

GREED 801

Chapter 801 The Art Of Negotiation.

That question stumped Soverick. He thought and thought about it but he can't figure out what it could be. The sage is right. He is very ignorant about world gods and how they live their life. He doesn't even know what might be common to them because he is only pretending to be capable of wearing their shoes. He is an ignorant pretender.

"Is it about the era of conquest?" He tried something that he thinks might be right.

"No, and that wasn't a proper answer. You need to tell me what kind of favor it is.

"Is it about the realm lord's project?"

"No." The sage replied. He didn't lie this time. They never bet about the realm lord's project as the reward. That was just fortunate happenstance that the first sage gained extra slots to the project.

Soverick gave several attempts but he failed every one of them. Legion has seen a lot of things but they are not old enough or powerful enough to know what makes world gods kick. He was thinking of giving up when he remembered something.

"What about Chaos blood?" He asked.

"No." The sage lied. "Those are too valuable to wager."

Chaos blood was actually one of the items that the first sage won. But he never made an oath about being honest so he doesn't have to be truthful. He will lie, cheat, and kill to get his way. There's no way he will let himself lose in a negotiation.

"What about cosmic energy?"

"You must be joking. At least Chaos blood can be acquired. Cosmic energy cannot be acquired without stealing it from the universe. And that requires taking it from the stars. No one is foolish enough to risk such a precious commodity. So no." The sage said trustfully.

"I give up."

Soverick gave up on guessing what they bet on but he didn't give up on trying to get something good. He tried and tried but the sage didn't let him have his way. He had to settle for a world engine for both of his requests. So instead of getting a single world fragment for a single request, he had to make do with getting a single fragment for two requests.

In summary, he got a world spark, information about the era of conquest and how it is related to the realm lord's project, and finally a world engine. These are his rewards for acquiring victory in the Unified Skill Index.

Soverick said with resignation. "You're cheating me."

"No, I am not and I will very much like you to refrain from slandering an old pious man without proof. Do you agree to the terms or not?"

"Fine. I agree. So when do I get what you owe me?" He asked the first sage. "You should remember that we set a time and you have an obligation to fulfill your own side of the bargain before a week is up so you can't stall me if that is your plan."

"No. I won't do that. I don't plan to stall you or else word will spread around that I am not honorable. You can come and get what we agreed upon now in the void outside the realm tree."

Soverick nodded. "Great, I'll see you soon then."

Then he forcefully withdrew from the Sage's mind space. He didn't wait for the sage to let him go. It might be rude but it is pleasurable to remind the first sage that he is not at his mercy.

His mind returned to his new body in the Virut plane. His face became cold. His jovial aura and his recent subservient demeanor disappeared. He is very angry with the sage. He is not the only angry one either.

The sage got him killed him and would have surely eliminated him one way or the other regardless of his participation in the competition. It was so that Salvini would get his title. But that wasn't enough of a blow. The sage had to sully his name and make a mockery of his death too. Then the sage made him die again just so he could collect his rightful reward.

"What a joke. Salvini couldn't beat me even when I was in my base form. She could never beat me when I was boosted by my connection. She had no chance of ever defeating me." He muttered angrily.

He has a lot of reasons to be angry at the sage but one that makes him most angry is the story they weaved of his defeat at Salvini's hands. It is a wonder that people believed it. He hasn't shown his full power but the things he did is enough to allow people to make an informed decision about who will win in a fight between them. But they believed the made-up story. That just goes to show how much faith and trust they have in the lineage of the sage.

Salvini could never beat him without his title. He had the stats of a Sovereign and he was very skillful. The boost from his title brought him to the level of an Origin God without the Authority of one. And he was just a king of law.

Yet, people believe that Salvini defeated and killed him. It was the same Salvini that cowered before some Paragons while he fought and killed 6 of them alone even under the suppression of the world fragment. They saw all of these and yet they believed the bogus story. It is honestly a wonder.

He is very angry. But he reined in his anger.

He sighed and shook his head. "I am weak. World gods are powerful. I tried my best."

He told himself the reason why he has to go through everything he did. He was forging peacefully in his forge when he was dragged into this. His peace was forfeited and so is his forge. He was killed and disgraced in his death. If he had not been prepared for sabotage, he would have lost his life permanently.

He has the right to be very angry. He would like to go on a rampage throughout the plane but he can't because the person behind everything is a world god. He is weak and world gods are very powerful. The best he can do is just to keep himself alive despite the machinations of a world god to have him dead.

Chapter 802 It Is Not Over Yet.

He is very weak compared to a world god. That's why he had to expose some of the secrets of Legion or the sage wouldn't have taken him seriously. In fact, the sage might have decided to hunt him down immediately. There wouldn't have been any negotiations. The sage could send thousands of Origin gods after him and they will kill him again and again until his mind actually fractures from the deaths.

The sage is scheming and pragmatic at all times. Soverick had to avoid the fate of being hunted down by showing the sage how difficult it will be to end him. The sage could end him but he decided not to do so because it will take a lot of resources.

And antagonizing Soverick means antagonizing whatever entity or entities Soverick is. The plane will take the brunt of the clash between the two of them. The first sage certainly doesn't want anything bad to happen to the plane so that its performance during the era of conquest will not be hindered.

The sage weighed the option and decided that the cost of trying to eliminate Soverick it is not worth it. So the sage gave him payment that is less than what it will cost to send immortal mercenaries after him. That's why they negotiated his compensation and reward at all.

