

GREED 871

Chapter 871 Battle Royale.

Aeternus watched their change in emotions with glee. He is enjoying himself tremendously. The worst thing you can give a hopeless person is hope. They will do anything and give up everything for that hope.

He chuckled to himself. "This is good. This is very good."

If he had said with certainty that he would free the last person, they wouldn't have believed him. They will understand his words to be an attempt to rile them up. They won't believe him because they think he is toying with them.

But he offered uncertainty and with it came hope. Now they don't know if he is toying with them or not. They don't know if the hope is real or false but it is hope. It is the speck of light in an otherwise dark dungeon. They will grasp hold of this opportunity so that they won't lose it. After all, there is nothing to lose but their lives itself. They are going to die anyway. But by fighting well, they stand a chance of surviving.

"Do you understand me?" He asked them again.

"Yes, Your Excellency. We understand."

"We understand you very clearly."

They replied in the affirmative. All of them answered his question except the hellhound. All three of her heads glared daggers at him. She doesn't want to indulge him. Her behavior made him chuckle. Even her stubbornness is amusing to him.

He ignored her and continued to address them, "Now, you will form three teams. The Level 7 stick in the mud will be on her own. The remaining four of you will split into two teams of two each. The three teams will fight each other in an open match until only one team is left. That is the first round. Take note

that you must work together with your teammates within the first round. You mustn't hurt or attack them. There will be serious consequences if you do. I will make sure of it."

He let the severity of the situation sink into them by giving them a hard stare. They all looked away from his direct line of sight except the hellhound who maintained her glare. But even she had to look away from his bright golden eyes because of the increasing pressure his attention brings to her.

"The first round will end when only one team is left. That might just be one or both of you in a team. If you're two, then you will fight each other in the second round. Whoever attains victory in the second round and does so in an entertaining manner gets a chance to survive."

"Only one person can live among all of you. So pick your partners carefully. You have a day to communicate amongst yourselves and pick partners. The partnership should be mutual. You can't force someone to be your partner. If you don't have a partner by the end of the period to select one, then you fight alone in your own team."

He asked them, "Any questions?"

None of them had any questions. They shook their heads quickly indicating their lack of questions. Except for the hellhound who remained stubborn. But even she had to shake her head when the space around her head pushed her head side to side.

He clapped excitedly and said, "Then, let the game begin."

He released his hold on them and returned to his throne by bending space to his will. He is the Sovereign of this dominion so he knows everything going on within it and he can go anywhere too. It is not easy work. It can be stressful sometimes. He is a hardworking demon king and he needs entertainment to relieve his stress. That's what these five demon kings are here for.

He will watch them kill each other and be happy about it. He made sure to demarcate the space they are in from the rest of the plane so that their fight won't affect the nice plane that he worked so hard to set up.

The demon kings stared at each other and began scheming. All four of the level 5 demon kings considered each other. They were partners in crime a few minutes ago. They banded together to come and rob the Reaper. Now they are to fight and kill each other until only one remains. Their contract of

non-violence won't protect them now. They have to fight each other if they want to live. The upcoming conflict is unavoidable.

All 5 of them are enemies but one of them will be their ally for the first round. So they are torn about who they want as their partner. Ideally, they want a strong ally that will be of help to them in passing the first round. They also want an ally that they can defeat if they need to. But everyone else wants the same thing.

No one wants to pick a partner that is strong enough to kill them. That also means that they don't want that person to be their enemy either. They are at an impasse. The only alternative is being alone for the first round but that is a worse idea. They will have to fight two against one.

They don't know what to do. Only one person knows what they want to do. And that person is the one without any allies. The level 7 hellhound will have to fight on her own. She is strong on her own, but that's why she knows that whatever these four choose, all of them will gang up on her in the first round.

They have to eliminate her with their full strength early on or none of them will stand a chance against her. So she sought to eliminate her threats early.

The hellhound opened her mouth and prepared to blast the four of them to smithereens. Killing one of them will make her chances of survival higher but she doesn't need to concentrate on a single person thanks to her three heads. She can attack 3 of the 4 of them at once and she decided to do just that.

Chapter 872 A Message.

Her maws opened to reveal glistening sharp teeth. Her throat lit up with a red, blue, and green fiery glow. Three flames flickered within the jaws of her three heads. Then her jaws clamped shut suddenly.

All three of her heads glared at the culprit who foiled her plan. She growled and bared her teeth at him. Aeternus smiled and waved to her. He admires her resourcefulness but no one will spoil his fun.

A day went by for the selection of teams. Then the fighting started. Everything went just as Aeternus expected, the four of them focused on the level 7 demon king. She was cornered very quickly.

"You will regret this. My death will be avenged. You will be destroyed." She roared as she struggled to fend off her assailants.

She is strong but there are four opponents. A normal demon king will struggle with two opponents but she has three heads so she can manage. But four is still too much. They are going to kill her soon. So she screamed and cried out in indignance.

Aeternus was watching with a small smile on his face. He doesn't take her threats seriously. This entire thing is entertainment to him. He is in his backyard having fun by watching people kill each other. Then he will bury their bodies in his backyard where no one will find them. Nothing serious can possibly come out of it.

He believes he has nothing to be afraid of. But something unprecedented suddenly happened. It made his face change. The smile on his face died off and was replaced by a grim look. A strong wave of power was forcefully injected into his plane. The wave entered his plane and was ejected into the surroundings from the pillar of energy. An aura spread out with the wave. It made everything and everyone freeze.

