

GREED 451

Chapter 451 The GodSlayer.

Harkam's mind wanders a lot. He is usually thinking about other things instead of focusing on the meeting. He will say it is because the meetings are slow and boring. This meeting had the potential to be exciting when Stelios came and the possibility of a public execution hung in the air. It quickly became apparent that he wouldn't get his wish so he became distracted. Then he noticed that one particularly odd god is not attending this meeting.

It is one thing for the god of fate to not bother with meetings during the time of peace but they are in times of war and yet the god of fate is still not attending the meeting. Harkam couldn't help to marvel at the audacity. Of course, he had to marvel outwards not within his mind. That's why he spoke out about the god of fate's absence.

Harkam's observation drew the attention of other gods too. If not for the god of fate's seat still being around, they would think he is dead because no one has seen him for a long while. They began questioning things that they shouldn't question and some are already trying to contact the god of fate.

The Celestial Supreme schooled his face and spoke calmly, "The god of fate isn't here because I have sent him on an important and secret mission. Now no more distractions, let's get to the matter at hand."

That makes two sources of trouble that he has to put out before the meeting to put down the demon troubles started. Both troubles are related and further increased his reluctance to allow the creation of more Celestials.

The gods became silent after that and listened to what he wanted to say. His answer is not good enough for them but no one wants to question him about it. He already said that the mission of the god of fate is secret. It will just be asking for trouble by asking about it.

"We are currently at a threshold or perhaps on a cliff edge. We either overcome the next challenge coming our way or we lose the mortal realm to the demons. We have to destroy the Stronghold before it is built. In light of the seriousness of the situation, I think it is time to use the GodSlayer."

His words were met with only silence and confusion. The high, mid, and low gods don't know what he is talking about. They don't know what a GodSlayer is but they expect that things will clear up if they remain patient and observe. The grand gods know what he meant by a GodSlayer but he shouldn't know

about it. It is why they are surprised but none of them showed it, not even Harkam. Harkam's reaction might just be due to him being absentminded again and not being stoic.

The Celestial Supreme continued to talk when he saw that no one wants to admit to knowing the secret weapon they were making behind his back.

"This is not a trap. I know about the GodSlayer, I know it was created by the grand gods and I know that it was designed to kill me."

The jaws of the other gods fell. The knowledge that some gods were planning a secret coup came to them as a shock. Then again, if someone will plan a coup against the strongest god in the pantheon then it had better be secret. They obviously failed since their coup isn't a secret to their target.

The grand gods glanced at Stelios imperceptibly. He was a grand god a short while back. It could have been him that couldn't keep his mouth shut. He probably traded the information with the Celestial Supreme to save his life.

Their little actions didn't go unnoticed by the Celestial Supreme. "Stelios didn't tell me about it. I knew about it a long time ago. Now, are you going to admit it?"

The gods consider the god of fate a jerk and they consider the god of order a narcissistic control freak. His refusal to allow Celestial gods has been getting on some gods' nerves for quite some time. Stelios is a very good example.

Stelios gets weak at night and stronger during the day. The cycle of power makes his strength unreliable. He can't output constant power and no one will care about his weakness during the trial of heaven. So he can't switch to the path of perfection and can't become a Celestial. He has been stuck in his position as a grand god for hundreds of origin cycles. Imagine his happiness at seeing the opportunity that Helios represents for him.

Stelios isn't the only god that has a weakness that prevents him from having a shot at performing well in the trial of heaven. Other gods are weak to fire or cold and the goddess of the night gets weakened during the day. Divinity is great but it prevents a god from using any other ability and it comes with weaknesses. Those on the path of perfection gradually eliminate their weakness until they achieve true

immortality. Sovereigns can use other techniques apart from their concept but grand gods are stuck. Yet, the Celestial Supreme has blocked their path forward.

Then there is the Celestial Supreme's micromanaging. People hardly like their bosses and that's when they are being paid for their work. Gods are not being paid by the Celestial Supreme yet he gets to boss them around. He tells them what to do, how to do it, and what not to do even in matters that concern their churches.

Even the divine council that he calls grates on them. He makes it look like he is calling them for a discussion but it is really an opportunity for him to tell them what to do. They don't need to be here for him to order them around. He can send his orders to them but he just wants to see their face as they are forced to listen to him. So it is understandable that these disgruntled gods who have been boiling in resentment will decide to come together and hatch a scheme to get rid of their overbearing leader.

Chapter 452 Kerons The God Of Justice.

The god of knowledge asked carefully, "What else do you know about this strange weapon you called the GodSlayer?"

He isn't admitting to having knowledge of it. He just wants to know how much the Celestial Supreme knows about it.

Zernon glared at him. "Why are you still being stubborn? I know everything about it, I even know how it started and who started it. Was it not that bastard Kerons that came up with the idea?"

Oddly enough, it wasn't the current gods that started this project. A long time ago before there was any Celestial, there was a god, the god of justice Kerons who had it out for the god of order. This god started the project GodSlayer specially designed to kill the god of order.

The two of them were competing to become the first Celestial and subsequently the Celestial Supreme. All the grand gods of that era were competing for it but these two had it in for each other because a grand god needs to absorb a compatible domain to evolve and the two of them had compatible domains.

Obviously, the god of order won to become the Celestial god of order and justice while his opponent died before the project could be completed. The grand gods found it later and have been working on it for generations. Stelios being one of the oldest gods and also the best runemaster in the plane is the

largest contributor to the project. The several generations of the god of knowledge are the second highest contributors.

The god of knowledge sighed and said dejectedly. "So what if you found it? It doesn't work."

