

GREED 791

Chapter 791 Clash Of Assurances.

The golden monkey appeared in a world of whiteness. The phantom of a titanic eldritch octopus stood above him with one of its tentacles anchored into the golden monkey. It indicates that he is currently connected to Legion-7. He is not alone. He thinks it is assuring. But the first sage had other thoughts.

"You are an abomination."

That's the first thing the sage said. The first sage felt the latest Soverick die. He saw the title of child of the plane shift and attach to Salvini again. He sent out people to the last location where he sensed Soverick and they found a dead broken body.

Someone with a soul body shouldn't leave behind a body and even if they did, their body shouldn't rot in the short amount of time since the death. But here is another Soverick in another location within the plane. As for the previous body, it has decayed beyond the point of recognition.

Soverick rolled his eyes at the sage, "Why, thank you. Now, enough of the compliments. Let's get back to business. And don't ask me to prove myself again."

The fact that he managed to make a world God flustered did not improve his mood at all. He also doesn't like the sage. The sage is responsible for him dying twice in a roll. His opinion of the sage is at an all-time low.

"What do you want to give up your title and to maintain the facade of your death forever?" The sage asked with a very severe and cold tone.

He went on a tirade, "I want compensation for my unjust treatment. You failed to protect me like you said you would. I want reparations for the emotional and mental damage I have gone through. I also want it to account for the recent traumatic experience that you made me go through just to prove myself. If you can't trust me, who will ever trust me now after you ruined my good name and made my death a laughable matter?"

"Enough!" The first sage interrupted. "Am I to assume that this compensation will be different from the two requests that I owe you?"

"Yes." He replied without hesitation.

The sage stayed silent for a while. The single eye stared down at the golden monkey while the golden monkey glared back.

"Fair enough." The sage agreed.

Soverick also nodded. He knows that his death was actually planned by the sage. The sage knows that he knows that too. He is certain of this not because of the false news about his death but because he thinks very highly of the sage. The sage is capable of protecting him if the sage wanted to. He died because the sage didn't want him to live. The false news can be explained away with an excuse but his death is proof that the sage wanted him dead.

Some might think it is incredibly foolish to now show that he is alive and well, and even go further as to negotiate with the one that wants him dead and took advantage of it. It is not foolish if you are capable of killing yourself and coming back from it. Even that world god that wants you dead will think you are an abomination after seeing what resurrected you.

Even so, he was delicate about it. He hasn't accused the sage of murdering him and he doesn't need to. They are civilized people. The sage could have brushed him off and ignored him if he thought nothing of him but the sage has never thought less of Soverick. That's why they are even talking and negotiating.

The sage knows that Soverick has great potential and should never be underestimated. He knows that he should expect the unexpected from Soverick and that was before he thought Soverick was a single entity. Now he knows that there is more to Soverick figuratively and literally. He can't brush Soverick off and neither can he kill him now for good so he wants to appease him. Or at least, pretend to appease him.

The sage asked him. "So what would you like as compensation?"

He answered. "I want a world fragment with your law of order inside it. I wasn't done with it the last time. It is not easy to envision an entire world in my mind."

"You mean this world?" The sage asked and made the phantom of a large world appear.

Soverick could see some details about the world. The world is very large. It is spherical and there are landmasses created in the shape of concentric circles around an island at the very center. Living things live on the land masses and in the water that separates them. There is a large tower that reaches the sky on the island at the center of the world.

The whole thing looks like an eye when viewed from above so it looks like the sage summoned the phantom a gigantic eye into his mind space. The phantom of Legion-7 looks like a dwarf to the phantom of the world. That world is the assurance of the first sage just as Legion-7 is the assurance for Soverick. But Legion-7 is obviously lacking.

Soverick nodded and said in affirmation, "Yes, that world."

"Then no."

The sage rejected his request and made the phantom of the world disappear.

Soverick complained. "Why not?"

The first sage replied, "I have realized that I made a mistake to underestimate you. Let me tell you that it was supposed to be impossible for me to underestimate you but you proved me wrong. I have realized that by underestimating you, I have made a fool out of myself in exposing my law of order to you. I did not expect much to come out of you seeing it but I know now that I was wrong. I was very wrong. I will not make that mistake again and I will not expose my law of order to you any longer."

The first sage declared solemnly, "It shall never happen again."

The mind space quaked and reverberated with that declaration.

Chapter 792 The Matter Of Compensation.

The sage hasn't been his usual jovial self since this little problem with Soverick surfaced. He is usually playful with Soverick because he always had plans and events move according to his predictions. Things moved according to his Will and people behaved according to his whim so he is always confident and very difficult to shock. But he has been shocked pretty recently.

The things he has seen have boggled his mind. The octopus monstrosity that is the foundation of Soverick's existence is like nothing he has ever seen. It reminds him. He can't believe that such a thing is wearing the a prominent battle sage monkey as a disguise and he didn't know all along. He has also learned his lesson so he won't make the same mistake again.

They say hindsight is perfect. The sage can say now with uttermost certainty that revealing his law of order to Soverick was foolish. He didn't know that it was foolish back then. He knew the law of order would entice Soverick but he thought that it would be too big for Soverick to take a meaningful bite out of it.

