

GREED 591

Chapter 591 Lacking Size And Power.

The black spikes on the dragon start from the base of its head to the end of its very long tail. Its large red eyes focused on Soverick immediately it appeared. There is intent for violence in those red eyes so there is no chance that Soverick and the dragon can talk things out and come to an amicable resolution.

Its exposed teeth and the gleaming claws that promise swift evisceration are especially intimidating. Soverick found them to be more intimidating than the sheer pressure of the dragon's presence. The presence of the dragon is considerable but he is sure that it cannot hurt him as well as its claws and teeth can.

Soverick felt an unprecedented threat from this beast. It is not from the overwhelming presence. He wouldn't be walking away with some injuries if the dragon lands a good hit on him. The dragon doesn't even need the extra features on its body for it to be deadly. That massive body of its cannot be for show. It must be packing some serious strength in that ginormous body. And that's not even accounting for world power. The armored rhino needed world power to become big but this dragon has bigness down to perfection. Having world power is just cheating.

"This is just over the top." He groaned after examining the dragon. "It is the perfect monster to put a tiger with wings in its place.

He has to admit that this dragon has been endowed with too much power. If there is such a thing as too much power, then this dragon is proof of it. He looked at his spear and he wasn't encouraged. It is not a wonder that this monster induced lamentations among the competitors of Arena 28. How are they supposed to live on the same battlefield that a monstrosity like this gets to rampage on?

But most important is how he is to kill the dragon with a toothpick in his hands. His gaining a weapon can be likened to a tiger gaining wings but this dragon can put him in his rightful place and make him learn some humility. If he thought he was unstoppable before, now he knows that he was very wrong to think so.

He looked at his beautiful and powerful black spear. Then he looked at the big and powerful red dragon. He compared their size in his mind and did some calculations. He also compared their power.

He sighed and said, "Now I know why they gave me the spear. I don't stand a chance without it. How can one even kill this?"

He was musing to himself about his opponent and reviewing his options. He has never fought a dragon before even as Gehaldirah so he doesn't have any personal experience with fighting one. Gehaldirah always runs away from dragons. His limited experience with dragons can be summed up in a warning which is that fighting dragons is a bad idea. It doesn't help that his observations have made him determine that this beast is near impossible to kill.

His toothpick of a weapon is not encouraging and neither is his observation of his enemy. He is outclassed both in size and power. The worst of the situation is that he is to kill this dragon. He can manage if he is to fight for his life and prevent himself from being killed. That means he can try to survive against the dragon. That is the aim of the challenge but this situation with the dragon won't be like that. He has to kill the dragon or he won't be able to survive. He doubts the arena spirit will just conjure the dragon and be satisfied without a life-and-death showdown.

If he intends to kill this dragon, then he needs to pull out all the stops. Even then, he is not even sure that he will be able to kill the dragon. Throwing big power at the dragon won't kill it. It already has power under its claws and within its service. The best way to kill the dragon is to maximize the efficiency of power.

Everything he does must be useful and must deal critical damage or it will be a waste. For now, he will use only one eye but he will use a different approach than what he used to defeat the armored rhino. He can be more efficient now that he doesn't need to use his eyes to steal momentum.

The two beings stood in the air gazing menacingly at each other. The four wings of the red dragon beat rhythmically creating gusts of wind beneath them. Its tail moved from side to side languidly as its body bopped up and down in the air. The gust of wind that it was making blew into Soverick's face. It had little effect on him since it can't get past his barrier. He would have thought nothing of it if he hadn't seen the grin on the dragon's face.

The dragon was taunting him. It was looking down on him and blowing air into his face. It wanted him to attack first. It is not generosity out of chivalry or because of magnanimosity. The dragon is intentionally giving himself a handicap and it is making it known that it thinks nothing of it. Soverick might think it is an advantage to attack first but the dragon doesn't think it matters. It will win anyway.

Soverick's eye twitched. He felt his pride take a hit. The damage to his pride is not because the dragon is disregarding him. It is because the dragon is right in disregarding him and he knows it to be true. He would also disregard a puny being were he the dragon. But he is not the dragon in this situation. He is the puny being who is being underestimated.

He wouldn't care if a weak person disregarded him. A weak person's opinion of his doesn't matter because they don't have the strength to make their opinions a reality.

Chapter 592 Fight The Dragon.

The weak can think as much as they want and have opinions about everything but it wouldn't matter. That is not so for the strong. The opinion of the strong matters a lot.

If he were prideful and foolish, he wouldn't take the advantage that has been offered by attacking first. Unfortunately or fortunately for him, he is anything but full of pride right now. That blow to his pride made sure that he is lacking in pride right now.

So he made the first move. He grabbed hold of the gravitational field of the dragon to control it. He pulled on it and found it to be immovable. It stood unaffected and resilient to his manipulations like that of a fortress. His own gravitational output and influence over gravity are not strong enough to overpower that of a dragon that has been empowered by the power of the world.

He wasn't disappointed by his failure since he expected it. The dragon could stay afloat because it is negating the effect of gravity on it which means it is somewhat adept at the use of world power to manipulate its own gravitational field. Otherwise, something of that size that can only be measured in kilometers and megatonnes should not be airborne. It was just an attempt on his side to probe the dragon and get a feel for its power. His attempt didn't sit well with the dragon though. He has already made his move and it was a disrespectful move too.