But even with several years of effort, the project hasn't worked out yet. Its creator started the project to kill the then-grand god of order because the god of justice couldn't get past the defense of his armor. But now the god of order is a Celestial. His armor has experienced a big boost and his defensive measures are stronger than ever. The GodSlayer's purpose has become obsolete and it doesn't match up to the new challenge.

The grand gods didn't hope to kill the Celestial Supreme with it. They would have been satisfied if it will act as a deterrent. They plan to threaten the Celestial Supreme with it. They will only fire it if he refuses to capitulate. He might not die from the damage but he will be weakened. They can then ascend en masse and gang up on him. Several Celestials can surely match a weakened Celestial Supreme or so they hoped.

They haven't used the weapon because there's no going back once they unveil it. The Celestial Supreme being the control freak that he is would never allow such a thing to exist if he knows about it. They have to be ready to use it as soon as its existence becomes public knowledge. Who would have thought that he already knew about it?

'Thankfully it never came to it.' Stelios thought to himself.

There have been close shaves in the past when the gods were about to use the GodSlayer. It has not been easy living under a nosy and controlling superior. Sometimes, someone just gets irritated to the level that they want to unleash the GodSlayer.

There have been other good reasons to use the GodSlayer too. Back when Stelios was spooked because the Celestial Supreme came to see Helios being born, he had wanted to use the GodSlayer to make the Celestial Supreme back off if he sensed something off about Helios.

Helios was his lifeline and he wasn't above bringing in their secret weapon to ensure that nothing will stop him. It is obvious now that things would not have turned out the way he wanted since the Celestial Supreme knows about the GodSlayer.

Zernon smirked. "Of course, I know it won't work on me. I inspected it thoroughly and I left it alone when I didn't consider it a threat. It wouldn't have worked no matter how much you tinkered with it. But I know how to fix it."

He was very angry at first when he found the Godslayer. It is bad enough that the creator of the project also left a lot of his secrets with the project. The fact that the gods were smiling to his face while scheming to kill him infuriated him. He wanted to destroy the weapon there and then but he inspected it first.

He left it alone when he realized it could never work on him. It is best that the grand gods have a false belief that they have something that can threaten him than for him to burst their hope and make them search for alternatives. They will start another project if this one is believed to be compromised. He knows about this one and it is good enough. He might not discover the next one that they start so he left the GodSlayer alone. He also knows how to make the GodSlayer stronger.

The eyes of the god of Knowledge lit up in excitement. "What's the solution?"

He had been dejected that the secret project that he had hoped for wasn't so secret and the target had let it exist because he thought it was a joke. But his mood changed with the prospect of a solution.

Zernon raised his chin arrogantly. He spoke with pride. "Your GodSlayer is well crafted. The energy conversion process is almost perfect.

"I thought so too." The god of knowledge nodded and agreed.

Zernon kept quiet because of the interruption.

"I'm sorry, please continue."

He continued after the apology. "But no matter how perfect it is, it lacks Celestial Authority."

The god of knowledge began to rant. "What kind of solution is that? Do you think we're idiots? Of course, we know that it needs Celestial Authority but we didn't have one. Trying to get one will lead to you trying to kill the new Celestial. Your solution is obvious and not inspired."

The god of knowledge continued to rant while the gods sitting beside him shifted away from him. They have a slight suspicion that being so close to him might be very bad for their health. Surely, that frown on the Celestial Supreme's face cannot be a sign of approval.

Chapter 453 Stating The Obvious.

The god of knowledge continued unaware that space is being created between him and the nearest god. "We were looking for a solution to bypass the need for Celestial Authority. That would have been a cool solution. Your solution is obvious and boring. Frankly, it is not a solution at all."

The grand gods knew it wasn't going to work and also why it wasn't going to work. Without a Celestial Authority, the GodSlayer is a grand god-level weapon at best. Adding a Celestial Authority will make it a Celestial weapon. The challenge is how to make a grand god-level weapon kill a Celestial. It would have been cool to find a way around the need for a Celestial Authority. It is why the Celestial Supreme's answer is disappointing and why the god of knowledge is ranting about it.

"And to think I was looking forward to the answer. It was a waste of..." The god of knowledge froze when he realized what he has just done.

He looked around but found no one close to him. He looked at them as if to ask them why none of them stopped him but none of the gods were looking him in the eye. They have made it known by shifting away that they don't want to have anything to do with him. So they avoided making eye contact at all. He is on his own right now.

The god of knowledge groaned audibly. He wished he could reverse time but unfortunately, he can't. It is not for his lack of trying either. Research by the numerous generations of gods of knowledge on that issue has not borne fruit.

He coughed. "I apologize for my inelegant behavior. I got carried away. Generations of gods of knowledge have invested a lot into it and I hoped that an answer has finally been found. My behavior is unbecoming but it is rooted in my eagerness for a solution. I meant no disrespect."

Zernon snorted. He would use the god of knowledge as an example but he has more important things to deal with right now. So he overlooked the disrespectful behaviour and returned to the subject of this meeting.

He said to them. "The GodSlayer will become powerful enough to harm a Celestial once we add Celestial Authority to it. It will be a match for that demon king too. If we add two Celestial Authorities to it, then it will surely vanquish the demon king."

What he didn't say is that it will also be able to work against any other powerful being like the hidden god, Helios, and maybe any Celestial that he wants to kill. He never thought the day would come that he will need something created by the traitorous grand gods. He is desperate so that day has come. It doesn't matter anyway. Everything in Zargoth plane belongs to him after all. He is just using what he has to its fullest potential.

The god of knowledge raised his hands this time around. He has something to say but he feels he should show some remorse for his earlier rebuke.

