

GREED 881

Chapter 881 Second Round Of Scheming.

No one said anything. They were not going to show support for him even when a demon god is not obviously incensed and they have not become stupid enough to show any support now that it has become obviously dangerous to do so. It was dangerous to show support for him earlier. But now, the danger has become so large that it is clear and obvious even to stupid people.

Aeternus kept quiet and everyone suddenly became mute. It's not like they can talk anyway. The pressure of the existence of a demon God began to settle on them. It felt like they were carrying the weight of the sky as it was falling on them. Aeternus and the other level 10 demon kings can talk but they will be very stupid to say anything. To say anything, no matter how servile or submissive, is to court death.

"Enough." WRATH sighed and said.

It interfered in the suppression too. It brushed away the pressure with a flick of exertion.

"Why?" PRIDE roared back.

"This is a civilized meeting. If we wanted to force them, we would have cornered each of them in their planes and made them swear the oath. We asked them to come here so that we could meet eye to eye. He is not disrespecting us by asking a question after he has admitted his ignorance?"

"Fine." PRIDE relented and returned to being a silent observer.

What PRIDE hates the most is disrespect. It can get angry because of it. Now that it has been stated that it is not disrespect, it can settle down.

The God of wrath looked at Aeternus and considered how to answer the questions. The questions are loaded with several implications. It has to consider them very well or risk falling into a trap.

First of all, guaranteeing the safety of all the members of the coalition from Demon gods is not something that only it can guarantee. That means that it has to make the other demon gods swear to

stay away from the demon kings and demon lords. That means that they can't touch Aeternus if he joins the coalition.

"What a sneaky scheming bastard." WRATH grumbled to itself.

It already told the other demon gods that they could grab Aeternus after the meeting. Asking them to swear not to go after him or anyone else will be very difficult. It is a very difficult request. Aeternus knows that. That's why he offered some incentives. His following questions were the incentives. Asking if they can attack other demon kings who didn't join the coalition will encourage the demon kings to join the coalition.

His following questions are both incentive and critical. Aeternus offered to free his captives if they want to join the coalition. It is an olive branch or a bribe of some sort to the demon god of wrath since it seems to care about attendance. Then he wanted to know what else he has to give up by asking what taxes they have to pay in the coalition.

Now, if all of that doesn't work, Aeternus pointed out the fact that the demon gods must need them for something. Why else would they want the demon lords and demon kings to join the coalition? If the demon gods are so capable, why can't they fulfill the realm Lord's deal on their own?

In a way, Aeternus is making a subtle threat. The demon gods can force them. But at what cost? Forcing them can also lead to bad unwanted consequences. So will the demon gods guarantee their safety or not? If they don't guarantee the safety of everyone who joins the coalition, what's to stop the demon gods from snacking on them? What will be the difference between those who joined and those who didn't join?

And if his safety is not guaranteed, then he might as well create a lot of trouble for the demon gods now. He is going to die anyway. So he might as well hurt them too.

So yes, the questions are loaded with meaning and have serious consequences. They made WRATH angry. If there is something that is similar between the demon gods of pride and wrath, it is that they get angry easily. They just have different things that make them angry. PRIDE is snobbish and gets angry at any disrespect. But WRATH can get angry at anything and anyone for any reason.

So yes, it is very angry with Aeternus. And it was glad to see that PRIDE became angry too. It was looking forward to PRIDE pressuring the demon kings into submission with its questions. But of course, the prideful smuck took it too far.

WRATH grumbled to itself, "I shouldn't have expected restraint from a demon God."

Things would have worked out had PRIDE restrained itself to asking those questions in indignance. But it went ahead to pressure them with its power. That forced the demon God of wrath's hands because it swore to protect everyone that came to the meeting from demon gods. It had to interfere because of its Oath. Now it has to answer the question all because a demon god didn't show restraint.

It could brush the question aside but it understood the threat that Aeternus added to the question. In fact, all the other demon kings understand that threat too. They know now that they shouldn't be servile because the demon gods must need them for something. So they have a basis for confidence which was further reinforced by the behavior of PRIDE.

If they weren't so useful, PRIDE would have attacked them directly instead of pressuring them. After all, the demon God of pride didn't swear to protect them. But PRIDE didn't kill them so it must need them alive for something.

Aeternus didn't say anything. He waited calmly for the answer of WRATH. He has said what he wants to say. It is up to WRATH now. The demon God can choose to address his question or not. But it has to say something. Whatever it says will determine his next move. So he waited in silence with the other demon kings.

Chapter 882 The Crux Of The Matter.

WRATH finally spoke after several seconds of silence. "The coalition of the abyss is a good thing. I will tell you why it is a good thing. For starters, the demon gods will not be leaders of this coalition. This coalition is a union of the entire manpower of the abyss by swearing an Oath of cooperation with the will of the abyss."

"The realm lord met with us and offered us the deal. But the most important thing he needs is the cooperation of the will of the abyss. He won't get the cooperation of the will of the abyss with just us. For that to happen, the will of the abyss must be called into action when two-thirds of the total influence of the demon lords and demon kings agree to it."

"This two-thirds of influence will be calculated for every demon king that has ever existed, for every plane that exists in the abyss, and for every Authority that has been bestowed by the will of the abyss. Do you understand why we need everyone now?"

What WRATH said is enlightening. They finally understand why the demon gods need them and why they can't kill them. They can coerce the demon kings but they can't eliminate them because each demon king that doesn't vote is a vote against what they want.