He had the chance to make a move. He could have attacked the dragon. He could have even thrown a stone at it but he tried to ground the dragon. He tried to remove the dragon's ability to fly. That's just insulting. It is like Soverick was not raised well enough. If he were raised well, then his parents ought to have taught him that you don't try to ground a dragon.

The dragon became upset and it roared at him. The sound of the monstrous roar was also amplified by world power. It sounded like an explosion had occurred from its mouth. The vibrations that passed through the air as sound also contain a lot of energy that made air expand explosively. It led to the creation of a sonar shockwave from the mouth of the dragon that spread outwards.

Soverick stood in the air as the shockwave approached him. The blade of his spear glowed for a split second and he waved it at the incoming shockwave. It was more of a flicker. His movements were so fast that it seemed like he didn't move at all. But light flashed on his spear when he flickered.

Light was reflected sharply by the side of the blade of his spear and the shockwave split apart before reaching him. Apparently, something unseen had split them. The two portions of the shockwave continued on behind him. They smashed into the ground and decimated it. It was like a giant plow had gotten to work on the forest. Trees were uprooted and the soil turned to bury the uprooted trees.

The dragon snorted when it noticed that its roar didn't work on Soverick. Soverick shrugged and rolled his shoulders.

He beckoned to the dragon, "Give me your best shot."

He isn't like the weaklings that are cowering below in the forest when the aura of the dragon's might hit them. That roar is more psychological than it is physical. It is a roar of supremacy. The roar carries with it the pressure of the dragon's presence and slams that pressure forcefully into the mind of whoever hears it. It demands submission voluntarily or involuntarily. Those that hear it cower and submit, but it is not enough to make him submit.

The dragon felt insulted again. It sought to teach him a lesson. Soverick rolled his eyes when he saw his opponent light up. The horns and spikes of the dragon began glowing like some luminescent crystal and the red scales at the chest of the dragon turned orange from the light shining from within. A particular scale in the chest glowed brightly more than its surroundings. These are all indications that the dragon is activating its innate ability. It seems that his opponent took his words to heart. It really is ready to give him its best shot.

He gripped his spear tighter and readied his stance. One of his eyes glowed. That single eye is moving about rapidly taking in data while his mind swiftly analyzed it for information. He saw patterns in the world. They are the paths of least resistance. Moving in synch with them while riding on the flow of momentum within those paths will make his movements extremely fast.

The black spear in his hand began to glow too in response to the incoming attack. This time the entirety of the spear lit up not just the blade. It rang out with a cry as he overloaded it with power. He is ready to go all out. Those still watching ran away and began to dig into the ground. They know what's about to happen and they don't want to be around when it does.

The dragon raised its head showing its fully bright chest. That brightness extended to its neck as it straightened it towards Soverick. Its jaws split apart as it bellowed again using the full power of its lungs to push what is in its neck out. This time, it wasn't sound that came out. A torrent of bright red flames came pouring out from the mouth of the dragon.

He swung his spear around him and released black crescent blades of power from the blade each time the blade points at the dragon. His spear moved in a rhythm as it completed a circle around him. He continued to swing his spear using both of his hands and released more and more crescent blades. His speed of swinging the spear around him increased steadily as he accelerated the process until his spear became a blur around him.

Chapter 593 Perfect Counterattack.

Each crescent blade that he made is thin and almost invisible if not viewed from the proper angle. The only way to see them is to be situated in a position where you can see the flash of light reflected off of them. So it looks like he is not doing anything to some onlookers. Then he stopped all of a sudden and watched his work.

The first crescent blades of power were slow while the ones that came after them are faster. Each subsequent crescent was released at a faster speed than the previous ones. So they were bound to overtake the ones before them. He timed the interval of release and their speeds such that all of them overtook each other at the exact same spot and at the same time. They were effectively superimposed on each other at that point. It was then that they could be seen.

That exact point and time is when the flames of the dragon that poured out of its mouth like a flood from a broken dam hit the crescent blades. A white arc of energy suddenly appeared in the path of the torrent of flames and smashed into it. All the hundreds of attacks that he made defended against the dragon fire as one. Individually, they are weak. Together, they are still weaker than the dragon fire. So they exploded. Their combined explosion pushed the flames aside and created a window of opportunity for Soverick.

He straightened his spear after creating the crescent blades. His will flared through the spear and tore world power towards it. The world howled because of his actions. The howling is from the furious movement of a tempest that suddenly sprang into existence when he pulled world power into his spear. His spear also roared as its resistance was swiftly overcome and world power was made to overwhelm it. The world power he pulled was made to mix with his divine sense and create thousands of mind spears.

The spear became heavier in his hands as its mass increased with the consumption of world power to create more and more black phantom spears appeared. It felt like he is carrying thousands of spears at the same time. Momentum wouldn't do that. The increase in mass is because of world power. World power carries a weight and a force with it that must be handled in order to control it. The phantom spears stopped increasing when he reached the limit of world power that he can control.

Then he pulled the spear back. His hand shook with that simple act. He felt a resistance that is far more than the force he has to overcome to move something as heavy as the spear. The strain he felt pushed him to the limit but he held on so that all the phantom spears can become one.

The thousands of phantom Spears fused and became one. This is true fusion not hastily set up superimposition. He thrust his spear forward after the fusion and advanced through the opening in the flames. His previous attack created a small window of opportunity that he can use to take advantage of the dragon's attack. He intends to counterattack now.