He spoke when the Celestial Supreme signaled that he could speak. "That's good and all, but there are good reasons why we haven't been flaunting the weapon. It is very expensive to use in terms of divinity, it needs 10 grand gods to supply divine energy at once and it also has a long loading time. It is sure to take longer to reload now that we intend to put in Celestial Authority and two at that. How do you suppose we solve that?"

Zernon answered. "We don't solve anything. We use it as it is. Reworking it will take too much time that we don't have."

"What about the army that we sent to the demon stronghold? They will certainly reach their target before the GodSlayer is ready."

"They will distract the demon king and buy us more time."

He tried to convince Zernon against that notion. "How about we let them stand back? They are obviously no match for a demon king."

Zernon waved his hands unconcerned about the fate of the army. He said, "Stelios will be there with some of his vessels. It will give them a fighting chance and help to delay the demon king. The demon king is at the fortress so we can nail the two of them at the same time without needing to reload the GodSlayer for two separate shots. We will take out both the demon king and the fortress at once. Any sacrifice is worth it."

Helios wasn't able to kill all those loyal to the sun god. The most loyal ones are the vessels who are willing to sacrifice their life for their god. Some of them escaped and answered the call to action of Stelios. Stelios told them that the bad things that they went through were a test of faith and he has one last test for them with a reward of a seat by his side in his divine kingdom. The suckers bought it hook line and sinker. They are en route to the liberation army now to finish the test which is killing the demon king.

That's the thing about people of faith. Faith makes them blind to reason and the situation of life. The death of their family members because of the infighting in the church of the sun and the lack of support from the god they serve during the time they needed him is not enough to make them lose faith in him. He called it a test and that is good enough for them. Now they are going to face the demon king and liberate the plane from his terror.

The god of knowledge sat down unwillingly. He has said his piece but the Celestial Supreme didn't listen to him. The vessels will only give the army a fighting chance. A fighting chance only means you can actually fight without looking like a fool. It doesn't mean that they have a chance of victory. They will still die. But they will die without being squashed like bugs.

Chapter 454 Full Recovery Of The Soul.

The use of vessels by gods can be likened to the use of Accumulation by demons to reach the power of a demon lord. It is not a sustainable option and it cannot compare to the real thing. Vessels can't use the full power of a god. They will die if it is tried so all those vessels will probably die too.

Even Stelios's zealots will not be able to hold back the demon king for long. They both have Authority but Stelios's vessels will break first before the demon king and they will break easily too. The vessels of the other gods are sourly lacking. They wouldn't be of any use at all. So the liberation army is being sent to their deaths.

The gods would have been nonchalant about the loss of an army in the past. But believers are scarce nowadays. Believers that are willing to die for their gods are even rarer. These types of believers should be taken care of and used as seeds to grow their church but they also need to eliminate the demon king or there won't be any chance for their church.

Most of the soldiers are fighting because they believe they are doing the right thing not because they believe in their gods. Zargoth plane is their home and it is being terrorized by demons. They have seen the destruction and the death that has been visited upon their home. So they hope to beat back the demons and restore peace to their plane. And yet, here are the gods throwing them out as cannon fodder to buy time.

The god of knowledge doesn't care about their lives, it just pains him to see good sources of faith go to waste. If it were up to him, he would have decided to send Stelios's zealots alone to face the demon king. They are stupid and above all, they are not his believers so he won't care if they die.

'It is all those demons' fault. They don't think about the future at all.'

Demons and gods are enemies. They usually target the same thing but they do it with different approaches. Gods are after faith which comes from believers. They tend to their people as one tends to a flock. They kill a lot of them sometimes for entertainment or divine wars. But they make sure that their source of faith is sustainable. Moderation is key to gods.

Demons on the other hand just kill and kill without limit or care. What they want are souls not replenishable sources of faith and they need to kill to get the souls they want. They will harvest everything that there is to harvest and then return to the abyss leaving the plane in shambles. If demons had long-term benefits to be had for sparing people then they might be able to work with gods.

Every god agreed with the decision to sacrifice the soldiers no matter their gripes on it because what Zernon said is right. The GodSlayer takes a long time to load and is expensive, certainly more expensive than some mortal lives. A single shot is more than enough to kill the demon king and destroy the stronghold. It is like killing two birds with one stone.

Reloading the GodSlayer after shooting it might bring up problems. It wasn't designed to use Celestial Authority. It can use it and even use two of them because of its sturdy design and capacity, but it is uncertain if it will be able to use Celestial Authorities twice in a row. If the demon king leaves the fortress they will have to choose which one to target. It is best if they eliminate all their problems once and for all. So they had to send the Liberation army to keep him at the stronghold.

Back To Aeternus.

While the gods were preparing to annihilate him, he was admiring his new body.

"Everything has changed." He said in awe.

For the first time since he became a demon, he finally has a body. It is not flesh and blood but it isn't just bone with atrophied muscles anymore. He has real muscles now. They are made from his new authority of chaos. His body was heavily warped by chaos and will usually ooze out black chaos fumes but that has changed now that his chaos Accumulation has become the Authority of chaos.

He doesn't have any skin on his body. He has a layer of hard crystal flesh over his bones. His golden bones can be vaguely seen through the red crystal. There are some protrusions of bone around his shoulders, elbow, and knees revealing the golden bones but he isn't oozing out fumes of Chaos energy anymore. He finally has full control over his chaos energy now that he has Authority over it.

Having his body made out of his Authority means his body cannot be hurt by anything without Authority. And if his Authority is higher, the attack wouldn't hurt him at all. It isn't much of a boost right now since he has only one level of Authority but it will be helpful in the future once he has more.