Another important thing is that there is no way to know what the demon kings vote for. So forcing them will not work. The demon gods have to convince them to vote for it. The demon kings with the highest influence and votes are also the highest priority to convince.

Aeternus ruminated on this information and came to some conclusions. He thought to himself, "I see. It seems the realm lord is up to something. That schemer has turned his eyes toward the abyss."

The realm lord needs the will of the abyss for something but he can't order it around. It is because the will of the abyss is not a part of the realm tree. It is a part of the universe and it is present in every realm tree.

In fact, the abyss and the realm tree are at odds with each other. Any being other than a demon that comes to the abyss will be hunted by all demons in a frenzy induced by the hostility of the will of the abyss.

The realm lord himself should know about this. He once had to come to the abyss to escape a hunt for his life. He has experienced the hostility of the abyss personally so he knows that the abyss can not be bossed around by him. He needs the help of the abyss but he won't get it no matter how pushy or influential he is. Two-thirds of the influence of the abyss within this realm tree must be in agreement for it to move and for him to receive that help.

The demon God continued. "There will be no leaders if the coalition is formed. Every decision will be taken by vote. No one has any obligations toward one another. You don't need to pay any tax. In fact, you might not need to do anything once the coalition has been formed. You can choose to stay out of the rest of the deal once the coalition has been formed. You will only need to make any effort if you want to enjoy the benefits of the coalition."

"In summary, you don't need to do anything after the coalition is formed. There are no rules to adhere to as a member of the coalition. You can choose to continue with the deal or not. Is everything clear now?"

Aeternus raised his hand again.

WRATH practically growled as it asked, "What is it this time? Take note that you are walking on thin ice here. Make sure not to make me angry. I can be very nasty when I get angry."

Aeternus took note of the threat but didn't back down. The demon god tried to sideline what he cares about the most. He won't allow that to happen. At least not peacefully.

"Thank you, your Excellency, for explaining the aim of the coalition to us. But there is something I might have an issue with." He said.

GREED interrupted him again. "Is that so? Do you have something that you have an issue with? I sincerely hope it won't be the last thing that you have an issue with."

WRATH sighed. Then it said, "Let him talk."

WRATH knows what Aeternus is going to complain about but it can't stop it now. After all, it has given the demon kings all the ammunition that they need to be obstinate. They were suspicious before about why the demon gods were not threatening them with violence. But now they know for sure. So it has to address Aeternus's so-called "issue."

"Thank you, your Excellency. What you have explained is very insightful. Correct me if I am wrong. I was able to glean that you can't force us to swear loyalty and create the coalition of the abyss. But you can force us to do anything after the coalition has been formed. It is like you said, we have no obligations towards one another. It means that you are not obligated to protect us at all. Any demon god can take advantage of us. They can force us to participate in the deal and they can take our benefits from us."

"Just shut up, will you?" GREED asked with a shout.

"So what do you want?" WRATH ignored the shout and asked Aeternus.

"We are only useful for now. That will change after the coalition has formed. We don't require protection from other demon kings. We hardly fight and killing each other is a hassle at most. But demon gods are a real threat to us. In light of this information, it will be best if the demon gods promise not to act against us if the Coalition is formed."

"You imbecile. You ant. I will break you." GREED roared as it attacked.

Chapter 883 Attack Of Greed.

GREED had had enough of Aeternus. So It attacked him immediately with a shout. A tendril of green poison-looking energy extended out of the cloud that is the demon god of greed and lashed at him.

This thin and string-like tendril of energy fell on him in the most harmless manner but he isn't deceived. He is sure that he will be cut in two if it touches him. All of his clones and avatars will not be spared from the damage either. GREED will be able to reach every one of them.

Death came for him abruptly. But the tendril was knocked aside by another tendril before it reached him. It is a red fire whip that belongs to the God of wrath.

The two whips clashed in a violent explosion. The explosion produced shockwaves that shook all the thrones and the demon kings sitting on them. The shockwaves also struck the surface of the energy sea below and made it create high-rising waves. This turbulence passed through the energy sea into every plane in the abyss.

Every demon felt a sudden spike in the concentration of sin energy followed by a sudden drop. They also felt a spike in their emotions mostly anger and greed. This shift in sin concentration and emotions continued over time. They will reduce until the concentration returns to normal. That is if the energy sea is not agitated again.

"Don't test me." WRATH roared in unbridled anger.

"Or what?" GREED asked menacingly.

A fight is about to break out. The other demon gods that were watching the show had to interfere immediately. A fight will surely happen once WRATH becomes angry. So they have to placate him.

The demon gods all began to argue amongst themselves. Some of them, headed by GREED don't want to swear to stay away from the demon kings. They have several reasons for their vehemence. It has to do with the restriction of their freedom and demon gods don't like restraint.

There are also some benefits involved that swearing that oath will hinder. The others are willing to make the sacrifice of swearing the oath so that they can get a chance at becoming world-enders. Swearing the oath will actually make the demon kings be at peace and be more productive which is a good thing for them. But it is not a good thing if they want to get Aeternus.

Aeternus continued to sit calmly. He appeared to be at ease while he was shaking within. If he had sweat glands, he would be sweating profusely right now. His sweat glands will be gushing out with salt-laden water to cool his body but it will not be enough. The heat of the abyss will make nothing ever be enough. The presence of angry demon gods that want to murder you after thoroughly turning your existence inside out is just icing on this very very hot lava cake.

"That was close." He said to himself.

