

GREED 471

Chapter 471 The True Father Of The GodSlayer.

Stelios was pulled out of his thoughts by Zerkon's order. He pounced on Zernon immediately. There are a lot of confusing things happening right now but it hasn't changed his situation. He still needs power and killing Zernon will get him more power. So he will kill the Celestial Supreme and worry about the future later when he has a future to worry about.

Zerkon watched the fight with glee. He has waited so long for revenge. It has taken a long time but it is finally here and it is glorious.

The two of them are rare twins. Twins are very rare due to the low fertility of giants of order. Their parents were mortals and they were born when the era of gods was just starting. They are both males but they are not identical in looks or behavior. Zernon had always been a control freak right from when they were young. He would always tidy the house and keep things in order while Zerkon was a lazy layabout. Their differences only increased when their parents died.

The era of gods came with war and strife. Gods need faith and believers. They compete with other gods in various ways all of which impacted mortals in negative ways. Divine wars ravaged the plane like never before. Giants had nowhere to go because they have been locked into the plane. So they could only have conflict amongst themselves since they have conquered the other races.

The death of their parents hit Zernon too hard. He was very distraught and he blamed the world for the death of their parents. He believed it happened because of the chaos in the plane. So he set out to create order. He needed strength if he intends to bring order to the world and the only way to get it is by becoming a god. That's why he started on the path of the divine. He became a player instead of a pawn and he changed the rules of the game.

Zerkon on the other hand accepted their parent's death as being natural. People die every time and the only reason they die is that they are weak. Their death may be a consequence of the strife among gods but it happened because they were weak. He learned that you need strength if you want to be able to live and do whatever you want. If you have strength, then you can become a player like the gods instead of being a pawn like the mortals. So he became a god so that he can control his fate and live out his life in peace.

The two of them have very different ideologies and goals. One of them made it his life's work to make the plane peaceful while the other would like to live a peaceful life without work. They both needed

strength and only the path of divinity can give it to them. So they claimed the path so that they can achieve what they want.

Their differences led them to the same destination but Zernon reached it first. He became the first Celestial and imposed his order on the world. Zerkon knew his brother well so he began planning. He started a project called the GodSlayer meant to kill the Celestial Supreme. There was a god of justice that died so that Zernon could ascend but the god of justice didn't start the project.

Zernon made it look like the god of justice made it. Then he became a Celestial and put a vestige of his power into it. No one knew about his ascension, not even the Celestial Supreme. It was until he couldn't hold off on the upgrading of his divine kingdom anymore that Zernon knew.

Zernon became angry and violent when he found out. He tried to kill Zerkon. He was not willing to have a threat to the order he created exist even if that threat is his twin brother. For there to be peace, there can only be one supreme leader. Two beings at the top of the food chain will cause conflicts which will lead to chaos. Zernon was willing to avoid chaos at all costs, including sacrificing his twin brother, the only family he has left in the world.

Zerkon didn't die. He was forced to seclude himself but he has planned this revenge for a long time even before his brother tried to kill him. He used his visions of the future and the power of his domain to hatch the plot. The future is not certain so he put into place a lot of contingencies.

For example, the GodSlayer was created to destroy Zernon in any way possible but Zerkon knew that it couldn't do it. It can only injure the Celestial Supreme at best even if he added his Celestial authority to it and everything falls into place. It is because order resists changes and is the most defensive domain.

So with this in mind, he added his vestige as a sort of programming to make sure that no matter who the GodSlayer targets, the attack will always lock on and shoot at Zernon no matter where he is. That is unless Zernon is within the GodSlayer himself. If he is in the GodSlayer himself, then the attack will explode and injure him. That is unless there is a better alternative such as some other people who have a better plan to kill Zernon.

Zerkon planned for every alternative future that he saw and even then Zernon didn't die because of the GodSlayer. Zernon is not fated to die by anyone's hand. Fate loves Zernon because of all the good he has done for his plane so it will try to protect him. It's how he survived his fight with Helios. Helios was stronger but he couldn't kill Zernon then and there.

Helios gave up because of the disadvantage of the battlefield and because he doesn't want to become a god. He would have failed if he tried to kill Zernon there. One thing or another would have happened to save the Celestial Supreme. Fate has decreed that Zernon couldn't die except by the hands of his betrayer while he is weakened.

Chapter 472 The Major Weakness Of Gods.

Zernon has been made practically immortal by the will of fate. He is the lovechild of Order after all. Nothing would have worked to kill him deliberately had Zerkon not seen how to make Zernon fall. It had to be a betrayal that occurs when Zernon is at his absolute lowest. So Zerkon had to engineer a betrayal or several betrayals. His schemes have led them to this point. Now, Zerkon has to make Stelios finish the job that he started and kill Zernon.

He could have taken a more active part in the scheming but Zerkon is an observer, he can only look not interfere. It is the side effect of his abilities, he can't kill Zernon even if his Celestial Authority is strong enough to do it. Someone else has to fire the weapon and that person has to do it without being influenced by Zerkon.

He can place down the tools and set the situation in motion but his domain blocks him from doing more or else he will incur Karma and lose his powers. The contract of non-interference that he signed to get Zernon off his back made it certain that he can't be actively involved.

He didn't mind the contract too much. It allowed him to do what he does best. It allowed him to observe in peace. So he was able to see the impact of Legion's plans for the plane and insert himself within it.

Meanwhile Outside The Ball That The God Of Fate Has Become.

