than Helios himself. The heat it was radiating had melted the material that made up the ant mound for 1 kilometer in every direction within the ant mound. The heat isn't affecting him because he is technically a demigod of the sun but he is suffering in other aspects.

His body became a battleground similar to the time he was a fetus. This time it is divine energy that is the opponent while the law fragments in his Stigmata are his helpers. Unlike the time he was a fetus when his pregnant mother took the fall for their conflict, he has no one but himself to go through the pain.

The divine energy is also not freely given. The sun god is very pissed at him right now. Stelios might not have had a choice about leaving part of his power behind, but he will fight Helios for its control every step of the way. This is not a boon that he will take without a fight.

The first repercussion started in his skin. His red skin cracked painfully and began leaking golden blood. The blood fell to the ground and melted holes through it like acid. Then his skin began to shed. It flaked off in layers leaving behind golden tattoos still imprinted on his flesh. His body is bursting with unruly and barely contained energy. It is his skin that is the first to suffer.

Without the skin to obstruct vision, his changing muscles became exposed. The red flesh of his muscle has turned transparent from which the bones can be seen. The golden runes are still present within the transparent patches. There are also golden opaque patches of muscle. The transparent patches are spreading slowly while the golden patches are spreading really fast.

The two patches ignore each other and compete for his muscles, then they extend themselves down to the bone. When they are done with his bone, they face off against each other. The celestial power in the golden patch wants to destroy Helios' progress in his breakthrough by absorbing the white patch. If the

golden patch wins, then Helios will explode and the celestial power he stole will be returned to its rightful owner.

It turned out to be a losing battle. Stelios's remnant will is still present within the celestial power considering that it is technically a part of Stelios's body. So it is resisting assimilation. Even with the fragments of order on his side, Helios can't win against the divine will of a celestial. Not alone at least. He has beaten more than he alone can chew. Fortunately, he is not alone.

The green divine life energy of the tree father entered his soul through the soul sphere in his soul. The energy entered his body too but it was resisted by the golden patch while the white accepted it readily. It is a bad idea to allow someone to interfere in your breakthrough no matter how much you trust that person because that's the moment when you're most vulnerable.

Helios doesn't have anything to fear from the tree father so he readily accepted the help that was offered. His decision gave him a fighting chance. That's all Helios needed. The golden patch recognized the threat of the divine life energy and chose to fight. It now has to fight two enemies.

It is not a pleasant feeling to have a three-way battle for control in his body but it gave Helios a fighting chance against the Celestial power of the sun. So he bore with the doubling of the pain he is going through. It helped that the others whispered words of encouragement to him. His body shook and spasmed violently but he didn't fall. He remained standing and he was rewarded for his resilience.

The divine engine stopped growing immediately after the divine life energy was introduced and the golden ball on his back stalled. The white patch started to beat back the golden patch and slowly swallowed it up. The two forces beat back the golden energy until it was completely subdued and assimilated. He became a white statue with golden tattoos carrying a giant white ball on his back. Then the ball began to reduce while Helios began to grow bigger.

The white ball was being absorbed by the white statue. The statue started to change color with the assimilation of the celestial power. It turned red, orange, and yellow. It finally settled on golden. He has also ballooned in size. He has reached a height of 50 meters over the years but he doubled it after absorbing the entirety of the celestial power.

His body also began to morph. He lost his legs, arms, and head. They were absorbed into his body as he turned into a ball of golden energy. He transformed from a giant holding up the sun into the sun himself. Then 10 minutes later the giant ball 100 meters across that he transformed into began to reduce in size until it became 10 meters in diameter.

About 10 minutes later, that ball began to morph again. It grew arms, legs, and a head. Then it formed a torso for them. It became a golden statue of a giant. Two slits opened up in the head to reveal eyes that are pure white. Both the pupils, iris, and cornea are white. There are also white runes flowing across the golden skin of the giant like an obscure arcane script.

"I made it. Now I am a true son of the sun."

He has finally become a transcendent.

NAME: Helios (Legion-4)

TITLE: Child Of The Virut Plane. Child Of The Sun.

RACE: Sun Giant.

BLOODLINE: Sunfire Divine bloodline.

POWER LEVEL: Transcendence(Soul-Body).

PHYSIQUE: Half-Celestial Body.

HP: INFINITE

STAMINA: INFINITE

ENERGY QUALITY: Origin Energy.

ENERGY QUANTITY: 2,673,841

VITALITY: 1,000,000,000

ENDURANCE: 1,000,000,000

STRENGTH: 1,000,000,000

AGILITY: 1,000,000,000

PERCEPTION: 1,000,000,000

SPIRIT: 1,000,000,000

AMPLIFICATION: 1

AUTHORITY: Celestial Of The Sun.