His law of order was supposed to be a big bait that Soverick will break his teeth on. It turned out that Soverick has very monstrous teeth. So he was wrong about that. He can't change the past. But he can learn from it. So no, he will not be fulfilling Soverick's request to see more of his law of order.

Soverick didn't give up. "Come on. But I didn't even see up to 1% of it. What's there to fear?"

"That doesn't help your case and nothing can change my mind." The sage refused to budge.

"Fine," Soverick grumbled. "I want a realm heart then."

This time the sage laughed. Some of his power began to leak out of him. The mind space began to shake. Soverick became pressured and compressed by a heavy force. It pressed into him from every direction.

The sage spoke with concealed anger so his voice remained calm, "Who do you think you are? What do you think you're worth? Do you think yourself worthy of the heart of a world? Even an origin God is not worthy of a realm heart. Do not disrespect me or my intelligence."

Soverick cowered beneath the might of the world god. He was forced to. He has no choice in the matter. He is outclassed in the strength of Will. He realized that he could die again or his mind could become fractured. He could have Legion-7 pull him out from the Sage's mind space but he endured it.

"I am a sage." He managed to say.

The first sage paused his tirade when he heard what he said.

"You also promised to protect me."

That made the first sage begin to calm down. He said to Soverick, "You have made a good point. But that doesn't change my mind. You are not worth the heart of a world."

"We can't go anywhere if you keep shutting down my offers." Soverick maintained. "You have to meet me halfway here."

The eye narrowed at him. The sage said, "You are up to something. I can feel it but I can't tell. What are you scheming?"

"Hey." Soverick said with a maligned tone, "I was the one that died here remember? I was in my forge doing my thing in peace. You were the one that came to me and convinced me to participate in the competition. I am the victim here."

His speech did nothing in reducing the Sage's suspicion of him. If anything, the sage became even more suspicious. But he decided to move the negotiation along.

"I will meet you halfway. You're not worth a world heart but you're worth the fragment of a world heart. I shall give you a world spark. It is very important for it to be part of the heart of a world. You should be satisfied with it."

Soverick frowned as he spoke. "Do you take me for a fool? Do you think I am an ignorant fool? A world spark is the most useless fragment. I don't want it. Give me something better."

The sage snorted. "You won't get anything better. That's the best that I can do for you."

"Is this how you're going to be when I make my requests?"

"This is not a request. You said so yourself, this is different from a request. What will you ask for your requests if I am already giving you the heart of a world for simple compensation? You are weak. Your life and your honor are not worth the heart of a world."

Soverick yelled, "This is not a simple compensation. I died and you failed your oath."

He didn't dispute the fact that he is weak. The sage is also not wrong about him not being worthy of a realm heart.

The sage yelled back, "I didn't fail my oath. I promised that the racial council will protect you as long as you were the child of the plane. I tried my best but I couldn't protect you from yourself. You were the one that tried to digest the law of order of a world god. You killed yourself."

Soverick threw his hands up. "If you say so."

He did not mention that the sage was the one that encouraged him to pick up threads because that will just be a childish retort. He was the one that read meaning into what the sage said. The sage never said he should take the law of order of the serpentine world god. So in a way, he was suicidal and the sage never promised to protect him from himself.

"Does that mean I can ask for a world heart when I make my requests?" He asked hopefully.

The sage struck down his hopes. "I make no promises."

"Let's finish the matter of my compensation first. I am not satisfied with the world spark. I want information."

The sage asked dourly, "What information do you want?"

"Don't worry. It's something simple. It is practically common knowledge so it is not some priceless information."

The sage refused. "Every piece of knowledge that you don't know can be priceless information. What determines if it is priceless to you or not?"

Chapter 793 Oath Of Assurance.

He ignored the Sage's comment and asked his question. "What does the realm lord's project have to do with the era of conquest?"

The question made the sage pause. He asked, "You know about the realm lord's project?"

Soverick replied. "I know he has a project but I don't know what it is or what it is about. Hence my question."

He and Legion know that the realm lord is preparing something very important that may or may not be related to the era of conquest. Legion-1 has been doing some work for the realm lord. That's how Soverick was able to recognize that the pillar that transported him to the competition arena had something to do with the realm lord.

Legion-1 has seen a lot of tools like that. The realm lord has been busy but the things he is working on don't seem related to the era of conquest as far as Legion knows. So Legion wants to know how they are related so that they can fully utilize the knowledge that Legion-1 has acquired. Hence his question to the first sage. After all, if anyone is to know, it is highly probable that the first sage does.

"I see. The fact that you already know he has a project is impressive enough. Most world gods only know that he has a project and what it is about but we don't know what it is." The sage eyed him strangely and asked, "How is your question common knowledge?"

Soverick defended shamelessly, "Every world god knows about his project so it is common knowledge."

The sage refused. "Only world gods know it. You're not a world God and you don't know it. Everyone else doesn't know it. It is not common knowledge because world gods know about it. It is not common knowledge by any definition at all."

"Are you going to answer the question or not? I didn't die again to prove myself for you to withhold common knowledge from me."

He ignored the topic of whether his question is priceless or not, common knowledge or not because the sage is technically right. So he won't engage in the argument because he will lose it.

The Sage sighed. "Fine. I'll answer it. But how can I be sure that you will not cause any trouble for the plane."

