

GREED 711

Chapter 711 Poor Schemer.

He activated the call for support because he believed that he was safe to act within this world fragment. It is not a baseless belief. He has the Oath of the first Sage to reassure him. He also can't die permanently in this competition, so he should be safe.

He has had many threats, and he has been afraid because of them. Lady Amari is just one of his enemies. She may be small and insignificant, and her death here may be temporary, but he will allow himself to enjoy it. What is life without the little pleasures?

Now that it has been decided that he will crush her. It is time to decide how he will crush her. He can do it on his own. He has the power to. He hasn't used the call for support much yet, but what he already has is enough for him right now. The call for support makes him do what he can do, but he does it better and more powerfully. He was already more powerful than his enemies. Now that his shackles have been removed, he outclasses them by miles.

He would prefer to crush his enemies on his own. He can do it too. He is strong enough to do it. Unfortunately, he shouldn't. If he is to complete the public image that he started to build with that speech, then he mustn't acquire victory on his own. He can't go on to massacre the opposition on his own. It will be another Calamity of the child of the plane again.

He has to stick to the narrative. If he destroys his enemies with a group by his side, then it will be just a battle for victory, and it will show that those that are on his side will get that victory. Also, no one will be able to blame him alone for the calamity. He wasn't the one that instigated the fight, and he didn't kill everyone alone.

'I hate this. I have removed one shackle, but I am being bonded by another.' He thought to himself.

He hates to do things this way, but it is the logical option if he wants to create a favorable public image. The boost from his title broke the shackles of the suppression of the world fragment on him, but the need for a good image has shackled him again. Lady Amari was right. His power comes from the people, so he needs them to think favorably of him. But this need for good public opinion is binding him with

rules. He has the strength to do what he wants, but he can't do what he wants to do how he wants to do it.

"So, should I call everyone?" Salvini asked him.

He replied curtly. "Yes. Make it quick. I'll show you guys how to trample on your enemies."

"Sure thing, boss." She saluted and went to call his lieutenants.

He looked at his enemies as he waited. I think you should take a look at

"Smart move." He commented when he saw Lady Amari's new position.

Lady Amari is not much of a fighter, so she retreated deep within her army. She surrounded herself with layers and layers of people. He will have to go through them if he is to get to her. It is a smart move. The death of a leader will be demoralizing to the army, just like cutting off the head of a snake will make the snake nearly harmless and on its way to death.

To be fair, Lady Amari is not exactly a snake. She may be smart, but she is not as good a schemer as Salvini is. She knew secrets and some stuff about him, and she used it to plan, but she didn't plan for every outcome. She lacks the foresight that Salvini has and the wealth of information that he has.

Lady Amari is not the type to spend more than 90 hours creating some sheets of paper with different things written on them for different scenarios so that it will look like she can predict the outcome of a conversation and simultaneously use it to hide information about herself.

She lacks subterfuge in her plans and the creativity to create plans within plans. He picked her scheme apart and found nothing beneath it. She seems to be someone who really hates him. She doesn't even plan to gain anything by going against him. Her motive is pure, undiluted hatred. It was disappointing to him in a way but also refreshing. It is good to know that people like Salvini and the sage are rare.

Lady Amari is also looking at him and inspecting his army just as he is inspecting hers. Their eyes met across the distance. He grinned at her. His grin made her flinch and turn her eyes away. Even now, she is

still scheming. It is a pity that she is doing it poorly. He can see her putting things in place in the background despite looking like she is doing nothing. She knows his victory is set in stone, so she is trying to taint his victory.

It is all wrong. A good schemer will not be making schemes right now. All the schemes should have been made before this encounter. All the cards should have been played, and all the dominoes should have been set up. Things should be falling into place right now. But instead, she is trying to make the best of the current situation. It is all wrong because she shouldn't be scrambling for the best. It should be expected. It should be inevitable.

He knows what she is doing, but he doesn't care at this point. Her little scheme doesn't matter. The outcome is set. Her defeat is certain. She is only trying to dress it up nicely to make it look good. She is trying to rob him of a perfect victory.

As for him, victory is victory. He can decide to thwart her scheme, but the cost of trying to get a perfect victory is too much for him to care. A perfect victory is not worth it, so he won't bother with a perfect victory. He is not a picky person. An overwhelming victory will just have to do.

Chapter 712 Let Loose The Dogs Of War.

"We are all set." Salvini returned soon after.

All his lieutenants have surrounded him. Now would be a great time to embarrass him. His lieutenants turning on him in front of everyone will be quite the show. Fortunately, the oath will not allow that to happen. That kind of blatant betrayal cannot happen.

The oath has not clouded his judgment or given him false confidence. Their oath ensures false loyalty and nothing more. He is still on the lookout for a betrayal and has been doing so nonstop since they met him. He is highly suspicious, but he acted with the confidence of someone that can not be betrayed.

For now, they are on his side. His lieutenants came with their groups who would lead the other troops into battle. They number almost two million in number.

"Good." He said as he looked them over.

He began to address his side. "The battle will start soon."

He pointed at their enemies. "We are to face them. Tell me, what do you see?"

One of his lieutenants answered. "Enemies."

Many more gave their answers. "Obstacles." "Warriors."

Many answers were provided by his eager troops. Then silence returned when he raised his hand.

"You're all right. You just don't see what I see. I see the defeated. I see dead men walking. Their fate was sealed the moment they decided to stand against us. Their end is inevitable. They will be defeated."