He died because of the Sage's scheme and it was hurtful. He would very much like to have his revenge. But the sage gave him a warning. The warning is that world gods know how to wait and plan for the long term. The sage even used the realm tree's situation as a warning. It is to tell him that if he is to go on a rampage now, he better be prepared for the future consequences.

The fact is that he can disregard that warning and go on a rampage. He can do that either because of foolish anger or because of confidence in the strength he will have in the future. If he did, he might get away with it or he might become like the realm lord who will become beset on all sides by enemies in his moment of need. Either way, he will not be able to get anything from the sage if he went on a rampage in the plane and harmed the Sage's benefit.

The story of the realm lord is both a warning and advice. He died and nothing can change that. He could go for short-term benefits like destroying a lot of infrastructure in the plane and killing people thereby gaining himself several world gods and the racial council of the Virut plane as enemies. Or he could focus on the long-term benefits by negotiating with his killer and getting two out of the fragments of a realm heart for his death.

He chose longer-term benefits. It is the choice that will make his death worth something and will also help Legion. He is a pragmatic person who makes decisions using logic instead of emotions. The benefits outweigh the costs so he will lay low and accept the insult. Besides, revenge against the sage is not ruled out yet. He just has to be patient and farsighted.

The opinion of the weak doesn't matter anyway. There is no justice for the weak. He is angry but it is of no use because he is weak. Mindless anger will only hold him back for now. He can return to the anger when he is strong enough. Then he will have the right opportunity to exact the revenge that he deserves.

"I wonder what will happen next. Either way, I have to be prepared." He said as he looked upwards in the direction of the void. "It is not over yet."

He made good with the sage and he settled the matter of his death and compensation for his efforts in the competition. But that doesn't mean that he is in the clear with the first sage. That doesn't mean he is safe yet.

The process of negotiation was fraught with dangers and pitfalls. But the danger hasn't ended yet. The sage didn't make any oath not to come after him again and he didn't force the sage to make one because he doesn't have any leverage to do so.

You can't make a smart person do something beneficial to you willingly if there's nothing for them to gain from it. The only way to achieve that is to force them to do it because they won't do it willingly. He would like to be safe from the sage but that's just what he wants. He can't make the sage promise to stay away from him like the time he made the sage promise to keep him safe during the competition.

The sage had to promise him back then so that he will attend the competition. Even that promise didn't work out so well. It didn't prevent the sage from finding a way to get rid of him. His current situation is more perilous. Back then, he still had some use. Right now, he has been discarded and much worse is that he has become a thorn in the side of the first sage. Not having leverage is just the tip of the iceberg of his problems.

In fact, he didn't have any leverage in the entire negotiation apart from the fact that he could resurrect. That's why he couldn't demand for anything. The best thing he could do is retain his position as a sage of the plane. Which he managed to smuggle into his oath. That will prevent the sage from turning the entire plane against him and openly going after his life. That just leaves the hidden and subtle approach.

One such subtle approach is asking him to come to the void to receive the things he asked for. That means he will be able to finally meet the first sage face to face and not through a meeting of the minds. Some will be ecstatic about the opportunity to meet a world god who is also a hero of the race. But he can't be ecstatic because it is a good opportunity for the first sage to freeze him.

Chapter 803 Onward To The Void.

A world god can freeze him and prevent him from resurrecting forever. Even an Origin god is not safe from a world god much less him. He is not a naive fool to think that the sage won't betray him when they meet. The sage doesn't even need to do it himself, he could have arranged for someone else to kill him after he leaves the plane.

Anything can happen to him when he leaves the safety of the plane but he doesn't have an option. He has to go despite the fact that he dreads the meeting. He can't avoid meeting the first sage because the things he negotiated for can not be brought safely into the realm tree.

They can be brought into the plane but they are contraband so they will be seized by mother high heaven. He can attempt it but he will regret bringing them into the realm tree. The fragments of a realm heart are incredibly dangerous and also powerful. The will of the realm won't allow them to be in the realm for any reason. To bring them here is to give them to her.

That means he must go up to the void to receive his reward. He could also send someone on his behalf but how is that person to prove that they are for him? They will need to know the law of order of the sage and use it to summon the sage. He doesn't know anyone apart from himself and Legion that has that knowledge.

If he were foolish, then he will send another clone of Legion in his place. That will let the sage know that Soverick has shared the knowledge with others and the sage will become aware of the clone. That is a very bad idea.

So in summary, he has been checkmated. Even the basis of his Oath that the sage has to give him his things in a week won't save him. The sage can give them to him and also freeze him. His rewards are bait right now. He can choose to go or he can remain in the plane in relative safety. But no matter what, it won't stop the sage from scheming against him.

"I have to go." He said to himself and other Legions. He warned them, "Prepare to lose me forever."

If the first sage is truly after him, then staying in the plane will not be completely safe for him either. And staying in the plane will invalidate his second death and all the stress he had to go through during the negotiation. He doesn't have a choice if he is to collect what he deserves from the sage. That is the way of the world. You don't get what you deserve. You get what your strength is enough to acquire. If you don't have enough strength, then prepare to die for biting more than you can chew.

"It may all be worth it at the end of the day." He said as he flew up into the sky.

He gathered his wits and encouraged himself. Then he began the dreaded trip to the void. He flew up into the sky as fast as he can. His speed reached 20 times the speed of sound so it took him less than an hour to reach the boundary of the plane in the sky. The distance between the ground surface and the boundary of the plane in the sky is usually less than 25,000 kilometers.