Aeternus stood up from his throne in surprise. He muttered in shock, "A demon God."

The aura that accompanied the wave is that of a demon God. It is certainly a surprise. The wave entered his plane without his permission and it even froze everything within it. He is the only one still moving and that's because he is the sovereign of the plane. The other demon Kings are frozen in the act of whatever they are doing.

Aeternus prepared himself for a fight. A demon God is very powerful but he is not so easy to defeat either. His chances will depend on how much power the demon God is bringing with its manifestation. He should be able to commit suicide as long as he has time to prepare.

No, he doesn't intend to fight a demon god. He is already preparing to kill himself at the sight of a demon god. A demon god is that dangerous. So he examined everything in his plane instantly for an intruder. But he couldn't find anything out of place. He can't find anything outside his plane either.

He was looking for his enemy when the next change happened. The wave spread throughout the plane. Then it bounced off the boundary of the plane and returned to the purple energy pillar in the sky at the

center of the plane. It combined with energy at the top of the pillar before suddenly exploding to release the intent stored within the wave.

Aeternus relaxed after understanding the intent. "I shouldn't have worried."

The wave contained a message. It is a summons for an abyssal meeting. The wave is an invitation to an unprecedented meeting for all demon Kings and demon lords in the abyss.

WRATH sent the message to everyone, not him specifically. It is an abyss-wide summons not an interference by a demon God to rescue the hellhound demon king. The demon God also guaranteed their safety from other demon gods during the meeting by swearing on its sin.

The frozen demon Kings and everything in the plane were released when the wave exploded. All five of them heard the message within the intent. They paused their fighting and looked at Aeternus. They want to know what he plans to do with them now.

The hellhound demon king looked smug. She said to him, "You hear that. There's going to be a meeting. Everyone was informed. CARNAGE will definitely notice it if I am not there. You can't kill me now."

"Something momentous must have happened. Could it be about me?" Aeternus asked himself uncertainly.

This kind of meeting is very rare. It hasn't happened in more than 100 origin cycles or 10 million years. Something very important that concerns the entire abyss must have happened for the summons to be sent out. It could be about him so he is not sure if he should attend or start preparing for war. The demon God might be calling everyone for a planned assault on him and his plane.

"I should be fine as long as I am not killed by a demon God. I'll attend the meeting. Let me see what all the fuss is about." He thought to himself.

He decided to attend the meeting. He is prepared to fight and he is prepared to die.

"I should be safe as long as I am not killed or captured by a demon God."

Then his gaze turned to the five demon Kings fighting. His gaze became hard and cold as ice steel.

"As for these ones, I won't take any chances."

He extended his hand to them and exerted his control over the plane. The entire plane began to pressure the demon Kings from every direction. The pressure became so great that space solidified like tar around them but they were still unharmed. So he shot blades of Chaos energy at them. They couldn't escape since they couldn't move. They watched as death approached and crushed them.

Chaos energy ravaged them. It destroyed their souls and their bodies. Then he added their crowns to his collection. Their crowns entered his skull and five crowns were added to the Halo around the core of the plane.

Chapter 873 The Intelligence Of A Demon Of Wrath.

Now they will have a part to play in adding more crowns to his collection. Others will gaze upon their crowns around the core of his plane and be filled with despair. He has acquired 41 extra crowns in total. But he isn't too happy about it.

"My fun has been ruined." He complained. "Just a little more and the fight would have peaked."

He wasn't going to take any chances with them so he killed them and cut short his fun. There are a lot of uncertainties surrounding the summons so he doesn't want any more uncertainties. Their death has made it certain that nothing can be gotten from them that can be used against him. He was going to kill all of them anyway. It just isn't fun this way.

"Let's see what this is about. Do I run or do I fight? I have to find out." He said as he sat back on his throne.

One of the crowns around the core of the plane detached from it. The crown began to glow a red light. A red shadow appeared beneath the crown as Chaos energy was infused into it. The red shadow solidified and was infused with powerful soul force. Then the red shadow became an entity of divine flesh and blood. It grew four wings, four arms, two great horns tipped in gold, two thick trunk-like legs, and finally a black armor accompanied by a black claymore.

An Avatar of his was formed quickly. It has the same red and translucent crystal-like skin that he has but it has no face on its head. He created an exit out of his plane so a whirlpool appeared in the sky. The Avatar flew up into the whirlpool and left the plane. It entered the energy sea and began making its way to the source.

He met a lot of demon kings on the way. Apparently, he is not the only one making this trip to the first plane of the abyss. They all looked solemn and quiet. None of them talked or asked what the summons could be about because they didn't expect the others to know. A summons like this has never happened as far as anyone can remember.

All of the demon Kings that he met are just avatars at the level of demon lords. No one has an Avatar with the strength of a demon king like him. Most of them, if not all of them, didn't come in their real bodies because demon gods are known to have a great appetite.

Demon gods are always seeking to expand and become greater than what they are. These demon Kings don't feel safe. They might go to the meeting and never return if they go in their real bodies. So it is better to be careful despite the promise by the demon god that they will be safe.

Their Avatars flooded the energy sea as they swam toward the surface. Not all of them are demon Kings. There are some avatars belonging to demon lords. Those avatars are very weak. They are hollow bodies formed out of half-divine sin energy not the Divine energy of demon Kings. These avatars can be popped like fragile bubbles. They are that weak.