DIVINE SENSE (GRADE): 100,000,000 (C)

OTHERS

MANA AFFINITY: 100%

LAW AFFINITY: 50%

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

STATUS: Exalted.

Chapter 398 Conditional Immortality.

His race has changed from a giant of order to a sun giant. His body upgraded from half-divine which demigods possess to half-celestial which only a few possess. That's why his race changed. He used to be a pretender before. Now he is truly the son of the sun god. They are joined now in more than just divine power. Helios has gained access to his Authority. It is much more powerful than divine power.

Transcendence means breaking your limits. The process is dangerous but it is highly rewarding. You are rewarded with evolution and the power that comes with it when you combine the potential of your soul and your body to break the limit on each of them. Individually, a being can only reach a stat of 1000 at any point without external Influence. It is called the mana limit.

This limit is based on race and some don't have this limit at all. For those with this limit, the potential of their body has been fully exhausted. There's so much that mana can do to strengthen an organism. There comes a point when mana can't strengthen a being any further. That point is the 100% conversion rate of a being.

Stats stop growing even before reaching that point. Some races have a biological limit to a specific Stat. Giants of Order can grow behind the 1,000 mana limit but their speed cannot cross that limit. Realistically, substantial growth stops around a 90% conversion rate. Helios needed divine life energy to experience any amount of growth beyond that point. Becoming a transcendent breaks that limit, allowing a being to reach 10,000 stats.

That's for normal transcedents. Helios is not normal. His soul is far stronger than his body and has been limiting itself because of the body. But the body and the soul are combining now. Ideally, the power of his soul should fall drastically because of his weak body. The power of his soul is sacrificed to break the limit of his body to create an average result.

That means, his soul which is at 1,000,000,000 will fall to 200,004,000 because of the 5,000 of the four aspects of his body. It is a huge drop-off but it is still far beyond what a normal transcendent can have for stats. His body and soul will also be able to return to 1,000,000,000. That is unbelievable for a transcendent. It is far greater than the 10,000 limits of normal transcedents so Helios would have still been a powerhouse of a transcendent.

But that didn't happen. Helios absorbed the power of a Celestial when he was breaking through. That changed everything. The power contained in the Celestial divine energy was absorbed by his body and soul helping him reach his fullest capacity and breaking the limit of both his soul and body. So now, he has reached the limit of the stats that his soul can contain. His stats are comparable to some Sovereigns of law and he even surpasses a lot of them but he isn't as powerful as them.

Currently, he doesn't have a seed of power or any form of amplification from laws. At best he is as strong as a king of law whose stats has reached the limit of 1,000,000 stats. Except he can still grow stronger and acquire more Authority. The divine energy didn't allow him to grow stronger than 1,000,000,000 but it broke the limit of his soul. So his soul and body can grow past what he has achieved.

He is nowhere near being a normal transcendent right now but there's one thing that he shares in common with them. It is conditional immortality. Transcendents have broken more than the limit of stats. They have also broken the limit of Health and Stamina. These constructs cease to exist with any physical weakness.

Transcendents can't be incapacitated by cutting off their heads. They will regrow it quickly and easily as long as there's Origin energy. Their consciousness and the matrix of their existence become one so they can heal from any injury as long as they will it. The only problem they face is that injuries caused by attacks empowered by laws are very difficult to heal.

Laws scramble the matrix of their existence by injecting it with wrong information. Information about their body is overwritten with information about the law of fire. The impurity of the law of fire needs to be purged first before they can heal. That delay can be exploited to cause their death. Their bodies will break apart once enough laws as been injected into their existence.

"Just in time."

He heard the stomping before he saw who it was. The ground began to shake rhythmically as if a giant is walking the earth. Helios suspects that it is truly a giant or in this case, a Colossus. He spread his divine sense that has ballooned from 500 meters to 1 million meters. But the absence of Origin energy in the plane reduced that to 100 thousand meters or 100 kilometers.

His solidified divine sense needs the proper energy in the atmosphere or it can't be stable. The only reason why he can use this much is that he has his own supply of Origin energy from his title as the child of the Virut plane. What he has is enough to confirm that it is really a Colossus making that disturbance.

He can see the unwelcome guest in his mind. His divine sense passed through the impenetrable material of the ant mound. A figure almost 1 kilometer tall is running in the direction of the ant mound. The

figure's face is grim with determination. Their eyes are practically glowing with the light of justice and their heart has been made up to deliver it.