"Here goes nothing." He said as he breached the boundary of the plane.

He didn't waste time at all. If one is to harm themselves or do something painful, it is better to do it as fast as possible. So that the ordeal will be over soon. He did the same here. He breached the barrier at the top of the plane as quickly as possible. It was like going through a film of force. Then he appeared within the void between planes.

There is no divine plane attached to the Virut plane anymore so he was able to leave the plane without any issues or interference. The Virut plane looked like a large obscured bubble within a sea of nothingness. There are other large bubbles within this sea. Some of them have rings of light around them that can be seen from outside the realm tree. Planes with rings of light are planes with divine planes still attached to them.

He swam away through the sea of nothingness to the boundary of the realm. Only transcendents can move in this sea of nothingness. They have to use their solidified divine sense to grab the law matrix and pull themselves to move. There isn't matter in the space between planes but there is the law matrix. Any being that needs to breathe such as a Mana entity or below will suffocate here. Movement is the least of their troubles.

He continued to swim away from the bubbles of planes. There is nothing to see but unending darkness. There is no sound so it is completely quiet. It makes for a dreary journey. It didn't help his mood since he might just be going to his doom right now. But he continued. He doesn't know when the boundary of the realm ends but he knows that it will end. He kept swimming until he reached this boundary.

He knew when he exited the boundary of the realm because his environment changed suddenly. He was surrounded by nothingness before but then he swam head-first into an ocean of void energy. The progress didn't uplift his emotions. Void energy made the nothingness feel better. He actually felt suffocated by the pressure around him.

Void energy is oppressive and corrosive. It isn't light like Origin energy. It is very heavy and powerful. He felt pressure from the weight of the energy around him. He had to create a barrier around himself to protect him from the corrosive properties but he couldn't stop from being pressured. It is like he is at the bottom of an ocean which he very well might be. The pressure is trying to break his barrier to get to him. Then it will eat away at his existence and kill him.

Chapter 804 First Physical Meeting With A World God.

I hope this doesn't take long." He said as he signaled for the first sage.

His barrier won't hold on for long. He is as strong as a Sovereign but he doesn't have a concept to resist the corrosive properties of void energy. A titan of law won't be able to perfectly utilize their concepts to resist void energy either. They too will be invaded and corroded by the oppressive void energy. It is why Sovereigns are needed if anyone wants to leave the realm tree for the upper realm. He is lacking in that aspect so void energy is wearing him down gradually.

He is not meant to be in the void of the void universe. He can't survive here. It is just a matter of time before he dies. The incredible pressure and the corrosion will kill him in a few minutes. He shouldn't need a few minutes if everything goes well. If everything doesn't go well then being able to survive indefinitely in void energy won't help him one bit. Any problem with a world god is surely greater than the ability to survive in the void.

He looked back and saw the realm tree. It stands tall and looks majestic. He can't see how tall it is because he is so close to it. The leaf of the realm tree that he came out from fills most of his vision. The

rest of the tree can be seen just behind the leaf. He can see enough of the realm tree to know how big it is. It is massive. It is also an indication of how big world gods are. The sight doesn't fill him with confidence for his upcoming meeting.

He will need to approach the leaf he came out from if he wants to enter the Virut plane again. The pressure of his situation and the dread of the upcoming meeting is making the leaf look pretty enticing right now. Everything around him is telling him he doesn't belong here. That he should run back to the safety of the realm.

"How I wish I could obey the warnings." He thought wistfully.

He doesn't need the hostile environment to feel like leaving the void. He is not suicidal so he likes safety. He doesn't want to be here but he can't leave yet. So he continued to wait for what he came for. Fortunately, he didn't wait for long before the sage arrived. He felt it before he saw the first sage.

He just knew that something powerful was coming. The world changed and he could sense this change. The coming of the sage is an anomaly in the void universe. A world god should not be in the light side of the universe so the light side had to accommodate something that shouldn't be here. Soverick tried to keep his calm. It became increasingly difficult to do so as the changes in the surroundings peaked. Even the light side of the universe is not calm because of the advent of a world god. So it is very difficult for him to be calm.

The world was shaking, literally. He felt the intense vibrations in the law matrix and in the world of manifestation too. The ocean of void energy became turmoil as if it is preparing for a storm. Random energy conversions began to occur and matter began to transform without impetus. Something is throwing the world out of balance. The unpleasant changes intensified until the perpetrator appeared.

A titanic white battle sage monkey tore space apart and stepped through it. It rose from the tear in space like some god and towered above Soverick in all its glory. He couldn't see the full size of the monkey at all. It is that big.

Soverick's heart sank. His tenuous hold on his calmness slipped and broke apart. Fear filled every inch of his existence. But he didn't run away. He stayed still and expected his death or worse.

The sage arrived with a body instead of a simple manifestation. It does not bode well for him. No entity that isn't immortal can witness this sight and not feel fear. Even immortals are smart enough to fear world gods. As for him, every instinct that he has screamed immensely danger.

It is not a matter of being smart. It is a matter of basic self-preservation and the need to continue living. There is no doubt about it. He knows it down to his non-existent bones that he is not safe at all. He can die at any moment. Or worse, he can die forever.

"It is such a nice day today." The sage said to him.

"Yes, it is." He managed to say.

