

GREED 601

Chapter 601 Trap Or Not.

The sage was not fooled at all. He knows that the serpentine world god is regretting the changes it made to Soverick's arena. It is an expected reaction in light of the recent events. But that doesn't mean he has to agree to the serpentine world god's request to make changes. So the sage refused.

The refusal made the serpentine world god ecstatic instead of downcast. He pointed at the sage and said, "Aha. I knew you were up to something. Now I know it has to do with you allowing me to change the last boss. Your refusal to let me remove the change confirms it."

The sage rolled his eyes. "Paltry tricks to get me to let you have your way. I can't even fall for it if I were blind."

Then the sage said with a grin. "You are right about me being up to something though. But I'll let you have your way. You can revoke the changes you made to the last boss. It will be at a cost to you. The Piper has to be paid."

The serpentine world god became alert immediately. This is the first time that the sage will be asking for something since the competition started. The sage allowed him to interfere on his own side of the competition earlier without asking for anything. That is a big deal and yet he didn't ask for anything. But now he is asking for something. So he can't take this lightly. It will give him an insight into what the sage hopes to achieve.

He has to review and analyze the request over and over again for him to crack the First Sage's intention.

He asked carefully, "What do you want?"

The sage smiled innocently. "I want to be given permission to change the final boss of every arena in your own side."

The sage's request dropped like a hammer on the serpentine world god's mind. Alarms flared up. That innocent smile did nothing to reduce his fears. He doesn't need to think hard and long to recognize the game that the sage played. He also recognized that he has fallen into a trap already. Now he has to either give up an arm or a leg.

The sage allowed him to make the changes because he isn't worried or because there was something at play that he doesn't know about. If he wants to eliminate that thing that the sage is up to, he has to allow the sage to set an obstacle for his entire side. He doesn't know what that hidden agenda is but he knows what effect the open agenda is. It will lead to catastrophic consequences if the sage sets the final boss for all of the arenas of his side.

The serpentine world god turned away and focused on the happenings of the arenas. "Never mind."

All he did was change the dragon and the last boss of Arena 28. If it had worked it would have delayed Soverick and Soverick alone but the sage wants to delay everyone on his side. He doesn't think the trade is worth it.

He will risk the repercussions for not removing the changes he made to the last boss. That is if there is even any repercussions. The sage might just be acting mysterious and suspicious so that he will think there is something wrong and allow the sage to stall all the arenas in his side.

'What could go wrong?' He asked himself.

He can't figure out anything that might go wrong from simply making some changes to the Soverick's arena. So he dismissed his fear.

The sage shrugged and turned to the competition too. "Your loss."

The sage's words stung the serpentine world god. He grumbled audibly. "They warned me but I didn't listen. They said I should be very careful of you and that you are more snake than I am but I didn't listen."

Yes, they warned him. Even the realm lord warned him but he didn't take it to heart. He should have known that something is up when the madman of the void Universe is telling him to be extra careful when dealing with the sage. He didn't listen because he can't take the monkeys that his race subjugated

easily seriously. Battle sage monkeys are pets or prey in his plane. There's just no way that he would be afraid of pets.

The sage agreed. "I told you too, didn't I? But you didn't listen. I told you your arrogance will be your downfall."

The sage is also one of the people that warned him. That warning did nothing to help take the other warnings seriously. How could he actually take the warning to heart when the person that he felt to be beneath him warned him to be careful? It's like being warned by a being you consider to be a rat that you want to kill. That warning from the rat will undermine the warning of others. Because if you decide to be careful, you will have to listen to the warnings of the others and the warning of the rat. He couldn't listen to the rat so he didn't listen to others.

"I hate you." He told the sage.

The sage replied, "I know. But it changes nothing. The end is inevitable. If it will help, I want you to know that I am quite fond of you though."

The serpentine world god grunted and said nothing.

The sage smiled to himself. It was inevitable. His trap wasn't built in a day but it became inevitable for his co-administrator to be trapped right from the moment he started building the trap. A good trap is one that is built together with the prey you want to trap. That assistance can either be voluntary or involuntary because it doesn't matter.

There's one thing that sages always say about warfare. Make plans and plan for the failure of your plan. So it doesn't matter if you try not to incorporate because you will assist in making that perfect trap even with your incorporation. He had prepared for the outcome and made plans upon plans.

Chapter 602 A Boon To Arena 28.

The first moment that the sage put his numerous plans into action was a long time before he met the serpentine world god for the first time. There was also a long period of planning before that time. During that time, the serpentine world god didn't even know that the sage existed. The sage on the

other hand was silently observing and profiling him. So the sage has all the advantages in their interaction. The serpentine world god's caution right now when they are in the thick of things is just the futile grasping of a drowning man.

The little that the serpentine world god knows is from when they first met. At that time, the sage told him to be very careful of tricks. Now, that sounds like a lot of things to different people. To some, it sounds like the sage is bragging. Such a person will try to prove the sage wrong and show that there is nothing to fear about him. They will fall into the trap headlong. Then there are others that will take the warning to be true but they will start second-guessing themselves.

Second-guessing doesn't mean you will make the right decision. In fact, you might fall into the trap you're trying to avoid in the first place. Second-guessing yourself will reduce your confidence and make you overly cautious. It will take a longer way, but you will still fall into the trap too. That's why there's reverse psychology, reverse-reverse psychology, reverse-reverse-reverse psychology, and so on and so forth. As long as a sage is prepared, there's no way out of their trap. The little that the serpentine world God knows is just the tip of the iceberg.

