

GREED 551

Chapter 551 Clearly Outmatched.

The ground of the city is artificial. It is a barrier created by an Origin artifact. It separates the private lower section of the city from the public inner and outer city. The barrier is sturdy but it can not take the stress that reaches the Sovereign level. It means Soverick is already outputting power at the Sovereign level as a king of law.

Hadrick muttered to itself again. "What a freak."

Hadrick suspected as much since it has seen some of the things that Soverick can forge. His abilities have always been beyond what a king of law can achieve. But that sphere that he created is beyond what an origin god should be able to forge. So trying to use common sense to evaluate Soverick won't work. He would rather just ignore the weirdness and just forge.

Meanwhile, the family drama continued. Soverick leaped into the air and then his powerful divine sense gripped the world and pulled on it. He shot through the air like another meteor. His divine sense acted like a slingshot by gripping the world and pulling him forward. He found his mother quickly with his fast speed. She is laying in a heap weakened and battered.

Her body is cracking all over. There are fine cracks that extend from the point he punched her to the other parts of her body. The place that he punched is cracked and caved in. Apparently, the injury he gave to her is very serious. Her essence is even leaking out of the cracks in her body. The injury has hastened the loss of her life essence and reduced her lifespan. She will die faster if she doesn't heal the injury. Fortunately, it is an injury made without a concept so it is very easy to heal.

He flew down slowly towards her and hovered just above her.

He frowned in annoyance and said to her. "Don't make this difficult for me Mihila. Just answer the question. I don't have time for this."

She replied by spitting at him. Her spit struck his barrier and rolled harmlessly to the ground.

He grunted. "As stubborn as a mule."

He flew closer to the ground. Then he picked her up by her neck. His hand clasped around her neck like a vice grip. Even weakened, her neck felt unbreakable in his hands. It is tough and hard like a rock. Her entire body is like that. It is due to the refinement of her body by the laws of the universe.

The body of law of titans is still incomplete but it already provides exceptional defense. A king of law can attack her body all day and won't be able to scratch it unless that king of law is able to output enough power to overwhelm the defense of her body. Even then, the king of law will have to slowly chip away at her body as if trying to break a mountain apart with an axe.

Her body of law made it seem as if he is holding some highly durable metallic inorganic machine. It is a body that resists external influences because it is too strong. Her body will rather break than bend. It wouldn't be easy to damage such a body and yet he did. In fact, he is ready to do more damage if she doesn't cooperate with him.

He brought her to his face with the two of them levitating in the air. His white unfocused eyes met with her blazing multicolored ones.

He told her, "He is suffering in the artifact, Mihila. The more time you waste, the more pain he has to go through. Why don't you give me what I want and I'll let him go."

His words made her struggle both internally and externally. She knows that Soverick doesn't care about much so he must really care about the information she has if he is asking for it again and again. So she really wants to spite him by not giving him what he wants but she doesn't want Ghaster to continue suffering. His words reminded her of why they are fighting in the first place and what truly matters.

She also doesn't like the feel of his hands on her neck so she tried to release herself. She knows that she should capitulate but she doesn't like how she has been beaten up. She struggled to escape his grip but it was all to no avail. That previous attack of his mauled the little order she had in her body and made it difficult to gather her strength. Even now, she can still feel 9 echoes of force reverberating through her.

She finally relented when she couldn't make any progress in releasing herself.

She is clearly outmatched so she said to him, "He called me a few seconds before I arrived."

"Hmmm. So you didn't know he was coming to me?" He asked her.

"No. He called me and told me that you trapped him in a machine. He was crying in pain."

"Interesting. This means that he can communicate with the outside world while fused with the machine. I need to fix this. I don't want to carry a snitch with me." He said while rubbing his chin with his other hand.

He was inspired to create the vessel by the divine engine that Helios and the tree father created. Unlike them, he doesn't have divine will or fragments of the law of order so it isn't easy for him to replicate it. They were able to create an effectively isolated space within which power can be siphoned but it seems he is far from that level. Ghaster is still capable of communicating with the outside world. That will bring a lot of trouble to whoever is using the machine.

"Fine then."

He released his hold on her and she dropped to the ground. She righted herself before reaching the ground and levitated on her own. She would have called flat on the ground had she been too weak to reorient herself and Soverick would have just watched.

Chapter 552 Cease All Hostilities.

She demanded menacingly. "Release him now."

Soverick rolled his eyes at her antics. "I'm doing it already."

It is not as if she can take him on. He doesn't have anything to fear about her so her facade doesn't scare him. She isn't pretending though. He knows that she will fight him again if he goes back on his word even though she knows she has little chance of victory. That is a good enough reason to give her what she wants.

A desperate titan of law is not a titan of law to mess with. He has the raw strength to contend with her but her state of existence is above his despite it being imbalanced. She can decide to tip that imbalance towards chaos and burn all her essence for empowerment. Then she will become able to deal fatal damage to him if only briefly. Then she will die from exhausting her essence.

So it is not a good idea to push her. Besides, he wants to be done with her and he already got what he wanted so he will release her precious son. Then he will be able to get to researching his prototype and meditating on the law of order that he took.

He undid the glove and deactivated the phases. The glove expanded and became a black runic sphere. Then the sphere became the mummified Ghaster and was unwrapped before the ribbon returned to Soverick. Ghaster appeared but he looks very different. His buff and muscular body has become lean and gaunt. He is also still screaming. It is just silent but his mouth is widened and he is still feeling some residual pain because of the ordeal.