His body changed a lot but it is his soul that experienced the largest boost during his evolution. His soul has completely healed and can match Legion-1's soul now. There's also a golden crown surrounding his soul. The crown is indestructible and will protect his soul from all harm unless the attack is backed by Authority. Even then, the crown will whisk his soul away to a resurrection point when his soul incurs too much damage. That resurrection point is usually the abyssal plane that they created or in the case of kings of the abyss, they resurrect in the 1st abyssal plane.

This mechanism is what gives the illusion of immortality to demon kings. It isn't true immortality because the soul will become vulnerable and can be killed if the crown is forcefully taken or lost. But apart from that, they can always return from death. As long as their crown is with them, they can always create another body for their soul.

Chapter 455 [Bonus] Dwarf Demon King.

The sight of his body pleases him but he frowned when he noticed his height.

He sighed and muttered. "I was wrong. Not everything has changed."

His height remains stagnant at 1.7m. He is already the dwarf high-rank demon, this is just pushing it too far for a demon king. A demon king is usually a giant on par with a Colossus. That's an average of 1,000 meters tall and some of them can grow taller than that. The smallest of them has a natural height of 100 meters and yet, he is a pin-sized demon king.

If not for the red crystal flame between his golden horns and the golden halo that is levitating above his head, no one will believe he is a demon king. His body is so strong that he can sleep and allow thousands of demon lords to attack him. They will fail to harm him no matter how much they try but the sight of all of them beating him, trying and failing to harm him will not be as impressive because of his height. It will look like a couple of adults bullying a child.

The other demon kings won't take him seriously either. Fortunately, he can change his height. His body is made from his Authority and he can control his it. It will cost him energy for him to increase his height but it doesn't matter. He won't change his height anyway. He doesn't need his height for him to be feared. Demon kings will learn to fear him when some of them start dying to him without resurrecting anymore.

"Well, at least I have wings." He said to console himself.

He finally has wings. A pair of golden bones protrude from his back to form the support of his wings. Black flames are burning on them to form a pair of large black feathered wings that resemble a bird's instead of the bat-like ones that demons have. The feathers are formed by his chaotic flames and it looks sharp but demons don't have feathered wings. Angels do, but theirs is white.

He shook his head and said, "Now I just look like a freak."

His skull is also burning with black flames. The black flame covers his head like hair. It doesn't drape down to his shoulders as normal hair does. Instead, it is burning with reckless abandon on his head as if he carrying a bonfire on his head. So yes, he looks like a freak even by demon standards. He is short, has no flesh over his skull, and worst of all, he has feathered wings.

NAME: AETERNUS (Legion-3)

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

RACE: Demon Of Envy.

BLOODLINE/SIN: Chaotic Envy.

DEMON RANK: Divine Demon King.

AUTHORITY: 1

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: INFINITE.

CHAOS ENERGY: INFINITE.

ATTACK RATING: Physique:1323+1442. Spirit:2880+3139. MAGIC:1512+1648

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:1512+1648. Spirit:3640+3967. MAGIC:1512+1648

SOUL ESSENCE: 0

BIOMASS: 0

DIVINITY: 10

SIN RANK: Demon King.

STRENGTH: Lesser Divine- 63

CONSTITUTION: Lesser Divine-72

ACTIVITY: Lesser Divine-72

AGILITY: Lesser Divine- 63

CHAOTIC POWER: Lesser Divine-72.

PHYSICAL RESISTANCE: Lesser Divine-72

MAGICAL RESISTANCE: Lesser Divine-72

SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE: Eternal-91

SPIRIT: Eternal-72

PERCEPTION: Eternal-72

CROWN OF THE KING OF KINGS:

1. King of Chaotic Envy: Level 1 Authority. Needs 3 Celestial Authorities to upgrade to the next level.

SIN ABILITIES:

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

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

3. The Oath Of the Divine King(DIVINE)-

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

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

- The Divine House: You're not an ordinary lord as such your house cannot be ordinary. Your subordinates get a boost that is equal to the percentage of their cumulative power significance. Current Boost= 99%(UNIQUE)

- Herald Of The King: Select 6 subordinates to bestow the title of Herald. These subordinates will be able to use your Authority for a short period depending on long they can carry the burden of the extra power. (DEMON KING GRADE)

4. The Authority of Chaos: Your Accumulation of power has transformed into the Authority of chaos thereby granting you a permanent boost to your state of existence. Your state of existence is now 21. (DEMON KING GRADE)

5. The Essence of Envy(DIVINE): Take the Sin Abilities of Slain Enemies and maintain them at 100%.(DEMON KING GRADE)

6. The Divine Hunter: As a demon created specifically for hunting gods you ignore every and all suppression you face within the divine kingdom of a god. You have also lost the weakness of demons to divine power. (UNIQUE)

7. The Divine King's Avatar: Create an avatar that can be empowered by Godhood. The power of the avatar is dependent on the power of the Godhood used. You do not need to sacrifice one of your numerous crowns to create an avatar at the level of a demon king. (UNIQUE)

8. The Divine King(DIVINE): You get a boost to your power the more powerful your subordinates are. Current boost=99%.(UNIQUE)

9. The King of Kings: A king among demon kings meant to prey on other kings. You can wear as many crowns as you can carry. The limit is the tolerance of your soul. (DEMON KING GRADE)

10. The King's Avatar: Create an Avatar with the power of a demon king by sacrificing one of your crowns as the core for the avatar. The crown can be retrieved. (DEMON KING GRADE)

11. The Domain of a King: Create a plane within the abyss that is to be your domain using the Godhood of a Celestial. Every enemy that enters your domain gets suppressed. The suppression is based on the amount of Authority and crowns that you have against the amount of Authority and crowns that the intruder has. (DEMON KING GRADE)

12. The Power of Crowns(DIVINE) You get stronger the more crowns you have but you can be stronger still. Acquire this ability to increase your mark of sin with the various crowns you get and increase your boost from the crowns. Current boost=X1.5 (UNIQUE)

13. The power of Authority: Authority makes a king stronger. It empowers their very being and enforces their every action. The words they proclaim are law and their decrees cannot be nullified unless a stronger power of Authority does it. Current Boost=10%(DEMON KING GRADE)

Chapter 456 Demon King Abilities.