This figure is an enforcer of the church of order sent on an important mission from the Celestial Supreme to get to the bottom of the mystery shrouding the ant mound.

Chapter 399 Collateral Damage.

The ants are history now. The ant queen was just a pawn to be used and discarded. Her death wasn't even intentional. She died as a consequence of his struggle with the sun god. So there's no mystery to be found in the ant mound. The Colossus came a little too late.

Helios nodded. "I should meet this colossus since there's no one here anymore. It will be a shame if his trip was wasted."

He found it to be a shame if the Colossus had to run here all the way from the headquarters of the church of the sun and yet come to find nothing. So he decided to occupy the Colossus for a while. Let's just say the sun god raised him to be polite.

He was hovering in the air but he suddenly disappeared. There was no need for preparation. He wanted to move and so he moved, very quickly too. There was a flash of light and exploding sound as he broke the speed of sound. He pierced through the supposed impenetrable material of the ant mound like a shooting star to reach the Colossus.

The Colossus didn't see him coming. It was moving forward with purpose. Each of its feet was smashing into the ground as he gained on the ant mound. It was thinking of its impending success when it sensed a fast-moving entity with a mind-boggling amount of energy coming straight for its head. Its instincts and reaction entered hyperdrive by the unexpected threat.

"Rawrrr!"

It roared as it raised its massive hand to block the projectile that Helios had become. But it didn't work. There was a flash of light that blinded anyone watching the Colossus and a sound like no other that deafened those that heard it. When the light faded, the Colossus was no more.

It all happened so quickly that it looked like someone launched an annihilator except this annihilator can harm a Colossus. Helios had penetrated the hand entirely. The flesh and the bones can't stop him when the ant mound couldn't stop him. A large white beam coming out of his eyes preceded him. The beam bore a hole in the hand that Helios passed through. Then he went on to collide with the head of the Colossus.

The punch that landed on the Colossus' head literally stopped it in its tracks. It even did more than it. It lifted the giant monstrosity off of its feet. The bones in its head were thick and strong enough to block the beam. But then Helios exploded in his face. He expanded and became a small star. Then he discharged the energy he used in his expansion to create an explosion.

The giants and god's avatars in the camp saw it all. For the mortals in the camp, it was the last thing they saw. The Colossus had just passed the camp and was approaching the ant mound. They were all watching with anticipation. They were waiting to see how the ant mound will cave beneath the might of a colossus.

Soldiers had come out to watch. So did the priests, the bishops of the various churches, the demigods that were just saved, and the avatar of gods. They waited for the action to start. Then there was light and there was nothing. So maybe, they saw nothing after all. The explosion killed them but they didn't even see what exploded. It might be a good thing that they did not survive that explosion or they would have regretted being alive for however short the experience of having your flesh evaporated is.

Either way, they are in no way different from the ants. They came here on instructions from their gods to subjugate the ants. They found more than was expected. At the end of the day, both they and the ants are the same. They are both weak and they both died as bystanders to the activities of their betters. The thing that killed them wasn't even aiming for them. They were all simply collateral damage.

The gods watching saw what happened but that's only because they focused on the event from the divine realm through their divine vision. Their avatars in the mortal realm saw streaks and nothing else. The screen showed the progression of events.

They saw a yellow streak coming from the ant mound. It was too fast to track and unexpected but they caught it. The streak penetrated the hand of the Colossus and clashed with its head then it stopped. It was that brief moment of pause that enabled them to see what the streak is.

Harkam's mouth opened in shock. "The sun dwarf?"

The streak stopped to reveal a golden figure. He isn't sure of its identity. The figure is in no way similar to Helios when it comes to looks but they both have white runes on their golden bodies. Seeing as Helios was a mana entity while this figure is a transcendent then it might be a transformed Helios.

Then the golden man deformed into a ball and the ball expanded before it suddenly shrunk. The change happened so quickly that it looked like he became a giant balloon then he exploded. But what came out of his body was an explosion of heat and fire instead of air. Then their screen went dark as all their priests died.

The gods started talking excitedly amongst themselves.

"Did you see how he lifted that Colossus with one punch?"

"Yes, I did. He must be a transcendent now. Demigods always get terrifying when they become transcentents."

"That's true but this is a little too much. The fight lasted less than a second."

"But how did he break through to become a transcendent? I thought he was bonded and captured."