He shivered involuntarily after he became free and stopped his soundless screaming. He was still dazed but his eyes widened when he saw Soverick and he turned to run again. Then he saw Mihila and ran to her. The pair of mother and son embraced in a happy reunion.

Mihila asked in concern. "My baby. Are you okay?"

Ghaster could not reply. He is just crying and only that. The experience is so painful that any recollection of it brings a fresh wave of trauma. He simply wishes he can forget what he went through. Thankfully he has a caring mother who is there to console and dote on him.

Soverick frowned when he saw Ghaster's form. He muttered, "So the transformation is not efficient. I wonder why? Is it because he is weak?"

He is more concerned about the loss of form that Ghaster experienced rather than his pain. The injury is temporary. It happened because he ran out of Origin energy for the vessel to siphon from him. He will heal once he has enough Origin energy within him.

"This means that the prototype is not self-sustaining. There's some loss somewhere. I need more data. Will it be the same if a stronger being is used?"

He needs a test subject to get data. His vessel is not a finished product. It is still a prototype that needs extensive testing and improvements. It is what he is concerned about. The more data he can get, the higher his progress in perfecting his new artifact.

"What if I try a titan of law?" He thought to himself as his eyes wandered to the mother and son pair.

His eyes focused on Mihila as he contemplated using his mother as a test subject. She has no future anyway. She might as well be part of something great by becoming a test subject. The prototype should also be strong enough to restrain her as long as enough origin energy is used to activate it so the prototype should be safe no matter how much she struggles. He became more inclined to use her the more he thought about it.

Mihila seemed to have sensed something so she pushed Ghaster behind her and got ready to fight. This time she is ready to do everything to protect her son. That includes burning the essence of power within her. It will mean burning her remaining lifespan but she is willing to pay that price.

Fortunately, it didn't come to that. Two Elders of the family appeared.

"Please cease all fighting." One of them said to them.

Mihila sighed in relief when they appeared. She even smiled because she recognise one of them. The other one is familiar to her but she can't remember where she knows him. Both of their presence are welcomed. It means cessation of hostility if only temporarily. She will take any reprieve that she can get right now.

She greeted the one she recognized. "Elder Stein. It is nice to see you."

Elder Stein replied. "It is my pleasure to be here. I am lucky to have witnessed that fight. I feel so alive."

The other elder spoke, "Child of the plane. Why are you fighting your mother? Let's see if we can settle your dispute without violence before you resort to violence. If you must fight then we demand that you take it outside."

Elder Stein sighed. "How time has passed. I remember being there on that day of the birth of these kids and I was there when your mother wanted to create trouble because you were being delayed for your life evaluation. But now you're strong enough to exchange blows with your mother in just a short thousand years. It brings tears to my face."

He is so emotional that he looks like he might just cry. It wasn't that long ago when the litter was born to Ghoto Ghastorix. He saved the babies by clashing with a lightning bolt of heavenly punishment on that day. In fact, he was there on the day that Mihila and Ghoto were arrayed for an inquisition before the elders of the family and the Sovereign from the ancient battlefield.

It was less than a thousand years ago but things have changed so much. Soverick is now capable of exchanging blows with his mother. That means Soverick is capable of exchanging blows with him too.

Chapter 553 Exchanging Blows Or Pummeling Her.

The other security elder refused to agree with Stein's evaluation that Soverick was exchanging blows with his mother. He turned to Elder Stein and asked, "What do you mean exchange blows? Soverick was pummeling her."

"Shhhh." Elder Stein quickly shut him up. Then he whispered to his partner, "I was trying to be polite."

Except he wasn't really whispering. His voice is always loud so whispering is at the normal level of loudness. Everyone can hear what he said very clearly.

Then he turned to Mihila who seems to be furious about something. He said to her, "It wasn't that bad. You can be very proud of the son you have birthed."

His partner totally agreed with him this time. "Yes, he is so much better than my son. My useless son was the one that made me delay the life evaluation of your kids

That made Mihila remember him. "Yes, I remember you, Haden Kroft. It seems you were successful with your breakthrough. You have changed. How is your son? I hope he is not giving you more trouble."

Haden Kroft smiled. "He died somewhere out in the plane."

Kroft Junior is one of the casualties of Hadrack's paranoia and influence of the existence of Soverick in the plane. He would still be alive if Soverick was never born to Mihila and Ghoto. Unfortunately for him, Kroft Junior had a problem with the fact that Ghoto is permitted by the family to have kids while he can't. So he tried to sabotage their life survey through his rich and well-to-do father. Kroft Junior became a grand god only to be sacrificed to create Celestials.

"I'm sorry about that."

Mihila apologized for the death of his son. The death of a son must have been painful. Even she will feel a little bad if Soverick dies. She will be mostly indifferent to his death but she will feel a pang.

Haden Kroft shook his head. "It's no problem, really. At least, he won't be giving me any more trouble."

He wasn't emotionally attached to his son. He only had him for the opportunity to see the path to becoming a titan of law. Now that he has succeeded, he has no reason whatsoever to care about his son. He considers it a relief and the removal of a burden that his son died.

Elder Stein readily agreed. "That boy was a lot of trouble for you. His death can be considered good riddance of a source of trouble. At least, now you don't have to be paying people off every now and then for his offenses."

Mihila's frown returned. "Yes. And they won't be hitting you now that they think they are all grown up." She said as he stared at Soverick.