The first red specter to arrive raised its scythe and slashed at the large golden ball. The scythe passed through the gigantic ball without resistance. The specter stumbled forward before catching himself. Then the specter tried to touch the ball. The hand hit resistance and felt the ball. But the ball became intangible when the hand tried to scratch the ball with its claws.

The white flames within the eye sockets of the specter intensified after that observation.

Aeternus thought to himself. "This is bad. I can touch it but I can't hurt it. This is very bad."

His avatar isn't like those of the demon lord that can't do anything. The specters are created using his divine avatar ability by converting Godhood. This particular one has the strength of a grand god and the power of a sovereign, yet it cannot touch a Celestial.

More and more specters arrived and surrounded the ball. They tried everything they could but they can't hurt the ball in any way. They can see the large ball at all times and they can touch it. They can feel its existence but it becomes intangible anytime anything tries to hurt it.

Helios arrived soon after. He bombarded the ball with powerful solar energy but he got the same thing. His giant hand could touch the ball but he couldn't grasp it, lift it or move it in any way. The ball stood there uninfluenced by any action that can change it. It stood there like an imperious observer.

"This new god played us. This won't have happened had we been faster. He made sure that we will be delayed so that he can get here first." Aeternus observed calmly.

Helios said in agreement, "I could have gotten here earlier but things didn't work out as we thought. Stelios wasn't supposed to be part of the attack.

Killing a god is very difficult. You have to kill their main bodies if you want to kill a god. Killing an avatar won't do much to them. But the main body of gods is almost always within the divine plane and usually in their divine kingdoms. You have to go through a lot of trouble to kill a god of equal strength. It makes it not worth it unless you're an Origin god who can face the entire divine plane without a care in the world.

Even worse, a god can resurrect as long as their Godhood has not been refined by another person and they still have believers. Their divine soul and body will regenerate. So it is difficult to kill a god. Killing a Celestial is even more difficult. You have to destroy every bit of them and then refine their Godhood.

Helios couldn't kill Zernon in the divine plane even if he wants to and he is the strongest combatant of Legion in the plane. Demons can usurp a god's authority within their divine kingdom but Aeternus cannot kill Zernon since he is too weak for it. Aeternus is just a new demon king while Zernon is the Celestial Supreme and he has been for a very long time. So Legion looked for alternatives and they found one.

They predicted that the GodSlayer will be used against them if the gods were pushed to their limit. The weakness of gods is obvious. They will become desperate as long as you target their source of faith which is the mortals.

Mortals are usually safe from demons since they are in the mortal realm. But that changes if demons manage to bypass the divine plane. Then the gods will be forced to do anything they can to get rid of the threat.

There are limited options that will help the gods utilize their power in the mortal realm. First, there are vessels and then golems. The pantheon of Zargoth doesn't interact with the ancient battlefield and they don't have the technology themselves. That leaves the GodSlayer, a prototype weapon of ingenuity.

Legion planned to overwhelm those within the GodSlayer with stronger attacks that Aeternus will replicate. That method will injure Zernon the most or in case Zernon manages to escape, the attack will kill the other gods through the marks on their Godhood thereby leaving Zernon without help. Then Helios can swoop in with his fast speed and incapacitate him.

Things didn't go according to their plan because Helios was delayed in the mortal realm and it is all because of the god of fate's interference.

Chapter 473 The Oversight.

Helios was supposed to get to the divine plane regardless of the outcome of the clash between Aeternus and the GodSlayer. He was supposed to have left for the divine plane as soon as the GodSlayer was fired but he couldn't. Legion planned for a lot of scenarios, but they didn't plan for Stelios to enter the GodSlayer and become ammunition too.

Stelios was supposed to be weakened in his divine kingdom. He was supposed to be so weak that he is unable to answer prayers but somehow he found himself in the GodSlayer. He shouldn't be in the GodSlayer because each strike that Stelios endured also affected Helios.

Helios is the reason why Stelios' consciousness didn't disperse into nothingness. Stelios is not strong enough to withstand the power of Aeternus himself. Helios had to share the burden of those three attacks because he doesn't want the Authority of the sun to disappear.

Helios is not the true Celestial god. Stelios is the one with the god fire and if he dies, so does the Authority of the sun. Even if Helios can rob the power from Stelios, he won't do it because he is not willing to become a Celestial.

So Helios was also wounded and grounded by the clash between Aeternus and the GodSlayer. He was not able to make it to the divine plane in time to take advantage of their plan. His connection with Stelios was used against him.

It could have been worse. Just the little injuries Helios incurred from the clash of the five Authorities were enough to weaken him for a long time. He was able to recover because of divine life energy. It was then that he could come here. But it was too late. Things have deviated far from their plan. A hidden predator swooped in to take their prey when they were wounded from the fight.

They also didn't plan for the extra 2 Celestial Authority within the attack. The tree father could hide his vestige and Authority because he is the god of life. That's why Zernon didn't discover it. The god of fate was the first one to hide something from Zernon. It caught Legion off guard more than it affected Zernon. Aeternus had to replicate an attack with 5 Authorities instead of the 3 that they planned.

It was supposed to be 2 Authorities from the Celestial Supreme and 1 from the god of life. The addition of the god of the sun and the god of fate into the mix almost overwhelmed Aeternus. It is why he can't come here with his real body. If it were the addition of only the god of fate, then Aeternus could have managed. The addition of Stelios rendered him too weak to move after replicating the attack and it rendered Helios too injured to move. The god of fate killed two birds with one stone. The absence of contenders allowed him to swoop in and take their prize.