He was expecting some shenanigans from the sage. Something like being frozen or killed immediately. He didn't expect them to be making small talk at all. That didn't make him feel safer though. It only made him more alert. Which is futile in his situation.

Being alert and suspicious won't help him at all. If a world god wants to play and toy with him before he kills him, then that world god will play and toy with him before he kills him no matter how alert he is to that possibility.

The sage remarked idly, "The world continues to move on and change is inevitable. Only those that can go along with the times will survive the incoming tides."

"Yes, yes." He said. Then he gathered his courage. "So what's the deal? Are you going to give me what I came here for or not?" He asked.

He is in a hurry right now. And as much as he will like to engage in chit-chat with the sage, he doesn't have the time. Yes, he should be afraid and yes, he is very afraid. But that doesn't mean he will roll over easily. Fear and courage can go hand in hand. It is important that they do since fear is of no use.

Chapter 805 A Lot Of Whys.

The sage stared at him with two completely white eyes. Soverick did not wither under the stare. Instead, he focused on the fact that the eyes are not white. They just look white just like light looks white. Those eyes are made up of millions of pupils too small to see individually all possessing different colors but arranged in such a way that they blend together and look white.

In fact, the entire white fur of the monkey is made in such a way. It is a mixture of tiny vibrating strings weaved in a mesh of delicate intricacy and balance. It reminds him of the white world and the multicolored fabrics of layered law that makes it up. It is not a surprise that it is so. The supreme law of the first sage is the first sage after all.

The sage spoke. "Hmm. Why did you come? You are either an ignorant fool, a brave fool, or a confident fool. Which is it?"

"I am neither. I am simply ready to sacrifice myself. I am no fool. I know how precarious my current situation is and I have no delusions about what could go wrong. As for you, you either give me what I want or you will regret it." He stated confidently.

If there is one thing that he is confident about right now, it is that he knows he is in big trouble. He is no fool who believes that the sage won't harm him. He is not ignorant of his situation, or have false confidence, or is stupidly brave. He is just a clone of a greater entity and he is willing to sacrifice himself for the good of that entity.

The first sage didn't laugh. He didn't even chuckle. He took what Soverick said seriously.

"Is that so? You are sure that I will regret it if I don't give you your reward?" The sage asked.

The question seemed harmless. The tone itself that the sage used to ask it was casual. It was as if the sage was mocking Soverick. But Soverick felt the hostility in the question. He didn't get it directly from the sage. The world sensed the hostility in the sage and he sensed it from the world. So he got the underlying message. The sage is ready to crush him like a bug if he says one wrong word or lies.

He threatened the sage and the sage threatened him. It is tit for tat. That didn't stop him from speaking his mind. He said, "I am not alone. I have people who will avenge me."

The sage said nothing. The world became quiet. The rolling waves of void energy stilled. But the pressure intensified. This is not the calm before the storm. This is a silent storm ready to explode on to him. The sage is not currently doing anything to him but Soverick doesn't feel peace. He feels as if a guillotine is hanging over his head. The sage is judging him. He will die if he is found wanting.

Suddenly the sage spoke and the pressure disappeared. "I always thought you were a loner. You behaved as such and kept to yourself. I didn't think you had people who will avenge you. I would have taken you for a liar but I know that you're telling me the truth. You believe so and the river of fate believes it too. I will really regret it if I were to kidnap you and keep you in stasis forever. I wonder how that will happen."

Soverick kept quiet. He has said his piece. He didn't come here with confidence. He knows he is weak and powerless but he is not without help. He has made his situation clear. It grates on him but it is up to the sage to make the decision. He is the weak, passive party in this encounter.

The sage broke the silence. "There are several reasons why I should apprehend you. I want to know that entity within you. I want to know if you're that entity or if it is different. I want to know how you resurrect. I want to know if you're a clone of someone and I want to know whose clone you are. I want to know why you are here and in many places at once. I want to know what you have to do with a world beast. I want to know why you have access to cosmic energy. I want to know why I can't see your entire life. That is a lot more whys than I am comfortable with. I also don't want to give you your reward. So tell me. Should I apprehend you?"

Soverick remained silent. The first sage's three tails swung around in agitation. Then they vibrated and became four. The four shook again and became five tails. Soverick doesn't know what is happening. But whatever it is, it is not good for the law matrix. What seemed like harmless swinging of the tails is actually causing the law matrix to shred.

"There is only one reason why I shouldn't. I can apprehend you but I will regret it. Regret is a big deal to a world god. It is making me further curious. I want to know how apprehending a king of law will make me regretful. So what do I do then?" The sage asked.

Soverick still didn't say anything. Anything he says can and will be used against him so he kept quiet.

"I will tell you something. I admire you. You know how to sort out your priorities. I think you have the potential to become powerful. But power is not everything in the world. In this world are the players and the pawns. Anyone can be played both willingly or unwillingly, even world gods. The realm lord is using world gods to protect himself but we allow it to happen because we want something from him. That can change when he finally succeeds. All the world gods that he has used can come back to bite him."

Chapter 806 Some Advice.

"It is just like this simple competition. It was simple to me but it was big to the participants. But they can never fathom how really big the competition is. They were played and they remained ignorant of that fact. You were also played but here you are, outside the realm trying to get something that you had the gall to negotiate with a world god for from that same world god that orchestrated your death. It is very impressive honestly."

