

GREED 491

Chapter 491 The Second Oddity.

Then the most shocking thing happened. The completion of the Avatar was accompanied by a chime. It is the notification that occurs when he has succeeded in modifying his mark of sin.

#{ERROR: YOUR MARK OF SIN HAS BEEN MODIFIED}

#{THE KING'S AVATAR HAS CHANGED}

#{CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR ABILITY KING'S AVATAR HAS ACQUIRED THE ABILITY THE WILL OF THE KING}

#{WILL OF THE KING: Create an avatar based on Chaos energy and ??? The avatar is temporary and can reach the demon lord level. It will degrade as it uses its base materials to exist. Can become permanent and reach demon king level if given the Godhood of a Celestial or the crown of a demon king.

His bony jaws dropped in shock. He is shocked by what he created, how he did it, and the fact that what he created was acknowledged by his system. He kept looking at the Avatar all over in disbelief. He doesn't need the notification to know why he has created it. He could tell because his soul force is the foundation of the avatar. The avatar is as familiar to him as any of his arms is.

The avatar he created used his soul force as the foundation to reach the power of a demon lord. It outclasses a demon lord but it is not a threat to a demon king because it doesn't have Authority. It will also fall apart the more it uses its soul force which it is always using to keep itself together. It will consume a lot more soul force when attacking but simply existing also consumes soul force.

He asked himself and all of Legion. "How is this happening?"

He is not the only one perplexed by the situation. All they know is that it is not natural and that their recent brush with death must have something to do with it but they don't know how or why. Aeternus didn't feel anything strange at all. All he knows is that he wanted to create an avatar without Godhood or a Crown. He tried it and he succeeded in it. It was that simple. It shouldn't be simple because his simple actions succeeded in changing his mark of sin without his effort.

Either he suddenly got better at creating avatars without his knowledge or the change in his Authority did something that he is unable to sense at all. He doubts it is the first reason because he did the exact same thing as he did previous times and this didn't happen. The results of his efforts should be impossible and yet it has been made possible.

He isn't the only one to notice some odd things that shouldn't be possible. The other clones are also noticing some very odd things. The dragon clone in its egg has the most unprecedented change. A change that others thought impossible. Then there's Helios. His body is not turning out as it should be.

The small star producing the golden threads is malfunctioning. The threads ought to build Helios' body. It will start from the star as the core. Then work its way out but it is not. Instead, the golden threads are weaving into the star itself and are not creating his body. The process is strengthening the star and isn't getting bigger.

It is odd because an object should not become stronger on its own without it being made to be that way and certainly without external influences. A bucket should not get bigger the more water you take out of it neither should more water appear within the bucket the more you take out of it. Even if all that is made possible somehow, the water shouldn't be getting denser.

If the energy content of something is increasing the more you take from it, the volume should increase not the energy quality. The bucket should not be creating better water even as it is being depleted. But everything seems to have gone awry. Common sense seems to have been thrown out the window.

The golden threads are produced by the star by expending energy. The golden threads are then empowering the star without changing its size or volume. The star is becoming denser and more powerful. So it is producing higher-quality energy as it gets denser. The higher quality energy is producing better golden threads and the stronger golden threads strengthen the star again. It is a perpetual self-empowerment cycle.

Aeternus said. "Well, this is bad."

There have to be consequences to what's going on. Action produces an equal and opposite reaction. What Helios is going through is unnatural and shouldn't happen. It is bound to lead to serious consequences but Helios can't control it. The black orb continued to rotate haphazardly around Helios like a playful bug unconcerned about the woes of the world.

It doesn't help that Helios is still unconscious. Legion debated what to do about this new conundrum and they decided to wait for him to regain consciousness. He will be better able to tell them what is going on with him. So they waited.

Helios became conscious soon after. He has no recollection of what occurred after Chaos energy touched him. They filled him in on the repercussions of their actions and the odd changes they are experiencing. Then they asked him about his situation.

The star spoke to them. "I'm fine. I feel fine. Energetic even. There's no need to panic."

Helios didn't know exactly why he is fine at first. But things became clearer to him as he grew bigger and stronger. Then he relayed his findings to Legion.

Aeternus shook his head when he got Helios' answer. His explanation created more questions and also enlightened them of the danger he is in but Legion decided not to do anything about it. Helios said everything is alright and that there is no need to fuss.

Aeternus decided to continue practicing. He chose another sin ability and began to practice it. Meanwhile, the core of the star started to change again.

Chapter 492 Helios's New Job.

HELIOS' POV.

What he is going through is unprecedented. It made him question what he knows and examine what he thought to be true. Anyone will question themselves if had they gone through what he went through only for them to start experiencing what is currently happening. He almost died as Helios the Giant of the sun but he recovered as something else.

"What is power?" He asked himself.

He answered his own question. Power is Influence. Power is control. Power is freedom. Power is the ability to do anything.

He asked himself again, "What is real power?"

He answered his question again. Real power is the difference between the abilities of two entities. Real power is relative. An origin god might be powerful enough to kill a sovereign with a wave of his hand but will be powerless against a world god. That's why real power is not stable. It changes based on what you want to do with it.

"Why do we chase power?"

For freedom mostly. For joy. And for peace. There's a peace of mind to knowing that nothing can threaten you in the lower realm as an Origin god unless you enter the divine plane.

