

GREED 501

Chapter 501 Taunting A Demon King.

Baal was wondering why she decided to take on a small form. No demon will be fooled into believing she is harmless with her current look. The small size of her body and the small size of her maws doesn't make her look less threatening. She might look less threatening if her maws had lips to cover up the dangerous and grotesque-looking teeth and tongue.

Then again, he isn't the demon lord who managed to maintain her seat of power for over 15,000 long years so she must be doing something right. He must be missing it because he doesn't have the mad genius that makes a demon Lord tyrant.

A giggling sound reverberated through the area. Every demon duke that heard it flinched. The sound hurt their ears and grated on their minds. It didn't invoke the image of cheerful mirth. Instead, it provoked images of blood spraying from the decapitated neck of a victim or air bubbling from the guts of a disemboweled victim.

They can hear the sound of flesh being parted by claws and bones being crushed to a pulp. The giggling brought to mind evil and vile images. It is the sound that evil will make if it could giggle. Is the sound that those that enjoy doing evil will make when they're doing evil things and enjoying it. It is no wonder why the creator of the giggle looks so evil.

Demon lord Beelta spoke after giggling.

"I see that the Lord of chaos has sent his lackeys to soften me up. He is being predictable as always. But I must admit that he succeeded in fooling me about the plane he went to. He got lucky that one time."

Her words were full of confidence and bravado. It reminded Baal of the series of bluffs that he recently had to perform.

'Is she truly confident or is she just making a show of it?' He had to ask himself if her confidence is genuine or not.

"Come out and fight me Aeternus." She yelled to the skies through all her maws. Spittle made of acidic saliva flew out of her maws and dissolved everything they touched as she screamed. Her scream helped Baal to determine the authenticity of her confidence.

'No demon lord will shout to a demon king like that not unless they have a death wish or they don't know that the demon they are challenging is a demon king. It seems she is still ignorant of what truly occurred and her new unsafe position in the hierarchy.' Baal thought to himself.

Beelta continued when Aeternus didn't answer her call of challenge.

She sneered and said, "It is a good plan to throw his lackeys at me but it won't work with me. It is a pity for you guys though. You have been sent to your deaths. I am still hungry and I have never had demon dukes before." The large tongue within the largest gaping maw rolled around as she spoke. It appears that she can't wait to sample their flesh.

She is confident because she doesn't believe she has any reason to be scared. Aeternus might have fooled her, but it doesn't mean that the tides have changed. At most, he has acquired a lot of Accumulation and evolved to become a demon noble. It will give him the confidence to return and confront her. She believes that his confidence is misguided but she has to applaud him for testing the water with his subordinates first.

'If only she knew. Maybe she would have run for her life.' Baal shook his head in pity. 'Ignorance surely is not bliss.'

Her crusade to apprehend Aeternus ended in utter and total failure. She invited massive losses. She could only return with her soul because of her bond to the energy well of the plane. Then she had to recreate her body. That was easy due to the infinite energy she has. But the body she recreated was weak. She had to upgrade her weak body to the half-divine rank. She was able to reach the peak stage of 63 with her stash of divinity.

The only difference between her now and before is her lack of boost. She has an ability similar to that of Infernox. It boosts her the more she eats. It is why she had a large body more than 100 meters in diameter. She has lost that body now. She couldn't get that big on such short notice even after she ate all her subordinates that she left behind on the plane to acquire some boost and prepare for this eventuality. That is why there is virtually no one present in the central domain right now apart from the dukes and her.

Beelta believes that she has prepared as best as she can and she is confident in herself despite the fact that she has no subordinates. She is so confident that she was able to say her next words without shame.

She said to the demon duke, "I can spare you if you submit to me."

Baal began to laugh. He couldn't hold back his amusement. This whole thing is too much for him to bear. He expected a lot of things including this very scenario but it is still funny to see. If only she knew whose subordinates she is trying to poach. She will probably be on her knees begging for forgiveness if she knew.

He laughed as he began preparing his grimoire. Some of his trepidation about the upcoming battle has evaporated. He just can't take Beelta seriously right now. He is not the only one laughing though. Some other dukes are outright laughing while some are smiling.

They all know something that she doesn't know and they find it very funny. It is like an inside joke among them. They have never shared something like this among them. It is highly unusual for them to share a laugh like this when they can turn on each other in the next moment.

'This will be a memorable tale to everyone that survives today.' Baal thought to himself in mirth.

Chapter 502 Feed The Demon Lord.

The faceless terror turned to him. Her eyeless head focused on him. He is the one that laughed first.

She asked him. "I recognize you, boy. You are Salazar's boy. What's so funny boy?"

He didn't answer her. She is a dead demoness walking. There is no reason to entertain her. He continued to prepare his grimoire for the fight. The other demon dukes started to get ready too but no one attacked. They are all wary of each other. Beelta is not the only target here. Attacking her means you become open to an attack. That's why no one has attacked her yet.

Someone has to attack her first and Baal decided to be that someone. Who knows? He might impress Lord Chaos that way and secure his position as Herald to a demon king. Baal flicked the cards that the

pages of his grimoire turned into. The brown cards flew around him and expanded to become sturdy walls.

He turned his attention to Beelta after taking care of his defensive measures. She didn't look too bothered by his preparations. Then again, she doesn't have the facial features for him to tell. Having a maw for a face is not very good for body language.

He slammed his grimoire close and opened it again. The pages had turned red. He tore them from the grimoire and flicked them at Beelta. The red cards turned into red orbs which began to expand as they flew toward their target. They grew larger and larger until they dwarfed Beelta. Severely fireballs larger than 10 meters flew towards her. The resulting explosion from their collision would not be pretty.