No one that he can see is attending the summons with their real bodies. There might be some that he is unaware of who are present with their real bodies but they will be few in number. It is because to come with their real bodies is to be very brave or foolish or both. That's why they all looked at him weirdly. They don't know that it is only an Avatar so they think that he is attending this meeting with his body.

One demon king asked him. "Are you a demon king of wrath?"

The implication of that question is a question of his intelligence. He just snorted and continued on his way.

"Ignorant fools." He thought to himself.

He ignored the odd looks and the inquisitive gazes and focused on observing his environment quietly.

He breached the top of the energy sea and came out to the 1st plane of the abyss. His avatar appeared above a massive purple sea. It doesn't look like a sea because it doesn't have waves or storms at all. Its water is as heavy and thick as mercury and it is as calm as a peaceful lake. The exit of several avatars didn't even create any ripples on its surface.

The energy sea is a calm body of liquid energy. The surface of its purple waters reflects light as if they are frozen solid. One can watch it for its beauty. But Aeternus wasn't watching the scenic view. His gaze went past the floating structures above the energy sea and focused on the 10 clouds above the floating structures.

The floating structures have a ring-like base. There are pillars on this ring. The pillars are in the hundreds. They are not identical. In fact, the pillars look old and decrepit. They are broken here and there. Some are much shorter than others. Even the ring is chipped in several places with cracks spreading through it and the pillars above. It is obvious that this structure hasn't seen much use or maintenance in a long time.

Above the pillars are some floating thrones. Each throne is free-standing and above the pillars. They don't have any contact with the pillars so they just levitate there silently. Aeternus doesn't care about the ring and the floating structures. He is more concerned about the presence of demon gods floating above the structure of the abyssal conclave.

"This meeting has to be very serious. All of them are here. All 10 of them." He thought to himself. "I don't see how this can possibly end well for me or for everyone. Something very bad must happen soon."

The clouds of energy are demon gods. They are more like seas of energy, but they float in the air so they look like clouds. But unlike normal clouds, these cloud are not light. They feel heavy because of the weight their presence places on their surrounding. These clouds must not fall or the earth will shatter.

Chapter 874 Recipe For Disaster.

Demon gods don't have a fixed form. The shackles of the rules of the void universe that binds them are in the process of being broken. They are similar to Origin gods with supreme laws. Each cloud is different. Some might look similar with the same color but they are completely different.

WRATH and CARNAGE are both in the form of a red cloud. But one cloud is a floating sea of red fire and the other is a floating sea of blood. They are both red and they both influence everything that gazes at them with violence but they are different fundamentally. They are also very powerful.

What's worse is that they all came with a significant portion of their strength. Each cloud is as large as a continental landmass. That is enough energy within them to drown a hundred demon kings. As if that isn't enough, there are all 10 of the demon gods of the abyss here. It is a practical recipe for a disaster so he doesn't see how this can have a happy ending. He is just being realistic.

"If this is about me, then I am screwed. I am very screwed. I should kill myself as soon as possible." He warned himself.

Then he began to make his way to the floating structures. The floating structures can be compared to the council chambers of the gods. Except that it is for the rulers of the abyss. Some Divine planes hardly use them. The abyss hasn't used them in more than 10 million years. Gods can come together to make decisions that affect them but demons are not United enough for that to happen.

Demon Kings rarely kill each other because they don't benefit from it and death for them isn't permanent but that doesn't make them friendly with it each other. There are other reasons to fight such as wealth and power. It will take a superior power like a demon God to bring them together.

Even that will be difficult because demon gods are not trusted. An Oath that ensures the safety of the demon gods is needed to assure them before they can even have a meeting. And that will only happen when there's actually a matter that concerns all of the abyss. Such a thing hasn't happened in a long time.

Aeternus flew up with vigilance and uttermost caution. He is ready to commit suicide at the drop of a hat. The death of an Avatar shouldn't matter to him if he is killed by another demon king. But getting killed by a demon God is more than a problem for him. It is a calamity for him and probably for all of Legion.

It will be how the son of the sages managed to kill gods through their avatars. The main bodies of gods died with their avatars. This will be much worse than that because any demon god that manages to lay their hands on him might be able to also get the other legions through him. This is because a demon God is a virus. Those clouds are an amalgamation of tiny chaotic elements in the form of sin.

Demon gods are the embodiment of sin. That means that they are the manifestation of a sin. They have fused with their mark of sin and gained authority over that sin. They can use that privilege to turn whatever they come in contact with into their sin. It is like how chaos energy tries to break down and turn everything that is touched into more chaos energy.

Demon gods are invasive plagues. They cannot be killed even by world gods. They can only be resisted or forcefully overwritten with a supreme law. If they are not successfully resisted then you will become a part of them.

If one of them gets him, then it will be able to get his main body and it will also be able to get the other clones of legions. This is why he thinks the other demon kings who came in avatars and believe that it is enough to keep them safe are ignorant. They questioned his intelligence but they are the stupid ones.

He should not be here. He should be running away. But running away is useless if they are already on to him. So he has to take the risk to acquire information. He can't just run away in ignorance. It may be what they are expecting.

Besides, if they are specifically targeting him, then the message of a summons shouldn't have been sent to him. They would have kept their knowledge of him a secret, moved secretly, and come for him already. But they called a meeting for all rulers. This meeting should be dangerous only because he is in the presence of several demon Gods. That is unless this entire meeting is just to bait him. Anyway, he will find out soon.