"What are the types of power?"

The two types of power are the power that is bestowed to you and the power that you acquire yourself. Even the power that you acquire for yourself can also be external or internal. That's why there is the path of perfection and the path of divinity. Those on the path of perfection acquire power by themselves. Those on the path of divinity are bestowed that power through the faith and belief of others.

"How is power acquired?"

Through evolution. Through the upgrade of life's order. Most specifically through the refinement path.

One can be born as a sentient being of the lowest of mortals with the power of a body-forging stage refiner. That changes as you evolve. You become stronger. From vitality core to the mana body stage and then transcendence. This power comes from the inherent increase in capabilities. But it ends once transcendence is achieved.

Achieving transcendence is the limit of inherent and internal power. Innate potential has been exhausted at this point so Transcendents must look outward for power. They must use their new ability to sense laws to empower themselves.

Transcendents must comprehend laws and acquire power from the universe through the acknowledgment of the law matrix. Those that cannot do so are forever locked at the stage of transcendence. They may have broken their limits but they can go no further without external help.

Then one has to look inwards if they are to grow stronger. A king must use the external help he acquired from the universe to forge a path for himself thus becoming a titan of law. The titan of law becomes a Sovereign when the path is finished. The Sovereign becomes an origin god when he manages to fuse with his seed of power and becomes a concept.

That is how power is acquired.

"What is going on with me?" Helios asked himself.

That is the pertinent question. If you encounter something new, something previously unseen or unheard of, you use your experience to try and figure out what it is, in this case, what is going on. A lot of questions and answers whirled through Helios's mind for him to figure out what was going on.

Fortunately, he found answers. He knows what has happened and how it is happening, and why it is happening.

An entity should remain the same perpetually if no impetus for change external or internal is applied to that entity. He is evolving without any internal impetus for change. He is growing stronger without any effort from himself. That means that whatever is making him evolve must be external.

The next issue is that this external force that is making him stronger is uncalled for. Even gods who are bestowed power have to do something to get that power. They have to be in a position to acquire it. No one in their house becomes a god unless a multitude of people mistake them for a god and pray to them. Even then, the person has to accept the power and the responsibility that comes with it before they can ascend to become a god.

But that isn't the situation with Helios. Apparently, the universe has mistaken him for a star. And for some reason or another, it has decided to buff him up as if he is a malnourished star in dire need of cosmic energy. Even more ridiculous is that he has no say in the matter. He has been labeled a star by the law matrix of the universe and that's what he will be until the day he breaks free from the law matrix.

So in a way, he is the mortal that was mistaken for a god and then forcefully exalted onto the position of Godhood. He has had Godhood thrusts upon him without his permission or consent. In this case, he has had the power to become a star thrust upon him and he must become a star because the universe will not have it any other way.

The situation isn't exactly bad. He isn't being taken as a prisoner permanently. His current situation is one giant coincidence and it is temporary. He had the sun god in his Stigmata before he collapsed. He was the ground zero of the issue that almost killed all of them. The sun god didn't survive the incident but he did. His existence changed though. He did not come out of near death by a singularity of infinite possibilities unscathed.

His body, soul, divine power, Celestial Godhood, Celestial Authority, and Stigmata containing the fragments of order, origin energy, and chaos energy clashed and were fused by the occurrence to form the singularity of infinite possibilities. The universe had to annex the singularity to fix it and that means annexing him too.

Chapter 493 The Hand Of The World.

The divine domain of the sun and order within him worked in concert with the law fragments of light, fire, and order to make the universe mistake him for a baby star. They had a little help from a certain black orb. Now he is a star and the universe will not have such a tiny star within it. He must become what stars are meant to be regardless of his agreement.

He should be able to free himself from this designation of a star by creating his own path and gaining control of the law matrix by fusing with his own concept. In other words, he will become free when he becomes an origin god but until then, he is a star. Nothing can change that. The situation isn't that bad though. He is being pumped full of cosmic energy.

Nothing and no job can be bad if you're being played with cosmic energy. Cosmic energy is the energy bestowed by the universe to transcendants when they are halfway into comprehending a law. That energy combines with their understanding of the law and makes them a lord of law. It is the same energy that elevates lords of law into kings of law.

To say cosmic energy is rare is an understatement. Cosmic energy is granted by the universe and only the universe. It is a type of energy that can not be acquired by any other means and it is only given to those who have not yet formed their path. The stars within the Origin core of kings of law that are smashed when they are trying to become titans are made up of cosmic energy. Those stars form the essence of a path within a titan of law which then becomes a seed of power within a Sovereign.

If by chance, a titan of law that is near death is given some cosmic energy, then their depleted essence will be replenished and they will have more time to take control of their essence of power. If a sovereign is given cosmic energy, then their seed of power will become more powerful. That is how valuable cosmic energy is. And he is being forcefully made to absorb loads and loads of it. So no, his situation is not bad at all.

Legion didn't even know that cosmic energy could be this much. It is like someone that can't comprehend what an ocean is when all they have ever seen in their life are puddles. Even Helios and Soverick were given just a tiny bit for their unusual breakthrough into kings of law. It is not a wonder anymore why the void universe did not consider their breakthrough an achievement. So Helios can't complain about his current circumstances. No one in their right mind can.