The strongest attack of a dragon is their innate dragon fire but using it makes them vulnerable. Their dragon scale is nearly indistinguishable from the rest of their chest but it becomes very obvious when the flames of dragon fire are being activated. They also can't easily stop when they start using dragon fire. All of these quirks make this moment the most vulnerable for the dragon.

It is not a secret either but people are usually tied up defending against the dragon flames to take advantage of this moment. Dragon fire is after all their strongest attack. Whoever is on the receiving end will have their hands preoccupied with staying alive. A good way to take advantage of this situation is to defend a little and go all out with attacking. That is what he set out to do.

The fused giant phantom of the black spear enveloped him as he shot forward through the flames. There was already a weak point created within the torrent of flames by the previous explosion so his eyes didn't need to search for long for an entry point. The tip of the phantom spear struck the torrent at that point and split it apart forcefully. Soverick rode the momentum of his thrust and advanced under the cover of the flames.

By his estimates, he should burst out just beneath the head of the red dragon and straight towards its chest. He has lined everything up for the kill. He saw everything and planned it well so he can't miss it. He just hopes that his attack is strong enough to breach the defense of the scale.

The dragon's mouth was still open and its neck was still extended in attacking. It is just as he thought. But he was wrong. He burst out beneath the head of the dragon but he did not hit what he targeted. He didn't miss. He just hit something else on his way there.

The dragon had sensed the massive activation of world power from Soverick. It didn't help that Soverick practically ripped world power from the world. He could have coerced world power slowly but he rushed the accumulation. It is enough indication that he is in a hurry and the volume of world power that Soverick ripped indicates that whatever Soverick is planning is dangerous.

So the dragon roused world power too and pooled it onto its claws. The move was effortless and seamless. It didn't have to force world power to bend to its will like Soverick. It beacons and the world answered. Then it pushed both of its claws forward in the general direction of the incoming threat.

Two large phantoms of claws flew away from the dragon's claws and clashed with Soverick. They can't be dodged. He has to face them head on or stop going forward.

Chapter 594 Cheating Dragon.

Soverick eyes widened at the attack. He didn't expect the response but he reacted to it and swiftly too. He flicked his spear twice. The giant spear phantom seemed to warp sideways and twist on itself before returning to its previous position. Its quick movement made it slap the two incoming claws aside.

His response was perfect. He used the smallest amount of effort to expertly disable the claws by striking them where they were most vulnerable to an external force. His swift actions preserved his forward momentum so he had almost all of his power. He continued forward with his mission to kill without delay.

Unfortunately, he is not fated to achieve what he set out for because he was sent flying. His clash with the claws, no matter how brief, allowed the dragon to zone in on him. The fight might have been so quick that 2 seconds haven't gone by since it started but the two of them are high-level beings and are

capable of extraordinary things. The dragon was also able to react to his attack with that brief window that the phantom claws brought for it. It followed the phantom claws with an attack with its real claws.

Soverick had to defend against the claws with his full power and even then he failed. He was struck flying after his collision with a single claw. He wasn't able to overcome the strength of the dragon at all. A single smash and he was airborne immediately.

He grumbled as he flew in the air. "This is not fair. The dragon can use skills too. This is cheating."

He thought his response to the dragon fire was perfect. But apparently, it wasn't enough. It wasn't because he failed to take into account a possible phantom attack. It shouldn't have been a problem since monsters aren't supposed to be able to use skills. They can empower their bodies to use innate abilities like the manipulation of world power but they shouldn't be able to use skills of weapon mastery. That's just overkill.

The monsters in this world are not the same creatures as the external world. They should be barely intelligent beasts that can't exhibit the use of skills. It seems that isn't the case because this dragon just used the fourth step of weapon mastery. Such a thing needs an intelligent mind and divine sense. He didn't sense any divine sense from the dragon which made him decide that they have rigged the dragon to make things extra difficult for him.

If his eyes had not seen through all that fire and saw the claws waiting for him then he would be the one to be surprised on exiting the flames instead of the dragon. It is as if the strength of the dragon wasn't enough so they had to add skills. Who needs skills when your own strength is enough? It is just overkill.

Unfortunately, no one sympathized with him. His enemy didn't even give him time to breathe after almost crushing the life out of him with a single slap. The dragon advanced on him after that hit. It flapped its four wings and shot forward with unstoppable momentum. Its large size means it can't miss hitting Soverick. It doesn't even need to hit him with anything offensive. A good body-on-body collision is enough to deal heavy blunt damage to Soverick. It is that strong.

The dragon's eyes focused solely on the puny creature that has dared to rise against it. It opened its jaws to take a good bite out of Soverick but it had to swerve aside to avoid something that attacked it from beneath.

A large boulder sailed by the side of its head and rose into the sky. The dragon looked downward to determine the source of the attack only to jerk its head sideways again. Another Boulder flew past its head. It was able to react quickly enough and escape a direct hit to its head.

Somehow, rocks and boulders of various sizes are rising from the ground and aiming for its head. Hundreds of large rocks, boulders, and trees are floating and levitating from the ground. It can't be natural because it looked like the forest was rising to meet them in the air. Trees certainly don't grow in the air.

The dragon hadn't sensed the change because the force that pulled them is based on gravity manipulation and it didn't sense any such thing from its prey after the first blasphemous attempt on its own gravitational field. So it wondered how Soverick managed it.