"As I said, you're either an ignorant fool, a confident fool, or you're a very brave fool. But you say you are not. How come? You were used and you know it. And yet, you still come forward with the willingness to die. I want to know why? Why will a genius like you be willing to sacrifice himself? I really want to know why. But I don't want to have you come back to bite me like the world gods are going to come back and bite the realm lord."

Soverick maintained his silence while the first sage also became silent. The world had completely stilled now. It is like the effect of the nullification domain except even the law matrix is frozen. Only those two white eyes and six tails are moving. The eyes of the first sage flash occasionally and move around rapidly as they observed him. Soverick knew then that the first sage is definitely using some scrying ability on him.

The first spoke after seeing enough. "I have decided then that my curiosity is not worth it. I want to settle our karma right here and now. I won't tempt fate any longer. So I will let you go. But do you still want me to give you what you are owed?"

Soverick finally spoke. "Yes. That's what I came for. Without it, my Oath will not go into effect and I and my allies will be forced to seek reparations for the injustice that I endured elsewhere

The first sage chuckled then. "Fine. You will get what you are owed. Allow me to give you some advice. Power is not everything. You need something else if you don't want to be a pawn. And most importantly, do not threaten a world god that is already finding it difficult to hold back from shredding your existence and getting to its foundation."

The sage said before he tore space again and left.

Soverick watched the sage leave. He didn't let himself breathe a sigh of relief even when he was sure that the first sage is truly gone. The absence of the crushing pressure didn't alleviate his fears one bit.

Instead, he turned his attention to the package that the sage left behind. It is a small spherical object. He reached to it with his divine sense to probe it. The sphere didn't resist him at all. His divine sense entered it and joined with it easily. He realized what the sphere is immediately.

"Oh no." He exclaimed.

His divine sense detached from it immediately and he flew away from it in fear. He looked and waited but nothing happened. The sphere remained inert as it floated in the void. He calmed down in the silence that ensued. Then he grinned after understanding the first sage's plan.

He thought to himself with a sneer. "That sly old bastard."

The sphere is a world fragment. It contains the two things that should be his. He should have been happy that he got a world fragment too but he is not because it is a world fragment made by the sage. It contains the supreme law of the first sage. That's why he was shocked at first. He expected it to be a ploy. But nothing happened so he realized the ploy isn't short-term. The presence of the supreme law means the sage will be able to keep track of the two things within the world fragment and what he does with them.

He is out here in the void. He can't return to the realm tree with the package. That means he must take it somewhere in the void and give it to someone or someone will come and collect it from him seeing as he can't survive well in the void. The sage will be able to use the exchange to find out who he is in contact with.

All that speech about fate and settling karma is just a smokescreen. It is true that the sage will regret it but he hasn't given up yet. He wants to find out what Soverick is relying on first before he makes a move. The first sage is being cautious and sneaky.

Soverick smiled and said, "What a thieving conniving bastard. Unfortunately, the jokes on you."

His body broke apart after saying that. Some ethereal tentacles burst out of his body and grabbed the world fragment. These dark tentacles filled with dots of light pulled the world fragment into the mess of Soverick's body and the hole within it. Legion 7 used his body as an anchor to tear space and drag the world fragment away. Void energy destroyed the traces of everything and the location returned to serenity.

He is not without a course of action. He is willing to die again not to give the sage what he wants. It is all so that the first sage won't acquire more information about Legion-1. Fortunately, he didn't have to die again. His spirit was saved by Legion-7. What he gave up was the host or the vessel he is inhabiting. The Sage's expectations will be subverted just as it happens to the things that Legion-7 gets involved in. The person that enslaved Legion-7 is still mad about that.

"Time to go and meet Shannon." He said after he woke up in a new body.

Soverick's consciousness was removed from his current body so he didn't have to die. Then he was deposited in a new body in the Virut plane. It is to maintain a presence within the Virut plane and to meet with his former director of academics at the Ghastorix Academy.

Chapter 807 The Search For A Star.

Soverick received a message some time ago from director Shannon about passing on her legacy to him. He has been busy with learning to forge so he didn't have time for her. He has time for her now. He can't return to his previous life of forging and research since he is supposed to be dead.

Her concept of virtual creation will go well with his understanding of laws in helping him and all of Legion become the best titans of law that they can become. That is for the future. As for now, he will have to avoid public sightings and focus on fusing his laws together to form a concept.

He woke up in a new body and got dressed. He found a type of flexible armor among the possessions in the house. It is in the form of a band of a long and thin black fabric which he has to roll tightly around his body. It covered every inch of his body. It even covered his head and his facial features. The armor wrapped around him and made him look like a black mummy. He got a black cloak that he wore before he left the house. Then he scuttled about in the city like some fugitive that doesn't want to be seen.

"I used to be a celebrity that will be worshipped wherever I go. Now, I am not supposed to be alive and I have been shamed in death. But it was worth it. I would do it all again if I could." He said as he disappeared from the small city he woke up in.

Legion considers how things turned out to be worth it. Just the law of order that he got from the sage and the serpentine world god makes his suffering worth it. He was used by the sage who obviously had no intention of letting him go after being used. He also lost his title as the child of the plane and was also disgraced but he managed to come out of it with something worthwhile.

The title was a means to an end and the end was to become someone of sufficient authority within the plane so that he will have a significant influence on the war during the era of conquest. He is a sage now with some amount of authority within the racial council so he doesn't need the influence of the title. The title of child of the plane was going to be temporary anyway.