His core continued to get denser and denser. The heat coming out increased steadily until he couldn't stay in the forest anymore. It was then that Aeternus and the tree father had no choice but to start panicking. A star is a very dangerous object. It burns Origin gods. The only entities known to be able to pluck stars are world gods.

They are not world gods. There's nothing they can do to restrain him short of trying to kill Helios before he becomes too strong and dangerous for them. They won't do that because he has become too valuable to be killed. So they will leave the Zargoth plane for him. The entire plane and their plans for it will be sacrificed but it is a sacrifice that Legion is willing to make. Nothing beats a source of cosmic energy, not even an entire plane.

They aren't the only ones worried for the safety of the plane though. There's someone else watching who is not so willing to sacrifice a plane. So the power of the world was moved by this entity's will. The entire world power of the plane became concentrated and formed into a hand. This dark hand with tiny spots of light in it grabbed the star and lifted it out of the plane. The star was then placed into the void.

The entity was waiting for Helios in the void.

"Thank you mother high heaven." He said to her.

She said to him, "You're welcome Helios. Nice changes you're going through by the way. More energy for the realm."

This rough outline of a being made from a dark material filled with tiny stars had grabbed him easily. She could have also crushed him but she didn't. She saved him because it will benefit the realm of high heaven and she has made her intentions clear.

He agreed with her, "Yes, my changes will bring more energy to the realm."

"Buckle up. I'm going to throw you into orbit."

Then she grabbed him again and threw him out of the realm. He got flung out of the realm tree into the void beyond. He accelerated for a while before decelerating until he finally stopped in a determined position close to the realm tree. She threw him precisely into this position. It is not a random position at all. He was able to undergo his changes in this spot without problems or disturbances.

His core reached 50 million degrees centigrade before he began to enlarge. The entire plane would have become ashes and dust by the time he reached this stage. The universe supplied him with energy until he grew so big that Legion-1 will look like an ant next to him and Legion-1 is as large as half an entire plane.

"I wish Divine Father was here to see me now." He joked.

Helios became a true Celestial Colossus more than a million times bigger than the entire Zargoth plane. He did what his father Stelios couldn't do. He became a real star. It is a pity that Stelios is not alive to see it. The look on his face will certainly be something interesting. One can only imagine how happy and proud Stelios would be of him.

Chapter 494 The Cons Of Being The Realm Lord.

Mother high heaven arranged the path of the other three stars of the realm to accommodate the newcomer and maximize their output. She nudged and shifted them around the realm tree. Then she gave him directions for his orbit after he was done with the most important changes. He followed it obediently mostly because he is not powerful enough to defy her and partly because he doesn't have anything better to do.

The way she grabbed him made him experience how unsafe a star is in the void universe. World gods will certainly be interested in a special and weak star like him. All it will take for them to have him is to

simply reach forward and pluck him like some fruit from a tree. So he can't get cocky yet. He certainly can't get cocky with someone whose plane he was about to destroy.

Mother High Heaven smiled contentedly when she was done with her work.

She said to her partner, "Now Realm high heaven has four stars. I got another star without doing anything. You were right. Free stuff is the best."

A star is very important to the realm tree. It is the source of the much-needed catalyst of life. Life can exist without the sun as long as there is mana, but a star speeds it up. Light and heat energize a system and increase the rate at which reactions go on within it. Which means faster evolution, and larger diversity. There are other important uses apart from speeding up evolution. The presence of light and heat allows plants to flourish which forms the basis of the food chain.

Light also makes creatures evolve into forms that can withstand light and heat. Without light, creatures tend to be very minimalist in their choice of organs and become too specific in the type of environment they can survive in. So alternating cycles of light and darkness ensures that living things can adapt somewhat to both light and dark conditions. In summary, A star is a boon to the realm.

The realm tree has three stars that circle the planes and provide energy but it hasn't been enough. She would have loved to create more but stars are expensive and dangerous to create. A star is a creation of chaos. It comes about when the conditions of matter, gravity, pressure, and energy are right.

The conditions to create stars are very strict which results in a very high risk of failure. Trying to create one needs a lot of energy and can also lead to an explosion. The explosion of a star is no joke even to a world god. Creating a star can turn into creating a very expensive and unstable bomb. So getting a star without working for it felt good to mother high heaven.

She is happy about the situation but her partner isn't so enthusiastic about it.

The realm lord spoke to her. "I was right. I am always right. I am also right when I said nothing is ever free. There has to be a price to pay. Mark my words."

"So far so good. The addition of Helios will increase the productivity of the realm by 14%." She argued in favor of the new star.

He countered, "That means there will be an increase in energy consumption."

"The increase in efficiency of energy usage will be more than make up for the increase in consumption."

The realm lord grunted. He didn't have anything to top that.

She poked at him. "You're just bitter because you didn't think about it and it is cool."

He snorted but he didn't disagree with her. He has to admit that it is cool to become a star but he has other reasons why he is unhappy about it.

"I'm sure I can become a star if I thought of it. I just didn't think of it." He muttered.

She rolled her eyes. "Sure. I'm sure you can do it?"

He glared at her and said, "I know you don't believe me but I can do anything if I put my mind to it. And I mean anything."

"I'm not disagreeing with you."

He changed the conversation. "How did he do it though?"

He really didn't think about becoming a star because he never thought it was possible. But now that he is thinking about it, he realizes that it will not be easy to do.

She answered him. "He broke another limit of the universe."