Aeternus has come a long way from that humble high-rank demon he used to be. His highest attack rating back then was for his spirit at 396 while his chaotic power was at 315. He could push his chaotic power to 1071 by using Accumulation to raise his state of existence from 5 to 17. Now he doesn't need to. He has traded his Accumulation in for a permanent state of existence of 21 making his chaotic power rating 1512 even without the boost from his other abilities.

His evolution came with a lot more cool things as a demon king apart from the obvious addition of another stat to his stat screen. The new stat AUTHORITY determines the boost he gets from his THE POWER OF AUTHORITY ability. It is a common ability that all demon kings have. Each level of Authority grants him a boost to his power rating. Since he is level 1, he gets a 10% boost. If he had another crown, his boost from THE POWER OF CROWNS ability will make it 15% and a third will make it 22.5%.

His POWER OF AUTHORITY is common among demon kings, it comes with the evolution, but his POWER OF CROWNS is a unique ability that he has access to as a Divine Demon King. Other kings of kings will only get a boost of X1.2 to their power for each crown that they get but he was opportune to change that by upgrading it to its maximum rank, the divine rank for a boost of X1.5.

The increase in boost will help him maximize each crown that he acquires. His height will ensure that he doesn't have to look too much for a target. There will be a demon king that will pick on him for him being short and being new.

His abilities are split between Unique ones and normal ones. Some of the normal ones aren't common, they need to be paid for during evolution like the AUTHORITY OF CHAOS and THE ESSENCE OF ENVY. Even then, his essence of envy is divine rank so the sin ability will be perfectly preserved during the transfer of ownership. There won't be a fall in the power of the sin ability from its dead previous owner to him.

The rest of his normal abilities come along once a type of Authority and crown has been acquired. His KING OF KINGS and DOMAIN OF A KING came as a result.

His unique abilities on the other are special. Some of them make his normal abilities redundant like his DIVINE KING' AVATAR and his KING'S AVATAR. While some Unique abilities boost his normal ones like his POWER OF CROWNS does for his POWER OF AUTHORITY and DOMAIN OF A KING. The boost from his crown will increase the suppression of intruders in his domain by 10%.

He also gets another boost from his DIVINE KING'S ability. He gets 1% for every demon duke in his family. Since he has 99 dukes he gets 99% which brings his total boost to 109% to his power rating.

A demon noble will give him 0.1% and a high-rank demon will give him a 0.01% boost. He can have a lot of them but it will burden his soul. The boost of demon dukes might be high now but it is best if he uses his soul to withstand the burden of more crowns than to accumulate subordinates. His increase in Authority will have a better return that way.

"Maybe I shouldn't have killed all those demon nobles. They will be perfect to try my ESSENCE OF ENVY ability on. But it's all good. It means the demon lord won't be able to run away." He said after going through his abilities.

He doesn't feel regret about killing the demon nobles as the pain of his claymore cutting into their bodies cut into his soul during his trial. But now he wished he hadn't. He would like to see their mark of sin ripped from their dying soul, fragmented, refined, and then added to his.

Killing them has its advantage. Now Beelta won't know that he has become a demon king and won't try to run away. She will be waiting for him to stock up on souls and maybe some divine power for his Accumulation before he returns to the abyss. She will expect him to be full of confidence and attack her. So she will wait for him. But he has other plans for her. The two of them are not on the same level anymore.

The ESSENCE OF ENVY is the upgrade of the POWER OF ENVY. The POWER OF ENVY is the first sin ability that a demon of envy gets as a mid-rank demon. They acquire the other one when they become a demon king. The POWER OF ENVY enables a demon to copy attacks but with the ESSENCE OF ENVY, a demon king can keep an ability forever without needing to copy it or be mindful of the number of copies they have. They take the mark of sin of a demon and add it to theirs and can use the abilities that come with it forever. Its only disadvantage is that it makes it more difficult for a demon king to become a demon god the more their mark of sin is corrupted with the marks of other demons.

"The liberation army should be here soon. It will give me the chance to stretch my bones. In the meantime, I'll start on my mark of sin." He said to himself

He intends to start on the requirements to become a demon god while he waits for the liberation army that the gods have sent to fight him. Their preparation and rallying of troops didn't escape the notice of Legion. There are plant spirits all over the plane spying on the activities of the gods and informing the tree father.

He will fight them and use them to relax a little. Then he will leave when the construction of the stronghold has finished. The plane is not completely theirs yet so there is still a lot to do.

Chapter 457 How To Become A Demon God.

Becoming a demon god is pretty straightforward. The most important thing for that to happen is Authority. A demon king accumulates Authority to become stronger and become a demon god. The major reason why Authorities are important to becoming a demon god is so that they will be able to manipulate their mark of sin itself and fuse with it so that they become a sin themselves. After all, a demon god is the personification of a sin. The embodiment of that sin itself.

Every demon gets a mark of sin when they become a low-rank demon. This mark of sin determines when they can evolve and what abilities they get when they evolve. The mark of sin is the root of the

power system of demons. It is the foundation of demons and why they use sin energy instead of mana to elevate their state of existence.