That's what they are negotiating about. Soverick asked for compensation for his death. What will happen if he doesn't get his compensation? He can't target the sage so he must target something important to the sage. He has proven that trying to eliminate him won't work. He is as difficult to kill as an origin god and even worse is that he is within the plane where the sage can't reach him.

Soverick has proven himself to be a worthy threat to the sage's plans. He has also proven himself not to be ignorant about the world. He knows what a world spark is and he also knows about the realm lord's project. The sage was hoping to wow him with the useless fragment of a world heart but Soverick wasn't fooled.

Soverick also knows that the knowledge of his question is common knowledge among world gods. If he knows that, then it is likely that he also knows that the performance of the plane during the era of conquest is important to the sage. In a way, Soverick has shown that knows where to hit the sage.

Power without wisdom will be wasted. But Power with Wisdom makes for a troublesome enemy. Soverick has shown his power and wisdom to the sage. The sage has taken him seriously because of it. That is why the sage is even bothering to negotiate with him. That also means that the sage must have the assurance that he won't try and get revenge on the plane after they are done.

"I can swear an oath but do you really want me to? We both know how easy to twist words to one's advantage. Besides, we know each other well. We are not strangers at this point. You should just trust me." Soverick said.

The sage was not deterred. He insisted, "Just do it."

"But I still have another request after you answer my question."

The tone of the sage became cold. "You still want more. What else do you want? I am warning you now not to take me lightly."

"Don't worry, it is just a small thing. I want to be able to fight and maybe kill Salvini to wash away the stain on my name. It shouldn't matter if you made the right choice and she is better than me at being the child of the plane. I won't take away her connection and she can even fight me with it."

The sage considered his request and didn't find any problem with it. He too wants to prove himself right to Soverick. It is a matter of pride. He thinks that as a descendant of his bloodline, Salvini should be better than Soverick. If she isn't, then he might not be Soverick's equal either at their level. That means Soverick has more potential than he had.

If Salvini actually loses to Soverick even as the child of the plane then he made a very stupid decision to make her the child of the plane. He is willing to allow the challenge because her death wouldn't matter much to the survival of the plane. It is as he said earlier, the plane will be able to survive without their child of the plane. He was being honest about that.

So he agreed with Soverick. "Okay. You may fight her."

What he didn't say is that he is looking forward to how Soverick can possibly defeat a talented battle sage monkey empowered with the will of the plane. That will provide more insight for him into the nature of whatever Soverick is.

"Do you care to bet on the outcome?" Soverick asked.

The sage didn't need to think too much about that question before he replied. He replied immediately.

He said, "No. I am not going to fall for that."

He just swindled someone with bets. There's no way he will open himself to that kind of damage.

Chapter 794 Heart Of A Realm.

Soverick edged him on. "Aw, come on. Don't you have faith in your choice? You should have faith in Salvini."

The sage answered frankly, "No, I don't have faith in my choice. I have had a lot of reasons to question my choices recently. Now make the Oath."

"I, Soverick Ghastorix, swear upon my Origin that I will never try to sabotage the Virut plane and reduce its chances of success in the era of conquest as long as my position as sage is still recognized, as long as the first sage gives me the compensation and requests that we will agree upon latest by the next week and as long as I am allowed to challenge the Salvini."

He made the Oath. Then he asked the sage, "Is that good enough for you?"

"Good enough." The sage agreed begrudgingly.

They never agreed to maintain his position as a sage. Soverick added that part in his oath for assurance. It means that he will still have a say in the racial council. But the sage decided to allow it. Soverick already promised not to sabotage the plane and that's what's important.

"Now spill," Soverick said eagerly.

The sage conjured a round object. It is a large sphere shining brightly. It is like a small star and it might as well be a star since it looks like one. It is entirely white and it is larger than a plane. There are runes on the surface of the sphere that seems to be projected outwards into its surrounding.

The runes form a sort of holographic projection into the surroundings which makes the sphere brighter and bigger than it is. The runes are very difficult to see but their projection makes their existence known. The projection of runes forms another sphere of holographic material around the round object.

Soverick was staring at the object with intense fascination. He was captivated by the beauty of the sphere. It is clearly an object of great power but it isn't producing any energy fluctuation or pressure. It seems to be in perfect balance with the world around it. It would go unnoticed if he was not looking directly at it. It is then that the brightness of the sphere is pushed into his face. If he turned his back to the sphere then he wouldn't notice the white light that it is producing at all.

"That is the realm heart." The sage said.

"Wow." That was all Soverick could say.

He is too smitten and mesmerized to say more.

The spherical object is beautiful. It remained beautiful as it was made to break apart next. Its outer layer broke into pieces like fragments of glass and floated away. What's left of the sphere is a smaller sphere surrounded by a ring of light. The ring of light is shining an intense white light that makes it difficult to be seen. It is almost as if the ring is fashioned from supercompressed white light.

The sage removed the white ring of light from the small ball within it. The ball then split into two equal halves without the ring holding it together anymore. The removal of all that light allowed him to see what the ball is. The first half of the ball is made of pure laws. It has no form or shape now that it has been freed from the influence of the other two. It is pure information and order. Just looking at it made his mind become infused with unbidden knowledge.

This half will be invisible to lesser minds but he can see it and so he will be forced to accept the information of its existence. It is as invasive as the supreme laws of world gods. But it seems more powerful because it actually has the support of the void universe. He can feel fluctuations of cosmic forces from it.