It is an admirable performance on the part of the dragon that it wasn't caught off guard by the surprise attacks. Unfortunately for it, it had ignored Soverick while evading the projectiles. A large phantom closed in on its chest again just as it dodged another well-timed strike at its head. Soverick took advantage of the distraction to right himself in the air and attack the dragon again.

Soverick bolted towards his target with indomitable force. This is plan B if plan A failed. He had started working on the levitating boulders at the same time he tried to manipulate the gravity field of the dragon. He sent out two large bursts of gravitational force at the same time. The one he used on the dragon had two functions. It was to try and gain control of the dragon's gravitational field and also mask his work down below. Now that the dragon is preoccupied with saving its head, he will go for the heart again.

The dragon responded to the threat to its life with a series of actions. It flapped all four of its giant wings at Soverick. Four large wind scythes formed as the air was riled up and infused with world power. The four wind scythes were also followed by a large wind shield. The flapping wings also helped the dragon to create distance between it and Soverick. It's a triple combo move on the part of the dragon. Attack, defense, and evasion. All done with expert use of the fourth step of weapon mastery.

Chapter 595 Desperate Attempt.

The dragon cheated again to avoid a dangerous situation. It used momentum with world power to create obstacles between it and Soverick. Soverick didn't complain. He stopped in the air and jumped backward so the phantom spear that was enveloping him continued on forward without him.

He forcefully separated himself from the flow of momentum in the opposite direction. His body cracked like porcelain because of that maneuver. Momentum is a raging beast that pushes forwards and onwards. Stepping off of it without redirecting it somewhere else will lead to a severe backlash. Stopping it is severe enough, stepping back is deadly.

It should be impossible to step back like that but he did it by following the path of least resistance. The cracks wanted to spread and shatter his existence but his pillars of momentum empowered him and held him together. The cracks glowed goldenly as momentum was pumped into him to reinforce his existence.

His vision blurred due to the pain. Both his body and consciousness are being pushed toward their limits. He didn't let the pain hold him back though. His gaze remained fixed on his goal and he maintained control of the raging energies and forces that he is manipulating. Then he thrust his spear forward again. Another giant spear phantom appeared around him.

The backlash and the empowerment of the gates of momentum allowed him to form another giant phantom spear with the same power as the last one. He used the backlash as a slingshot to catapult himself. Then he shot forward again after the first phantom spear.

It was like he stumbled and was left behind the first phantom spear. But then he stepped on an invisible springboard and shot forward with another phantom spear. His injuries disappeared instantly because he redirected the backlash into creating another phantom spear. His vision cleared up immediately and the pain receded. The two spears moved along in tandem. One leading the way for the other.

The four wind scythes collided with the first giant spear. They sliced through the phantom spear but were not able to destroy it. The same cannot be said about him if he were still in the first phantom spear. He would have been torn apart. Soverick followed along as the first spear clashed with the shield next and bore a hole through it.

The first spear was made with all the world power that he can handle and a little bit more. Some hastily created wind scythes and a windshield can't stop it. They can slow it down though. That would allow the dragon to use its evasion to its full effectiveness. But Soverick knew that and he expected it.

The first spear slowed down so the second one caught up to it. Then Soverick made the two fuse together and continued on. He can't control both of them since it is above his limit so he sacrificed the

first phantom to boost the second one. His speed experienced an explosive boost. He shot forward as he accelerated and became faster than ever before. It is like he never stepped back and was never slowed down.

He caught up to the dragon again but cracks began to appear on his body again. He is way over his limit with the amount of world power and momentum that he is manipulating. He would have exploded if he hadn't chosen to sacrifice one phantom for the other. Even then, his manoeuvres are still too much for him to bear. It is breaking him but he continued on aiming for that heart. The dragon has exposed its chest in order to create those wind scythes. It is in a prime and locked position for a proper stabbing into its vulnerable spot.

"As expected." He muttered through the haze of pain.

He saw the tail of the dragon whipping forward and the chest of the dragon lighting up. The dragon is not so helpless but he expected it. He is not helpless either so he continued forward. He sacrificed more of the first spear to experience another sudden boost in speed while simultaneously twisting in a zig-zag path. It made the dragon's tail miss.

He ripped past the tail of the dragon, destroying the dragon's intention of stalling him with it. Which means it won't be able to load its dragon flame in time. The dragon realized that too. So it aborted the flames. It took some damage to its throat but it is worth it. It brought down its head to try and block Soverick and it also placed its claws across its exposed chest to protect itself.

Soverick expected this response too. Two boulders dropped from the sky and smashed into the neck of the dragon, effectively destabilizing it while more rocks smashed into its underside. They smashed into its left side raising that side a little and tilting the dragon.

These two actions created a small gap in the dragon's defense that Soverick flew into. His augmented phantom spear dug into that scale and sank in. It is always a pleasant feeling to experience flesh being forcefully parted to create a way for an external object. Soverick expected that feeling. Unfortunately, he didn't get it. His expectations were subverted.

"Oh no." He exclaimed.

He struck the dragon's weakness but his success did not bring him happiness. His spear phantom hit the scale and penetrated it. It sank deep into the scale but it didn't go far enough. He expected the scale to be thick considering its size. Each scale is the size of a building so it is expected that it will be thick too.

This scale must be at least 10 meters thick from what he can sense. It is many times thicker than some people are tall and definitely thicker than what he expected. He didn't see how thick it was before he attacked because he can't. The dragon's body is infused with world power and his eyes can't see through or comprehend world power. So he had to make an estimate. It turned out that his estimate was very wrong.