The two elders coughed awkwardly. They have nothing to say to that. Actually, they have a lot to say but none of what they want to say is appropriate to say. So they coughed to cover their awkwardness. They felt especially guilty because they allowed the fight to take place and enjoyed watching it.

They are from the security department of the family. They are supposed to stop all acts of violence in the city. Their stern policies have become lax because of the availability of Origin energy in the plane. Now they don't need to preserve Origin energy by discouraging fights. They still stop fights to protect lives and properties.

They have been aware of the trouble that started his entire thing. They knew when Ghaster came to start a fight. They held back then because of Hadrack but they allowed the rest to happen because they wanted to see it. They could have interfered earlier when Soverick and Mihila were fighting but they didn't.

No one knows the power level of Soverick Ghastorix and everyone has been wondering what boost the title of the child of the plane really grants him. It is a mystery that a lot of people are interested in. The mystery continued unsolved as Soverick kept to himself without interacting with others. So they were very surprised to see that he is already a king of law and he can beat a titan of law. They even recorded the fight and only came to interfere when they deemed it over.

Soverick grumbled to himself. 'So much for a test subject.'

He observed the situation and decided that trying to get Mihila now will be too troublesome so he gave up. He can't get her unless he is willing to face these two new titans of law. The problem isn't winning. It is the effect of fighting the three titans of law of the family and using them for his experiments. The family won't take well to it since the new titans of law are elders of the family. So he decided he will get volunteers for his project by using the good old-fashioned way. By kidnapping them from the plane.

He asked the elders, "So what next?"

Elder Stein answered, "You're supposed to pay for the damages that you have caused and perform other bureaucracy nonsense. The family is willing to waive all of the consequences of this little fight if you give the family the permission to sell copies of your fight to the public. It will bring more boosts to the external city and revenue to the family."

Soverick is a celebrity. And not some C-Grade or B-Grade celebrity. He isn't even A-Grade. He is some S-Grade shit with serious popularity. He is the fucking child of the plane. It's a title that very few even knew existed. He has billions of fans and haters. He is the target of admiration and assassinations. He is a real-life hero of the plane. His popularity is just beneath those of the sages and will probably remain so even if he dies in his attempt to become a titan of law. So a video of his fight will be highly sought after.

Soverick replied, "Okay."

Chapter 554 Elder Stein The Loose Cannon.

Soverick replied then he turned away. He didn't use anything special during the fight. It was all brute strength so it doesn't matter if his enemies see it. The family can use it and it will make things easier for him when he requests their assistance in acquiring test subjects. He disappeared as he flew away leaving behind a massive thunderclap.

Elder Stein and Kroft both shook their head in wonder and admiration. Even they are in awe of the Child of the plane. This fight is something that they will brag about for a long time to come.

Elder Stein spoke in regret. "I wanted to ask him what those 9 orbs are."

"I doubt he would have told you anyway. Let it go."

The two of them began to bicker amongst themselves.

Ghaster sighed in relief after Soverick has gone. Then he asked the two Elders, "So he won't pay for what he did to me?"

Elder Stein laughed and replied, "What do you want us to do? I very much admire your brother believe me. But no matter how much I admire him, I am sure being beaten up by him will be very unpleasant. Just ask your mother about the beating if you think I am lying. She will tell you how painful of an experience it is of she is being honest with you."

Both Mihila and Ghaster were frowning the more Elder Stein spoke. What they are hearing is far from what they hoped to hear. It is not even pleasant to bear at all. His loud voice makes his words especially grating to hear.

Elder Kroft sighed. 'This guy and his loose lips. He is like a loose cannon. Always saying what's on his mind without care.'

He interfered before Elder Stein offends them even more. "What my partner is trying to say is that you started this fight. You attacked him first so you should bear with the consequences."

Elder Stein nodded and agreed. "That too."

Then he continued, "Thanks for starting the fight by the way. We were able to see what the Child of the plane is capable of. You were the appetizer and your mother was the main meal. I have to tell you that I am very satisfied with the meal. It was riveting, it was..."

"We have to go now. Have a nice day. Report any issues you have to our departmental office."

Kroft dragged Stein away before he drops more offensive bombs. He would also like to join in and describe how the fight can be likened to some of his favorite dishes but he is sensitive enough to know that it will be a major problem. He is also a seer and he could tell that Mihila was just about to attack them. Violence is a streak that runs deeply within battle sage monkeys.

Mihila frowned as she watched the two elders leave. She was just about to sock that insensitive elder's face before they suddenly left. It left her itching and unsatisfied.

She sighed and said to Ghaster, "Let's go home."

Ghaster obeyed silently and followed after her. They flew above the bustling city towards their home.

She asked on their way home. "Why did you go and fight him?"

Ghaster replied. "I wanted to beat him."

"Didn't you hear about the Calamity of the Child of the Plane?"

He nodded. "I heard about it."

She asked with exasperation, "Then why did you go and fight him?"

It will be understandable if he fought Soverick before that incident. No one really knows how powerful he is but that incident is more than enough proof that transcendents can be killed with a wave of his

hand. The lowest estimate of Soverick's strength at that time is at the level of the king of law. So why did Ghaster who heard of the event go and fight Soverick?

Ghaster became silent.

He couldn't answer the question because any answer he comes up with will sound stupid. It was not ignorance that made him go fight someone who could be a king of law. He knows that what he did was stupid but he thought there will be a better outcome even if he fails. He knew that Soverick is not in his league anymore but he went to fight because he thought his Eldest won't try to kill him. He thought he was safe so he didn't worry too much about the outcome.