Time and space seem to be in a constant state of flux around it. There is no beginning or end to it. Only laws and information trying to overwrite all of existence. He had to look away from it lest his poor mind gets injured again. He ignored the stirring of Legion-7 and looked to the next half.

The second half is a translucent crystal with a seemingly infinite amount of edges and faces. It seems to be constantly changing and shifting in shape, size, form, and colors so he is always seeing a different side of it. But the side he is seeing is just a fraction of what the crystal can shift into.

As the crystal shifts, no form is repeated. Every change is new and previously unseen. Whatever this half is, his mind is not powerful enough to take in the entirety of its presence. It is as if infinity has been forcefully given shape and form. But that doesn't stop it from being infinite. Because it is his mind that has given it its form and his mind is not capable of quantifying or limiting infinity.

Infinity is boundless but his perception is flawed. So he can't know what the crystal is in its entirety. All he knows for sure is that it contains the infinite possibilities of Life. Unlike the other half which is forceful with its influence, this half is beckoning to him to accept it. This temptation is similar to the one experienced when one encounters godhood. It is the temptation of evolution.

But he knows he mustn't succumb to this temptation so he looked away too. It is a dangerous temptation because evolution without direction or the power to fuel it will lead to ruination at best. If he is unlucky and he actually has the power to fuel it, then without a direction, that he is certainly lacking, he will evolve forever.

Evolution without direction is evil. Infinite Evolution without direction is a curse that even an immortal wouldn't want to bear. The artifacts pressured him with the yoke of their existence. He had to take a step back from them. He had to yield to them. They are beyond his level of existence. Only the help of Legion-7 prevented his existence from shattering into pieces right now.

Chapter 795 Sabotage During Negotiation.

There is a saying among mortals that you shouldn't try to look upon the visage of a god. They are right. Some information should not be known and some knowledge should not be acquired. Like so, some visage shouldn't be gazed upon. At least not with eyes that try to comprehend everything they see.

The first time his mind was almost ruined because of what his eyes saw was when he gazed upon the form of mother high heaven. He still cannot do so right now. Funny enough, a mana entity without his eyes can gaze upon her without any issues. A Sovereign of law or any other clone of Legion can do so too. After all, they don't have his eyes or see what he sees.

It is not a matter of power. It is a simple clash of existence. To know about someone is to be aware of their existence. His eyes take that awareness to another level. Data about what he sees enters his mind for it to be processed into information so looking at mother high heaven is imbibing data about her existence into his own existence.

His existence and her existence will clash within his mind. It is a dangerous thing to do without a concept to protect and keep his existence free from the influence of her existence. But now he has been made to look at the literal heart of mother high heaven.

It might be harmless for someone without his eyes to look at in the real world. But this is not the real world. This is mind space with a meeting of the mind. Anyone will see what he saw regardless of their possession of the eyes he has because Conjuring these fragments is the same thing as the first sage directly pouring the knowledge into his mind.

Anyone can call him paranoid but Soverick believes that it was not a mistake that the heart was conjured for him to look at and its fragments generously exposed for him to examine.

He looked at the first sage and smiled. Then he said, "Nice try."

The sage was amused too. "I am impressed. It seems you are made of stronger stuff. Now we can continue this negotiation since you didn't become a raving beast."

"That is fortunate." He said through gritted teeth.

He is honestly rattled. It was a trap and he walked right into it. He was so close to dying forever or worse, taking all of the vulnerable clones of Legion down with him. The supreme law of a world god without the empowerment of their world was not enough to kill him, but the heart of a realm tree might be able to do the trick because it always has the support of the void universe.

If that had happened, then he would be effectively neutralized. The first sage is sure to benefit immensely from it. Especially since he already swore the Oath. It won't be his fault that Soverick can't handle the things he asked for.

After all, if he can't gaze upon the remnants of a dead realm tree then he shouldn't be negotiating with a world god in the first place. He is in the big leagues now. He should at least be able to pretend to wear the same shoe size as the big players if he wants to look like one of them. Fortunately, he has Legion-7. He was able to pretend very well.

"Do you know what these are?" The sage asked.

"Yes, I do. The ring of light is the world engine. The abstract manifestation of information is the world spark and the crystal of infinite faces is the world seed."

"Good. So you know what you will get."

He said in resignation, "Yes. I'll be getting the crappy one that no one uses."

The sage corrected him, "You mean the world spark which is a very powerful but underappreciated artifact. I am sure you will find a use for it. You are resourceful and have surprised me several times. I am sure you will think of something."

He wasn't convinced. So the first sage said, "If you can't use it, then I am sure your friend over there can find a use for it."

The sage is referring to Legion-7. Soverick's eye became cold. He thought to himself, "This snake and his tricks. He is still trying to push me towards death even now."

"What does this have to do with my question?" Soverick asked so that they can move on and away from Legion-7.

He doesn't see the significance or the relationship between a realm heart and the significance of the realm Lord's project. He also has a feeling that the sage is testing his knowledge or at least leading him on. He can't just stand there passively and watch the sage try to manipulate him. So he is trying to hurry the sage up.