The sage stopped thinking about his plans. He looked at the situation in Arena 28. He couldn't help but shake his head at the sight of Arena 28. Soverick and the dragon have caused a lot of destruction. The Sage decided to help the competitors in the arena.

He told the serpentine world god, "I think I should do something about the fire though. It will spoil the game for the others. I have a proposal concerning the last boss fight."

"What proposal do you have concerning the boss fight?"

"It is a nice opportunity to bet. The last boss is your great creation. We should bet to see if Soverick will best it or not. The opportunity to bet will be open till the beginning of the fight. How about it? Wanna bet?"

The world god grunted and remained silent. It is hubris that made him bet with the sage in the first place and it is bad luck that he encountered Soverick. He is not going to repeat his previous mistake of betting against Soverick as he bet against the sage.

The two of them are more alike than most people know. Soverick and the sage are both talented people on the level of sages and they were both given the title of child of the plane. So he won't bet and he won't say anything because anything he says can and will be used against him by the sage. That is another lesson that he has learned.

But the sage had other ideas.

He asked, "Why won't you bet? You should have faith in what you did."

The serpentine world god didn't take the bait. He has already lost faith since the dragon died. That dragon was supposed to be impossible to kill and yet it was killed. Anything is possible with Soverick. The unthinkable becomes possible.

So there's no way he will risk increasing his bet right now. Any more and he might actually become poor. The resources they are betting on are not some mundane things even to world gods. They can literally kill each other for them and becoming poor as a world god means you're about to die. So no, he won't risk death for anything.

The sage quelled the fire in Arena 28 while he taunted the serpentine world into betting. The fire in the forest went out all of a sudden. The earth was restored and new trees were produced quickly. The only signs of the previous calamity are the craters and boulders scattered everywhere.

The world spirit informed the competitors of Arena 28 of the boon they have received. It is a boon indeed considering the persistence of dragon fire. Dragon fire doesn't go out. It burns and burns some more as long as there's still something to burn. It didn't help that the fire is surrounded by a forest of trees. They would have burned to death had the flames been allowed to spread wantonly.

The arena became rekindled by a different type of flame after the dragon fire was put out. The flame of ambition and hope burned within them. They have been given a second chance and they intend to make full use of it. There's a profound feeling of relief when certain doom is averted. It brings a new appreciation for life.

They began competing and striving fiercely. Another calamity might come again and they might not be bailed out when it does so they better use this opportunity to make something of themselves before it is too late. They fought and competed with renewed vigor.

It helped that Soverick seemed to have disappeared. His absence and the absence of enemies on his level brought unprecedented peace to the arena. That peace allowed good old-fashioned and normal violence to grow properly among the other competitors. They finally got a chance to actually survive in this challenge.

The other arenas continued without interference. The sage looked through them one by one. His gaze did not stay for long on most of what he saw except for some exceptions. They are the special individuals that were designated as kings in their arenas right from the start.

These special battle sage monkeys were considered Soverick's equal in skill at the start of the competition. They are the talented battle sage monkeys capable of giving Soverick a run for his money. At least, that's what the sage thought at first.

Chapter 603 Salvos The Herald Of Hell.

The first sage evaluated Soverick before the competition but didn't think him overly skillful compared to the others. Soverick has a powerful soul for a king of law but his level of skill wasn't estimated to be high because he rarely fought.

The erroneous estimate of his strength has changed in light of recent events. But before that fight with the dragon, the first sage only thought that Soverick had a shot at being concerned about the title of sage. There are a lot of others who also have a shot at becoming sages too.

Surely Soverick is powerful for a king of law but the first sage knew it is because of his title as child of the plane and his powerful soul. If there is something unique about Soverick, then it is his eyes. Even the first sage thought highly of his eyes. In fact, his plan for the competition is heavily hinged on Soverick's eyes. If Soverick doesn't attend the competition then he might be in trouble. Then again, it is inevitable that Soverick will attend. Soverick might think he made the decision to attend of his free will but he has been baited.

Soverick aside, there are others of some importance participating in this competition. The sage doesn't have just one card to play after all. All of these battle sage monkeys are also special. They might not be as powerful as Soverick, but they were expected to more than match him in skill. Their skill was supposed to make them their equals if they are suppressed to the same level of power. It is these people that warranted a longer look from the first sage.

The first three of them are children from the first sage's bloodline. The first is Salvos, the herald of flaming hell. He looks like a generic battle sage monkey in appearance. He has the white fur of sages also similar to those without bloodlines. The only thing special about him is the blindfold he wears. Right now, he is not wearing his blindfold and his eyes are open to the world. It is why the entire arena is burning.

It is not the burning of trees by dragon fire like in the case of Soverick. In this arena, everything is burning including the air. The arena has turned into a domain of fire. Even the earth is burning much less the trees. There are no more trees at all in this hellscape. They have all been burned to ashes. The ground has melted and turned into an ocean of lava. The air is hot and thick with smoke. Dark clouds filled with soot formed above the battlefield.

The first sage wasn't surprised when he saw this. He already expected it. That's why Salvos is the only one in this arena. An entire arena was made to contain him. Soverick might be a Calamity to be around but Salvos represents certain death. The sage would need to constantly repeat the environment or the participants in the arena will suffer. That is if they are able to survive the flame attacks.