He thought he had nothing to lose for trying and now he knows he was wrong. There are more painful things than dying. You never fully understand such a thing until you experience it. It is a pain that leaves you begging for the sweet release that only death can deliver.

It can be achieved by constantly dying without actually dying but feeling the pain of dying. It is a pseudo-death because your consciousness only fractures partially not completely so you can heal just in time to have it fractured again. The ordeal is certainly more painful than plain dying. He has that knowledge on good authority from personal experience. It was all because he thought his Elder brother wouldn't be too strict with him. It turns out that he was very naive and misguided.

"It was a mistake to fight him. He is too strong now. There's no way to catch up to him. He became a king of law in less than 10,000 years, not the 10 Origin cycles that others take. But I am just a transcendent. How can I possibly match him?"

When he finally spoke, it was an admittance of his weakness. He remembers that time Soverick was made to leave the academy. He had been relieved that Soverick will finally be out of his hair. Then he finished the academy in the top ten and was granted automatic admission to the tertiary institution for mana entities.

Graduating within the top 10 is a worthy achievement. Ghaster came back home to brag about it but he found that his brother has become the child of the plane. His achievement was overshadowed and his pride was demolished.

Chapter 555 There Is Nothing Normal About Soverick.

What can the success in a family-established Academy compare to the success above millions of Vitality core refiners from various prestigious families all over the plane? He knew the answer to that question without needing to hear the tales of Soverick's exploits. People were singing Soverick's praise and telling stories about how awesome he is.

Ghaster's ears almost popped off thanks to Kayla's energetic vocal rendition of a scene where Soverick dropped down from the sky upon some enemies and then he slaughtered them. It was all he could hear for a time. Everyone was singing Soverick's praise even their mother joined in on the trend.

What's worse is that the thing he was happy to see Soverick leave the academy for came back stronger than ever. Soverick's pompous attitude didn't get better due to the achievement but it didn't increase either. Soverick remained the same condescending battle sage monkey with the same indifferent look. He above all else, did not toot his horn or boast about his exploits. Then again, he didn't need to.

Soverick was the star of the plane while he was among the top 10 in an academy. He wasn't even the 1st. So Ghaster became ashamed of his own achievement. But there was still a chance to catch up. Soverick was still a mana entity back then so there was a chance of catching up to him. It was a possibility he was looking forward to and working very hard to achieve. Then he became a mana entity and was planning to challenge Soverick when the Calamity of the Child of the plane occurred. Thousands of transcendents died that day. Even kings of law were injured.

So he thought it best to become a transcendent before he challenged Soverick. He returned to school and finished the tertiary stage of training with honors too. Then he came running here immediately after he became a transcendent. His aim was to injure Soverick and only that. Was that too much to ask? Apparently, it is.

Soverick didn't even give him any attention and when he did, he didn't give him the honor to be beaten up by the child of the plane. He simply captured him and tortured him. Then he beat their mother up too.

Apparently, he wasn't worthy enough to be beaten up but like their mother was. Even he is not so thick-headed. Now he knows that he needs to be a titan of law for him to be trashed by Soverick. A transcendent is not a worthy enough appetizer for him. This whole experience is enough for Ghastar to know when to give up on his childish dreams.

Mihila patted his head. "Soverick has always been special but you're special in your own way. You are a good boy and your training has been excellent. You can't give up till you become eternal. Soverick still has the huddle of being a titan of law to overcome and trust me, it will not be easy. I should know how difficult it is. Soverick is very talented but his immense talents have come to bite him. He will have to give some of it up if he wants any hope of becoming a titan of law and becoming a Sovereign of law. That means he won't be special anymore. He might even die trying to become a titan of law."

She tried her best to console her son even if she has to say that her other son might die. Ghaster has always been her favorite so it pains her to see him like this. She is willing to use Soverick's possible death to encourage him and cheer him up. But Ghaster is not convinced.

He shook his head and said, "He became a king of law in less than 10,000 years mother. And he is as powerful as a Titan already. Maybe even more. Soverick is not normal. There is nothing normal about him."

Her words are reasonable, Soverick's possible death included, but it is Soverick that they are talking about. He became a king of law in less than 10,000 years and even beat his mother as a king of law. Clearly, he can't be judged with common sense. Nothing about Soverick is reasonable. To expect his death, no matter how reasonable, is to dream of rainbows in the dry season. In fact, it is more probable for a rainbow to form without water at all than it is to expect Soverick to die. He has broken the usual conventions again and again. What says he can't do it again?

Mihila tried another approach. "Alright, how about this? There's a competition coming up soon. It is being hosted by the racial council. The competition is said to create a unified ranking for skill across all power levels from transcendents to kings of law. It has just been announced that Soverick will attend."

Ghaster didn't understand how that was supposed to cheer him up. "Yeah, so what? He is still too strong. He will beat me again and this time, he will do it in front of a larger audience."

He may be stubborn but he is not a masochist and he definitely doesn't like public humiliation. So getting trashed by Soverick in front of the whole plane is not on his wish list.

Mihila had to sign. She thought to herself, 'I love him, but he can be dense sometimes.'

"No, he won't beat you because everyone that participates will be suppressed to the level of transcendents. That means you will all compete with only skill."

Ghaster became excited immediately. "Really? Will he be really suppressed down to my level?" He asked.

"Yes really. You have the same age. He just has a faster cultivation because of his title as the child of the plane. That doesn't mean he is better than you in skills. Skills cannot be rushed and need time. Besides, you have ancestral memories and he doesn't. You have an edge over him."