His voice resounded with uttermost confidence. It ignited the confidence within all of them. They all already have a little confidence inside of them. It is the difference between the two armies. His soldiers are not here for a noble reason, nor are they fighting for a noble cause. They are fighting for victory, and they have that confidence within them that they will achieve it. So his words made their victory a matter of course. It also ignited that little confidence in them.

Their enemies, on the other hand, don't have any confidence at all. They are fighting against an overwhelming opponent, so they don't believe that they are going to win. They are full of fear and are hoping for a miracle.

He pointed at their enemies and said to his soldiers, "They will be defeated by you."

He let that sink in before he continued. "Why will they be defeated by you? Because you are fighting on my side. Because you are fighting on the side of victory. Victory is not a question here. Victory is certain for us. The question is, what kind of victory you will achieve."

"Will you break their flesh?" He asked them.

His soldiers roared in affirmation. "Yes." "I think you should take a look at

He asked again, "Will you break their bones?"

They roared, "Yes."

He roared too, "Will you cut them open and spill their guts?"

They roared their answer, "Yes."

"Will you take their broken bodies as your bounties?"

They went back and forth, roaring about how they will defeat their enemies. He fanned that ignited confidence into bloodlust. They all have confidence because they are on his side. Can they possibly lose? No. They know that, and their enemies know that. Now they just have to put in the work to claim the victory that they want.

"Follow me then, and I'll offer you their broken bodies as bounties. Will you join me in this feast of blood and flesh?" He asked them.

"Yes." They roared even louder.

Their roar resounded across the battlefield and sent chills down their enemy's spines. If those fools didn't know before that they made the wrong choice, now they know it for certain. Now they know that their defeat is certain. Fear began to creep out of the depths of their mind into their bodies.

Then Soverick pointed at them and ordered his army with a great shout, "Get them!!!"

He led by example by being the first to move. He flew slowly above his army instead of bolting straight for the enemy so that they could keep up with him. His lieutenants followed closely behind him while the rest of the soldiers took off running after them. They advanced like bloodthirsty beasts craving blood and flesh.

Soverick had fanned the flames of confidence into a craving for violence. They don't want just victory anymore. They want to break and toy with their enemies. They want to fight and have fun fighting. This battle will not be a fight. It will be a massacre. His soldiers are like the dogs of war. He has stoked their rage. Then he unleashed them on his enemies. He has let loose the dogs of war.

The battlefield became chaotic even before the two sides met. Lady Amari's side began to break up before the actual fighting started. The morale of her troops is very low, so the sight of their enemies matching on them in an imposing manner made deserters of many of them. As for Soverick's side, they began to fight among themselves. Lady Amari had planted betrayers on his side. They reared their head in hopes of disrupting the momentum of his side.

Even if he wins this battle, nothing will change the fact that his troops are not of one mind. His haters might say that it is his fault for not fostering cooperation among his soldiers and that he is not fit to lead. He doesn't care about that. He is leading a mob, not an army. A mob is not organized, but he will still lead them to victory.

He will show his haters what makes him fit to lead. He didn't turn back or address the chaos behind him. He continued moving forward toward their enemies to bring them down. His lieutenants followed him, and so did the bulk of his army.

They kept their eyes on him and followed him. He is their great leader that will lead them to victory. They will continue to rush forward if he is rushing forward. His army didn't stop despite the chaos. It continued to move forward, albeit with less momentum. But that is already enough for him.

Chapter 713 Victory By Mob Action.

The weak morale of his enemies broke even further when he got within a kilometer of them. A heavy gravitational field settled on their shoulders and brought them to their knees. The gravitational field covered more of his enemies the closer he got to them.

This initiative of involuntary submission started from their front lines and then extended back to the bulk of the army. So their enemies were kneeling down in waves the closer Soverick got to them. That is not a posture meant to be taken when you have an army running toward you and calling for blood.

The ones at the back that saw the soldiers in front of them kneeling down knew something bad had happened. No matter how talented someone is, fighting on their knees is a very bad idea. It is either they are doing it on purpose because of a stupid reason or because they are being compelled to do so, or they may be surrendering.

Whichever one it is, it is not a good thing for an army to kneel. So the ones at the back tried to run away, but the people behind them that are not aware of the changes boxed them in. The delay in running away doomed them. They should have run before the battle started. That's when they could because it is too late for them now.

Soverick got closer, and more of his enemies experienced what it felt like to have a force in the thousands of tonnes resting on their shoulders. It is not the weight of the world, so they were not crushed. It is just the weight of the very bad decision to oppose him. They were forced to kneel, and the wave of kneeling continued.

Things got worse for their enemies when Soverick's side got within 100 meters of them. That is the distance needed for ranged attacks because of the suppression of divine sense.

He ordered his eager soldiers, "Attack."

Ranged attacks flew from his soldiers toward the opposing side. It was carried out eagerly and in large quantities. Their enemies, on the other hand, didn't respond in kind. It seems that they are preoccupied with something else. They were on their knees, struggling to move. It looked as if they were not taking the battle seriously. They paid for their negligence soon enough. His soldier's spells and physical ranged attacks easily landed on them, which led to the mass decimation of his enemies.

He led his soldiers to destroy their enemies. He himself didn't do much. He just stayed ahead of his troops and prepped their enemies with his gravity field for the Slaughtering that occurred. It was indeed a slaughtering. A slaughter fest, if you will. They were on their knees as spells bombarded them. Those that luckily survived regained control of their bodies to move after Soverick passed them by, but they were too weak and too few to fight off the ravenous beast that followed behind him.