"I know that. I am asking if becoming the star is the limit he broke or if it is something else."

"I don't know what limit he broke because even Legion doesn't know. All I know is that Helios collapsed, and then he became a star. Last I know they were trying to figure out Authority."

The realm lord spoke his thoughts. "Something seems fishy here. I know for sure that he didn't figure out Authority because I figured out Authority. So what did he figure out?"

The major reason why he is pissed off is that he can't do anything untoward to Helios. He would like to grab the newborn star and dissect it or probe it to figure out how he works but he can't because of his responsibilities as the realm lord. It is moments like this that make him hate being the realm lord.

If he were an ordinary world god, then he will be able to go on a rampage without impunity. He is powerful and he likes the freedom to use his power but he is being constrained by his position. It is very rare to come across someone who has broken a law of the universe. It is almost impossible for that person to be from the same realm as him. But it has happened and he is missing the great opportunity to satisfy his curiosity because he is the realm lord.

She asked him. "Speaking of Authority, when will your project be ready? World gods don't have patience."

"It will be ready when it is ready. Art cannot be rushed. They will have to wait."

The realm lord brushed off the concern for his project and continued to think about Legion instead.

Chapter 495 There's Always A Price To Pay.

'I must admit that I have underestimated them. None of us that break limits are ordinary. I shouldn't have underestimated them.'

He had underestimated Legion. He wasn't overly impressed with Legion when it broke the first law. The reward he got was mediocre. It wasn't powerful. As a realm lord, clones didn't matter to him. He would have been bothered if Legion could create infinite clones. A flimsy number of 8 clones didn't impress him even if they reincarnated. He has power and nothing beats power.

His disdain increased when he discovered that Legion was researching the Authority of gods. He already figured it out and broke a law of the universe for tracing Authority to its roots. Now he can create and bestow Authority on himself or whoever he wants. It is a really important thing because the scope of Authority is far larger than what Legion knows. Even world gods are interested in his ability.

He thought Legion will go on a wild goose chase for Authority and become mediocre. A limit can be broken twice but it will only be rewarded once. So if Legion manages to figure out what Authority is, he will only be able to create it and bestow himself with it. Legion will not be able to increase its power or bestow it on others because Legion will lack the reward given to the realm lord for breaking the limit first.

He expected Legion to fumble around for numerous Origin cycles before he can ever achieve success but Legion has broken another limit in less than 5 Origin cycles since it broke the last one. It is an unknown limit and it is making the realm lord feel uneasy. Something about it isn't right. He knows that there is something important going on with Legion but he just can't figure it out.

He is not uneasy because of fear nor does he consider Legion a threat. A star might be something big to an Origin god, but it is not to a world god. He is the realm lord of high heaven so he is a world god in this realm. He is feeling uneasy because he felt some unusual fluctuations in the law matrix when Helios collapsed to become a star.

His heart had raced and his intuition for danger spiked like never before but it was gone just as he felt something. He thought for sure that something bad was about to happen but it seemed like it was nothing. It is not normal behavior so he feels uneasy about it. He is not a fool that will disregard that feeling. It might not be Legion that caused him to feel the threat but he is certain that there was a threat to his life for an instant there.

He was deep in thought when he felt a gaze on himself. He followed the gaze and discovered its source. It was coming from the Virut plane. The gaze somehow broke the barrier of the plane, went through the void, broke the barrier of the ancient battlefield, entered the ancient battlefield, bypassed the passive barrier around the tower of heaven, and locked onto him in the tower of heaven.

He tsked in annoyance. "This cheeky monkey."

He cloaked himself with the power of the realm and the gaze disappeared.

"Now this is getting irritating." He grumbled to himself.

There are a lot of entities that can lock on to him and none of them are in the realm of high heaven because world gods are enormous and aren't allowed in the lower realms. So he only had to shield himself from external forces. He had never had to worry about someone spying on him within the realm until now and it is irritating, to say the least.

He wished he could squash the offender like a bug but he can't harm the children of the realm of high heaven unless they commit a crime.

'That will change soon.' He said to himself.

He has paid a lot for the privileges that he enjoys as the realm lord and he is continuing to pay more. The recent events are asking a lot out of him. He would very much like to lash out and do whatever he wants but he has to bottle up his desires and keep them down. It is very frustrating.

He was stewing silently when he noticed another problem in the realm. He can know about everything going on in the realm as the realm lord but he doesn't. Complete omniscience within the realm requires a large mental capacity that he doesn't have. He is not like the will of the realm that knows everything there is to know about everything that has ever existed in the realm. So he has filtered most of the things that reach him based on significance.

The issue that he became aware of has to be very important for him to be notified. He looked into it and began to laugh. Mother high heaven also discovered it but she wasn't laughing. She was frowning.

"This isn't good." She said.

The realm lord spoke as he laughed. "Didn't I tell you? Nothing is ever free. There is always a price to pay."

The issue is coming from the home plane of the dragons and it is also related to Legion. Helios's change threatened a plane and benefitted the entire realm but this change is only threatening a plane. She also can't interfere this time for many reasons. She can only watch.

"Still worth it. It is the dragon's problem. They had it coming anyways."

It is a worthy price to pay by her standards. So a plane might be destroyed. She will still make the exchange so that she will get a new star even if the star only gets to work for her for an Origin cycle. She has more than 100,000 planes. The loss of one for a star is worth it. It is also the loss of a plane she doesn't like. It's a win-win for her.