Mihila's words gave him hope and the competition gave him the opportunity. Now, Ghaster believes that he has come across the chance to defeat Soverick.

Chapter 556 Business As Usual.

Ghaster's mood improved greatly. The prospect of beating Soverick or at least being able to fight on equal terms with him is more than enough to brighten his day.

"I've got to prepare. I dropped my hammer back there so I need to get another one. I should probably get a better one. I also need to bulk up my body. Maybe I should reach the peak of transcendence too."

He began listing the things he needs for the competition. He doesn't want his old hammer back because he will need to return to get it and he doesn't want to do that. He doesn't want to be anywhere near Soverick right now. Getting reminded of his torment will bring back the memories of his trauma. His hammer is a sacrifice he is willing to make to avoid meeting Soverick.

He also needs to recover the body mass he lost and gain more to reach the peak of Transcendence. He is just a new transcendent and has yet to reach the limit. Any improvement he gets will increase his chances of besting Soverick.

He realized something crucial. "This is going to cost a lot of money. I know I am technically an adult now but I don't have any money. Will you help me out, Mother?"

Mihila pinched his cute blue-furred cheeks and said, "How can I say no to that cute face? Of course, I'll help you with however much you need. You can always count on Mum."

They still have a lot of money that Kroft gave them for his offense. They didn't have to spend on Soverick ever since he became the child of the plane and Litori became independent a while back after becoming a transcendent. So she can afford to splurge for her favorite child.

"Yes," Ghaster said while pumping his fist in excitement.

Mihila smiled as she watched Ghaster cheering up. She knew that she exaggerated a bit about Soverick's lack of skills. He had used the fourth stage of weapon mastery against her while she used the fifth stage. It means that he is way more powerful than her and even if that power is removed, Soverick is just one skill level below her. That level of skill is extraordinary for someone so young.

She is more than 50 Origin cycles old and yet her son that isn't more than 10,000 years is close to her level in skill. She would like to believe that her seemingly slow progress is because she didn't have a royal bloodline and the ancestral memories that comes with it. But she doubts that even geniuses of royal bloodlines can match up to what Soverick has achieved in such a short time.

She doesn't even need to look far for comparison. Ghaster is a genius of a royal bloodline and they were born at the same time. Today's events show just how well they match up. So she can only try her best to strengthen Ghaster and hope they don't meet in the competition. As hopes go, it is much more feasible that they won't meet each other than hoping that Soverick will die.

She may have lied a tiny bit about Soverick's skills but she has to come clean with the terms of the competition.

So she told Ghaster, "Unfortunately you can't bring in weapons."

"Aww, why not?"

"It's to make things fair. Everyone, regardless of their upbringing, wealth, and Status will be made to compete on equal terms to prove their worthiness."

"Fine. I'll be able to use my hands on Soverick. It is better that way."

Back To Soverick.

He reached his forge quickly. Hadrack was waiting for him.

"So how was it?" It asked him.

Soverick answered curtly. "It was fine."

"Are you sure? It wasn't fine last time and this time was worse. I don't think it was fine at all."

Soverick thought about it and shrugged. "It was fine. Last time was fine too."

He doesn't see anything out of place within his interaction with his family.

"It can't be fine. You called your guardian "not good enough" after her death. She raised you. It can't be fine."

Soverick scoffed. "She did not raise me. I raised myself. Even my so-called parents did not raise me."

Hadrack just has to accept that Soverick doesn't see what could be wrong with the situation.

"I'm sure it was fine with you."

Soverick nodded. "It certainly was. So she died. Who cares?"

Then they started chatting about important matters and resumed their research. Soverick's mood and interest in his work didn't dim because of the event that happened today or the one that happened hundreds of years ago. He was in the forge just like today when Mihila, Ghoto, and Litori came to tell

him that Kayla, his guardian, died while trying to become a transcendent. Ghaster was still in school at that time so he didn't follow them.

He had replied unfazed. "I know."

Then he waved them away to signify that they can leave. He knew she died. He knew that they have decided to have a burial for her and that they have come to tell him about it. They hope that he can come with them to honor Kayla with a burial. He knew all of that and yet he wants them to leave since he had better things to do.

But they weren't satisfied with his reaction.

Ghoto asked him, "So?"

He asked back, "So what?"

Ghoto replied, "Kayla is dead."

He asked calmly, "Again, so what?"

They even took it further than that. Their dissatisfaction with him turned to distraught.

Mihila became emotional. She asked angrily. "How can you be like this?."

She was the one that trained Kayla. They spent years together preparing Kayla for her breakthrough. Mihila was emotionally and financially invested in Kayla but she died. Mihila knew that Soverick never cared for or even liked Kayla. He said so several times when she was alive. But she is dead now and she deserves some respect in death. Unfortunately, Soverick didn't plan to give her that.

Chapter 557 Foolishness And Utter Stupidity.

Mihila didn't expect Soverick to cry or feel the pain of Kayla's death like her but she expected him to at least pretend to feel something. He doesn't even need to pretend for a long time, just for her short burial ceremony. Then he can resume whatever he is doing.

Soverick said to them, "Look here. So what that she died? I am not going to pretend I care about her. I didn't pretend when she was alive. I have much less reason to pretend now that she is dead. She wasn't special when she was alive and her death is not special either. People die every day and I don't care about that. Why should I care about some random person that I was in close proximity with for less than 2 years?"