He almost died right now but he didn't. He knew what he was doing so he knew it was a possibility for him to be attacked and to die. But he did it anyway. He continued to pressure the demon gods despite GREED's warnings.

WRATH tried to fool him but he wasn't fooled. What WRATH said about not having any obligations towards each is a convenient way to sidestep the major issue. In a way, WRATH was saying that everyone is on their own. That wasn't okay with him so he pushed further. His safety is the major issue so he can't allow it to be sidestepped.

WRATH had to answer Aeternus's questions but that doesn't mean it had to answer every question. It spoke to great lengths about freedom, absence of tasks, and no obligations in hopes that the demon kings would feel assured that they aren't swearing to do something that they don't know about or will be forced to do.

If the demon kings only need to vote to form the coalition and they have no responsibility to the coalition, then there is little to no problem with swearing. But Aeternus wasn't assured. He knows his life is in danger. So he can't be assured. He had to pressure the demon gods to grant them their safety.

So he ignored the threats of GREED. After all, what's the worst that can happen? It is that he will be attacked. That is no different from his current situation. He will do anything to avoid it including dragging the other demon kings into it.

Now, if he isn't given his safety, no demon king will feel assured to vote for the coalition. They know that if the problem of their safety is so important that a demon god wanted to kill him to shut him up about it, maybe they shouldn't be so eager to swear the Oath since it won't change their situation with demon gods and it won't eliminate the danger that they pose to them.

The demon gods argued amongst themselves for a long while. Then WRATH asked Aeternus, "Are you saying that you won't vote if we don't swear the oath to cease all violence between demon gods and demon kings apart from self-defense?"

Aeternus shook his head, "I never said that. I will still vote. I just said that it would be best if the demon gods swore not to attack us. It will foster unity amongst the rulers of the abyss and help us be ready for the era of conquest."

The demon God understood more than what he said. Aeternus will certainly vote. That much is certain. But if the oath is not sworn, then he won't vote for the coalition to form. After all, there is another option other than "yes" in a vote.

"Who else is of this opinion?" WRATH asked the other demon kings.

No one said anything. They maintained their silence but their silence spoke volumes. They are definitely of the same mind as Aeternus but they aren't going to say so. It is for the same reason that they want the demon gods to swear the oath. They are afraid of the demon gods. So they will vote, but they won't vote for what the demon gods want.

Chapter 884 Why So Greedy?

The demon gods resumed their silent argument. WRATH asked the others, "How are they to work together with us if they are this afraid of us? Their fears are valid too. We can take advantage of them when the Coalition is created. We should just swear the oath and be done with it. We don't need to take advantage of them anyway. If the Coalition is created then we will have a sure way to become world enders without the need to eat demon kings."

The number of votes that Aeternus has alone is enough for his opinion to be taken seriously. Adding the other taciturn demon kings has made it imperative that they swear the oath of non-violence. Most of the demon gods are convinced to sign the oath. But one of them is not.

"I don't care. I am not doing it." The demon god of greed refused.

WRATH almost pooped his lid. "I think I should just kill you right now."

GREED wasn't intimidated. "Go ahead and try, blockhead."

LUST intervened quickly. Things are escalating fast. They have already reached the stage of name-calling and insulting. The obvious next step is violence because WRATH hates name-calling the most.

LUST gave a suggestion. "Calm down everyone. Let us take a vote among ourselves. We will do as the majority agrees."

But GREED remained obstinate. "I don't care about what the majority votes for. I won't swear the oath and that is final."

"You won't be a part of the coalition if you don't swear the oath." WRATH threatened.

That gave GREED pause. It had to reassess its priority.

"Just swear the oath and let's move on," GLUTTONY interjected.

That helped GREED to make up its mind. It said, "I guess this is goodbye."

"Are you sure?" LUST asked in a cold tone. "You should think about this clearly. You shouldn't be rash."

GREED didn't reply. It turned and left the first plane of the abyss silently. The cloud that represents GREED began to fly away. It is the green oozing and hissing cloud of energy. One can see various artifacts in the sea of green energy. But the artifacts have been corroded as if treated with something caustic.

The other demon gods watched it go with various emotions. They are not entirely surprised by GREED's decision. They know the real reason for its stubbornness.

"It seems GREED has made up its mind." WRATH said. "That insatiable bastard will be our enemy from now on."

GREED remained adamant and refused to swear the oath. Its refusal is not solely based on the fact that it won't be able to get Aeternus. Aeternus is a small matter compared to the benefits that the formation of the coalition will bring. GREED is refusing because it wants to eat its cake and have it too. It is being greedy. It wants to have the benefit of the coalition, getting Aeternus, getting any other demon king, and getting a fourth benefit.

Every demon God can become stronger by eating demon kings. So stopping them from attacking demon kings is cutting off that path for them. It is a terrible thing to ask GLUTTONY. But GLUTTONY is ready to forgo that opportunity for the significant chance to become a world-ender. Unfortunately, that is not enough for GREED. Nothing is ever enough for greed.

There is a fourth benefit apart from the benefit of the coalition, Aeternus, and the other demon kings. This fourth benefit is very big. It can only be acquired if the realm of high losses in the era of conquest. The destruction of the realm of high heaven will create enough power to enhance a single demon God and lead to the sublimation of their existence.

In other words, there is a chance for a demon God to become a world-ender if the realm of high heaven loses the era of conquest. That is what GREED is after. For it to be able to get this benefit, it must attack the realm of high heaven and cause wanton destruction that will undermine the realm tree's chance of success.