Chapter 596 Pride And Prejudice.

"Something is not right." He thought furiously.

He had anticipated a certain level of thickness. That's why he created a powerful weapon made of world power. His phantom spear ought to pierce through the dragon but underestimated the level of defense that this landmass of a beast is sporting. All of his power and trickery did not let him go past 1 meter on the scale. His phantom spear didn't go past the tip into the scale that is supposed to be the weakest part of the dragon.

The scale should be thick but it shouldn't be so strong. He was wrong both on the thickness and strength of the defense of the dragon. Apparently, he had underestimated a dragon. That is a grave sin. If there is anyone that might underestimate a dragon, it isn't him. He has too much respect and fear for dragons to underestimate them.

He felt that things are out of his expectations but he doesn't have time to dwell much on his suspicions. Already, the dragon is capitalizing on his failure. He sensed the dragon claw swiping at him but he can't evade it. He is in a tricky situation all because he wanted to keep going forward. Now he can't turn back even if he wants to.

This claw attack had been a hasty defense by the dragon to discourage him from going for the chest but he did it anyway because he thought it will be checkmate if he succeeds in hitting its weak spot. He is right about the checkmate despite his failure. It is just that it will be him that is checkmated.

He detonated the phantom spear. It is not a safe thing to do considering he is inside the said phantom spear. But he doesn't have any other choice apart from letting the dragon smack him like a fly. In fact, it is a very stupid thing to let all that power become chaotic and explode because of instability.

So he didn't let the phantom spear explode on its own like a sane person who is forced to make an insane decision like detonating a phantom spear while inside of it. He pumped more power into it and actively shape the phantom spear into the best medium for an explosion. His interference in the explosion allowed him to gain some sort of reprieve by determining the direction of the explosion.

A thundering explosion took place on the dragon's chest. It tore that scale apart and destroyed the flesh below it. The two combatants were both separated from their exchange by the powerful explosion. Both of them took severe damage from the explosion and both of them fell to the ground.

The dragon took the brunt of the explosion and fell to the ground with an unwilling roar. The ground also roared its indignance by making a loud crashing sound as the dragon cratered it. The collision between the ground and the dragon flattened trees and kicked up a lot of debris.

Soverick sailed through the air with his robes tattered and his golden fur burned off. He didn't hit the earth, unlike his opponent that cratered the ground in another explosion. He righted himself in the air with his control of gravity. His eye peered at the grounded dragon in concentration. He wants to determine how much damage he really did. He saw the chest of the dragon. It has been blasted open and the weak scale has also been destroyed so he saw what was beneath it.

It was his turn to roar unwillingly. "Who is fucking with me?"

There's nothing crucially damaged beneath the scale. He can only see burnt flesh that is quickly healing even as he is watching. There's nothing crucially damaged because there's nothing that can be crucially damaged beneath that scale. It wasn't a vulnerability as he thought. It was a trap and it is conclusive proof that someone is intentionally making things difficult for him. How else will a dragon not have a dragon heart?

First, the dragon could use skills. Then its dragon scale is too strong for it to be its weakness. He didn't let that stop him. He managed to overcome the thickness and defense of the scale but it turned out that it is just for show. All that theatrics of the scale lighting up was meant to deceive him. The dragon has no weakness because someone tweaked it not to have a weakness but still looks like it has a weakness.

'Surely someone can't be actively manipulating things to make it difficult for me. It is probably normal. At least it is normal for this challenge. Maybe they did it to make it more challenging.' He thought to himself.

He tried to rationalize why the dragon doesn't have a dragon heart. It is because he considers it having a huge ego and being full of himself for thinking that a competition of this level will be biased or unfair against him. He is not so full of himself so he discarded his suspicion.

He is proud of himself but he isn't that proud. He might simply be ignorant but he can't think of a reason why the sanctity of this competition will be breached just for him. He can think of several reasons why someone will target him but this is a competition run by a world god. It will be egotistical of him to think that a world god is targeting him. Not until he sees some valid proof that he is being targeted personally.

The dragon might just be like that. After all, this dragon is just a weakened copy of the real thing. The changes to the dragon might have been done to pose a challenge to the competitors. Anyone could have faced it and be stumped by the lack of a heart. So he discarded his suspicions of unfairness and decided to tackle the problem anew. Complaining won't do him any good. If he wants to achieve something, the best person to rely on is himself.

Chapter 597 It All Comes Down To Power

Complaining won't do. It is not as if the arena spirit will intervene in the fight if he complains enough. It will be foolish to expect that to happen. So he concentrated on his dilemma and took stock of his situation.

He watched the dragon try to stand as he muttered. "It is strong. It is fast. It can fly. It can control world power. It can use dragon fire. Its defense is too strong. It is a dragon but it doesn't have a dragon scale. It is meant to be unkillable. At least, I can't kill it unless I get more power."

He began to list out what he discovered about the dragon and it isn't good news. He detonated that phantom spear for two things. The most important one is to evade the claw attack. His previous brush with it made him realize that the dragon's claws can shred him if they get a good hit on him.

The second reason is to harm the dragon and see how thick its defense is. The result of that damage is not promising. They are worse if that scale is the weakest part of the dragon. It will be impossible to kill the thing if the other scales are thicker and stronger.