He was busy with research and learning to forge so he has other things he wants to do with his time than honor some dead unremarkable girl. He wouldn't have honored her even if he were free with nothing important to do. He might have been biased against Kayla when she was alive but one thing is certain now. And that is she is the fact that she is dead and will soon be forgotten for leading an unremarkable life.

Either way, he doesn't care at all about her life and death much less a ritual to make Ghoto and Mihila feel better. Kayla is already dead. It is not like the burial will bring her back. He still wouldn't care if the burial will bring her back to life.

Mihila yelled at him. "She was not some random person in close proximity to you. She raised you."

Soverick shook his head. "She did not raise me. She wasn't good enough for that and neither was she good enough to become a transcendent, apparently."

Mihila teared up while Ghoto tried to comfort her. Kayla's death truly hit Mihila far more than expected. They are from the same family and she knows that there are people counting on Kayla to become a transcendent and revitalize her branch of the family. Kayla's death not only impacts Mihila, but it has also dealt a heavy blow to the hopes and dreams of those people.

And here they are trying to persuade one of the children that Kayla helped to raise to honor her after death. Mihila is of the opinion that no matter their differences when Kayla was alive, Soverick should set them aside now that she is dead.

Ghoto looked at Soverick and sighed. He said, "I know that you don't care about people and you don't have feelings but sometimes you have to do some things that you don't want to do simply because you have to do them. It's a sign of maturation. You have to be able to set aside your personal preferences for others."

Soverick disagreed and he is not one to shy away from sharing his thoughts.

He said to his father, "That's a very stupid thing to say. Only weak people have to do what they don't want to do because they have to do it and I am not weak. At least, I am not so weak as to waste my time on this."

He found the meeting to be funny and not the morbid kind of funny. He found it funny how people can feel something and expect others to feel it too. They even go so far as to impose their will on others. So what that Kayla died? So what that they want to have a burial for her? What does that have to do with him? He doesn't care about any of that. They can go ahead with it if they want. But to impose their own sentiments on him without having the strength to force him is stupidity of the highest order.

They can eat her flesh and he wouldn't care. So why will he bother with some useless burial ceremony? Is he going to get any benefit out of it? They care and they can do anything they want. But to expect him to do what they want simply because they care is folly. Sometimes, he wonders if they know anything about him at all. If they knew him, then the outcome of this meeting should not come as a surprise to them.

Ghoto shook his head and he led Mihila away. Mihila wanted to fight him then and there. If not for Ghoto persuading her not to, she would have gotten a sound beating that day. So their fight was postponed for another day. The events of that day have been brewing in Mihila. It made her very trigger-happy when the opportunity came to fight Soverick.

They left Litori and Soverick. The red-furred battle sage monkey bowed to him in greeting.

"Eldest."

He nodded in return. "Litori."

She fixed her two all-white eyes on him and they stared silently at each other for a while. He knows she wants to ask him a question. That is why she is staying behind. And he knows what she wants to ask him about. It is a tough question that she finds too difficult to voice out. That's why she is stalling. He knows but he doesn't care enough to waste time on this.

He lost his patience and said, "Ask me or I'll leave."

She sighed and asked about the elephant in the room. "So you know."

"That you harvested Kayla? Yes, I know."

She rubbed her face tiredly. "I didn't mean to or I meant to. I didn't want her death to be in vain. I wanted to..."

He cut her off, "I don't care."

She relaxed visibly, "Right. I forgot about that. I suppose that's a good thing."

He shrugged and said, "If you say so."

"I have to go now. There's a burial for Kayla that I have to attend. It won't be great if I am late to it when I suggested it."

Chapter 558 The Bad Egg Of The Litter.

Litori waved goodbye and ran to catch up to their parents. Soverick returned to his forge unbothered by the events of the day. So what that Kayla died? So what if Litori harvested the remnant of her soul after she died? So what if Litori doesn't actually feel anything for Kayla but is faking it? So what if Litori doesn't actually feel empathy and sympathy for anyone? So what if Litori is a psychopath and she only spoke to him about it because she hopes to feel guilty or at least feel something? What does all of it matter? It matters nothing to him.

Her emotional changes are not exactly her fault. It is the influence of her bloodline. Her affinity with fire and the soul has warped her. Fire is unfeeling and uncaring because fire burns everything. Those that study the soul are cold because they shed the shackles of the flesh to be better able to sense the spirit.

So she doesn't feel sympathy or empathy. She can simulate it very well. It's why she cares about going early to Kayla's burial to look good rather than caring about the fact that she basically used Kayla as an ingredient for a pill. It is also why she wanted to make sure that he wouldn't talk about what he knows. Thanks to her ancestral bloodline, she is not a novice at what she does. She is a very dangerous but innocent-looking person.

But then again, what does it all matter? Nothing. At least not to him. It matters to Ghoto and Mihila though. Litori might just use Mihila for another experiment since Mihila doesn't have a path forward anymore. Talk about making the best use of the situation. Ghoto and Mihila are going to a burial with someone that can kill them for benefits without batting an eye. They also wouldn't see it coming if she kills them.

He scoffed as he thought to himself, And they think that I am the bad egg among their children."

SOMEWHERE IN THE DARK SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE.

Soverick's meeting about Kayla's death occurred in the past. This upcoming event also occurred in the event. But it occurred in the dark side of the void Universe.

The dark side of the universe is named such because there is no light. This is not as simple as it is dark. There's always light in the normal part of the Void Universe, even in the night. You might not be able to see that light because your eyes are subpar but there's always light. Mind you, there's more to light than the visible spectrum of light to you. Light represents flux energy in a quanta state.