Salvos started the challenge with a single-minded focus to reach the mountain. Meanwhile, whatever comes to attack him goes off in flames. It is in those rare situations when he is attacked that he will open his eyes. This is one of those situations. A rank 6 beast is attacking him.

It is a type of tiger. It is large and has claws that can rend Salvos's weak body apart but the tiger can't reach him to use its claws. Salvos had removed his blindfolds so he only had to gaze at the tiger and the tiger went up in flames. It isn't only the tiger that went up in flames. Everything Salvos gazed upon went up in flames. It is not an attack that can be dodged. Everything in his sight gets attacked, even the earth and the ground.

This is how he acquired the unique feat of One Shot Executioner. A single attack of his is enough to kill anything and everything he gazes on. The same thing repeats itself even when the beast is two ranks above him. As long as the entity he gazes at is not fundamentally different from him, he will surely kill it. The tiger is rank 6 while he is rank 4. He was able to easily kill the tiger but he won't be able to beat a rank 7 as a rank 5 because of the fundamental difference between them that allows a rank 7 to use world power.

Then he closed his eyes and the world calmed down. The air and the ground stopped burning. They don't burn usually so they need the external influence that was making them burn to keep burning. The ground is molten lava and red hot though. The damage has already been done. It will need time to cool and even then, it will never be the same again. For now, the ground looks like that of a lava hellscape.

The ground has stopped burning but the tiger is still burning. It has flesh that will burn once the water has been evaporated to a sufficient level and the fat has been ignited. It wouldn't matter if the tiger is flame retardant anyway. It already died when its brain heated up and the water there boiled its nerves past the required point needed to turn a raw egg into a hard-boiled egg.

Salvos resumed his march across the ashy, sooty hellscape toward the mountain in the center of the arena. His blindfold has been placed on his forehead so that he can see through his eyelids. He doesn't need his blindfold anymore. He has gained better control of his divine ability ever since he became a transcendent. He doesn't set things on fire indiscriminately anymore but he still keeps the blindfold for moments when he has exhausted his eyes. It helps his eyes to rest and recuperate better by separating it from the world.

Chapter 604 Salvin The One-Man Army.

There are no obstacles on Salvos's path apart from the occasional monster spawned to challenge him. There is nothing to see as far as the eye can see throughout the Arena. One wouldn't know that this arena used to be a forest. The arena used to have tall, giant, thick, and strong trees but they all disappeared from the arena because of Salvos' fights.

For all their colossal size, thickness, and strength, it didn't save them from their ashy fate. Trees, no matter how overgrown, are very good kindling material. Those trees are now present in the form of soot that is being blown in the wind and ashes that form with smoke to create large smog clouds in the sky.

Unfortunately for the arena, it will not be restored to its previous state until this challenge is done. The trees will not be returned because the same thing will be repeated. A lack of trees doesn't matter anyway since Salvos doesn't care. That's why Salvos gets an arena to himself. The arena was created to take a beating from a single competitor.

The first sage rated Salvos as the most likely to defeat Soverick because no one at the same level of evolution can beat Salvos. In fact, Salvos has been known to kill kings of laws as a transcendent. It is because transcentents, lords of law, and kings of law aren't that much different. They all have soul-bodies. Only their Authorities and stats differ which just means that kings of laws die slower to the all-consuming gaze of fire than transcentents do.

The difference between them in the real world is that while Soverick could beat a titan of law as a king of law, Salvos can't beat a titan of law as a king of law. The body of law of a titan of law is too strong for Salvos. But the sage expected Salvos to defeat Soverick since he is a king of law. Combat prowess doesn't matter as long as Soverick is not fundamentally different from Salvos.

The first Sage's opinion of the outcome of a likely battle between them has changed now. Soverick has proven that he is more than he seems and has earned the first Sage's recommendation to be titled a sage. Salvos needs to become a titan of law first or do more in this competition before he has a chance at consideration for the title of sage.

The next up is Salvos' brother Salvin, the One Man army. Salvin also has white fur like his brother. He is in an arena with other people except the people are avoiding him like a plague. He doesn't mind that because he has more important things to deal with.

They have to avoid him especially when they can see what he is fighting. No one in their right mind wants to be around someone that is fighting and has been fighting the hordes of giant Ravens for hours like some crazy maniac. He can kill them but must he begin to wage war on them? That seems like a waste of time. Anybody that thinks that clearly doesn't know Salvin.

Salvin had gotten the hang of flying soon after Soverick got it and he took to the sky immediately. He was giddy and excited. The world was interesting and he was marveling about how he couldn't believe that it was fake.

He was like a tourist admiring a unique attraction. Unfortunately for him, there are rules that must be kept to. One of those rules is that you must keep your weak self to the tree line or pay the price for your insolence. He was assaulted by the giant Ravens with sharp claws when he broke through the tree line to enjoy an overhead view of the forest. The debut release occurred at N-ov3l-Bin.

The giant black ravens beat him ragged and he almost died. The flesh of his body was torn as easily as the clothes he wore when they swarmed him. He escaped through the edge of his teeth by beating a hasty retreat. The only reason he survived is that the birds gave up on chasing him soon after he hid in the ground. His humiliation quenched their bloodlust for him.

That started the enmity between Salvin and the giant ravens. That ordeal was truly humiliating to him. Where would he put his pride as the one-man army if word went out that he was bullied by numbers? He swore that it was either them or him. The arena had suddenly become too small for them. One of them will have to stop existing in this arena.