Betrayal, sabotage, murder, and everything else is allowed. That's what demons do after all. The demon God with the highest contribution to the loss of the realm tree gets to become a world-ender. That was one of the alternative plans for the demon gods. The realm lord knew that so he bribed them with another way to become world enders.

The realm lord offered the demon gods an alternative so that they wouldn't try to make the realm fail in the era of conquest. Demons can participate in the era of conquest on behalf of the realm tree and they will be rewarded for their efforts based on their contribution. They might not become a world-ender since it will require a lot of effort and contribution but they will certainly get something.

Destruction is easier than creation. So the demon gods might choose to work against the realm tree and destroy their preparations since it will be easier to do. But they might not get anything from that avenue. Only one demon God can become a world-ender if the realm fails. The rest will get nothing.

That avenue is open to every demon but it is not sure of any reward as opposed to the realm Lord's bribe. But the realm lord didn't stop there. He offered them a deal. This deal is very tempting. All the demons have to do is form a coalition and swear not to betray the realm tree at all.

That put a stop to GREED's ambitions. It wanted to work for the realm tree and get some benefits. But it also wanted to sabotage the realm tree too so that it could qualify for the benefit of becoming a world-ender if the realm tree loses. It wanted to eat its cake and have it.

Nothing will ever be enough for GREED after all. So it already had its mind made up to try and undermine the formation of the coalition before coming here. It would have done something to create Chaos and divide the rulers of the abyss even if Aeternus were not here. Its plan would have worked if there were other greedy demon gods. But apparently, it is the only demon god not enticed by the realm lord's deal. It is the only greedy demon god.

Chapter 885 Choosing Sides.

"Let's swear the oath and form the coalition. We have chosen our side. We must not lose." WRATH said to the others.

It might seem foolish for GREED to give up on the coalition since siding with the coalition will give it the assurance of a reward. But it isn't foolish because it is the only demon God that isn't part of the coalition. That means if the realm tree loses in the era of conquest, it will be the only demon God in the running to become the world-ender. It will certainly become a world-ender even without doing anything to sabotage the realm tree.

The others won't be able to compete with it because of the realm Lord's deal. The realm lord didn't need to offer them that deal for demons to help the realm. Everyone and anyone is allowed to join in to help the realm and the realm lord will reward them if their contributions reach a certain level.

The realm lord is rich but he can't afford to reward everyone for helping. They have to make a significant amount of contribution before they can be rewarded. That means being rewarded is uncertain if you help the realm tree. You have to make a lot of contributions. But the realm lord offered them the deal which will make it certain that they get a reward. In exchange, they can't act against the realm tree.

Since every other demon God is accepting the deal, only GREED can act against the realm tree and reap the benefits if the realm tree loses. But that's only if the realm tree loses. If the realm tree wins, then GREED is still not a fool because it can still earn rewards if it makes enough contributions to the realm tree. Talk about eating your cake and having it.

If by chance the realm tree loses, then the 9 demon gods will get nothing and will be the foolish ones. So in a way, the demon gods have chosen sides. They will act either for victory or defeat of the realm tree. It is all because the realm lord coerced them to choose sides instead of working on both sides.

Those on the side of victory get certainty of reward but they can also lose everything and get nothing if the realm tree loses. This will ensure that they do their best to make sure the realm tree wins in the era of conquest.

WRATH said to the demon kings, "We have all decided to swear the oath. All except for GREED. We will not protect you from GREED. But he won't force you to do anything related to the coalition either. It will be just like the past. You will all have to find a way to protect yourself. I will go first."

"I WRATH swear upon my sin that I will not attack or harm a demon king or demon lord that joins the coalition without being provoked or without it being warranted. I might harm a demon king or demon lord but it will not be intentional, malicious, or with the motive to cause harm and it will not be without a valid reason. I swear this upon my sin with the will of the abyss as the witness, judge, and enforcer."

An oath sworn upon their sin is very powerful and binding. If broken, it will lead to serious damage to their sin. The sin is the foundation of their existence. The smallest damage that they will incur is a fracture. They can't die but the fracture will be very debilitating. It can be likened to someone breaking every bone in their body and still being alive. The fracture can be healed but it will be very expensive to do so. So it had better be worth it to break the oath.

That is just when the oath is sworn on its own. The consequences of breaking an Oath become even more debilitating when you add the will of the abyss as the witness, judge, and enforcer. That fracture created if the oath is broken will never heal because the abyss will constantly open it and try to expand it.

The best situation is for the fracture to remain for as long as the demon God remains a demon. That is most likely forever since there are only two highly unlikely ways for a demon God to stop being a demon. The first is to become a world-ender which is very difficult in a normal situation. It becomes nearly impossible to achieve with the fractures.

The second is to die which is very difficult. Demon gods can be killed, but you will need a very powerful supreme law for that to be achieved. But that wouldn't solve the problem of the fracture. Death is certainly worse than large painful cracks in their existence.

The worst situation in case the oath is broken is for the fracture to eventually kill the demon god. So WRATH was very serious with its oath. It showed its sincerity to work with the demon kings and demon lords.

The other demon gods took turns swearing the oath. Aeternus watched this calmly. He didn't let his unhappiness show. GREED didn't join so he still has one very powerful enemy out there. It is an enemy that he has provoked several times too.

He also isn't happy because he has to join this coalition to get any safety from the other demon gods. He doesn't know exactly what the coalition is about so he is wary of it. He is doubly wary of it because it has something to do with the realm lord. Anything that has something to do with the realm lord is always tricky.