Some view space or the void as a dark place but it is not. It is awash in light. It is the brightest place filled with stars. The dark side is the opposite of that. There is no emission of light from infrared to ultraviolet which means there's no flux energy. Or at least, there is no energy that emits or interacts with light in any way.

The energy in the dark side is dark and continuous as if like thick strings while the energy on the light side is in flux and easily usable. Origin Energy, Mana, or void energy can be absorbed without limits.

Anyone can utilize them if they can. They are freely given and meant to nurture life. But the energy in the dark side is not like that. It doesn't matter if you can use the energy. You have to fight to absorb every piece of the energy. You have to constantly wrestle with the will of the universe to take dark energy.

The absence of light is the least of the problems of living in the dark side of the universe. Space is also frozen solid like glass. Space doesn't fluctuate in any way. It is rigid, cold, and bitter. To be in the dark side of the void Universe is to be within a black crystal solid. It means the very environment impedes movement.

There is also the crushing pressure that space exerts on everything within it. To be in the dark side of the universe is to live under a mountain with the entire weight of the mountain concentrated on you. It will be a wonder if you can breathe. Fortunately, those who can live here have stopped needing to breathe since they became transcendents.

If the universe is compared to a building, the internal space of the building will be the normal universe or the light side of the Void Universe. The internal space contains everything within the house but it is NOT the house. It is simply a product of the existence of the house. Just like volume is a derivative of a container but it isn't the container itself.

Just like so, the normal Universe is not the universe or at least not the structure that makes up the universe. A world god will tell you that it is a mistake that small-minded, ignorant, and blind fools make to think that the normal universe is the universe. They believe that they are living within the universe but it is not so. They are actually living within the space within the universe. It's like calling the liquid within a container the container itself. That's just absurd.

To expand on the house analogy, the dark side of the universe is the walls of the house. It makes up the universe and as such, it is dense and light doesn't exist within it.

World gods live within this thick, frozen space that can crush a lesser being into dust and they do it as easily as moles live in the soil except they don't bore holes within it. They just push space aside and make a way for themselves where there was no way. That's the thing about the dark side of the universe. It is not conducive to life. Life was not meant to live in it just like the walls of a house are not meant to be lived in. If you are to live in the dark side of the universe, you must carve out a living by force.

Chapter 559 A Watered Down Geometry Of The Void Universe.

Of course, the analogy of the house with the universe is not entirely accurate. It creates a false notion that the space within the universe is the internal part of the universe. It might also lead one to believe that the void Universe is in the shape of a box. World gods will tell you that these two premises are not accurate.

The space-time continuum of the void Universe is formless and shapeless. One cannot say what its true form is but one can simplify the shape of the existence of the void universe for lesser minds. In the endeavor to dumb down higher-level multidimensional physics, the walls of the house, or if you will, the dark side of the universe is the mid-section of the universe. While the area that weak beings live in is the external part of the universe.

The external part of the void universe is constantly expanding outwards while the Dark side remains constant and bears the weight of the external/normal part of the universe. If the totality of the universe is dumbed down, it can be likened to a sphere. The middle layer of the sphere is the dark side and the external layer is the light side.

If you know anything about pressure, then you must know that pressure increases when force increases while the area that it acts upon remains constant. In other words, the pressure on the inhabitants of the dark side increases as the normal Universe expands.

World gods are practically lifting the weight of the sky. That is the most troublesome thing about living in the dark side of the universe. Bearing the weight of constantly increasing pressure in a lifeless and harsh environment devoid of interchangeable energy.

But all three problems, the lack of light, the frozen space, and the heavy pressure are nothing to a world god. They don't even feel any of these problems. It is said that life will always find a way and it did for the dark side of the universe too. Except world gods cannot be called living. Living connotes a possibility of dying.

Even Origin gods can't die permanently much less a world god. For world gods, when there is a Will, there is a way to do anything including cheating death. World gods can do a lot of things with their will. When your very thoughts are reinforced and empowered and strengthened by an entire world, then you can do a lot of things. Existing for all of eternity is the least that they can do

Living or not, world gods thrive and live in the dark side of the universe. They can fully exercise their power and do anything they want here. By anything, I mean ANYTHING. The hostile conditions do not impede them in any way. They do a lot of things including forging.

A Certain entity moved through the dark side of the universe like a shark prowling the ocean depths. This entity looks like a normal battle sage monkey without any bloodline. It has white fur. Except for a few oddities here and there, you wouldn't think anything special of this battle sage. The three white tails that it has means nothing. It could be purely cosmetic. But the fact that this entity can exist in the dark side of the universe is more than enough to know that this entity is at least as powerful as a world god.

This world god found a bubble of influence in this otherwise dense environment that feels like frozen amber. The world god knocked politely on the bubble. It can force decide to pit its Will against the Will of the one that created the bubble and force its way in but it knocked politely because it didn't come for a fight and politeness doesn't cost much. It didn't have to wait for long before it got a reply.

An intent echoed outward from within the bubble of spaces. The message within the intent said, "Come in."

The world god touched the barrier of the bubble and phased through it to appear in a space as large as a plane. It is like the waters of the ocean have been forcefully spread apart to create a vacuum similar to a giant bubble at the bottom of the ocean. The space is not a plane, it's just the size of one. It needs to be that size or it won't be able to accommodate world gods in their smallest form possible. When you see a world god, you don't wonder anymore why a realm tree doesn't want them around.