The 10 floating seas noticed him. He is one of the few that came in their main bodies. He also has an energy that is very similar to theirs within him. Their interest was piqued immediately. They extended their senses to him to inspect what's so special about him but their probes were rebuffed by a layer of soul force.

They are more powerful than him but Legion-1's soul force is strong enough to resist them for a time even if they make direct contact with him. They will eventually break the defense of the soul force since Legion-1 doesn't have a supreme law. But for now, their indirect probes will remain ineffective on him.

The development surprised the demon gods. If they had a doubt before, they now know for sure that Aeternus is not what he seems. No demon king should be able to resist their inspection. They began conversing about him amongst themselves.

"Looks like I have been made." He sighed and thought to himself.

He felt it as they scanned him. The layer of soul force on him engaged with several intrusive and powerful forces and began to be depleted. It is as good as any sign that he is already in big trouble.

Chapter 875 3 Sides Of Desire.

There's no two ways about it. He is in trouble and that is a fact. He put a layer of soul force around him because he can't rely on luck that no demon gods will have any designs for him after they sense his energy signature. Reality has proven his caution to be right and not to be overacting or baseless paranoia.

Other demon Kings can only feel a certain threat and a corrosive aura but demon gods are intimately familiar with his kind of energy. In fact, they are made of corrosive energy that will overwrite whatever it touches. So they will want to understand why he is the way he is and they will not be polite about it.

The guarantee of safety from WRATH can be subverted. After all, it is only a single demon God that invited them and made the Oat to protect them. There are 9 other demon gods here. Anything can happen so he protected himself.

A casual inspection of him will be very bad apart from the fact he has Chaos energy. They will also notice that this body doesn't contain a soul despite having a crown. That will make them realize that he is a king of kings. So they will want to get him at all costs. If they didn't know that he must be killed before, they would after a simple inspection.

The soul energy is not only to prevent scanning on him. It will also protect him and give him enough time so that he will have the opportunity to self-destruct before they can touch him or his energy. His main body will be able to escape through a portal in his plane.

So he didn't just wander into what can be compared to a lion's den without sufficient preparation. He has made sufficient preparations. It is funny that all his preparations are for him to be able to kill himself before it is too late.

He continued to rise above the sea unperturbed. He didn't show any indication that anything was amiss or that he sensed their scanning. What they have found out about him is not as bad as what he doesn't want them to find out so he is still in the clear. That can change at any moment but he must remain calm and collected.

Fortunately, his head doesn't have a face so his work has been cut in half. He doesn't have to school his face. He just made sure to keep his posture and body language regal. He mustn't look like prey or he will be treated like prey. If he looks confident, then they might think twice before they attack him. All he needs is that moment of hesitation for him to kill himself.

He flew past the ringed base and the pillars attached to them. He rose even higher and picked a throne which he sat on. The thrones are for demon Kings while the pillars are for demon lords. He sat down and even relaxed his posture. Meanwhile, the demon gods were observing him intently while discussing among themselves furiously. Many of them want to swoop down and snatch him up right this instant. They want to disregard civility and indulge in their desires.

"I want him. I want him now."

"I must have him now."

"Give him to me. I just want a little taste."

Three different demon gods clamored for him.

Demon gods are beings without restraint. They are the very definition of their sins. They gained control over their sins but they were also influenced heavily by their sins. GREED, GLUTTONY, and ENVY want to get him immediately. But WRATH, CARNAGE, and LUST are against it. While the other four demon gods are on the sidelines content with just watching.

SLOTH is not actually against grabbing Aeternus. It is against doing anything at all that's why it is on the sidelines. It wouldn't have come here had it not been dragged by WRATH. If not for being dragged, then it will be somewhere else sleeping.

As for the other demon gods on the sidelines, they don't care about Aeternus enough to try and get him or try to protect him. PRIDE certainly doesn't give a hoot or half about the weird demon king. It believes that it is special, unique, and the best thing in existence. Anything else is lower quality and not worth its attention.

The one that led the side of reason and decorum is WRATH. WRATH clearly has a vested interest in having this meeting go well. It brought the laziest demon God here and it doesn't want a demon king to be attacked in front of everyone at a meeting that he called for an important aim. He swore to guarantee the safety of everyone who attends the meeting and he will make sure of it.

The disruption that attacking Aeternus right now will cause will hinder their plans for the era of conquest. For once in the history of the abyss, all the rulers have to come together and they need to unite. The demon gods need everyone's help. CARNAGE and LUST backed WRATH up so they are at a stalemate on what to do about Aeternus.

They discussed more about him. They agreed to hold off on attacking him until the meeting is done with. And the attack has to be done discretely or the other demon Kings will get nervous and the demon gods will lose their credibility. It won't help their unity if a demon king is killed by a demon god.

"Fine." GREED said. "I will get him later."

It agreed to the proposal to hold off but it couldn't stop looking at Aeternus. Greed pulled at its mind the more it looked at Aeternus. It wants to get to the bottom of Aeternus's secrets but it can't, for now. So it decided to ask a question.

"Hey, you." It called out to Aeternus. "You're the newest demon king. Are you not?"

It didn't wait for an answer. "Why did you come here in your main body?"

Chapter 876 First Round Of Scheming.

The cloud of blue energy didn't change as it asked its question. A wave reverberated out of it containing its intent and message. The question is harmless. It just looks like the demon god is curious about him. A lot of people are curious about why he came in his main body too.