Beelta responded by flicking the giant tongue on her stomach at the approaching fireballs. Her tongue snapped forward, elongated, and wrapped around the spell. It looked like a rope wrapped around a boulder. The fireball spell dwarfed her tongue but the spell didn't explode. It was subdued and drawn into the gaping maw with a sudden snap.

It happened so fast. Her tongue flashed forward and returned to her maw quickly like a toad catching flies. She did the same to the other fireballs. One by one, his attacks entered her maw without exploding. Then she gulped and swallowed them.

She belched before asking him, "Have any more?"

Baal groaned. He couldn't feel the cards anymore. The loss of 10 cards hurt him. Each card is precious. It needs the skin of a demon noble and years of treatment with enchantment. He certainly doesn't have more for her to eat. He didn't come here to feed her.

The other demon dukes used the opportunity to attack. They sent different attacks her way. Their attacks are mostly fire based so a tsunami of fire surrounded her and threatened to drown her. Infernox just arrived too. He ran forward to engage with her in close combat. His body was blazing in reddish-orange flames. His eagerness for battle spurred everyone else into battle. Fortunately, they chose to focus on Beelta first. Many demons followed after Infernox to pummel Beelta.

Baal muttered as he observed, "The outcome is set. She will fall."

The demon lord might have foiled him but her fate is sealed. It is a rigged game. She will die here. No, she must die here today. He is more concerned about who will bear the honor of killing her. That's why he is looking about for Xander as he shot yellow cards at the demon lord. The yellow cards are as swift as the wind and cut like sharp blades. They should be too fast for the tongue and if not, then they will teach the tongue a lesson about grabbing sharp objects.

What happened next was expected but it surprised him. More tongues appeared from the other maws on the demon lord's body. He expected her to have more tongues. There's no way that the other maws are empty of grotesque and nightmare-inducing spindly tongues. What he didn't expect is why she did with the tongues.

Two more tongues appeared in the large maw on her stomach, making three tongues. Then many more tongues shot out of her other maws. She became a toad with many tongues. The tongues from all over her body whipped around in a frenzy trying to disable the attacks. They formed a blur around her that began to kick up air to create a wind cyclone.

The wind cyclone defended her from the torrent of attacks while she simultaneously attacked. One of the tongues lashed at Infernox. He struck it away with his axe. Then the second one struck him while he was still mid-swing with his axe. He used his other arm to grab it. He was able to respond to the threat even though the tongues moved very fast. It is admirable of him. It was also a mistake.

A third tongue whipped at his outstretched arm while he was trying to pull the demon lord with it. The tongue cut through his arm like a hot knife through butter. It parted his rock skin, lava muscle, and infernal bones to sever the arm from the rest of his body.

Infernox screamed in pain. "AHHHHHHHHHHH."

He bellowed in pain like a drum but that did nothing to protect him. More tongues came after him. They came for more of his flesh. He jumped back to avoid them only to watch his arm withdraw with the tongue he was grabbing into the maw of the demon lord. Then he had to fight his way back to safety with one functioning arm while the other healed slowly. He matched forward with his usual indomitable force but had to retreat lest he donates more of his body to the demon lord as snacks.

Baal watched all this happen with a frown on his demonically handsome face. Infernox was lucky from what he can see of the dukes that went close to the demon lord. At least he survived with most of his body intact.

Chapter 503 Demon Lord Of Gluttony.

Infernox had matched forward to do battle and he was followed by eager dukes. He returned with a mild case of amputation. The others that tried to get close to the demon lord suffered more. Most of them lost more than an arm. Some lost their lives after the tongue rend them apart. Others were dragged screaming into her maws by the tongues.

It was a massacre. This was not the pummeling he expected. It is a buffet for the demon lord and she is not being shy or picky about her food. She is eating everything within reach and as fast as she can swallow it. He was opportune to see a demon duke that was struggling within one of her maws begin to melt as her acidic saliva began its work on the stubborn prey.

He admitted to himself. "This is not going as well as I thought."

He expected the demon lord to fight and hold her ground for a while before she finally succumb to the combined might of the dukes. Anything other than that will not do her terrifying reputation justice. His father had been afraid of the demon lord. Salazar always said that he would never want to be around the demon lord with his body. He had expected to see why Beelta is so feared but he is still surprised by what he saw. Anything close to her somehow finds its way into her mouth through the gentle nudge of her numerous tongues.

It brought to mind something Salazar had said when he had asked him why the demon lord is so strong.

Salazar had said, "Beelta is a demon of gluttony. She chose to disregard everything else including power and strength. She focused on only one thing and that is eating. She only eats, and she does it very well."

Beelta doesn't kick. She doesn't punch. She doesn't use spells. She only eats. All her sin abilities have been geared towards eating. She got seemingly useless abilities just so she could eat. Her sin abilities gave her a strong tongue and a strong stomach. She can grab anything with her tongue just like Aeternus can reflect anything.

She sacrificed a lot for her power. She sacrificed her speed so that her tongue can be fast. She sacrificed her senses so that she can digest anything. She sacrificed her physical and magical defense so that her tongue becomes very tough and difficult to break. She sacrificed her body's activity and healing so that even if her tongue broke, it can heal easily and she can create more.

All of that is because of a single ability called The Dedication To Gluttony. It enabled her to sacrifice her other abilities permanently to enhance her tongue and mouth. Then there is her Cycle of Gluttony. The more she eats, the more powerful she gets. This means her tongue gets stronger the more she eats and it inevitably increases what she can eat. It is a temporary boost that strengthens her the more she is eating at a time forming a cycle of enhancement.