He healed and bid his time by hunting weaker monsters. Then he returned to the sky to settle their score. The number of birds in the tens of thousands did not discourage him. They are rank 4 and he is rank 4. Even if there are a million of them he has nothing to fear. He is the one-man army. Only he is enough against a million.

He stood in the air as waves upon waves of giant ravens tried to reach him to tear him apart but they always fell down from the sky dead because of his attacks. Said attacks also have something to do with his eyes. Thousands of phantom weapons are cleaving through the giant Ravens and slaughtering them. He controls all the phantom weapons with his eyes and directs them to make precise attacks on his enemies.

The birds clash with the weapons but the weapons weave through their defense and cleave them apart. There are so many phantom weapons in the air that the sky has turned into a meat grinder. It is a scene of pure bloodshed and domination and unrelenting determination.

Salvin's thousands of phantom weapons clashed with the Ravens who have an unrelenting determination to tear him apart. Unfortunately for the Ravens, determination doesn't trump fire power. Their blood and flesh fall like rain that waters the ground. The ground itself is forced to drink and engorge itself against its will. Any more blood and a flood will be formed.

Chapter 605 Never Back Down.

The debut release occurred at N-ov3l-Bin.

The phantom weapons form a domain around Salvin and any bird that gets near it gets shredded. Some Phantom weapons venture out of the domain to harass and fight the birds. These ones wear out quickly but they are easily replenished by creating more.

His eyes aren't like his brother's or his sister's. He has normal visual acuity and can slow down his perception. The special thing about his eyes is that they grant him the ability to create, maintain, and control millions of phantom weapons. His eyes enable him to wield numerous weapons. That is why he is the one-man army. What makes an army other than the number of weapons that they wield?

Phantom weapons are created using the fourth step of weapon mastery and are hence limited in number by the strength of the divine sense and the amount of momentum available. His eyes eliminated that limit by making the momentum of the world freely available to him.

Even if others can create an unlimited amount of phantom Weapons, they wouldn't be able to control them precisely. Soverick can create thousands of phantom weapons but they can only go in one direction. If he needs to control them, then he has to be in contact with them. Salvin doesn't need contact to control thousands of phantom weapons. His eyes with 360 degrees of vision direct them with such precision that all of the weapons might as well be wielded by different people. That's why he is called the One-Man Army.

Salvin can wear down stronger foes if given time but the power difference mustn't be too great. He can take on multitudes of rank 5 birds with some difficulty but a few rank 6 birds will prove to be too difficult for him because his base damage won't be able to overcome their defense no matter how many phantom weapons he has. Sometimes, quality is always better than quantity no matter the amount of quantity.

His eyes grant him flexibility, unlike Salvos. Salvos is a one-trick pony with a very obvious weakness. If someone is immune to his flames then he wouldn't kill them so easily. A fire elemental for example loves flames and a fire dragon won't be daunted by his attacks. Of course, Salvin has his weakness of having a weaker attack but he can't be overwhelmed by numbers and he can use his ability in different ways.

Salvin's eyes glowed bright silver as he churned out more phantom weapons from it. He cheered his phantom weapons on as they slaughtered the Ravens.

He yelled excitedly, "Get them. Get them. Get them all."

He continued to attack the birds and they continued to throw themselves at him in their suicidal attempt to kill him all the while grinning with glee. His bloodlust has been awakened so he wants more violence. Plus, it is not in his nature to give up first. That might indicate defeat which he is not going to admit. So if anyone is going to give up, it has to be the Ravens. He will continue to Slaughter them until they back down.

The Ravens didn't give up. It seems that the Arena spirit has taken offense because of his attitude. Slaughtering the birds became easier when he reached rank 5. Things changed after he killed enough

birds to reach rank 6. A flock of rank 7 birds each with the ability to manipulate world power came to put him down.

He roared fearlessly to the newcomers, "Come at me. I'll slaughter all of you just like I slaughtered the previous ones."

The previous scenario did not repeat itself. It seems he has been outclassed again. His phantom weapons can't use world power yet so they can't match the rank 7 ravens. The phantom weapons struck them harmlessly and bounced off their world-power-infused bodies. The Ravens quickly broke through his domain. They almost overwhelmed him and killed him. If not for using the phantom weapons as a thick defensive cloud around him then they would have gotten to him. He narrowly escaped all the while swearing and cursing the birds.

"You haven't seen the end of me. I'll be back! I'll be back! I'll be back!" His loud hysterical voice rang out through the forest.

The people that heard him only have one thing to say, "Oh no, not again."

They have heard that same hysterical voice before promising the same thing. Salvin promised this new enemy the same thing he promised the previous rank 4 Ravens. Then he went on a killing spree murdering everything in sight both monster and battle sage monkeys alike.

He became a hurricane of blades roaming the forest looking for power so that he can return to deliver retribution on the foul birds that have maligned him. The hurricane is around 100 meters in diameter and it is composed of blades not wind. It kicks up wind but that's not the only thing the hurricane does.

This hurricane of blades ripped up or shredded everything they came in contact with. Trees are not uprooted, rotated, and flung as a normal hurricane should do. They are shredded into wood shavings. Competitors cursed and ran away from the crazy hurricane while monsters howled or whined as they ran away from the crazy hurricane.