Next, he began cycling through possible options to kill the winged beast. He considered targeting other weaknesses like the eyes and wings but they won't amount to much. The eyes are very close to the head which means he will need to be close to the dragon's teeth to reach the eyes. Being close to a dragon's teeth is not a good idea. The wings are also not useful as a target despite their large size because the dragon doesn't need them to stay afloat.

He came to two conclusions then. The first one is that he needs more power. More power always solves most problems and in this case, it is desperately needed. If he can increase his attacking power, then he might be able to breach the defense of the dragon.

Increasing his power through external means is not going to work for many reasons one of which is the dragon. It just jumped and soared into the air. Then it shot towards Soverick with very obvious ill intent. If he wants to get more power, he needs to get it before the dragon reaches him which is not a long time.

The second reason is that he can't get more power simply because he wants to. He needs to kill monsters of his rank or higher to make any meaningful progress in the steps of power but he doesn't see powerful monsters everywhere. The world spirit has to be holding out on him. This dragon that he is fighting is all that he will get any time soon.

The second conclusion that he came to is that in order to kill the dragon, he has to increase his efficiency. He has to use power wisely and get more from it. Since he can't raise his limit through external means, then he has to raise his output somehow. The best method to do that is through skillful usage of power. And he has just the right thing for the job. It is going to take all of his mental and visual prowess to pull it off.

"This is it then. Two can play at this game." He muttered angrily at the incoming dragon.

He has tried to be reasonable but it seems that this competition is asking the unreasonable of him. How is he to kill the dragon? It is just unreasonable. So he will give them the unreasonable. If they want to make difficult rules, then he will break those rules. If a game is stacked against you, you should overturn the board and make everyone lose. He just has to make sure that the dragon loses more than him.

First, he prepped his body. He pulled off his burnt robes and took a stance in the air. He had one foot forward while his spear is drawn back. All four of his eyes focused on the dragon for the first time. His body cracked as he overloaded it with momentum. The golden light showing within the cracks was then infused with world power. His body stayed in that form like a statue, unmoving, preparing, and waiting.

Next, he prepped his eyes.

His eyes bore into the dragon. He looked farther than the surface. He looked beyond the scales and the muscles beneath. His vision descended past tissues and cells. It descended further to the realm of energy manifestation and matter transformation. His vision of the world changed.

His eyes can see it. The flows and ebbs of the world. Beneath that is the way the wind moves. Beneath it is the way that mana stirs. Further below is the interaction of laws in the matrix. He can see all of it so he can interact with it. If he chooses to, he can break it. It comes at a cost and he needs his body and mind to keep up with what he sees. It is going to be difficult, but he can do it.

Then he prepped his mind with the activation of the first move of his personal skill set.

"WRAITH OF DEATH: WORLD BREAKER."

His mind connected his vision to his body. It became the connection between what he can see and where he wants to be. His body began to vibrate. The resonation exceeded the natural order of the world. His form seemed to flicker and become translucent as he descended further into the strata of the world of manifestation.

He became a phantom existing on both sides of the physical realm. He became a being of manifestation and concept. He needs to be if he wants to affect changes at the law matrix level without being an origin god. He is not an origin God so he won't be able to make perfect and clean changes to the law matrix. But that's okay. He is aiming to make a mess anyway.

Chapter 598 The World Breaker

The dragon gained on him like a terrifying beast of calamity immune to death and made for destruction. Its head was pointed forward as it beat its wings to push it to greater speed. A terrible hurricane

followed in its wake. The hurricane carried debris of soil and trees and threw them at a great distance away. The forest experienced disruption and chaos wherever the dragon passed. Imagine the disruption and chaos it can cause to its target.

It had a leer on its face. Its lips parted in a grin that showed terrifying teeth. What matters is that part of its lips was lifted to show its teeth in a mocking gesture. It could also be a sneer. Either way, it is mocking Soverick. It mocked Soverick at the beginning of their fight. Soverick's pride took a hit that time. But Soverick felt challenged this time. He felt challenged to bring his best and he felt indignant so he is going to bring his best.

The dragon knows its situation. It knows that it has been tailor-made to be near impossible to kill. If it were Soverick in its shoes then he will be confident too. As it is right now, he might not be as powerful or as durable as the dragon, but he can be the tool that breaks the fabric of the tapestry of the dragon. If he can't win, then he will break the rules and destroy the game. He will overturn the board and render the pieces irrelevant.

He took a step forward and his body split into two. Two of him appeared side by side. Both of him seem like phantoms. They are translucent like a phantom but he is no ordinary phantom. He is the wraith of death. The wraith of death that dances with the wind. He took another step with much difficulty and the two wraiths divided again to become four. His next steps became slower and more difficult but each one saw him divided again and again.

He was only able to take 7 steps before he had to stop. He managed to create 128 wraiths. The wraiths are faint now. They are almost invisible. Only an outline of them can be seen. They are like leaves waving in the wind. It seems like they can be easily blown away. He has reached his limit. Any further and he will disappear forever. Even his immortal soul will not save him. He will become lost in the matrix of the universe forever. He knows the danger. So he didn't push himself further. This is enough anyways.

The wraiths suddenly snapped together and fused into one blurry entity. That entity disappeared as soon as it formed and appeared behind the dragon. Soverick reformed behind the dragon and continued shooting forward even after deactivating his move. He has become unconscious and unresponsive. He can't stop himself from hitting the ground this time.