His promise was fulfilled. It was a feast of blood and flesh, with his side engorging themselves in violence. Now no one can blame this entire thing on him alone. He can even say he was simply going for a stroll, and he wouldn't be wrong about it. He didn't do anything noteworthy apart from his attack on Lady Amari.

He didn't kill her. Killing her will be too easy. She tried to kill herself, though. Unfortunately for her, gravity is sometimes called a bitch for a reason. A concentrated burden of a heavy dose of gravity made her unable to move an inch. He captured her and cut off parts of her body again and again after they healed. He didn't injure her too much. He damaged her just enough to keep her close to losing consciousness from the pain. Her brand didn't activate, so he could continue his ministrations of pain without interruption. I think you should take a look at

"What do you have to say for yourself?" He asked her after removing all four of her limbs and part of her torso.

She didn't flinch when he cut her with his blade, and she remained silent even now. She is lying on the ground with gravity pressing down on her. Her wounds aren't bleeding. Her body is like a structure made of puzzle pieces, so her injuries look like a portion of her was torn out. Those portions are restoring themselves piece by piece as she regenerates. That's how soul bodies work.

Her rate of regeneration is very fast. Arms and legs regrow in real-time. He didn't use any laws so that she would be able to regenerate quickly. It is so that he will be able to cut her again and again without waiting for too long. After all, he is not after her death. It is the best he can do in this situation. Things would have been better if he had his new forged artifact with him. She will surely scream when her consciousness is pierced and hijacked by an unliving thing.

Salvini came up beside him. She said to him. "She is tougher than she looks.

He grunted in reply. Their victory has not softened his stance towards her. He is still wary of her. Lady Amari was the one that responded to her presence.

"I know a secret of yours." She said to Salvini.

Salvini's eyes narrowed. "Is that so?"

She nodded. "It is related to him, isn't it?" She gestured with her head to Soverick.

Salvini folded her arms confidently. "I don't think I know what you're talking about."

She, in fact, knows what Lady Amari is talking about. She can't predict the future if it is related to Soverick, but she can predict her moods and reaction to some things. So she knows that it is a secret that she isn't worried about being divulged. She narrowed it down since it is related to Soverick. She had said it so many times, but Soverick didn't believe her. Maybe now he might believe it if someone else says it.

Chapter 714 End Of The Third Challenge.

Lady Amari scoffed. "You know what I am talking about. Get me released now, or I'll say it."

"Unfortunately for you, I cannot do that. You're the child of the plane's prisoner, so I cannot release you. I believe that you should be punished even harder for your offense against the child of the plane." Salvin said. Then she turned to Soverick. "I think you should up the pain somehow. She obviously isn't in too much pain, or she wouldn't be so chatty."

Soverick looked at Salvini with intense scrutiny for a while before answering. "Maybe later. I want to hear what she has to say."

He has been alternating his gaze between the two of them earlier. He knows that there is something going on here, and he would very much like to find out. It seems Salvini is trying to hide something from him. So he watched Salvini's reaction to his rejection intensely to clue him into what was going on.

Salvin shrugged. "Suit yourself."

Lady Amari smiled. "I know that you're pretending not to care. I will say your secret either way. You love the child of the plane."

Lady Amari can tell that Salvini is pretending, but she doesn't know what she is pretending about. So she told the secret that she knew and hoped to see something interesting.

Nothing happened. Salvin didn't change or react, and Soverick continued to look between the two of them, trying to decipher the hidden game that these two were playing on him. He knows that Lady Amari can see secrets. That doesn't mean she is speaking the truth or that she isn't trying to trick him. He

knows that she has tricked others with half-truths before, so he must take whatever she says with due vigilance.

He finally spoke, "You talk too much."

He returned to cutting her when he couldn't figure out what was going on. And no, he is not paranoid. He knows that something is wrong. He started feeling it as soon as the call for support was activated. The consciousness of the plane didn't tell him much, but it gave him enough to intuit that what he was doing would help the plane and also that he was in danger.

Unfortunately for him, he can't do anything with the little information he has, at least not with Salvini constantly stalking him and the arena spirits always aware of everything he is doing in the Arena. He doesn't know his enemies and his friends, so he has to be careful. For now, he will torture the leader of the rebellion against him.

He wasn't enjoying torturing her. In fact, he found it time-consuming, but he had to do it to serve as a warning to others. The entire plane is watching right now, and he wants them to know the consequence of acting against him. If they think his killing them is a sin, then they should prepare themselves for more because torture is not beyond him.

The third challenge ended on that note. Lady Amari didn't make a sound throughout the ordeal. He loped off her limbs even as his troops rounded up the last of her army. Her reaction to the treatment is commendable. She flinched whenever his blade cut into her thin, weak body, but she didn't cry. I think you should take a look at

She may be trying to undermine the severity of what she is going through, or she may be trying to show herself as unbreakable and unremorseful. He doesn't care. What matters is that others will ask themselves if they can go through what she is going through without crying.

The end of the third challenge was her salvation. The world around them greyed out and disappeared. The competitors were teleported against their will again. For a lot of people, the end of the competition couldn't have come sooner. Soverick was glad when it ended. He got the last key to create the vulnerability he needed to crack the core as soon as the 3rd challenge ended.