"It is too late now," Helios said as he sensed the changes that Stelios has undergone through their connection.

The gigantic golden ball split open and expelled its content. The orange ball that represents Stelios came out while the ball turned into the god of fate. Zernon, the former Celestial supreme is no more. Stelios is currently evolving after having consumed the god of order. Meanwhile, the god of faith is holding a large white ball in one of his hands. Both Aeternus and Helios are concerned about that ball.

The ball will be a giant ball if a battle sage monkey sees it. The battle sage monkey might even call it a star. But to giants of order, it is just a shiny ball. It is also the Authority of the Celestial Supreme. It is the strongest Authority that the divine plane can produce. Whichever Celestial fuses with it will become the new Celestial Supreme.

The Celestial orb that is Stelios began to drift towards Helios. Helios didn't even have to pull him for Stelios to drift towards Helios. He is currently unconscious so he is not aware of what's going on. He succeeded in killing Zernon but Zerkon didn't let him absorb the Authority of the Celestial Supreme.

The Authority of order is enough for Stelios. He will become stronger and be able to heal once he absorbs it. That's in the future though. Right now, he drifted and entered the Stigmata on Helios's back. His future will be spent in a prison of his own making.

The god of fate watched it happen without interfering. He also didn't react when Helios blasted him with energy after taking Stelios. He doesn't care because the attack phased through his body like he is an illusion.

He shook his head in pity and lamented, "Poor Zernon. I told him to release me from my contract so that I can help him but he refused. Instead, he asked a stranger for help. He chose to trust a stranger over his own twin brother. You just can't trust outsiders. That's why he was betrayed. And I did warn him to watch out for betrayal. Sometimes, whatever will happen even if you're warned about it. What a cruel fate."

Betrayal led to Zernon's death. It was the betrayal of Zernon when he tried to kill his brother because he became a celestial. It was the betrayal of Stelios when he attacked the person that helped him to recover from his weak and near-death state. It was Zerkon's betrayal when he orchestrated his brother's death and pushed him into the maws of death by Stelios' hand instead of saving him.

Zerkon had warned Zernon to be careful of betrayal but it apparently did him no good. He couldn't change his fate because the first betrayal that will lead to his death as already happened and it was perpetrated by himself. He started it when he wanted to kill his brother and like a domino, the rest couldn't be stopped from happening to cause his death.

Chapter 474 Zerkon The Observer.

"I see," Helios said calmly.

That's all he has to say about Zernon's death and the betrayal that caused it. He is concerned about that right now. The Authority of the Celestial Supreme is the most important thing to him.

"Let's introduce ourselves. I am Zerkon, the god of fate, the observer."

Aeternus and Helios continued to stare at him. They don't have any plans of introducing themselves. Not after they have been cheated out of their prize.

The god of fate didn't take offense from their silence. He said to them, "It's alright. I know who you are. You're the Demon king, the one your subordinates call the Ominous Reaper. You're very strong for a young demon king."

"And you're the Son of the sun god, a king of law with the strength of a Sovereign and also a Celestial. It is unfortunate that you don't want to become a god. I could do with a friendly god right now. The other one is the tree father, the entity that looks and acts like a Celestial but isn't a celestial. The tree father is very special. He can hide very well but he can't move even if it is very important. Help me tell him that I like what he did with the bore worms. It is very innovative."

Aeternus and Helios didn't react to the revelation that he knew their names. It is something that can be discovered if one looks hard enough. Reacting will definitely give the god of fate more information to work with. So they remained silent and stoic.

They didn't let the bit about the tree father being unable to move to get to them either. It is not about the tree father being unable that is worth reacting to, it is the fact that the god of fate knows a lot about them including their strength and weakness.

The god of fate remained content with doing most of the talking. "I don't know how you're linked together but I know you're linked somehow because you three are the only ones I can't read at all. You have a certain heaviness to yourselves that is preventing me from telling your fates, but I can predict your actions by watching for the repercussions of your actions on others. It is enough for me."

It is how he predicted the coming of Legion way before Legion was even born. He didn't know what Legion is but he knew how Legion will affect the plane. That was enough for him to slide himself within their plans and take advantage of them.

"So you used us?" Helios asked cutting to the chase.

"In a way yes. I have to thank you for your spectacular performance. But there's no need to fret. I am not like Zernon. You can do anything you want to do. You can even let the demons roam around freely, I don't care."

The god of fate assured them with a gentle tone.

All the specters spoke at once. "How about you give me the Authority of the Celestial Supreme?"

Zerkon wagged a giant finger at him. "I can't do that. You might have had a large part to play in the downfall of Zernon but I deserve it more than you. I created the GodSlayer that you used to kill him. I was here first when the Authority manifested so it should be mine. Karma agrees with me on it. You have also been rewarded for your effort. You became a demon king here. If that isn't enough for you then you can do whatever you want in the mortal realm. It is what you deserve while Helios here deserves his father."

The eerie voice of the specters sounded again. "I don't want the mortal realm and I don't care about what I deserve. I want the Authority of Celestial Supreme."

Zerkon shook his head. "It doesn't matter what we want, we get what we get. Sometimes we get what we deserve and sometimes we don't. If you want something, then you have to take it. The fact of the matter is that you do not have the strength to take the Authority of the Celestial Supreme from me."

Helios tried again. This time he used everything he can put together at once and fired a torrent of energy at Zerkon. It was like he threw a comet at the god of fate. Unfortunately, the same thing happened again. The attack passed through him without harming him.