The sin ability of Bottomless Gluttony makes her store an unlimited amount of power that she gets from eating. It is why she can grow so large but it is not only for show. It becomes terrifying when it is paired with The Power of Gluttony which boosts her the more power she has in store. This boost is permanent.

She herself is incredibly weak. Her body is fragile and she can be killed easily but any threat will have to pass by her tongue first. If they can't bypass her tongue, then they will enter her maw and make her stronger. What doesn't kill her makes her literally stronger.

Baal doesn't know all that but he does know what Salazar said about what can be done to defeat her.

Salazar had lamented about their loss in the war 10,000 years ago. Salazar had said, "Beelta is excellent at eating. She becomes more powerful the more she eats. She was surrounded by hundreds of demon nobles with Accumulation and she couldn't be put down. Instead, she grew stronger the more she fought. We didn't know back then. The prime demons were holding back from using Accumulation early so that their competitors will die. It was too late when we realized her situation. If only we had tried to overwhelm her before it became too late."

Salazar then laughed. "Then again, the same thing would have happened if we had known about her getting stronger the more she ate. In fact, we knew that demons of Gluttony get stronger the more they eat. What we didn't know is how fast she gets stronger and how well she could eat. She could even eat our attacks. Who could have expected that?"

Salazar paused to shake his head, "The same thing would have happened even if we knew how well she could eat. Demons are selfish. That doesn't change in the face of death. We always hope that it is our competitors that will die first."

Baal can see that situation repeating itself. The demon lord is surrounded and looks doomed but she isn't struggling at all. She is eating while the dukes are holding back because they fear for their lives.

They are wary of the others just as they are wary of the demon lord. And they are not being paranoid either. Their suspicion is valid and real.

They know for certain that the other dukes can turn into their foes and try to reap their lives. They know with uttermost certainty that it will happen and it can happen at any time. What they don't know is when it will happen. They might be in the middle of attacking the demon lord when someone beside them decides to target them.

They are all enemies after all and being surrounded by enemies is not a good environment to perform well. Some people can't perform well under pressure so it is understandable that they can't perform well under the very real threat of betrayal.

Chapter 504 Demons Are Selfish.

The demon dukes can't go all out because of their suspicion and it is going to make them lose. The demon lord needs to be overwhelmed early on before she gets strong enough that she can eat their best effort. At this rate, the dukes will be the ones to succumb just like the demon nobles succumbed 10,000 years ago.

It will be a repeat of history. Hundreds of demon nobles had surrounded demon lord Beelta with more than 30 of them being prime nobles who could singlehandedly hold their own against her. Only 8 prime demons survived that war when their prey became strong enough to turn into their predator. Of those 8, none of them wanted to ever be around her with their bodies. They will only attend meetings with her with their divine sense instead of attending physically.

Baal shook his head and said, "Demons are selfish."

He knows that they all need to set aside their enmity and cooperate but he can only shake his head. It doesn't matter if she gets stronger and if others know about it. What matters is if they are going to do anything about it. He doubts that it is possible.

He had taken the first step in attacking her when the others had chosen to wait and see but even he isn't willing to give his all because he has real threats out there that he has to watch out for. He knows that they are likely to fail but he is unwilling to change his performance because it is also likely to kill him.

The fact that the demon lord is growing stronger doesn't stop demons from being selfish. They are extra selfish when there is a limited prize to be won. It is best if their competitors die during the contest. There are other reasons apart from the competition that demons have to see the death of others.

Demons aren't lovely individuals. They aren't close to each other enough to be friends. They reach their level of strength through killing. There are slights and grievances of various degrees which will encourage one demon or the other to want to see the death of another.

Baal had offended a lot of demon dukes on his climb to power and a lot of other dukes have offended him too. They have all offended each other in one way or the other because the Lord of Chaos always had them fighting and competing for everything. They have had to bottle up their enmity for each other because of the bonds of the family but that changes today.

All their grievances will burst out uncontrollably if given the chance and this is their chance. This situation is a rare opportunity to get rid of their enemies and they will take it. Being backstabbed is a real threat that hasn't changed. Demons lack unity. It hasn't really been a problem because personal strength is all that matters but they need to unite now.

Personal strength is lacking here. It is just that the dukes won't rally and work together because of their fear. To believe that demons can overcome their basic instincts and unite is foolish and naive. If not for the house system in the demon hierarchy, demons will be too divided to attack planes. Right now, it is a competition in their house and an Order from the lord of the house that is dividing them. What can overcome that and make them unite?

Baal doesn't have a solution. He was still wracking his brain when he saw one of Beelta's tongues slam into something invisible in the air. The invisible object bled a stream of dark blood before it became visible. It was a giant black snake with gleaming scales and four dark bat wings.

"What is she doing? And why is she so small?" Baal asked in confusion.

It was Xander. She was in the phantom world but was knocked out of it when Beelta's tongue hit her from the real world. She was trying to sneak up on Beelta but she was foiled. It would seem that even the phantom world is not safe from the demon lord of gluttony's tongue. She really can eat anything.

Baal doesn't know what Xander is doing. She suddenly appeared in the air after the tongue struck something he couldn't see. What he found to be peculiar about her apart from her stealth is that her size has reduced in size. She lacks the pressure that her body should be releasing into the world. It is just odd.

Demon dukes can change their size so it shouldn't be a problem except that Baal feels something different about Xander because of her reduced size. She used to tower over him but she barely reaches his height right now. His sensitivity to mana is telling him that something is abnormal about Xander but he doesn't know what it is.