Aeternus replied calmly. "It wouldn't matter if I came with my main body or not. I am doomed if a demon God wants to get me. Besides, the esteemed demon God of wrath swore to protect us from other demon gods."

What he said is true. It doesn't matter in which form you appear before a demon God. Your death is all but certain. Even the demon lords are not safe. If a demon God can forcefully send a message to all the

rulers of the abyss within their plane, then a demon God can reach demon kings or demon lords no matter where they are through their avatar of sin energy.

He used that reasonable reason to mask that he is an avatar himself. It also shows reasonable fear and respect of the demon gods. But GREED wasn't satisfied.

It asked again. "That might be true but what about the other demon Kings? Do you not think it is appropriate to guard yourself against them."

Everyone was paying attention to the conversation. All the demon lords and demon kings are interested in the conversation between a demon God and a demon king. Their exchange is public, not private so everyone can hear what they are talking about.

This question seems valid too. It might be true that he can't protect himself from a demon God but there are other threats here besides demon gods that can harm him. The other demon Kings might use this opportunity to harm him and set back his progress. What if a fight breaks out? That is highly likely to happen when more than two demons are in a place. Coming here in his main body is overlooking the others as a threat.

Aeternus shrugged and said, "I can handle myself."

Yes, he can handle himself. The demon gods know that much about him. Someone who can resist their probing can surely handle himself. But by making it known like this, the attention of other demon Kings will be drawn to that fact. And the result is unpleasant.

The other demon Kings thought he was being foolish or just brave for coming here in his main body. But they know now that it is because he is confident in protecting himself against other demon kings. They know now that he is proud and doesn't fear them. That ruffled some feathers.

Aeternus appears foolish and courting death since they can feel that he is just a level-5 demon king. They want to bring that death to him. It is what GREED was aiming for.

Aeternus is not the only demon king here in what appears to be their main bodies. But he was specifically targeted by GREED. The questions seem harmless on the surface. Beneath the harmless surface is a nefarious purpose.

The questions are meant to create a divide between Aeternus and the other demon Kings. It is so that a believable excuse can be created when Aeternus inevitably disappears. After all, it is possible that a demon king decided to teach him a lesson in humility by killing him and destroying his plane too.

GREED didn't say anything after that. But the damage has been done. Aeternus chuckled and said to himself, "I am sure of it now. Doom is coming for me."

He knows that trouble is coming for him soon. He can't hide his strength in front of a demon God. To succeed in hiding his strength from the probing is already saying that he is very strong.

He also couldn't say that he can't handle himself. That will show that he foolishly came here with his main body without fear. No one will believe him if he said that since he gave a very good reason for why being here in the presence of a demon God with or without an avatar doesn't matter.

It wouldn't have helped if he had lied and was believed. Showing foolishness will make him a weak target for the other demon kings. So he is screwed either way. He knows this but he still chuckled to himself. He isn't amused at the danger he is. His chuckle is but a nervous release of emotions. He is afraid but he is not willing to let fear cripple him.

"This is rock bottom. Things cannot get worse than this." He said to himself.

Now this is a logical conclusion. He knows demons are coming for his life. He knows he is in serious danger of death. But he isn't afraid of death as long as he dies on his own terms. As long as a demon god doesn't kill them then his death will be nothing but a minor loss of a crown. Sure, the entire abyss will hunt him down after they realize what he is. So what could be worse than that? Nothing actually, but his situation became worse.

His throne began to rise after sitting on it. It is an indication of status by power. The throne will rise to a height based on their influence in the abyss. Their influence will determine the number of votes that they have during any voting session of the abyssal conclave. So the higher the throne, the more votes you have.

The height that the throne rises to is based on a culmination of factors. The most important is your personal strength. In other words, the higher your level of authority, the higher your throne will rise. His throne rose to the maximum level that a level 10 Authority should have.

He can fool lesser demon kings by using a weak crown in his avatar, but he can't fool the abyss. The abyss is very aware of his true strength. He can't even fool demon gods about his strength. We've seen how that worked out. So now, everyone knows he is a level 10 demon king instead of the level 5 that he appears to be.

Chapter 877 Payback For Greediness.

His true power has been revealed for all to see. The rulers of the abyss understand that he found a way to hide his strength from them. And they have now realized that he is more dangerous than he seems. All his pretending have unraveled to show his true sneaky self. So no one will underestimate him when they come after him to kill him. But the progression of events from bad to worse didn't end there.

It is as they say, when it rains, it pours. It is pouring right now. His throne didn't stop after reaching the maximum height based on personal power. It continued to rise higher. The next factor that contributes to the height of the throne is the power of the plane of the demon king. This factor is how strong their plane is. It goes without saying that his plane is very strong. It is probably the strongest since he is a demon king of kings with more than 40 crowns.

His throne began to draw attention as it rose higher. The conversation with the demon God has already made him a noted figure. Then he said he could handle himself around other demon kings. That could have been baseless bluffing but they can see now that there is some truth to what he said. His throne has risen above 90% of the other demon kings. But that isn't enough for it. His throne continued to rise when the third factor of influence came into play.

The third factor that contributes to the height is the strength of subordinates. The strength of subordinates is a determinant of influence in the abyss and overall strength. Every demon noble has a house with subordinates who have sworn oaths of allegiance. The power of their house is also an indication of their power and influence.