Chapter 496 The Dragons Will Not Be Happy.

The realm lord laughed harder when he heard what mother high heaven said about the dragon's having it coming to them. He knows a little about the conflict between mother high heaven and the dragons. The dragons tried to force themselves on her. They made a scheme to overthrow her will and make one of them the realm lord without her consent. That conflict nearly destroyed the plane and they did it because they were pissed off that she didn't choose one of them to be the realm lord.

He shook his head and said, "The dragons are going to be very pissed. Their pride won't let this occur without a fight. This is going to be so enjoyable to watch."

She nodded in anticipation. "Whatever limit Legion broke, it is not as simple as becoming a star. They can do a whole lot more."

First Helios became a star, Soverick's eyes suddenly became very powerful, and now their dragon clone is about to raise up a storm in the dragon's home plane. All these changes happened within moments of each other. It is either a giant coincidence or the law that Legion broke caused everything.

Mother high heaven has seen a lot to put two and two together. She is certain that it has something to do with the new law of the universe that they broke. The changes to Legion have been mostly favorable to her. She got a star out of it. But the dragons will certainly not like the changes to their home plane.

"If only they knew what is brewing in that egg then maybe this entire mishap can be avoided. It will also help that dragon egg or whatever it is now very much. I am sure the dragons will take very good care of it."

The realm lord looked at her and asked, "Are you going to tell them?"

Mother high heaven burst out laughing. She shook her head as she laughed.

"Let it burn. Let it all burn." She said manically.

"Someone is still cross about the whole will subversion ritual." The realm lord said to himself.

He didn't say it out loud or it will make mother high heaven go on a tirade about disrespect and stupid pride. He is just glad that the dragons don't know what's coming for them.

The dragons don't know yet what threat is brewing for them since the threat is still in an egg. No one will suspect an egg of becoming a threat capable of destroying an entire plane. It is a reasonable assumption that eggs are harmless but it will be too late when they realize the threat it constitutes.

This can all be avoided. One of them could tell the dragons and they will find the egg. They will be able to raise the egg very well so that it won't turn on the plane when it hatches. The plane will be spared and the dragons will have another champion on their side. But she and he won't tell them. It will make for a very interesting show so the realm lord and mother high heaven decided to sit and watch.

Besides, the dragon clone is not doing anything illegal. The current situation is a result of the dragon's ancestry and bloodline. It is just amplified a bit. It isn't reason enough for mother high heaven to interfere and she doesn't want to interfere.

"How many years will it take for something good to happen?" The realm lord asked.

"It will take at least 10,000 years at least. The egg has changed so I can't tell. It might take an Origin cycle." She answered after doing some thinking.

He said eagerly. "I can wait for an Origin cycle. It's going to be worth it."

Tales Of Subordinates.

Legion might have broken a limit of the universe but most of the world went on unawares. The universe might have been in danger but most didn't know about it. They carried on with their lives and plans. Just

like the Subordinates of the house of Chaos. They were given a mission which is also a competition by the lord of the house. Nothing has changed enough to stop them from fulfilling that mission.

The house of Chaos is not normal by any standards, demons or otherwise. Families and noble houses in the demon world are not normal or at least, aren't like most families. There is no trading of fuzzy and heartwarming feelings in a noble house. If you feel your heart warming up, odds are you have been poisoned.

It is normal to have betrayal and sabotage in the demon world. Ironical enough, some noble families of other races also partake in betrayal and sabotage like the demon society but that is where the similarities end. Betrayal is not allowed in a demon noble house. It rarely happens unlike how betrayal and murder run rampant in normal noble families of other races.

While betrayal is not allowed in a demon noble family, murder is allowed as long as the head of the family allows it. That's how a normal demon noble family operates. It may be different from the concept of family for other races but it is normal for demons and sometimes, it is better than noble families of other races.

The house of Chaos is abnormal by demon standards. Everything about it is abnormal. The members of the house were not recruited normally. They were not coerced with promises of power despite the fact that most of them joined because of power. The situation they were in when they were offered power influenced their decision to join the family.

It is very hard to say no to something when you know that your refusal might cost you your life. The worst part is that they already had part of the power before joining the family and they had paid half of the price of blood already. It would have been a waste to reject the remaining power and let the lives they took be in vain.

Chapter 497 Bring Beelta's Head.

The way they joined the house of Chaos was very abnormal but that's all in the past. The family has behaved like a normal noble family ever since. What is always current is the Lord of the house of Chaos. Their lord is abnormal and has remained abnormal.

The Lord of Chaos could cross ranks to kill demons of higher ranks. He terrorized the domain of high-rank demons as a mid-rank demon. High-rank demons had to band together to face him and yet, they failed. Then he evolved and became a thorn in the side of his demon lord as a high-rank demon.

The Lord of Chaos is a legend in the 541st plane of the abyss known for his legendary feats and unreal prowess but what topped it all off is that he rose up from being a fledgling to becoming demon king in less than 300 years. That kind of progress is a hundred times too fast. It is very abnormal, to say the least.

For comparison, Beelta the demon lord has been a demon lord for more than 15,000 years, it is still far from the average time of 30,000 years to become a demon king. The Lord of Chaos spent 1% of the average time to become a demon king. Now the lord of the house of Chaos has sent his subordinates to go and kill the demon lord that locked him within the domain of high-rank demons for 200 years.