The sage was silent before he began to talk. "Your question is about a complicated subject so I will start with the era of conquest. As you know, the era of conquest starts when the realm lord of a realm tree is about to become a world god. A realm tree without a realm lord won't have to go through this problem. They will be safe from world gods forever till the end of the void universe. Then they will end with the void universe."

Soverick interrupted, "I know this."

The first sage said with barely concealed anger, "Don't rush me. You either let me finish or you don't get your answer."

"Please continue." He relented with a sigh of resignation.

The ball is practically in the first sage's court. Only he can determine their direction and pace. This is the first sage's mind space and he is the one answering a question. So Soverick can only go with the flow. It is very dangerous but he has to bear with it or walk out of the meeting entirely.

Chapter 796 How To Become The Realm Lord.

For all he knows, walking out might be what the first sage wants him to do. The failure of the negotiation will be his fault and not the sage's. If he is sure of anything, it is that the first sage doesn't like him and is actively frustrating him so it is not a wonder why he is tempted to leave. But he can't let the first sage win so easily. So he stayed.

The sage continued, "The world spark is the representation and manifestation of a concept but at a higher order. In other words, it is a more powerful version of a concept because it is made by the void universe itself and not from the mind of any inhabitant of the universe. It is a creation of the void universe so it is imbued and empowered with the cosmic forces of the void universe

"The world spark is the spark that starts the world engine and gives shape to the world seed. It contains the programmed mechanisms that all realm trees possess, hence it gives direction to the world seed and since it is from the void universe, it gives world engines access to cosmic energy and more. It started a realm tree but every realm tree that still has it will die with the universe when the universe ends."

"Did you know that?" The sage paused to ask him.

"No, I didn't." He admitted to his ignorance.

"So shut up and let me do my explanation."

It seems the sage is still sore about being interrupted earlier. Soverick didn't say anything now because he can't say what he has in mind to defend himself. That will only get the first sage angry and slow things down. The sage said he should shut up. So he shut up and listened.

"The world spark is made from very powerful laws. It is so powerful that it binds a realm tree to the void universe. It is the foundation of the realm tree and its anchor to the void universe. With it in a realm tree, no world god can enter the realm tree because they will have the assistance of the void universe in repelling world gods. But that connection with the void universe is what drags down a realm tree with the void universe while world gods will survive easily."

Soverick thought to himself, "That's why almost no one uses the world spark for anything and why Legion-7 will be putting himself in trouble if he actually fuses with the world spark."

He kept his thoughts to himself and continued listening attentively to the first sage.

"Fortunately, there is a way out. As powerful as the world spark is, it is only made up of 6 laws. The complexity of the world spark is near perfect such that no being can come up with a concept of such complexity and power, but there are beings that can certainly come up with concepts of 6 laws. That's where realm lords come in."

"Wow." He exclaimed. "So that's why a 6-law concept is needed to become a realm lord."

"Wrong." The sage was quick to shut him down. "Anyone can become a realm lord. They can do it either through the acceptance of the will of the realm or by force. You can become the realm lord if you overcome the resistance of the will of the realm but you can only do that if you're a world god yourself. It is not even possible for anyone to force it. The realm heart will crack if you try to force a fusion with it. which will lead to the destruction of the realm itself."

The first sage paused to laugh.

Then he said, "I remember that some dragons tried to do it some time ago. They tried to forcefully make a realm lord without the Will of the realm's permission. It was before the realm lord was chosen. That was a long time ago but I remember it as clear as the day. They tried to usurp the will of mother high heaven and gain control of the realm. They failed pretty badly."

The first sage's laughter died down but he was still chuckling. "You didn't see it so you won't realize the scale of the entire endeavor. Immortal beings like me remember it clearly. I am sure the entity most clear about the events that occurred will be Mother high heaven. She still hates the dragons to this day."

"I see," Soverick muttered.

"Anyways, there's another option to become a realm lord. Anyone can become the realm lord of the realm tree as long as the world seed agrees with that person. It is the opposite of becoming a realm lord by force. But since the consciousness of the world seed or the will of the realm is not stupid, it will not accept anyone with a concept made up of less than 6 laws. Even then, the will of the realm can refuse an origin God with a 6-law concept either because the will doesn't like that origin god or because there is another origin god with a better concept."

"Oh," Soverick said in realization.

He has just realized that the requirement to become a realm lord is not set in stone. What's most important to become a realm lord is the acceptance of the will of the realm or the ability to overcome the will of the realm forcefully.

The amount of laws in a concept doesn't entitle an Origin God to the position. The fact that you meet or go beyond the 6-law requirement doesn't give you the right to the position. It is all up to the will of the realm. The will of the realm can choose a 6-law concept origin god to become the realm lord instead of an 8-law origin god that it doesn't like.

Soverick asked, "Does that mean that the realm lord probably has more than 6 laws in his concept?"

Chapter 797 The Reason For The Era Of Conquest.

The first sage chuckled before he answered. "It is most definite that he has more than 6 laws in his concept."

"How many laws do you think he has?" Soverick asked.

The first sage's eye glinted with amusement as he answered, "More than 6."

Soverick wasn't satisfied with the answer. "I see that you don't know."

"No, I don't." The sage admitted. "No one knows how many laws he has. But everyone knows that the Monarch of High Heaven is very talented. What I do know with uttermost certainty is that the concept of a realm lord is near impossible to match the complexity of a world spark. Something created by the void universe is near perfect if not perfect itself. But the concept will do as long as the realm lord with the 6 law concept has the help of the world seed which is in direct control of the will of the plane. That makes the situation become two fragments against one."