A demon king will have strengthened their house over the period of becoming a demon lord and then gaining Authority. So every demon king has a large number of subordinates apart from their Heralds. But not every demon king has demon lords as subordinates.

Each demon lord stood on a pillar beneath the thrones. Some that are related or friendly with each other stood close to each other. This is especially the case when they are part of the faction of a demon

king. Each demon lord only has a single vote. But their existence adds to the significance of a demon king if they are sworn subordinates of that demon king.

In the case of Aeternus who has 72 demon lords as his subordinates, then the addition to his influence will be very high. So his throne experienced another massive increase in height.

"It just keeps coming." He complained inwardly as his throne rose higher and higher. "If there is any chance that I can avoid the fate of being chased by the entire abyss until I die, it is zero now."

He didn't know about the principles of the abyssal council or the mechanisms by which influence is determined. If he knew, he might have rethought his plan to come here. He certainly would have rethought making his subordinates demon lords. He just wanted to have more soldiers so that he would be able to invade a divine plane on his own.

"I think this is payback for all the demon dukes that were unjustly killed for my greed." He thought in jest. "This will make sure that I join them."

A lot of demon dukes died to fulfill their mission to become demon lords. He sent them on that mission. Some died during the mission and he killed some for failing the mission. 10 demon lords as subordinates is enough. Most demon kings don't have that. But he didn't stop at that. He planned to have all 100 of his subordinates become demon lords. He let his greed run rampant. Too much of anything is bad. Now it has come back to bite him in the ass.

He rose higher for a while until his throne stopped. He finally stopped but he couldn't breathe a sigh of relief. He is not the highest demon king but he is in the top 3. So the damage has been done. If he didn't stand out when he came with his body, or when he spoke with a demon god, or when he said he could handle himself among hundreds of demon kings, he surely stands out now. He stands out very well.

He has eyes on him from every direction. The thrones are arranged in a circle but they have different heights. Then their influence was calculated. Each level of authority grants 1 vote. So there is a maximum of 10 votes for personal strength. The power of the plane adds another 10 points. The last is the strength of subordinates which also adds another 10 points for a total of 30 points.

He got 10 votes for personal strength. The points for their plane are calculated based on percentile. He is in the 99th percentile so he got 9 points. The first abyssal plane is the strongest plane, not his. So he

didn't get 10 points for the strength of the plane. It is better than what Kings of the Abyss got. They don't have a personal plane so they only got 1 point. Only Kings of Demons and himself got more than a single point.

The last factor brought in 9 points for him. He is not the only one to think of making their subordinates demon lords. There are others that have done so too and they did it way before him. He is a new demon king but he has very strong subordinates so he managed to reach the 80th percentile. It brings his total to 28 points.

The first two demon kings have 28 and 29 points. If he had eyes, they would be narrowed at the first two demon kings right now.

"These two are highly suspicious." He thought to himself. "I might not be the only one."

Chapter 878 What Demons Are Good At.

He doesn't have eyes so all he can do is fixate his divine sense on them and scan them without restraint. He wanted to get to the bottom of their strength. It is pretty rude to scan another demon king so intensely but he doesn't care. He is already in danger. A little more danger can't hurt. But he failed. The two of them successfully defended against his probe. That only reinforced his suspicion.

"Interesting."

He finds it interesting that there are two demon kings ahead of him who are apparently strong enough to defend themselves. What's more interesting is that he found two more demon kings whom he couldn't ascertain if they were using an avatar or not. These four demon kings appear to be in their main bodies like him. And like him, no one is sure if they are avatars without souls.

He thought to himself with a smirk, "The only reason I can think of for being unable to inspect them is if their crown is stronger than mine. I am a level 10 demon king and also a demon king of kings with 41 crowns. So..."

He can only be sure of what he is. He can't be sure of what others are. But the possibility is very high. He returned his attention to his surroundings. His gaze swept through all the demon kings present and he assessed their situation and power from the information provided by the abyss about their influence. Others are also examining him. Especially the ones that he just disrespected by scanning.

Their individual points aren't shown. But their total influence is displayed just above their heads for everyone to see. They can't exactly say how well he performed in each section but they know he did very well. After all, he has an average of 9 in every section.

That means that he is better than 90% of the demon kings in every section. It is a very impressive performance for the newest demon king amongst a total of 271 demon kings.

It is also a very suspicious performance. It hasn't even been one origin cycle since he became a demon king. They didn't even know of him as a demon lord. He suddenly became a demon king and surpassed 270 other demon kings who have been demon kings for millions of years. It is very suspicious indeed.

If he wasn't interesting enough or suspicious enough to the demon gods before, he is now. Every demon God turned their gaze full of interest onto him. He didn't seem perturbed by the attention. He remained calm. He even sat casually with his four thick arms folded against his chest. He isn't going to give them the satisfaction of a reaction no matter how long they wait.

A demon God noticed something odd. So it asked. "Shouldn't there be more than 271 demon gods? Last I counted, there should be more than 300 demon kings. What happened to them?"

It was LUST that asked. She noticed that there were fewer demon kings than normal present at the meeting.

WRATH also discovered the anomaly. "That's true. There are more than 60 demon kings missing. Did they decide not to attend despite the fact that I swore an Oath to guarantee their safety? Those damned scoundrels." It yelled in anger.

WRATH got angry immediately because of the absence of some demon kings. It felt insulted that its oath was not enough to assuage their fears of being in the presence of demon gods.