For others, the third challenge was too short. One of the people that groaned when the third challenge ended was Ghaster. Two bullies ganged up on him and prevented him from escaping. One of them had a cloud of phantom weapons that surrounded him. He couldn't escape, so he had to entertain them with physical violence.

You would expect that to be a bad thing, but it wasn't. They took turns beating him up, and he fought back with everything that he had except for his divine abilities. His bullies didn't use their divine abilities either. They wanted to let the fight last, so they challenged him to a brawl, and he accepted their challenge.

They fought for a long time. Then they became friends. Something about Ghaster's straightforward personality and his hatred for Soverick endeared them to him. They spent the rest of the time chatting until the third challenge ended. The end of the third challenge cut short their pleasurable discussion, so Ghaster complained as he was teleported away.

POV OF THE CO-ADMINISTRATORS.

The serpentine world god snorted and mocked, "It is about time your side finished. I thought I would be here forever."

"Your side was early by just a few hours. They were not that early." The first sage argued.

"Whatever. My point still stands. My side finished first while yours finished last."

It was the sage's turn to snort. "That doesn't prove that your side will win. It only proves that your side is lazy."

The two of them didn't look at each other as they threw jabs at one another. They have been doing that recently, and usually, the first sage wins their exchange. But victory went to the serpentine world god in this round of exchange. It is an undeniable point that the serpentine world god's side finished the 3rd challenge and has been ready for the 4th challenge for hours now. It is due to an advantage that they have over the battle sage monkeys.

Chapter 715 Unity And Strength.

The battle sage monkeys have just finished the third challenge, while the other side has finished for quite some time. It is because the other side was able to finish the second challenge quickly. The challenge for the last man standing didn't cause too much of a divide among them.

The normal competitors killed each other in a free for all, and the last one sacrificed themselves to their paragon. So the paragons became the last man standing without any effort. They were lazy about it, but they were also efficient.

Their society is United that way. They are a society with a strict and clearly defined hierarchy. Paragons always come first, and they always get the best. In turn, the paragons always protect the members of their society. It is the basic foundation of their society.

This sort of privileged stratification of society usually causes strife in some societies, but it works to unite them. Paragons are born special, and their divine ability works to unite their race, so their race is very united. Paragons also need their society to prosper. After all, the better their society is, the stronger paragons are. They are very similar to Soverick in that way. They both gain power from the people of their plane.

Battle sage monkeys, on the other hand, are not united. They must each fight for what they want or what they believe they deserve. Everything is up for grabs in their society. If you want something, then you must take it. Hierarchy is determined by strength.

Salvos thought he deserved the divine crown despite there being a child of the plane competing for it. He didn't give up. He even went to challenge the child of the plane. Salvos didn't let prestige and title stop him from trying to take what he wanted. Strength was to determine who deserved the divine crown.

Strength reigns supreme with the other side too. It is just that paragons are born special. Paragons will grow up to be strong, and non-paragons can never catch up to them. Paragons are like gods to the normal vipers. They are respected, feared, and worshipped.

The arrangement of social hierarchy ensures that there is no dissent in their society. There is conflict, but it is quickly resolved by the will of the people. It can be said that paragons are the ideals of the common people given life. So they are a united people. The common people will certainly not fight their paragons. They also won't win even if they do.

Most conflict in their society is between paragons. Paragons don't compete with normal people. They compete among themselves. Their conflict is also resolved quickly with a fight to the death. The weaker paragon is killed and absorbed by the stronger paragon.

All the power in the society is fixed. It is because their population is finite. The lesser the number of paragons, the stronger each paragon is. They don't have to spread the power of their society too much. So it is not a good thing that there are just nine paragons among the 3 million Vipers that qualified for the 4th challenge. It means that each paragon will have an average of 300 thousand normal people as their anchors. I think you should take a look at

That is not a lot for a paragon to have in this age and time. That kind of number would have been considered a bit much in the era of transcendents when paragons were still few in number. But the Vipers have swelled in quantity and quality in their plane since that era. Things would have been worse for the battle sage monkeys if the first sage had not placed a limit on the number of people that could participate in the fourth challenge.

If the slot for participation were open and unlimited, the paragons would have called for everyone that met their requirements. They have a large population because they don't send their transcendents to the tower of heaven for compulsory participation.

Viper paragons cherish the lives of their people. Every single one of them is important to the paragons. Their people are the foundation of their powers, so they encourage reproduction, not culling like battle sage monkeys do.

So the Viper race is very large, and yet the paragons have tight control over them. They can have 100 million participants in the competition instead of a mere 3 million if only they are allowed to. They would have won the competition hands down that way. Even so, the unity they have is admirable. It is nothing to scoff at. They wouldn't try to sabotage their paragons, whose duty is to protect them.

Meanwhile, battle sage monkeys fight amongst themselves all the time. They will even scheme and pick fights with the protector of the plane. Only the racial council can order the forces of the plane around. They would have surely behaved better and helped Soverick instead of antagonizing him if the first sage had told them, but the sage wasn't allowed to do that.

The sage wasn't even allowed to tell the inhabitants of the Virut plane about the enemy that they would be fighting in the competition. That would have surely spurred the entire plane into action. But he couldn't, so the initial interest in the competition was very low.

Not many thought much of the competition. Only those that cared about the plot of land around the tower of trials cared about the competition. The rich and powerful combatants of the plane surely don't care about it. They have Origin energy in their cities, so they would rather cultivate than fight for something they don't need.