The first sage asked him, "Do you see where I am going with this?"

He replied, "The world spark can be successfully forced out by the will of the plane working together with the realm lord and then replaced with the concept of the realm lord to liberate the plane."

"You are correct to make that conclusion." The sage was satisfied with his answer so he continued.

"Now you saw what I did in order to separate the realm heart, did you not?"

"I saw it," Soverick replied in the affirmative.

"It is a display of the complexity of the realm heart. The world spark and the world seed are joined together and bound together by the world engine. To separate the realm heart into fragments will lead to its destruction. This destruction is inevitable no matter how powerful the concept of the realm lord is. So how then can the realm tree not destroy itself in the process of trying to liberate itself? I'll tell you what it does. The realm tree scrapes other realm trees for parts to heal itself and make itself whole."

"Oh. So that's the era of conquest. That's the reason we attack other realm trees. It is to sacrifice an entire realm for the liberation of our realm."

"Yes yes. That's one of the major reasons. There are other benefits apart from survival. The realm tree gets more world engines so that the realm can produce more energy. The world seed grows stronger by

consuming other world seeds so that the realm can expand. And the concept of the realm lord is upgraded into a world spark."

"Those are just three extra benefits or reasons for the era of conquest. There are many other hidden reasons and benefits. Apart from those are reasons why others want to help the realm tree succeed in the era of conquest. They can use this opportunity to have the realm lord owe them a favor."

"I see," Soverick said.

"You know the reason for the era of conquest. You know it is unavoidable if a realm is to liberate itself from the plane. Now let us go into how the realm lord's project affects the era of conquest. That is your main question after all. Or should I stop here?"

Soverick answered, "You can continue."

"Very well. I shall continue." The first sage said. Then he paused before he started speaking again. "You know the realm lord can't force others to do his bidding and no matter how powerful he is, he will be fighting the full force of another plane. So he needs help and assistance. By offering help, you can get something from the realm lord. The power of the favor is limited like your requests of me. The realm lord can choose not to honor it but he will as long as you ask for what you should ask for. Most Origin gods will ask for his assistance in destroying a realm tree so that they can get a world heart to become a world god themselves."

"Of course, not any riff raffs can just get the realm lord to owe them something. The realm lord will only owe favors based on the contributions to the success of the era of conquest. The best way to make a high contribution is to be in charge of the plane. You will be able to direct the forces of the plane and make significant contributions in a war that spans across two worlds with trillions upon trillions of lives. There's only so little that you can do as a single entity in that kind of war so many are scrambling for control of a plane right now.

"Now, the era of conquest doesn't need world gods. The strongest fighters will be Origin gods. But the era of conquest will not be independent of the influence of world gods. World gods can supply both sides with resources even if they can't participate in the war personally and origin gods can resurrect infinitely as long as they have the resources to do so. So the number of world gods involved in the war will determine who will win the era of conquest."

"The realm of high heaven should win pretty easily since we will be fighting a realm tree without a realm lord. So the enemy can be said to be doomed. But it just so happens that the realm lord of the realm of high heaven is not very liked. In fact, the Monarch of High Heaven has a lot of enemies. He is very notorious in the upper realm for his madness but the major reason why a lot of powerful people hate him is because he stopped the exploitation of the life trees in the home plane of the high elves."

That came as a surprise to Soverick.

He couldn't help but ask, "I know about the liberation of the life trees in the high life plane. But it was such a long time ago. Was the war that bad? How come they still hate the realm lord for it after all this time?"

Chapter 798 The Patience Of Immortality.

The major reason why he began to hate the realm lord is because of the theft of life essence from the high life plane by demons. The demons didn't destroy the life trees. They just took their flowers but that was enough to make him angry at the realm lord. Now he knows he was being naive and ignorant back then. His thoughts and opinions of the realm lord don't matter without the strength to effect the change he desires. And the changes he wanted back then we're stupid too.

Maybe he could have stopped the Invasion of his plane by demons if he had the strength to. But he would have faced a lot of opposition from the other powerful high elves even if he had the strength. It is not like there is no one in the entire plane or across the entire ancient history of high elves who didn't know what the realm lord was doing by allowing demons to attack them.

The fact that he didn't know back then doesn't mean no one else didn't know. So other high elves knew about it, but that didn't change their opinion of the realm lord and neither was it enough for them to stop the invasion either. It is mostly because the realm lord was doing more good than bad. The invasions allowed the elves to fight and experience war in a controlled situation. In fact, no Sovereigns participated in the war. The demon lords that invaded would have stood no chance against a Sovereign of law.

So in retrospect, it is obvious that the highest authorities in the plane were aware of what was going on but didn't interfere. The high elf council used the war to strengthen their population and eliminate weaknesses. It is similar to what the battle sage monkeys do when they send their youths to the ancient battlefield to participate in the trial of heaven.

The realm lord has done a lot of good for high elves already. He is a legendary figure that will never be forgotten as long as high elves exist. The ban on the exploitation of life trees is the most important

achievement of the realm lord. The realm lord had to offend a lot of people when he stopped the exploitation of life trees. There was a war that shook the realm and the plane of high life but he won at the end of the day. But it turns out that his glorious act will one day come and bite him back.