The title brought him infinite origin energy but he doesn't need it anymore. Legion-1 and Legion-9 are capable of doing that now with the Authority of the Celestial Supreme. The power boost from the title would have been great to have. Losing it means he will have to find his own source of power then.

He will only settle for a power that is completely his and cannot be taken from him. It will be a source of power that will be with him when he becomes an origin god and maybe more. It is possible to acquire a power that is theirs with the things he got from the sage.

The world spark and the world engine will be used for great things by Legion. The world engine is very powerful and will be easy to use but the world spark is practically useless. Only demon gods can bear to use something like it. Any other person that uses it will gain power but they will also die with the universe.

He knows that a demon god can use a world spark to become a world ender but he put on a show to refuse the world spark. He belittled it and even asked the first sage for information in addition to the world spark. There was no way for the first sage to know that he knows a demon that will appreciate a world spark without trying to kill Soverick to get it.

The first sage wasn't the only one playing tricks during their negotiation. So Legion will find a use for the world spark and grow stronger. They will then visit retribution on the sage when they are strong enough and when the opportunity presents itself.

As for the first sage, he noticed how Soverick escaped. He wasn't upset too much. He observed to himself. "This Legion is an enigma. It is a previously unseen anomalous existence. It is also a dangerous existence. I must be very careful going forward."

He already tried and failed to scry Soverick. It should be easy to scry Soverick now that he is not the child of the plane anymore and doesn't have the protection of the plane. But it wasn't easy at all. The first couldn't get a clear picture. All he got were fragments. A star seemed to be blocking his vision. The star was too bright to look past. The first sage didn't understand what he was looking at. But he understands that Soverick is more than one.

The first sage thought to himself, "At least, I made sure that he got an incomplete realm heart. Now I just have to watch out for him acquiring the remaining one."

He is not happy with the outcome of the negotiation but he is satisfied because he has prevented Soverick from acquiring all the necessary fragments needed to become a world god.

It is his belief that Soverick is trying to acquire the world fragments to become a world god. It doesn't have to be for Soverick's personal use. It could be that Soverick is trying to get the fragments from someone else. But since Soverick didn't get a world seed, he will need to get it from somewhere else. That will create an opportunity for the first sage to acquire more information about Soverick and whoever he is working with.

It is an avenue of information that might be of help if his current trip doesn't work out. He is on his way to inspect the stars around the realm of high heaven. The first sage might not understand that the star he is seeing in Soverick is a large body of cosmic energy, but he knows that Soverick is in the realm of high heaven and therefore might be somehow related to the stars of the realm. That is just simple deduction.

Chapter 808 A Dead Rival.

A Few Days After The Death Of Soverick Ghastorix.

The death of Soverick Ghastorix hit some people more than others. His immediate family members didn't care that much about his death. Death is a common thing. While his death is not common, they aren't especially emotionally attached to him for them to care much about the circumstances of his death. The one that reacted to the news of his death in any way is Ghaster.

Ghaster was distraught for many days after the death of Soverick. He walked about in a daze for days. He was always muttering incomprehensibly to himself. It was like he lost his soul and motivation for life.

People that didn't know him enough thought he was mourning the loss of his brother. His family members know that isn't the case.

"He can't be dead. That's preposterous. That Salvini couldn't have defeated him much less kill him. Something is off here. She must have schemed against him somehow." Ghaster muttered to himself.

He can't believe that Soverick is dead. The news of Soverick's death came as a shock to him. Soverick is someone who he thought could never die. He thought Soverick was undefeatable so he was very surprised when he heard he was defeated by Salvini. He knows a little about Salvini and her brothers so he knows that Salvini shouldn't be able to defeat Soverick. He finds the entire thing suspicious.

Soverick didn't use his boost and he was suppressed by the arena but he still beat Salvos. Salvos is supposed to be the strongest among the current generation of sages so how did Salvini, the weakest of them defeat and kill Soverick? It doesn't help that the said fight took place in the arena when everyone had gone. The sage said he removed the resurrection option so that the honor of the challenge will be upheld and that's why Soverick didn't resurrect after death.

He can't believe that kind of story when he witnessed the prowess of the paragons and Soverick's strength. So how is it that Salvini defeated Soverick? That question always brings him back to what Salvos and Salvin told him about their sister. They always said that she is a snake and that she shouldn't be trusted. They told him that Soverick is in trouble but he never believed them. Then this happened. He finds it incomprehensible.

He tried to explain his confusion away. "Maybe I am overthinking this. Maybe she was just hiding her strength. She is the bloodline of the sage after all. Scheming is in her blood."

Every explanation for the death of Soverick always comes back to the bloodline of who killed him. Salvini has the bloodline of the sage so he believes that she must be strong and what she did must be good for the plane. He respects the bloodline too much to suspect foul play. She must have beaten him in some way that he can't think of.

"Maybe he had a weakness and she exploited it. That will explain how she beat him. She must be very strong." He assured himself.

That's how he spends most of his days. He goes through a cycle of disbelief, confusion, and eventual conviction only to repeat it all over again. Mihila and Ghoto tried to help him move on. They took turns trying to convince him about how Soverick's death can happen to anyone so he should cherish his life more. Litori didn't bother putting in any effort in helping him. Her life has not been changed in any way by Soverick's death and Ghaster's descent into madness wouldn't affect her either so she doesn't care.