Xander didn't give up after being exposed. She shot forward like a bolt towards Beelta. Baal shook his head as he watched. Her dedication to the hunt is admirable but it didn't help her to outrun the lashing tongues.

Numerous tongues turned their attention to her and whipped at her. Xander's body would have been carved apart as if she went through a blender before she could reach her target. Except that she turned into black smoke the moment a tongue cut too deep into her.

"What just happened?" Baal asked.

He can't figure out what is going on. He knows that Xander isn't dead because the boost from the DIVINE HOUSE hasn't been reduced. So did turning to smoke help her survive? Did she become intangible? Why didn't she use it to bypass the tongues in the first place? So many unknowns about Xander. She is a mystery to him.

Then another Xander appeared in another direction just outside the range of the tongues. She shot forward again only to be foiled again. But she turned into smoke again.

Chapter 505 Phantom Xander

Baal didn't have time to question her motive when Xander appeared again. His jaw slackened because two more Xanders appeared this time in two different directions.

"There's two of her? Are they twins? That will explain her hiding shenanigans."

Three more appeared just as the previous two shot forward. Then four, five, six, seven, eight. Their numbers kept increasing and they kept attacking Beelta from different directions. They were all useless. They would turn to smoke once they were hurt by the tongues so they didn't really matter.

"What use is this? It will only worsen the situation."

Baal got more perplexed the more he watched. He already understood that the Xanders he is seeing are clones but he doesn't understand how throwing weak numbers at a being that gets stronger the more she eats will help. What they need is overwhelming strength from personal strength or combined power. The clones are useless no matter how numerous they are. You just can't drown a giant with weak paper-thin ants.

He chose to wait and see. He understood that there is a lot he doesn't know about Xander and she had to have a reason for her actions. He just hasn't seen the reason yet. He watched carefully and noticed that the range of the wind cyclone that the demon lord's tongue produced had reduced after being pressured from all sides by the clones.

He shouted at the demon dukes. "Attack. Everyone attack now."

His shout roused the dukes who had been watching the spectacle. They began attacking again. His shout didn't make them attack harder or try their best. It only made them attack again. Some did attack harder. But they did it because they were trying to sabotage Xander's effort in killing the demon lord. They thought that Baal wanted them to stop her.

If there is something that demons can cooperate on, it is to sabotage another demon. The cooperation of high-rank demons to hunt the Lord of Chaos is one such rare occurrence of unity among demons.

Their motives don't matter as long as they attack. A large amount of power slammed in Beelta's direction. Some of them hit Xander's clones but the clones didn't offer much resistance. So the spells destroyed the clones then they continued onwards toward Beelta. She has to defend herself from the attacks. She turned her attention to the spells only for more clones to be produced. The clones continued to throw themselves at her through the gaps in the attacks.

The demon duke's attacks compounded the sticky situation that Beelta is in. She can't handle all the clones. That's why she was being pushed back. That means she definitely won't be able to accommodate

the attacks. Now she has to choose between the attacks that can do real harm to her weak body or the useless clones that will pop with a touch and cannot be eaten.

She chose to focus on the threatening attacks. It is the wrong decision. Then again, any decision will be the wrong one once you have to choose between two bad decisions. There is no way out for her in this situation. Beelta chose the greater evil so some of the clones slipped by her defense of tongues and came close to her body. Beelta came to realize that the fangs of the clones are very real and very painful when they bit into her.

The fangs of the clones are like black and sharp curved blades. Each clone has six of them in their mouths. Three on each side of the mouth. Two on their lower jaw and four on their upper jaw. And all of them sank into her body when they made intimate contact with it. The contact was not pleasant in any way to Beelta.

The fangs pierced into her weak body sending terrible pain through her. Each bite made her shiver involuntarily. Then the clones disappeared once they bit into her. They shrank and entered her body as venom through the holes that the fangs created. The space they left behind allowed more clones to have at her.

Beeta has reached her limit in the number of tongues she could produce. Each maw is producing at least 3 tongues while the largest maw has produced 6. She can't produce more unless one of them is destroyed. Her maws are also full of tongues so she couldn't use them to bite the clones. She could do nothing as more and more clones bit into her.

She steeled her eyes and yelled, "You have pushed me this time."

There is something she can do that she hasn't done since the days she was a struggling demon. It pains her to do but it is better than her desperate move. She withdrew all her tongues into her maws. Then she opened the maws wide and began regurgitating. The things she had swallowed were shot out of her countless maws in every direction.

Giant fireballs flew out of her maw toward the demon dukes. Wind blades and all sorts of attacks shot toward them en masse. It hurt her emotionally and physically to give up things that she had eaten but it hurt less than the bites from the clones. That's why she made sure it will hurt the dukes more by empowering the things she ate to make them more powerful and more explosive.

She only regurgitated attacks, not the body parts that she ate. It will take more than some painful bites to make her give those up. So various attacks flew away from her and exploded amidst the demon dukes. Arms and other body parts flew away after being forcefully liberated.

Her attacks destroyed everything around her. Even the ground was cratered. The demon dukes had to retreat quickly to preserve their lives. At least 10 of them lost their lives because of the sudden bombardment. So Beelta was granted reprieve before she switched to swallowing attacks again. She swallowed the dead and injured demon dukes first before she turned her ever-hungry maws at them in search of more things to eat. It was very intimidating.

Chapter 506 Loss Of Appetite.

The exchange of attacks continued after that. The dukes returned and resumed their attacks. They made sure to maintain the pressure on her which allowed Xander to get her clones close enough for bites. But their effort was bringing less and fewer results. Beelta was killing more and more of them with her regurgitation.