Unfortunately, WRATH swore to stay away from only those who joined the coalition. It is a threat in and of itself. The oath shows its sincerity but that clause shows its deviousness too. Now if Aeternus doesn't swear loyalty and form the coalition, he will have more than one demon god knocking on his door.

Chapter 886 Sellouts.

WRATH spoke after all the 9 demon gods had finished swearing the oath. "Now that the unpleasant part is over. Let's get down to business. I will put the creation of the Coalition up to vote."

WRATH sent a tendril of energy into the dark orb at the center of the ring formation. The tendril contains an intent that was delivered to the will of the abyss. The will of the abyss then put the intent up for voting. All the demon kings and demon lords must cast their vote in a period of a minute.

They can choose to vote for it or against it and no one will know what they voted for. Those who don't vote at all will be counted as voting against it. That means every dead demon king or imprisoned demon king like a certain comfortable throne, is voting against the intent. The intent will be accepted when two-thirds of the total influence of the abyss agrees to the intent.

The intent says, "Let there be unity of the abyss through the formation of a coalition of all those that agree and vote for this coalition to be formed. The coalition will work together with the will of the realm of High Heaven to ensure the victory of the realm of High Heaven in the era of conquest. The members of the coalition cannot act against the interests of the realm of High Heaven as pertaining to the era of conquest."

"The members of the coalition will be rewarded based on their contributions to the victory of the realm tree. The coalition will have a lowered requirement for contributions and will have access to every possible reward. The existence of the coalition means that there will be a place for demons in the realm of high heaven if it wins in the era of conquest. The coalition of demons is..."

The intent continued on and on. There are a lot of clauses and conditions that come together with that single intent. The demon gods didn't come up with these specific clauses. They came from the realm lord and were part of the deal he offered them. They also came together as a package deal so they have to agree to all of them. Nothing can be changed about the intent.

Aeternus read through the intent carefully. He wants to know what exactly he is voting for. It will be disastrous if he somehow signs his soul away. He would rather have the demon gods chase after him than do that.

Fortunately, he didn't find anything fishy about the intent. It is mostly according to what WRATH said. There is no obligation apart from the fact that those who are part of the coalition cannot act against the realm tree concerning the era of conquest. The rest are harmless and are just there to ensure fairness for the demons.

But Aeternus doesn't feel like agreeing to them easily because he is not making the decision for only him. He is part of a whole so this agreement might affect every other clone of Legion. It is not that he wants to sabotage the realm of high heaven. But he wants any clone of Legion to be able to if the opportunity arises.

After all, benefits are the priority, not loyalty to the realm tree. It is certain that some people will try to bribe the forces of the realm of high heaven and he wants Legion to be able to take advantage of the war. In a way, he is very greedy like some other demon god that cannot be named.

"It is not being greedy. It is just being practical. It is better to have the option to betray the realm of high heaven and not need it than to need or want to betray the realm and not have the option to." Aeternus said to himself. "That's just being practical."

The outcome of the war doesn't affect Legion as a whole. They just want to be there so that they can benefit from it. This agreement might ensure that they have to help the realm tree if they want to get any benefit. The alternative is to be like GREED. He can just refuse to vote and walk away.

Unfortunately, he is not so brave. GREED doesn't fear the other 9 demon gods because killing it will be very difficult. But Aeternus is very easy to kill right now. Legion should be safe if he commits suicide successfully. But it will be another thing entirely if he fails to kill himself before a demon god gets him. So he sighed and voted in agreement.

The abyssal orb at the center of the ring formation began to glow darkly after a minute had passed. It signified that the intent was passed successfully. Another intent entered the abyss and exited the abyss. It was the will of Mother High Heaven. The coalition has formed and it was agreed that it will work together with the will of the abyss.

"Look at what we have become." He shook his head and said to himself. "We have lost our honor and prestige. We were supposed to be feared but now we have become hired lackeys of the realm. We sold out. The realm lord doesn't need to be careful of us anymore. What a letdown. What a shame." He lamented because of the fading honor of demons.

This is the first time that mother high heaven has entered the abyss. She doesn't have any right in the abyss and has no control whatsoever over demons. That has changed now. She has become their partner. Worse, she is sort of their boss now.

Mother High Heaven worked together with the agreement of the will of the abyss to reach out to everyone that voted. Each one of them was then given a brand. It is a brand that Aeternus is very familiar with. It is similar to the marks given to those that attend the trial of heaven. It is also similar to the one that Soverick had for the Unified Skill Index competition.

Chapter 887 Change Of Heart.

The brand is very useful. It informs them of specific missions that mother high heaven wants to be completed. It will also keep track of the efforts of everyone towards the completion of the missions and report the data to Mother Heaven for the calculation of their contributions. They will be able to see their contribution points through it without having to ask the realm lord or mother heaven.

"Let me have a look at what we sold our souls for," Aeternus said as he went through the reward list.

Then he chuckled to himself. "Maybe it isn't so bad."

There is information within the brand about the rewards that they can get and the number of contributions needed to exchange for it. The sight of the good things there startled even Aeternus and he has seen a lot of powerful items.

Life essence and origin essence are average items on this list. There is Celestial Godhood and the Authority of the Celestial Supreme. There are top-grade artifacts like his claymore and world fragments.

It is a mind-boggling sight. There are even world sparks, world engines, and world fragments but they are currently unavailable. They will become available once the era of conquest starts. The amount of contribution points needed to acquire them is also very large.