The guest world god looked around and found its host very busy at the center of the bubble. The host is a serpentine humanoid with thousands of arms and an obsidian crown on its head. It has a muscular and extremely long tale that is attached to the base of its torso. It also has a serpentine head.

This serpentine world god is very busy right now. It is busy forging something. The thousands of arms that the serpentine world god possesses are in a flurry of movement assembling what looks like cubes. These cubes come in different shapes and sizes each unique in not only mass, energy content, and resonance factor but they all fit together seamlessly to form the finished product.

The serpentine world god is assembling this finished product himself. It has to be a very powerful and complicated product for the world god to forge personally instead of just Willing it into existence from its mind.

The guest said to the host. "I see you're still busy."

"Are you here to gloat?" The serpentine world god asked without paying attention to his guest.

The voice of the host sounds like the hissing of a million snakes. It is enough to break the mind of a lesser being. But this beings are far from lesser and the hissing is not an attack. It is merely a sound created through the fluctuation of the fabric of the universe instead of the vibration of matter.

Chapter 560 The New Bet.

The guest replied, "Yes, I am here to gloat."

The host grumbled. "Just make it quick. You have no sense of humor."

The guest didn't say anything. He just stared at the host and watched as he worked. The host continued their work even though it felt uncomfortable being stared at like that. But it won't surrender or the guest will win.

Rings of energy in different states circle the host in different layers. The tough stringy energy from the dark side of the universe is pulled into the bubble by the powerful mind of the host and drawn into the outermost ring. Then the heavy dark energy is drawn into the inner rings where it undergoes a series of changes due to the Order that is imposed on it by the Will of the world god.

The heavy energy changes and is eventually transformed into its malleable form where it is mixed with Origin essence and chaos sparks. Then it is further transformed into matter within the innermost ring according to a certain blueprint. The entire process of dark energy transformation into matter creates the cubes that are flying about and then arranged by the dazzlingly fast thousands of hands to form a special pillar.

The process is hard enough already without the guest tampering with the transformation process. They made a bet that whoever finishes first gets to trouble the other. So now the guest is tampering with the order in the rings by using its eyes to unravel it. It is making it extra difficult for the serpentine world god to do what he is doing. At this rate, he will have to spend the bulk of his efforts on maintaining the rings rather finish the forging.

The host finally caved in. "Ok, I have had enough. You win. Happy now?"

The guest nodded. "Very."

"You're a weirdo do you know that? Which world god enjoys a staring contest? That's just childish."

The guest retorted, "That's because you don't see what I see."

The eyes of the guest flashed mysteriously as it said that.

The host rolled his eyes. "Don't start with me on that you are blind shit."

"Fortunately for you, that is not part of the reason why I am here."

The serpentine world is genuinely relieved. He sighed and said, "Yes, fortunately for me."

So the guest promised with a smirk, "Maybe another time then."

The host groaned at that. Apparently, it isn't safe yet from the lecture about the personal theory that what you see is not all that is there to see. That the reality that we experience is subject to cognition and perception. That only a perfect eye and mind can see the universe for what it truly is. That lecture is boring and tedious. It is a boon that the guest is not here for the lecture.

"I am primarily here to inform you that everything is ready on my side. I wanted to check on you, gloat, and also collect my debt. So pay up."

The host groaned again. The staring contest is just a silly game. The major consequence of losing the bet is much more serious. The host's serpentine eyes shifted about as he schemed. His eyes fell on the pillars and he got an idea.

He coughed and started speaking. "How about we make another deal?"

The emotionless face of the guest didn't change. It asked in the same dull tone. "What do you suggest?"

"How about we bet on the winners of this little event? I'll give you triple your money if your side wins. Of course, you will lose all of your money if my side wins."

The guest appeared to think about it for a while before he replied. "I want 10-fold if my side wins."

The host yelled, "You thief. 4-fold increase."

"9 fold."

"5 fold increase. Final offer."

"8 fold."

The hoist said with an aggrieved shout, "6 fold. Final offer, you thief."

But the guest wasn't moved. "7 fold."

"6 fold."

The guest remained stubborn. "I want 7 fold."

"I'm only giving you 6." The serpentine world god said with visible physical and emotional pain that it can feel down in its world and world heart. Its poor world heart can't take more than 6 folds increase. It is already bleeding at the prospect of losing.

The guest considered it again. "Fine. 6 folds. Make the oath."

"I swear upon my world heart that I will give you 6 folds of the things that I owe you if your side wins the event of project displacement." The host swore, then he asked, "Happy?"

"Not yet. You know what I want."

"What? You don't trust me?" The host asked in that same aggrieved tone.

The guest replied emotionlessly, "No, I don't trust you."

The boat snorted before swearing again. "I swear that I will give you 6 folds of what I owe you anytime you ask for it as long as your side wins the competition."

"I'll leave now."

The guest having been satisfied turned to leave.

The host called after him with a laugh, "You just made a mistake. You should have collected your things just now. You will lose this bet."

The guest didn't turn back. It replied calmly, "You said the same thing last time."

The guest phased through the barrier of the bubble and returned to the dark side of the universe. He then chuckled and thought to himself. "And you wonder why I stare. It is to predict you. Now it seems you're going to make the same mistakes that your brethren made."

The battle sage monkey took some time to think about its numerous plans and schemes. This particular event is just a clog within the humongous machinations that it has set up. The serpentine humanoid didn't want to pay his debt and chose to risk an increase for its total removal. Its first mistake is starting a gamble with someone with his eyes, the eyes of the sage. But then again, can it be called a mistake if it is inevitable?