Ghaster wasn't muttering this particular day. He has been very quiet. He stood by the window of his room and looked out into the city. This window is the one that Soverick used to sit on as a baby when they lived together. Soverick would sit on it and watch the city or the squabbling babies. He would watch them without interfering no matter how much they bruised or injured each other.

This is also where he met Hadrick for the first time. A vine entered the house and fed him with vitality to heal the injuries he sustained in his fight against Litori. Staying here brought back some pleasant memories. He can't help but feel nostalgic.

He looked into the city now without focusing on anything in particular as he thought about their past. Mihila walked in and stood beside him. She waited a while but he didn't respond to her presence. He didn't seem to have sensed her so she placed a hand on his shoulder to draw his attention. He glanced at her for a brief moment before he turned his attention back to the city.

Mihila said to him, "You miss him don't you?"

Ghaster turned his attention to her. He looked at her as if she is mad. He had a look of incredulity and genuine concern for her mental state. He even asked her.

"Are you alright mother?"

He believes that her question begs his own question. How will she say that to him if she isn't mad or going crazy? How can she even think that he misses Soverick?

She smiled at him. "I am fine. Thank you for asking. I meant that you miss what he represents to you."

He shook his head and denied her. "I don't miss anything about him. I am glad he is gone. I am just surprised about how he died."

She nodded in understanding. Then she explained herself, "I didn't say you liked him. You just miss him as a rival. He has been a big part of your life. He represents an obstacle that you wanted to overcome. His death means you won't be ever able to beat him. You're aimless now that he is gone."

Ghaster wanted to refuse her at first but he began to see some truth in what she was saying. She is still wrong about why he is sad like this but she is right about how he won't be ever able to defeat Soverick.

Chapter 809 A New Rival.

"Maybe you're right." Ghaster conceded.

He has been feeling a little down ever since Soverick died. Maybe it is because he didn't know what Soverick meant to him until he lost his rival. Maybe that's why he feels aimless, lost, and without motivation.

"But so what if you are right?" He asked, "Soverick was the greatest battle sage monkey since the time of the sage. It has even been announced that he has become a sage for his talents and his contribution to the battle against the Vipers. He is the greatest rival one can ask for but now he is dead and I have no one else to sharpen myself against. How am I to move on with my life?"

He went on an unexpected tirade. He didn't know he had so much to say about Soverick until he started speaking. It was then that he realized how much Soverick meant to him.

He sighed. Then he asked, "What should I do?"

Mihila gave the suggestion that she has prepared for this attempt to cheer Ghaster up. "What you need is a new rival. You need someone you can aim to beat"

Ghaster nodded. "That sounds like a good idea."

Mihila was encouraged. "Isn't it? I recommend you choose the current greatest battle sage monkey of our generation."

Ghaster's eyes widened in realization. "You don't mean Salvini do you?"

Mihila gave a nod of affirmation. Her answer made him gawk.

"But she is of the lineage of the sage."

Mihila folded her arms against her chest as she asked him. "So what? What if she is? Does it mean that she can't be your rival? Does that mean that you can't beat her?"

Ghaster made another attempt to convince her of the absurdity of her proposal. "But she is the child of the plane."

She moved closer to him. "Wasn't Soverick also a child of the plane? Didn't you fight him?"

"That's different. I didn't know what it meant to be the child of the plane back then. I was ignorant so I fought him. I am not ignorant anymore."

She moved her face close to his and looked him in the eye. "Are you afraid of her?"

He looked away from her and avoided her gaze. He is afraid of Salvini. It is not the kind of fear and dread that he had for Soverick. Soverick was an insurmountable mountain to him. Soverick was an obstacle that he wanted to scale but will never punish him for failure in his attempts. He could always expect to be ignored by Soverick or looked down upon. But if Soverick pays attention to him, only then he will experience pain.

Throughout it all, he respected Soverick. Even now, he admires Soverick despite the pain that Soverick caused him the last time. He knows enough now that Soverick could have been much more severe in his treatment. The strong are always respected. He has always respected Soverick since they were kids but he didn't want to admit inferiority. That's what caused him to be in conflict with Soverick.

He fears Salvini but he doesn't have any feeling of respect or admiration for her because he doesn't think she is strong. He considers Soverick to be a mountain while he considers Salvini to be a giant snake. Soverick is stoic, strong, and somewhat predictable while Savini is sneaky and unpredictable.

His opinion of her is not only because of what her brothers told him but also what others said of her. Everyone in the plane saw how she hunted the people of her arena. They saw how she played her brother against Litori and then killed Litori. They also saw how she instigated conflicts in the 2nd challenge in order to eliminate everyone else and become the last man standing. She is devious and sneaky. If not for Soverick being in the same Arena with her, then she would have won.

It is not that she is not strong. He believes she is strong since she has to be to overcome Soverick. The major reason why he dreads her is that Soverick fell to her. If someone as strong as Soverick can fall prey to her then what about him? So he finds it very preposterous that his mother wants him to go after her.

But he won't tell his mother that he is afraid of her. So he said, "Fine. I'll make her my rival. I'll fight her with every opportunity that I get."

Mihila didn't comment about his shifty behavior or the pause he took before answering her or the fact that he didn't answer her question. She nodded and said, "That's good."

The two of them then stood together by the window to watch the city. They continued like this for a while. A peaceful silence settled amidst them.