'It's not a capacity thing.' He observed to himself and to Legion.

This is not the first time that Legion has encountered an enemy that they can't harm. Soverick encountered a god in the divine dungeon who can use illusions but whose illusions were ineffective on him. Geraldrah fought a strange creature in the trial of heaven that he couldn't harm either. Both situations involved illusions.

They were seeing something that isn't there. This time, they can see Zerkon and also touch him. It might be an illusion but they can't tell for sure. Their divine sense says he is there but he suddenly disappears from their divine sense when they attack him. If it is an illusion, he should remain like that regardless of what they do to him since he is not real. He can be seen when he is attacked but he cannot be sensed or touched.

If it is an illusion then Zerkon must be very powerful for him to fool them. If it is an ability, it is either temporary or permanent. Neither is good news. They were hoping it is a matter of energy capacity. That the ability will stop working when it has crossed the limits of working conditions. Apparently, it is not, or they haven't reached the limit. The only thing that he can do next is to prep his strongest attack which will take some time but even that might not work.

Zerkon laughed through the destruction going on around him. Helios' attack destroyed a large part of the divine city. Fire spread and buildings collapsed all around them but nothing harmful happened to Zerkon. He stood there laughing at the carnage being wrought around him like an observer who is watching something very amusing.

Chapter 475 All Hail The New Celestial Supreme.

Zerkon laughed for a while as he watched Helios' and Aeternus's futile attempts to hurt him. He is not like Zerkon and his rules. Zerkon doesn't have any rules whatsoever. He is jovial and also detached from reality.

Then he stopped and said to them, "Don't bother trying anymore. You can not hurt me. You can't even touch me as long as your action can hurt me. The only person that could touch me while trying to hurt me was Zerkon. And that's only because he was the Celestial Supreme. Even then, he couldn't kill me. He is dead now and I will become the next Celestial Supreme. So give it up. I don't see any possibility of you ever harming me."

Zerkon is not like his controlling brother who seeks to control the world or like his nephew who is afraid of the world and chose to control a secluded part of the world. Zerkon accepts that bad things happen and they can happen to good people. He believes that anything can happen and trying to prevent it is not the way. So he gave up on the world and in return, disconnected himself from reality.

It is not a total disconnection. He is still connected to the world or no one will be able to see him. The domain of Order protects through resistance while fate protects through non-interference. Zerkon has left things up to fate and chosen to become an observer. His position as an observer has elevated his existence and made him immune to the changes of the world.

He is like a three-dimensional entity watching two-dimensional entities on paper. They can't harm him no matter what they do. Even if the two-dimensional figures manage to come out of the paper as Zernon did when they fought by bending the rules with his law of order, it doesn't change the fact that Zernon is still a two-dimensional figure and as such, there is a limit to what he can do. He was able to touch Zerkon and harm him, but they were insignificant scratches.

All of these come with a rule or weakness. Zerkon must limit his interference with the world as much as possible or the changes of the world will begin to affect him and he will become subject to the same rules as the two-dimensional figures he is looking down upon. That's why he suggested the contract of non-interference to Zernon to pacify him.

If Zernon had persisted in his endeavor to kill him, it would have led to more interactions with the world. In a way, if Zernon had continued to scratch harmlessly at Zerkon, those insignificant scratches will grow stronger over time until Zernon can do real damage. Zerkon chose wisely to pacify him and bid his time. Now he has reaped the fruit of his patience. Zernon is dead and he has the Authority of the Celestial Supreme.

"It is good that you are here to witness my coronation. It would have been terribly lonely since you have killed the other gods." He said to them as he chuckled with mirth.

Then he clapped and said, "It is an honor to have my coronation witnessed by a demon king and a very talented half-celestial. Not many have that privilege so I must give thanks."

Then he put the shining ball into his chest and absorbed it. He began to glow brightly. Light streamed out from the gaps in his armor. His golden skin turned white as power filled him. He began to chuckle again and it soon turned into laughter. His laughter became unhinged the more he laughed.

"I have finally achieved my dream. I have become untouchable. I will live forever. I will be eternal. It is my future. It is my destiny."

He continued to laugh even when he returned to normal. His laughter is the diabolical sound that a villain makes after their plan succeeds. The god of fate's plan worked and he is very happy about it. He didn't speak to them again after he became the new Celestial Supreme. He decided he has places to be so he left them.

He passed through the layers of barriers that Helios placed around him as if they weren't there. Helios and Aeternus shared a look then they left unwillingly. There's nothing they can do to the god of fate. They can only accept that they've been cheated. They can only sulk and scheme.

Helios said to the other two, "The Users of fate are too powerful. We cannot continue like this or we will be manipulated easily."

Aeternus agreed. "Even my entry into the world was orchestrated by him. I don't believe it is by chance."

Their original plan was to use divine life energy from the tree father in Helios' breakthrough to transcendence. Helios would then become a king of law but he won't have any Authority because the Authority of life is not compatible with the divine power in his sun core. The same thing happened to Soverick when he used divine life energy to break through. His stats were abnormal but he didn't get the Authority of Life either.

Celestial Authority didn't matter then to their plan. Helios would take time to comprehend the laws and become a titan. Then he will be strong enough to defend Aeternus when Aeternus enters the divine plane. But the tree father discovered the diary of the demigod that bore Zernon's son when he was searching for the divine weapon. They also discovered Stelios' agenda when the tree father finally acquired enough believers and could produce divine life energy.