Salvini isn't wasting his time fighting the Ravens. The most important thing is that he is having fun. He is not like his silent and moody brother or his scheming and conniving sister. He likes to have fun above all else. He is also gaining strength.

Killing the Ravens with a maddened motive for vendetta is a proven method that earned Salvin the unique feat of one against 1,000,000. Soverick earned the unique feat of one against 10,000. Soverick doesn't have the craziness to take on 1,000,000 enemies.

Besides, Salvin is also quickly climbing the ranking list because of the amount of kills he has. Soverick has quality of kills on his side but Salvin certainly has quantity of kills on his side. It is the advantage of never backing down.

Chapter 606 Salvini The Mad Executioner.

The third candidate is the only female among the three current generations in the sage lineage. Her name is Salvini. Her brother, Salvin, calls her conniving but she is commonly referred to as the Mad Executioner. Her arena is not peaceful either and the root of the problem is her. She is currently being hunted or is it the other way around?

She is not being hunted because she is the weakest of the three. No, she is being hunted because the competitors in her arena have refused to suffer her existence anymore. They are fed up with her so they want to kill her. Tens of thousands of people have surrounded her and are attacking her from every direction and she is holding her own against them.

She bolted through the forest like a figment of the imagination. She is here now and almost immediately she is gone. The eyes cannot even track her as she weaves through the forest. Those that are chasing her can barely tell where she is. Even the sounds of battle and the cries of pain are not accurate enough to tell where she is because she would have certainly left the location by the time they turn to it. There is a lag between their perception of her and her actual location.

It is obvious that this hunt is a bad idea. If they can't track their prey, how are they supposed to kill her? But these people know that. They are not stupid. They know that they have a slim chance of killing her but they have no choice but to hunt her. They are not hunting her by choice. Salvini has left them no choice but to band together and hunt her.

This hunt, no matter how dumb it looks, is the wise option. The other option is to scatter and give up. But if they do that then they have no chance of killing her at all. At least this way, they might get lucky and successfully kill her. One of them might just fumble and find that their weapon has impaled her. So they are not foolish. They are just hoping to get lucky.

They hope she might make a mistake that will allow them to kill her even though the odds of her making a mistake is the same as the odds of her falling on her own weapon and killing herself. It seems unlikely but they can only hope. It is worse being hopeless. Then they will have nothing to live for. This challenge will become meaningless to them in such a situation.

Salvini is a battle maniac and her eyes that can predict the future helps her to find her preferred prey. Her preferred prey in this challenge are not monsters but the people that are successful at hunting monsters. She can easily avoid monsters and she will leave people without a high score alone if she comes across them but that changes as soon as you cross a certain score. She has a way to know when someone has accumulated a high score and a way to find that person.

As soon as your score is high enough, you can expect her to come and kill you thereby stealing 50% of your score and invalidating your efforts. It is like she is rearing the competitors for their marks. They are cattle and she is the butcher who is rearing them up for their meat. She doesn't fight the monsters. Instead, she uses them as grass to fatten up her chosen prey.

There is a saying that the best way to become rich is to steal from others. Salvini has put this into action and she has been remarkably successful with it. She is so successful that the solution is obvious to everyone. They either give up on the competition entirely and don't bother to kill monsters anymore even if they attack them or band together to eliminate this terror in their midst.

They don't think of her as a farmer. A farmer has a right to kill what they rear. She is a highly successful cannibal. Killing others for their scores is allowed but she has taken it too far. She has gotten a taste for the forbidden meat of her fellow competitors and has taken a liking to it. She is a nightmare made a reality.

Word spread around and everyone knows that she is specifically hunting people. They know that their situation of dying in her hands is not isolated and they know that she doesn't kill monsters. She is an abomination in their midst. That's why they are hunting her and why they won't stop even when they are failing terribly at it.

Salvini moved through the forest like a feline. She is incredibly agile and lightfooted. Branches and shrubs of the forest seem to part ways for her so that she faces no resistance to her movement and makes no sound. The same branches scratch at her pursuers who have to cut them or push them aside for them to pass.

They make loud noises in their effort to catch her meanwhile her feet step on the ground soundlessly. She doesn't step on twigs or stones that might alert her pursuers or make her slip. She leaves no traces

behind as a proper feline who is on the hunt should do. She can do this because she has all the right tools for the hunt. Her eyes have made her an apex predator.

One moment she is running through thick shrubbery with nothing to see but leaves all around. She is looking around but she is not looking at her immediate surroundings. What she sees is this scenery layered on top of other possible sceneries.

Her multicolored eyes are flashing various colors including colors that can't be understood. But she understands them and more. It is as if she has access to the wheel of time. It grants her the enviable ability to see the future.

Chapter 607 Perfection Made Manifest.

What Salvini sees are possibilities. She sees what will happen before it happens. She sees how the branch of a tree will react if she pushes it. She sees the various reactions of that branch based on the various ways of interacting with the branch. There are too many possibilities because she isn't the only one interacting with the branch. The wind is also interacting with it.

She doesn't calculate these possibilities. She only sees them. She sees possible futures then she chooses the action that will bring about a favorable reaction. She brushes the branch aside with minimal effort and it slips aside soundlessly to let her pass. Her sight gives her options and she chooses the easiest option to bring about her goal.

Her sight is not without limit. She can only see the possibilities of an action 1 second into the future. She can push her sight but it will have drastically negative effects on her mind and the accuracy of what she sees. That 1 second is more than enough for someone of her speed. A lot can happen in 1 second when you're moving at a speed that is 4 times the speed of sound. That is just the speed that she can maintain without much physical exertion. Some might call it a jog.