The requirement of contribution for these three items makes it almost impossible to acquire without luck and highly significant effort but the most important thing is that it is possible. It may be difficult, but it is now possible through the coalition.

It is almost impossible to acquire them in a normal situation but the coalition has made the opportunity available to them. So Aeternus changed his opinion of the coalition when he saw the list. He is allowed to. He is a demon with no integrity.

He looked at the clouds of energy and thought to himself.

"No wonder WRATH and the others called for an abyssal conclave and no wonder they swore the Oath to stop hunting demon kings. They know what they are doing."

It will be difficult for a single individual to achieve enough contribution points for the most valuable items but it is possible for demon gods. Demon gods are not a single individual. They are sins. Sins are arbitrary. They lack definite form and most importantly, sins don't adhere to rules. Those who sin are rule breakers. Demon gods are sins themselves. They exist to break rules.

All in all, it is a good sight. It relieved some of the ill feelings that all the demon kings felt when the will of Mother High Heaven entered the abyss. Demons don't like outsiders in the abyss. They respect Mother High Heaven because she is powerful but she doesn't have jurisdiction in the abyss.

The coalition of the abyss brings a good opportunity for advancement but it also subjects them to the scrutiny of mother high heaven. She will be able to know whatever they do now and if she catches any of them betraying the realm tree, they will be done for.

It is an unpleasant feeling for them. Again, it is not that they intend to betray the realm of high heaven right from the start. But they just want and like the freedom to be able to betray the realm tree. It is called freedom. They are demons, not some docile race.

Aeternus shrugged. "It is bound to happen anyway. The era of conquest is coming."

The era of conquest will change a lot of things. No matter how it ends, the abyss will be no more so this is a worthy trade for the abyss. The deal doesn't only impact demon lords, demon kings, and demon gods. It also affects the whole abyss. If the realm tree wins the era of conquest, the entire abyss won't disappear anymore.

The first layer of the abyss will be kept and the other planes of demon kings. They will be under the supervision of Mother high heaven then so this situation is just expediting the inevitable. It is either that or they lose the abyss completely. As they say, half-bread is better than none. Even if the bread is bitter, you will eat it because you are starving and have no other choice. Demons are without any other option.

WRATH began to address them, "That went well. I am sure that those of you that have joined the coalition know the full details of the deal that the realm lord offered us. As you can see, it is as I said. You can choose to not participate and watch as the others take in contribution points and benefits. You

can be sure that you won't be cheated by the realm lord since this is enforced by both the will of the abyss and mother high heaven."

The God of wrath spoke with a smug tone. It is obvious that it is very pleased with itself. It is smug because the demon kings were reluctant at first but they must have all had a change of attitude after seeing the benefits that the realm lord is offering them. As for WRATH, it is after the world spark.

The world engine is too expensive and it won't lead to evolution. There will be two World Sparks available if the realm tree wins. The realm lord will also be able to acquire more. World Sparks are mostly useless to other beings but it is a boon to demon gods. So the realm lord is buying their power cheaply.

Then it bid them farewell. "It was nice doing business with you. You're free to go now. As for those that didn't join the coalition, I will come to pay you a visit very soon."

WRATH sent out a weak wave after speaking. The wave struck everyone. The wave passed through those that didn't join the coalition. But the members of the coalition rebuffed the wave. They are protected by the Oath of non-violence from the demon gods so the wave avoided them. This privilege is for only those who joined the coalition. WRATH used this method to sift them and mark its targets of retribution.

Chapter 888 Carnage Vs Wrath.

It said to them gleefully, "One shouldn't commit the grave sin of making WRATH angry. You will find out why pretty soon. When I am done with you, you will wish for death but death won't come because it is afraid of me."

Excitement radiated out of WRATH in waves, meanwhile, fear and dread coursed through the ones who didn't vote in agreement or didn't vote at all. They began to plead.

"Please, your Excellency. Give us another chance."

"We will join now."

"Please forgive us. We were foolish."

"Please let us join."

None of them begged for their life. They were stupid not to vote in support of the Coalition earlier so they didn't bother to beg for their lives. They made a foolish decision earlier but they are not that stupid as to believe that WRATH will spare them if they don't join the coalition.

There's no way WRATH will let them go after insulting it like that. It called them to a meeting. It promised safety. It clashed with other demon gods and upheld that safety. It listened to their whining and complaints. It even made the other demon gods swear not to attack them. And yet, they didn't vote.

They are so done for. Begging for their lives will be an insult to the demon god. It will aggravate the demon god if they beg because it means they think it is merciful. The only way for them to be safe from him is if they are part of the coalition. So they are begging to join the coalition.

"Fools," CARNAGE shouted at them. "The coalition is already formed. You can join anytime. Why are you begging WRATH?"

The demon kings and demon lords were at first stunned when they heard what the demon god said. Then they swiftly accessed the abyssal orb with their divine sense and rushed to swear the oath of loyalty needed to join the Coalition. It turned out that CARNAGE was right. They don't need to beg now that the Coalition has formed. Any demon lord and demon king can join freely.

WRATH turned its attention onto the one that spoiled its fun. It had all these fools at the palm of its non-existent hands and it could play with them in any way it wished. It wasn't going to kill them. It wanted them to leave the meeting first so that its first oath would stop being in effect. Then it will be able to act against them. It will heavily extort them before allowing them to join the Coalition. It needs a lot of resources to prepare for the era of conquest. But it can't do all of that now.

"Why did you do that?" It asked with a cool tone.

CARNAGE answered smugly, "I just wanted to mess with you that's all. It was harmless fun. There's no ill intent here."