The discovery of the diary didn't mean much on its own. But it became extremely significant when they combined it with Helios's knowledge of runes and Stelios' plan. So Legion revised their plan and decided to take Stelios Authority and combine it with the Celestial Authorities of Life and that of Order from Zernon's son. It meant they could cut down on time very quickly and bring Aeternus to the mortal realm sooner than planned.

Chapter 476 What They Needed And What They Wanted.

Then Helios went to the divine plane and confirmed that he got stronger instead of suppressed. He used his power to execute the plan to make Aeternus a demon king. It all seemed ingenious at the time. They planned and schemed and they thought they were the mastermind while everyone else was puppets moving according to their will. Now they feel like fools. Apparently, the real mastermind is the unknown Celestial god of Fate.

The tree father consoled them. "We got most of what we wanted. I have faith. Aeternus has become a demon king and has enough godhood and divinity to empower his house. And Helios has the Authority

of order and the sun that he wanted for his experiments. We just don't have the Authority of the Celestial Supreme so that we can gain full control of the plane and advance the plan for the infinite energy production that Soverick planned."

The others agreed reluctantly and decided to move on. All three of them had various objectives that they wished to get from the Zargoth plane and they achieved most of them.

Aeternus was being hounded by the Demon lord. Waging a war on her when he is obviously outclassed would have been stupid. He needed Accumulation to be a match for her and there are 8 other demon nobles with divine rank Accumulation who are his enemies too. His demon dukes fall short of being capable of facing these threats. They need divinity to upgrade their stats to the half-divine rank and for increasing their Accumulation too.

All of his problems could be solved by divinity from gods which cannot be gotten in the abyss. Zargoth plane had everything he wanted. It had gods and it didn't have a strong populace. But trying to leave the abyss meant getting ambushed by the demon lord. So he needed help.

The tree father on the other end needed faith from believers. It is not a simple thing to acquire faith in the Zargoth plane. Zernon had total control of the plane and will destroy new churches and religions. Zernon would have initiated total war on the tree father if he knew that the tree father had the power of a Celestial. So the tree father had to stay hidden and needed help.

Helios on the other hand could have lived an easy life despite being born a demigod or he might have died in the womb. Fortunately or unfortunately for him, Stelios laid his eyes on him and marked him. He was being constantly monitored and his movement was restricted. He also needed divine power in large quantities for runes. His objective to get to the bottom of Authority by analyzing runes would have been hampered severely without divine power. So he needed help.

The Authority of the Celestial Supreme is something that they decided to get once their plane began showing great success. They decided to take control of the entire plane so that they will have a base other than the Virut plane for the era of conquest. Taking total control of the plane will also make it easy for them to ensure that the Tree father will be the only god in the plane.

Now they have everything they needed and they should be happy. But the fact that they can't get what they want is making them sour. Not just them, the entirety of Legion is incensed but there's nothing they can do short of bringing Legion-1 in. The suppression of the realm on Origin gods might make that move useless too so they decided not to bother with that.

The three of them don't have the strength to get what they want now, but that doesn't mean they are giving up. The entirety of Legion will not forget the humiliation and will get back at Zerkon. Revenge is just one of their motivations for going after the god of fate. Legion also finds Zerkon's immunity intriguing and is interested in getting to the bottom of it.

Aeternus's POV

Aeternus's main body is still in front of the fortress. He was standing there when the GodSlayer attacked him. He is still standing there now but that's because he can't move his body. Replicating that attack took more out of him than he expected and he expected pretty bad consequences before the amount of Authority was increased from 3 to 5.

His crystal body cracked all over to reveal the golden bones beneath. Black fumes leaked out from the cracks and obscured his figure like they used to do. The golden light in his eyes dimmed a little. His soul was terribly weakened by the intensive exercise he went through. He remained standing and directed his avatars in the divine plane to do his bidding.

Fortunately, is a demon king and he is not a normal one. Healing as always been easy for him. It took some time but he healed. He became able to move but he stayed where he was and practiced. His subordinates arrived one by one over the period of his wait. The fortress was also completed and the channel to the abyss altar was fully connected. It was then that he called his subordinates over to reward them and give them their next mission.

All 99 dukes surrounded him and awaited his judgment.

He said to them. "All the churches of the gods have been destroyed and all the gods of the plane have been killed except the Celestials. Our mission has been completed and it is time for you to be rewarded."

The demon dukes did good work. It was easy work but they did it well. They wiped out the churches and the priests. Some remnants escaped but those remnants have become inconsequential with the death of all the gods of the pantheon.

The legions of demons roamed all over the plane and pushed the giants of Order toward the kingdom of life. It gives the tree father control of the largest portion of faith in the plane and will ensure that he will be without competition for a very long time.

Chapter 477 Contributions To The Destruction Of The Zargoth Plane.

The tree father has become the only viable option for faith because of it and unlike the other gods, he is actually effective in protecting his believers. Demons fear the tree father and don't step a foot into his territory. It just goes to show how great the tree father is. He is alive and well while the other gods have died.

The only god that can compare to the tree father is the god of faith but he doesn't answer prayers or assist his believers. Believers in the god of fate are scarce because of that. A lot of them also died in this last war because of their belief that whatever will happen will happen. They didn't escape quickly enough to the kingdom of life and died to demons. All in all, the demons did good work.