So despite the fact that there's nothing in sight but leaves and plants, her spear is prepped for a stabbing. It is gripped tightly in her hand as she bolts through the forest. One moment all there are is plants and trees, the next, a battle sage monkey appears in her sight from around a tree when she turns. The unsuspecting battle sage monkey is inspecting her surroundings. She looked left and right searching for their quarry. It is by chance that she spots Salvini before the mad executor is upon her.

It is as if Salvini suddenly appeared around her. This female battle sage monkey didn't jump or get startled by the sudden appearance of the mad executioner. You can't have jittery nerves to be a warrior that wants any hope of killing the mad executioner. It helps that she is a transcendent with perfect control of her body so she reacted properly to the sudden enemy.

She leaped forward to meet Salvini with her blade in hand. It is common sense not to be passive in a fight with Salvini or you will become docile meat on a chopping board. Salvini loves docile meat above all types of meat. She will gobble you up in no time if you're docile.

Unfortunately for the female battle sage monkey, Salvini wasn't deterred by her aggressive behavior. She has seen it and she was prepared for it even before they met. She struck too. Her spear blurred forward because of its speed and because of the numerous phantom spears that separated from it to strike her opponent. Her opponent slashed her sword toward the spear attack. Numerous arcs of energy blades sprung out of the blade as it passed through the air.

It is obvious that this female battle sage monkey is very talented. She is adept at using the mind weapon. There are very few who can exhibit such a skill. She is talented so she is probably able to hunt monsters very well. That makes her one of the few that Salvini loves to kill for their scores. It is not a surprise that she is here too hunting Salvini.

The phantom spears sailed to kill the female battle sage monkeys just as the energy blades cut forward to cut down Salvini. Hundreds of clashes occurred in that split second and continued to occur even as Salvini's spear found its way into the neck of her opponent. It is the same thing that happens every time the two of them have fought.

"Fuck you." Her opponent said before she is blasted apart by an explosion within her body caused by Salvini's unloading her energy through the blade of the spear.

A game of possibilities is Salvini's favorite game. The clash of two small forces composed of hundreds of phantom weapons is a game with numerous outcomes. They are both attacking with numerous phantom weapons and they both have to block too. But can her opponent block them all? No and neither can she because it is impossible to react to every single attack.

Salvini may not be able to react to every single attack but she doesn't need to. All she needs is one flaw in her opponent's defense. The first person to make a mistake loses. Salvini always comes out on top because she can see that flaw even before her opponent makes it. That flaw is unavoidable too. There's no escaping it because she saw it, then she tossed out the attacks that will create that flaw.

It can be likened to a man of integrity who is being tortured so that he will do something bad that is against his principles. The tortures will try all sorts of things to break the man. They might succeed and they might fail. It is up to chance. Those with more experience will have a higher chance of breaking the man but Salvini doesn't need experience. She has seen all the possibilities and she knows what will make the man break. She will bring in 10,001 innocents to be slaughtered in front of the man and that will change his mind more than any torture.

The man is willing to sacrifice himself and even 10,000 innocents just to abide by his principles. Even the death of his family is not enough to break him. But the man considers anything greater than 10,000 innocents to be too much of a sacrifice. So she will bring 10,001 not 10,002 or more. Just enough to break the man's will. It makes her every move and decision very efficient because there is no wasted effort on her part. No time is wasted and no effort is irrelevant or wasted. She is perfection made manifest.

Chapter 608 No Blind Spots.

Her attack might seem random, but it is designed to make her opponent fail and be unable to react to a sudden attack. She can even take care of future problems before they happen with the same move. The phantom spears that she produced continued forward through the space where the body of her opponent used to be to strike the person that wanted to take advantage of her. A new enemy had suddenly appeared from what she be her blindspot. But the phantom spears caught her new enemy by surprise and killed him too. Then she left her position to continue the hunt.

They say the weakest moment of a warrior is when he is relaxing after he has exerted himself to kill his prey. One concentrates and bring all their prowess to bear when facing an enemy. But there is a period of lax and lag that occurs when the enemy has been slain. The body and mind shift gear to relax after the exertion. It is a moment of recovery between exertions. This battle sage monkey sought to take advantage of the enemy that she was fighting. He hid behind the body of her enemy and stabbed through her to catch Salvini off guard only for phantom spears to explode out of the body he wanted to stab and stab him to death.

She can see her immediate future so she has no blind spots. It is a common mistake that people commit when they try to skirt around her divine ability. The divine ability of the sage is not a secret. Anyone that wants to attack her knows what to expect. They cloak themselves so that they can't be seen but it doesn't matter to Salvini because as long as they interact with her in any way, she will see them or at least, she will see the effect of their actions on her future self.

Everyone interacts with the world so no one is truly hidden. You can be seen if the person looking for you knows what to search for and has the right tools to search for it. She uses indirect tells to help her pinpoint the existence of whoever she interacts with. It might just be the depression in the sand that

they are standing on or the way the wind bends around them or the fluctuations of gravity that their gravitational field causes on the world.

Even the faintest interaction with her will allow her to see possibilities and react to them. There is no way something that can kill her will be hidden from her. Her future vision will end abruptly at that point when she dies in the future. At most, she might not know what will kill her but she will know when it will kill her. That is enough information for her to prepare and avert her death. She will know when she has succeeded when her future sight returns past that point.