The origin of the mark of sin is the abyss. The will of the abyss creates it and marks the soul of every demon with it. Contained within the mark of sin is a wealth of power. It is the source of all sin abilities pertaining to a particular sin. It is like a spring of power more powerful than the energy well of an abyssal plane. To gain control of the mark of sin is to gain absolute power over that sin.

To become a demon god, one must gain control of the mark of sin, understand it, tweak it to increase compatibility with the soul, and finally fuse with it. It is a very difficult process. Even the first step of gaining control is not easy. Something as powerful as the mark of sin that can grant power up to the level of a demon king cannot be controlled easily.

The mark of sin will resist change. The resistance will die down once a demon king gains acquire a higher Authority than the one that is in the mark of sin. That is why demon kings need a powerful Authority just to get started on it and to unearth its secrets.

Apart from the daunting difficulty of acquiring a lot of Authority, the deadline is also a time crunch. The breakthrough to becoming a demon god is a race. The first demon that fuses with the mark of sin gains absolute control of it. That means the mark of sin cannot grant Authority without the demon god's permission which prevents the creation of any more demon kings with that mark of sin.

The abyss is the one that usually grants Authority after the trial of the abyss, but the trial will become inaccessible without the permission of the demon god. A demon god can also remotely strip other demon kings of the same sin of their Authority. All Authorities fall under the control of the demon god and to fail to reach it first is to give up your power to someone else.

Aeternus is unique in his path. He doubts he has a competitor. The fact that he went through the trial of the abyss without the permission of anyone proves that there is no demon god in his path. But that doesn't mean he can relax. There's no reason not to believe someone is out there with the same mark. Even the smallest chance of it is dangerous. If there's a competitor, that competitor will be far from normal too just like he is. Such a demon cannot be underestimated. So he can't waste any time.

He walked out of the fortress that is being built around the growing altar. Then he stood in front of the fortress and began to experiment with his mark of sin while he wait.

He doesn't have a powerful Authority. His Authority is just Level 1 and will need 3 Celestials to reach the next level but he isn't powerless against his mark of sin. He could already modify his sin ability a little bit as a high-rank demon. He should be able to do more now that he has full control of his chaos energy.

The limited manipulation of his mark of sin that he has is because of the warping by chaos energy. He should be a demon of envy with a mark of envy but he has a mark of chaotic envy. Chaos might be difficult to control but it is acceptable to change. Chaos is basically constant change. So the difficulty of overcoming the resistance of his mark of sin to change is much lower.

There are disadvantages to his situation too. Understanding and changing his mark of sin might be easier but fusing with it will be more difficult than normal because he will have to fuse with Chaos. That fight that he started with Chaos energy in the womb of the demon sire has not ended. He has only gotten time to adapt and relax before their final confrontation. At the end of the day, the two of them have to combine and he won't have the help of the shield he created to protect his soul.

Days went by and the liberation army finally arrived.

Their presence was announced by the sound of drums and feet matching on the ground in sync with the beat of the drums. They came in an imposing manner as soldiers ought to do but they are extra imposing because of their height.

It is wise to take towering giants seriously especially when they wear matching uniforms and have identical grim looks on their faces. The look on their face is as if they have been asked to die which they in fact have been asked to do. They look ready and willing to die.

These towering giants matched in formation and created a steady noise of feet slamming into the earth in synch. The smallest one of them is 70 meters tall and the tallest is 110 meters. They are already all taller than Aeternus. Then there is the Colossi who followed behind the army. They have heights above a kilometer. All in all, they are an impressive sight.

Chapter 458 Go Back And Prepare More.

There are more than 1,000 of the Colossi while the main army of giants is about 100,000 in number. This is what the entire plane can put together to fight the demons. They are all of one mind willing to sacrifice themselves to bring peace to their plane.

The liberation army came to find an equally imposing army waiting for them. This opposing army is composed of many short reddish-black figures. They are so many of them that it is all the giants can see. There are more than a million of them.

The enemy may be short and translucent with weak smokey forms but there is a lot of them. A million has to count for something. The soldiers gulped at the sight. Their fear and anxiety began to rise even through their grim determination to sacrifice themselves for the good of their plane.

The liberation army responded to the threat immediately. The soldiers activated their runes and assembled their weapons. They became clad in armor and different weapons either for close combat or range formed in their hands. The bombardment crews formed their cannons and the annihilators began prepping their weapons of mass destruction. The priests activated their spells and got ready to defend themselves against any attack. Orders began to fly from the vessels of the gods down to the last man. They prepared to do glorious and epic battle.

Suddenly the reddish-black figures began to disappear. They disappeared in a burst of flames and dwindled in number. They continued to disappear until only one short red demon is left behind. This one is solid compared to the translucent smoke-like ones that just disappeared.

Aeternus muttered to himself. 'This is more difficult than I thought. I need more than a few days for this.'

The clones he is trying to create came out poorly. He can create a large number of them but they are weak. They are as weak as they look. A mortal that hasn't reached the vitality core stage will be able to defeat each one of them easily. They are much stronger than the sin avatar of demon lords but they are a complete disappointment as clones of a demon king.

'It seems like the shortcut to producing clones won't work. I still have to use my crown or the Godhood of gods.' he mused to himself.

He is trying to bypass the requirement for creating a clone by using his energy. It is one of the tweaks of his mark of sin that he is aiming for. He would like to continue attempting it but the liberation army has come. Courtesy demands that they get his attention.

He stopped practicing to give them his attention. Then he examined the army that has come to vanquish him. His eyes widened in shock.