"The point system will be based on the rules we agreed on. Killing any normal priest up to a bishop is 1 point. Destroying a church is worth 10 points and killing a cardinal is 100 points. Destroying the capital church of a religion is worth 1000 points and killing the pope is worth 10,000 points. Special clergymen like saints and secret vessels are worth 100,000 to 1,000,000,000 points depending on the rank of gods that they belong to. We will disregard the points for gods since none of you killed any."

The demon dukes laughed at that. They didn't kill any gods because there are no gods after they were done wiping out the churches. The plan had been to wage war on the gods after they destroy their foundation in the mortal realm. They would have done that if the gods had not chosen to combine their might into the liberation army, making it easy for Aeternus to wipe them out at once.

The system of points is based on difficulty and importance. Normal priests and bishops are mana entities and are not as important or difficult to kill as Cardinals. Cardinals are transcents and are more difficult to kill. It will take a lot of effort to kill a Cardinal than to destroy a building but the capital church of a religion is worth more than any transcents. It is the physical foundation of a religion within the mortal realm.

The pope is the spiritual foundation but they do not worth as much as a vessel because they are not as difficult to kill compared to vessels. Vessels are transcents too but they are more difficult to kill than other transcents and so worth more.

Vessels are the main power of a god in the mortal realm. Gods need them to show their might and enforce their rules so they are worth more than destroying the capital of the religion. A building can be rebuilt easily as long as there is power and faith so cutting off power and faith is more important.

The system that Aeternus is using is not completely fair. It doesn't take into account intelligence and efforts directed toward acquiring it. In fact, it doesn't take into account any effort that didn't go into causing outright destruction and murder. A demon duke won't get anything for wounding a cardinal but didn't finish the job because the cardinal was able to escape. It is the demon that acquired the kill on that cardinal and only that demon will be credited for it.

Fair or not, it doesn't matter. He only cares about the results, not the work that he's into acquiring them. Anyway, only success should be celebrated. They are not children to be coddled. They are demons.

"Now I'll call your names out based on the number of points you have starting from the lowest to the highest. Note that your contribution to the mission will determine how much divinity you get so the higher your points are, the better. The stronger you are, the more likely you will succeed in the next mission."

He began calling out their names according to the damage that they have wrought to the Zargoth plane. He knows all their exact contributions because he is aware of all their actions through their connection as lord and subordinate.

"...Number 5 The_DUNGEATER with 4,213,073, number 4 LAZYCANT, number 3 DOUBLELINE, number 2 Baal with 110,759,662, and Number 1 Xander with 2,642,900,000."

Everyone was surprised by the outcome. Xander beat them out by an outrageous amount. Her score is far ahead of the second place. They wanted to know how she did it. That question is in every one of their minds most especially Baal. Xander's performance seems incredulous since she doesn't have a legion that anyone knows about. So how did she beat them by such a large margin?

"Xander outperformed all of you seeing as she has the highest contribution. I'll just reward her with 3 of the available 12 Godhood of grand gods. I will also offer her the chance to be exempted from the next mission."

He began distributing the godhoods he has based on their scores. A duke with max stats needs the Godhood of a grand god or 360 divinity to upgrade all their stats to the half-divine rank. Then they will need 360 to upgrade each stat to the peak of the half-divine rank, from 55-63. That means a duke needs 11 Godhood of grand gods to have stats that match those of the demon lord. Unfortunately, he doesn't have enough to outfit all his dukes, hence the competition to determine who should get most of it.

There are only 12 grand god cores in total which he gave to only the first 10. He gave 3 to Xander for her spectacular performance. He distributed the remaining 9 Godhood amongst the next top 9. Unfortunately, he couldn't get more wealth from the gods because the divine kingdoms of the gods broke apart after their death. They were sure to have a lot of divinity that they have saved over several generations.

Chapter 478 Mission: Subjugate The 541st Abyssal Plane.

He began to address them after the distribution. "Now for the next mission. I have something to do here before we leave to invade other worlds. In the meantime, I want the 541st plane of the abyss subjugated before my arrival. Your mission is to attack that plane, kill Beelta, and take control of the energy well. The reward is the position of my Herald."

His declaration set various emotions through them. Some felt fear because Beelta is a peak half-divine demon lord with all her stats at 63 and a state of existence of 17, so it is going to be dangerous to try and kill her when even Xander, the best of them is limited to an upgrade of two stats to 63. Some of them can't even upgrade yet, they will have to rely on their Accumulation to fight her.

The confident ones felt excited because of the reward. Beelta is far stronger than them and it will be a challenge to beat her but they have a chance. These ones have enough divinity to become half-divine and elevate their state of existence to 17. That has narrowed the gap between them and Beelta. The boost of 99% from the DIVINE HOUSE from Aeternus will make them more than capable of being her match.

"This is another competition. I have 6 positions for my Herald. One will go to whoever kills Beelta. The second one will go to whoever manages to bind the energy well to themselves. Another one will be for the demon that distinguishes itself by impressing me. The remaining 3 will be given to the dukes among you with the highest kill." He paused and leveled a stern gaze at them. "The target to kill that I am referring to is all of you."

His words chilled them. This is not a normal competition. This is the survival of the fittest. Two positions can be earned by either killing Beelta or binding the energy well after her death. There's no way the others are going to stand by and watch while someone else gets the two positions. That's in a normal

situation but this is not normal. Aeternus has given them further incentives to kill each other. The competition will become deadly quickly because of the encouragement of targeting each other.

"The position of Herald is special. Apart from the power that comes with it, it will guarantee your life as my subordinate and exempt you from any future competition. Till then, every one of you except Xander must participate in this competition. The competition will end as soon as one of you succeeds in binding the energy well."