This ability is why assassinations don't work on her. They fail to realize that you can't hide the death of someone that can see the future no matter how well hidden you are. If a sage can't foretell their own death then they are not worth anything.

This mistake of utilizing the blind spot is common because the abilities of the eyes of sages are not fully understood. There is common knowledge about the divine ability but the principles by which their vision works are kept hidden. Those with the eyes are rare and they don't talk about their abilities as a general rule. This secrecy makes it difficult for their abilities to be countered by other bloodlines.

Secrecy is generally important but it becomes highly recommended when you are a highly placed public figure. People target her and her siblings on a frequent basis. The second person she just killed belongs to a bloodline that deprives people of sight. Their bloodline is called the royal bloodline of Vision Takers.

The bloodline of Vision Takers is a prestigious bloodline that nullifies or suppresses visual powers. They make it impossible or very difficult for someone with an ocular power to function around them and yet the person still died to her. It is because she has seen the effects of his ability before he activated it. The person was too late to activate their ability to stop her from doing what will change her fate. In a way, their bloodline will always be late as long as they don't have their ability eternally trained on her.

This hunt is filled with people like that. They are very talented and as such are capable of killing a lot of monsters. That has made them her preferred targets for harvesting. So they came together, decided on a course of action, and used their influence to gather thousands of people to execute her. Now she has thousands of people to kill for their scores and they are close to her too. She doesn't need to go looking for them. They have brought themselves to her.

That is probably the most frightening ability of those with the eyes of the sage. Apart from seeing immediate results, they can trace cause and effect into the far future and use it to predict certain

outcomes. It can be likened to a game. She doesn't know how the game will play out, who will score what, or who will be injured, but she knows who will win.

So if she focuses on the future, she will know who will win. If she focuses further on them, she can determine where they are right now. She then uses that information to hunt them down. They in turn tried to eliminate her but they ultimately played into her game. Now they are close to her and the same outcome is being repeated in their rights. Nothing seems to have changed for the better about their situation despite their desperate attempt to end her. She is still killing them and it is easier to do too. So who exactly is hunting whom in this arena?

Chapter 609 Convergence Of Fate.

The sage smiled to himself when he saw this. She is doing him proud. Her situation is very common to those with his bloodline. The ability to predict the future means that their enemies will always play into their hands no matter their decision. The outcome is inevitable. Either they hunt her and she kills them or they stop killing monsters and she wins. Either way, she comes out on top.

These three, Salvia, Salvin, and Salvini, are the ones most favored to match Soverick. These three are from the sage lineage but only Salvini awakened with the bloodline of the sage. One is enough anyways. There are other kings in other arenas. There is the Stone empress who turns living things that she gazes at into stone. The transformation to stone is gradual, it is not instant but it is insidious all the same. It takes root in you and won't stop until you turn into stone as long as she is looking at you.

There's the Unrelenting Justice also known as Jarkon. The unrelenting Justice gets stronger the stronger their target for justice is and this person has targeted Soverick for the crimes he committed commonly known as the Calamity of the child of the plane.

Most surprising of all is the Soul-Fire witch. She is a witch that is capable of burning anyone from the inside out. No defense has been capable of blocking her attacks. Salvos' gaze burns everything both defensive measures and the target. While the gaze of the stone empress can be defended by using an inanimate object but the attack of the soul-fire witch bypasses every defense. She is also known as Litori, the litter mate of the child of the plane.

The sage has a lot of tricks up his sleeve. He can use different ones based on the circumstances. His plans are intricate enough that he can accommodate failure. Even the failure of one of his most important pieces. He doesn't need them now because Soverick is doing his part nicely and beyond

expectation. But there are those that can step into his shoes and do what must be done. They might not do it as well as him, but they will get it done.

Most of the talents designated as KINGS right from the start showed wonderful performances that proved that they earned their names. There are others who performed well too despite not being designated as a KING. One of them caught the Sage's eye as he roamed about the events of the challenge.

He muttered, "Interesting. I see the convergence of fate. It is a long time coming too. This is going to be good."

He can see two battle sage monkeys both of whom have ties to Soverick. The two of them are about to meet within an Arena in the challenge. Their meeting will change their destiny and might affect Soverick. The sage finds it interesting. So he decided to watch.

One battle sage monkey is traveling freely through the forest. She is traveling without any fear. Her head is held up high as she looks around imperiously. She walked confidently through the forest. Her pride and confidence come from the fact that she has not been defeated even once throughout the survival challenge and she doesn't think she can lose to anyone.

She is not a king but she has the pride of one. This pride doesn't come from a baseless and unreliable opinion of herself. The results that she has had so far have proven time and time again that she deserves to be confident. The advantage that her bloodline has given her has made her near unbeatable in direct combat and luck has smiled on her.

Things have been going quite well for her during this competition. The only time she ever felt fear is when she heard the feats that Soverick has acquired. Soverick's feats are enough to make a lot of people cower. Her more so than others. She truly finds them overwhelming to hear. But it is the sound and mention of his name that induces fear within her.

Her body freezes involuntarily whenever she hears the title of the Child of the plane. An involuntary show of fear in a transcendent is a mark of trauma. Such a trauma has left a mark on her mind and consciousness. It is affecting her against her will and control. It used to be referred to as the heart devil.