That's a lie. It had ill intent. It didn't want WRATH to have its way and get more resources. It also didn't want any demon god to take advantage of them and get more powerful. Any demon god can extort them but the resources will be too small if they all do it. That small amount of resources is not good enough for it so it made sure that none of them will get anything at all. If it can't have a large portion of it, then no one will get anything. That's Carnage for you.

WRATH obviously doesn't believe CARNAGE. But it doesn't need a reason to not believe right now. It is already very angry. All the anger from the insult of the demon lords and demon kings plus the unvented anger from GREED became focused on CARNAGE. But it didn't attack. It knows it will be a waste of time. So it will target something precious and vulnerable that belongs to CARNAGE.

WRATH asked menacingly, "Weren't you trying to take over another plane? How is it going?"

CARNAGE answered with a relaxed tone. "It is going well. I have almost gotten total control of the plane."

WRATH threatened, "Is that so? It will surely be a shame if someone were to interfere and ruin all your work."

"That's impossible. The only trouble I have is one stubborn Warrog and one other prideful shit of a creature. They are resisting and spoiling my work. But their resistance is futile. They will be ended soon and I'll get control of the plane."

"Maybe I can help you. Why don't you tell me the planar coordinates? I can help you destroy all obstacles. I am very good at that." WRATH suggested with very clear ill intent.

CARNAGE snorted and said, "Dream on."

WRATH leered, "I won't need your permission if I find that plane myself."

"Then you better start looking." CARNAGE shot back.

Then it flew away leaving the fuming demon God of wrath behind.

WRATH yelled at it, "I will find it. Do you hear me? I will find it and I will mess around with it. It will be harmless fun and I won't have any ill intent."

Carnage didn't forget to give it some encouragement. The snarky and self satisfied demon god shouted back at WRATH, "You are welcome to give it your best shot."

Silence returned to the abyss. But WRATH is definitely fuming. Everyone can see it. Its cloud is boiling and erupting with lava and fire. Red lightning is flashing through the cloud of fire. Thunder is booming and creating shockwaves that are creating massive waves in the cloud. So it is very clear that WRATH is very agitated.

It is very angry but it doesn't have an outlet for its anger. It roared in frustration. Waves of spiritual pressure smashed into everything around it. Then it glared at the demon kings and demon lords. It is as if it is going to attack them. But it didn't. It can't do anything to them so it flew away too.

The other demon gods dispersed too except SLOTH. The clear white fluffy cloud that looks like a colossal sheep remained still without movement. The only sound that can be heard from it is the intermittent swishing of energy in it that sounds like snoring. It is probably asleep.

Chapter 889 A Bad Situation.

Aeternus decided to leave too. There's no use staying here anymore.

"I am glad that I came." He said to himself as he entered the purple energy sea.

This meeting was eventful and very useful. He learned a lot of things. He knows now that he has not been suspected yet of being a king of kings. The demon gods would have never allowed him to join the coalition if they suspected him. In fact, they wouldn't let him talk at all. They would have grabbed him and inspected him down to his soul. Then they would have eaten him.

"I have also found a worthy foe. I wonder how it will feel to tear the crown of a king of kings out of their soul and absorb it?"

He also learned that he might not be the only demon king of kings. He noticed some odd demon kings who came with their main bodies and also possessed a heavy presence. It can be easily mistaken for them being very strong. But he knows better than that.

They came in their main body. So it is either that they are just strong and ignorant, or they are like him and don't think coming in main body or avatar makes a difference in terms of safety from a demon god, or they are really like him and their main body is just an Avatar created from the crown of a dead demon king.

They are also very strong. Some of the demon kings of kings that he noticed are one of the two that have more influence than him. Odds are their strength and influence is as a result of possessing numerous crowns.

The existence of other demon kings doesn't make him angry. In fact, he feels the opposite. He is happy that there are other demon kings. It is mostly because three of them are level 10 demon kings which is strong enough to give him a challenge. He can "challenge" these demon kings or have a "spirited session of sparing" with them since there is nothing that says members of the coalition can't fight each other.

There's also no reprimand in case the "challenge" goes out of hand. It is a good thing because he definitely wants the "challenge" to go out of hand. He wants to see how strong he will become by absorbing the crown of another king of kings like him. It should be better than the crown of a normal demon king.

He turned his thoughts toward other clones of Legion. It is because of something CARNAGE said.

"I do hope Legion-6 is doing well. He has a lot to contend with. The ancestor of all vampires in the realm of high heaven is after him."

Legion-6 is a Warrog. He is on the plane that CARNAGE is trying to subjugate. Aeternus is up against GREED while Legion-6 is up against the ancestor of vampires. The powers of GREED are unknown but the prowess of the ancestor of vampires is well known. CARNAGE is a calamity to whichever plane it puts its attention on. Those planes always fall. It is just a matter of time.

Then he shook his head and said, "It won't do me any good to worry about Legion-6. I have myself to take care of."

He noticed several demon kings watching him as he flew down into the energy sea. They don't look like they want to offer him wealth. They are looking at him as if he is wealth that they want to take a piece of.

His situation is not looking good. He is not a secluded figure anymore. There are a lot of eyes on him. He has gotten the attention of several demon gods and demon kings. It is not good news at all. The least of his problems is that he won't be able to get away with the things he used to do. His every move and action will be scrutinized.

But that is the least of his problems. He has gotten most of the demon gods off of his back but he has painted a nice target on his back. There are a lot of demon kings that want to hit that target. Some of them are following him now to know where his plane is.