The progress of their lord was stalled for 200 years and yet he spent a total of 300 years to become a demon king. It is like saying someone spent a total of 300 years to go from the vitality core stage to the Origin god stage. It is also important to know that they spent 200 of those years sleeping. It is that mind-boggling.

One will expect hatred for the one that made them waste 200 of their lives but their lord didn't seem bothered by the wait. They didn't seem bothered enough to kill their jailer themselves despite the fact that it wouldn't take much effort at all. No, the Lord of Chaos sent his subordinates to do that for him.

99 demon dukes entered the demon plane on Aeternus's orders. They came without their army and they came to assassinate the demon lord. There was a similar conflict like this 10,000 years ago that escalated into a war. That war rocked the entire demon plane and left its mark on history. Many thought that there will be a repeat of that war soon. The rise of the Lord of Chaos and his enmity with the demon lord were signs of a possible repeat of history. They were right about the conflict but wrong about the scale.

They expected Aeternus to wage a glorious battle against the tyrant of the plane. He would have demon dukes on his side and the demon lord will have demon nobles with Accumulation on her side. The war was supposed to be epic and earth-shaking. Apparently, it will not be so because the Lord of Chaos considers it all to be beneath him.

So he sent his subordinates. The tyrant of the plane has become their prize and they are to compete for who gets to kill her. He even allowed his subordinates to kill each other too. That's how little he considers the demon lord. For all he cares, it might as well be a free for all with the demon lord as a participant too. After all, anyone can kill anyone. There's no difference between all of them and there are no sides. It is very abnormal. Or it could be a demon king's thing not to care about their subordinates and the boost they get from them.

Baal entered the plane and felt reinvigorated immediately.

"There's nothing like the feeling of home. The Zargoth desert certainly doesn't come close."

He is not calling Zargoth plane a desert because of all the sand and the lack of water. It is a desert because of the lack of ambient mana. It was suffocating being there. Even as a demon, he could feel the end of the plane approaching. The plane had been stagnant for too long. That is not a good thing in a world where stagnation means death.

The demon invasion might have brought death and destruction to the plane, but it also brought life in the form of mana. That's how it should be. A cycle of life and death in which the best of the best escape that circle to become immortal.

Zernon's peace and order, on the other hand, made the giants of order infect their plane with stagnation and death. The Zargoth plane had no future under his leadership. That has changed now and the demons responsible have returned to their home in the abyss to fulfill the will of their king.

As much as Baal likes being back in an environment with a high concentration of mana and sin energy, he has dangerous work to do so he can't relax. He glanced around and eyed his competition. These competitors of his passed by him as they came out of the portal. He didn't attack them and they didn't attack him because of the truce not to fight at the portal.

He knows for a fact that there are a lot of demon dukes who will like to take his life. It could be because he offended a lot of demons to reach where he is right now. It could also be the innate need of demons to be the strongest and the ones in command. If not for their truce, they will be at each other's throats right now.

Their truce didn't stop them from giving him intense glares full of hatred and promises of violence. They have made their intentions very clear and obvious. They didn't bother to hide it because it will be of no use here. They are already all enemies to each other. Acting nice won't change that and acting harmless will only make them a target. He glared back and made them know that he welcomes every challenger.

Chapter 498 The Hunt Is On.

Baal's glaring is both a false and true show of bravado and confidence. It is true because he truly believes himself to be strong and capable. He is not making that part up but he also doesn't want

everyone to gang up on him because he can't take on all of them at once. It is always good not to fight if a fight can be avoided. In this situation where a fight can not be avoided, it is best to be able to choose your fights and not be ganged up on.

The glaring dukes eventually look away and race into the distance. They disappeared into the plane in search of their target. It will be foolishness to fight and die when their aim is not even in sight. So they will shelve their conflict for when it is necessary. Baal also went past the fortress of the house of Chaos in the domain of high-rank demons and went deeper into the plane. His destination is the towering pillar of energy in the middle of the plane.

He couldn't fly around openly like this before they left for the Zargoth plane. He would have been hounded by the forces of the demon lord and the demon nobles. Now he can move about without much fear. The irony of the situation is that he doesn't fear anyone in the abyssal plane anymore. It is his fellow demon dukes of the same house that he has to be afraid of. Even so, the relative peace is a welcomed change. It allowed him to contemplate his situation and make plans.

There are few dukes that Baal can consider his equal and only one that he truly considers a threat. There used to be a lot he considers his equal but that number has reduced to 9 since he acquired the half-divine rank. It might just be entry-level stat at 55 but it comes with a state of existence of 17, the same as the demon lord he came to hunt. Those competitors and threats of his will be his main obstacle to becoming a Herald as much as Beelta will be.

There are 4 ways to become a Herald. The first is to kill the demon lord. The second is to become the new demon lord. The third is to impress the lord of chaos. The last option is to kill the most dukes. There are a total of 6 spots for Herald. That is not a lot of spots for 100 demon dukes to share amicably.

Only 1 demon can earn a spot through the first two options. That leaves 4 spots that can be earned through the 3rd and last option. The 3rd and the last options are not mutually exclusive and they have a larger possibility of success too because of the number of spots that can be earned through them so most of the dukes will focus on them.