"I thought that Salvini girl liked Soverick. That's what I saw on the show during the competition. To think that she would be the one to kill Soverick." Mihila shook her head in wonder. "What a world."

What she said did not make Ghaster marvel. He would have shivered involuntarily if he were not in perfect control of his body. What Mihila said reinforced how cunning Salvini is. She did and said things that made it feel like she liked Soverick. Then she killed him at the end of the day.

'Maybe that's how she got him. She made him let his guard down only to backstab him.' he thought in fear.

He decided then and there that he is only going to pretend to his mother that Salvini is his rival. Earlier when he lied, he also planned to put in some half-hearted effort to make his false conviction look real.

He thought it was a good plan that will fool anyone including his mother. But now, he is not going to take the rivalry seriously or half-heartedly lest he jeopardizes his life. If anything, he will try to avoid Salvini as much as possible so that he won't end up like those that Soverick has traumatized.

Chapter 810 Nostalgia For What Is Lost.

Ghaster knows that he is rash but even he has survival instincts. His instincts tell him to stay away from Salvini so that's what he will do. He thought he had a chance against Soverick. Now he knows he was wrong and that he was courting death. He won't make that mistake twice.

They returned to silence again and watched the city. They aren't seeing anything interesting but Ghaster just felt like watching the city. He is feeling nostalgic and depressed and watching the city makes him feel a little better. It reminds him of a better time. A time when he was young and carefree and when Hadricks used to sneak him treats, play with him and give him vitality.

Ghaster sighed at the memory. Mihila is wrong about why Ghaster is feeling so down. He is sad because he is missing someone or something. It is not because he is missing Soverick as a rival. He is confused but he doesn't really know why. Soverick's death is the major thing that has happened recently. That's why he is fixating on it.

But something else has happened in the Ghastorix main city that he doesn't know about. It is a monumental event that is making him feel a sense of loss. It is also why looking at the city is making him feel a little better. If he knew about what happened in the city a few days ago, then he will understand why he is like this.

There is someone missing in the City. It happened a few days ago. Ancestor Guntu, the eye of destruction, came to the city on a secret and important mission. It was a few hours after the death of Soverick was announced. Guntu didn't come alone. He came with a hundred other Origin gods. Only 10 of them are in the open. The rest are disguised and hiding around. They will only appear if needed.

The 100 origin gods didn't enter the city. They stayed outside and dispersed so as not to draw attention to themselves. Then the 10 origin gods with Guntu included entered the city and went down to the bottom layer of the city. They passed through the only access point in the barrier that lead to the vast underground forest.

The forest seems to be under the open sky. There is sunlight cascading down from above and clouds can be seen moving across the sky. It doesn't look like a forest underneath a city at all. At least the creatures living in it don't think so. The forest is their home and to them, it is real as real can be.

The forest is real and so are the creatures within it. The singing birds and the chirping insects are real. There are numerous exotic creatures and plants that live in this forest. They were brought from other planes to liven up the forest and make them beautiful. Some of them belong to the Virut plane but have long gone extinct. There are herbs here that will set titans of law to war.

There are different types of trees in this forest but a certain type of short trees are most prominent. They are many of them too. Each different tall tree has a short tree beside it. These short trees are in the shadow of the tall trees. It could be that the tall trees have stunted the growth of the short trees or the short trees were planted directly next to a tall tree.

Guntu and the other 9 origin gods that accompanied him passed through the forest toward their objective. They can see far into the nature of the forest so they can't get lost. They know that the clouds in the sky are real but the sky isn't real. They know that one of the rabbits in the small family of 7 blue rabbits munching on leaves and watching them is not real. Only 6 of the rabbits are real.

They can see the false trees and the fake path produced by the protective array of the forest. They can see all this because they are Origin gods. It will be very difficult to fool their soul-force-empowered senses. Origin gods can see beneath the world of manifestation so any illusion or deception based on the world of manifestation cannot fool them. They are a part of the law matrix after all.

They shouldn't need their innate ability to perceive the world to navigate the forest in the first place. They should have been allowed to pass directly through since they are guests here, not enemies. But Ancestor Hadrick wanted them to test the defenses. So they are testing the defenses despite the fact that it is delaying them.

They can plough through the defenses to save time but that will be destroying the defenses and not testing it. There is a difference between the two. Ancestor Hadricks was very clear about what it wanted from them. They have to take time for testing and be careful about it. No one wants to get into trouble with the ancestor so they chose to simply test the defenses.

They found Ancestor Hadrick at the center of the forest. It is a very short tree with dark green bark and leaves. The tree is also crystal-like as if it is made of stone, not wood. Its color and form make it look like

a tree carved out of a giant emerald gem. The tree is short at about a meter tall and it has a small amount of leaves but its trunk is thicker than it is tall.

Ancestor Hadrick's main body looks like a green fat drum of precious stone that grew some leaves. It is more of a stump of a once gigantic tree. It would have looked like a stump but it didn't have its top cut off. It just looks like a really short but wide tree.

All 10 origin gods bowed at the tree and offered greetings.

Hadrick greeted them, "Welcome to my humble abode."

Guntu stepped forward and spoke, "We have come to escort you ancestor Hadrick."

He is the oldest and the strongest one that was sent here so he is in charge. He is not the oldest descendent but he has been around in the realm tree for a while so he was made to lead this small squad. It is so that a new face will not attract attention. He has been here for a while and he participated in the war against the gods. No one will suspect the Ghastorix family of being up to something if they see him.