The racial council had tried to woo the people of the Virut plane with all sorts of perks so that they would participate in the competition. It is the major reason why they decided to endorse the Unified Skill Index as a substitute for the trial of heaven.

The racial council even made it so that there won't be any death in the competition. They made it a safe alternative to the trial of heaven. It was meant to make people less afraid so that they will attend the competition and fight for the battle sage monkeys.

Chapter 716 The Bloodline Of The Eye Of The Sage Strikes Again.

Sensitive individuals should have gleaned enough by then that the competition is very important to the racial council. Why would they change an ancient tradition of their race for a simple competition? Unfortunately, it still wasn't enough. If Soverick's intention to attend the competition wasn't announced, then the number of participants wouldn't have been up to a million at all. Soverick's notoriety and popularity drew the largest number of participants to the competition.

Soverick's very attendance was needed to bring in people. Even then, they came to gang up on him and beat him up, not to support him like the Vipers supported their paragons. It all culminated in that final battle of the 3rd challenge. The serpentine world god also didn't tell his people about who their enemies would be or the purpose of the competition, but he didn't need to. He called the competition a training session, and Vipers flocked to attend just for the honor of it.

The first sage thought back to the ending of the third challenge, and he couldn't help but sigh. "It all ended on a nice note. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome. I have to thank Salvini somehow. She did the best with what she had."

That ending is the best he could have gotten. The vipers didn't fight each other at all. The paragons called for support, and the vipers around them rallied to their cause. Then they systematically took down the golems. The paragons fought amongst themselves for the divine crown and the other crowns. Then they distributed the rest to their most noteworthy subordinates. It was that simple for them.

They spent the rest of the time just waiting while the battle sage monkeys were at each other's throats. Still, that outcome is the best he can get. Soverick has shown himself to be strong, and he has united a bulk of the battle sage monkeys to his cause. He didn't antagonize everyone despite being capable of doing so. He has proven his worth as a leader.

Now they know that no matter what their opinion of him is, he will give them victory when it matters. It will matter soon because nothing short of unity will do if they are to defeat the Vipers. Salvini was instrumental in the development of this outcome. She moved on her own and allowed everything to flow nicely.

Her success in preventing Soverick and Salvos from killing each other over and over again impressed him. And he didn't even order her to do so. She didn't know anything about his planning and scheming for this entire competition, but she moved in line with his will.

She gathered lieutenants for Soverick. That wasn't to help him, as she stated. It is to strengthen the battle sage monkeys by creating more combatants with the power level of Emperors. It is obvious that Soverick doesn't need their help. He could have resolved the conflict all on his own, so he wouldn't have asked people to be his subordinates. That means 100 positions for Emperors would have gone to waste.

She sage smiled. "That makes two of my lineage that has had a hand in Soverick's fate."

The child of the sages created the divine dungeon. The child of the sage also provided information about the god's arrangements of troops, the layout of the divine dungeon, and the rules of its operation. Those enabled Soverick to become the child of the plane. Now Salvini ensured that Soverick used the boost from his title within the competition.

If Soverick was on his own, then he might have targeted Amari right from the start. He would have considered cutting off the head of the serpent and rooting out the problem before it started. It would have certainly delayed his acquisition of the divine crown, which would have led to his loss. I think you should take a look at

Salvos would have acquired the divine crown if Soverick had been late to it. But Salvini intervened. She suggested an alternative that Soverick took. He got the divine crown and also used the Call For Support. It is killing two birds with one stone.

It was not the first time that she had done something so efficiently in the competition, and neither was it needed. But the sage still found it amusing how her mind works. He finds it especially funny how she managed to distract Soverick while doing it. She reminds him of himself. No matter how careful or suspicious someone is of the first sage, they will still fall into his trap. It is simply inevitable.

Salvini's knowledge of the situation and her actions to amend them is not a breach of the rules that he made with the serpentine world god. He didn't tell her anything or hint at anything. She found out on her own due to her bloodline. There is no rule against the use of divine abilities.

She may not know the full extent of the situation since it involves world gods, but she knows that they will fight Vipers in the fourth challenge, so she worked towards conserving their strength and unifying them against a common enemy.

Of course, she probably has her own agenda. Those of the first sage's bloodline are unpredictable like that. You can't know their true aim because there is no true aim. They have multiple things that they want to achieve and multiple intertwined plans to achieve them. So you can't evade them.

He sobered up after his short moment of amusement. He watched as some of the competitors that were killed in the third challenge were healed and sent back to the plane, while some were healed and sent to the fourth challenge.

"It is all coming together." He said to himself.

His little plans and arrangements will culminate in the 4th challenge. The format of the third challenge was largely influenced by him. The arrangements he made required a strong person who would get the crown and a group of others who would protect them.

If they don't band together and cooperate, then the golems will get them, or the others will chase them around for the crown. The Lieutenant system provided a means for this cooperation. It is a sort of preparation for the fourth challenge. You could call it a practice in leadership and followership.

Chapter 717 All For The Good Of The Plane.

Everything since the beginning of the competition was for the fourth challenge. The announcement of feats in the first challenge made people know the achievements of the strong.

The visible crowns that the designated kings had during the first challenge were a subtle recommendation by the first sage. It tells the competitors who he believed to be strong. It is all so that the competitors will be able to make an informed decision about who to follow. When there is an undisputable icon, the people can use it as a rallying point and be united.

A large portion of that preparation would have been destroyed by Soverick's and Salvos' conflict. A conflict between the two of them could have spiraled out of control. The consequences within the third challenge are trivia as to how it will affect their cooperation during the fourth challenge.