Beelta always regurgitates anytime she has been pressured too much. Her regurgitation succeeded in taking the lives of 20 more demon dukes. It is too powerful. If they don't pressure her then Xander will have no success with her clones. But if they pressure her with attacks then she swallows them and uses them as ammunition against them.

There was a time that she killed a lot of them even without regurgitating. She opened and withdrew her tongues and widened her maws. They thought she was about to regurgitate. It's what she does when she is about to regurgitate.

They are battle-hardened demons so they know to watch for ticks and patterns in the movements of their enemies to predict attacks. They did the same to her. It was a subconscious action that will be considered impressive at any other time but it wasn't this time around. Beelta pretended to regurgitate and they ran for it. If they delay then they will be caught by the fiery explosion.

There was no fiery explosion this time. It was all silent as they turned their backs on her and ran. They didn't hear any explosion at all. What they heard is the cry for help as Beelta concentrated on some dukes. Her tongues focused on them as they ran and latched onto them. Then she pulled the struggling demon dukes into her waiting maws.

"That's just cheating," Baal complained with a pained expression.

He wishes death on the demon dukes as much as any other normal demon but the amount of deaths is getting too much. They won't be able to beat her at this rate. Her ability is already powerful enough. She had to resort to deceiving them to bully them again. His complaint went unresolved. Beelta didn't give up on taking advantage of their cautious attitude. It made it difficult to gang up on her when she can easily send them running by opening her maws.

The struggle continued. They pressured her and lost demon dukes with each attempt. Beelta switched between the two modes depending on the situation. The dukes couldn't do anything to her and entered a losing struggle with her. She was about to eat the 40th demon duke when she suddenly stopped. Her body spasmed and she stepped back.

She stumbled weakly. "What is happening to me?" She asked herself and everyone else in bewilderment.

Something interrupted the all-you-can-eat buffet dinner party held in Beelta's honor. She was weakening. She expected to remain the same in this situation. Having to cough up what she ate means she won't be growing stronger from eating anymore. But she is weakening and she is weakening fast.

She can feel a malignant force spreading through her body and destroying it from within it. This force is also destroying her appetite. It was enough to understand how bad things are. A demon of gluttony without an appetite is a very sick demon of gluttony.

She began to review everything that she has eaten recently and has happened to her. It didn't take long to fixate on the root cause of her illness. She has only been successfully attacked by a single method after all. Her body has been feeling quite funny since she was bitten by the phantom vipers.

"What kind of venom is that?" She asked in agony.

Her body feels like it is breaking apart and the culprit is the venom those clones injected into her. She hadn't feared the venom because she can eat anything including any foreign object in her body. Her body is more like a vessel for her maws. So it is easy for her to rid herself of every venom or poison that enters it.

She did the same to the venom of the clones. They were supposed to become hers and be digested but they refused to bend to her will. It reminds her of the energy that used to surround Aeternus. That type of energy burned her when she tried to inspect him with her divine sense. Now the burning is occurring from within her and she can't run away from it.

The energy is running amok in her stomach and growing stronger every moment. The venom is using the other things in her stomach to strengthen itself and it is making her body reject her stomach. For the first time in her life, she feels like vomiting. It is a tragedy and a sign of doom for a demon of gluttony to feel inclined to expel what they have swallowed.

"Oh no." She exclaimed before she regurgitated involuntarily.

She began to vomit her guts out. It is not careful and ordered regurgitated way that she expelled things that she had swallowed. It is an uncontrollable retching as her stomach sought to expel what was causing chaos within it. Her stomach had decided that it has had enough. It must expel the foreign object with or without her help.

Waves of stuff poured out of her many maws in every direction. They were liquid and solids, attacks, and body parts. They did not return peacefully to the world from the abyss that is her bottomless stomach. They set off a wave of destruction in every direction.

Baal's eyes lit up at the sight. "Xander did something. It seems the demon lord has gone insane."

He had to turn around and after seeing the sorry state that Beelta is in. The other dukes didn't need anyone to tell them to run for their lives either. They ran and they ran far. Weird explosions took place behind them. Rocks exploded as if they are fireballs. Liquids that came out of her mouth acted as fuel to boost the explosions. It was a destruction caused by chaos and mayhem.

Chapter 507 The Offer.

The calamity of forceful regurgitation continued for hours before it subsided. It was only then that the dukes felt it safe to return. Even then, they were very cautious as they returned. They were slow, alert, and watchful of any other attacks. It will not be strange if this is a battle move of the demon lord. She is a lying, scheming demoness. It is not beyond her to pull a stunt on them. Their caution was for naught.

They found a red shadow standing in front of a thin demoness. The red shadow seemed to blend into the environment. It held a red scythe and was watching the demon groaning at its feet. If not for the

light reflected on the black blade of the scythe, then the black shadow would have been impossible to notice.

All the dukes knelt down and bowed wordlessly. They don't know how their Lord got past them but they know the red shadow has something to do with him. They can feel his aura and power from it. The red shadow looks unassuming unlike Beelta and her grotesque maws but the red shadow is more threatening. They can feel the sharpness of the scythe without touching it. It will break their souls if it touches them.

The skinny demoness was still shaking and heaving. There are several black patches all over her skin that are spreading and trying to corrode her from the inside out. Her maws were opening and closing still trying to wrench. Unfortunately for her, it is too late. The venom has rooted itself too deep in her body. There's nothing more to vomit that can help her.

She struggled to speak even with her divine sense. "I see that you have become a demon king."

Her words came out slowly. She struggled to speak but she spoke with the confidence of someone that has nothing to lose.

She asked him with a burst of mocking laughter. "Have you come to gloat?"