He said angrily, "This must be a joke. You can't be serious."

The number of soldiers in the army is an impressive turnout considering the low birth rate and population of their race. Then there's the desertion of the church of the sun and the world war that decimated their numbers some years back. The plane is obviously willing to do its best to eliminate the demons but it is not enough. It is not nearly enough.

The normal giants are akin to mid-rank demons. Mid-rank demons are equal to Transcendents. The only way these giants have been able to match mid-rank demons even though they are mana entities is because they have more stats than other mana entities. Their anti-magic domain and their tough body have also been very crucial in helping them match mid-rank demons. Even so, he has hundreds of millions of mid-rank demons in his house while they brought a hundred thousand giants to face him.

The most threatening of the liberation army are the transcendent giants and the vessels of gods. The gods have already descended into their various vessels as is evident by the various flames burning in the eyes of some transcendents. The rest of the army might as well be dry wood to his fire. They will burn just by being in contact with him. If not for the vessels, the weakest duke of his house will destroy this army. He is not the weakest duke of his family, he is the head of the family, and bringing this to him is a joke.

He said to them, "You know what. Go back and regroup. I'm giving you permission to increase your numbers. I'll be waiting here for you when you're ready."

It is obvious that they came here in a rush. They don't look nearly ready to face him. He wants to believe that their turnout is because of the lack of preparation and not a blatant disregard for him. So he decided to give them more of a chance in their fight. It is not because he cares about them, it is so that they will entertain him better.

But the gods don't appreciate his kind gesture.

"What is this demon ranting about senselessly."

"What does he take us for?"

"Does he think he can easily walk over us?"

"The pride and gall of demons. If he was so sure about himself he should have come to the divine plane and have his ass kicked.

The gods felt insulted. They knew they were going to eventually lose but they still have their pride and having that pride walked over doesn't sit well with them. The insolent demon is already talking like his victory is set in stone. Yes, his victory is set in stone but it is just rude to talk like so when the battle hasn't started.

"Silence." Stelios reprimanded them. "It doesn't matter what he thinks, our job is to preoccupy him. It should be easy since he is so small and weak."

They expected to face a big bad demon king but they met a runt. They don't think Aeternus is too dangerous because he doesn't look threatening. He is a demon king so he should be dangerous but it is hard to take someone that you can step on like an ant seriously.

Chapter 459 The Battle For The Liberation Of The Plane.

Aeternus might have a flaming skull but it isn't enough to scare them or take him seriously. Besides, he is just one demon, he might be able to go against the full array of the god's resources in the mortal plane and win, but it should take him time. It is a win for them as long as he is stalled.

They plan to delay him by dragging out the battle. It doesn't matter if they win. They know that but it is very unpleasant for them to hear their impending defeat from the mouth of their enemy. It is even worse that he said it in front of all these mortals. What if one of them survived this battle and tells the world?

It will be like a mortal witnessed their shame and lived to tell it. No god wants to be disrespected in front of mortals. They used to kill mortals for witnessing their shame. So now they have to say something about the disrespect or make sure that no mortal will survive this battle.

Stelios shouted in an imposing manner to Aeternus. He said, "Insolent midget, leave the realm of Zargoth and return from whence you came or we will be forced to destroy you. The mortal realm shall suffer your presence no longer. Leave this instant."

The soldiers of the army cheered as their morale increased. Stelios's words made it seem like they have a chance of winning and the poor fools believed it. Now they will give their all thinking that it won't go to waste. Technically, they are right. Their deaths won't go to complete waste. Even cannon fodder has its use.

Stelios looked at the reaction to his words and he smiled proudly. He thought to himself, 'I have won no matter the outcome of this battle.'

The experience of living for a long time helped him to navigate those treacherous waters very well. He diffused the threat of dishonor to the gods pretty easily. He considers it a win for himself no matter how the battle turns out.

If you want to look threatening, act threatening by shouting ultimatums to your enemies. It also helps if you are much taller than your enemy. Also, make sure to point out the difference in height by calling your enemy a derogatory name based on the height difference. It makes the odds look like they are in your favor.

The golden flame within Aeternus's skull flared through his eye sockets. If he thought they were taking him lightly before, now he is sure they are openly disrespecting him.

He said to them. "Fine. Have it your way."

He didn't move his lips as he spoke but everyone heard him. They heard his words and the meaning behind them from the depth of their mind. Demon language is that good. It made them know that he thought their army was insignificant before. Now they know that he is ready to wipe them out. They scrambled to prepare for his attack and he watched them impassively.

Since they have refused to appreciate his kind and selfless gesture, he will treat them like the trash that they are. He swung his claymore languidly at the army with one arm. His soul force mixed with chaos energy seamlessly and was ejected out of the claymore like a blade of fire. Then he returned to practicing cloning.

The blade of fire expanded as it shot into the air. It approached the army as it got bigger like a wave that threatened to drown them. Then the blade took on a strange shape after it finished expanding. It began to collapse on itself and its edges fused to give the attack shape and structure.

The attack finished its transformation by the time it reached the army. It became a towering skeletal entity more than 300 meters tall. This skeletal entity with white bones is wearing a black shroud that covered and obscured most of its bony figure but its skull is exposed through the illumination of the light of its eye sockets. The entity stood before the army with a black scythe primed and ready.

It said one word, "DEATH!"

The word rang out throughout the plane. Everyone on the plane heard the word and knew that someone had proclaimed death to another. The sound of the word hissed and echoed through the minds of all who heard it like the language of a serpent but only the soldiers of the army have the word DEATH marked boldly on their foreheads. Then the entity swung down its scythe on the army.