It would have all culminated in a disaster for the fourth challenge. The battle sage monkeys will be divided like never before. Their chances of victory will also fall below 50% if they also try to undermine each other during the fourth challenge.

The sage has to admit that this happened because he underestimated Soverick. He didn't focus on Soverick right from the start. He had to have several options available since he couldn't predict Soverick's actions.

Soverick was coerced into participating in the competition mainly to draw more competitors from the battle sage monkeys and to crack the core of the Arenas. It was until he showed his worth that the sage realized that he was a better option as the leader.

"Speaking of unpredictability. That Soverick is a handful." The sage muttered to himself.

There are a lot of plans that the sage put in place. This competition has many purposes. One of them is to get rid of Soverick. It is one of the plans that the first sage had for Soverick before he realized Soverick's worth. The first sage hasn't changed his mind, though. He has stopped underestimating Soverick, but he still wants to replace him as the child of the plane.

Lady Amari is not the only one seeking to remove him. Everyone that knows how to take the title from Soverick has entertained the thought several times, and no one knows better than the first sage on how to remove the connection between Soverick and the plane and graft it to another host. Salvini is not his enemy. She just looks like one because she is fulfilling his will.

Soverick might be conscious of the danger he is in or oblivious to it. It doesn't matter since he can't do anything about it. He had already lost the moment he took that brand upon himself and connected to the pillar that brought him into the competition. I think you should take a look at

Soverick was very eager to participate in the competition. He wanted to gaze upon the law of Order of the sage. The first sage was also eager to see him participate in the competition for many reasons. So they don't owe each other anything. The sage can take the title since it was his descendant that gave it to Soverick in the first place.

The only thing that would have saved Soverick is if he didn't activate the ability of the child of the plane within the world fragment. It would have been difficult for his connection to be removed then. But Salvini made sure that he used it. She played the part of the helper and villainess at the same time. Soverick was surrounded on all sides by enemies. He couldn't even trust his allies. The only thing that he could trust was his strength. It pushed Soverick to activate the boost from his title.

Soverick brought his connection with the plane into the arena when he called for support. Then he went on to crack the core of the arena, thereby creating a connection between himself and the core. Now the first sage is certain of success. The next step is finding the person who he will make the next child of the plane.

The plan wasn't sure to work. It is a method to remove the title of the child of the plane without killing the current holder. It has never been done before. The best method to take the title is to kill Soverick while he is in his strengthened state after calling for support. But the first sage swore an Oath that made Soverick feel safe enough to attend the competition. So the first sage had to find another way to take the title from him.

The sage promised that no harm would come to Soverick from him or the other world gods during the competition. So he can't harm Soverick outright, but there are workarounds to that promise. For one, Soverick can bring harm to himself by creating a connection between himself and the core of a world fragment.

That shouldn't normally happen unless Soverick goes out of his way to crack the core of an arena. Then he might have to leave his title behind if he is somehow killed during the competition. That will be difficult to achieve, but the sage and descendants can surely find a way.

The sage also promised that the racial council would try its best to protect him as long as he remained the child of the plane. So Soverick might find himself killed when he has outgrown his usefulness. Then

the connection will be given to a proper sage with the foresight to use it. Soverick's end is inevitable because he attended this competition.

The sage thought about it and decided to go through with his plan for Soverick. "With Soverick gone, the era of the battle sage will dawn again."

The first sage doesn't hate Soverick, just as he doesn't like Soverick either. He is not aiming for Soverick's end because of a vendetta or hatred. He is only concerned about the welfare of the plane, not Soverick. He cares about the plane, so he will do what's best for the plane regardless of Soverick's feeling about it.

Chapter 718 Two For The Price Of One.

Soverick has shown himself to be talented. But it is someone of his lineage who has the best of the plane at heart that should be the child of the plane. The first sage cares about the plane, so his descendants also care about the plane. They can be trusted, unlike Soverick.

The ability of foresight will also make the best use of the title. It will be like the days of old when he was the child of the plane. His descendants will bring glory to the plane again. For now, things will go according to plan. He just needs to encourage Soverick to continue now that he has gotten access to the core of the arena.

SOVERICK POV

The third challenge ended with him in possession of the divine crown. The world and everyone entered a stasis while the world spirits prepared the stage for the final challenge. Meanwhile, the divine crown created a key through the brand of its wielder. That key traveled to the core and created a vulnerability in the defense of the core as it was accepted. He punched through that vulnerability and gained access to the core.

"Finally." He said in excitement.

He can hardly wait to get his metaphorical hands on the loot that he has been after all along. He had to jump through hoops for it. It is finally his, so he is very excited.

His mind entered the core immediately, and he found himself within a white world. This time the world is not empty. It doesn't have the eye of the first sage, either. It does have what he wants. What he wants are multiple threads of different colors meshed together to form fabrics.

These fabrics are in multidimensional layers. They constitute the space-time continuum of the white world. It is how white light is actually made of varying bands of light, which leads to the creation of different colors after being separated. The fabrics are the true wealth of the core. It is what he has been craving for.

The core also gained access to his mind through the channel he created. The arena spirit can use that opportunity to attack his mind, but it left him alone without disturbing his mind. It continued to hover around the white space like an angry presence.