She can tell that this is an avatar and it has Aeternus's energy signature. The avatar is not a sin avatar created with the help of an energy well since she is the demon lord. It also isn't powerless like hers. She can't even touch things with hers but this avatar can kill her. It means Aeternus is a demon king now.

The specter observed her for a while before speaking.

It asked her. "What do you think of my subordinates?"

"Not bad." She answered curtly.

She didn't think they would be of any threat to her but she was wrong. She didn't even think that Aeternus could be of any threat to her. She was wrong about that too. This clone alone could kill her in

her most powerful state before her body was taken from her. So she had better say something good about his subordinates even if they don't deserve it.

The specter nodded at her words. "Yes, not bad. But they are not as good as you apparently."

"It doesn't matter." She would have shrugged if she could but her body isn't listening to her commands right now. It is content with trying ineffectively to expel a venom that cannot be expelled by retching and spasming uncontrollably.

The specter bent to her level. It said to her. "It matters to me. I have found you worthy. Swear fealty to me and become my subordinate."

They are demons. Just like there is no unity, there is no eternal hatred. Only benefits and power matter. Anything can be done for benefits as long as you have the power. Beelta is a talented demoness whose path has been cut short by the presence of a demon god. She tried to eat him so that she can grow stronger. Now she is dying at his feet.

The irony is that she is experiencing the same pain he experienced when Chaos energy assaulted him as a fetus. She wanted to have his Chaos energy. Her wish is coming true but she can't handle it. Good things go to the strong. It is not because they deserve it but because they have the power to acquire it. She isn't strong enough to withstand having Chaos energy within her body. How will she have survived if it warped her mark of sin and starts to consume her soul?

She asked him. "Will it save my life?"

That is what matters to her. Her life is the highest priority, not humiliation or pride. That is why she is considering becoming the subordinate of someone she used to hunt and belittle in the past.

The specter asked her. "Do you have any other choice?"

She doesn't have any choice. Xander did a number on her. The clones entered Her body and couldn't be digested. She will surely die if she doesn't take his offer.

"Fine. I agree. I swear fealty to the Lord Of Chaos."

The specter conjured a black sphere. It doesn't look like the normal chaos spark that shines from within. This one is more powerful and pitch black. It also sent warning alarms to whoever sees it. It is an ominous-looking thing.

"What is that?" She asked in fear.

"Don't be afraid. Accept it wholeheartedly. Only then can your full potential be unlocked."

Beelta couldn't move to escape despite her fear of the black sphere. So she decided to listen to Aeternus and accept it as the sphere floated to her. Then it entered her body. The specter watched her closely with an intense gaze.

Beelta groaned when the black sphere entered her body. Her body began convulsing before she began shaking violently. Her reaction is worse than the violent retching caused by Xander's venom. Her body is actively trying to reject the object but it is too strong for her so it is forcefully warping her body.

"Is this supposed to happen?" She managed to ask through her pain.

The specter answered calmly. "How am I supposed to know? If I knew then I wouldn't need to test it on you."

Chapter 508 Miscommunication.

Beelta asked him if what is happening to her is normal. It is a very good question. Unfortunately, she is asking the wrong person. He doesn't know. If he knew, he wouldn't come here looking for test subjects now, would he?

He should take offense at her question. A more volatile demon king would smite her for such insolence. Fortunately for her, he is a calm-headed demon king that relies mostly on logic, careful observation, and analysis to make decisions. He can see that she is going through a lot of pain which might have compromised her mental faculties. So he won't get mad at her.

He would be a bully to punish someone that is mentally compromised for asking a question of ignorance. That's his emotional reason for not killing her for her insolence. The logical reason is that killing her will rob him of the rare opportunity to study the effect of his unfinished good on a demon lord. So he continued to watch her as she groaned and spasmed.

What he gave her isn't the Chaos spark, it is "supposed" to be an upgrade on the Chaos spark. The key word is "supposed". It is in fact, not an upgrade. At least not yet it is not. That's what Beelta's current suffering is for. It is to contribute to the completion of this "upgrade."

He has made some progress in modifying some of his sin abilities. This chaos spark upgrade is just like this avatar upgrade that he created with the aid of the black orb but he has not tested it yet on a demon Lord being. He can't tell her if her reaction is normal or not because he has never done it before. This is an experiment for him in every way you look at it.

Creating an upgrade for something that can empower demons is a tricky business. He had to experiment on mid-rank demons for him to modify the Chaos spark. The Chaos spark has reached its fullest potential now so he needs something more powerful if it is to remain relevant to him.

As a demon king, he can create demon dukes without the Chaos spark. Every demon king can. But upgrading a demon king to greater heights of power is much more difficult. He needs willing candidates that he can sacrifice for the cause. So he needs test subjects.

He is not willing to use his subordinates because they have more value than to be test subjects. He didn't groom them by giving them resources and removing the weak ones just to use them as test subjects. This means he has to find other test subjects who are either willing or who will need to be coerced gently to become dedicated to the cause. Beeta is not the first test subject but she will be pleased to know that she is the most powerful one up to date.

She underwent rapid physical changes as he watched her. Her body began to enlarge and warp. She increased in size but her maws enlarged faster than her body. They became enormous attachments to her body so it seems that she is more maw than a body.

Strange growths began to appear too. Another arm or tongue, or the lone tooth appeared on the small part that is her body further increasing the burden on her. The black sphere is supposed to make a demon duke/demon lord more powerful. It is not working apparently. Which to be honest, is not much of a surprise. He at least is not surprised by the outcome and that's what matters. Beelta, being the stick in the mud that she is, did not think so.

She shrieked, "You tricked me. You wanted to kill me."