The only sign of his work is a black tear in space that started from the location where the wraith disappeared and where Soverick appeared. It is more of a rip in space spanning the straight line between these two points. That rip also passed through the dragon.

The dragon did not split in half. What happened to it is much worse. Its form broke apart silently and it scattered into the wind like dust. The tear in the world healed but the dragon can not heal because there is nothing to heal. You can not come back from being forcefully turned to dust unless you're an Origin god. Even then, you will still die.

Arena 28 became strangely quiet. The fight ended abruptly and there was no one cheering. It is not because people are stunned by the fight and are too shocked to make a sound. It is because there is no one watching. Everyone has gone into hiding. Even the monsters are cowering in a little corner so that trees and rocks won't hit them just because they were out in the open.

Some wind blades cut through trees and some people. A hurricane was throwing huge dangerous stuff around earlier. Rocks fell from the sky on top of some people. Nowhere was safe. Only those that hid in the ground somewhere had a modicum of safety. The ones that were underneath the hurricane were not safe from it though. They were pulled from the ground and thrown around like a ragdoll.

The arena became a death zone where anyone can just die for being in the wrong place at the right time. The ground was shaking and trees were felled. Roars and shouts filled the air. The sounds of battle were intense. Then it suddenly disappeared. Nothing happened for several minutes after that. The silence was only broken by the occasional sounds of boulders hitting the ground after they lost the gravitational field that made them levitate.

People started to emerge when the sounds of battle died down. That means they only started coming out when the hurricane stopped rampaging everywhere even after the dragon's death. The competitors of the arena emerged to find the world scarred and demolished.

The earth has been disfigured as if someone took scoops out of it. Trees have been uprooted and scattered about. There are large boulders that are breaking apart everywhere. These boulders broke apart to reveal the sand and tree parts within them. Apparently, they were formed unnaturally. Someone must have clumped soil, rocks, and trees together and forced them to become boulders. The forest is a lot of missing soil and some uprooted trees.

Then there's the forest fire. The flame is a deep shade of red radiating a lot of heat that is felt at a distance. The forest fire is expanding quickly and will soon turn this entire arena uninhabitable. The source of the fire can be guessed. So, no one is particularly surprised by it. No one is surprised that a single attack of dragon fire is enough to consume the entire Arena and that this much damage occurred even when the fight did not last a minute.

Chapter 599 Lamentations And Acceptance.

It is what it is. They know that dragons are very powerful and that dragon fire is very dangerous. So they are not surprised by the state of things, but they are despairing. Apparently, it is not enough to survive being around two powerful beings as they fight. You also have to survive the effect of their battle on the environment. You can't just go into hiding while they fight and then come back up after the fight so that you can resume trying to make something of yourself.

What are they supposed to do now? Are they supposed to continue the competition in these conditions? Who can even fight now while knowing the full capabilities of Soverick and knowing that whatever they do will be a poor imitation of his fight? The competition will become children playing at war games in light of recent events.

Most of the competitors just gave up. It is not because their confidence took too much of a hit. They already knew that they are lacking compared to him. His fight with the armored rhino showed them just how far apart they are from his level of power. So it is not a problem of lacking confidence.

The problem is that Soverick has literally ruined this competition for them. They see no hope of even seeking out a modicum of success in this challenge. They can't even do the little that they are capable of doing because of him. So why bother at all?

Some shook their heads as they watched the fire spread. They lamented, "We are doomed."

The entire competition has become trying to survive the dragon fire that is spreading everywhere. Forget monsters and other competitors, the aftermath of dragon fire is the obstacle to beat if they want to survive this challenge. The dragon didn't fight them. It didn't target them with its dragon flames. But they will still die and it will all be unintentional collateral damage.

Some commented with acceptance, "It is over."

The situation is obvious and they have accepted it. It is their bad luck not to only exist in the same era as the child of the plane but to also be grouped up with him in the same arena. These people are the strong ones. Despite their failure, they understand that it is not their fault and there is nothing they can do about it.

Others broke down and lamented. Screaming over and over again, "Why me? Why me?"

They had so many hopes and dreams. They had things they wished to achieve in this competition. They wanted glory and honor. They wanted some achievement to their name. Now all they will have at best is a good laugh at the memory of this challenge. It will be that time that they died because Soverick fought a dragon. They will laugh while secreting feeling deep emotional pain within them.

The atmosphere of Arena 28 is gloomy at best. The other arenas are saved from the bulk of their calamity but they too were influenced by the events that took place when the global announcement reached them. They learned that Soverick had fought a rank 9 monster and killed it making him the first to do so. He is also the first to reach the 8th step and the 9th step in the entire competition. That is another 6 feats right there making for a total of 29 feats. He just keeps taking in the good things while others are trying to survive.

That notification is a blow to many if they haven't become numb to it. There's only so much you can take before it stops being novel and it becomes normal. It is normal now that someone has earned 29 feats when more than 99% of them have not earned a single one so they lack enthusiasm for it. It is what it is. it just made some very sour.

As for those that haven't become numb to it, then they began to feel existential angst. They began to ask themselves some pertinent questions.

"Am I just weak or is he too strong?"

"What use am I anyway?"

"How can I ever hope to match that?"

"I am not even worthy of being in his shadow."

The reverse is the case for the spectators in the plane. They were able to enjoy that fight from the comfort of their homes and the safety it brought them. Those watching it on their entertainment device even get to enjoy high-definition sounds. The quick-paced battle can be slowed down and the sounds of

clashes amplified for their enjoyment. So the spectators feel pretty good about it even when they don't really know how Soverick killed that dragon.