The core is the spirit, and the spirit is the core. So in a way, he has gained access to the arena spirit. It is understandable that it is unhappy with him. He ignored the moody spirit. He is not afraid of a mind attack. The sage promised him protection. He used his connection to the arena spirit of 28 to access its connections with the other cores in order to gain their wealth of information.

He has been feeding on the echoes of the law of Order of the first sage. Now, it is time to feast on the real deal. His exploration of the law matrix can be likened to his examining the footprint of a giant for information about the giant. Sure, he can make inferences about height and weight, including race, but it can't compare to seeing the truth with his own eyes, even if it is only a tiny corner of the truth.

The cores also contain information about the entire competition, including guidelines and time table. They are connected to each other and work together based on the instructions to create the arenas. Then he found some other cores that are totally different from the ones belonging to the first sage. He recognized their different make and the law of Order that made them. That made him realize their origin. I think you should take a look at

"This must have been made by that other world god. That means that the sage and this world god are responsible for the arenas that hold the competition." He thought in understanding.

He felt slight resistance from the cores from the other side of the competition when he tried to access them. They don't know him and have no reason to give him access to their cores. The cores that the serpentine world god made refused to share information with him.

He is a stranger to them. So he flashed the law of Order that he took from the rank 10 monster he defeated in the first challenge. Resistance fell away, and they gave him access to their cores immediately. That pure law that he took opened the door to the cores without the need for keys or vulnerabilities.

Now he has access to two different laws of order instead of two. He came for one law of order but he is getting two. He didn't complain at all. He plunged greedily into their depths and soaked up information as fast as his mind could transmit it.

The laws of order are massive. They are the foundation of a world after all. He will need at least an Origin Cycle for him to get everything about a single one of them even with the help of Legion-7. That's the lowest estimate. He doesn't have that much time. So he better make use of what he can now.

"Is this real?" He questioned himself when the reality of the situation came crashing into him, along with the data he was imbibing.

He should be engorging himself on the core instructions, but he was distracted by something he saw. He has gained access to various information and data that the world fragments collected on every competitor, but that is not as significant as the knowledge that the battle sage monkeys are in a competition with another race.

The full information of the fourth challenge entered his mind as the world fragments containing the battle sage monkeys joined with those containing the Vipers. He became informed about the format of the last challenge.

"So this was why he wanted me here." He exclaimed.

He got information about their opponents too. He found out about their total number and the number of paragons they have. He wasn't surprised about the existence of Paragons. He knows about them. In fact, one of Legion's clones is a paragon for another race. So the cheat-like ability of the paragons didn't surprise him.

Chapter 719 [Bonus] Another Incentive.

"So what do you think?" The first sage asked him.

He didn't flinch due to the sudden appearance of the eye within the space of the core. He expected the first sage to come once he got access to it. Their meeting always happens when he has successfully cracked a puzzle. First, it was the mystery of the cards, then the time he cracked the law matrix of his arena, and now.

"I know you had an ulterior motive for this competition, but I am still shocked by the implications. You asked me to win the competition. Doing that will make me offend this other world god. Please tell me this competition is not serious and that the other world god is easygoing." Soverick asked.

The first sage didn't answer. He doesn't have anything to say to Soverick's question, and he doesn't think the question is worthy enough for an answer from him.

Soverick sighed in resignation. Everything he knows points to the seriousness of this competition. This competition involves about 100 world fragments joined together to stage a battle between two different races. World fragments are very expensive. Origin gods will kill to have one, and yet, 100 of them were created for the sole purpose of this competition.

World gods can make world fragments. But surely, it can't be that easy to make 100. Two world gods won't spend that much time and resources on a baseless competition. Millions of participants were then transported to the prepared arenas. The two different races that are competing are also sworn enemies. Battle sage monkeys have even managed to completely eliminate the Vipers from the Virut plane.

As if the previous bitterness between the two races is not enough, they have also involved their child of the plane and their paragons. The conflict involves world gods, and it is being broadcasted on both planes for all their inhabitants to see. World gods are powerful, but there's no way they did all of this on a whim or for the fun of it. They are not that bored. He knows all of these, but he was hoping he was wrong about his conclusion. He was hoping that this competition would not be too serious. The first Sage's silence dashed all of his hope.

"Alright. That's a foolish question, I suppose. Let me make another stupid request. Please tell me that there's no stake in this."

The eye chuckled at him. "You know better than that, Soverick Ghastorix."

"Damn it." He swore.

Yes, he knows better than that. If the situation is serious, then there must be stakes. But he can also hope. He has to hope there are no stakes because any stake that involves the interest of world gods cannot be simple. Even the smallest stake, which is respect and bragging rights, is not simple considering that they are world gods of two different races. I think you should take a look at

The outcome of this competition will shame one race or another. That is an entire race and an entire plane being disgraced. He wished he had gotten involved in it at all. World gods are terrifying enemies. And he will make a world god his enemy no matter the outcome of the competition. He will have offended the other world god if he wins. Worse still, he will offend the first sage if he losses.

Soverick groaned. Then he asked, "Please tell me you didn't bet using me as a stake or with anything related to me."

The first sage replied, "You can be certain that I did not do that."

Soverick felt relief. It is a bad thing to act against the interest of a world god. It is a worse thing to be one of the items that are at stake. But now that he is sure that he is not part of the stakes, he wants to distance himself from the competition. He can't explain his situation to the other world god. The only one he can convince is the first sage.

So he said, "Your plan to lead me by the nose to fight for you has failed. I am sure you are not surprised. You probably planned for it too. So what is it that you will offer me to fight for you now? Will it be a boon or threat?" He asked the first sage.