The specter answered honestly and with some mild indignation. "Now why would I do that? I can easily kill you if I want. I just wanted someone to test on."

He honestly has no ulterior motive when he offered her the sphere. His intentions are as pure as they come. He wanted a powerful guinea pig to experiment on and that's all he wanted from her. The fact that she believed otherwise is just her fault.

He has been testing the black sphere on some random demon nobles that he caught in the plane. Not every demon noble followed the demon lord on her dangerous wild goose chase. He found those demon nobles and convinced them to contribute to the cause. They agreed but they always explode. They die instead of evolving.

It was a very disappointing result. He tried everything he could do but the outcome doesn't change even if they swear fealty to him. So he thought the black sphere might be too strong for them. He decided to find a much stronger test subject and Beelta volunteered. She has no one to blame but herself.

She began to rant. "I won't die without repercussions. You will pay for it if I die. I am protected. I can't die..."

He ignored her rantings but that didn't discourage her. First, she threatened and warned him. Then she began to plead and make various promises. Then that devolved into incomprehensible sounds of pain accompanied by abominable changes to her body. He noted every change as he observed her intently. He did this all the while being calm and level-headed.

Her body grew into a huge, round grotesque monster with multiple sets of eyes, maws, tongues, arms, and legs. She was crying in pain throughout the whole process. Then she became silent after 10 minutes. The pain and the chaotic changes finally broke her mind. She couldn't feel pain anymore. In a way, she has died. Beelta is no more but her body continued with the gruesome changes. It took more than 30 minutes before her body had had enough.

She didn't die peacefully. Her body began to glow a dark light. It was ominous and it is also what the other demon nobles behave before they explode.

Chapter 509 A Failed Experiment.

Aeternus has seen that ominous glow several times. It happens after the body reaches its limit. The body needs to release the excess energy that is putting it in this unnatural state.

The specter told the dukes. "You better leave now if you want to live."

The dukes scrambled. The lord of chaos is not an emotional person. He allowed them to kill each other. Now he is telling them to leave now if they want to live. The seriousness of the situation cannot be more emphasized. Something extremely bad is sure to happen to them if they continue staying here. So they ran with all their might. They ran without looking back and as fast as they can go.

Behind them, Beelta's body suddenly collapsed on itself to become a large black sphere. It is the same sphere that entered her body except it is much bigger. The sphere expanded and initiated a massive explosion that rocked the plane. All of the dukes were caught in the edges of the explosion and suffered. Some of the dukes who were too slow died. That made their numbers become lesser than 60.

The dukes returned after the explosion died down. They found the red specter still there. It is unharmed but it has grown smaller. It had expended some of its soul force in surviving the explosion. It could have escaped but Aeternus wanted to collect first-hand data on the performance of the sphere through it. The specter is also reducing rapidly as it used its soul force to sense the environment and the changes that occurred.

'It is obviously a bust. Maybe I should just make it a grenade instead. I should stick to explosives. They are easier to do.'

Any outcome would have been alright. In fact, he has learned a lot from this failure than he would have gotten if he had succeeded. He wanted to bypass the normal protocol in which only demon gods can grant Authority. He created the black sphere just by thinking about creating something that can make demon lord beings more powerful. His system didn't acknowledge the upgrade so he decided to have a real test.

His failure has made him understand that he might be able to bypass rules but it might not work with others. It also confirmed Soverick's hypothesis that the black orb that they got from their near-death experience is not related to Authority. If it were Authority, the clones should be able to combine their Authorities into something more powerful. He should also be able to grant Authority to his dukes.

He has decided to develop the black sphere as a grenade instead since it likes to explode so much. That's how the other test subjects die. The black sphere feeds on them and gets bigger. Then it explodes.

The black sphere can explode without using others to get bigger. It is just that the power of the explosion won't be so high. That can change if he focuses on making it more powerful instead of trying to get it to make demon dukes evolve. It will be easy to do too. After all, destruction is always easier to do than creation.

Beelta's death was not in vain. She may have joined the cause because of a slight miscommunication that is totally her fault, but the undeniable truth is that she contributed something to him. Her death has inspired the production of explosives. He will give up on trying to force evolution on others unless he wants them to explode. It is the least he can do for Beelta. Let it not be said that the Lord Of Chaos is not a reasonable demon king.

He spoke to the dukes. "Xander gets the credit for the kill of the demon lord. She is not to participate anymore. The competition hasn't ended. It will end when a new demon lord is crowned. I'll leave you to it. Do your best."

Then the specter turned to ashes as it died. It has used up its entire store of Soul force.

The demon dukes looked around at each other and began fighting. The demon lord is gone. Now they can face each other with their full attention. Most of them are tired from fighting Beelta. The ones who were able to conserve their resources will have an advantage over others.

Baal smiled when the fight was about to begin. He smiled because he is one of the few who conserved most of their resources. He is also happy because Xander won't compete with them anymore now that she has earned a spot as a Herald. That has reduced the number of available spots but it also increased his chances of getting one.

They quickly formed into groups. A group will support a single demon as it tries to bind the energy well. They will protect that demon and disrupt the other demon duke's attempts at binding the energy well. It was a chaotic struggle.

The fight will be less chaotic if Xander were participating. Every one of them will act of one mind and focus on eliminating her first. What they have seen of her has made her the highest on their priority kill list. They will do their uttermost to eliminate her because they can't fight knowing that she can suddenly appear and kill them.

The competition continued for a long while. The demon dukes formed alliances and broke them. They went back and forth tussling for the position of the demon lord. Aeternus watched them and gauged their performance and abilities. He is honestly disappointed by their performance against Beelta but they have an excuse. Their stats are not up to par with hers.