They were surprised by the situation and perplexed by a lot of things. How is Helios a transcendent? Why is he fighting a Colossus? What about the Goliath ants? Isn't Helios a little too strong for a transcendent? There are so many questions and the mystery surrounding the ant mound has only gotten thicker. So Helios was wrong about the absence of mystery. But one thing is sure, the fight was entertaining even though it was too short.

Chapter 400 Why Demigods Are Stronger.

The fight wasn't what they were expecting but it was entertaining nonetheless and it has the potential to lead to a lot of more entertaining things. Helios might be angry with them. It is something to celebrate about. It has been a while since they had a rebellious transcendent. It will be fun to watch him hunted down. They can even compete among themselves to see the first one to kill him.

That's what the gods thought. They were excited at the prospect. Only Harkam could keep his calm. He just can't admit that Helios is worthy even if he is to be hunted for sport.

He said to the gods dismissively, "He wasn't that impressive. It is just a demigod bullying a normal transcendent."

He claimed that the fight was impressive but Harkam isn't impressed. If Helios has become a transcendent then it is normal for him to destroy a Colossus easily. It has never been done by any demigod but it is theoretically possible so it is not impressive that Helios did something that no one has ever done.

A Colossus is a transcendent too but they are weak compared to demigods because they don't have Origin energy to use their full power. The fact that Helios couldn't penetrate the skull of the Colossus the way he penetrated the ant mound is proof of their potential.

Demigods that become transcentents are more powerful because they have divine power from their godly parents to augment themselves. The situation will be the same even if there is Origin energy. Demigods will always the advantage of divine power.

The only way for normal transcentents to bridge the gap is with the use of laws. So it is unfortunate that giants of Order can't use laws. They are screwed either way with or without Origin energy. Demigods beat normal transcentents because of this handicap. It doesn't happen so grandly as Helios did it but Harkam will stick to his guns and remain unimpressed.

What he is perturbed about is how Helios broke through. Last he knew, Helios was betrayed and offered up. So how had his captors allowed him to break through? There's no way the ant queen who is a demigod, will not know when someone is breaking through around her. If Helios had broken through in the army camp, all the gods would have been aware of it. The fluctuations of divine power will be obvious.

"Good for him."

Harkam gave up when he couldn't come up with a good reason. Maybe the queen was negligent or Helios was lucky. It doesn't make a difference to him. Even the fact that Helios just killed a Colossus of the church of order didn't seem odd to him, only interesting. There have been a lot of weird things happening lately. The Celestial Supreme froze the mortal realm just recently. So this seemed mildly odd but very interesting.

The person that it bothered the most is the Celestial Supreme. While everyone is excited about the fight he is more concerned about the implications of the fight. He sensed that Celestial aura around Helios very clearly. It was as clear as day. But there was no Celestial. Or at least, Helios does not look like a Celestial. And yet, his Stigmata contains the divine will of a Celestial god. So where did Helios get help from?

The divine plane hasn't acknowledged a new celestial after Stelios so that means that Helios is in touch with a previous Celestial. It couldn't be the god of fate because of their contract. It shouldn't be the sun god because the coward is hiding away but the celestial aura felt like the power of the sun.

It couldn't be the hidden god because he has confirmed that it is related to plant life not the sun and the hidden god is not a Celestial.

'I am so confused right now.' He groaned and massaged his forehead.

The Colossus he sent was supposed to answer questions and not increase them. He still doesn't know what's going and he doesn't have an inkling of it. If there's one thing that he is certain of, it is that the hidden god is not a Celestial god. He already knew that, but his estimation of the ability of that new and unknown god has begun to rise.

"Nothing I could have done would have made me avoid this. Two Colossi would not have been able to hold their own against him."

One of the things that he would have liked to avoid apart from the death of his Colossus is letting Helios live. Everything else is irrelevant in this situation apart from the strength that Helios exhibited. He saw a lot more than the other gods saw and what he saw made him realize that he couldn't have expected that outcome and nothing would have changed if he had done things differently.

He planned to hit the ant mound with two instead of one Colossus when he suspected that a plant spirit will be there. There is one for each of the 100 mana entities so there might be one at the ant mound too.

He is not one to take chances so he was about to tell the enforcer to turn back and wait for reinforcement when he noticed that the plant spirit was leaving. More like it was running away. The

plant spirit picked up speed and left the ant mound as fast as it could. It was running towards something or away from something.

"Maybe the hidden god values the vessel too much to endanger it. Anyway, this is enough for me."

Back then, he didn't think too much about it. The action perplexed the Celestial Supreme but again, there was nothing he could do about it. So he sighed in relief that the plant spirit that he was worried about won't be there to stop him. Recent events have shown that he should have been worried. He should have been very worried.