"I will not allow this to go unanswered." It roared and blasted everyone with its shout.

Aeternus spoke up while other demon kings were cowering and trying to look small, "Not all of them bailed out of this meeting because they were scared. Some of them can't come because they have been captured and held against their will. I, myself have captured 3 other demon kings."

He came forward to clear himself before someone else said something to incriminate him. It is public knowledge that he captures demon kings. But if he owns up to it then it will be a quirk or fetish and not a suspicious point.

Besides, what he said is something that other demon kings do too. Of the 80 or so demon kings missing, he is only responsible for 50 of them.

WRATH calmed down. It muttered, "That's true. Bad luck for them then."

If they are captured, then so be it. He can't say that they should be released unless he is ready to force the demon kings to let go of their captives or pay for their liberation. The fact that they are captured means that they are not worthy enough to be here.

In any society, only free people can vote. Slaves and prisoners can't. They don't have that right and don't have any say in determining the affairs of the society. If he wasn't surprised about the absence then he wouldn't have bothered to ask about them.

But some demon gods have reasons to be bothered. In fact, some of them are very concerned about the missing demon kings. Some of the missing demon kings are their subordinates. It is one thing to miss an internal meeting of their faction. It is another thing to miss an abyss-wide meeting without any information or excuse.

So CARNAGE had to ask. "What about Cerberus? Where is she? Do you have her captured too?"

That question was directed to Aeternus. He can't pretend to not be capable of capturing a level 7 demon king now that his power and influence have been unraveled. So he did what demons are very good at.

He replied calmly, "I don't know who that is your Excellency. What does she look like?"

He lied. It was a blatant lie that he did with a straight face. It helped that his face is actually blank. The truth is that he didn't know her before today when she entered his plane and he has never associated with her before. He denied knowing her entirely to throw away any link between them and it might work too since he just met her today.

Chapter 879 What Cerberus Is Up To.

CARNAGE was not convinced by what Aeternus said. It would have narrowed its eyes if it had any eyes to narrow. Instead, it hummed and asked suspiciously, "Is that so?"

Aeternus didn't need to answer that question and he doesn't want to either. The fact is that nothing he can say can clear him. Anyone can say anything so he could be lying or speaking the truth. Either way, no one will believe him. So he kept quiet.

He didn't need to answer. Someone else spoke up.

A level 4 demon king said, "I heard from a succubus queen who is a friend of mine that she and 3 other demon kings are going somewhere with demon king Cerberus."

This nosy demon king is a demon king of envy. It has a small stature which puts it as 6 kilometers tall amongst the other 10 kilometers tall demon kings. It is also in the form of a worm with wings and horns. It is not a snake because it is segmented with multiple sections joined together.

"Where did they go to?" CARNAGE asked.

The demon king hurriedly replied, "She didn't tell me where. It could be the Invasion of a plane. All she said to me was that if she disappears, then it is probably Demon King Cerberus's fault."

What the demon lord of envy said made everyone laugh or snicker quietly. They are very familiar with situations like this. It is very clear to them that this succubus queen was informing others of her arrangements in case she disappeared. She also did not say exactly where she was going or what they were going to do there to maintain secrecy. It is obvious that there is some sort of benefits involved and she doesn't want the person she told to get wind of it and interfere.

"Is that succubus queen here now?" CARNAGE asked.

The demon king replied with a shake of the head. "No, Your Excellency."

That finally settled some of the suspicions of CARNAGE. It seems that Cerberus's absence can be explained by her being busy with something. She could probably be outside the abyss which will explain

why she didn't receive the message for the meeting. The benefits also won't allow her to come even if she heard the summons.

If there is something that it is sure of from what it heard, the benefits have to be very big because she was supposed to have a meeting with it earlier. It is a meeting for CARNAGE to inform those in its faction about what this current meeting is about. They were supposed to use the early access to the information to their advantage. She missed that meeting so the benefits have to be greater.

"Let this meeting start then." WRATH called the meeting to order.

"I am sure most of you are surprised by the summons and this meeting. You must suspect a lot of things. I assure you that this meeting was called for a very important reason. It is a momentous reason that affects all of the abyss."

"The era of conquest is coming. This era will bring a lot of changes. It brings both good things and bad things for everyone. One thing is sure and it is that the era of conquest will affect everyone. It will also affect the demons. For those that don't know, the abyss will disappear after the end of the era of conquest. It doesn't matter if the realm of high heaven succeeds or fails. The abyss will cease to exist."

If the realm of high heaven succeeds in the era of conquest then it will detach from the law matrix and leave behind the abyss. If the realm of high heaven fails, then it will be destroyed along with the abyss. So the era of conquest marks the end of the abyss no matter the outcome of the era of conquest.

"We have little we can do to change the fate of the abyss. The abyss will end no matter what and the demons will end with it. But that has changed. I am here to tell you that the realm lord of the realm of high heaven met with all the demon gods of the abyss. He offered us a deal to preserve the demons. He has a grand plan for the realm and he wants us to be a part of it."

The announcement of WRATH evoked surprise and shock from the demon kings. Not all of them were surprised though. Some of them have heard of this information from the demon gods that they are involved with. Aeternus wasn't surprised to hear about it. He knows a lot about the era of conquest and the realm lord so he is not surprised that the realm lord is recruiting the demons. After all, the realm lord is also recruiting world gods.