He has chosen to aim for Killing the demon lord. The major reason why he decided to focus on the demon lord is that the demon dukes know about his abilities and are wary of him. Plus they have Accumulation and they can run away.

He would rather hunt the demon lord. She can run away but she won't because she will have to forfeit her position as the demon lord if she does. Anyone can begin to bind the energy well to themselves as

long as she is not there to stop them. The process will be slow if she is still alive but it isn't impossible. Her escape means he will have a chance at clinching the criterion of becoming the demon lord.

He has chosen to focus on her, but he will the others if they obstruct him. The other demon dukes are sure to obstruct him when he tries to kill Beelta or when he tries to replace her and he is confident of defeating most of them. This brings us back to why he is glancing around at his competitors. He is sizing them up and preparing countermeasures to them.

The few that he considers his equal will be the true obstacles that he won't be able to overcome easily, especially if they gang up on him. Then there is the one that he considers a real threat. She is the first subordinate of the lord of Chaos. She is number zero. And he can't find her.

"Where is she?" He asked himself worriedly.

He can't find her no matter how much he looked. He is the first and last demon duke to leave the portal to the plane but he didn't see her leave the portal. He made sure to count and there were only 99 dukes. That means one of them is missing.

It also means that it is unlikely that she pretends to look like others so that she can't be found. He would have been very suspicious if there were a total of 100 dukes who went by without her among them. So she must have hidden somehow. Whatever method she used is enough to fool his senses even when he is actively searching for her.

He is sure that they all entered the plane together and yet he can't find the entity he considers a real threat. It wouldn't have mattered if she were some other duke but she isn't and it is very important that he finds her. He is looking for her because the lord of Chaos said that if he can't find her then he can't beat her. He didn't understand back then but now he knows. How is he to fight something he can't see?

He gritted his teeth and cursed. "Fucking snake. And yet she can find you. What is she anyway?"

The greatest thing to fear as a demon is the unknown. He needs to know how she keeps herself hidden or he won't know how he dies. He needs to know something so that he can have a fighting chance against her.

Chapter 499 Xander The Unknown.

Baal doesn't fear darkness and he isn't afraid of fear itself. He is afraid of very few things which is a good thing. One of the things he fears is Lord Khaos and Xander. He fears Xander because she represents the unknown. He isn't the only one that doesn't know much about her but that doesn't make him feel better because she is the very representation that ignorance can kill.

He was thinking as he flew but he had to stop. A wall suddenly appeared in front of him. It is strange because walls shouldn't appear suddenly and even if they do, they shouldn't appear in the air. He identified the wall to belong to a certain snake when he saw the glittering scales and the rippling muscles beneath it. The hissing he heard behind him all but confirmed his suspicion of who the wall is.

"What? Want to fight?" He asked her confidently.

She has coiled around him. A little more and she will be able to squeeze him tightly. Her head is raised and poised to strike. Her 4 eyes are locked onto him, watching his every movement, like a predator stalking prey but he mustn't show weakness. Showing weakness is taboo for a demon. It will be especially bad for him since murder has been allowed in this venture. He has to put up a front that will make fighting him not worthwhile.

She hissed at him. "Weren't you looking for me?"

Yes, he was looking for her. For her to appear like this is more than to fulfill his wish of finding her. She is hoping to rattle him. She certainly succeeded in rattling him but he won't show it. Instead, he asked her what has been bothering him recently.

"How did you get so much more points than me in the destruction of the churches in that plane called Zargoth?"

He had 110 million points while she had 2.6 billion points. How she achieved it is beyond his understanding. He should have the largest army in the house of Chaos while she has none. At least he hasn't seen any of her legions. So he wants to know how she did it.

Her answer came in a drawn-out hiss. "It's a secret."

Her body began to turn translucent after she spoke. Her flesh turned to shadows, then into black smoke that was blown away into the wind. She had disappeared.

Baal was paying attention to her but he couldn't figure out how she disappeared.

He noted to himself. 'All I can say is that it is not an illusion. Either way, she is my one and only threat. The trick is to make sure her ambush attack doesn't succeed.'

This short meeting has given him more information than he ever had about her. It made him realize how much of a dangerous threat she is to him. Xander doesn't need to join others in ganging up on him. She alone is enough to threaten his life. She can sneak up on him and attack before he is even aware of it. The only way to defeat her is to make sure that her first strike fails. He began making plans toward that objective.

He continued on his way to the center of the plane. Even now he can feel it, a malignant force sitting there and hoarding all that power to itself. A single being has taken ownership of the well of energy of the plane. It is something all high-rank demons can sense. They can sense the sweet power that that single demon is hoarding to themselves and they can sense that it will never be theirs. It is a terrible feeling to experience as a demon. They can see it, they can smell it, they can even taste its remnant power in the air, but they can't have it.

His mark of sin used to feel a longing for it when he was a high-rank demon. That longing has disappeared same as the even more intense longing he felt when he first sighted the Ominous Reaper. He hasn't felt any longing ever since he joined the house of Chaos because he has everything he needs to get stronger.

He might not need the energy well anymore, but it has been made his objective because of the same demon that removed his longing. That doesn't mean he isn't looking forward to it. On the contrary, he is feeling very excited and eager about his task. He doesn't need the power but the act of usurping the current owner will be a pleasurable experience. He will get to scratch that itch he has always had ever since he was a high-rank demon.