"Is it that bad?" Soverick asked. "I mean, it was such a long time ago and life essence has no use to origin gods much less world gods."

"The fact that you asked that question shows that you're not that old and that you don't know the full requirements of becoming a world god. That means you are not a world god yourself or are not related to one." The sage said. "So how did you come across the information about the realm heart?"

That question sobered up Soverick. He remembered that this is not a meeting between friends. Each of his actions and words are examined for further information about him. His seemingly harmless question has clued the first sage in that he doesn't have a close relationship with a world god.

He didn't let that fluster him. He defended his ignorance without shame. "It is true that I am very young and if you haven't noticed, I haven't met the first requirement to become a world God yet. I don't have a supreme law. I will ask mother high heaven when I am ready. That's how the first world gods knew how to become world gods and probably how you found out too so there's no reason for you to feel smug just because you were born thousands of origin cycles before me."

He is very young but he doesn't feel my shame because of it. He is less than 10,000 years old while Legion-1 is about 8 origin cycles old. Ghoto and Mihila are tens of origin cycles older than him. The sage on the other hand is multiples of thousands of years older than him.

He has achieved a lot in the little time that he has lived and he is here talking to a world God face to face. His parents will never achieve what he has achieved and some Origin gods have never met a world god. That is more than enough for him to be very proud.

The eye of the sage looked down on him with a condescending gaze similar to the one you would give an ignorant child.

He continued, "When you have lived long enough you become able to wait and bid your time. Having all the time in the world means you can plan for the long term. Patience is a virtue that all eternal existence

will learn in time. That alone is enough reason why I have the right to be smug. If you had it, then you wouldn't have asked that question."

They stared at each other with neither one giving ground.

The first sage continued, "The realm lord's offense was not forgotten. It was only shelved for a better time when he will be pressed, desperate, or pushed against a wall. The era of conquest happens to bring his enemies this opportunity. His offense is so great that he has enough enemies to drown out the realm of high heaven. You may find it difficult to imagine how great of a sin he committed due to your young age and its accompanying ignorance so I'll show you how important life trees are."

The sage brought forward the crystal gem with infinite faces. "This is the world seed. It is the foundation of life in a world. It is the seed that becomes the tree that you see. The world spark gives it form and direction while the living things within the realm give it a consciousness. That consciousness is known as the Will of the Realm."

Chapter 799 How The Realm Lord's Project Is Related To The Era Of Conquest.

The first sage was speaking, "The Will of the realm and the realm heart breaks when the realm tree is destroyed. So when a world god destroys a realm tree, they don't get the full realm heart but the fragmented parts. This is not a big problem. An origin god that wants to become a world god just needs the world engine and the world seed. They will use their Supreme law as the substitute for the world spark. They can become a world god with these three."

"The problem is that a world made up of just those three is an imperfect world. It is a world capable of life but it has a big weakness. It can allow life to exist within it and life will rise up from it given enough time. But without the consciousness of all life, there is little control over the appearance of life. That is to say, the occurrence of life is random and out of the control of the world god."

"Life is very important to a world god. It is very important for a lot of reasons. But control over the life within the world of a world god is absent so the occurrence of life is random. Now control over life can be acquired if the world seed is paired with a sentient plant that has the energy transmutation ability. It is even better if the plant can create life energy specifically. And it is best if the plant can create life essence. Are you seeing where I am going with this?"

"So life trees are very important to origin gods that want to become world gods and to other world gods who want control over life in their world. By stopping their exploitation of life trees, the realm lord has offended a lot of very powerful people. He cut off their path of progress to power." Soverick said after a dawning realization.

He didn't know that life trees were so important. He always thought that their only use was for life essence. He has now gained a newfound respect for the realm lord. The realm lord offended a lot of people by liberating the life trees. It must not have been easy to do.

People kill each other for money or if their source of livelihood is tampered with. The realm lord went further than that. He blocked a source of great power. It is understandable that there will be many people pissed off by his actions and would want revenge on him.

The mention of energy transmutation ability also made Soverick think of Hadrick and the tree father. Now he knows what will happen if someone powerful hears of them and decides to target them.

The first sage continued, "A world will eventually awaken and create a will once there is enough life within the world. That's how the realm trees awakened themselves in the first place but it will take a very long time. I am talking about millions of years. It could even be billions of years. It is time that can be shortened to mere thousands, maybe even just hundreds of years with a life tree."

"His act of liberating the life trees offended a lot of people. So a war between two realm trees during the era of conquest will now become the continuation of the war of life trees. That means a lot of origin gods and world gods will help the other realm tree so that they can use it to gain access to high heaven through the war. The realm lord needs a lot of origin gods and world gods on his side too if he wants any hope of winning."

Others would be doomed in such a situation but not the Monarch of High Heaven. He created a project with a very enticing reward. This project will hold after the era of conquest. The reward for this project has attracted a lot of world gods and these world gods have to protect their investment. They won't get anything if he dies so they have to get involved in the war on his side during the era of conquest."

The first sage finished his explanation. "Now you know how the realm lord's project relates to the era of conquest. I have answered your question in a satisfactory manner. I might even say that I have gone beyond and above."