So he took the announcement in stride. What he isn't sure about is what the realm lord wants of them. He doesn't understand what use the abyss will be since their total strength is weak. A single powerful plane in the realm can exceed the top-level strength of the entire abyss.

There are about 300 demon kings in the abyss. Meanwhile, the Ghastorix family alone can produce thousands of Origin gods. The Abyss has 10 demon gods. Meanwhile, the Virut plane has more than 30 world gods. So, of what use are the demons and the abyss?

WRATH said to them, "The specifics of the deal with the realm lord can not be explained yet. If you want to know, then you must join the coalition of the abyss. It will require you to swear an oath of loyalty. The abyss needs to be united for this deal to be carried out without problems.

"So all of you must vote or you can leave. I have sworn that you will not face any danger from a demon God during this meeting. So you can leave without worry or concern about your safety. You are in no danger whatsoever. For now."

Chapter 880 Impudence.

The demon kings and demon lords were surprised by the need for secrecy about the deal that the realm lord offered. An oath is not a small thing to make. Breaking it will lead to dire consequences. So some of them are not willing to subject themselves to one. Especially when they don't know what exactly they are going to bind themselves to. So the demon God's assurance of safety filled them with relief. That relief turned into fright when they heard the demon God's next words.

"You have nothing to worry about if you leave. The only thing you might have to worry about is your safety after this meeting. The coalition of the abyss might need to consolidate the entire strength of the abyss and unify our forces and resources. You might encounter unfortunate events during the process. It will be very unfortunate. But it can be avoided if you swear loyalty now."

They understood immediately, both the literal and the subtle threats from WRATH. They can swear loyalty, or they can prepare to be forcefully annexed by the coalition of the abyss. It is the threat of a demon God. They can be sure that they will face unfortunate events if they don't swear loyalty.

Everyone became less comfortable. They began to fidget. They are demon kings and demon lords. They control a domain and have many subordinates. Demon gods are strong, that much they can admit to. But that doesn't mean they want to be bossed around. Even if they are bossed around at the end of the day, they will resist a little and they will still have feelings of dissatisfaction and indignance.

They are all unwilling with the offer but no one said anything. They too are leaders. So they know how it will go when someone stands up to them. None of them wants to be the scapegoat that will teach the others a lesson and make them fall in line. So no one said anything. They all kept quiet.

The only sound that can be heard is the howling of the wind. The demon gods also didn't say anything. They were content with watching the demon kings squirm uncomfortably.

Everything was silent. That was until someone raised his hands up. It was Aeternus.

He said, "I have a question."

GREED snarled, "It's you again."

"Go on." WRATH interrupted. "Ask your question."

"Thank you, your Excellency. I am sure the coalition of the Abyss is a good idea. But we don't know that for sure. We are ignorant and cannot compare with the infinite wisdom that your excellencies possess. Forgive us for this sin."

GREED interrupted, "Ask your question ant. Do not bore us with tales of your stupidity, ignorance, and weaknesses."

Aeternus ignored the rabid demon god and continued, "You have told us the detriment of not joining this coalition. Is there anything you can tell us about the advantages of joining this coalition? For example, will our safety from Demon gods be extended to everyone within the coalition for as long as the coalition still stands? Can we attack other demon kings in the coalition or is that limited to those not in the coalition?"

The other demon kings and demon lords were nodding in agreement as he spoke. There is a lot that they don't know about this coalition. The demon gods don't need to give them information about the deal. But surely, they can give them information about the benefits of the coalition.

"What other effects will joining the coalition have on us? Do we have to release the demon kings we captured if they accept to join the coalition? Do we have to pay taxes in any form? What are our contributions to the coalition supposed to be? Is the coalition meant only for secrecy? If so, then we don't need to create a coalition. We can just swear to secrecy and that will be all. And most importantly, why does it matter that we join the coalition? You're demon gods. You are much stronger than us. What do you need us for? What is it that we can do that your excellencies can't?"

He asked a lot of questions. Then he finished his questions with a humble request.

"I ask these questions not in disrespect, Your Excellency. But so that you can enlighten us and shine some light on our ignorance. I hope you will do us this small favor, Your Excellency."

The demon kings and demon lords would have given him a standing ovation if their safety were assured. They would have stood up and clapped. And they would have done so for a long time. But they are in the presence of demon gods. So they will limit themselves to nodding subtly while they watch if Aeternus will be struck down for his impudence.

"Impudence." PRIDE roared.

Apparently, someone thought he was being impudent too.

PRIDE is one of the demon gods on the sidelines about going after Aeternus. It is a little curious about Aeternus's weird energy but it won't bring itself so low as to capture him. Whatever it is about Aeternus, it is beneath it anyway. This meeting is also beneath it. Even the other demon gods are beneath it. So it ignored Aeternus and everyone else.

It didn't participate in the discussion and it doesn't plan to. But Aeternus dared to question a demon God. He dared to show disrespect. Its pride won't allow it. Aeternus should know his place and not mouth off. He should just swear loyalty and be done with it. In fact, every demon king and demon lord here should just do what they are asked to do immediately.

"You dare to question a demon God? You dare?" PRIDE asked Aeternus with a calm but serious voice.

Then it said to everyone else, "Who here agrees with him?"

The spiritual and physical pressure of the demon god of pride blasted all of them with that question. They felt the question slam into them with the force of a hurricane. The tone of the question itself is calm. But it is clear to everyone that the demon god of pride is very angry.