He asked Xander, "Do you want to participate or not? You will not be rewarded with the position of Herald unless you participate in the competition but you will be safe from the risks involved."

She has proven herself to be more efficient at eliminating targets than others so she can stay out of this deadly competition. The position of Herald is powerful but acquiring it is very dangerous. Participating in the competition doesn't mean that she will get the position either. There are 99 of them with just 6 positions. That means she can risk her life for nothing. She can choose safety and not risk her life.

She bowed and answered. "Lord Khaos, I will like to participate and bear the honor of being your Herald."

"Good." He said to her then he looked at the rest. "You might choose to hide away in the abyssal plane and not participate. It is allowed. But bear in mind that I will be creating more demon dukes and staging a competition to reduce the number to 99. If you stop being relevant in the house of chaos, you will die. If you're confident in yourself, then you can sit this one out."

The position of Herald comes with the privilege of borrowing Aeternus's Authority. Heralds are like vessels of gods except that normal vessels can't withstand the god fire or authority of a Celestial. Heralds can, even though it will only be for a short while since they can't withstand the power of a demon king for long. It will be like they used Accumulation when they borrow it but it will grant them power above that of the demon lord. Their state of existence will be elevated temporarily enough for them to match a demon king if only briefly, enough to save their lives.

The position of Herald is an incentive but it is not enough for most of the dukes to risk their lives. You risk your life when there's a chance of success. Demons are smart and the dukes are smart enough to know that the first 10 that received Godhood of grand gods have a good chance of becoming Heralds. They have elevated their state of existence to the same level as Beelta. So the rest will mostly sit out of the competition. If they do participate, they will not risk their lives by trying too hard.

He expects this of them. Even the fact that there will be a competition to weed out the weak is not enough to make the weak risk their lives. But it doesn't matter. Those that are confident and want to be his Herald are all that matters. They will weed out the weak for him during the competition. Quantity doesn't matter, only quality does.

The performance of his subordinates in the Zargoth plane is great but the difficulty of their mission was low. The plane had been tenderized for them. They were put directly in the mortal realm which has been weakened from the world war. They had no choice but to have victory. That will change once he separates from Helios and the Tree father. He will be on his own and he will need his subordinates to be helpful to him in dire situations. He doesn't want to be lugging around subordinates that are useless garbage.

Chapter 479 Needful Believers Are Good Believers.

Aeternus turned to leave after speaking to them. His destination is the newly created altar within the stronghold. He entered the huge fortress and walked by the waiting demons of his army. The fortress is teeming with them. There are about a hundred thousand in the fortress and many more surrounding it. Some of them will be left behind in the plane but most of them will be unleashed on another plane.

He began activating the return function of the abyss altar. It responded quickly because he has created a connection between the two planes. If not, he would have had to spend a day to open it. A large swirling portal opened quickly and sin energy gushed out of it into the plane. It made the demons feel like they are in the abyss.

All the demons in the fortress started cheering when the portal appeared. The portal became self-sufficient. It won't close until he closes it or the altar is destroyed. The constant portal means easy retreat back to the abyss and constant reinforcements for their conflicts in the plane. Legion created the abyss altar for those reasons and more. Sin energy isn't the only thing coming out of the abyss portal. The Mana that the Zargoth plane needs dearly is also gushing into the plane.

In a self-sufficient plane with access to the ancient battlefield, the abyss altar will only increase the concentration of sin energy in the plane. Stronger demons don't need it. The unified energy of noble demons makes them capable of regenerating their stores of energy from mana too. But a starving plane like Zargoth will feel the impact of this new source of mana. The death of a lot of giants will allow the plane to recover. It will make things easy for what the Tree father plans to do with the plane.

He said to his subordinates, "I'll give you 1 hour to prepare. None of you must be around by the end of that hour."

He made some more arrangements before he left for the last business he has on the Zargoth plane. He flew in the direction of the kingdom of life to meet up with the Avatar of Legion-9, the one everyone is calling the tree father. Helios will be there waiting for him there too. Helios has an experiment he wants to try about Authority before Aeternus leaves.

He cloaked himself in the momentum of the world so none of the giants saw him as he flew over the imaginary border of the church of life. This line separates the area of demon activity from the rest of the plane. It just so happens that the rest of the plane is the tree father's territory. Demons don't cross this line on his order creating the illusion that they are scared of the tree father. It is true in its own way. It is Aeternus that they are afraid of so it works the same.

He crossed the line and entered the territory of the church of life. He flew above the recently erected settlements and further past them to the city they built around the divine forest. Giants of order keep arriving at the kingdom of life and they are readily accepted.

The kingdom is peaceful. It is the only place in the plane with plants. This entire place used to be a desert at the edge of the plane. Now it is a safe haven at the edge of the plane. Giants are moving around in buildings constructed in a forest. Their cities used to be creations of rock and stone. They used to have pyramids of stone built for their gods. Now there are only trees and wood.

There is no war or strife here in the city of life. The perils of the external world don't affect them here. There's food and protection. The giants are happy and happy giants are good sources of faith.

Any sort of emotion directed towards a god can be used as faith. It can be love, worship, hate, or fear. It can be anything but happiness, gratefulness, and worship are the best. The reason gods don't try everything to make their believers happy is so that little things will still be able to induce the feeling of gratefulness in the believers.

If a god makes their believers happy all the time, they have to keep doing more and more to keep them happy. The believers will get used to the good thing that a god does and take them for granted. Only something scarce is precious and treated with the uttermost care.