Every high-rank demon hates the demon lord. They all want what she has and will like to take it from her. He has other reasons why this moment is very important to him. He was raised to hate, fear, and eventually kill the demon lord by his father who is now dead. His father has died but his dream to fight the demon lord and kill her is still very much alive. Killing the tyrant that terrorized the plane for more than 15,000 years is a dream come true for him. So he is very eager to kill demon lord Beelta.

He advanced quickly toward his target at the fastest speed possible. He soon came upon the coveted central domain. It is the seat of power of the 541st abyssal plane. Whoever controls it, controls the plane. He found it heavily fortified as always. The thick walls of the fortification were made by placing mountains side by side. Then the top of the mountain was leveled and gaps were filled in with boulders.

The wall forms the backbone of the defense of the central domain. The siege breakers, catapults, ballistae, and cannons take advantage of the impregnable wall to beat back invaders. It has been like so for many years but it seems it will end today.

Chapter 500 Times Are Changing.

The defenders on the wall noticed his arrival. He received a personal welcome when the massive ballistae shot their giant flaming harpoons at him. They must have found his 30-meter figure to be an eyesore.

The giant harpoons struck his body and exploded covering him in flames. The flames died down but he was unarmed. Many more were shot at him and they hit him too. All he did was smile to himself. Then he grabbed one in the air and hauled it back at the wall. The resulting explosion made him laugh.

He sighed and said. "Same walls but different people. What a pity.

The defenses of the central domain have changed and it fills him with nostalgia. Normally, the sky ought to be covered with harpoons as the sentries on the wall fire volleys upon volleys. At least that's what his father told him about the war that occurred 10,000 years ago.

In that war, all the demon nobles attacked the demon lord. They came with their full army and siege weapons. They were welcomed with destruction raining from above. The energy cannons produced massive area of attack damage while the ballista directly crippled individuals that didn't die from a single hit.

Middle-rank demons couldn't scale the wall and high-rank demons will be shot down like birds in the sky. This wall stopped everything that didn't have Accumulation. The demon lord personally forged the ballista and they are manned by high-rank demons. It is why they are very dangerous even to demon nobles who don't protect themselves with Accumulation. The wall forms a circle around the energy well and it has blocked out intruders for thousands of years.

But the threat of the wall has fallen. The wall remains the same. Even the ballistas are still there. But the ones that can use it are few in number. There's a scarcity in the workforce manning the defenses. This is because the demon lord took most of her manpower to the Zargoth desert but she returned alone. She took a gamble and she lost. She lost badly.

It is common knowledge that trying to kill someone is not a sin, but failing to kill is a sin. She failed to kill the Ominous Reaper several times and now she will pay for her sins. Except she has fallen so low that the Lord of Chaos doesn't consider her worthy of his time anymore. So, he sent the dukes to collect payment for her transgression on his behalf.

Baal shook his head as he flew over the wall. Then he zoned on his prize and flew toward it. He encountered little resistance on his way to the energy pillar. The demon lord seems to have run out of subordinates to do everything. The central domain is mostly empty now. Buildings are unoccupied and the city is mostly empty. The few demons that are still present are either in hiding or have met a very unfortunate fate.

Baal flew over the central domain and arrived at the energy pillar. What he found there was expected. There is a confrontation in front of a large black pillar about 1 kilometer wide. The pillar is not solid. It just looks like it. It isn't gas or liquid either. If it is then something must be stopping it from spilling, splashing, scattering, and clinging to stuff that passes through it.

The energy pillar is an enigma. It is like soft foam. A high-rank demon can touch it and use it to leave the plane. A mid-rank demon will die if they touch it as they are overwhelmed by the concentration of sin energy of the pillar. High-rank demons can fly by using their mind to push on the world. They use their minds to keep the sin energy away from overwhelming them. Even they are not safe from the concentration of sin energy within the pillar.

But the high concentration is a boon for demon nobles with pinnacle rank energy. They have unified their energy and won't blow up when they touch the energy well. They can even bind the energy well to themselves and become a demon lord. That means they will have to defend it. They will have to fight off usurpers or their control will be taken from them.

It is why an obese demoness is being surrounded in front of the pillar. Someone powerful has ordered her death and yet she remains composed. She looks normal for a demon. She is just 10 meters tall. There are two small horns on her head. She also has a tail. If not for the aura coming from her, you wouldn't know that she is the demon lord.

Looks can be deceiving but demons are very sensitive to power. They need to be. It is how they are able to recognize threats and identify their position in the food chain. So they can all sense the great power contained within the small demoness.

The other thing off about her is her gaping maws. It is not a mouth. She doesn't have a mouth. She has not one, but numerous maws. There's one on her head. It has taken the space where the eyes, nose, and ear should be. Or maybe it ate them. She doesn't have those organs on her face. Just a head with a dark hole ringed with sharp, jagged teeth.

The largest maw is on her stomach. It has giant teeth and a giant slobbering tongue. There are others on her fat body but they are small compared to the one on her stomach. They may be small but they are not harmless. They can extend out of her body, widen, and snap up prey before withdrawing back to her body. They only look small to fool others.

'I wonder who it might fool. Those maws don't look harmless at all. Then again, I didn't become demon lord so it must be working somehow.' Baal thought to himself as he gazed at her.