Soverick nodded. It has been quite the journey with one mind-blowing revelation after another. He knows that the sage is hiding some things from him since he also knows more than has been revealed. But what the sage has revealed is more than enough for him to be satisfied.

'It seems everyone is a schemer.' He thought to himself. 'But why did the realm lord save the life trees.'

The sage and his descendants schemed against a world god by using him to win a bet. Then they discarded him after they were done with him. The realm lord is also scheming to use his project to tie many world gods to his ship so to say, so that everyone will help him if his ship starts to sink. But all of these can be avoided had the realm lord not completely stopped the exploitation of life trees.

He could have just reduced the exploitation to a minimal level and even taken advantage of the scarcity to gain favors and more resources by auctioning life trees to the highest bidder. But the realm lord didn't do that. He stopped the exploitation completely and offended everyone involved completely. It sounds foolish, short-sighted, and heroic.

Soverick doesn't think that the realm lord is a benevolent person who will do something that will hurt him without getting any benefit from it. A powerful person like the realm lord surely didn't get to where he is today by being foolish. And it is clear that the realm lord knows how to scheme. So there must be something that benefited the realm lord when he stopped the exploitation of life trees.

Chapter 800 Further Negotiations.

"This could be bigger than I think." Soverick thought to himself.

It is certain that the realm lord has benefited or will benefit by stopping the exploitation of life trees. What isn't certain is what the benefit is. It might not even be about the life trees at all. If the realm lord is half a good schemer as the first sage and is capable of thinking multiple steps ahead, the benefits might be related to the enmity created by stopping the exploitation of life trees.

The more he thought about it, the more shaken he got. It could be that the realm lord is somehow benefiting from having enemies. It seems absurd but it is also possible if there is an angle to it that he doesn't see. And that's just one of the possibilities he came up with. It is an average one too.

"Maybe I am overthinking this. I guess I'll just have to find out and see if I am right."

He wants to know what the realm lord is up to. There's clearly something to be benefited going on about the life trees. His ignorance has made him unaware of the possibility. But now he knows about the possibility of a benefit and he is terrified at the possibilities. So he will try and find out. Knowledge is power after all. Plus the benefits could be massive and he wants to take part in them.

"I am sure you are satisfied with my answer. Let us move on" The sage urged him.

"I am satisfied despite the fact that you omitted what the reward the realm lord is using to entice world gods."

He may be satisfied but he has to complain. It is also an obvious omission. The first sage didn't mention anything about the project despite his careful explanation. It is almost as if he wants to use the deluge of information about the era of conquest to blind Soverick to that omission.

The sage replied with an amused glint in his eye, "That will be another question. You're free to use one of your requests to ask for it."

Soverick refused. "Nice try old man. I am very satisfied with your compensation for my death. It seems to me that the realm lord has to go through a lot just to become a world god. I hope all his effort will be worth it."

The sage scoffed. "Ignorant boy. I think highly of you but sometimes you just disappoint me when you ask such silly questions. Of course, it will be very much worth it. You don't know what he will get when he succeeds and how powerful he will become after the transition."

"Oh. Enlighten me then."

The sage would have rolled his single eyes if he could. Instead, he settled for snorting. "Nice try young man. But I wasn't just born a million years ago. Make a proper request if you want to know."

Soverick shrugged. "It was worth a shot. Now on to my two requests. Should we go back and forth or should we just do this straight up?"

He moved on quickly after his failure to get extra free information from the sage. Apparently, the sage can't be fooled so easily because he is more than 10 Origin cycles old.

The first sage replied, "Straight up I suppose."

So he decided to skip the negotiation and skip straight to something that he is sure he can get.

"I want to use my two requests to ask for the two other components of a realm heart apart from the world spark."

"Dream on. You're looking to bite more than you can chew. You won one competition among mortals. There's no way you will get what origin gods spend most of their eternal life to acquire as a reward for your victory in it." The sage refused.

He frowned, "I see that we will have to go back and forth then."

The sage wasn't deterred at all. "Bring it on then."

He brought it own. "I want a complete realm heart for one of my requests. You owe me for my services."

"So what if I owe you? Your services are not worth that much. All you did was win a competition between two planes and prove which plane is better. It was easy for you too. I made sure it will be easy. You just had to come in and finish what I started." The sage said. Then the sage lied. "Anyone could have done what you did." He also added some truth, "In fact, I had several options apart from you so don't think so highly of yourself."

Soverick was indeed paramount to the success of the competition but he doesn't know that and he doesn't need to know that. The sage already said that the knowledge that you don't know is priceless. Soverick doesn't know how important he was for the success of the competition. So he is going to continue paying the price of his ignorance until he doesn't have anything to pay with anymore.

This is a negotiation with high stakes. The sage is surely not going to help his opponent to get a good deal. He is going to sprinkle his truths with lies and manipulate Soverick until he reaches his preferred outcome.

Soverick insisted, "What about the bets and the stakes with the other world god? It can't have been that simple."

The sage refused to budge. "No, it was not simple. But it is also none of your concern."

"How can it not concern me? I died because of it." Soverick argued.

"No no. You can't play the dead card anymore. You died and I paid for your compensation. You're obviously alive right now so that won't work on me. Besides, what is common between world gods will look like a big and highly significant thing to you. So you can't really understand our bet. But if you insist, I will increase your reward if you can guess what we bet about apart from realm hearts."