The deal was that he would participate in the competition for the support of the racial council and that he would get to ask the world god for one thing if he won. He has participated in the competition and will get the support of the racial council as promised. Winning the competition is another thing entirely. Winning it is also offending a world god. One wish is not enough for him now. He would prefer if the first sage said he doesn't need to win anymore.

The first sage replied. "You are right. I expected it. I will offer you another request to encourage you to win this competition."

The sage didn't say he didn't need to win anymore. The sage upped the ante. The previous encouragement was the bait of knowledge. Soverick got a taste of it during their first meeting. He couldn't get a lot of that white space back then, but what he got was already valuable. It was when he entered the world fragment that made this arena that he realized the immense opportunity that he had been given. He first had to crack the law matrix, then the core, to regain access to the white space. The sage estimated that he would gain access to it after the fourth challenge.

The difficulty of the core was made that way. It was not to be impossible to crack within the period of the challenge, or Soverick won't try at all. It was supposed to be within his reach, so he will continue to try everything possible to gain access to it. Winning all of the challenges would have granted him access to the core eventually, but Soverick expedited the process by repurposing someone's consciousness as a means to attack the core.

Now Soverick has gotten what he wants, and he doesn't see the need to offend a world god just to win. The sage has to encourage him with something else for him to win the challenge. It is another incentive to win.

Chapter 720 Legion-7'S Appetite For Laws.

Soverick considered the reward. He is honestly swayed. A request from a world god is very powerful. The opportunity to make more requests is a very tempting offer.

"Make it three requests, and you've got yourself a deal," Soverick demanded more.

The sage refused to budge. "It is just two and no more."

"Come on. The requests aren't even compulsory. It is not like you have to do whatever I ask. You get to decide if you want to do it. So make it three requests."

"It is already a fortune to ask a world god for something. You can use it to ask for wealth or Authority in the racial council. It is up to you. You don't get more than two wishes from me."

He plans to have Soverick killed during or after the competition, so it might not matter how many requests he gives him since he wouldn't be able to use it, but the sage won't do that. Things might not work out, and he doesn't want to test fate. He would rather prepare for both eventualities and not shoot himself in the foot. This is why he doesn't lose. He always prepared for his own failure.

"Alright. Two requests. Can I request that you protect me from the other world god?" Soverick asked.

"You don't need to do that. It will be a waste of your request. I already promised you that the racial council would do everything that it could to protect you. What could be better than that?"

The sage discouraged Soverick from making the request. If Soverick makes the request, then the sage will be forced to tell him that his days are already numbered. Soverick is already doomed the moment that he took the raw law of order of the serpentine world god into himself in the first challenge. He was already informed that the law of order of a world god is part of their existence, but he didn't realize the full implications.

A world god is immortal as long as their law of order exists. That means that they can resurrect from anything that they create. Origin gods need their original essence and soul fragments to resurrect, but all a world god needs is a piece of paper that they made.

It will take a lot of time, and they need a lot of energy to rebuild their world, but it is possible. Soverick didn't swallow a piece of paper that a world god made. He did more than that, so he has it coming for him. He will surely die.

There's nothing the sage can do to protect him apart from Soverick giving up the law of order. If Soverick makes that request, then the sage has to tell him about it. As long as Soverick remains ignorant and the competition is still going on, then the sage can keep what he knows to himself.

Soverick nodded. "I'll keep my requests to myself for now. I should wait to win until I make requests. How do I reach you when I am ready?" I think you should take a look at

"You can draw my attention by pinging my law of order. I will be able to hear it from anywhere in the law matrix of the void universe." The sage replied.

"Okay. I'll call you when I have made up my mind. Wish me luck for the last challenge."

"Good luck." The sage said and disappeared.

Soverick turned his attention to the law of order in the core. It is like the gene code of the first sage. The things that he can do and he is doing with it have never been done before. To witness such a boon so clearly is a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Even an immortal will cherish it. Origin gods will kill for this opportunity to see how the laws of the universe can be fused into one supreme law. This Supreme law is strong enough to become independent of the law matrix and carve out a section of it for itself. This law is the foundation of a world. It is also a solution to a lot of problems.

One of the problems that it will fix is the fusion of Soverick's laws. Unlike the bloodline of the first sage, which is based on only the law of fate, his own divine ability is based on Space, Time, Causality, and the basic laws of the world. These four basic groups enabled his eyes to be much more versatile than that of the first sage, as can be seen from his skill set. It also means that becoming a titan of law will be very difficult for him.

The immense task of fusing his laws is an undertaking that can get him killed. The first sage knows his eyes and some of what they can do. He also knows how difficult it will be to fuse it. That's why he chose his law of order to bait him. The two of them are compatible since they are of the same race with ocular powers.

The little piece of the law of the order he got from the first meeting helped him to finish his skillset before the competition. If he gets enough of it, then it might help him to fuse all his laws into one.

As for that of the serpentine world god, Legion-7 is guzzling it as fast as he can. Legion-7 and the law of order of the serpentine world god are very compatible. Legion-7 is also an expert on devouring and assimilating laws, so he is making faster progress than Soverick.

The two of them are not the only ones that will benefit from the laws of order. Every Legion will benefit from it. They all know whatever one of them knows. The knowledge that he and Legion-7 acquire will help every one of them to become titans of law safely and eventually become Sovereigns.

So he should be satisfied with what he already has. But he is greedy for more.