Some of them are doing so for personal reasons while others are doing the bidding of demon gods. Demon gods sent them to test, track, or apprehend him. The demon gods swore not to use violence against them, but that doesn't mean they can't act against him indirectly. They have demon kings that do their bidding which they can use against him.

All of these problems pale compared to GREED. He can take on other demon kings and he would very much like to do so. It is after all what he wants. For clueless demon kings to enter his plane only to be consumed and added to his crown. But he can't do that now.

The existence of GREED will not let him relax. It will be okay if GREED underestimates him and sends a weak clone. It will be game over if the demon God comes with a full-powered clone. Either way, GREED will become aware that he is a king of kings once it enters his plane. So he can not risk it all.

In summary, he is not safe at all. He is screwed badly. That is why his main body is currently very busy preparing to run away and sequester himself. Aeternus is calling all of his direct subordinates right now. They are all returning to his plane. Meanwhile, this avatar is wandering around to fool the demon kings that are watching him.

He even spotted the avatar of a demon lord tracking him. A demon lord should be afraid of a demon king in a normal situation. But that fear is superseded by the fear of a demon God. His situation has gotten so bad that weak demon lords that he can flatten with a slap are sniffing around for weakness.

Chapter 890 Desperate Situations Call For Desperate Actions.

Aeternus muttered expressionlessly, "When it rains, it pours. It is raining mangy cats and rabid dogs now."

He can only complain, he can't do anything to the demon lords. He can destroy the avatar but that wouldn't change his situation. So he will wander about. That will distract his watchers enough for his main body to finish its preparations to run away.

Aeternus looked at his plane with a slight twinge of sorrow. What he will be doing next will hurt him but he has to do it or risk his life. It is not in the nature of Legion to take risks to their life when they are clearly outmatched. They will run if it means getting to live and being able to fight another day.

Legion doesn't rely on luck. They anticipate outcomes, plan for them, and act before the threat arrives at their doorstep. Reacting to danger is not the way for someone who wants to achieve greatness. They have to be proactive and prepare for the worst outcome beforehand even if they have to do something that will hurt them. It is all for a greater purpose.

His subordinates stood quietly before him on the black tower. They came as soon as he called them. They are all taller than him but he feels several orders of magnitude taller than them because he is sitting on another demon king. His throne is enough to kill them so they don't have any confidence in their height. They are not even worthy for him to sit on. He will literally crush them with his butt.

He waited until all of them arrived before he spoke to them.

He said to them. "We will be going into hiding for a while."

His declaration surprised them. They felt shaken to their core. Hiding means trying to evade or escape from danger that cannot be fought off. So things have to be very serious if someone like Aeternus is hiding.

Aeternus chuckled despite the frozen atmosphere.

"It is not the first time I did something like this and it will probably not be the last time either. Some of you know the story of my early days. I tried to run when the entire group of high-rank demons in a plane targeted me. I hid myself away for two hundred years when a demon lord turned the entire plane against me. Now I am hiding again."

"It should not come as a surprise. After all, I am not the strongest entity in the void universe. I am not even the strongest demon in this abyss."

He said it so casually like hiding is a normal thing but his subordinates still didn't relax.

He moved on. "I am sure you have some questions but I can only tell you that it is above your station. All you need to know is that it is because of the era of conquest. The era of conquest isn't even here yet but it is already creating a lot of changes. Some are being swept away while others are rising higher."

"I don't want to be swept away so we will hide now to preserve the bulk of our strength for when the era of conquest finally arrives or when I am able to face the threats that are forcing me into hiding. Until then, we hide."

"The good news is that we are only hiding from the abyss. I am strong enough to access other planes so we won't be bored or remain stagnant. We will still have enemies to fight. We just won't be able to use all of our resources anymore."

"That is all. You can pick anywhere on the plane to stay. We are going to be here for a long while so you should make yourself comfortable while I set things up."

His subordinates bowed wordlessly and left. He sighed again after they left. What he is about to do is a desperate act for a demon king with a plane. Having a plane is good. It gives one a strong base which enhances their strength. It is also a weakness because the plane is stationary. It means he can be found. If he wants to hide his plane, then he will have to detach it from the abyss.

It is an absurd action to detach a plane from the abyss. It is something that only desperate demon kings will do. It is on the level of what Stelios did when his consciousness was fractured. Detaching a plane will weaken him further so it is clearly not the correct solution to a threat.

The weakening will continue until the plane itself is destroyed. So this desperate act is not a permanent solution either. It is only to starve off death for a while in hopes that something good will happen in the meantime. Something good has to happen or detaching the plane will certainly kill him.

He has not been pushed to this point yet but he will do it now before enemies arrive at his doorstep. It will probably be too late for him then.

"I'll be back." He promised himself and the abyss. "And when I return, the abyss itself will quake in my presence. Nothing will stand in my way."

Then he gave a command to the core of the plane. The plane shook immediately. It rumbled as a terribly loud roar went through the plane. The roar is the sound of the plane tearing itself away from the abyss. The waterfall of sin energy from the energy sea began to thin down. The energy pillar shrunk until it disappeared completely. The shiny core at the center of the plane began to flicker. Its light dimmed. It will continue to dim until it dies out.

Detaching the plane from the abyss is very bad. The tributary of the energy sea gets cut off so the supply of sin energy stops. The plane will start to become destitute and the demons within it will suffer. It is just like what will happen to the whole demon race if the abyss happens to die off.