His failure to create a means to upgrade his subordinates also means that he will have to be satisfied with what he has. He is most satisfied with Xander of all his subordinates. She is not the most powerful but she has special skill sets that set her apart from the others.

Chapter 510 Xander The Demon Assassin.

NAME: Xander.

RACE: Chaotic Entity.

BLOODLINE: Chaosling.

DEMON RANK: Demon Duke.

CHAOS RANK: Second Star.

HEALTH: 100%

STAMINA: 100%

CHAOS ENERGY: 1,626,117

ACCUMULATION: 4,013,993

ATTACK RATING: Physique:935+925. Spirit:1071+1060. MAGIC:1071+1060.

DEFENSE RATING: Physique:935+925. Spirit:935+925. MAGIC:935+925.

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1. Dweller of the Shadow World(UNIQUE): Access to another dimension that is parallel to the main world. You can transverse through it and hide in it. While you can observe the main world from the shadow world without being observed, you cannot interact with the main world through the shadow world.

2. Phantom of Darkness(UNIQUE): You are unable to be detected by divine sense only by sight when you're in motion. If you're still, then you can only be detected by touch.

3. Inevitability of Chaos(DIVINE): Consume your prey and transform them into the power of chaos within a special pouch in your body. The power of chaos is capable of being accumulated. It can be used to attack and raise the state of existence to 17.

4. Shadow Clones(UNIQUE): Create phantom avatars by projecting images of yourself from the phantom world into the main world. The avatars are vulnerable and will be destroyed by a single attack. They also have a limited attack of about 10% of the main body but you can create as much as your energy allows and as much as your mind can take.

5. The Fatality of Chaos (UNIQUE): Create a deadly and elusive poison through the fusion of chaos energy and the stealth properties of the shadow world. The poison is lethal to every race apart from chaos entities. Death is inevitable to a non-chaos that is injected with this poison. Nothing short of its removal will save the entity. The effects are only a matter of time.

6. Connection To The Lord(UNIQUE): You are capable of communicating with the Lord of your house through this connection and he to you through the connection. You are his eyes and hands. The Lord can see through your senses and assist you with his energy to perform the tasks he has given you.

7. The Divine House: The lord of your house is not ordinary as such your house cannot be ordinary. You get a boost for being a subordinate of the house of chaos that is equal to the percentage of the cumulative power significance of all the subordinates in the house. Current Boost= 51%(UNIQUE)

STATUS: Elated.

Xander experienced another evolution after she joined the house of Chaos. She was made to join the competition among those that chose to join the house of chaos when Aeternus gathered them and forced them to fight. She survived that competition and successfully evolved into a demon duke from a demon noble. Her evolution made her maintain her position as number 0 of the house of Chaos and it also granted her 2 more special abilities.

She got three Godhood of greater gods as her reward from the previous competition. She used one to level up all her stats to the half-divine rank and used the other two to level up her magical attack and her spirit to the peak of the half-divine rank. They are her two most important stats in light of her two new abilities. The Fatality of Chaos needs her chaotic power to be powerful to create a stronger poison while her Shadow Clones abilities need both spirit and magical power.

The stronger her Chaos energy, the more powerful her clones will be. The more powerful her mind is the more clones she can have. The combination of the Fatality of Chaos and Shadow Clones creates an underrated but deadly outcome. The clones seem weak and will break at a touch but their poison is lethal even if it's just 10% of the amount that the main body can inject.

So a lot of clones will have to bite before they can do the same damage as a single attack from the main body but Xander doesn't have to risk herself to do it. She can hide within her phantom world and project deadly clones to the world to do her bidding. The range of the clones is only limited by her mind. They can go as far as her mind can stretch them.

He didn't let her participate in the rest of the competition because he doesn't want to kill more demon dukes. Xander will be at a disadvantage because she can't hide and bind the energy well to herself at the same time. That means she will be forced to eliminate threats before she tries to bind the energy well.

Eliminating all the threats will be difficult and slow but it is highly possible for Xander to do. She will be able to poison all the other dukes just as she poisoned the demon king. All she needs is patience and dedication. The demon dukes will have a slip-up in their defense no matter how careful they are of her and she will be there to take advantage of it with her shadow clones.

Xander has always been lacking in attacking abilities and was more focused on stealth but that has changed with her two new abilities. She was able to use her clones to hunt the hidden vessels of the gods. That's how she won the previous competition. The gods didn't bring out all their vessels for their fight with Aeternus. If they had, they would have lost them all with the liberation army.

The gods kept some vessels hidden. It is not selfishness but preservation. They knew they were sending the liberation army to their deaths so they wanted to save some of their power. Xander found the vessels using her stealthy abilities. She bypassed defensive structures and surveillance systems. It was very easy for her to do. Then she got to work when she found the vessels.

All she needed was a single bite. Vessels may be powerful when they are possessed by gods but they are ordinary transcendents when they are not. They are mince meat to Xander who can take on a grand god.

She would have been able to kill them even if they were possessed by their gods. It would have been difficult but she will succeed. A single bite from her clone turned the vessels to ashes in their vulnerable state. She hunted vessels while the others were busy destroying churches. It is why her score is so much higher than Baal's and the others.

The demon lord is a tougher cookie than those vessels but she too went down at the end of the day. Xander's venom brought her to her knees heaving and shaking. One bite would have been enough but the effect will be too slow. If Beelta heals faster than the venom could damage her then she will be able to live on in a balance until something else pushes her system past its limit and the poison rears its ugly head. Unfortunately for her, the amount of venom that entered her body is way past her limit.