As the scythe fell, the runic structures of the giants began to deactivate. Armour and weapons scattered into motes of light. Tattoos began to dim down. The rowdy army became silent as breathing and talking stopped. Then the lights in their eyes dimmed down.

The giants were already falling down dead before the scythe reached them. Even then none of the reached the ground. The wraith entity was also reducing in size as the scythe approached the army. The scythe didn't touch anyone before the entity disappeared because it reduced to nothing before the scythe could reach anyone. The scythe may not have touched anyone but it apparently didn't need to. Only a single giant out of all of them was still standing after it disappeared.

The colossus had the telltale signs of being the vessel of a god. Its eyes were like two bright stars which indicate that it belongs to the sun god, a bonafide celestial. The Colossus was wobbling and having balance problems but it is still standing.

Aeternus looked up from his silent contemplation in surprise.

He said, "I'm impressed.

Yes, he is impressed that someone survived a single attack of his. He thought for sure that they would all be killed with a single move. It seems he was wrong.

He was about to attack again when the wobbling giant began to fall. The light in its eyes went out to reveal two chasms of darkness. It began burning with Chaos flames in the midst of falling down. Eventually, nothing fell down as it turned to ashes.

Chapter 460 Aftermath Of The Battle.

Aeternus began to laugh. He shook his head when he was done laughing. "Good one. Nearly had me fooled."

He looked onto the silent battlefield. There are no bodies because they have been destroyed by Chaos energy. The only thing standing are the tools and equipment the army brought with them. They are standing because dead things don't die. As for the living, he declared death to them and all of them died.

Then he returned to his work. His short break is over and he has a lot of work to do. His break would have been longer if the gods had tried their best to fight him. He blames Stelios for how boring the fight was. It would have been different had the sun god brought all 5 of his vessels instead of one. Aeternus knows that more than 5 vessels survived Helios culling.

The fight might be insignificant to him but it will go down in the history of giants. More than 100,000 giants were killed by a single attack and all of them died without a single contact. There's no need for contact when they've already been marked by the messenger of death. There also isn't any damage to their body. The entity had directly attacked their souls. It expended itself in the process that's why it reduced in size and disappeared.

Aeternus has perfect control of chaos energy now and he has perfect control of his soul force which means he can transition from attacking the physical to attacking the spiritual. Chaos energy used to be unwieldy so Aeternus hadn't been able to utilize its spiritual aspect even though it has spiritual components apart from the physical.

He has come a long way from being unable to wield chaos as a low-rank demon. So instead of fighting them like some brawny demon, he bombarded their souls with chaos energy and soul force. Their bodies began to burn from the inside out as Chaos energy got to work. They disappeared soon after leaving behind no trace of a battle. It was a soundless and quick battle.

The fight was too quick and unexciting for him. He had his hopes raised when he thought that the vessel of the sun god resisted his attack because if it can resist one attack, it can resist more. He was looking forward to the challenge but all he got was a disappointment. He didn't have much hope for them anyway but Stelios just had to tease him with the possibility of a good fight.

But he doesn't have to worry, he has all the time in the world. It is the gods that are desperate. They will surely come to him and if not, he will come to them. But he can't leave yet because he has to protect the abyss altar. He knows that there are more vessels out there so he can't leave the altar until it is complete.

In The Divine Plane.

Aeternus was wrong. The gods are not desperate. They are just scared and a little traumatized.

"I thought I was going to die," Harkam said shakily.

The other gods glared at him for saying it out loud. They are all sitting in the council chambers where they have meetings. They were sitting here while they controlled their vessels.

He asked them indignantly. "What? Was I wrong?"

They saw death when the word DEATH was proclaimed. An indomitable force threatened to overwhelm them. Their very being screamed out danger to them. It almost seemed like they would succumb to it but they didn't. They were prepared for the clash against the attack but the attack avoided them entirely and instead eradicated their vessels.

"You were right. But it was ultimately a bluff. It seems that demon kings are only so-so."

The gods began to laugh and jest.

All the gods are unharmed. They don't even feel anything from that attack. They might have lost epically to the demon king but surviving when they should at least be hurt makes them happy. The irony of the

situation is that only Stelios was hurt by the attack. He is also the only one not joining in on making fun of Aeternus. His face is grim and he is frowning heavily.

The goddess of power and might asked him. "What's the problem? Why are you so gloomy? Did the loss of your vessels hit you that badly?"

"Relax, we can always get more if the GodSlayer works. If it doesn't work, then it doesn't matter how many vessels we have." The god of war tried to make him feel better.

Harkam dropped his opinion. "He is just an old party pooper. He can't lighten up even if gloom will kill him."

Stelios finally spoke. "You're all fools."

He can't be at peace after the battle because they didn't experience what he experienced. He knows that they are too weak to see what he saw but he still considers them fools for making light of the situation.

Harkam stood up in rage. He yelled angrily. "Watch your mouth. Who do you think you are to call us fools?"

Someone whispered to him. "He is a Celestial now."

Harkam's eyes widen. He withdrew the finger he was pointing at Stelios. He became a little unsure but he still maintained his stance.

He said to Stelios, "Even so, you can't just call us fools without a good reason.

He feels regret for lashing out as he did. Old habits got the best of him but he isn't willing to back down. It reminds him of a similar situation that occurred in the past when he refused to apologize to Stelios for making fun of him. The two situations are very similar. He is way over his head in both situations. Except for this time, Stelios is a Celestial. This time, a loss might cost him his life.

Stelios ignored him and hurriedly approached the god of order and the god of knowledge who are busy with the GodSlayer. He can't be bothered with Harkam right now. He just hopes that things are not too late.