It is not sustainable for a god hoping to maximize their efficiency and profits to solve all their believer's problems. The trick to being a god that believers need is to never remove the needs of your believers. They will worship you as long as they need you.

Of course, you can always create more needs when your believers run out of them. That's what evil gods are for. Calamity, famines, drought, and diseases create needs. Then there's a good old fashion war. It is what a lot of gods use. They make themselves available to mortals during their time of need and acquire believers. It is what the tree father did but Legion is not stopping there. They have eliminated the other gods and removed every competition.

Now, the religion of life is the only alternative. It won't remain like that forever. Some more gods will rise up soon. These trying times are ripe for the creation of new gods. There's enough need and desperation to go around. The god of life won't attack them outright as the former Celestial Supreme did. Instead, he will use demons to destroy budding churches.

Some demons will remain in Zargoth plane even after Aeternus leaves the plane. They will be a constant threat to giants which will keep them in need of protection and the demons will be used to suppress new gods. His legions will follow him when he leaves the plane but he will leave behind officers that will induct new demons from the abyss into the enterprise of harassing the Giants of order.

Chapter 480 The Pollen Of Happiness.

Using demons to do their dirty work is very efficient. They will keep the people needful which is beneficial to the god of life and they will bear the brunt of their hatred. The tree father wouldn't mind hatred if he wanted to be an evil god but being a happy god is a better source of faith.

If there is to be a perfect good god, there has to be an opposite evil to compare with. The god of life will protect the giants of order from the evil demons. So he gets to control the evil and also be the target of all the good. It is eating their cake and having it.

If that is not enough to keep the giants of order faithful, then there are the fragrant flowers in the forest that release special pollens which make giants happy. This happy pollen will work on mana entities and below. It keeps negative emotions and reactions at bay while doing the opposite to positive emotions. It makes it difficult for those living in the forest to become sad and unhappy.

They are all optimistic about their future despite the bad situation of things that forced them to come and live in a forest. They used to have buildings, nice clothes, other luxuries but all of those burned down. Now they have nothing and have to build all over again. The pollen makes them smile through this period of hardship so they continue to put in their best effort in building the city day by day.

Most importantly, the pollen makes it very very difficult to leave the forest after getting used to the pollen. The outside world will become dull, unexciting, and scary. Going without this special pollen will make it difficult to relax. They will always be scared of something in the outside world because their fight or flight mode will be easy to rule up.

It is obvious that with all the preparations that the tree father has made, he will be in control for a very long time. With a little more time, the tree father will change from being a new god into becoming the cornerstone religion. All these smiling giants of Order in the city will become zealots ready to sacrifice themselves, their family, and their wealth for the church of life and its god.

"What a nice city." He commented on their efforts idly as he flew past the city and entered the divine forest.

The city is being built along the outer ring of the forest. The main forest is a no-go area. Only the plant spirits roam this area. It is called the divine forest. It used to be the small patch of life created when the tree father was growing. Now it is very large, spanning hundreds of kilometers.

Aeternus approached the towering tree at the center of the divine forest. The avatar of the tree father has already reached more than 10 kilometers tall with the increase of faith. He found Helios at the foot of the tree. He is working on Beelta's body. More like what's left of her body. More than half of it is missing and he knows how it got missing.

Aeternus shook his head when he saw the difference in size between the tree father and Helios. Helios looks like a child beside a tree and he is more than 100 meters tall. He must look like a bug wandering in the forest with a height of 1.7 meters.

"I lost what's left of Zernon's arms when they attacked you. That clash affected the last remaining arm and destroyed it just like it almost destroyed me because of Stelios. That GodSlayer has a weird way of destroying an entity's existence. I think it is the lock on properties."

Helios didn't welcome him. He started talking about what they are to do immediately.

"Anyway, I used up the other arm in my experiments. Now, I need life subjects. Get ready, Stelios should be waking up soon."

Aeternus nodded. He sat down and began to meditate. The tree father extended a vine to Aeternus. The green vine stopped in front of his face and poised itself at one of his eye sockets. The vine is coated with the Authority of life and will be able to pierce through his head if need be.

The tree father doesn't want to kill him for the fun of it or out of malice. It is just one of the precautions needed to be taken for the coming experiment. It doesn't change the fact that he might not survive the upcoming experiment.

They began waiting for Stelios to finish evolving. Celestials grow stronger by absorbing other Celestials but they can only have qualitative change when they absorb a Celestial with a compatible domain. Stelios absorbed Zernon and found a compatible domain. It is what is taking him so long to evolve. Stelios has to separate Justice from Order within the Celestial Authority and absorbed what's left of it because only Order is compatible with him.

If Zernon had absorbed Stelios then he would have gained nothing qualitative. He would have gained divinity and divine power but he wouldn't grow stronger because the sun domain is not compatible with both of his domains.

It wouldn't have done him any good to absorb Stelios when they were both in a near-death state. That's why he didn't turn on the sun god then. He is a level two Celestial while Stelios is a near-death level one Celestial. Absorbing the sun god would be like eating bones to fix hunger. It is an inefficient procedure that might even harm him. He would lose more of his power during the absorption and gain very little in return so he didn't bother.

The rules that determine the compatibility of domains are not set in stone. They vary from plane to plane and from god to god. The major thing that determines which domain is compatible is the divine image of the god. The image that Zernon has cultivated makes his domains incompatible with the domain of the sun.