They just saw him take a stance, start to fade away as he stepped forward, then he reappeared behind the dragon leaving a tear in his wake. The popular opinion is that he moved so fast and tore straight through the dragon with his spear thrusting forward. The tear is caused by a skill he used on the spear to make it sharp. They are wrong but it is not their fault. They tried their best with what little information they had.

The other more powerful spectators have more to say about how Soverick killed the dragon. The origin god spectators from both sides are impressed with the battle. What they saw and what they think happened demands that they be impressed no matter their position on the child of the Virut plane.

Origin gods know that laws interact to create concepts within the law matrix and concepts manifest in the world as the physical things we see. A being that is a concept exists between laws and its manifestation and therefore, gains some control over the mechanism of manifestation. The only known beings that can do that are Origin gods. That is a summary of their existence. Soverick has simulated that existence to do something that only they are supposed to be able to do.

Chapter 600 Soup Brain.

It is not that the Origin gods can't kill that dragon. They can surely do it but they do it with concepts which Soverick doesn't have. They use their concepts to destroy the concepts that make up their targets. But Soverick did what they can do without having concepts. If that isn't impressive enough, it gets better because they know what Soverick did but they don't know how he did it.

Even they don't know how he did it. If they knew, then they wouldn't need concepts. They had to absorb Origin essence to make them exist that way but Soverick did not and he is a king of law. Either way, he did it, and both sides are very impressed with it.

The administrators of both sides are also impressed with it.

The sage nodded, "Satisfactory performance. It was expected."

The sage is very impressed with how Soverick handled the dragon but he expected it so it did not come as a shock to him.

The same can not be said about the serpentine world god. "What do you mean it was expected?"

He had to be impressed. He had no choice in the matter. What he saw evoked that feeling in him. It is against his nature but he is impressed with Soverick. But the sage is saying it is expected. How can it be expected that a king of law knows how to descend to the law matrix and then use his entire existence to smash into the manifestation of the dragon like a hammer because he doesn't have a concept? Who does such a thing? And what's more, who could expect such a thing?

Soverick didn't just smash himself headfirst into the dragon once, he did it 128 times creating 128 faults within the dragon. It is like mudding up the genes of an organism. One wrong change here and there is not enough to kill the organism. There might be one or two odd defects but it is not enough for death. But 128 mutations are another matter.

These 128 smudges in the gene chain are not in ordinary cells either. Ordinary cells can be replaced and the organism will heal just like the dragon healed the explosion to its chest. The mutations occurred in the reproductive cells which are responsible for the genes of the next generation.

The physical dragon can be likened to the next generation while its concept in the law matrix are the genes of its reproductive cells. Its manifestation was seriously injured by the 128 faults. They created the compounding effect that we saw. They led to the dragon's existence collapsing on itself. It just couldn't exist as a dragon anymore so it broke down into its constituent matter.

A comical comparison will be the scrambling of someone's brain into soup. You take a stick and introduce it into someone's head. Then you stir it rigorously until the soft squishy tissue that makes up the brain is turned into something with the consistency of soup. It is understandable that the person with the soup brain will not be capable of initiating a single thought in their head. It is expected that such a person will die if their brain is a critical part of their existence. The dragon also collapsed because something critical to its existence has been scrambled.

As a world god, he has seen a lot of things. But he hasn't seen something like this done by a king of law at the risk of their own existence. Soverick may have killed that dragon but he didn't come out of it unscathed because his actions created an equal but opposite reaction. And yet, the first sage is saying he expected it. How does one expect something like that? He certainly didn't. If he did, he wouldn't have bothered with sabotaging the dragon at all.

The sage answered his question. "It's a secret."

That answer did not sit well with the serpentine world god. He can feel that he is unknowingly walking into a trap. Somehow, the sage had expected Soverick to trounce the obstacles he laid in the challenge and yet he allowed him to go ahead and set the challenge anyway. It is either due to blind confidence in Soverick or a trick he doesn't know about. He decided to change that. The best way to beat a schemer is to be proactive instead of reactive.

"How about you let me change the last boss back to what it was before?" He asked the sage.

The changes he made to the last boss used to fill him with pride and confidence that Soverick will be trapped but the way Soverick destroyed that dragon made him lose confidence in the obstacle he set. He didn't ask to improve on it because frankly, there's no way to improve that obstacle. It is rank 10 after all. That's the limit of the world fragment. He can't go beyond that.

Even if he could upgrade the final boss further, there's nothing he can do to counter that move that Soverick used. At least not within the settings of the challenge. He doesn't even know how Soverick managed to do it. He knows it has something to do with his eyes but he doesn't know how it became possible.

The serpentine world god isn't even able to wrap his head around the normal eyes of the sages much less this aberrant. So he wants to remove the changes he made. Removing the change will also invalidate the reason for the sage's permission to do it in the first place.

The sage nodded. "I see. You're having cold feet."

"I am not having cold feet. I just feel it is unfair to try and stop such a talented young man. It was shameful of me to sabotage the boy's progress. A respectable world God such as myself should be more tolerating of the future generation."

"Mixing wrongs and truths is good but you're not fooling me. I agree that it is shameful of you to sabotage the boy's progress but it isn't the reason why you want to change. You're having cold feet."