She has bad reactions to Soverick and everything about him because she has had a very bad experience because of him. That event traumatized her badly. He defeated her and he defeated her soundly. It was not a defeat that she can talk herself out of or soften the blow with some jokes and excuses. That defeat left a shadow on her heart and it has remained so ever since. She has to defeat him and see him trampled beneath her feet to remove her heart devil or it will never leave. That's why she participated in this competition.

She is not a nameless person in the Virut plane. She has also received a title for her valiant exploits in the plane. The recent conflicts caused by the availability of origin energy in the plane and the differences in the ambient origin energy concentration have allowed several previously unknown individuals to come to light. Litori the soul fire is one of them and she, Ameglia the star of victory, is also one of them. She is confident because of her title but her title has not granted her confidence that she can defeat Soverick.

It is more accurate to say that her title has stopped granting her the confidence that she can defeat Soverick. She used to have confidence that she can take him on. She planned to use her bloodline abilities to bring down the child of the plane. So she joined others in camping outside the Ghastorix main city to fight him. He didn't show up to fight despite the clamor for it. It didn't surprise her. The Soverick that she knew had always been proud. So she gave up and left. That's what saved her life.

Chapter 610 Ameglia The Star Of Victory.

Her decision to give up is the only reason that she is alive right now. It gave her the opportunity to be here to try her luck again. She heard later that Soverick came out and killed everyone. That news sobered her up and removed her confidence in her title. That is not the first time something like that happened. She had been confident before too. She wanted to fight Soverick because of that confidence. It didn't end well.

Back then, she considered Soverick a weakling for hiding and refusing to fight her. He defeated her soundly and effortlessly when he did fight her but it seemed that some of her confidence remained. The calamity of the child of the plane removed her confidence thoroughly and he didn't even have to defeat her to do so. It was then that she began to fear him and the heart devil formed within her.

So no, she doesn't have confidence in her title to defeat Soverick. She doesn't have confidence in her bloodline advantage either. She also doesn't have confidence that she will be able to beat him because of the suppression during this competition. Again, it is more accurate to say that the suppression doesn't give her confidence anymore.

She used to have just a little confidence in the suppression and she thought it would be enough for her to defeat Soverick or at least match him in the competition. That's why she decided to participate in this competition in the first place.

The announcements of his feats have shown that her confidence was wrongly placed. Again and again, her confidence and self-esteem have been built up only to be mercilessly torn down. It is not surprising that she has a soul-deep fear for him.

She sighed and asked no one in particular, "What a monster. How do you defeat such a being?"

The simple thought of Soverick always makes her unhappy. She could be laughing one moment and then frowning the next because of Soverick. His simple existence is making her life unpleasant. She is unresigned even when she knows what a monster he is. No one should live like her forever in fear of someone else. But that's not the major reason why she has to eliminate Soverick.

She doesn't have any confidence in defeating him but she has to or she won't be able to pass any tribulations in the future. A heart devil is a terrible thing. A heart devil based on Soverick Ghastorix and his glorious feats is virtually an impossible barrier to beat. It will be impossible for her to pass her tribulations if such a heart devil shows up. And it will surely show up because Soverick Ghastorix never fails to deliver.

So she is always thinking of ways to defeat him. This competition with its unique opportunity that is supposed to make them equals should have been her opportunity to defeat him. Her chance to rid herself of her fear of Soverick should have finally come but the notification about him already reaching rank 9 is not encouraging.

She almost believes that the notifications are done to torture her specifically. Each one of them tells her how lacking she is compared to him. And each time she hears the notification, her confidence dies a little until it is completely dead as it is right now. She made away with the notion of ever beating him the more she heard of his exploits and feats.

'I shouldn't have come at all.' she thought to herself in regret.

Beating other people is fun but it is not what she came here to achieve. What she wants to achieve is unattainable so it makes it seem like she has wasted her time and her peace of mind by attending the

competition. It would have been better for her not to attend the competition at all. Then she would have the privilege to preserve a modicum of her confidence. Ignorance is bliss after all.

She was deep in thought as she strolled through the forest totally unconcerned about the dangers all around her. It is not because she is clueless or unaware of how dangerous her environment is. Her nonchalance is because she can't sense anything that can be a danger to her. It is a sense that her bloodline has empowered her with.

Her bloodline makes her very sensitive to danger and good fortune. It has helped her to always find herself in pleasant situations. It is why she doesn't bother to pick a direction to follow. She follows the instincts of her bloodline and trusts it to lead her right. It has always worked alright until now.

She didn't head towards the mountain at the center of the arena. Her bloodline believes she is not ready for that yet so it leads her around the arena. Every single encounter she has had in the challenge has always been in her favor. She meets beasts that she can defeat and chances upon wounded competitors that she can easily kill for their score. It has all been good for her apart from the occasional notification about the monster that is Soverick Ghastorix.

She stopped and looked ahead as she sensed someone coming towards her. Their paths cross and this person will meet her if she continues on this path. It is possible for her to avoid this person now by going in another direction. Her bloodline sensed uncertainty from the person and it made her narrow her eyes in their direction.

'It seems I have to be very careful. Who could make me so cautious?' she wondered.

She became wary of this encounter because her bloodline can sense two opposite outcomes from this person. This person is a danger to her and also a boon. The outcome of their encounter will determine which one it is not the encounter itself. Her encounter with this person could be favorable or unpleasant. She is not confused or perplexed about this situation because this is not the first time she has experienced something like this.